

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE AS  
VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-  
GENERAL OF INDIA, 1888-1894**

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The Administration of the Marquis of Lansdowne as Viceroy and Governor-General of India,  
1888-1894 by George W. Forrest

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**GEORGE W. FORREST**

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1888—1894.

By GEORGE W. FORREST, B.A.,

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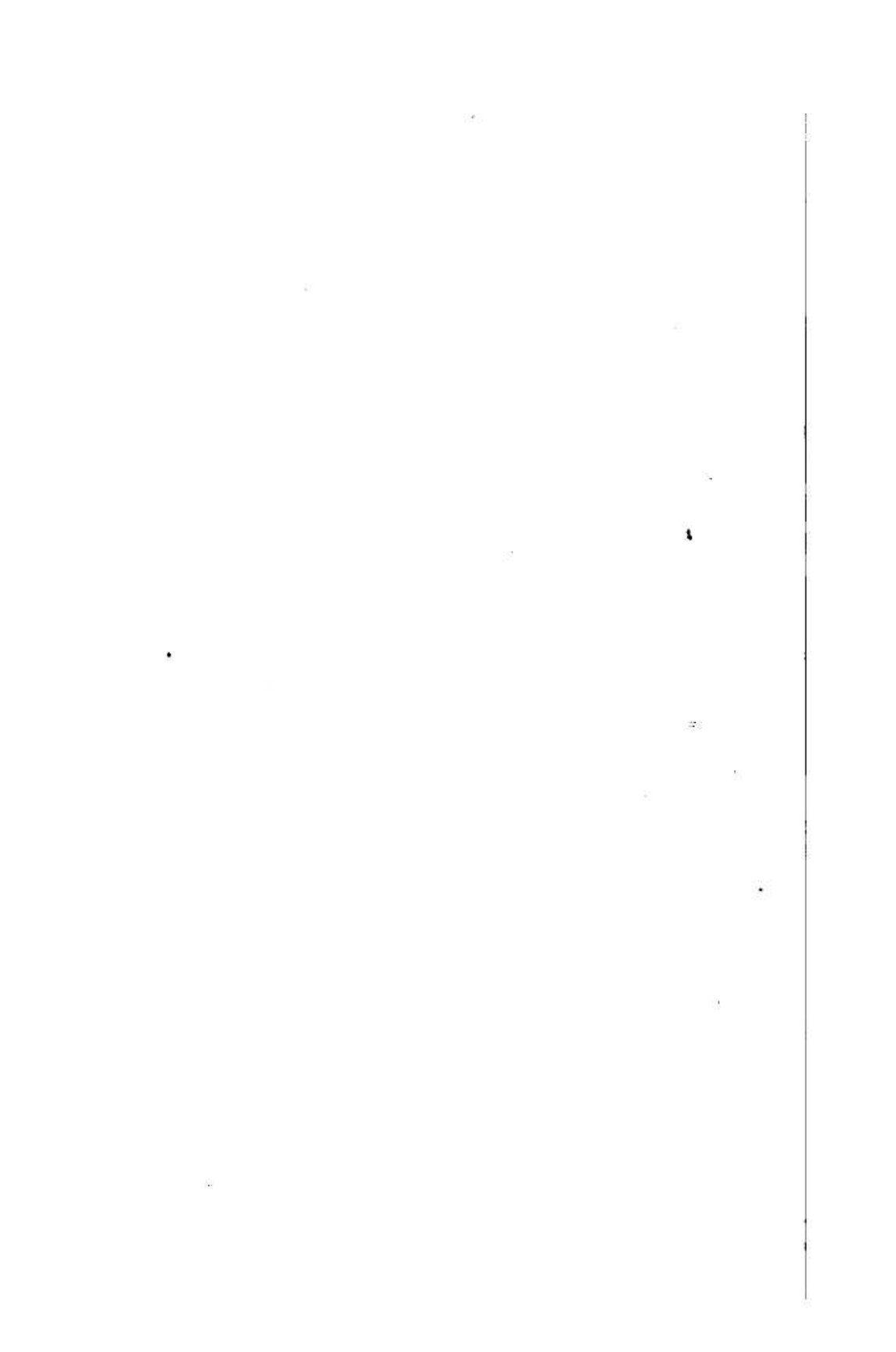
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ON the third of December 1888, the Marquis of Lansdowne, who had been appointed to succeed the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava as Governor-General and Viceroy of India, landed at Bombay. The leading inhabitants of the city—European as well as Native—had assembled at the pier to give him a welcome suited to his dignity, and the Municipal Corporation presented him with an address. After staying three days in the capital of Western India, spending his time in making himself acquainted with the people and the city, and in visiting its many noble institutions for the promotion of literature, science and art, Lord Lansdowne proceeded to Calcutta. On the ninth of December His Lordship took over charge of the Indian Empire. Numerous addresses of congratulation were tendered to him, and, in replying to the representatives of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, he expressed an earnest hope that, during his term of

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office, peace and safety might be vouchsafed to the land, and "that those who are concerned in its Government may find it within their power to address themselves, unimpeded by external or internal complications, to the task of wise and prudent legislation for the domestic advantage of the people, and to the introduction of such improvements in the machinery by which your public affairs are administered as may from time to time be required by the altering circumstances of the country and its people."

It is impossible to give more than a bare outline of the changes and improvements which have been effected and the measures which have been taken during the past four years for the domestic advantage of the people.

A guiding principle of Lord Lansdowne's internal policy was the promotion of a systematic enquiry into the facts and circumstances of the Empire. He realized as keenly as any of his predecessors that a knowledge of the country and its people is the foundation of all sound administration. The Imperial Census of India for 1891, in which he took a personal interest, furnished a mass of information regarding the Indian population, their religious and social customs, and the economic conditions under which they live, the importance of which, to the man of science and the administrator, it would be difficult to exaggerate. A careful consideration of the statistical data which have been gathered with so much labour leads to the conclusion that the soil of India, as a whole, still suffices for the wants of the population, and that the present rate of increase does not press too heavily upon the means of subsistence.

An Imperial Census taken once in ten years is, however, neither a complete nor a continuous source of information, and Lord Lansdowne therefore gave his vigorous support to the organization by the Imperial Department of Revenue and Agriculture of a wide and searching scheme for the investigation of the conditions