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(Official Report)**

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OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1921



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 28th September, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Half Past Ten of the Clock. The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EXPORT OF WHEAT.

642. **Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava:** Will the Government be pleased to state the correct figures of the export of wheat by sea from 1st April to 6th August in 1919, 1920 and 1921, respectively?

Mr. J. Hullah: The figures are:

1919	...	...	...	...	...	3,303 tons.
1920	...	...	...	...	...	3,692 "
1921	...	...	...	...	...	52,270 "

FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN FOR ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

643. **Lieut.- Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** (a) Is it stated in the Report of the Committee on the Ordnance Factories, that the recruitment of *all* Foremen and Assistant Foremen from Home, effectually bars the promotion of an otherwise perfectly competent Chargeman trained in this country?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what per cent. of men, trained in this country, have been promoted to the Foreman and Assistant Foreman grade, and, if any, were Anglo-Indians?

(c) Do Government propose to sanction the promotion of a specific per cent. of men trained in this country (Anglo-Indians and Europeans) to the Foreman and Assistant Foreman grade, in the future?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if any steps are being taken to send on deputation, Chargemen trained in the country, to England (*vide* clause 118 of the Committee's Report)?

(e) Do Government intend to consider the speedy provision of Hostels for apprentices, as recommended in clause 121 of the Committee's Report, in view of the extreme hardships at present suffered by the apprentices, some of whom live at considerable distances from the factories?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) Yes.

(b) About 10 per cent., who are mostly Anglo-Indian.

(c) As soon as trained men, Anglo-Indian or Indian, can be obtained in India, it is proposed to appoint as many Foremen and Assistant Foremen as possible from amongst these men.

(d) This matter will be considered when the next year's deputations to England are being arranged.

(c) The importance of providing hostels for apprentices is fully recognised, and it is proposed to make provision for this purpose in the Budget for next year, if funds are available.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju : With regard to the answer given to part (c) of the question, I should like to know whether the same concession will be shown to other communities?

Sir Godfrey Fell : We cannot undertake to give a specific percentage. It is proposed to appoint as many Foremen and Assistant Foremen as possible from amongst these men.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju : My question is whether the same concession will be shown to all communities?

Sir Godfrey Fell : I fear I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju : I want to know whether the concession will be confined only to Anglo-Indians or to Indians also?

Sir Godfrey Fell : I will read that portion of my reply again : (c) As soon as trained men, Anglo-Indian or Indian, can be obtained in India, it is proposed to appoint as many Foremen and Assistant Foremen as possible from amongst these men.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ADDITIONAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

68. **Mr. B. H. Jatkar :** Would the Government of India be pleased to state if it is a fact that proposals for additional establishment in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs are generally discouraged and instructions are issued to submit very, very few proposals of such kind?

Colonel Sir S. D'A. Crookshank : No instructions have been issued of the kind mentioned by the Honourable Member. In view of the financial situation the Government of India scrutinize very closely all proposals for additional establishment, but they do not discourage such proposals when the necessity for them is clearly established.

OUTTURN OF TOTAL WORK IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

69. **Mr. B. H. Jatkar :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) What was the outturn of total work in 1904, 1914 and 1919 in the Postal Department?

(b) What was the clerical working strength in these years?

(c) Why was it not proportionately increased?

(d) Is the present working strength calculated on the present anticipated maximum amount of work or on the outturn of some previous period?

(e) If the work is generally increasing year after year, is this annual increasing work and expansion of business taken into account while sanctioning the working staff for an office?

Colonel Sir S. D'A. Crookshank : (a) The information will be found in Appendices II, V (a) and VI of the Annual Report on the Post Office for 1904-05 and Appendices II, V (a) and VI of the Annual Report on the Department of Posts and Telegraphs for 1914-15 and Appendices II, IV (a) and V (a) of the Report for 1919-20.

(b) The information will be found in Appendix IX of the Report for 1904-05 and Appendix XVI of the Reports for 1914-15 and 1919-20.

(c) The staff was augmented to meet the increase in postal business so far as the funds available for the purpose admitted.

(d) It is calculated on an estimate of the work done at present, based on the most recent statistics available.

(e) Yes, by entertaining one additional clerk for every five hours' work indicated by the statistics, the full period of duty being eight hours.

INDIANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES.

70. Peohar Raghubir Sinha : (a) Is it a fact that the last Agricultural Commission had recommended that all agricultural services in India should be Indianized?

(b) If so, what steps have the Government taken or are contemplating to take, to give effect to that recommendation?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) The recommendation was made by the Royal Commission on the Public Services in India and not by an Agricultural Commission. It was to the effect that, provided candidates approved by the Selection Committee and complying with the conditions laid down for recruitment in Europe were forthcoming, not less than half the vacancies in the agricultural branch of the service, i.e., for the posts of Deputy Directors should be filled by Indians appointed in India. In recommending that a minimum proportion, if found competent, should be recruited the Commission expressed their opinion that the minimum should not necessarily be adhered to but that every effort should be made to discover and recruit competent men in India so as to make it possible to meet the whole of the normal requirements of the agricultural and research branches of the department within a reasonable period of time.

(b) During the past 18 months out of 81 appointments 12 or nearly 30 per cent. have been given to Indians. Excluding Burma 12 appointments out of 28 have been given to Indians, or nearly 43 per cent. I may add that the appointment of about 10 more Indians recommended for appointment to the service by the Selection Committee which set in July last, is under consideration. It is the intention of the Government to appoint Indians to 50 per cent. or more, of the posts in the Indian Agricultural Service as soon as adequate training facilities in India are provided regarding which a scheme has been submitted for the consideration of the Secretary of State.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND COMMERCIAL CONCERNS.

71. Peohar Raghubir Sinha : (a) Is it a fact that some high Government officials join Commercial Concerns doing business in India, on leaving service or resigning and sometimes even when holding offices directly or indirectly?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider how far and in what circumstances gentlemen occupying high financial and other offices under Government, might on retirement or resignations or while in office, directly or indirectly, engage themselves in business in which secret information as to Government policy and position might be utilized to their profit?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: (a) Government are aware that there have been such cases when officers have left the service. Before they leave the service such acts would presumably constitute breaches of Government Servants' Conduct Rules 14 and 15 copies of which are laid on the table.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Resolution of the Government of India on the subject, dated the 21st April 1920, a copy of which is laid on the table.

Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

14. A gazetted officer, whether on leave or in active service, may not, without the special sanction of the Secretary of State, take part in the promotion, registration or management of any Bank or other Company. This rule does not apply to any Government servant who, with the sanction of the Government of India, enters into the service of a Railway Company working a concession granted by the Government or to the management by a Government servant of any association established and conducted in good faith for the purpose of mutual supply and not for profit, when such management does not interfere with his public duties, or (subject to the same condition) to any Government servant who, under the general or special sanction of the local Government, takes part in the management of a co-operative society registered under Act II of 1912.

Solicitors to the Government of Calcutta, Madras or Bombay, Government pleaders, Crown Prosecutors, Diocesan Registrars and Coroners may serve as Directors of a Bank or other Company if such service does not interfere with their public duties and the interests of the Bank or Company are not opposed to those of the Government.

15. A Government servant may not, without the previous sanction of the local Government, engage in any trade or undertake any employment, other than his public duties. A Government servant may undertake occasional work of a literary or artistic character, provided that his public duties do not suffer thereby; but the Government may, in its discretion, at any time, forbid him to undertake, or require him to abandon any employment which in its opinion is undesirable.

NOTE—The Secretaryship of a club does not constitute employment in the sense of this rule, provided that it does not occupy so much of an officer's time as to interfere with his public duties and that it is an honorary office, that is to say, that it is not remunerated by any payment in cash or any equivalent thereof other than the customary concessions of free quarters and personal exemption from meeting charges only. Any officer proposing to become the Honorary Secretary of a club, should inform his immediate departmental superior who will decide, with reference to this rule and note, whether the matter should be reported for the orders of Government.

No. 1140.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.

(PUBLIC.)

RESOLUTION.

Simla, dated the 21st April, 1920.

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a rule laid down by the Colonial Office that an Officer who has retired from the Colonial Service may not accept a directorate of a company the principal part of whose business is directly concerned with the Colony or Protectorate in which he has served, or employment in the Colony or Protectorate under such a company, without obtaining the previous approval of the Governor; and they have had under consideration the question whether it is necessary to lay down some similar rule for retired officers of the Indian services.

2. After consultation with Local Governments and careful consideration of their views, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that, while it is not necessary at the present time to lay down a definite rule, it is desirable that retired Government servants, especially gazetted officers, before accepting directorships, partnerships or agencies of, or employment by any company or firm or individual engaged in commercial business or associated with the management of land in India, should either obtain the consent of the Government of India, or if the company is managed in London, the consent of the Secretary of State. The Government of India believe that this procedure will conduce alike to the interests of the officers concerned and to those of the services generally, and are prepared to leave it to the good sense and loyalty of their officers to observe the procedure now suggested.

Order—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations and to all Departments of the Government of India for information, and that it be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information.

H. MCPHERSON,

Secretary to the Government of India.

RISE IN PRICE OF WHEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

72. **Beohar Raghubir Sinha :** (a) Are the Government aware of the sudden rise in the price of wheat and other foodstuffs?

(b) What steps have the Government taken or are contemplating to take to bring the prices to normal rates?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I gave on the 19th September to Question No. 312 asked by Rai Bahadur Pandit Jawahar Lal Bhargava.

MOPLAH DISTURBANCES.

73. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

- (a) Total number of Hindus killed, converted and looted by the Moplahs ;
- (b) Total number of Europeans killed, and looted ;
- (c) Total number of Mohamedans killed and looted ;
- (d) Value of private property looted and destroyed ;
- (e) Value of public property looted and destroyed ;
- (f) Total number of Moplahs killed and wounded ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a), (e) and (f). It has not been found possible yet to arrive at any definite estimate. Unverified reports indicate that a number of Hindus of the civil population have been murdered ; while a report, published in the papers, from a Calicut press correspondent, states that at a modest computation at least 75 Hindus have been forcibly converted by the Moplahs. Government have no information as to the number of Muhammadans, if any, who have been murdered. Rough estimates of the number of casualties among the Moplahs have appeared in the press. At Pukottur it is estimated that 400 were killed and 10 were killed recently in fighting four miles from Manjeri.

(b) So far as known, the number is 12 killed and 12 wounded.

(d) and (e). In existing circumstances it is impossible to collect even approximate particulars of the damage to property in the disturbed area. A statement is laid on the table giving such information as is available.

STATEMENT.

1. Railway Stations at Kadalandi and Parapangadi attacked and looted. Line for former cut in three places.
2. Post Offices at Parapangadi and Tanur looted.
3. Railway damaged at several places west of Shoranur.
4. Road and telegraphic communications reported interrupted by Sub-divisional Magistrates of Malapuram and Palghat.
5. Police Inspector at Waluvanad reports that two Police thanas were attacked, the records burnt and the carbines taken.
6. Manjeri treasury gutted and treasury at Waluvanad looted. (The Accountant-General estimates that the former contained 1 lakh and 30 thousand in cash and 4½ lakhs in notes and the latter, 27 thousand in cash.) The District Magistrate reported that other public offices had been destroyed and Mannas and Kovilakones (i.e. houses of Nambudris and Rajas) pillaged.
7. Dacoity and looting was reported to be rife in Waluvanad. Ernad and Ponnani taluks also east of Calicut by the District Magistrate, Calicut. Line cut to Kuttippatam, perhaps beyond; bridges broken from 10th mile from Calicut.
8. Forest Officer's bungalow, Nilambur, and Range Officer's quarters and lines gutted.
9. Plundering of houses and liquor shops reported by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Palaghat.
10. A telegram from Madras dated 30th August reported that the railway to Calicut had been temporarily repaired and that throughout the affected area Government offices had been wrecked and looted and records destroyed. Communications had been obstructed, all ordinary business was at a stand still, and famine conditions were imminent in portions of the affected area.
11. Press reports state (1) that Hindu houses at Titur were plundered, also the Trikandiyyur Temple, near Tirur, and the Tanur fishery station sacked, (2) the Kerala rubber estate was attacked, the bungalows, factory and dispensary burnt and cash and property looted.
12. Office of Sub-Registrar of Mannarghat destroyed.

REDUCTION IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

74. **Mr. P. L. Misra:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the question put by Lieutenant-Colonel Croft in the House of Commons with regard to the reduction in the Indian Army and the following reply given thereto by the Secretary of State for India:

'No further reduction will take place beyond those already sanctioned.'

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if this is the last word on the reduction of Army in India?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the negative, do Government propose to make further reductions, if so, to what extent?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is aware that the question of the Military requirements of India has been recently examined by a Committee under the presidency of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The recommendations of that Committee are now under the consideration of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence in England. Government are not in a position to make any pronouncement on the subject of reductions

at present. If the Honourable Member will study the replies given by the Secretary of State for India to various questions on this subject in the House of Commons, he will find that the Secretary of State has only given an undertaking that no reductions will be made in the strength mentioned in his reply to a question in the House of Commons on the 23rd February 1921 pending further examination of the question by a Sub-Committee of Imperial Defence.

MEMORIAL FROM THE SIND PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION.

75. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Have the Government of India received a memorial from the Sind Pensioners' Association ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the grievances contained therein ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer which I have given to Question No. 282 by Mr. Wali Mahomed Hussanally.

MEMORIAL FROM CLERKS IN TAHSIL OFFICES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

76. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Have the Government of India received a memorial from the clerks working in Tahsil offices in the Central Provinces and Berar ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if they propose taking any action thereon ?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) Duplicates of memorials, the originals of which are understood to have been submitted through the prescribed channel, have been received by the Government of India.

(b) Not before the memorials are forwarded by the Local Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MINISTERS AND DIRECTORS OF INDUSTRIES.

77. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken on the recommendations of the Ministers and Directors of Industries made at the Conference held in Simla in May last especially with reference to the following subjects :

- (i) State Scholarships to Indian students ;
- (ii) Appointment of Indians as Trade Commissioners in New York and Hamburg ;
- (iii) Establishment of Industrial Banks ;
- (iv) Appointment of an Indian Assistant to the Trade Commissioner for East Africa ;
- (v) Hydro-electric Survey ?

(b) If no action has yet been taken will Government be pleased to state when they intend doing so ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The conference of Departments of Industries referred to by the Honourable Member was informal, its main object

being to provide an opportunity for discussion between representatives of the Imperial and Provincial Departments of Industries on subjects bearing on the industrial development of the country with a view to the exchanging of ideas and information. In respect of a number of the subjects discussed no definite recommendations were made, as will be apparent from the proceedings which will shortly be published and a copy of which will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

Action has been taken by the Government of India in each case of a definite recommendation. In regard to the subjects specifically mentioned by the Honourable Member the reply is as follows :—

(i), (ii) and (v).

No action by the Government of India was recommended.

(ii) and (iv).

The question of appointing an Indian Assistant to the Trade Commissioner in East Africa was held over until the necessary supplementary grant had made by the Assembly. The question been will now be taken up. There is no present intention of appointing Indians as Trade Commissioners in New York and Hamburg, but the question of appointing Trade Commissioners in foreign countries will be considered by the Government of India.

PAPER PULP INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

78. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an address given by Mr. W. Raitt, Cellulose expert to the Government of India, before the Royal Society of Arts in May last on the paper-pulp industry in India?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any action on the suggestions made therein?

(c) If so, when and to what extent?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have for several years devoted attention to the investigation of the suitability for pulp of the different raw products available in the forests and it is due to the efforts of the officers of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, that bamboo pulp making has been commenced in India and Burma. A special section of the Institute, under a whole-time officer, Mr. Raitt himself, has recently been formed to deal with these investigations, both in the laboratory and the field, and it is hoped that the experimental pulp and paper making plant, which has recently been obtained, will shortly be in working order.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, MADRAS.

79. **Mr. M. K. Reddi Garu :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) if it is a fact that a number of new appointments have been created in the Accountant-General's Office, Madras,

(ii) if it is a fact that these posts have been almost filled up during the course of this year ?

(b) How are the appointments made in the Accountant General's Office, Madras, (i) by nomination, or (ii) by competitive examinations, or (iii) by promotions from the lower grades ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of appointments made this year in this office showing (i) how many Iyangers, (ii) how many Iyers, (iii) how many non-Brahmins, including Christians and Muhammadans were appointed ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : (a) The answer to both parts is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). Appointments to the clerical service in the Accountant General's office are ordinarily made by competitive examination. Every third vacancy is usually filled by selection from the following sources—

(i) typists,

(ii) men of special attainments likely to become useful accountants, and

(iii) from classes insufficiently represented in the office.

Appointment to the Subordinate Accounts Service is ordinarily made by promotion from among clerks who have passed the Subordinate Accounts Service examination.

The number of clerical appointments recently made, inclusive of 50 appointments sanctioned temporarily in May 1920 and February 1921, is eighty-one. Of these 3 were recruited temporarily in August 1919, 24 in May 1920, and 23 in February 1921, and the remaining 31 were recruited in August 1921 on receipt of orders of the Government of India sanctioning permanent addition to the staff. The recruitment made this year was in order of success in competitive examination.

The men recruited in May 1920 and February 1921 include :

28 Ayyars.

9 Ayyangars.

1 Rao.

8 Non-Brahmins.

2 Indian Christians.

1 Anglo-Indian.

1 Muhammadan.

Of the 31 recruited in August 1921.

- 18 are Ayyars.
- 5 „ Ayyangars.
- 2 „ Rascas.
- 2 „ Non-Brahmins.
- 2 „ Anglo-Indians.
- 2 „ Indian Christians.

INDIAN ARMY CONTRACTORS AND CANTEEN BOARDS.

80. **Mr. J. Chaudhuri:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the reports and comments that appeared in the Press in connection with the proposal of the Army Headquarters to replace in some Army Districts the present Indian Army Contractors by a Canteen Board on the line of the Navy and Army Canteen Board in England?

(b) Is the Government aware that the suggested proposal has already created a feeling of great dissatisfaction not only amongst Army Contractors but also amongst many Indian merchants who supply the army?

(c) Is it a fact that practically the majority of the Commanding Officers and Army Commanders are opposed to the suggested transfer?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what percentage of the Army Commanders, General Officers Commanding Brigades, and Commanding Officers, are in favour of the transfer, and what percentage opposed to it?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) Yes.

(b) Naturally this decision has caused dissatisfaction among some of the Army contractors who are directly affected.

(c) No.

(d) In view of the reply given to part (c), this question does not arise.

INDIAN ARMY CANTEEN BOARD.

81. **Mr. J. Chaudhuri:** (a) Is it a fact that the proposed scheme of Indian Army Canteen Board is to be financed by the Government?

(b) Will these Canteen Boards be Government concerns or will they be run by private persons or firms under the patronage of Government?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the results of the Navy and Army Canteen Board administration and the consequent loss to the British Government?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a, No.

(b) The Army Canteen Board (India) will be organized on the same lines as have been adopted in the United Kingdom and will include men of wide commercial experience. Its operations will be financed by the Imperial

Bank of India, on a guarantee from the Government of India. Government have no reason to fear that the operations of the Board will result in loss, or that they will be called upon to make good any part of the sum guaranteed. On the contrary, it is anticipated that the Canteen Board will be financially self-supporting and will earn substantial profits which will be utilized for the benefit of the soldier as has been the case in England. It will entail no charge on public funds in peace time. The direction of policy will be vested in the hands of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(c) The Government of India are not aware that the British Government suffered any loss over the Navy and Army Canteen Board. The Expeditionary Force Canteens, to which the Navy and Army Canteen Board is the successor, made, it is understood, very large profits during the war.

ROUTE FROM MUZAFFARPORE TO SITAMARHI.

82. **Babu Baidyanath Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is the Government aware that in order to reach Sitamarhi which is a sub-Division of Muzaffarpore, from the Muzaffarpore Headquarters, one has to pass through Samastipore and Darbhanga, and spend about eight hours in the journey, though the distance is only 36 miles by District Board road?

(b) Does the Government propose to remove this inconvenience by opening a direct railway communication from Muzaffarpore to Sitamarhi at an early date?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) While sympathising in the inconvenience mentioned, Government regret that, in view of the existing financial conditions, they are not at present in a position to consider the question of constructing a direct railway connection between Muzaffarpore and Sitamarhi.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE AT MOKAMEH GHAT.

83. **Babu Baidyanath Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that the construction of a bridge at Mokameh Ghat over the river Ganges is under contemplation?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, do the Government propose to consider the desirability of providing easy access to Patna, the Provincial Capital, from North Bihar by the construction of a Railway bridge somewhere between Patna and Hajipore, instead of constructing the bridge at Mokameh Ghat?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) The reply is in the affirmative. The matter is, however, in abeyance at present owing to the difficulty of finance and the prevailing high rates for material.

(b) The question of an alternative site somewhere near Patna, for a bridge over the Ganges, has already been considered, and while it is admitted

that a bridge giving easy access to the Provincial capital would be an administrative convenience, Government are of opinion that a bridge at Mokameh is the more pressing necessity in the general interests of trade and of the public.

INCREASE IN RATES AND FARES ON DIFFERENT RAILWAYS.

84. Mr. N. C. Sircar : Will the Government lay on the table papers showing the rate of increase in rates and fares on the different Railways; the rate of increase in working expenses on different Railways, and the rate of increase of gross income on the different Railways?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : With reference to the first part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to part (c) of the answer given to Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas' Question No. 345 on 20th September 1921 on the same subject.

As regards the latter portion of his question, the Honourable Member is referred to pages 70 to 76 of Vol. II of the Administration Report on the Railways in India for 1919-20 which contains the information asked for.

RISE IN RAILWAY RATES AND FARES.

85. Mr. N. C. Sircar : Are the Government aware that there is a general dissatisfaction amongst all classes of people owing to the rise in Railway rates and fares and do the Government propose to reduce them to their old level in the near future?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : In regard to increases in passenger fares the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Mr. Mahmood Schamnad Sahab Bahadur on 21st September 1921 on the same subject.

As regards increases in railway goods rates the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Mr. Bhupatiraju Venkatapatiraju on 10th idem on the same subject.

Government regret they can see no prospect of reducing railway rates and fares to their old level.

STAFF SELECTION BOARD'S EXAMINATION.

86. Mr. N. C. Sircar : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (i) How many Indian graduates sat for the Staff Selection Board's examination to qualify them for employment in the Upper Division of the Government of India Offices?
- (ii) How many of them could not qualify for such appointments?
- (iii) How many of them have been declared fit for the Lower Division only?
- (iv) How many of them have accepted appointments in the Lower Division?

(v) Is it a fact that candidates for Upper Division were asked the following question during the *viva voce* examination?

“Are you willing to accept an appointment in the Lower Division if no appointment in the Upper Division can be offered?”

(vi) Is it a fact that these candidates were informed that :

“Acceptance of a Lower Division post would give them no claim to appointment in the Upper Division, though they would not be absolutely debarred from such appointment, until they attain the age of 35”?

(vii) If so, what was exactly meant by the last part of the sentence?

(b) Do the Government propose to reconsider the cases of these graduates and appoint them in the Upper Division of their respective offices as soon as possible?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a)

(i) 781.

(ii) 640.

(iii) 32.

(iv) 25.

(v) Yes.

(vi) Yes, substituting the word promotion for appointment and the age 30 instead of 35 in the 3rd and 4th lines respectively of the question.

(vii) The meaning is perfectly clear and for further explanation, if necessary, the Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 26 of the Home Department Resolution No. 2343 of the 30th August 1920, of which I will give the Honourable Member a copy if he wishes.

(b) The Government would be unable to meet the suggestion without creating a number of unnecessary clerkships in the Upper Division, to which, perhaps, the Honourable Member would be the first to object during the present financial stringency. Moreover, there were graduates already serving in the Lower Division of the Government of India Secretariat who have passed the Board's examination for promotion and their claims are superior to those of the new entrants.

COUNCIL SECRETARIES.

87. **Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar :** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to appoint or have any intention of appointing Council Secretaries under Section 43-A. of the Government of India Act?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to a similar question asked by Dr. H. S. Gour on the 5th September 1921.

HOUSE ALLOWANCE FOR HIGH COURT JUDGES OF MADRAS.

88. **Mr. Sambandh Mudaliar** : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Government of Madras have submitted proposals to this Government for grant of Rs. 500 for the Honourable Judges of the High Court of Madras as house allowance? If so, whether the said proposal was sanctioned?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Government of Madras forwarded proposals of the Madras High Court to this effect, and they are being referred to the Secretary of State, in whom the power is invested by section 104 (1) of the Government of India Act of fixing the allowances of High Court Judges.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Mr. President : I have received the assent of His Excellency the Governor General to the election of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy to the office of Deputy President of the Assembly.

Mr. Deputy President, you have now accepted the office to which you have been elected; and I welcome you as you enter upon its duties. I am sure that the Assembly will give you the same support and co-operation which it has been my great privilege to enjoy. Let me assure you that personally, I look forward with pleasure to collaboration with you. The Assembly knows that the high traditions which it has already established and of which it is justly proud, will be safe in your hands.

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy : Mr. President, I thank you for the words of welcome that you have been good enough to address me, and as I mentioned when returning thanks on the day of my election, while I esteem it a privilege to enjoy the confidence of my Honourable colleagues I realise the heavy responsibility that this privilege and the onerous duties of the Deputy President carry with them. I take comfort, however, in the idea that in the performance of my duty, I can always count upon the cordial co-operation and support of my Honourable colleagues in this Assembly. I feel, Sir, I can not conclude my remarks without referring to one subject. It would be hypocritical on my part to say that I feel anything but satisfaction at my election, but I will make bold to address a few words to my Honourable friend, Dr. Gour. To him, Sir, I would like to extend my right hand of good fellowship. To a man of his capacity, calibre, and great intellectual and legal attainments, surely the avenue to further success in public life is not closed for ever by this event. Why, Sir, there is hardly any one in this House but feels that in the fulness of time, the Honourable Member from the Central Provinces will be called upon to grace the front Government bench, whose policy at present he very often so ably criticises and sometimes no less ably supports. With these few remarks I beg to resume my seat, confident that the appeal for support and co-operation which I have made to the Honourable Members in general and my Honourable friend in particular will not be made in vain. I know that he will be as ready to support me in the position to which fate has called me as I should have been ready to support him if the positions had been reversed.

Remember that on the success of this great adventure depends the future of Swaraj to which we, Hindus, Mussulmans, Christians and Parsees wish to attain under the aegis of the great British Empire.

Sir, I thank you and the Honourable Members once again.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Sir, I rose to congratulate my friend, the newly elected Deputy President, but he has anticipated me. Though late, I do not swerve one whit in my enthusiasm to congratulate him upon his newly conferred honour of Deputy President, and he may rest assured that he will receive the unstinted support from all parts of this House in the discharge of his duties. He may also be sure that he will receive not only the co-operation of the Members of this House, but continuous support and encouragement in the due discharge of his office.

Sir, after the dust and din of strife when the battle is lost and won, no one feels more than I do that my friend is pre-eminently qualified to discharge the duties of the office to which he has been elected, and if he has any lingering doubts in his mind (*A roice* : No), even if he had, I assure him that they must now from this moment disappear, and we shall look upon him as our Deputy President and look up to him for advice and guidance in the discharge of our duties.

RESOLUTION *RE*: NON-RECOGNITION, BY THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL DIPLOMAS OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

Rao Bahadar C. S. Subrahmanayam : Sir, the Resolution standing in my name runs as follows :

‘This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council :

- (a) that with reference to the letter of the 24th March 1921, from the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom to the Secretary of State for India on the subject of the recognition of medical diplomas of the Indian Universities, the various Local Governments be advised to make more satisfactory arrangements for giving practical training in midwifery to students undergoing instruction for medical degrees and diplomas in their Provinces ;
- (b) that in the event of the General Medical Council carrying out their threat to withhold recognition to the medical degrees and diplomas of the Indian Universities, the Secretary of State for India be moved to stop recruiting in England for the Indian Medical Service and order recruitment exclusively from India, or at any rate, to prescribe the possession of a medical degree or a diploma of any Indian University hitherto recognized by the General Medical Council, as an alternative qualification for admission to the competitive examination for entrance into the Indian Medical Service.’

This Resolution, Sir, is one of great importance, not only to the large number of students that seek to enter the medical profession, but also to the entire population of this country.

I would just ask Honourable Members to glance at the Resolution which I am moving and they will see that the question which is involved is, as I said, of considerable importance.

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Now, in 1896, the General Medical Council in England considered that the teaching of and training in midwifery in the institutions in the United Kingdom was not brought up to that standard of efficiency which they considered necessary, and it was in 1896 that the eminent medical men which compose that body, considered that their own institutions, which were authorised to train and issue certificates to medical men, who, by virtue of those certificates became recognised by the General Medical Council, were not as efficient as they wished them to be. Those medical men then got to work and called the attention of medical institutions in the United Kingdom to that inefficiency and called upon them to improve their courses of study and training in midwifery.

Now, that is the first point, at any rate, to start on in this discussion, and I would ask my Honourable friends to remember the events in their sequence in considering these questions because it is very necessary that the dates and sequence of these events should be kept in mind in order to take an impartial view of the matter.

Now from 1896 we pass on to 1905, or roughly, to a period of 10 years. These 10 years were, I think, given to those institutions to improve their curriculum and to bring about the necessary changes in their methods of teaching and to bring their appliances and equipment, etc., up to date. In 1905 and 1906, the improvements that were made, or were not made, were taken stock of, that is to say, that the conditions under which those institutions worked at the time were gone into and considered. When they considered the situation, they found that it was unsatisfactory and did not come up to the standard that had been urged. I will deal in general terms with the question for the simple reason that this Assembly is not composed of medical men, competent to consider the details of the instruction nor of the different views which medical men have taken in regard to this matter. We have already considered the general aspect of the question, the trend of the discussion and the trend of the criticism together with the conclusion and final decision which has been arrived at. Now in 1905 and 1906 in prescribing the course of training in midwifery, the British Medical Council laid down certain instructions which I will not take you over. Only one point has now become the point at issue and that is in regard to the conditions which it was found difficult to fulfil, and those are the conditions on which the whole of the discussion of this question turns. The condition I refer to is this :

' Every student should be required to present a certificate bearing that he has conducted 20 cases of labour under official medical supervision subject to the following conditions.'

and so on.

Now that condition was notified to all the institutions in the United Kingdom licensed to issue diplomas, by virtue of which the holders of those diplomas were entitled to registration by the General Medical Council. Now, mark you, during this epoch, this condition was not communicated to the institutions in India which were even then entitled to be recognised by the British Medical Council. In regard to this condition of conducting 20 labour cases, it was recognised and there was a general consensus of opinion that it would

not be possible to provide each student in each of the institutions with 20 labour cases, which meant to say that a sufficiently large number of patients must be found who would be willing to be treated by these students. The difficulty is a primary one, and while it would not be difficult with a large sum of money to equip an institution with appliances, etc., it would be very difficult to find those 20 cases, and that is the crux of the whole matter.

In regard to the decision to which I have referred, it was a decision come to at a meeting of the Medical Council where 31 members were in attendance, and out of those 31 members, 16 plumped straight for the condition, 11 were against it and 4 were neutral, and Honourable Members will know what it means when members taking part in a discussion remain neutral, it means that they are for no change. So it will be seen that the condition laid down in regard to the students conducting 20 labour cases is not a condition which received the unanimous assent of the meeting—it was really an even number, and that condition which had been enforced by the Council did not find very much support, and among those who did not support it were eminent medical men in their profession.

Mr. Morris, one of the gentlemen who took part in that matter, said it would throw difficulties in the way of London students owing to the lack of opportunities they would experience in obtaining the midwifery cases. Sir Charles Ball said, it would be impossible for every student to get cases. He could not therefore see how the recommendation could be carried out. Sir Thomas Fraser of Edinburgh thought the number of cases was fixed much too high. The same purpose would be served by 8 or 10 cases. Dr. Saundby said, it is not fair to pass a Resolution of this sort with the knowledge that a great many teaching bodies could not carry out its provisions.

Doctor Little considered that the Council should only expect what was reasonable and what could be done at medical schools. Dr. Walker declared that as a teacher he did not believe that it was necessary for each student to have twenty cases. If he had resided in a maternity hospital for one month, he would know a great deal more about midwifery at the end of the time than if he had conducted 100 cases on his own responsibility.

Now, these are some of the opinions of eminent men in 1906-07. The discussion went on and there was a good deal of adverse comment both as to its intrinsic value and also as to the practicability of enforcing that condition in the professional circles. Well, we will leave it there. Then we find after another decade, a little later, in 1919, this question was raised and a circular issued to all the licensed institutions in the United Kingdom. I will shortly read the letter to the Secretary of State in regard to these institutions in India. A series of questions were addressed to the Universities in India—a set of interrogatories and they sent up their replies. Now, of the Universities in India, it can at once be said that Calcutta, Bombay and Madras fairly come up to the standard required by the General Medical Council. For, the Assembly must remember that the medical institutions of our Universities were started, improved and brought up to their present state of efficiency, not by Indian but by European doctors, who had received their training in England and who were part and parcel of this Service—the Indian Medical Service—and who are eminent in their line and who have commanded from time to time respect in scientific circles not only in India but elsewhere. Any attack upon

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the efficiency of these institutions would be practically an attack upon the efficiency of the Indian Medical Service who were the persons who controlled and managed these institutions. And, therefore, all at once, now, after so many years, to wake up in 1920 and say that the Universities in India are not sufficiently up-to-date in the standard they require and the teaching and training they provide for medical students requires a somewhat closer examination because it is not an unfair position for us to take that there is something underlying this criticism beyond the mere allegation of lack of efficiency. Well, it is admitted by all those who have written or spoken on the subject that Madras takes the first place, that in providing the requisite number of labour cases and also in its efficiency and up-to-date arrangements in the hospitals and in the college. Well, I say that with diffidence as I come from Madras, but it is a fact that I think has received the unanimous support of all who know. Calcutta and Bombay are equally good. There is all that is necessary there to bring up the institutions in Calcutta and Bombay to the requisite standard, while the Allahabad and the Punjab standard is on a slightly different footing. The provision of labour cases is a matter which depends upon the willingness of the women of the Province. While Madras has less restrictions of gosha, Calcutta and Bombay are not quite so free as Madras. The Punjab and Allahabad are I suppose very much restricted. The system of gosha is worse and restricted in greater measure in these two Provinces. That may account for the paucity of the number of labour cases.

Well, the circular letter referred to in the Resolution and now under discussion that was addressed in regard to the Indian institutions is worth reading. At this stage it would be appropriate for me to read the letter—the text of the letter addressed to the Indian Universities :

' 9th March 1921. The executive committee (i.e., of the General Medical Council) is not satisfied that the Indian diplomas under existing conditions furnish a sufficient guarantee of the possession of the requisite knowledge and skill for the efficient practice of midwifery within the meaning of section..... and so on.' ' Unless evidence is received by the executive committee before February 22nd that their requisite arrangements and requirements with regard to midwifery have been brought into satisfactory accordance with the Council's Resolution with reference to professional education, the recognition hitherto accorded to their respective diplomas will forthwith thereafter terminate.'

The letter to the British Universities and institutions, I shall now read :

' A communication be sent to the Ministry of Health (probably the authority that has control of medical institutions such as, I suppose, the Education Department here or the Secretary of State there) begging that steps may be taken for the utilisation of poor law institutions for clinical instruction...' And then ' The attention of Universities is again called to the recommendations of 1906 in the hope that when the present difficulties in training are alleviated, they may be able to carry out their recommendations in their entirety and that the present conditions of training which in many cases cannot be approved may be rendered sufficient and such as the Council will be able to regard as satisfactory.'

I hope Honourable Members have followed me when I read the letter to the Indian Universities and this letter. The difference in tone adopted by the General Medical Council in regard to the letters addressed to the Indian Universities, and the British institutions, not all of them Universities, is marked, and is in a sense inappropriate, and I may add insulting to this country. This letter is in the form of an ultimatum. When the British institutions in the United Kingdom are approached with the hope

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that in the present difficult conditions means may be found to put their house in order, we are told that if we do not do it within a certain period, we shall be turned out. The question is whether this country should put up with a demand like this. Are we so helpless in the matter of medical knowledge that we should put up with such a demand? I consider that every self-respecting Member of this Assembly, who represents the country, and who has the self-respect and the good of the people of the country at heart, will say decidedly, no. I can well understand that if the training in the Indian Universities, at any rate in the three presidency Universities, lacked in efficiency, and was not under proper management, and a body of experts came and told us that we were not doing things in a proper way in this scientific matter and that we ought not to do things in a perfunctory manner, then I should have bowed my head and said: 'I accept your advice; I stand corrected.' But when every authority who has spoken about these Universities has said that the teaching is efficient and the provision of appliances and equipment is as good as that provided in the United Kingdom, then to hurl this ukase at our face, I think, is a little improper. I am well aware that the British General Medical Council consists of eminent men and ordinarily and generally they are actuated in their recommendations by the sole desire of advancing and improving the standard of qualifications required from men who go out with their imprimatur. That I recognise, and I also recognise that under ordinary circumstances they are not likely to give a wrong verdict. But I cannot understand and I have not been able to gather any very good reasons for their taking this attitude in regard to us when at the same time, in the same month, their attitude, their way of expressing their views towards the institutions in the United Kingdom was quite different. In regard to the institutions in the United Kingdom, you find that excepting the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, the other institutions which are licensing bodies in England, Scotland and Ireland, fall far below the standard enforced and required in the Indian Universities. I do not want to take the Assembly through the detailed figures relating to each of the institutions in the United Kingdom. I make that general statement and I stand by it, and if any Honourable Member, who is going to question my statement, is able to furnish facts which would destroy my position, I would gladly accept it. But I do not think it possible. I make that statement, and you make it as true and correct.

Now, with regard to labour cases, there also some difficulty arises. The dislike to be treated by males is not a feature peculiar to this country. Even in the United Kingdom doctors deplore the unwillingness of women to be treated by male doctors. There may be some difference in degree, but the fact is there as it is here. When the notification of 1920, that is, the one prior to this ultimatum, containing the interrogatories was sent out to India, a circular was addressed to the Indian Universities calling for replies to a number of questions. The Calcutta University considered this matter and at once altered its regulations and arranged to make the necessary improvements in its teaching and training arrangements for midwifery and they wrote to the General Medical Council what they had done. The terms in which their reply was couched, as it is usual always in Indian Universities, was marked with considerable humility and was in an apologetic tone for existing and non-existing defects in their system. One sentence which they used in that letter runs as follows:

'The Authorities of this University fully realize the importance of practical training in the subject of Midwifery, but we would with all respect point out to the President of the

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General Medical Council that while every endeavour is made to improve the practical training of our students in this important subject, and while we feel convinced that in many ways their practical demonstrations and opportunity of clinical study are better in the Eden Hospital than in many centres at Home, it must be remembered that the women of these Eastern 'countries'—that is their error—' have from time immemorial been averse to examination and attendance by male doctors except under exceptional circumstances.'

But I find that this last position, averse to examination and attendance by male doctors except under exceptional circumstances, is a besetting sin of the women of the United Kingdom as well. It is not a sin of which our sisters in this country alone are guilty. But this last apologetic clause was taken possession of by the Medical Council and they have founded an argument on it against us. Well, the position is certainly this. Twenty labour cases are the conditions imposed. The majority of institutions in the United Kingdom cannot come up to that standard. Three Universities in this country can come up to that standard. The Universities of Allahabad and the Punjab will endeavour their best to come up to that standard. While these are the acknowledged, undoubted facts, is it fair for the General Medical Council to send us this ultimatum?

There is something beneath this. That is from the year 1918—I am passing on to another aspect of the matter—when the Public Services Commission sat and when the question of recruitment of Indians in larger numbers to the Medical Services was considered, an opinion was advanced that the training in India which the Indian medical students received was not quite up to the required standard; but it was not an emphatic position taken up, but it was the first note that was struck. Then while they put it forward in general terms, the teaching of midwifery was not the prominent thing that was mentioned. At the same time, the other question which has always remained with us yet unsolved, the question of simultaneous examination for some of the higher services, a question which I do not know when it will be solved to our satisfaction,—that question also came up for discussion. When that was put forward, naturally there was a great deal of opposition from the British element in the services. The objections to that system are based upon certain grounds which are common not only to the medical services, but also to all the higher services. One of them was that Indians who enter these appointments which have been held by the British till now ought to so metamorphose themselves as to be indistinguishable in all, I presume, in all those artificial and outward symbols, from the European; that is there should be such an assimilation between the Indian element and the European that it should not be very easy to distinguish one from the other. That position has been taken up for a good many years. The validity of that requirement is, I consider, open to great question. Where is the necessity for men serving in India, dealing with Indians, to acquire that outside veneer, if I may say so? You cannot change the nature of a man? You might change his accoutrements, but you cannot change his colour, and where is the necessity for it? It might have been at one time considered necessary, but the opinion amongst Indians and the better opinion amongst Europeans, I consider, does not support that requirement. You may, as a matter of taste, as a matter of pleasure, change your ways. But is it necessary where natural talent, assiduity, and industry are the requisites for the services, is this outside change necessary? That was one objection that was put forward then.

Mr. President : Order, order. I have already granted the Honourable Member an extension of time. I hope he will see his way to bring his argument to a close.

Bao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam : Another point that was put forward then was that they get a training in reliability, truthfulness, sense of duty and other things. It went on till the Medical Services Committee sat in this country. Then the question was taken up and in general terms it was stated that there was not sufficient clinical material in this country. But Lieutenant-Colonel Smith in the Punjab pointed out that there was any amount of clinical material in this country, enough and to spare. Lieutenant-Colonel Rodgers' objection was that the families of Europeans would be put to great difficulties if they could not get European medical aid. That is an argument which has been dealt with, and the Indian Medical Service cannot be so recruited as to enable every European in every centre, in every town in this country, to have an European to attend to his requirements.

Now, the point before the Assembly is this. Is this requirement of the General Medical Council one which we ought to allow to go unchallenged and ought we not to call upon the Government to take steps to call upon the Medical Council to withdraw it, or to take us along with the British institutions at Home? If the British institutions at Home who do not come up to the standard are deprived of the privilege of issuing licenses, after that is done, I should not be sorry, I should not object if our institutions here are deprived of the privilege.

One word more and I shall conclude. This subject is a medical subject and there is no Indian who is a medical man, who in this Assembly can take up the subject, and put forward the case of the Medical Service. This Resolution which I have moved is a Resolution which under ordinary circumstances should have been moved by Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer who had been approached by all the medical men and by those interested in this question to put this subject before the Assembly. But the question of ballot is a case of fortune favouring the few. I put forward this Resolution in terms identical with that of Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, and I see Dr. Nand Lal had also a similar Resolution. Fortune, it so happened, favoured me in the ballot. While I am ready to accept the proverb relating to the favouring of fortune I do not include my learned friend, Dr. Nand Lal, in that category. Luckily for me he could not move it yesterday, and to-day I have placed before you a skeleton of the case, and I hope the strength of the case which I have urged will enable this Assembly to accept the Resolution. I hope, in the course of the debate, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer will have an opportunity of giving us his well-considered views on the matter.

Mr. President : I have received notice of three amendments and in this case they all raise issues which are closely connected with one another and I propose to read to the Assembly the Resolution as it would be, if amended by all three. In ordinary cases I do not allow two or three amendments to be taken up simultaneously, but in this case they all run together.

The first is in the name of Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal :

'That to clause (a) after the word 'Provinces' the following be added : 'and bring the same to the standard of the Universities in the United Kingdom where they are not already so.'

[The President.]

The second amendment standing in the name of Dr. Nand Lal is :

'To add after the word 'Provinces' the following words 'and that the Secretary of State for India be asked to influence the British Medical Council to reconsider their decision that unless effective steps were taken to meet the wishes of the British Medical Council by February 1922, the Medical degrees of the Indian Universities will cease to be accepted for registration purposes.'

I think in order to make the Resolution read more easily it would perhaps be advisable for the Honourable Member to move that as a new clause—clause (b).

Thereafter Dr. Gour proposes to amend clause (b) as it stands in the Resolution, that is, to omit the words 'that in' at the beginning of clause (b) down to the word 'Universities' in line 3 and to substitute for those words 'that in the event of the General Medical Council refusing to allow a period of three years to enable the Indian students to equip themselves to meet these requirements, the Secretary of State be moved' and so on as in the words standing in the present Resolution.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal : Sir, the amendment which stands in my name is as follows :

'That to clause (a) after the word 'Provinces' the following be added : 'and bring the same to the standard of the Universities in the United Kingdom where they are not already so.'

Sir, the General Council of Medical Education and Registration in the United Kingdom have recently passed a Resolution that unless Indian Universities improve the teaching of midwifery before March 1922, their medical diplomas will cease to be recognised in the United Kingdom and that the Indian medical graduates shall not be allowed to appear for the Indian Medical Service examination or to qualify themselves for fellowship or membership of the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians unless and until they pass an examination from any medical institution of the United Kingdom. So in order to pass this examination the Indian Medical graduates shall have to stay for some six years in Great Britain for studying practically the same course which they have probably already completed in the Indian Universities inasmuch as the teaching of midwifery in some of the medical institutions of the Indian University are already virtually of the same standard as in the case of the medical institutions of the Universities of the United Kingdom. This study of six years will therefore clearly mean a waste of time, money and energy and taking the age limit and poverty of the country into consideration, the aforesaid Resolution of the General Council has evidently the effect of depriving the poor Indians of even the few fruits that have been provided for them by the Government of India Act, thereby embarrassing the success of the Reforms. The said Resolution of the General Council is entirely inequitable and the Government of India should take every step to counteract the same. At the same time it is useful and necessary to improve the teaching of midwifery in the medical institutions of the Indian Universities and to bring the same to the standard of the Universities in the United Kingdom where they are not already so, as soon as possible. I therefore commend this amendment to the consideration of this House. The amendment does not anyhow modify the utility of the original Resolution but rather makes the same more suitable to the circumstances which have necessitated the original Resolution and I trust the Honourable Member will accept my amendment,

Dr. Nand Lal : Sir, it may be submitted at once that I am not prepared to inflict a very long speech because I have to play second fiddle. Unfortunately my Resolution was not reached yesterday and the points, which ought to have been brought to the notice of this Assembly, have already been brought to their notice, and, therefore, I do not propose to repeat them. However, I shall make reference to those points and those circumstances which have not been alluded to. Now to begin with my speech. I may submit that I propose the amendment, now before the House for some reasons the Resolution has not been read out, though the Honourable Mover suggested that we may read it for ourselves. However, I shall take that duty upon myself and I shall read it for him. The first portion is 'that with reference to the letter of the 9th March'

Mr. President : I must remind the Honourable Member that he has only a quarter of an hour to himself.

Dr. Nand Lal : To my mind the wording of the Resolution is not very intelligible. Therefore I am forced to propose the amendment which has been alluded to by the Honourable the President. It may be said to the credit of our Government of India that some time back they realised that the sanitation of India could be better looked after and carried out by Indians. With a view to give practical shape to this noble resolve on their part, they determined that Indians should be given greater share in that department. I mean to say the Sanitary Department.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I rise on a point of order. Are we discussing the Sanitary Department ?

Dr. Nand Lal : When this was resolved by the Indian Government, it anyhow reached the ears of the Medical Association in England. They could not take it as palatable, because they thought that this service most probably will be monopolised by the Indians. Consequently, they, as I am told, made a representation that the scheme, which was proposed by the Government of India, may not be appreciated. Anyhow the Secretary of State did not accept and did not countenance the views and contentions which were put forward in their representation. As you know, there are two eminent Associations in England, I mean to say (1) Medical Association and (2) the British Medical Council, or you may call it the General Medical Council. Since the Medical Association feared that their object might be frustrated, naturally some of them approached and influenced the members of the General Medical Council, and the General Medical Council was prepared to sympathise with them. Therefore, they practically, as I think and am obliged to say, wanted to retort and wanted to try that Indians may not be given so much share in the sanitary department as it was proposed for them. Allow me to submit that this, as I am told, seems to be one of the causes that led to the General Medical Council issuing a letter. The date of the letter has already been given by the Honourable Mover. That letter was issued to the Indian Universities which were affiliated to the Universities in England. That letter is dated perhaps 9th March 1921. The answers were submitted through the Government of India, and the final reply which was sent to India has been read out to this Honourable Assembly. The substance of which in brief is that Indian Universities should take steps to see that the level of efficiency may be maintained at once, that is by the 22nd February 1921! So short a period was allotted for that. I am not prepared to say what the real motive was, but ostensibly the motive of the General

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Medical Council, I say this subject to correction, seems to be that we Indians may be deprived of the share which had been proposed for us. Now our difficulties, as you know, are that the Indians, in some cases, are bound by customs. Both Hindus and Muhammadans, fortunately or unfortunately, very faithfully adhere to their customs, and we also some times respect them (customs). It is impossible to believe that any Muhammadan or any respectable Hindu would like that these labour cases may be conducted by male doctors. Time may come, after the lapse of some years, when we may think very lightly of these customs, but for the present, as the circumstances exist, specially in the Punjab, we do not feel inclined to break those customs. At this juncture I have to submit that the proposal set forth by the General Medical Council will be appreciated, and that proposition has been couched very ably by the Honourable Mover in clause (a) of his Resolution. Certainly we shall make a request to the Government of India that the Local Governments may be asked that suitable measures may be adopted, and effective steps may be taken, so that the wishes and the desires which have been conveyed to us by the General Medical Council may be appreciated practically. But as the period and the time, which is allotted to us for bringing ourselves up to that efficiency, is very short, my submission is this, that the Government of India may address the Secretary of State in the terms which have been proposed by my humble self and couched in my amendment. Naturally the question arises, was there any expediency or necessity for the General Medical Council to come down upon us so hurriedly? I may submit at once, not at all. We have been enjoying the privilege of registration for about the last 30 years. The members of the General Medical Council are eminent doctors who have been to India and have acquired great experience, and I can say without exaggeration that some of them are equipped with the knowledge that we Indians have got certain peculiar customs which we are not prepared to give up at once. Knowing this, they have sent this threatening,—I may be excused for saying threatening,—letter. Further I may be excused for saying that we Indians take it (letter) as an ultimatum. These are our difficulties, which difficulties will stand as a good plea for us that we may be given greater time. Therefore, it is established that there was no expediency, no pressing need, for the General Medical Council to trouble us so much and give us this very hard hit.

Now taking the merits of the suggestion which is couched in the letter of the General Medical Council, did we ever cry that the Indian Medical Service men, I mean to say those who passed the Indian Medical Service competitive examination, had no knowledge of tropical diseases? Did we say, like that on any occasion, seriously? We did not, because we know that certain diseases are only the children of certain climatic circumstances, as for instance eye diseases in India. We have got, in India, malaria, but it does not exist with that force in England. To English gentlemen, who passed the competitive examination in England and joined the Indian Medical Service in India, we never said, 'You are not capable, you are not fit, to handle these cases?' Similarly, our circumstances, our customs, our habits do not easily allow us to find so many in our labour cases in the Punjab. Why should they raise this point? Therefore, my point is this, that this contention which has been raised by the General Medical Council is a mistake. In reality, it may be actuated by noble intentions, but ostensibly we think that there is a political

element in it. As you know, Sir, certain countries and again certain colleges are specially meant for practical training in the domain of medicine, as for instance a very famous school in Ireland. There are some very good medical colleges in London, and so on and so on. If a medical student or graduate in medicine wishes to get himself trained practically in a specific land, he ought to go to that school. Therefore on this ground also the General Medical Council has got no case to press this suggestion on us, that we may try to achieve this efficiency or the required efficiency within a few months.

Sir, allow me to repeat on this ground too, the General Medical Council has got no case to press this suggestion, namely, that we should try to achieve this efficiency or required efficiency within a few months. The General Medical Council desires that we may build Rome in one day. It is impossible. Therefore, I repeat the same submission that a greater period ought to have been allowed to us. We do not say that we are not prepared to get ourselves trained. We Indians are able to do anything which is good. Suggest any examination, and we will appear in it and pass it, but give us time. Though our customs, our ancient habits, stand in our way, yet, so far as academic studies are concerned, so far as the passing of examinations is concerned, we are quite prepared to say 'All right, we shall appear and pass,' if there were no physical difficulty. Hence I feel bound to repeat my submission that the Government of India will be pleased to address the Secretary of State and ask him to write to the General Medical Council to reconsider their decision.

With these few remarks, I propose this amendment and I hope the whole Assembly will give its unanimous support to it. It is a very modest amendment. I am not in a threatening mood. I do not like that any threat may be given for the present, because my impression is this, that the General Medical Council is manned by doctors of great eminence and I think they are amenable to reason. This just cause of ours will appeal to these men and I am sure they will withdraw their proposal. And, consequently, I have put my amendment in a modest way. With these few remarks, I submit, that this amendment should be accepted unanimously.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Sir, the short question which has aroused this controversy may be thus stated. The General Medical Council is a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament. It has general supervision over medical education throughout the British Empire. One of the conditions for entry into the Indian Medical Service is that all candidates appearing for the examination of the Indian Medical Service should be registered by the British Medical Council as qualified practitioners in the United Kingdom. Now, this has been a qualification which has stood on the regulations of the Indian Medical Service for a very long time past. No objection was taken by the Medical Council to the registration of Indian Medical graduates in the United Kingdom, and this opened before them an avenue for entry into the Indian Medical Service. As Honourable Members are aware, within the last two or three years, an agitation has been set on foot that the Indian Medical Service has become the monopoly of Englishmen and that Indians in larger numbers should be admitted into that Service. The demand which the British Medical Council have made upon the Indian Universities in the peremptory terms which are contained in the first paragraph of their letter, to which the Honourable Mover of this Resolution has referred, curiously synchronises with this agitation on the part of Indians, and the agitation in this country by way of protest against the conduct and the tone of the British Medical Council is

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due to the fact that there is a suspicion in the minds of the people of this country that the British Medical Council is trying now to enforce an old order which remained in abeyance for the purpose of excluding Indian candidates from entry into the Indian Medical Service. This, Sir, is the gravamen of the accusation made by the people of this country, and it is for this House now to consider two questions. First, the demand which the British Medical Council have sprung upon this country, which is an ultimatum, that if the Universities in this country do not place themselves on a footing which they require, they will be disaffiliated from the commencement of February next. That is the first question, and the second question is a question of equal importance, whether the British Medical Council were entitled to give to the people of this country an ultimatum without any previous warning, communication or request addressed to the responsible authorities, such as the Government of India. The Honourable Member in charge of the Indian Medical Service will no doubt enlighten us if this ultimatum, which the British Medical Council have given to the Indian Universities, receives the concurrence of the Government of India and whether there was any correspondence on the subject; and I hope the Honourable Member in charge of this portfolio will enlighten this House as to what previous steps were taken by the British Medical Council to enforce their regulation from the date when it was first promulgated, somewhere in 1907, and why is it that this long dormant Resolution of the British Medical Council was suddenly put in force with a curt and none too courteous request that if within the short period of six or eight months the Indian Universities did not suitably equip themselves, their affiliation should be withdrawn with the necessary consequence that with the disaffiliation of the Indian Universities, will follow this disqualification of all Indian Medical graduates from their candidature for the Indian Medical Service. It has been said and said in the latter end of the reference, that a number of Indian medical practitioners go and practise in England without adequate qualifications in midwifery. Now, I ask the Honourable Member, who, I believe, will respond to this debate, to inform this House how many medical men of Indian nationality go and settle down in England to practise midwifery in that country.

And how far is this complaint contained and promulgated in the Resolution under reference by the British Medical Council borne out by the facts? Now, Sir, I discern a little contradiction in the Honourable Mover's Resolution. In the first paragraph he tells us that the Indian Universities must suitably equip themselves, and in the second paragraph he recommends to the Government of India that the Secretary of State should take the drastic step which this House would commend to the Government of India. Now, Sir, let me recapitulate the real facts of the case. The British Medical Council require that every person—and under the British Medical Act, all persons who qualify in Medicine must also qualify in Gynæcology, and the one test which the British Medical Council have laid down for their technical qualification in Gynæcology is that students must have attended 20 labour cases. The Honourable Mover tells us that except the great British Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, the other Universities in the United Kingdom do not conform to this Regulation.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam: It is impossible for them to conform to it.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Well, if they do not conform. I presume it is because it is impossible to conform. The Honourable Mover has further told you that this Regulation was passed by the bare majority of one. I shall, for the purpose of my present argument, assume that whether it was passed by the majority of one or unanimously, it is a good and salutary regulation. Now, Sir, I ask the Honourable Member in charge of this Department to tell us whether the British Medical Council enforce this regulation with impartiality not only in respect of Indian students but also in respect of the alumni of those British Universities to which reference has been made by the Honourable Member and which have not conformed thereto. Is it a fact that with the exception of the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, medical graduates of the other Universities in the United Kingdom are refused registration by reason of the fact that they have not attended 20 labour cases. If that is so, I think we have no grievance. If that is not so, our grievance is accentuated, and we feel that the British Medical Council have placed this country in a position of exceptional disability which is only consistent with the suspicion widely prevalent in this country that the British Medical Council are trying to stop the entry of the Indians into the Indian Medical Service by closing the door—the only door through which they can get admission into the examination hall.

Another question and a very important question, with which I am not familiar and on which before we vote we await the reply of the Honourable Member, is this: If the Regulation was passed in 1907, how is it that from 1907 down to 1919—that is, for a period of 12 years—it was not put in force; and what immediate circumstances have induced the British Medical Council to put it into force with the peremptoriness of which the Resolution is the best example. Now, Sir, these are the questions which agitate the public mind and these are the questions to which a reply is necessary. Now I will deal, Sir, with my own amendment. The Honourable Mover has not denied the fact—and it is undeniable—that no one can be made familiar with midwifery unless he has attended a few labour cases. As to what should be the number of labour cases is a matter upon which we laymen are not competent judges. We must therefore assume that the British Medical Council were perfectly justified in fixing the minimum of 20 labour cases as the *sine qua non* of a practical knowledge of Gynecology. Now, Sir, if this is what they demand, namely, practical acquaintance with 20 labour cases, the next question that arises is—Are we prepared, are we in a position to place our medical colleges in this country upon a suitable footing within the short period which the British Medical Council allow. These are the two questions which affect the principle. We then pass on to the extremely curt, discourteous and peremptory tone adopted by the British Medical Council. I do not ignore the fact that it is a statutory body, but a statutory body is not privileged to insult the people of India, and I therefore submit that this House should communicate through the Government of India its indignation, its protest, its strong resentment at the tone which the British Medical Council have adopted towards the seats of learning in this country, and through them towards the people of this country. Whatever may be the merits of the case, the British Medical Council could not, and I submit should not, have used the language which occurs at the end of the paragraph 1. 'If you do not qualify yourselves within the period which we fix, your affiliation shall terminate.' That is the language used, and that I submit is language which we the people of this country must certainly protest against. Now, Sir, having said this, I have, I think, prepared myself for the moving of my own amendment. The

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Honourable Members will see that what I desire is this. It is, I think, too late protest against the qualification which the British Medical Council have thought fit to impose upon the Medical students, namely, attendance on 20 labour cases. Speaking as a layman, and with all the humility and diffidence due to the fact that I do not know what is necessary to a medical student for obtaining practical acquaintance with this subject, I think 20 labour cases, is none too many to make a medical student practically acquainted with Gynaecology. At the same time it seems to me that his efficiency must to a large extent depend not so much upon the number as upon the nature of labour cases he attends. If they are 20 normal cases, or even 20 abnormal cases, I would still hesitate to say that the medical student is fully acquainted with his business. If 20 normal cases have been visited by him, probably his acquaintance will be very superficial and he will not be able to deal with abnormal cases. But this is a question into which we need not go. We must assume that the British Medical Council were justified in prescribing to their Universities a certain standard for the qualification of medical students. Now we pass on to the next question, that if this qualification is necessary, how long will it take the Indian Universities to equip themselves. In that correspondence which the British Medical Council have sent out to this country, and which is available to Honourable Members, the British Medical Council say that we told you sometime ago but you have not done it.

But it is forgotten that this regulation which they had issued was practically ignored for so many years and that the Indian Universities were never given to understand that it would be regarded as the irreducible *sine qua non* for placing one's name on the medical register in England. Consequently, the fact that for a long time this regulation has been in existence does not count. What does count is this, that when you send this ultimatum and say, 'Prepare yourselves within ten months; otherwise you will be disaffiliated,' is this period sufficient to enable us to open midwifery classes in connection with all the Indian Universities? This is a question upon which the Honourable Member in charge of this portfolio will be better able to speak. But speaking for myself, as a layman with no practical acquaintance with the question, I think ten months is much too short. The Government of India must require money; money must be voted by the Provincial Councils or by the Legislative Assembly, and after that buildings have to be constructed; staff has to be employed and labour cases have to be collected. I do not agree with my friend, the Honourable Mover of this Resolution, that this is a counsel of perfection, that we cannot get together 20 cases for each student. The recent inauguration of the Maternity and Infant Welfare League has placed in our possession an organisation which will give us the requisite number of cases if an effort is made in that direction. Speaking of my own Province, since the inauguration of this League in the city of Nagpur, between 20 and 30 labour cases are available every day; and if that is the case in a town with a population of a lakh and a half, I do not think we need despond in the case of cities like Allahabad and Lucknow and Lahore which have a much larger population. My friend speaks of the gosha system; the gosha system no doubt accounts for the shortage of these cases in Lahore and Allahabad. But the poorer classes in both the United Provinces and the Punjab do not observe gosha and the medical students should have no difficulty in finding the requisite number of cases. The question, therefore, is one of time and I have in my amendment

said that if the British Medical Council give us three years' time we shall be in a position to equip ourselves and bring our Indian Universities in line with the requirements of the British Medical Council. This, Sir, is my amendment, and subject to anything that might be said by the Honourable Member in charge, I commend it for the acceptance of this House. (*A Member*—We have no copy of your amendment.) My friend says, he has not got a copy of it. You, Sir, will presently read the amendment, and, therefore, I shall not waste the time of the House by reading it myself.

Mr. President : Amendment moved, to omit all the words from ' that ' down to the word ' Universities ' in line 3 of Section (b) of the Resolution, and to substitute the words ' that in the event of the General Medical Council refusing to allow a period of three years to enable the Indian Universities to equip themselves to meet its requirements ' in their place.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : Sir, as one responsible for the drafting of the original Resolution, I feel it my duty to offer some remarks in support of this Resolution. I shall also take advantage of this opportunity to offer a few remarks upon the amendments which have been since moved. My Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, Mr. Subrabmanayam, has described this Resolution of the Executive Committee of the General Medical Council as an ultimatum. I doubt whether that is a correct description of that Resolution. In one sense it is so, because it threatens action ; but on the other hand the word ' ultimatum ' suggests to one's mind some previous intimation. No previous intimation was given either to the Universities in India, or, I believe, even to the Government of India. I should like to know from the Honourable Member in charge of the Medical portfolio when he rises to speak, whether the Government of India have received any intimation of the intended action of the Medical Council before June 1921. But, perhaps, Sir, this ultimatum is justified by those laws of civilised warfare which are sanctioned by modern international law. According to the rules and usages of modern international law no previous notice is necessary and you may shell the enemy's country and that may be the first sign of your declaration of war. Now, I shall proceed to state shortly what will be the effect of this Resolution of the General Medical Council. The first result will be that if our medical diplomas are not recognised, the holders of these diplomas will be ineligible to sit for the Indian Medical Service entrance examinations. That would be the first and most serious result. The next result will be that it will prevent the holders of Indian medical diplomas from prosecuting higher post-graduate studies in the United Kingdom ; and thirdly it will prevent them from practising in the United Kingdom. I do not know how far the loss of the last privilege will be regarded as a serious one, but it is certainly at least a sentimental grievance. Now, Sir, I will endeavour to lift this discussion from the political atmosphere in which it has become enveloped during the speeches of the last few speakers. Our complaints against this Resolution of the General Medical Council are three-fold. In the first place, we say that the notice that has been given is unreasonably short. In the second place, we contend that the Resolution of the Executive Committee of the British Medical Council fails to take note of Indian conditions, and that while it is impracticable even in the United Kingdom, it is still more so in India ; and our third complaint against this Resolution is that the manner in which they try to enforce the principle which they have adopted in the Resolution of 1907 is altogether invidious. Now, Sir, the first intimation of any inquiry into the insufficiency of the education in midwifery imparted in the medical colleges in India was in the year 1920. I may shortly refer to the previous

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history of this question. Before the year 1896 the requirement was three months' practice in a lying-in hospital and the *conduct* of 12 cases of which three at least must have been under the direct supervision of a registered practitioner. This was before 1896.

In June 1896 the General Medical Council passed a Resolution with regard to the latter alternative, that is the conduct of 12 cases, and what they did was to require that a candidate should be *present* at not less than 20 cases, of which 5 at least should have been *conducted* by the candidate under the direct supervision of some registered practitioner. 10 years afterwards or rather in the year 1907, the rule was again altered, and the requirements then laid down were that the candidate should produce a certificate of having *conducted* 20 cases of labour under official medical control. The language of this Resolution indicates a distinction between the words 'presence or personal attendance' on the one hand and the word 'conduct' on the other.

Now taking the regulations of the Universities in the United Kingdom, how far they conform to this Resolution of the Medical Council has been referred to by the Honourable Mover of this Resolution, and I will only refer to one case, *i.e.*, the University of Sheffield. The requirement there is *attendance* at 20 cases, of which 5 must have been *conducted* under direct supervision. In the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, the requirement is attendance for three months in a lying-in hospital and *personal conduct* of 12 or more cases. In Calcutta, the rule is attendance at 20 labour cases, of which 6 must have been personally conducted. The rule in Bombay is the same, and in the Madras the rule is conduct of at least 12 cases, but students proceeding to England are required to conduct 20 cases.

With regard to Madras, I regret that through some deplorable and stupid oversight on the part of the Principal of the Medical College, the case of Madras has been given away. The Madras Maternity Hospital is, if I may venture to say so without being guilty of parochial patriotism, the finest in the east. Thanks to the medical officers who had been in charge of the Maternity Hospital, thanks to Sir Branfoot and Major-General Giffard, the Madras Maternity Hospital may well challenge comparison with the finest hospitals in the United Kingdom. As regards the number of cases in Madras, I will give the figures. The average total number of labour cases in all the hospitals in the Madras city is 4,718 of which 1,415 are abnormal and 3,303 are normal. Excluding the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, the total annual average for all the hospitals in the Madras city is 3,990 of which 2,446 cases are confined in the Maternity Hospital alone. The total average number of students in the medical college in the 4th year class including M. B. and L. M. S. students, military students and lady apothecary students is 60. Notwithstanding the fact that the Medical Council required an answer to the question, how many labour cases are available for students, the Principal of the Medical College by some over-sight, an unfortunate over-sight, did not answer this question and give them the information they required. Of course, I am aware, that the Universities of Allahabad and Punjab cannot furnish the required number of cases for the training of students. Now this large number of cases that are available in Madras affords ample material for the satisfactory training of students, and the material that is available even in the Universities of Calcutta and Bombay must be pronounced satisfactory when compared with the material that is available in the English Hospitals and Colleges.

My Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, referred to the Report of the Committee appointed by the Royal Society of Medicine to inquire into the state of obstetrical education in the United Kingdom. The Report of this Committee as well as other expert opinions show that the requirements of the General Medical Council are impracticable, even in the United Kingdom owing to insufficiency of beds and want of competent practical teaching. I may, with your permission, Sir, refer to one or two extracts from the report of the Committee appointed by the Royal Society of Medicine. The whole Report is exceedingly interesting reading and very useful in connection with this subject. Before I sit down, I should like to make a present of this Note prepared by Dr. Kedarnath Das, C.I.E., the distinguished Professor of Obstetrics in the Carmichael College at Calcutta to the Honourable Member-in-charge of the Medical Portfolio, if he has not already been furnished with one. The General Medical Council will do well to read, mark and digest this note. In one place the Report says :

'In four hospitals only (out of 12), midwifery wards are established for the instruction of medical students. In the case of *hospitals with no midwifery ward*, the training of students in the actual conduct of labour, normal or abnormal, is *practically non-existent*. In order to attend the 20 cases required by the regulations, the student is attached to the maternity district of his hospital. As a rule, however, the students have never seen women in labour before going on the district to attend them. Every hospital has a regulation that the student is to be accompanied to the first case or the first two cases by the R. O. O., but this regulation cannot in all instances be carried out and the student not infrequently goes to his first case alone. It is assumed that he needs no assistance after the first two cases, in conducting normal labour, but he is under instructions to report at once to the R. O. O. any abnormal conditions which he may discover. His ability to detect abnormal conditions is however very small from lack of training. The student continues to attend his district cases during the first 7-10 days of puerperium. It must be recollected that he has received no practical instruction whatever in the management of infants; as a rule his work is done without any systematic supervision during the puerperium.

In some hospitals the number of cases available in the district is insufficient to allow 20 for each student; a certain number of students from these hospitals are sent to the *lying-in hospitals* where they can be 'signed up' for 20 cases in 14 days (City of London), 21 days (York Road) or 14 days (Queen Charlotte's).

The character of the training given in the *lying-in hospitals* is as follows: These institutions in London are primarily concerned with the training of midwives; consequently they must reserve for the training of their midwives an adequate number of deliveries per annum. Only the surplus is available for the training of medical students and graduates. From these conditions it results that very few deliveries in these hospitals are actually conducted by medical students, at the most 4 or 5 each; they are, however, allowed to be present at all, which in the case of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, may be as many as 80 a month, *but they are present as spectators only*. The great majority of their 20 cases are '*attended*' in this way. There is no provision for the instruction of medical students in normal labour at the lying-in hospitals, practically all normal labours being supervised by the resident midwives. A certain amount of instruction in abnormal labour and in the puerperium is given them by the visiting physician. Students see a certain number of forceps deliveries and any other major obstetric operations that may take place during their attendance.

In the case of the hospitals having a midwifery ward for students, the conditions are as follows: The number of beds varies from 8 at University College hospitals to 24 in the Royal Free Hospital; the number of cases admitted per annum varies from 180 to 600; the number of cases admitted per student trained varies from 3 to 12. The number of cases actually delivered by medical students in the wards is limited. The period of attendance in the midwifery ward is four weeks and the student is not permitted to begin attending cases in the district until he has conducted a certain number of deliveries in the ward. After this he attends his district cases alone.'

Then again, the '*Lancet*' in speaking of this report writes as follows :

'No one who has read the report of the Committee of the section of obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine can fail to agree with their conclusions that

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the present methods of teaching are very defective. The student learning clinical midwifery is completely out of touch with the senior teachers. This is certainly true of those hospitals, the great majority in London, which have no midwifery ward and in those which have, it is true to a very large extent. It is generally impossible for the senior members of the staff to be present at any normal labours and it is no exaggeration to say, that in most hospitals they are not there even when a case of abnormal labour is conducted and the most the student can expect to see is the performance of Caesarean section, a class of cases he will seldom meet with and an operation he will probably never attempt. The result of this is that while in medicine and surgery the student has the great advantage of receiving most of his clinical teaching from the visiting physicians and surgeons, in midwifery, just as important a subject, the teaching is mainly in the hands of junior residents or registrars. This being the case, it is little wonder that the reputation of the London School of Obstetric Medicine is but a poor one and that research in the subject is practically non-existent. Not only is the teaching of clinical midwifery very deficient but the small number of beds available for lying-in cases is almost scandalous. In these days the medical student should no longer be dependent upon attendance in the extern maternity department for his experience in midwifery practice.'

In a second editorial on the 13th December 1919, the '*Lancet*' drew attention to the fact :

'That the number of beds available for lying-in cases in the London Hospitals attached to medical schools is very insufficient, there being only 97 of a total of 5,250 beds in these twelve hospitals set aside for the purpose, and of these 69 only are available for the teaching of medical students.'

Sir, that being the state of things in the London Hospitals and colleges themselves and it being also the opinion of distinguished medical experts even in England that the requirements of clinical teaching in regard to midwifery have been over-estimated by the General Medical Council, are we not justified in stating that the requirement which they have communicated to us, and in regard to the fulfilment of which they hold out a threat, bears much too hard upon the Universities in India, especially upon the Northern India Universities like those of the Punjab and United Provinces.

With regard to the Calcutta and London Universities, the note to which I have referred furnishes a complete answer.

Now having regard to the state of teaching of midwifery in the London Hospitals and Universities, in the year 1920, 13 years after the Resolution of 1907 was passed, I should like Honourable Members to look at the way in which the General Medical Council treated the English Universities and the way in which they treated the Indian Universities. Whenever it comes to the question of the Indian Universities they hold forth in a manner which can only be described as an imperious attitude, but when they come to deal with the English Universities they indulge in gentle entreaty.

Now my friend, Mr. Subrahmanayam, has drawn your attention to the language. The Council resolved that :

'A communication be addressed to the Ministry of Health *begging* that steps may be taken for the utilisation of poor law institutions for clinical instruction and that such instruction be placed in the hands of experts. They go on to say that the attention of recognised teaching institutions should be again called to the recommendations of the Council issued to them in 1906, *in the hope that when the present difficulties in training are alleviated they may be able to carry out the recommendations in their entirety and that the present conditions of training which in many cases cannot be approved, may be rendered efficient and such as the Council will be able to regard as satisfactory.*

Look at the contrast in the language, bullying and imperious in one case and cooing like that of a dove in the other.

Now, Sir, we hope that a strong representation will be made to the Secretary of State, I have no doubt that the Government of India have done their best in the matter and I am sure the Assembly will look forward with interest to the statement expected from the Honourable Mr. Shafi as to the action already taken by the Government of India in that direction. We hope that the Council will come down from their exalted pedestal of lofty and impracticable standards to a realisation of concrete facts and conditions. Now what is our answer to this Resolution? It is two-fold. I am not one of those who would refuse to worship God because a particular gentleman whom they do not like bids them do so. Now the standard which these gentlemen have laid down is certainly a laudable one and I think it is very desirable that students should go through a course of midwifery so as to be fully trained and qualified for being launched into the world as qualified practitioners. I do not therefore quarrel with the standard they lay down as an ideal, but if they insist upon conformity to that standard in practice irrespective of conditions, then one of two results must follow. Either the practitioner must agree to adopt the very highly respectable and orthodox British habit of signing up cases for attendance or we must forego recognition. Unfortunately my countrymen are not so charitably disposed as myself, and those who listened to the discussion that has taken place will have noticed that my brethren have a very unfortunate habit of putting things together and drawing their own conclusions.

They refer to the fact that since the year 1913 a very vigorous attempt has been made by the members of the Indian Medical Service to resist the influx of Indian medical practitioners into the medical service. The members of the Indian Medical Service have been astute to discover defects in the medical teaching of our colleges, the teaching staff of which has been supplied by members of their own service. They refer to the fact that the Medical Services Committee, on which not one Indian was allowed a seat, condemned the teaching of medicine in the Indian colleges. They believe that some notoriously narrow-minded retired members of the Indian Medical Service have got the ear of the General Medical Council. Far be it from me to impute any political or improper principles to the eminent and worthy gentlemen who form the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, but what I would most earnestly say to them is 'be careful how you move in this matter or you will lay yourselves open to all those suspicions which are now lurking in the minds of my countrymen, if not actually expressed by them, and more especially you will be laying yourselves open to the charge of Pharisaism, if you do not remove the beam from your own eyes, and without making a vigorous attempt to enforce your rules in the English Hospitals and Colleges, you seek to insist upon a rigorous fulfilment of the letter of the Resolution which you passed in 1907.'

I think, Sir, it would be extremely unfortunate if their conduct lent itself to any such suspicions and it is because of my esteem for these gentlemen I feel jealous about their reputation. I am anxious that they should be above the possibility of any such imputation that I would appeal to them to move gently in the matter. At a time when there is so much unrest in this country, it would be nothing short of an Imperial calamity if, by any conduct of theirs, the

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General Medical Council attempted to do anything which would give rise to a further agitation, and agitation of a bitter character.

With regard to the language of the Resolution, Sir, it was drafted by me and my Honourable friend, Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal's amendment is one which will certainly fit in very well. It was not my intention when drafting the Resolution to suggest that all our Indian Universities were open to this charge of defective education. It is only in the case of those Universities whose standard does not now come up to the prescribed standard that I suggested this. The Resolution is in two parts. I think we ought to make every attempt to improve our standard of medical education and therefore I think his amendment will be perfectly consistent with the Resolution. In regard to Dr. Nand Lal's amendment, I did contemplate that the Government of India would do their best to influence the Secretary of State...

Mr. President : I think the Honourable Member is assuming that he is the Mover of this Resolution. He has already considerably exceeded his time.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : Just one or two more words, Sir ; with regard to Dr. Gour's amendment, he wants to fix a period of 3 years. I would ask the House not to commit themselves to any definite period. It may be 3, 4 or even 5 years and I hope the House will not accept it.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, being the only medical man in this Honourable Assembly I feel that I am in the fortunate position of being able to deal with the Resolution which is now before Honourable Members, and I crave indulgence from you, Sir, if I exceed the 15 minute limit. This Resolution should be voted on and considered in two separate parts.

12-50 P. M. The first part, which we can read on the paper before us, is an admission of the inadequacy of the maternity training in the Universities in India, and a request to the various Local Governments to give more satisfactory training. That is the part of the Resolution with which I am entirely in agreement. Now, Sir, I want this Honourable House to consider this Resolution, to discuss it in a clear, calm and dispassionate manner, devoid of any political considerations and ulterior motives so far as the General Medical Council is concerned, and to utilise their ideals entirely in the medical interests of India. From the various speeches which we have heard to-day, it is apparent that not only is there an impression or a suspicion but a distinct belief is current that the General Medical Council is doing something and that something one can see is to gag Indians from getting into the Indian Medical Service and from registering in the United Kingdom. Now, Sir, that is a belief which I think should at the outset be corrected, because it is likely to blind this House to its best interests and, if persisted in, is, I am sure, likely to do incalculable harm not only to India, to the medical institutions in India, and their students, but to the whole of India.

Sir, it is unnecessary for me to deal, as has been done by the Honourable Mover, with the *raison d'être* of this Resolution. Suffice it to say that for years past the General Medical Council has had difficulty as to the training in these institutions and they certainly realised the inadequacy of the training that was given not only in India but in the United Kingdom and the dominions and tried to find out what the training in midwifery then was. I will not weary this House with that matter. The Honourable Mover laid great weight on it and showed what the important part of the circular letter was, But before

I deal with it, I must be allowed a little digression. Various remarks have been made about the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Council, the General Medical Association and the British Medical Association. But there are two distinct bodies in England. That is the General Medical Council and the British Medical Association. The General Medical Council is a body constituted under Act of Parliament, whose main object is to maintain a standard both with regard to education and professional status for students seeking admission and for practitioners seeking registration in the United Kingdom. This court, is accepted throughout the whole of the British dominions and up to now has been accepted by India. Now, the various students and practitioners from India going to England have often found this a handicap, in so far as the training in midwifery is concerned and this was the subject of considerable correspondence between the Deans of the various Universities and hospitals and the various principals of the colleges and Universities in India. The result was embodied as recently as 1919 in the General Medical Council's circular letter to all hospitals asking for certain information. The only important thing in this letter is question 3 asking how many labour cases are obtained. Now, Sir, exception has been taken in this House, and rightly so, to the difference in tone between the letters respectively to the Universities in India and the United Kingdom. I consider that whereas the one has been couched in rather curt terms, the other is couched in more courteous terms. But, Sir, that is merely a matter of one's wounded feelings as regards the tone of the letter. That does not necessarily control the necessity of the issue of the letter. Now, Sir, this letter was issued in reply to various letters received from various Universities. I shall not weary this House as to what these replies were except to state in definite terms that except in Madras, not one University from the whole of India came up to the standard demanded by the General Medical Council and that standard was the conduction of 20 labour cases. Now, Sir, the General Medical Council has no desire to, it has never assumed, any mandatory powers nor does it take up a mandatory attitude regarding the maternity requirements in hospitals. It lets us look after our own students; it only wants protection for the women and children in the United Kingdom in so far that maternity cases shall be conducted by medical men with the requisite experience in maternity cases. These replies, Sir, revealed certain facts, for instance, Allahabad says that each student gets less than 2 maternity cases per year and yet Allahabad is yearly throwing out its graduates—with the experience of two maternity cases per year!

I am very glad and thankful to Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer for supplying the figures for Madras. They are not given in their letter to the General Medical Council. It shows that Madras, amongst others, is suitably qualified or has made an attempt to be suitably qualified. Bombay has not come up to the standard because it works out to 7 cases per student the University of Calcutta gives 10 cases and you find that of this the Eden Hospital provides 6 and the Belgatchia College gives only 4 cases. Now, we come to the Punjab. And in the Punjab we have an instance of 50 students and 23 labour cases, which works out to the appalling rate of less than half a labour case per student when he qualifies. Now, I put it to this Honourable House here, is a university justified in throwing out graduates to practise in surgery, midwifery, etc., with an experience of less than half a labour case, I want the Mover of this amendment who hails from the Punjab—Dr. Nand Lal—or any Member from the

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Punjab—I ask you to conceive the position in which you would be placing your women folk—it may be your mother or your daughter—who has to call upon one of these medical graduates to attend a case of midwifery or surgery—and yet consider, that is the man, as the General Medical Council has pointed out, that has to practise midwifery in the United Kingdom. In other words, it amounts to this that the General Medical Council will not allow you to register in the United Kingdom because your medical experience is very small. And again this is the very man, Sir, who, if the second part of the Resolution is carried, would have to be called in to attend to the labour cases of the wives of officials and Members of Government.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally : How many maternity cases do they get?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I feel sure, Sir, that these facts reveal a condition which is so appalling, so disgraceful and scandalous, that it reflects the very greatest discredit on the Local Governments and the Government of India. I say this Government should hang their heads in shame. You may feel inclined to say—as one of the Members said just now—that it reflects on the Indian Medical Service. Sir, I hold no brief for the Indian Medical Service, a service to which I have the honour to belong. But I do say that it is not the fault of the officers in charge. They have done their best against odds, against national prejudice. But every day expenses on lying in hospitals are being cut down by Government, irrespective of the crying needs of the country. There is the recent case of the Eden hospital.

. Then, Sir, I want this House to remember that this has an important bearing on the infant welfare and maternity work, that has been started by Her Excellency Lady Chelmsford and that has been so nobly carried on by our present Vicerene.

There is a direct bearing between these matters. It brings out the fact that this requires drastic action on our part and that the Government of India and the Local Governments must be made aware that it is time they fall into line and that the Universities suffer for this reason. Sir, I ask the Honourable House not to be blind to the issues at stake here and not to think too much of the sentiment that is attached to the tone of this letter. On the contrary, Sir, I think that this House, the whole of India, is under a debt of gratitude to the General Medical Council for having brought to light the appalling condition of training in midwifery in India. Sir, we are here asking this House to reject or rather so to vote as to tell the General Medical Council that it is no business of theirs to demand from us a training suited for their requirements. Now, Sir, every institution, every University, has a right to reject or admit candidates into it. Even a citizen has the right when inviting guests to his house to demand a certain code of etiquette and if they do not come up to it, he is entitled to keep them out. Now, Sir, among the previous speakers I have noticed legal men. I wonder if these barristers would allow or would object to one of their teaching institutions in England, the Inner Temple or the Inns of Court or the Middle Temple, circularising all legal schools in India and demanding from Indian legal men trained in India a certain qualification when they come to England. It is exactly what the General Medical Council is demanding from us.

Having shown this House the appalling condition in which midwifery is taught in our various Universities, I now turn to the second part of this Resolution, which, I think, is mainly retaliatory, and in the nature of a distinct

threat to the General Medical Council. Sir, I have no brief for the Government of India. I have said I have no brief for the Indian Medical Service. But I have a brief for my conscience. I have a brief for India. India is my country just the same as it is yours. I have a brief for what is right and what is needed for the medical needs of India. Sir, if I were to see even the vestige of an attempt on the part of the Government of India to thwart the aspirations of Indians for getting into the Indian Medical Service, believe me, I would expose it and denounce it, and I will support this Resolution wholeheartedly. Various speakers here have said that the underlying current here is a desire on the part of the British Medical Council to keep Indians out of the Indian Medical Service. I have a statement here to show Honourable Members who make that assertion that they were evidently unaware of how many Indians are in the Indian Medical Service to-day as compared with 1912, a year before the Public Services Commission sat. In 1911-12, by examination there were 7 to 12 per cent. Indians in the Indian Medical Service. In the years 1913 and 1914, by examination there were 30 to 40 per cent. Indians in the Indian Medical Service. From 1915-21, that is about 9 or 10 years after the sitting of the Public Services Commission, by nomination there have been 80 Indians to 60 Europeans, and by examination during the years 1919, 1920 and 1921, 2 Indians to every European have entered the Indian Medical Service. If these figures do not refute the aspersions that have been made and support me in saying that no such desire was underlying the British Medical Council, in the issue of this circular, I would like to know what better facts can prove it. Here is a statement—no one can deny it—here are irrefutable facts not only to show that what the previous speakers said in accusing the British Medical Council of something ulterior, something underhand, is wrong, but it appears to me to prove the very opposite, that not only the Indian Medical Service but the Government of India are desirous of giving entrance to Indians to the Indian Medical Service in a larger and increasing proportion.

Now, Sir, to take the second part of this Resolution, one could easily divide it into two parts. The first is an ultimatum to the British Medical Council and the second is a request for the prescription of certain Degrees in India to be accepted for the Indian Medical Service. Sir, no one here can deny the fact that the Indian Medical Service has given to India practically as much as, if not more than, any other service in the whole of India. It is a body of men who for over a century have devoted their lives to the cause of India. Amongst that body of men stand out the names, with which I have no doubt, every one here is familiar, of Sir Joseph Frayer, Sir David Prain, Sir Leonard Rogers, Sir Ronald Ross, Sir Havelock Charles, Sir Gerald Bomford, Sir Pardey Lukis, Colonel Keegan, Colonel K. McLeod, Colonel Henry Smith and various others, who stand out to-day as shining lights in the domain of original research work in science. It is a body of men who form the backbone of the Indian Medical Service. They have tried to maintain the high traditions of the Service. And what does this Resolution ask us to do? To stop recruitment in England, a country which has given us so many men, and to order recruitment entirely from India. Now, Sir, I do not wish to belittle or decry my Indian colleagues. For, have we not to-day with us men who stand in the foremost ranks of science in the domain of original research work? To mention only a few names, Sir, we have Sir Kailas Chandra Bose, Sir Nil Ratan Sircar, Dr. Kedar Nath Dass, Dr. Chuni Lal Bose, Sir Temuljee Nariman, Dr. Bahadurjee, Colonel Chandra, I.M.S., Colonel M. E. Dutt, I.M.S., Dr. M. N. Choksey,

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and even Dr. Matra Das of Moogha. Every one of these men stands out prominently and they are recognised by the world as eminent men in their various branches. Have not these men something to thank England for? They have received their early training from Members of the Indian Medical Service.

(*An Honourable Member*: Dr. Kedar Nath Dass was never in England.)

I was a colleague of Dr. Kedar Nath Dass. I know that he studied in the Calcutta Medical College, but he was trained by Indian Medical Service men. I want to make it clear to the House that I have no desire whatever of belittling the professional attainments of these distinguished Indians.

But, Sir, I ask you, do you think that the time has come when India can supply all her medical needs? Has the time come when India, as far as her medical needs are concerned, can do without England? I will only say, it would be rash if you tell the General Medical Council, 'Unless you withdraw your circular, we are going to boycott you.' I am not going to take up the cudgels of the Medical Service. That has stood the test of years and you yourselves are getting into it in ever increasing numbers every year. And are you going to bring that Medical Service into disrepute by recruiting it from a class of graduates whom your own Universities have pronounced as unfit and not adequately trained? Are you going to allow these men to enter into the service whose primary duties will be to look after the officials' wives in labour? Not only that. Are you going to attain what you want, and that is, the withdrawal of this circular by the General Medical Council by giving another threat to them, and whilst giving that threat are you going to make the Indian Medical Service the scapegoat of your efforts? Don't you think they deserve more than that at the hands of this House? I hold no brief for the Indian Medical Service, and if by such action on the part of the British Medical Council they try to throw out the aspirations of any Indians, I will support this Resolution,—I repeat it, because I am convinced that no such motives underly the circular of the British Medical Council, no such charge can be put at the door of the General Medical Council in respect of their circular. The facts and figures that I have given to you to-day prove it beyond any measure of doubt. But, Sir, I ask you, are you going to gain this? Remember the General Medical Council is a very powerful body. It does not interfere with the midwifery training in this country. It tells you, as it has every right to do, 'I want to look after the standard of the medical education in the United Kingdom. I want to keep the face value of my degree at its present high water mark. I want to look after the safety of the motherhood, and the childhood of my country.....'

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member has exceeded his time.

The Honourable Mr. Shafi: Sir, I venture to deprecate most sincerely the introduction into this debate of anything in the nature of racial or political controversy. (Hear, hear.) It seems to me that in the interests of India and of Indian Medical men it would not only be unwise and impolitic to do so, but in the absence of any definite data such an attempt would be utterly unjustifiable. Surely, the Members of the General Medical Council know of the principle of Indianisation of our Imperial Services recommended by the Royal

Commission on the Public Services, otherwise called the Islington Commission, recognised in the Chelmsford-Montagu Report and now finally accepted both by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Surely, they know that no subterfuges, no devices on the part either of the Council in England or of any one else out in this country can prevent the Indianisation of our public services. To assume that in the decision which they have given they have been guided by racial or political motives is to attribute to them an amount of ignorance with regard to the new policy adopted by His Majesty's Government which I am not prepared to admit. Therefore it is best in the interests of India and of the object which the Honourable Mover of this Resolution has in view not to introduce into this debate to-day anything in the nature of racial or political controversy.

Sir, it is undeniable that the decision of the British Medical Council has caused a widespread stir throughout the length and breadth of this country. (Hear, hear.) Meetings have been held in all the various Provinces of India, articles and letters have appeared in the columns of Indian newspapers representing all shades of opinion protesting against this decision, and finally the widespread feeling in this country has to-day found expression in this debate in the Legislative Assembly. When we bear in mind the results of the decision by the British Medical Council, if actually carried out, I for one do not wonder at this widespread stir. The privileges which registration in England carries with it may be summed up in a very few words. Registration in England permits Indians to enter the Indian Medical Service, it permits Indians with Indian degrees to practise in the United Kingdom, and other British Possessions and it permits Indians with Indian degrees to serve as doctors on ships. It will therefore be clear that if the Resolution adopted by the British Medical Council be carried out, the injury done to India and Indian medical men would be incalculable. In consequence it is not surprising that there is throughout the country such a widespread stir resulting from the announcement which has been recently made.

One or two Honourable Members have asked me to state if this action was taken by the General Medical Council in England without any previous notice to the Secretary of State and the Government of India, or if Government received previous intimation of the intended action and were asked for a report in connection therewith. So far as the Secretary of State is concerned, I am not in a position to give a definite answer to that question. But from the fact that the telegram from the Secretary of State announcing this decision of the General Medical Council was the very first intimation we ever had from India Office in connection with this matter, I am entitled to presume that no previous intimation of the intended action was given even to the Secretary of State himself. At any rate, so far as the Government of India is concerned, my reply to the question put to me by the Honourable Dr. Gour and one or two other Members is that we had no intimation whatever from the General Medical Council in England of their intended action, no report whatever was called from us in connection with this matter, and I have no hesitation in saying, so far as I am personally concerned, that the procedure adopted by the General Medical Council was, to say the least, hardly courteous to the Government of India.

Sir, I have been further asked to state what action have the Government of India taken hitherto in connection with this decision of the General Medical Council.

[Mr. Shafi.]

The first intimation of the decision which we received from the Secretary of State was contained in a telegram dated the 8th May last received by us on the 9th May. It runs as follows :

'It has been announced by the General Medical Council that it is intended that Indian medical qualifications should cease to be accepted as registrable in the United Kingdom unless they are satisfied by February 1922 that midwifery training in Indian Universities has reached the standard required by the Council. It is presumed that the matter is receiving attention from Universities and Local Governments. I shall be glad to learn what steps are being taken to remedy deficiencies in midwifery training and to see how far and within what period it is expected that the requirements of the Council will be satisfied. It is most desirable to prevent the exclusion of Indian degrees from registration in the United Kingdom. The contingency will have a serious bearing in connection with the recruitment of officers for the Indian Medical Service. Papers follow by mail.'

You will notice that in this telegram intimating to us the decision of the General Medical Council the Secretary of State recognised the seriousness of the consequences involved. Before referring to the reply sent to that telegram, it is necessary to mention the action which we took at once in this country. We telegraphed the contents of the Secretary of State's telegram to the Local Governments and requested them to begin to collect information regarding this matter at once. Subsequently on the 3rd June last we sent a telegram to the Secretary of State in which we agreed that it was most desirable to prevent exclusion of Indian degrees from registration in the United Kingdom. We stated that we were collecting authoritative information on this question of medical education together with the views of Local Governments and proposals for improvement, where improvement may be necessary. But we were unable to understand why recognition which was for a long time granted to Universities in India should at this stage be withdrawn in this wholesale manner, seeing that there has been no deterioration but rather improvement in facilities available and that it was understood that facilities even in Great Britain had only recently undergone improvement. We desired also to protest strongly against the short notice given for withdrawal of recognition and trusted that the Secretary of State would make representation to the Council on the lines indicated above and pointed out the undesirable political consequences which may follow from the threatened action. Well, Sir, in reply to this telegram we received a wire from the Secretary of State dated the 4th August last, received here in India on the 7th of that month, in which the Secretary of State assured us that he fully realised our concern regarding the decision of the General Council to suspend recognition of medical degrees granted by Indian Universities. He went on to say that the matter had been discussed with the President, meaning the President of the British Medical Council, who fully appreciated the gravity of the situation from a national standpoint but stated that the Council must insist upon the midwifery practice embodied in the Resolution. The Secretary of State further mentioned that he was suggesting to the General Medical Council that a period of delay should be granted to each University in order to comply with the essential conditions and that experienced gynaecologists should be deputed by us to explain conditions to the medical schools and report as early as possible :

- (1) if the Universities are willing to comply,
- (2) if recognition can be provisionally accorded at once, and
- (3) if recognition should be delayed for a stated period.

This was what he recommended to the Medical Council and he promised to communicate a reply by cable. We have not yet received that final reply. On the 11th August we acknowledged this telegram from the Secretary of State and at the same time stated that we desired to impress upon him, that strong agitation had been roused in India by the decision of the General Medical Council. Numerous meetings had been held. Two notices of Resolution in the Legislative Assembly on this subject had been received and we further impressed upon him that postponement of operation of Council's decision was most essential and that if intimation could be given to us that the Council were prepared substantially to prolong the period of grace this would serve at least as a temporary palliative and would for the moment allay rising agitation. On receipt of papers from the Secretary of State by mail, we issued a circular letter to all the Local Governments on the 22nd June last in which we invited attention to the decision of the General Medical Council and asked for report in connection with several of the matters mentioned in that letter, information about which was essential in order to make our final submission to the Secretary of State with reference to this decision. I feel sure that this House will be satisfied that the Government of India as well as the Secretary of State have already taken all necessary *ad interim* action in order to represent Indian views and to prevent what will undoubtedly be a disastrous result should this decision of the Medical Council be adhered to.

Coming now to the merits of the case, the regulations which are at present in force, as this House has already been informed, were framed in the year 1907. Now, it is undeniable that practical training in midwifery does not in India come up to the standard laid down in those regulations, and the anxiety of the General Medical Council to see the standard of midwifery training raised to the requisite standard both in England and out here is perfectly reasonable and proper. I have no doubt that during the world war, the arrangements for practical training in midwifery, and probably arrangements for practical training in other respects too, were to a very large extent disturbed, and that the real reason for the General Medical Council taking the action which they did in 1920 not only in respect of midwifery training in India but also of the position in England, may have been due to this. Now that the war was over, they wanted to see, they were anxious to see, practical training raised to the requisite standard. That even in England in the year 1920 the position was highly unsatisfactory is perfectly clear from an article which appeared in the '*Lancet*' of the 3rd July 1920. In that article it was shown that the position throughout the teaching institutions in England was not satisfactory, the number of beds in hospitals allocated for teaching purposes was insufficient, and the practical instruction of students in midwifery methods before they were permitted to conduct external cases of their own was also not sufficiently insisted upon. The House will thus see that the position of affairs was unsatisfactory even in England. It was undoubtedly more unsatisfactory out here. The reasons for the conditions here in India being comparatively more unsatisfactory than those obtaining in England have already been mentioned by some of my Honourable friends.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : Not with us.

The Honourable Mr. Shafi : I am glad to hear that the conditions were not inferior in Madras.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: Not even in Calcutta.

The Honourable Mr. Shafi: The social customs amongst Indians undoubtedly have a very important bearing upon this condition of affairs: and I feel sure that in arriving at their final decision, after they have received our representations, the General Medical Council will bear that fact in mind. I feel sure, further, that the General Medical Council will also bear in mind the effect of such a decision as has been threatened on Indian public opinion from a political point of view. Well, Sir, as I said, the condition of affairs even in England was unsatisfactory, and you have already been informed that letters were issued even to English Universities expressing the hope that the Universities would bring their practical training in midwifery up to the required standard. The House may rest assured that the Government of India will not sleep over this matter. It may rest assured that after we have received replies from all the Local Governments to our circular letter, we shall make due representations to the Secretary of State and request him to place our views before the General Medical Council.

Sir, these are the facts: and in view of these facts, I have no hesitation in accepting part (a) of the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend. The Government of India have also no hesitation in accepting the amendment moved by Rai Bahadur Lakshmi Narayan Lal. With regard to the amendment moved by the Honourable Dr. Gour, I think it would be wise on the part of this House to accept the advice that was given by my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. I think it would be impolitic on our part to lay down any definite time-limit just as the General Medical Council have done at the other end of the chain. The amendment moved by my Honourable friend Dr. Nand Lal, is also one which the Government of India are prepared to accept.

It remains for me now to deal with part (b) of the original Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Subrahmanyan. It seems to me that it would be in the highest degree impolitic and unwise on the part of this House to adopt that part of the Resolution. The Government of India are hopeful, that as a result of the representations which they hereafter intend to make, the General Medical Council may be induced to reconsider their decision, and at any rate to extend the time-limit, which I entirely agree is absolutely inadequate. That being so, it would be unwise on our part now to say at this moment what will be the ultimate action which the Government of India will take or ought to take in case of refusal on the part of the General Medical Council to reconsider their decision. If ever that time arrives, then it will be perfectly open to this House to discuss the line of action which the Government of India should adopt, and to make any recommendations that this House may then choose, and I have no doubt that in that event, if ever that stage is reached, the Government of India will pay due consideration to the wishes and feelings of this House. (Hear, hear.) To prejudge the matter at this stage would be extremely unwise: and, therefore, I appeal to my Honourable friend to withdraw that part of the Resolution.

Mr. President: I do not know whether the Honourable Member wishes to make an answer to the appeal made by Government just now, because if so, then I may put the amendments which he and the Government are prepared to accept, and leave, if necessary, the discussion of the second part of the Resolution to be taken after adjournment.

The first question I have to put is :

'That the words 'and bring the same to the standard of the Universities in the United Kingdom, where they are not already so' be added to clause (a).'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : The further question is :

'That a new clause (b) be inserted 'and that the Secretary of State for India may be asked to influence the British Medical Council to reconsider their decision that unless effective steps are taken to meet the wishes of the British Medical Council by February 1922, the medical degrees of the Indian Universities will cease to be accepted for registration purposes.'

The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : Is it the desire of the House to continue the debate upon the issue raised by the second part of the Resolution, part (b) ?

(Cries of 'No, no,' 'withdraw.')

Dr. H. S. Gour : As the author of this amendment, I wish to state that after what has fallen from the Honourable Mr. Shafi, I should like to withdraw my amendment, and I appeal to the Honourable Mover of clause (2) of his principal Resolution to do the same.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam : I should like, Sir, to make a few remarks before I state my position in regard to the second clause.

Mr. President : If the Honourable Member wishes to exercise his right of reply, I am afraid I must leave the debate open. If he is going to ask for leave to withdraw, then the matter of withdrawal is left to the Assembly. If the Assembly refuses leave to withdraw, then the debate must go on; if the Assembly gives leave to withdraw, then that shows that the Assembly wishes the debate to terminate.

Mr. B. S. Kamat : Sir, before this matter is decided by the Honourable the Mover or by the House, there is one point of considerable importance which it is necessary for me to bring to the notice of Government in connection with influencing the General British Medical Council. It seems to be assumed that supposing the representations made on behalf of this country are not favourably considered by the British Medical Council, the only alternative for them would be to refuse to recognise the degrees of the Indian Universities. Now, that assumption is not correct. There is a second alternative,—a second solution of this difficulty, namely, if there are not sufficient facilities in Indian Medical Colleges to treat a sufficient number of labour cases, I say pending facilities being made available in this country, facilities could be given in England to Indian graduates to go there for completing the requisite number of labour cases. I may refer in this connection to a recommendation by the Public Services Commission when they reviewed the training and educational attainments of the Indian Medical Service. With your permission, I should just like to detain the House for one minute by bringing to its notice the recommendations of the Public Services Commission. They say :

'In view of this, the opportunity should also be taken to secure that all candidates have had a hospital training, have been through a practical course of midwifery, and have had experience of treating the diseases of women and children.'

[Mr. B. S. Karnat]

This point was raised because the training in these subjects was considered by this commission to be incomplete and inadequate. Later on in the same paragraph they say :

'If it is found necessary to give Indians this training in the United Kingdom, sufficient facilities should be provided there for them.' (Vide page 249, paragraph 9 of their Report.)

That is the point I wish to bring to the notice of this House. My contention is that if an Indian Medical graduate, after completing a course of five or six years in an Indian Medical College, finds it necessary to study say, 12 more labour cases in addition to what he has done here, which he can do in England in the course of three months in any lying-in hospital, in the United Kingdom, he should not be debarred by the British Medical Council, for the sake of three months' training in a Maternity Ward and lose the whole of his 5 or 6 years' education in this country. While the Government of India make a representation therefore in this respect to the British Medical Council, I venture to suggest, they should lay emphasis on this fact, viz., pending India's coming into line so far as facilities are concerned for labour cases, opportunity should be afforded to graduates going from this country to the United Kingdom to complete the requisite number of labour cases in three months in any lying-in hospital there. That, I point out, Sir, is the point the Government of India should consider, in terms of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Public Services.

The Honourable Mr. Shafi : I forgot to mention one thing, and with your permission, Sir, I shall do so now. It is this. The Government of India will communicate the gist of the debate this morning to the Secretary of State and will subsequently send him a copy of the full proceedings.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned for Lunch.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch. The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur : Sir, although I do not think I can add much to the knowledge of this Assembly in this rather technical matter, I think it proper to mention one fact which has been omitted by all the previous speakers, and that fact is that in the United Kingdom the students of the Universities there do not get a sufficient number of dead bodies to operate upon and that in spite of the fact there is no difficulty in their being registered.

In our Colleges and Universities, thanks to our poverty, we have a sufficient number of dead bodies to operate upon. So I say, that in spite of the defective practical education in surgery and anatomy, there is no difficulty felt in the United Kingdom in having the graduates of those Universities registered. In our case, I admit, that in some Medical Colleges the training in midwifery may not be as good as it is found to be in the United Kingdom, but all the same they get very sound education, and practitioners in Calcutta and other places, we find, are not inferior, so far as the practice of midwifery is concerned, to any person whether he is an Indian Medical Service man or not.

This decision of the General Medical Council in the United Kingdom has created deep discontent all over the country, and it is considered as a political move—rightly or wrongly—that may not be the motive but it is interpreted in

that way—that this is a move to exclude Indians from the Indian Medical Service. And this impression, I think, should be removed or it will have a very bad political effect. I am glad to find that the Government of India is trying its best in order to remove this impression and in order to make the Council of Medical Education change their decision. Another circumstance has added to the difficulty of Indian students. It is the establishment of hospitals for women under the charge of medical women. All these hospitals, Dufferin Hospitals everywhere, are under the charge of trained medical ladies, and most of the labour cases are generally attended to in all these hospitals, and the increase in the number of these hospitals I think will take away many labour cases from ordinary Medical College Hospitals. That adds to the difficulty of the situation. In Calcutta, for instance, there is a Dufferin Hospital, and I know for a fact that many labour cases go to the Dufferin instead of to the Mayo Hospital, or to the Medical College Hospital. So if more labour cases are required, I think these ladies hospitals should be placed under the charge of men. There is no doubt some reluctance on the part of the higher classes of the people from sending their women in labour cases to Hospitals, but that objection I think is gradually disappearing, and the time I think is not far distant when it will not be found at all difficult to improve the training in midwifery, if there is any defect in that respect in Indian Colleges and Universities. With these remarks I suggest that we should do our best to have the General Council of Medical Education to change their decision.

Rao Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lall: Sir, after the introduction of popular constitutional government in India I do not understand the plausibility of the claim of the General Council of Medical Education in England to dictate terms to the Secretary of State for India in Council on the subject of the Indian Medical Service. It is for the Indian Government and for Indian Universities to look best after their own affairs, and if their standard of medical education and training in Medical Colleges, or of their University examinations, is not sufficiently high to qualify Indian students in India for the Indian Medical Service, their attention ought to be directed to raise the standard and provide all the necessary apparatus and implements, if any, which may be wanting. But the recruitment for the Indian Medical Service must be left in the hands of the Indian Government and not in the hands of the General Council of Medical Education; and the Indian Government rather than the General Council of Medical Education in England should arrange an Indian Medical Service competitive examination to be held annually in India to which not only medical graduates of Indian Universities but also of English Universities may be admitted and the best passes by order of merit on the results of the competitive examination may be accepted for the Indian Medical Service. The recruitment for the Indian Medical Service on the result of any examination held in England is clearly most disadvantageous for the Indian students and most advantageous for the English students. The position ought to be reversed. Why should Indian students be required to spend for their journey to England, and for their education there in order to qualify themselves for service in India. Any English students, if they so wish, could compete for the Indian Medical Service examination to be held in India and would be welcomed to India. But Indian students should not be compelled to compete in England for the Indian Medical Service examination.

So far as the question of midwifery experience is concerned, I may respectfully submit that having regard to Indian conditions, until lady doctors

[Rao Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lal.]

are admitted into the Indian Medical Service the problem will not be solved satisfactorily. I may ask the Honourable Colonel Gidney and other members of the Indian Medical Service, how many cases of midwifery or labour they have dealt with in Indian hospitals and Indian house-holds—not only male, but female students ought to be given medical training in India to qualify them for the Indian Medical Service. With these words I support the Resolution.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: Sir, I wish to address only a few words to this House because of the very great importance of this Resolution. Much has been said about it, and I do not wish to say anything more on its merits, but I would contradict some of the statements made by my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney. I must say on behalf of Calcutta, that the Calcutta Medical College is one of the biggest colleges not only in India but in the whole of the British Empire. So far as its Maternity Ward is concerned, which is called the Eden Hospital, there are on an average 1,100 lying-in cases in this ward annually, and the students of the Medical College get ample opportunity and facilities for attending at least 75 per cent. of those maternity cases. Not only that, but there is another big hospital in Calcutta known as the Campbell Hospital. That is also a big hospital and a medical school is attached to it. The students of the Medical College now are allowed facilities for attending midwifery cases in that hospital also. The Calcutta University has adopted regulations in conformity with the recommendations of the Medical Council; they even anticipated them in that respect, and every student who passes out of the Medical College has to attend 20 midwifery cases and not merely to attend but take part in the cases and practically conduct the delivery in six cases and give assistance in six others. The equipment of the Eden Hospital is quite up to date; but if we have not got experts attached to that college that is no fault of our own; the professors are recruited usually from the Indian Medical Service, and the midwifery ward is in charge of members of the Indian Medical Service. They cannot claim to be as great experts as there are to be found in London or Rotunda. Our Government can very well get experts and increase the efficiency of the college. I do not wish to dilate upon it, but only wish to say this, that ample opportunities are given to students of medical colleges nowadays to qualify themselves in midwifery and also in diseases of women and children. There is of course room for improvement and the Calcutta medical students are not certainly worse off in that respect than their brethren in London and Edinburgh.

With regard to the proposals of the Medical Council, having regard to the assurances given by the Honourable Mr. Shafi, I do not wish to say anything more; I think the interests of the medical students in this country will be quite safe in the hands of our Education Minister and of the Government of India. I will only say this, that the problem of problems of the present day is to get sufficient employment for the educated young men. If the avenues of employment are not closed, but fresh avenues are opened out, fresh careers thrown open for our educated young men, all that we hear of unrest, discontent, dissatisfaction and political unrest in India will be a thing of the past. So I deplore; I will not say the jealousy, but the tendency on the part specially of the Indian Medical Service in their own self-interest, to curtail the opportunities of medical students, from this country, who are at least as well-qualified as English medical students, to go out to England and qualify

themselves for the Indian Medical Service by open competitive examination. With regard to what Colonel Gidney said, about the inferior medical training of our medical students, I must say this in defence of our young men of the medical profession, that at the outbreak of the war hundreds of graduates of the Calcutta Medical College offered themselves for service abroad and they have rendered singular services to the State and acquitted themselves very creditably. My justification or qualification for saying something with regard to this subject is that I am in intimate touch with the medical profession.

Colonel Gidney has very uncharitably chaffed lawyers for advocating the claims of the medical profession in India. I may tell him, however, that many members of my family and many of my friends have served during the war all through, in danger zones at risk of their lives and at great sacrifice; one very near to me left off a paying practice and served for three years in the submarine zone in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic on a hospital ship; he lost his practice and shattered his health when he reverted to the profession after the war was over. So, although I am a lawyer yet I take a great deal of interest in education and the welfare of the youths of this country; and that is my apology for supporting this Resolution. I would also tell my friend, Colonel Gidney, that I have been in England and lived in Oxford, Edinburgh and London and with medical students; I know in what way they satisfy the condition that they should attend 20 maternity cases. As regards the out-door labour cases that they are supposed to attend, the system is this. Those cases are registered in the hospital and information is sent to the medical students who live in lodgings; when they receive information that labour has begun there they go some times and not very unfrequently, it so happens, I know this as a matter of fact, that when the students go there the child is already born and they only sign their name in the card or register and that counts as one of the 20 cases. Of course that is a reason why the Medical Commissions appointed in England and the English medical journals have made no secret of the fact that the training of the English medical students in London and Edinburgh is also very unsatisfactory. We are all anxious that the qualifications of medical men should be of the right kind. We should try, now that the medical departments and medical subjects have been transferred to the Provincial Governments, to secure greater efficiency in this direction. I am sure that our Ministers will do their best to increase the efficiency of the medical colleges and of the teaching staff. In conclusion I would ask my friend, the Honourable Mover of this resolution, having regard to the assurances given by the Honourable Mr. Shafi, to withdraw the latter part of his Resolution.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I rise on a point of order, Sir. Mr. Chaudhuri has singled me out for certain remarks to which I feel it incumbent on me to reply. I never said that Calcutta was one of the Universities that stood so much in need of reform; Calcutta is my old college and I am proud of it. Mr. Chaudhuri has now told us certain facts which I believe I am in order in replying to. I have before me an official letter from the Registrar of the Calcutta University which states that 75 per cent or 1,100 labour cases go to medical students per year for instructional purposes which works out to 6 cases per student. I am not going to defend the manner in which medical students in England sign up their labour cases. Possibly he was thinking of the way budding Barristers eat their dinners in their Inns.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam: Sir, I feel bound to say a few remarks because I do not like that this debate should go down in the proceedings with errors of fact and of figure. My Honourable friend, Dr. Gour, for oratorical effect occasionally advances propositions with which we may not agree.

It is one thing to advance propositions and it is another thing to make statements of fact. He said that in Nagpur there are 30 or 40 labour cases daily available for students. That number would work out to nearly 11,000 cases in a year, which is somewhat preposterous. There is no city in the world which offers 11,000 labour cases as far as I can see.

Then, my Honourable friend, Dr. Gour, said with great self-complacency, 'Oh, in Nagpur we get any number of cases for our students, and therefore the institution in Nagpur is about the fittest in India.' The fact is that the condition relating to conducting 20 labour cases does not seem to have been properly understood. The condition demands that each individual student should conduct 20 labour cases under medical supervision. That is a condition which every one feels somewhat difficult to satisfy. The majority of the institutions in the United Kingdom have found it difficult to satisfy that condition. 20 labour cases ordinarily may mean several things. Well, when I undertook to move this Resolution, I felt very great diffidence because this is a subject with which I am not familiar, and therefore it was with very great diffidence that I undertook the task. When I undertook the task, I wanted to be quite sure of my facts and therefore it was I armed myself with full facts and guarded my statements when I moved the Resolution. I also took care not to introduce any political or racial questions which are very convenient to introduce in discussing such questions, and I am not responsible for any political colour which has been introduced into this debate. So far as my Honourable friend, Dr. Gour, is concerned.

Then, there is another point, Sir. When we agree with the British Medical Council that endeavour should be made to improve the teaching in midwifery, we say at the same time that no impossible or unattainable standard should be set before us. That is the sum and substance of my Resolution. The fact that we want to improve ourselves does not mean that we are in a wretched condition, and I never can accept the position that we should not accept advice to improve our position. If there are friends who point out defects in our system, we ought to welcome their advice, and it is not fair that we should criticise them in return.

Now, in regard to the criticism of my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, it was far from my intention to say anything which would go to minimise the valuable services which the Indian Medical Service men have rendered to this country. The whole of my speech was based upon the position that we have been trained, our country has been served, our institutions have been managed and our students have been taught by Indian Medical Service officers, and to say now after so many years' training that our Universities are defective to such an extent that what has been considered during the last 30 or 40 years to be good, should all at once be put down as being utterly useless or make us unfit to enter the portals of these services is hardly satisfactory.

That in itself shows that I did not mean to say anything against the Indian Medical Service. The British Medical Council are perfectly within

their rights to lay down conditions for admission to their body. They will issue their licenses and diplomas only to persons who conform to their terms and my Honourable friend, Bakshi Sohan Lal, is labouring under a mistake; they did not say, you should not go to the Indian Medical Service; they simply said, 'we cannot license you unless you satisfy our requirements' just in the same manner as we might say in regard to those who seek to enter our own Universities. The result of the action of the Medical Council no doubt would be to preclude Indian graduates from entering the Indian Medical Service. There are fine distinctions to be drawn in all these matters and we have to be careful in stating them.

As regards the remarks which fell from my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, I will leave them alone. The lines on which I led my case are the lines the Government of India have already taken action on, and it must be of great gratification to this Assembly that the lines the Government of India adopted in addressing the Secretary of State are just the lines on which we have been pleading this question. Therefore the statement which has been made by the Honourable Member in charge and the request that has been made by a good many more of my friends here will be sufficient to justify my withdrawing the last part of it.

As the question has been sufficiently discussed I will not pursue the matter any further, and I therefore ask for leave to withdraw clause (b) of my Resolution.

Clause (b)* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Clause (a) of the Resolution, as amended, was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE PERMANENT CAPITAL OF INDIA.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Sir, in moving the Resolution† that stands in my name,

I wish to remind this House that a similar Resolution moved in 8-10 P.M. the late Imperial Legislative Council last year was received by the Honourable the Home Member with the following words. The Honourable the Home Member said :

'We are shortly going to have a Council which will be admittedly more representative of the wishes of the people and which will be more powerful.'

That discussion which took place in the month of February 1920, was disposed of by the then Government on the short ground that the Government of India was a subordinate Government and had loyally to carry out the instructions and orders of their superior, the Secretary of State, that it was

* (b) That in the event of the General Medical Council carrying out their threat to withhold recognition to the medical degrees and diplomas of the Indian Universities, the Secretary of State for India be moved to stop recruiting in England for the Indian Medical Service and order recruitment exclusively from India, or at any rate, to prescribe the possession of a medical degree or a diploma of any Indian University hitherto recognised by the General Medical Council, as an alternative qualification for admission to the competitive examination for entrance into the Indian Medical Service.

† This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to be so pleased as to appoint a Committee to inquire into the possibility of establishing a permanent capital of India in a place possessing a salubrious and temperate climate throughout the year.

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

not open to the Government of India to re-open a question so settled. In order to give you the *spissimas verbae* of the Honourable the Home Member, I beg to quote the following sentence from his speech :

'It is not for the Government of India which is a subordinate Government to alter a policy which has received the weighty sanction of His Majesty and of His Majesty's Government.'

Now, these two sentences put together mean this: 'So far as this Government is concerned our hands are tied. So far, therefore, as this question is concerned, the Government must use its standing majority to defeat it, but, hereafter, upon the ashes of the present Council, will rise a new body possessed of a new and more vigorous constitution and armed with greater authority and that body may reverse the decision arrived at by the Secretary of State.' Honourable Members will remember that they are Members of that august body. And it is to that body that I address my appeal this afternoon. They must not dismiss the question as a settled fact. They must look at the question from the standpoint of reason and see whether the capital which exists or the series of capitals which exist for the Government of India are such upon which they would be justified in spending their money.

In this connection I cannot quote to you better words than the words of the Honourable Sir William Vincent himself, who, with a tinge of regret in having to accord his support to a decision passed by a superior authority, admitted in the following words the desirability of having a capital in a central place if a more salubrious climate could be assured and there was public opinion and the place was easily accessible by railway. Lest I should be misunderstood, let me again give to you his own words. 'If any place' he said 'suitable in climate, fairly accessible, and central, with some historical associations and good railway communications could be found, then the advantage of locating the Government of India in such a place would be very great.' Honourable Members will here notice that three conditions are laid down for an ideal capital. One is, that it must be central. The second is that its climate must be salubrious. And the third is that it must be amenable to public opinion. And fourthly, it must possess some historical associations.

Now, applying this test to the present capitals of Delhi and Simla, what do we find? As the Honourable Mr. Cruickshank, who then spoke for the European interests in this House, or rather in the Imperial Council, pointed out, and anybody who has passed a cursory glance over the map of India will have no difficulty in finding that Delhi, instead of being the most central place, is perhaps the most distant from the largest business centres of the Indian Empire.

Secondly, as regards its salubrity, I do not think even the warmest apologists of Government will commend it on that score. Honourable Members who were present at Delhi at the last session will remember with vivid though somewhat painful interest the dust storms through which they used to make progression to their place of business,—and that in the month of January and February. I have been to that place in the month of June, and I can assure the Honourable Members that that place can only be described in language of profanity of the third degree. Such is Delhi. Surely, Sir, nobody can accuse Delhi of possessing a salubrious climate. In winter, in the month of November

and December, it is too cold for comfortable habitation. (Laughter.) Honourable Members laugh aloud doubtfully. They will have a foretaste of it in the next Delhi Session, I hope.

Now, as regards the third point, *viz.*, its being accessible to public opinion, well, I need not remind this House that so far as public opinion is concerned, Delhi is as little a centre of enlightened public opinion as, let us say, Patagonia. What public opinion does Delhi possess?

Last of all, we come to the historical associations. This was the fact placed in the forefront in that secret despatch which inaugurated the new capital. Writing to the then Secretary of State, it was said in this despatch of the Government of India that 'Delhi is still a name to conjure with. To the Muhammadans it would be a source of unbounded gratification to see the ancient capital of the Moguls restored to the proud position as the seat of the Empire.' To the Hindus, it was said: 'It is intimately associated in the minds of the Hindus with sacred legends which go back even beyond the dawn of history.' These are the historical associations with which the name of Delhi was commended to the Secretary of State. But what are the facts? My Muhammadan fellow Members of this House will bear me out when I say that the name of Delhi is associated with fallen, decrepit, and dead Empires, and that the Muhammadans regard that not as an augury of good omen but as one where Empires have gone to pieces. And so far as Hindus are concerned, the despatch itself refers to the legends of an ante-diluvian age.

I do not think for a moment that the imagination of any Hindu will be fired by the mention of the name of Delhi. I therefore present to the Honourable Members the real facts of which they are the eye witnesses side by side with the written fable of which this secret document is a living momento. I submit, Sir, that the real reasons why the Government of India fled from Calcutta to the dry and arid plains of Delhi are not the reasons which are inscribed upon the secret documents. It is unnecessary to rehearse the past, but what I wish to make, and I make with every confidence, is that the reasons given by the Government of India to induce the Secretary of State to sanction the removal of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi would not bear a moment's scrutiny. In this reply, the Secretary of State, Lord Crewe, even suspected the centrality of Delhi. I quote once more the exact words of the Secretary of State. He says, 'Such a suggestion is not entirely novel since it has often been added whether the inconvenience caused by annual migration to the hills could not be avoided by finding a new official capital at some place in which Europeans could reside healthfully and work efficiently throughout the whole year.' These are the words of the Secretary of State and I stand here to convince the Honourable Members that such a place exists in the most central part of India, easily accessible from its remotest corners, and answers the rigid test which the Honourable the Home Member presented to the late Imperial Council. Now, Sir, Honourable Members will thus see that this question about the permanent capital of India cannot be dismissed as *res judicata* or a settled fact. We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, to whom was relegated the final decision on this matter by the late Imperial Council are in duty bound to examine this question with all the facts and circumstances available to us, and these facts and circumstances I venture to lay before you this afternoon.

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

I desire in the first place that the capital of India must be located in a place which is central from all places as far as possible. Honourable Members will ask, is this a counsel of perfection or is there such a place easily accessible from all places and from all parts of India. Now, if the Honourable Members will examine the map of India, they will find (laughter). I am very glad to find that the Honourable Members have already made that examination. It saves me a few precious minutes and I shall ask the Honourable Members now to cast their mental glance over that Indian triangle and draw an imaginary line from each corner of that triangle. They will find that it will converge upon a place which is the most central plateau of India (*à seice*.—Central Provinces). One of my friends ejaculates Central Provinces fitly so called because it is the most central part of India. Then Sir, in this vast plateau we have a salubrious climate at an average elevation of 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, a vast expanse of jungle country at present owned by Government which would not require any outlay in the acquisition of land. The soil is hard but rich. The timber is there and it is in the proximity of some of the finest coal mines of Central India. Now, Sir, I am not enamoured of this place. My friends have naturally been prejudiced to a very large extent by reason of the fact that I am myself a Member for the Central Provinces. But I can assure the Honourable Members in all seriousness and in all sincerity that this plateau existed where it is to-day before I became a Member and it is not my misfortune but the Government's fault that they have not discovered it up to date. Now, Sir, this is a plateau which exactly answers all the three conditions which the Honourable the Home Member laid down for an ideal capital. It is central, it is salubrious and there is public opinion there as much as there is in Delhi or in Simla, where we obtain our news of what passes in this Assembly from the cables received from Bombay and Calcutta. If we have any public opinion here and if we have any public opinion in Delhi, let me reiterate to the Honourable Members, the same public opinion exists there. But to be more serious, public opinion has to be cultivated and that I submit is no drawback in a place where people go and foregather and build and reside permanently and public opinion will crop up there in course of time.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : In the jungles?

Dr. H. S. Gour : Let not Honourable Members run away with the supposition that it is a jungle as the Honourable Mr. Samarth once more interrupts. What was Simla before the Government of India came here and what was Bombay but a marsh before it was inhabited by the enterprise of the people. Public opinion does not grow like trees from the soil. Public opinion can be cultivated by man, and I am sanguine enough to believe that if the capital of India is established in this place, which is a superb place in point of climate and locality, public opinion will grow in an incredibly short time. Then, Sir, we pass from the stern realities of facts to the wonderland of sentiment. We want some historical association. What historical association is there in a place which is the capital of the Government of India for seven months in the year. What historical association can Simla boast of. I suppose the Sipi Fair. That is the only historical association that this place can boast of. What historical association, I submit, then exists in a place which is the capital for the major part of the year and we are told by an

Honourable Member from behind that you should establish another Sipi Fair in this glorious plateau of the Central Provinces.

Now, Sir, as I have said, I am not enamoured of one place. I have explored all the possible places in India which might be suitably investigated by a small committee which I ask this House to appoint for the purpose of finding out a suitable place whereupon we may establish a permanent capital of India. I have already dealt with the first capital. I have in my hand a description of such fine places as Deolali and Nasik. I hope my Bombay friends will take note of it—Hazaribagh, which my friends from Bihar will no doubt favour—Ranchi, Palamau, Singhbhum, Manbhum, and four other places which will not be mentioned for the present. Now, Sir, I say that if once a small committee is appointed for the purpose of going into this question, it will certainly, I submit, solve the question once for all, and this responsible body, to whom the question was consigned by the last Council, will be in a position to debate and decide finally upon the question which has been cropping up year after year. That reminds Honourable Members that the press and the public outside are waiting eagerly for the decision of this House on this momentous issue. (Laughter.) I am somewhat surprised that my friends seem to think that this is a suggestion which is based on no serious consideration. What is the position, Sir, of the Government of India at the present day? In the despatch which established Delhi as the capital of India it was said, with all the solemnity which a Government despatch is capable of, that Delhi would be the place where the Government of India would reside for 7 months in the year. If the Government of India reside in Delhi for 7 months in the year, then I submit the question about the permanent capital of India will recede into the background. But do they reside for seven months in the year at Delhi? They reside for 7 months in the year only at this place, Simla. They are only in Delhi for five months. And I think the Honourable Home Member will remember that Lord Chelmsford, the predecessor of the present Viceroy, has committed himself to the convention which makes the Viceroy visit the premier city of Bengal once a year, and where he passes some weeks about Christmas time every year, and this has become an established practice of the Viceroy of India. The result therefore is that the Government of India have no fixed home. It is a nomadic government moving from place to place, with no place which it can absolutely call its own. Is this, I ask the Honourable Home Member, a position which the Government of India can tolerate? If, instead of this, once more the whole question is adjudicated and decided in a manner which will reflect public opinion, and, I think, will contribute to the convenience not only of the permanent officials of the Government of India but also of the Members of this House and of the Council of State, I submit the question will be one which will satisfy all concerned.

I hope the Honourable Members of this House will not dismiss my suggestion. There is a subconscious adjudication which I see written large upon their faces that this is a question which we must relegate into the limbo of a remote and possible future.

I have pointed out, Sir, that the question of the establishment of a permanent capital of India can no longer be delayed. My friend, Sir Frank Carter, who hails as a representative of the commercial community of Bengal, will, I hope, second me when I say that the first duty of a Government

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

is to find a bit place of abode from where it can govern the country at large. I have discussed this question with many Honourable Members of this House and, while a great many of them are in favour of the main principle, they feel that the question of cost stands in the way. Now, Sir, as regards the question of cost, I will tell Honourable Members a little story which I read in a newspaper the other day. There was an old millionaire who was suffering from consumption and he had two doctors, one a quack and the other a qualified man with, I think, registrable qualifications in England. (Laughter.) He consulted both of them and one of them said: 'Your disease can be cured by simply adjourning to the next village,' where he had a small country seat, and the other man said: 'You must go to a sanitarium far off.' The man counted the cost and saw it was cheaper to go to his village than to go to the far off sanitarium, and to this village he went. When the other doctor found his position more critical, he went up to him and said: 'My dear Sir, why don't you move out of this place. There is still hope for you and I shall be able to cure you if you go to the place which I originally selected for you and which you originally rejected.' 'Well,' said the old miser, 'what about the cost?' 'I have already incurred the cost of coming here and how can I go to this better place?' He stuck to this place, and his riches, his hopes and ambitions lie buried there. May I commend this small parable to the notice of the Government. But, Sir, the question of cost need not deter us, if the proposition is inherently sound, and I shall show to the Honourable Members of this House that, if they shift the capital to a more central place, they will not be incurring any cost. I appeal, Sir, to any man with a commercial instinct to say what would be the capital value of the recurring annual cost which the Government of India incurs from year to year in shifting to and from Delhi. Let us not dismiss from our minds this annual recurring charge, and I venture to submit that if it is capitalised, it will come to far less than the money that is required for the purposes of founding a new capital. I was told the other day, and I think Sir Sydney Crookshank gave an answer in this House, that the total cost incurred upon the rejuvenation of Delhi is something in the neighbourhood of 5 crores.

I beg to assure him that even if 50 crores were spent in rejuvenating this old, decrepit, decayed town, it would not be a worthy capital for the great Empire of India. But, Sir, Sir Sydney Crookshank will tell you that we are not yet through the wood, and that 5 crores does not represent the total cost of the construction of New Delhi. Something nearer the neighbourhood of 10 crores would perhaps be required for the purpose of completing this Imperial structure, and those of you who have been to Delhi have seen what precious little has been done upon the 5 crores invested in the reconstruction of Delhi. I say that in Delhi everything is dear and has to be imported. In these central places that I have mentioned every thing is *in situ*, and my submission therefore is that out of the residue of the Imperial grant you should erect a capital in a place where future generations will come and see and admire the wisdom of the first Indian Legislature which had the courage and the wisdom to see that this was the place upon which shall stand the capital of the rising generations of the people of this land. I ask you, Sir, not to dismiss this Resolution with the thought that you are already too far committed to Delhi or to Simla. The other day a great many of us took part in a Resolution for the purpose of

preventing the exodus of the Government of India to Simla. Let me assure, Honourable Members wish to avoid the annual migration of the Government of India to Simla, the only course open to them is to vote for my Resolution. So long as Delhi remains, Simla remains. If you desire that Simla should go, you must provide for a capital which will answer the requirements of the Honourable the Home Member and of the Secretary of State. That and that only is the alternative solution which you have before you. Remember that if you throw out this Resolution you will be confronted and confronted successfully with the problem of keeping up a migratory Government which spends a recurring amount of several lakhs of rupees, and which cannot be estimated in their proper cash value because of the lot of time which all servants of Government from the highest to the lowest waste in coming up and going down, in packing and unpacking, in loading and unloading, in settling and unsettling. Remember, Sir, this means a great economic waste to the nation, and if they are once given a healthy place they will not only settle down there, but in that place will be founded a large and rising town of which the people of this country might well be proud. It is a town, I hope, which the Members of this House will do their best to bring into existence and in that hope and fixed in that resolve I have ventured to bring this Resolution before this House and I hope it will receive its support.

(Translation of the speech delivered in Urdu by Maulvi Miyan Asjad-ul-lah, M.L.A.)*

Maulvi Miyan Asjad-ul-lah: Honourable Sir and Honourable Members, I regretfully oppose the Resolution of my Honourable friend Dr. Gour. I am surprised at the idea of the transfer of the capital. In view of the fact that the Government of India have already incurred heavy expenditure which is beyond the imagination in constructing new buildings and supplying other amenities at Delhi and Simla which are not even yet complete and (taking into account the fact that) there is a general cry against the high cost of living in every corner of India which the Government is bound to take into consideration, I do not think it proper to throw the burden of such a great scheme on the Government. Although the Honourable Dr. Gour has brought forward his Resolution very (forcefully and) capably and has cited documents in support of his arguments yet his eloquence is merely a proof of his literary ability, and I submit that in point of fact his interpretation is misleading. To belittle the importance of Delhi is, in my humble opinion, to throw dust on the sun.

The former capital of India, Calcutta, was not I submit so suitable and convenient for every one as Delhi is. In addition to the heavy expenditure and insurmountable difficulties already pointed out, how is it possible for those Europeans who are accustomed to a change of climate, to stay in one place throughout the year without experiencing great inconvenience. I therefore request the Honourable House to take these points into consideration and to reject the Resolution.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhuri Wajid Hussain: Sir, I am afraid that the volcanic eloquence of Dr. Gour, which has so often poured in like a stream of lava across the discussion on the floor of this House and has illuminated so

* The Urdu version of this speech will be found printed on an appendix.

[Khan Bahadur Chaudhuri Wajid Hussain.]

many problems, is likely to-day to scorch to death the half-starved body of Indian finance. Ordinarily I should have welcomed the Resolution of Dr. Gour, because I feel swelling in my bosom the desire for a change of capital. I believe that if the question was re-opened and could be re-opened, there are two places in the Province to which I have the honour to belong, which would have a very fair chance of being selected as the capital of India. One of them is Dehra Dun, which is neither too hot in the hot weather, nor too cold in the cold weather.

There is another place which I can only mention with hesitating lips because some friends from my Province might think that praise of one place necessarily meant disparagement of another. That place is the most central city in what really is the most central Province in the most central country of the Indian Empire. It is historical, it has got railway communications, and in one respect it is by far the best place in India to be the capital, not only of India, but of the future Indo-British Commonwealth. I mean Lucknow. There is no place in India where the various communities, Hindus, Mussulmans and others, have got on so well, through good times and through bad times. There is no city in India where the political and social atmosphere is healthier than it is in the city of Lucknow. For that reason alone, if for no other, it is fit to be the capital of the future Indo-British Commonwealth.

But, Sir, this is not the time when I should be building castles in Lucknow or Dr. Gour should be building Spanish castles in the jungles of the Central Provinces. There are far more serious problems than the problem of a change of capital, and we cannot treat them lightly. We are faced at the present moment with the imperious needs of external defence, to which every need should be subordinated in the interests of our lives, property and honour. There is the problem of internal peace, there is the problem of economic distress which is causing so much suffering to our humbler brethren in this country; and there is the problem of political reconstruction. In the face of all these problems, to think of the change of capital which would involve a heavy inroad on the Imperial exchequer, is to play the part of Nero who fiddled when Rome was on fire. Sir, I am greatly disappointed that Dr. Gour has only supported his Resolution by several appeals to sentiment and has given no cogent reasons for the change of capital at a time when we are in financial embarrassment. The first appeal he made was to the powers of this House. He said it was a more august body. Indeed it is. But it is also as sensible a body as its predecessor.

Then he made an appeal to those who had spent two months in Delhi. For my part I am not sorry for it. I quite enjoyed my two months in Delhi. He said that Delhi is very dry and so forth, but it is a case of 'pot calling kettle black.' For surely, Delhi is not so hot as Jubbulpore and the other place in the Central Provinces—I forget the name.

Then, Sir, Dr. Gour says that Delhi is not a centre of intellectual life. It need not be so when men like Dr. Gour can create intellectual life in Delhi.

Then he has made an appeal to Muhammadan sentiment and says that Delhi is a place where empires have risen and fallen. Empires have no doubt fallen but they have fallen after thousands of years.

Lastly, it is suggested that a Committee should be appointed; I do not see the advantage of appointing a Committee when the question can be discussed here. But the Doctor was so conscious of the weakness of his own case, that he used the butt end of Dr. Johnson's pistol and made the favourite suggestion of appointing a Committee which is often made when other suggestions are likely to misfire.

I hope, Sir, that this House will deal with the question in a dispassionate manner and give calm consideration to the suggestions advanced.

Colonel Sir S. D'A. Crookshank: Sir, I venture to intervene in this debate at this early stage in order that I may give the Honourable Members of this House some practical aspects of the Resolution apart from theoretical and political considerations. I always find my ubiquitous friend, Dr. Gour, who jumps with lightning rapidity and great ability from cases of midwifery to sites of capitals, very interesting, earnest and downright. But I much regret to say that in this particular instance, if I may do so without in any way offending him and appearing to be discourteous, that I do not find his arguments at all convincing.

He is exactly 10 years too late, and in raking up and reviving this hardy annual of the Delhi capital he is, as the last Honourable Member, tritely remarked, taking on the unprofitable task of 'flogging a dead horse.' I was firmly under the impression, having a great deal to do with the construction of the said capital, that the selection of Delhi was—to use a well-known French expression—*chose jugée*, that is to say, an accepted fact, and it does not seem to me that it is much use at this last stage to go on discussing possible sites here, there and everywhere throughout the length and breadth of India. The subject was freely ventilated in 1920 when the Honourable Mr. Patel's amendment to my respected leader's Resolution, for the appointment of a Committee to select a suitable site, was defeated by, I think, 52 to 6 votes.

Well, Sir, the position at Delhi is that up to and including this year we have spent 619 lakhs on the new capital. We have also spent 111 lakhs on the temporary capital, that is to say, old Delhi. Then, again, if you wish to introduce Simla into the argument, we have there Government properties and investments representing an outlay roughly of 425 lakhs thus totalling to something like 12 crores of rupees which is a figure not far short of the whole estimated cost of the New Capital.

Now, Sir, if we go to this salubrious spot in the Central Provinces which is so strongly advocated by my learned friend, Dr. Gour, and which will be I am sure equally strongly backed by the Honourable gentleman who sits just behind me—I regret to have to stand in front of him—if we go back to a letter he wrote to us in April of this year,—we shall have to start absolutely anew in the jungle country which he so graphically describes. Sir, since we started on the construction of the New Capital at Delhi, as the result of war and the conditions after the war, the cost of building materials and of rates and prices generally has risen probably between 30 and 300 per cent. so that, taking that estimate of 12 to 15 crores which I gave you as the probable cost of New Delhi, if we commence afresh on this new and central spot, we shall be incurring a liability at that rate of about 30 crores of rupees. Incidentally, I think I heard Dr. Gour say that Delhi was an indifferent place for obtaining labour for constructional purposes. There, I must, with all due

[Colonel Sir S. D'A. Crookshank.]

respect, differ from him very strongly, because one of the reasons—I dare say it is a remote one—why Delhi was selected, and I happen to have been consulted personally in the matter in the year 1911 when the discussion came forward, was that the locality is particularly well off not only for labour which we get from the Punjab, from Bikaner, Alwar, the United Provinces, and all around, but also for materials. I do not know the particular spot the Honourable Mover of this Resolution has in mind for his capital, perhaps somewhere on the Satpura range of hills, but I imagine, whatever labour was required there would have to be imported at very great cost indeed. Furthermore those parts are not particularly well placed for the supply of materials, anyway nothing like as well as Delhi is, where we have no less than eight lines of railway converging into Delhi, whereas in the Central Provinces there are probably only the main lines of the Great Indian Peninsula and possibly the Bombay, Baroda. Sir, as to this Committee, which the Honourable Mover of this Resolution proposes to appoint, I must invite the attention of this House to the fact that a Committee of that nature, to be of any use whatever, must be a very representative Committee and must also travel all over the country to personally inspect the various sites which have been suggested, that is to say, Dehra Dun, Ranchi, Ootacamund, Lucknow, perhaps, Allahabad.

Mr. E. L. Price : Jessore.

Mr. R. A. Spence : Nasik.

Colonel Sir S. D'A. Crookshank : Shillong, Pachmarhi, and I don't know that the Committee would not have to go to Burma. In this matter I feel myself in rather an awkward predicament in that I am in the position of a house—not this House—which is divided within itself, which, according to our Scriptures, must surely fall. On the one hand, I have the very tempting offer of my Honourable friend, Dr. Gour, to serve on this Committee myself and thereby get a free tour throughout India and I hope also Burma and Assam, but on the other hand, I have to face the hard facts and the figures of expenditure which I have already detailed and also to bear in mind the very heavy charges and great delays which would be incurred if any change were made at this late stage of the development of the situation. So that on the whole I think the Honourable gentlemen of this House will realise that we had better take what we have got and follow the good advice which was given in the Honourable Mr. Kabraji's Resolution last Session to the effect that we should do everything in our power to find more money year by year in order to expedite the completion of the Delhi capital.

Now, Sir, I noticed that Dr. Gour said that this was very little to show for the five crores which I stated on a previous occasion had been the expenditure up to date. I quite agree with him. If it had not been for the war, and its effects, we should have done a great deal more, in fact, we should be in possession of the New Capital by now. But the fact remains that all that actually meets the eye does not represent the expenditure on the capital. By far the greater part of the expenditure on a big city of this nature is of course in the underground, in the foundations, the drains, mains, pipes, and engineering services generally and all the work which does not ordinarily arrest attention and meet the eye.

Sir, although as a Member of this House I naturally take an interest—an intelligent interest, I hope—in the political situation, as an Engineer, I have no concern whatever with politics, and if in the latter capacity I may be permitted to offer my advice, for what it is worth, to this Honourable House, I would prefer the advice which I would give to a friend if I were to be riding with him, and that is to the effect: 'Don't swop horses while you are crossing a stream,' which applied to this debate would be: 'Don't swop capitals while you are building an Empire.'

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Sir, it was not my intention to enter into this debate when I came here, but after I have heard my Honourable friend Dr. Gour who, I may say, had already consulted me on this Resolution of his and obtained my consent to serve on this Committee, and remembering the attitude that was taken by this House when I presented my Resolution for the enhancement of civil pensions, I felt that I must take part in this debate. I am inclined to compare the reception that Dr. Gour's Resolution has received to-day with that which my Resolution has received. My Resolution was received with an intense degree of sympathy; Dr. Gour's Resolution, I notice, to-day has been received with great jocularity. Sir, I think it was truly said that many people become intoxicated with the exuberance of their own verbosity. Dr. Gour has been talking to-day, and had I known the arguments that he was going to put forward except that one, a very important one, of expenditure, I certainly would not have given my consent to being on this Committee. Dr. Gour is proposing here to ask this House to change what is going to be our capital,—it is not our capital yet, except that it is partly so—to one in the Central Provinces. He is going to change the capital to a jungle, and he asks us in all seriousness to stop the continuation of the works at Delhi and to start new ones there. He has made a very fond appeal to his friend on his right for commercial support, but he was firmly refused this. Sir, when one comes to analyse Dr. Gour's Resolution, there is more in it than should merit laughter from this House. Let us take the present capital of Delhi. It has cost us a little more than 5 crores, and when one looks into the archives of the past, one realises that the change of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi was, I think I am right in saying, nothing else but a sop to satisfy the sentiments of the Muhammadans, especially at a time that synchronised with the partition of Eastern Bengal. Well, Sir, when we come to analyse the expenditure which the new capital has cost us to-day, when we come to add to that fact that we have two capitals, when we also realise the expenditure that it costs to move from Simla to Delhi and from Delhi to Simla, when we also realise that India will in time, when the devolution of power becomes greater from the European to the Indian, be mainly administered by Indians, when we come to realise that goal or rather visualise that time, we will realise then that the Indian Members of this House will naturally desire a place as their capital in which they will not have to spend seven months in the year in a cool climate but would prefer a permanent capital in an equable climate. Moreover one has to realise that the total expenditure that would be incurred by the Government here would more than pay for the erection of a new capital. Now, I have no desire to say that this plateau which Dr. Gour commends so much to our sympathy and encouragement is the one and only place in India which is suitable for a capital. But if we are going to look at the future, if we are going to stop this waste in time, this waste in labour, I consider that Dr. Gour's Resolution has a lot to commend itself; and

[Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney.]

even if we do not decide to change the capital of Delhi, yet we must not forget the fact that at the rate we are at present proceeding in Delhi, the estimated cost will I feel sure exceed 15 crores. Can we afford this enormous outlay in these days of financial stringency and economy? The Government of India brought forward the same argument when they disagreed with my Civil Pension Resolution. I think that there is a great deal in Dr. Gour's Resolution which demands serious consideration.

Mr. R. A. Spence: I move that the question be now put so that we may go on with the work of the House.

Bhai Man Singh: Sir, I am sorry that even an eminent advocate like Dr. Gour has failed to make out any case against the historical city of Delhi. One funny argument brought forward by Dr. Gour was that so many empires have been ruined at Delhi. But I must remind him that in every great city wherever empires have risen, wherever capitals have been, their ruin must come at that place. It is just like saying 'My father died in this house, my grandfather died in this house, and my grandmother died in this house, and therefore I should not live in it' and I think there could be nothing more in the argument that Dr. Gour brought forward against Delhi.

To say that 'Delhi has got no public opinion,' nothing could be far from being right. Delhi has got a public opinion which is the legitimate child of its ancient civilisation. Delhi has been the capital of the Moghuls, of the Pathans and still further on of very great Hindu Empires. Well, I put it to any Honourable Member of this House to say whether a city which has been the capital of so many Empires gets its own civilisation or not, whether the seat of an Empire does affect the civilisation of that place or not. I think the answer is very clear. Now we are asked to go to the jungles of Central India or as in Punjabee one would say 'Jungal wichh mangal bana diya.'

To try to build palaces in the woods of Central India may appeal to the imagination of our Honourable friend, Dr. Gour, but I personally do not understand that we can build anything like the remnants of an old civilisation in the new City of Nagpur or to whatever other place our choice may fall.

The great objection that one should first of all have to the change of capital is the enormous sum already sunk at Delhi and the question is what to do with that. It is not only the enormous capital sunk in building so many palatial buildings. We have got the roads and so many other things. My friend, Dr. Gour, should not forget how many merchants, shop keepers and other tradesman have removed to that place (Delhi) and how much the trade will suffer if a change be now made. I might be excused when I ask my Honourable friend, Sir Sydney Crookshank, if he could hit upon any device by means of his great engineering skill to remove all those buildings intact to the Central Provinces or if my Honourable friend, Colonel Waghorn, could frame some huge new railway wagons to transport all those things to the Central Provinces. Then there is also what is called adjusting oneself to a place. When I come to a new house, I always feel strange and I take some time to adjust myself to that place. This is not the case with individuals only. It is still more true in the case of empires. We and the whole country have now adjusted ourselves to a certain capital, the Government have adjusted themselves to a certain place and it is not a child's play to remove to quite a new place now. The

Government have adjusted themselves to Simla and Delhi. You cannot say 'Let us change all that and go over to another place' because a certain place appeals to some one's imagination. Well, if I may be allowed to make a little mention about personal things, I found my little quarters at the Summer Hill a little less commodious for myself and Sardar Gulab Singh specially when I knew that some guests were coming to stay with me. But when I heard that a certain quarter would be available to me on the Cart Road, I had already gone to the Summer Hill quarter, I had placed my luggage there and I had accommodated myself and so I felt very reluctant to go to the Cart Road quarter. It may look like a trifling thing, but when an empire has adjusted itself to a certain place, would it be possible to remove the capital for such slight reasons as given by Dr. Gour? It is very easy to talk and say that if we remain at Delhi we will have to come up to Simla, but I personally have not been able to understand what is there against Simla except one thing, that it is costly. To this point I will come after a minute. I would frankly admit that I am fond of Simla. I would say that the beautiful Chadwick khud near 'Summer Hill' is very charming. Still further we have got the charming Chadwick Falls. But that is not the point. The jungles of Nagpur or other beautiful places of Central India also appeal to my imagination, but that is not the question. I would like to go to Dehra Dun. It has a beautiful valley. But that is not the point. The question is, have we been able to make out a case against Simla? It is no use appealing to sentiment that we should not work on the heights of Simla. I do not find anything wrong in working here. The only thing is that having capitals in two places, means so much expenditure of money every year in moving from one place to another. But at the same time look to the enormous cost that we will have to incur in changing our capital to any other place from Delhi. I would feel obliged if the Honourable Finance Member will enlighten the House on the annual cost we have to incur in coming over to and going back from Simla. That would, I think, clear the point very easily: and if the capitalised value of that cost is not much, at least not abnormally high as compared with the cost of our building a new capital at another place, I think there is absolutely no reason for recommending a change of the capital. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to oppose the motion.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: Sir, the question of the change of capital has been discussed times without number both in this Assembly and in its predecessor, the Legislative Council; and as reference has been made to one debate in 1920 when an Honourable Colleague of mine moved for the appointment of a committee to inquire into this matter, I should like to refer to what I said on that occasion. There is some danger, I think, of my views being misrepresented.

What I said then was: 'The fact is that the ideal capital would be one with a temperate climate, and in a place where Government would be in constant contact with leading men of affairs in the different branches of life.' I think none will fail to support that statement. I did not however suggest then that we should change our headquarters at the present moment. Nor can the Honourable Mover really suggest this. As Mr. Sastri very well said at that time, we are not writing here on a clean slate. We have to accept the facts as they are. I may add that I notice that at that time Mr. Khaparde, who is now adorning another place, proposed, like the Honourable Mover here, that the capital should be moved to Pachmarhi. I should like to cite

[Sir William Vincent.]

Mr. Sastri's remark on that proposal. It seems to me rather relevant if severe. - He said 'Pachmarhi, which is in the Central Provinces, does not even deserve notice.'

But what we have to consider now, I think, is not what was said in the previous Council, but what has been decided by this Assembly,—what this Assembly has decided in the most emphatic manner repeatedly. Now on the 14th March last Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar moved that the provision of a sum of Rs. 5,64,000 for building the Chamber in which we are now assembled should be omitted from the grant for Civil Works, and on that Resolution—I think Honourable Members will remember—a discussion arose as to the suitability of Delhi as a capital headquarters. That motion was negatived, after a division, by a majority of 67 to 21. By that vote this Assembly, as we understood, committed itself to accepting Delhi as the capital. Well the question came up again two days later on the 16th March when Mr. Pyari Lal Mishra—I think he also comes from the Central Provinces—moved that the demand under the head of capital outlay on New Delhi should be reduced by Rs. 1,25,000, that motion was negatived: and I confess I heard the Honourable Colonel Gidney to-day supporting the proposal for the appointment of a committee with surprise. He must in my opinion have changed his mind very considerably since the 16th March. I will read out to the Assembly what he said and they will be able to judge for themselves. Colonel Gidney now wishes to appoint a Committee to examine this question propounded by Dr. Gour. I think he must have done this out of a feeling of friendship for the Honourable Mover, for what he said on 16th March was:

'Sir, I shall not weary this House by entering into the merits or demerits of Delhi as the capital city of India. This we must relegate to the archives of the past.'

And he went on to say in the end:

'In dissociating myself from this demand for a retrenchment, I support very heartily the previous speakers that we should expedite the work, and if the House is in favour of it, we should raise a distinct and separate loan specially to build the New Capital.'

I cannot think that Colonel Gidney would have proposed the spending of this large sum of money if he had at that time thought that it was necessary to appoint a Committee to inquire what place would be a suitable site for a capital.

However, I may be entirely wrong in my reading of his speech. I said I would leave it to the judgment of the Assembly and I am content to do so. Well, Sir, after that motion, Mr. Sarfaraz Hussain moved that the capital outlay should be reduced. That motion, again, was negatived and the full amount provided. Again, later on, Mr. J. Kabraji moved that in the interests of economy and general convenience alike the execution of the programme of New Delhi Works may be expedited and the necessary funds provided or raised so that the Secretariat and Legislative buildings and connected works, including residences, may be completed as early as practicable. That Resolution was adopted and I should like to quote from Mr. Neogy's speech in the discussion because it is of the utmost importance. He said:

'Sir, I should very much like to know as to whether we have got a settled and definite policy in regard to the Delhi project.'

And, then, at the end, he said:

'I hope, Sir, that our discussion to-day will enable us to formulate a definite policy in regard to this matter.'

I thought that he meant, and I believe he did mean, that we were then going to settle once for all what the views of this Assembly were on the question of accepting Delhi as the capital. I do not know whether that was his intention or not. I see him facing me but he does not give me any indication of his views. Even this Session, on the 22nd of September, we have had a supplementary grant of 33 lakhs asked for towards Capital Outlay on Delhi and examination shows that it includes various sums for Government House and Secretariat buildings. There was no opposition from Dr. Gour, to that grant. What is the Government to conclude from all this? Had we no justification for taking the view, that this Assembly approved the expenditure on Delhi? And, to think that, the Assembly would not be so foolish as to approve this expenditure unless they meant to retain Delhi as the capital. If the Assembly then thought of deserting Delhi in favour of some salubrious spot in the Central Provinces, would it not have been more reasonable to refuse all these grants to which I have referred? Indeed had any of these Budget demands or discussions to which I have referred arisen out of the discussion of an ordinary Resolution, why the Honourable Member would have been out of order in bringing forward the present Resolution at all. I however admitted myself on previous occasions that, in my own opinion, a purely personal one, Delhi is not an ideal capital (Hear, hear), but that is not really the point before us.

My Honourable Colleague here, Mr. Shafi, thinks it is. I merely put my view as to Delhi as a personal one and not the opinion of the Government; on the main question, however, as to whether it is possible for the Government of India to abandon that capital, there can really be one opinion among all sensible men and the attitude of Government is clear. Whatever be the merits or demerits of Delhi I think that Dr. Gour was exaggerating a little when he spoke of the climate there in November and December as intolerable. I think he said it was enough to kill everybody. Well, a great many of us—exclusive of some hundred thousand people down there—do survive every year, in spite of these accusations.

There are two objections to Delhi at present that I must admit. But one will I hope shortly disappear—at least in part, and that is that the Government of India do not stay in Delhi a sufficient time; I noticed that this criticism attracted some attention in this Chamber. I have tried to explain the reason before, but I will do so once again. The reason for this short period of our stay in Delhi is that we are at present in temporary buildings, a large number of our men have to be either in inadequate temporary houses or else under canvas. A very large number live under canvas, and it really is impossible in these circumstances to prolong our stay at Delhi materially. But it has always been the hope of the Government of India that when the new capital is complete it will be possible to reside in Delhi for a considerably longer period than at present. That I believe will meet a great many of the objections to that place from the point of view of this Assembly.

In the next place, the cost of the move has also been referred to. Indeed I heard one suggestion that the capitalised cost of the move from Delhi to Simla would be more than the cost of building Delhi. Now the cost of moving from Delhi to Simla—I have not the figures here but I know as I had occasion to look them up quite recently—is very small. It is nothing at all

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compared to what the cost of moving to Calcutta was. I am afraid of making a statement at random but I can definitely assure this Assembly that the cost is quite small. The dislocation of business for some little time is undoubtedly a defect. That was the second defect which I pointed out. This is one more consideration which has really been dealt with fully by Sir Sydney Crookshank, but I should like to reiterate and emphasise what he said in regard to the expenditure. The exact expenditure up to date, I believe, cannot be given at this moment, but by the 31st March 1922 about 6 crores and 26 lakhs will have been spent on New Delhi. Unless this Assembly proposes to waste that amount, it is idle to talk now of appointing a Committee to make the inquiry which the Honourable Mover wants. Such a Committee would take a very long time to complete its inquiries, and in the meantime the new city of Delhi would be completed. Think of the additional burden which would have to be borne, if a new capital were chosen, with the cost of re-erecting a capital there at a vastly increased cost both in labour and material.

I think really that in all these circumstances I can safely leave the present motion of the Honourable Mover to the vote of this Honourable Assembly.

Mr. Zahir-ud-Din Ahmed : I support this Resolution whole-heartedly, and at the same time I wish to say that Calcutta has got a most salubrious and temperate climate. Need I say that I come from Bengal. The position of the Government of India is like that of the Wandering Jew. This state of affairs cannot last for ever; even these people have now got a home in Palestine. Let us follow their example at least and find a permanent capital for all the year round. Sir, I may say that while I was coming to Simla the train got into a tunnel and I got a fright whether I would ever come out of the hole or go deeper and deeper into it. Thank God that I came out safe. I am certain other friends of mine also got such frights which no doubt nearly caused them heart failures. We want to secure ourselves from such dangers. Self-preservation is the rule of nature and on that consideration I support the Resolution.

Mr. K. G. Bagde : I move, Sir, that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : Does the Honourable Member rise to reply?

Dr. H. S. Gour : Yes, Sir, there are a few points.....

Mr. President : The Honourable Member should have risen to reply sooner, if he wanted to reply.

The Resolution was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE : RESERVED RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS FOR DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.

Mr. W. M. Hussainally : Sir, I propose that :

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to advise all Railway Administrations in India to abolish the system of reserving Railway compartments for different communities (except ladies) unless they are fully paid for.'

At the last Delhi Session I asked the following question :

'Do Government propose to order that there should be no compartments reserved for any class of Indian railways except those intended for ladies.....'

Mr. J. N. Mukherjee : I rise to a point of order, Sir. I find that the next Resolution stands in my name. Do I understand that the Chair has postponed my Resolution ?

Mr. President : I called the Honourable Member's name and I watched him. I did not observe him rise and therefore, passing over the next Resolution which stood in the name of the Honourable Member from Madras who is absent to-day, I called the Honourable Member from Karachi.

Mr. J. N. Mukherjee : I did not hear, Sir ; nobody at least in my neighbourhood heard, I think, my name mentioned.

Mr. President : Order, order. If I allow the Honourable Member to move his Resolution, it will be by way of grace and not by way of right. I am not in charge of the Honourable Member's Resolution ; he is. I called his name ; if he did not hear it, I am prepared to allow him now to move his Resolution ; but I may point out that I shall not extend this grace to any other Member of the House in future. If the Honourable Member is not sufficiently interested in his own Resolution to listen to the calling of his own name after the despatch of the business immediately preceding his, then I do not think I can extend that right.

RESOLUTION RE: THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN INDIA.

Mr. J. N. Mukherjee : Sir, I thank you for the indulgence. The Resolution* which I have the honour to place before the House is to my mind a very harmless one ; but though harmless it attempts to achieve a very useful purpose, namely, to extend the usefulness of a department of Government which from every possible point of view has been of great service to the country and to the Indian community at large, and is from all accounts one of the most well-managed departments of the Government.

Its civilising influence has also been great. But, in spite of all good points in its favour, one cannot imagine that efforts should not be made to expand the usefulness of the Postal Department in India in various directions in which similar institutions in other civilised countries—especially in Europe and America,—have been carrying on their useful operations. In contemplating the rather long list of demands for Committees which this Assembly has made during the short months of its present career, for the purpose of investigating into various matters connected with the administration of the country, one cannot but feel somewhat chilled at the idea of making a fresh demand, and it is this feeling which has stood in the way of my asking for something which will go to add to the rather heavy list of committees which the Government have before them already.

* The Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to consider the advisability of appointing a Committee of official and non-official Members to inquire generally into the postal system in India and report as to the best means of improving its utility and efficiency as regards service both in urban as well as rural areas, so as to bring it into line, as far as practicable, with the systems in operation in European countries, specially in Switzerland in respect of Postal Cheque Accounts, delivery of newspapers and collection of subscriptions on account thereof, payment of rates and taxes through post offices, and similar other matters, at any rate in large towns and commercial centres.

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My Resolution, modest and harmless as it is, leaves the choice of procedure to the Executive Government of the Country. They may, if they like, appoint a Committee for the purpose of investigating into the subject-matter of my Resolution, or they may collect information departmentally, just as it may be convenient to them. But there is pre-eminently one thing which it is the aim of my Resolution to accomplish, and it is, that there should be a good deal of further progress in the Postal Department of Government. We, as members of this Assembly, are here to remind Government of the necessity of progress, as we are bound to insist upon it if we are to discharge our duties. Sir, to my mind, the growth of this department of Government seems to have been arrested for some time past, unless we take the recent increase in the rates of postage as a sign of growth. I fear, however, many of you will be inclined to repudiate such an idea.

The history of the gradual expansion of the postal system in this country, is, to some extent, one of initial official opposition to any new-fangled idea, in the first instance, followed by the adoption of the idea itself in the end. It was long after the appointment of the first Postal Commission in 1850 that the value-payable or the Cash-on-delivery system was introduced in the Post offices in 1877, and, in 1878, the Post office undertook the insurance of letters and parcels. The money order work of the country used to be carried on by Government Treasuries previous to 1880, and the procedure was rather cumbersome. In that year (1880) it was handed over to the Post office with the result that in a few months the number of money orders issued and paid, quadrupled. The extent to which money order business has increased may be gauged from the fact that the value of inland money orders in 1881 was forty-five millions, and in 1917-18, it had increased to over six hundred and seventeen millions of rupees.

In 1870, Government Savings Banks were first established in India in connection with District Treasuries, and, in 1882, permission was given to open Savings Bank Accounts at Post Offices, but the management and control of the funds still remained with the Treasuries. In 1885, all Savings Banks at Treasuries were closed, and the business was transferred entirely to the Post Office. The growth of business in this department of the Post Office may be realised from the fact that in 1882-83 there were 39,101 depositors with a balance of Rs. 27,96,930, whereas in 1913-14, there were 16,38,725 depositors with a balance of Rs. 23,16,75,467.

In 1883, combined Post and Telegraph Offices were introduced, and it is no exaggeration to say these are solely accountable for the extension of telegraph facilities to the smaller markets and rural tracts of India.

In 1884, the sale of British Postal orders and the telegraphic money order system were introduced, and in the same year Postal Life Insurance was also inaugurated—a measure at first confined to the servants of the department, but was afterwards extended to all Government Servants. The extension of the money order system to the payment of land-revenue was first tried in that year (1884) in the Benares division of the North-Western Provinces and proved an immediate success. The system was a great advantage to small proprietors who lived at a distance from the Government collecting stations. In 1886, the system was extended to the whole of the North-Western Provinces except Kumaon, and a beginning was also made in ten

districts of Bengal. The action of the Post Office was fully justified by results, and revenue money orders were quickly introduced into the Punjab, Central Provinces and Madras. Rent money orders were first tried in the North-Western Provinces in March 1886, and experiment was also made in Bengal in October 1886, and the system was extended to the Central Provinces in 1891. In 1890, at the request of the military authorities, the Post Office undertook the payment of military pensioners in the Punjab.

Such has been the history of the growth of the Postal Department. Now to go back to the history of the opposition that was offered at various stages of its growth.

The proposal to establish Post Office Savings Banks on the lines of those which existed in England met with great opposition—specially from the Comptroller-General. The same arguments were brought forward which the opponents of the Post Office Savings Bank Bill in England used, when Mr. Gladstone managed to get this wise and beneficial measure through both the Houses of Parliament in 1861. Similarly, when in 1878, Mr. Monteith, Director General of the Post Office proposed to Government to take over the money order business from the Government Treasuries, his proposal was strongly opposed by the Comptroller-General, but in the end it was accepted by Government, and was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in November 1879, and on the first of January 1880, the Post Office took over the whole management of issue and payment of money orders. These are instances of opposition overcome, which I cite with a view to minimise any possible opposition to the suggestions contained in my Resolution.

It may be contended that the conditions in India can bear no comparison to those in European countries, and that because certain things have been carried out successfully in a certain manner in Switzerland, it is no reason that the same results can be achieved in India by adopting similar methods. In reply to such possible objections, I may state that for the idea of paying money orders at the houses of payees, India is indebted to Germany; and for the idea of Postal Savings Bank,—to England. If the system in operation in advanced European countries were to be tabooed simply on the ground of dissimilarity of conditions prevailing in those countries and India, Savings Banks and payment of money orders through Post Offices would have been perhaps unknown to this country even up to this time.

I have traced the growth of the working of the Post Office down to the year 1890 and 1891, but I regret to have to note that there has been a dearth of any special progress worthy of the name since that year (1891). To my mind, it is high time that the gods of the Postal Department should shake off their stupor and make rapid strides in the direction of further progress, and bring the achievements of their department into line with those of advanced European Countries and of America. What I mean may be made clear by referring to a concrete instance. In connection with the working of the postal system in Switzerland, a quotation from a letter of a business-man may be placed before the House: He says:

'The other day I received a doctor's bill. In the bottom corner was a number—that of the doctor's postal cheque account. Next time I passed a post office, I stepped in, filled in a form, paid the exact amount of the bill and received a receipt. The thing was done.

'The Post office places the money to the doctor's account and sends him a voucher to this effect. He has nothing further to do except to strike the entry off his book, and if he is busy, he may let the vouchers accumulate until he can attend to them. There can be no

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disputes about the payments, even if I fail to keep the postal receipt, for it is officially recorded by the State, and proof can be obtained at any time within five years.

'If I hold a postal cheque account, the matter is simpler still. I have a postal cheque book; I fill in a cheque, hand it to the post office (I can post it if I please) and the sum is transferred from my account to his, he being notified as before.

'If I were a commercial man I could pay a dozen or more accounts, through the Post Office on one cheque, writing the list on the back, and it is not necessary that all the payees should have postal cheque accounts. If they have no accounts to which the money can be transferred, the postman will pay the sum in cash at the address indicated, and obtain the receipt.

'In the first instance—that of transferring from one account to another—no charge whatever is made. For other payments there is a small tax, though less than on postal orders which are also in use. In the case of both order and cheque, the sender is allowed to write a message in a space provided for the purpose on the voucher section, without extra charge.

'Foreigners are allowed to hold postal cheque accounts; but this seems practically unknown in England.

'One pays one's taxes in Switzerland through the post office, a form for the purpose being enclosed with the notice stating the last date on which it may be received. In fact, forms are sent out with all kinds of requests for money; all you have to do is to fill in your name and address and hand the form and cash to the Post Office.'

To return to our own system. Leaving out of account those facilities in the postal department which are obtainable in Switzerland and other European Countries, can we honestly say that we have done all we could and should do in respect to the postal arrangements in our villages, and in areas outside towns and cities? Is it not a fact that delivery of letters, etc., in our villages are made only once a week? Is it not a fact that our villagers have to travel long distances to the sub-post-office to receive payments of money orders and to transact similar other postal business? Is it not time that inquiry should be made into these matters with a view to put an end to our rather antiquated village postal system? Can we not take advantage of our village chowkidars to improve our system or devise some other means of remedying our defects? All that my Resolution asks for is, that a thorough inquiry should be made into these matters, and improvements should be introduced worthy of the administration of our country; with a view to bring the working of our postal system into line with the improvements that have been achieved in advanced European Countries. I will end as I began by saying that my Resolution is a very modest and harmless one, and there can be no possible objection to its acceptance. I have every hope the House will adopt it without a dissentient note.

Mr. Zahir-ud-din Ahmed: Sir, I rise to oppose this Resolution tooth and nail, on the ground that the purpose of the committee as proposed in the Resolution can be served in some other easier way without any expense whatsoever. I have got no less than 40 years of experience of all the Departments under the Government. No Department, to my best knowledge, is giving so much satisfaction to the general public as the Postal Department in India. Unlike other departments, the superior officers in this department never try to shield their subordinates, if they find any transgression of duties on the part of their staff. Whenever they find satisfactory cases of complaints, they immediately take steps to remedy them the grievance, and also to punish the delinquents. This is the secret that this Department is working so well. Sir, I will take the lowest paid staff among the postal employees,—I mean the postal peons who draw a salary of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per month. These men deliver money orders for thousands and thousands of rupees every month, and

not one person in a thousand is found to embezzle the money put into their charge.

Supposing these money orders were delivered through the Policemen. What would have been the result? Would the payees have got the full amounts as they get them through the Postal Peons?

I was for over 30 years in the district of 24 Pergannas where I had scores of Englishmen and Scotchmen as my friends. They one and all told me that the Postal system in India was superior to either that of England or Scotland. In both England and Scotland, they are to go to the Post Offices on the receipt of notices to receive the money orders. When they come, they are questioned from which places they expect their money orders and also the amounts they are to receive. If they fail to reply correctly, the money orders are not delivered to them. Is this the kind of improvement that the Honourable Member of this Resolution wishes to effect?

What I find my Honourable friend is trying to do is to oil the most oiled part of the machinery. The Commission, if appointed, will only be a needless expenditure of money and that of energy too. If the Honourable Member has a good scheme in view, let him put it before the Director General of Post Offices in India, who is a member of this Assembly, and I am certain that this high official will give the matter a just and sympathetic consideration, and if the plan is financially feasible, there is not the slightest doubt that it will be accepted and will be carried out. If my Honourable friend wishes me to find out for him the office of the Director General of Post Offices or the seat of this official in this Assembly, I am at his disposal. In this way the object can be served without any waste of money and labour too. With these few words, I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw this Resolution so that some other important matter can be gone into.

Mr. G. R. Clarke : Sir, I regret that I have written a book on the Post Office, because, the Honourable Member seems to have quoted most of his arguments on the Resolution out of it. Before dealing with this question, I think it would be as well for the House to know what the system of giving rural facilities in the Post Office is. As you know, Sir, India is divided into postal circles, under which we have got Superintendents' Divisions and again sub-divisions. The Divisions are in charge of Superintendents, the sub-divisions are in charge of Inspectors. Well, our sub-offices are mostly in towns outside the headquarter towns and our Branch offices are in more important villages. Most of the Sub-offices and Branch offices in rural districts have village postmen attached, and it is our aim that every village in the country should be within the beat of a village postman. The village postman's beat is divided into two kinds, the fixed beat and the unfixed beat. The fixed beat is composed of villages which he must visit when he goes his rounds. In this are the more important villages which have letter boxes, and where there is always correspondence for delivery. The unfixed beat consists of villages which he visits only when he has correspondence actually for delivery. The village postman is really the pioneer of the Post Office. He is a travelling post office. He delivers postal articles and he collects them for despatch, and those of you who have any knowledge of the village postal system in India must be perfectly aware of this fact. There is no portion of the postal system which is more carefully watched by our Superintendents and Inspectors than this village postmen's beat system. Statistics are very carefully

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kept, and if any village in the country shows any sign of postal development or postal necessity, we at once open a Post Office, and we call these offices experimental post offices. In the old days they were opened under a guarantee from the residents, but we have now abolished this, and they are opened on our own responsibility under a grant which is known as the Grant for Experimental post offices. An experimental post office is usually opened in the first instance for six months. If it shows signs of development or of justifying its existence, it is made permanent, and that again becomes the nucleus of village postmen and other post offices in their turn, and it is in that way that the net work of post offices is spread throughout the country. Really I do not think that there could be a more ideal system. Theoretically it is a good system, and in practice it has worked extraordinarily well. I think the Department has justified its work and, at the present moment, we have over 14,000 branch offices in the country, and of these, nearly 13,000 are in charge of what we call extra departmental agents, that is, people who are not whole-time servants of the Post Office, but who get a certain amount of money for running the Post Office in a village.

They are generally shopkeepers, or pound keepers or schoolmasters, or any local residents who have sufficient education and intelligence to run a very small post office. When a branch office shows signs of doing postal business on a larger scale, it becomes a sub-office and draws into its net again a certain number of branch offices, and so the whole system advances and spreads out over the country. I think at the present time there is hardly any village in the country which is not within reach of a village postman. It may be once a week. In some of these hill villages the postmen can get there only once a week, but we cannot employ postmen for a place which does not carry on a certain amount of correspondence. We cannot send postmen out into the villages with only one or two letters. We have to wait until they collect a certain amount of correspondence, and then we send them on their rounds. If correspondence increases we increase the number of postmen and so on. In this development of rural post offices we have to remember the fact that the small pioneer offices in the country are all run at a loss. Out of 14,000 and odd post offices, we have at present over 4,000 which are carried on at a loss. These new post offices will always be a burden on the revenue, but this fact cannot be an excuse for not opening them, because pioneer offices must necessarily be maintained at a loss. I think we do our very best in this way, but the development of these offices largely depends upon the amount of the experimental grant which is voted by this Assembly. For this current year I asked for 1½ lakhs of rupees, but for financial reasons it was cut down to Rs. 50,000. Therefore our rural development is only going to be one-third of what the Department thinks absolutely necessary. That is not the fault of the post office. The opinion about the development of post offices seems to differ in this Assembly, as quite recently a question was asked as to whether the Government would consider the advisability of replacing the small branch offices by sub-offices. There are 14,000 branch offices in the country and more. If we take the cost of a sub-office it costs on an average Rs. 60 over and above that of a branch office, and the total additional cost would come to about 80 lakhs to convert these branch offices into sub-offices.

Such a measure would completely stop all the development of post offices in this country. I think that these remarks dispose of the question of

development of post offices in rural tracts, and I cannot see how a committee is going to assist in the matter.

I now turn to the other part of the Resolution dealing with urban areas. Well, in the last few years I think everybody knows that, as regards the conveyance of mails in our cities in India, we have almost entirely changed over to motor services at a very great expense. In fact, the Honourable the Finance Member considers that we have been too liberal in this respect. All our big cities now have got motor services for the conveyance of our mails. If mails are conveyed in motor cars they are carried to the different offices in a very much shorter time and the postmen are sent out on their beats much more quickly. To give the House some idea of the facilities that are offered in some of the large cities in India, in Calcutta we have got 61 town sub-offices, 932 post men, 442 letter boxes and nine deliveries a day.

In Bombay, we have got 64 sub-offices, 1,100 postmen, 345 letter boxes and from 3 to 8 deliveries a day according to the locality in the town. In Madras, we have got 38 ? sub-offices, 345 post men and 6 deliveries. In towns like Rangoon, Lahore and so on, we have got corresponding arrangements, and I am quite willing to give the Honourable Member a statement of all large towns in India giving the details of what the post office service is in each town. I think it will satisfy him that in the urban areas in India the post office is doing as much as it possibly can, and in fact I think, in some of the larger towns, that we are giving rather more deliveries than are absolutely necessary. The Honourable Member seems to think that the development of the post office stopped in 1891, but if he will only read the ordinary statistics of the post office which are published in the annual reports he will see that since 1891 almost every portion of post office work has more than doubled. Everything has progressed. We have not, I admit, introduced any new services into the post office in addition to what we call non-postal services, but I do not think it is right that we should do so. Our business is really in the first instance to deliver letters and postal articles. As I shall show presently, in addition to this, the really essential business of the post office, a great many other services have now been piled on the post office, and I think it will be a great mistake to increase these non-postal services.

Now mention has been made of the question of postal cheques. Postal cheques are used, as the Honourable Member very rightly points out, largely in Switzerland. They are used in many continental towns, but the whole system of postal cheques is this. I will tell you the system in Switzerland. Any member of the public can deposit in a post office 100,000 francs. That is the utmost he can deposit. In smaller offices he cannot deposit so much. When he deposits any sum of money he has got to deposit a guarantee of 100 francs. That used to be the figure. I am not sure what it is at present. He is then given a cheque book payable to bearer, a bank book and also an identity card. Now he can go to almost any post office in Switzerland and cash a cheque payable to bearer, if he produces his account book and his identity card he can draw money up to certain defined limits in different post offices. Now this system which we are asked to apply to India is used in Switzerland for a very particular purpose. Switzerland is a country which almost lives on tourists. When a tourist goes to Switzerland, he goes visiting small places where there are no banks. He wanders about the Alps and goes to many small villages. Naturally people do not

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want to carry about with them a large sum of money. Now this system of postal cheques is adopted by the Swiss, the Germans, and is also prevalent in northern Italy. Tourists deposit their money in the big post offices and go about with a postal cheque book, drawing money in these various small places which they visit. But this system is not applicable to India. I am perfectly certain that if we introduced it nobody would use it. To start with in India, whatever tourists we have visit large places like Delhi, Agra and Lucknow, where there are ample banking facilities. They would not use postal cheques. And are the poor people in the country going to deposit large sums of money with a large guarantee in a particular head office for the pleasure of drawing money in other post offices in the country. Besides, this system is one that has to be used with very great care. You want an intelligent staff to deal with it, and I think everybody in this House will recognise that in the smaller post offices in India we have not got a staff of that quality, which can deal with this class of work.

And moreover the system of postal cheques is not really required nor necessary in this country. Again we come to this point that the Honourable Member has raised in his Resolution, namely, the collection of newspaper subscriptions by the Post Office. Now, on the Continent, especially in Switzerland, there is an arrangement by which the editor of a newspaper can settle with the Post Office to deliver a certain number of newspapers to addressees by simply handing in a list of the addressees and also handing in the requisite number of copies into the local post office as the paper is published. The Post Office undertakes to do the rest to deliver those newspapers and it also undertakes to collect subscriptions.

It is rather a complicated system, and I do not think we have reached that development in India especially in the smaller Indian post offices where we could properly deal with these newspaper subscriptions. We might deal with it, but it would certainly necessitate a rather large accounting staff and would cause a good deal of expense. Now this system of 'abonnement' as they call it on the continent is not done for nothing. The Post Office charges fairly high rates. They charged some years ago 50 per cent. in Germany of the annual subscription to the newspapers for doing this work. The rate has since been reduced, but the charge made by continental post offices for doing this work is considerable—and these countries have not got what we have in India, namely, special rates for registered newspapers. We have a rate for registered newspapers which I think is as cheap as anywhere in the world,—a quarter of an anna for a newspaper weighing 8 tolas and half an anna for a newspaper weighing 20 tolas, and the special system referred to is hardly necessary when we have this cheap rate. Besides in all the big newspaper offices—and I think the representatives of newspapers will agree—the Post Office does an enormous amount of work. We have a special sorting office attached practically to every big newspaper office, and in this sorting office we do the whole of the sorting and distribution of the newspaper for despatch all over the country. I do not think it is necessary for us to do any more. The usual way of collecting subscriptions is to send the first copy of the newspaper for the term of the subscription by v.p.p., and then the paper is delivered for whatever period the subscriber requires. As for the collection of rates and taxes through the Post Office, I must strongly oppose any such suggestion as this. The Post Office, as I said before, was originally intended for the conveyance and delivery

of postal articles. We have now got a very heavy parcel post service added to us. We pay millions of money orders. We collect tradesmen's bills by millions. We also pay pensions in the Punjab. We deal with war loans. We sell quinine, and we have a very large Savings Bank, which takes a great deal of work and time. I am very much averse from adding to the burdens which are thrown on the Post Office. We have been asked to sell railway tickets. We are now asked to have a system of Postal Cheques, to act as newspaper agents, and to collect rates and taxes. We are beginning to lose sight of the fact that the essential reason for the existence of the Post Office is the delivery of letters and light postal articles, and I am certain that it would be a very wrong principle to add any more burdens to those which are already imposed on this Department. On behalf of Government, Sir, I must therefore oppose the Honourable Member's Resolution. Committees are expensive—and I think we have had experience of the recent Telegraph and Postal Committees that they lead to very expensive results. I think I am not wrong in saying that the results of the late Postal and Telegraph Committees involved something like an increase of two crores of rupees on the Budget. And any Committee that is going to try and improve rural delivery according to some of the suggestions I have heard is going to throw an enormous extra cost on the Post Office. As regards most of these proposals that have been made, they have all been considered years ago. They have been considered by my predecessors, they have been considered by myself, and they have been rejected. At the last Postal Congress held at Madrid, at which I was a delegate last year, I discussed this whole matter of newspaper subscriptions with the British delegates and with the delegates from the British Empire and they were all opposed to it. Neither in England nor in any of the great Dominions nor in the United States will they touch this matter of newspaper subscriptions through the Post Office, and rightly so. They say that it is no business of theirs and that Post Offices ought not to undertake this work.

I trust, therefore, Sir, that, from the few remarks I have made, that the Honourable Member will withdraw his Resolution. A Committee is really intended to deal with some widespread grievance or to propose some great reform. I am convinced that in the Post Office at present there is no great grievance. The administration is doing its best to give all possible facilities to the country. As for any great reform, I do not see how we can get it from a wandering Committee. People who suffer are quite ready and willing to make their complaints known to the Directorate, and they do so. Villagers who want a Post Office in their village are not a bit backward in asking for it, and, as far as we can, and as far as our funds permit, we meet all these demands. We cannot meet them all because we have not always got the funds. I admit that we are behind hand, that there are many ways in which we might improve rural facilities, but it is really a question of money. If we are given the funds, we are ready to do it, and, if the Assembly want extended facilities they have got to pay for them.

I therefore trust, Sir, as I said before, that on hearing these remarks about the Post Office, the Honourable Member will withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. J. N. Mukherjee: [On rising to speak Mr. J. N. Mukherjee was interrupted by some remarks made by Mr. J. Chaudhuri.]

Mr. President : I must really point out to the other Honourable Member from Bengal that he should not interrupt speeches by conversation.

Mr. J. N. Mukherjee : Sir, I think the point of my Resolution has been entirely misunderstood. I did not suggest that a Committee should be appointed at once, and what I have said has made it clear that a departmental inquiry will be quite enough for my purposes. My sole object was to draw attention to the working of the Post Office, and, if anybody is prepared to say that the final stage in development has been reached in the Postal Department, I would certainly disagree with him.

The Director-General of the Post Office has said that there is room for improvement in various ways, but an improvement is a question of finance. I do not deny that, and I have already said that the Postal Department is one of the best managed departments of Government. I have extolled its functions, I have referred to its civilising influences and I have not said anything which in any manner would go to militate against the views which are entertained by the Honourable Member at the head of the Postal Department. I think my purpose will have been served if he pays attention to the matters referred to in my Resolution. Matters which have been decided by him need not be reconsidered by him over again. He may be averse to the consideration of other matters, indicated in my Resolution, but others may do it. As a matter of fact all I say is that the Government should consider the advisability of appointing a Committee; a departmental treatment of the subject may do, if Government think no Committee ought to be appointed—I myself feel that there have been so many applications for Committees that we need not add to that long list—a departmental inquiry would satisfy me. This is not therefore a Resolution which can be possibly withdrawn by me or ought to be opposed by the Government. It can only be opposed upon a misunderstanding of the whole point of the Resolution. My learned friend to my left who opposed my Resolution missed the point of my Resolution. He went on to say 'what is the use of this Resolution when there has been expansion of business in the department,' and things of that sort. I don't deny that there has been expansion. I also admit that the work of the Department has enormously increased in course of time. But what I suggest is that Government should consider whether the work could not be carried on on new and hitherto untried lines, and especially whether in commercial centres and in the big cities and towns the systems which are prevalent in European countries should not be introduced in India, as I have already said. In Switzerland, there are not only tourists who avail themselves of the postal cheque system, but others as well, and doctors and others, as I have said, collect their bills through this system. Of course, you get information about foreign systems in newspapers and things of that kind. That does not take away from the importance of the matter in question. I don't say—adopt the foreign system at once. What I said was that one should consider the points raised. I submit again, Sir, that my Resolution is a perfectly harmless one and that there is nothing in it to lead me to withdraw it. In cases of this kind, unless Government are prepared to say that their mind is quite made up so as not to lend itself to any improvement in any new direction whatsoever, opposition is not possible. Therefore with these words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of this House.

The Resolution was negatived.

RESOLUTION *RE* RESERVED RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS FOR DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally: Sir, I propose that:

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to advise all Railway administrations in India to abolish the system of reserving Railway compartments for different communities (except ladies) unless they are fully paid for.'

At the last Delhi Session I asked the following question:

'Do Government propose to order that there should be no compartments reserved for any class on Indian Railways except those intended for ladies?'

To this the Honourable the Railway Member replied:

'Government do not at present propose to make the order suggested as on the information before them they have no reason to believe that the practice is opposed by any large number of Indian passengers.'

I therefore thought it proper to bring forward a Resolution in this Honourable House with a view first to having an expression of the opinion of this Assembly on the subject, and secondly, with a view to having the reservation removed. As all Honourable gentlemen are probably aware, nearly all the great railways in India set apart compartments in railway carriages in all classes for the exclusive benefit of Europeans and Anglo-Indians while travelling, to which Indians may not be admitted. This reserved accommodation is provided upon almost all trains, and whether there are any European or Anglo-Indian passengers actually travelling or not. The result is that frequently, and more often than not, these compartments go vacant, or if at all occupied, only by one or two solitary individuals. Again, it is not an infrequent occurrence to see these compartments being occupied not by Europeans or Anglo-Indians, but even by some Christians who are Indians to all intents and purposes, by birth or domicile, such as the Goanese. By what parity of reasoning they claim to be Europeans or Anglo-Indians is not clear to me. Hindus and Muhammandans are of course excluded from these compartments, unless of course some of them dress in European fashion and pass as such. In this Assembly there have been several complaints of over-crowding in railway trains in almost all parts of India, and it is an almost every-day occurrence to see Indians, males and females with children, scrambling for seats in almost every class of carriage and the carriages carrying passengers far in excess of their carrying capacity to the discomfort of all. The various railway administrations have not been able to remedy this serious defect for want of rolling stock; and yet these reserved compartments are run with little regard to the convenience or comfort of Indian passengers, and I put it to you, gentlemen, to decide whether such action on the part of the authorities is justified. The Railway Board has justified the action of the railway authorities on the ground that Indian opinion against such reservation is not very considerable. In other words, that Indians wish that Europeans and Anglo-Indians and Goans should travel apart from them in more comfort and ease than themselves. It is for you, gentlemen, therefore, to decide if it is really so. So far as I am aware there have been some cases in Indian High Courts in which the power of the railway administration to reserve carriages for a particular community has been questioned. The earliest case that I am aware of was in the year 1913 in Sind, in which a gentleman claimed damages from the Secretary of State for having been forcibly turned out of a second class carriage which was reserved for Europeans. Unfortunately, however, it

[Mr. W. M. Hussanally.]

it was decided in that case that the jurisdiction of the civil court was ousted by section 41 of the Railways Act, 1890, from trying such a suit and that the only remedy the plaintiff had was to move the Governor General in Council to appoint a Commission under section 26 for the trial of the matter. In another case, which was a criminal case, in Allahabad last year accused was tried and sentenced under section 109 of the Act for having wilfully entered a carriage so reserved. The whole law, however, was discussed in the Bombay High Court in the case of *V. G. Jablekar vs. Great Indian Peninsula Railway* reported at p. 809 of the Bombay Law Reporter, Volume 23. In that case, in the result though it was decided that the reservation was giving a preference or advantage yet the further question if it was undue or unreasonable preference was purposely left open by the learned Judges. That being the trend of legal decision I leave it to the House to decide whether such reservation is or is not an undue preference or advantage given to Europeans—including even Germans—and Anglo-Indians which must also necessarily include what are called statutory Indians and Goans, and whether we Indians desire such a reservation as will probably be argued by the President of the Railway Board, and also whether such reservation has not caused a considerable amount of heart-burning, inconvenience and discomfort to Indians which should be forthwith removed, more especially now that equality amongst Europeans and Indians is admitted and we are equal partners in the Empire.

Colonel W. D. Waghorn: Sir, I think if I may be allowed to offer a few remarks to this House in regard to the attitude which Government adopt with regard to this Resolution, I shall be able to save their time. The Honourable Member has raised a question with regard to the reservation of compartments, but he did not specify what class of compartments. I am not aware of any reservation in the upper classes, that is the first and second class compartments. It is possible that some lines do reserve compartments in the intermediate class for Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and as regards the third class, I am aware that that reservation is pretty general.

The question of abolishing the reservation of third class compartments for Europeans and Anglo-Indians has, we know, been frequently represented in the Press and by letters to the Railway Board.

Questions have been asked on previous occasions in this Assembly, and a Resolution similar to that now before the Assembly was proposed to be brought at the last Delhi Session but was barred by time.

In regard to this matter, I should like to point out to Honourable Members what is the view of Government in regard to this matter. In the first place, I may mention that though on many Railways this reservation of accommodation for third class European and Anglo-Indian passengers has existed for many years, it was universally adopted as a result of a Conference held in Lucknow to consider certain railway questions in 1903.

At this Conference, at which a large number of Indian gentlemen were invited to be present, it was resolved that every train should be provided with a separate third class compartment for Europeans, partitioned by planks and not by iron bars, and that European third class passengers should be restricted to the use of this compartment.

It is true that this demand was made 18 years ago which is a long time, but prejudices and dislikes do not necessarily disappear; and Government have felt hitherto that while recognising the desirability of eliminating all racial distinctions, the continuance of this reservation was on the whole desirable in order to avoid the possibility of the unpleasantness and ill-feeling which may readily be created by some trifling incident and which may possibly lead to much greater friction than is likely to arise under the existing arrangements. It will be noted that there is no idea of any racial discrimination.

So far as Railways themselves are concerned, I can only say that there is no object in retaining the reservation of these compartments beyond avoiding the possible contingency of petty disturbances and quarrels which may arise if no reservation were allowed.

I will now put before this Assembly, for their careful consideration, one or two points in connection with this matter, which may help them in arriving at the most suitable solution of this somewhat delicate question.

There is little doubt that there is a general impression that this reservation has been introduced as a matter of racial preference in favour of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. This, I can assure the Assembly, is not the case, or at any rate it is not being maintained with that object at present. It is simply a matter of policy, which, as I have already said, was accepted and passed at a Conference largely attended by Indians in 1903.

If we abolish the reservation it is true that the spare seating accommodation in the third class compartment will be available for the remainder of the third class Indian passengers. This, both from the point of view of the Railways and of the passengers themselves, will be some advantage. I do not, however, think that the provision of an additional 8 or 10 seats in a given train is of sufficient consequence to justify our introducing any possible source of future trouble or disturbance; I feel sure that much of the correspondence which we see in the newspapers and the questions which are raised in regard to this matter, have their origin in the impression that this reservation is due in some way to a desire to maintain some racial distinction. It is not perhaps sufficiently realised that these compartments are reserved for the convenience of the third class passengers as a body and with a view to avoiding any chance of unpleasantness nor is it recognised that the additional seating accommodation that would be made available is comparatively trifling. It will, I think, be as well to consider what possibilities are likely to arise if the reservation of these compartments is abolished. The third class European or Anglo-Indian passenger will seat himself in a compartment, an Indian family will wish to get in, but in many cases seeing the European already in occupation they will rather try to avoid him. Similarly, with Indians already in a compartment they will very probably object to the European or Anglo-Indian passenger entering their compartment though there may be seating accommodation. In the one case the benefit of the additional seating accommodation disappears, and in the latter case there is every possibility of a disturbance or trouble arising.

I am, therefore, not at all sure as to the soundness of this proposal as regards the best interests of the country, and I would, therefore, ask this Assembly to consider the question from a broad point of view. There is little doubt that in time to come the necessity for this reservation will cease to exist.

[Colonel W. D. Waghorn.]

The question is whether the present is a most suitable moment for doing away with it entirely.

A possible solution, which I will put before this Assembly for their consideration, is that the reservation be eliminated gradually, that is to say, that the reservation of a third class compartment for Europeans and Anglo-Indians should be done away with on all slow trains and only retained for the present on mail or fast passenger trains. If the Honourable Member is prepared to accept this modification of his Resolution I shall be glad to consult Railways accordingly with a view to the introduction of this measure, and with this undertaking he will perhaps be prepared to withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally : Sir, I may perhaps be permitted to make a few remarks in reply to the speech of my Honourable friend, Colonel Waghorn. I might say that second class carriages and even first class are set apart on almost all lines.

In regard to the other point made by Colonel Waghorn, I think I shall be perfectly satisfied for the present if the reservation of the third class and intermediate compartments is done away with, and further, if the reservation of second class and first class compartments on such lines as do reserve them is considered later. My chief point in this connection is, that I have very often seen families travelling including a large number of children all scrambling for seats while several other compartments travel almost empty, and in the present state where additional trains cannot be run or additional carriages cannot be put on on account of the excess of passengers, I think it will be a great boon to the travelling public, and more especially to those travelling third class or intermediate, if my proposal is carried; and those compartments that are reserved, in some cases are large enough to hold as many ladies and children and even males as the compartments reserved for Indian passengers do.

With these few remarks, Sir, I am prepared to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10-30 A.M., on Thursday, the 29th September, 1921.

APPENDIX.

Manulvi Miyan Asjad-ul-lah : آنر بیل ریزڈنٹ و آنر بیل ہاؤس میں نہایت انفسوس سے ہمارے آنر بیل دوست ڈاکٹر گور کے ریزولوشن کی مخالفت کرتا ہوں مجھے تبدیلی کا پٹل کے خیال پر بہت تعجب آتا ہے جبکہ موجودہ حالت میں ابھی ابھی دہلی و شملہ میں اس سامان و مکانات کی تعمیر میں وہم و قیاس سے زیادہ خرچہ کا مقابلہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کو کرنا پڑا اور لطف یہ کہ دہلی و شملہ کی تعمیر میں ابھی تک نا تمام ہیں دوسرے یہ کہ اس وقت جبکہ ہندوستان کے ہر گوشہ سے آواز گرانی آرہی ہے جس کی فکر لادھی سلطنت کو کرنی ہوگی تو پھر ایسے ایک عظیم خیالات کے بوجہ کو کبھی کارکنان سلطنت کے اوپر ڈالنا مناسب نہیں ہے مگر ہمارے آنر بیل ڈاکٹر گور نے اپنی نثاری و مغز گفتاری اور چند کاغذات سے اپنے ریزولوشن کی تائید فرمائی ہے لیکن اُنکی تقریر اُنکی علمی قابلیت پر دلالت کرتی ہے اصل مطلب اور بے خلاف دہلی کی بہتری کو ہمارے خیال ناقص میں چھپانیکی کوشش کرنا آفتاب کی روشنی عالم تاب سے انکار کرنا ہے

پہلے شہنشاہ برطانیہ کا جو پائے تخت کلکتہ میں تھا تو ہمارے ناقص خیال میں وہ تمام باشندگان ہندوستان کیلئے ایسا موزوں نہ تھا جیسا کہ دہلی ہے ماسوائے خرچہ کثیر اور مشکلات شدید کے یہ بات کیسے ممکن ہے کہ یورپین اصحاب جن کے قواعد زندگی میں تبدیلی آب و ہوا مدت سے شامل ہے تو ان حضرات کیلئے ایک جگہ کارہنہ کھسے قباحت کا سامنا ہو جائیگا بس میں آنر بیل ہوس کے سامنے سفارش کرتا ہوں کہ خیالات مذکورہ کو اپنے اپنے خیالات گرامی میں خیال فرماتے ہوئے اس ریزولوشن کو نا منظور فرمائیں گے