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COUNCIL OF STATE, 1921



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, the 16th February, 1921.

The Council met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock. The Honourable the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SECURITIES UNDER PRESS ACT.

71. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of cases in which security has been demanded from newspapers in the whole of India during the last five years ;
- (b) the number of cases in which the security has been enhanced during the same period ;
- (c) the number of cases in which the security has been forfeited during the same period ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : The information available in the Government of India is as follows :—

- (a) 1917 26.
1918 30.
1919 37.
- (b) 1917 ...
1918 1.
1919 2.
- (c) 1917 1.
1918 4.
1919 2.

The information for the years 1916 and 1920 is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as it is available. I will also get the figures that I have already cited checked and verified by then.

PUNJAB DISTURBANCES.

72. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of officials connected with the last Punjab disorders whose conduct has been censured by Government and who are still retained in service ;
- (b) the number of such officials who have been granted pensions ;

- (c) the names of such officials who have been retained in service, and who have been granted pensions, respectively ;
 (d) the amount of the pensions granted ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : (a) 11.

(b) 3.

Names of officers in service.

- (c) 1. Inspector Ashraf Khan.
 2. Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. O'Brien.
 3. Mr. Marsden.
 4. Mr. S. M. Jacob.
 5. Mr. E. A. Penhearow.
 6. Mr. A. W. Kitchin.
 7. Mr. Miles Irving.
 8. Brigadier-General Campbell.
 9. Captain Doveton.
 10. Colonel Macrae.
 11. Mr. Bosworth Smith.

The last named officer is on leave preparatory to retirement on proportionate pension.

Names of officers who have been granted pensions.

1. Khan Sahib Ahmed Jan.
 2. Khan Bahadur Sultan Ahmad.
 3. General Dyer.

(d) The amounts of pension awarded to these officers are, respectively,—

1. Rs. 75 per mensem.
 2. Rs. 311-1 per mensem.
 3. £900 per annum.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI : Sir, in view of the debate which took place yesterday elsewhere, I do not wish to pursue the questions Nos. 73 to 75 which relate to the Punjab disturbances, and I beg leave to withdraw them.

Questions Nos. 73 to 75 were withdrawn.

EXPENDITURE ON REFORMS.

76. THE HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI : Will Government be pleased to state the annual amount of additional expenditure, of a recurring and non-recurring character, respectively, incurred in respect of new appointments and departments created under the Reforms in each Provincial Government and in the Government of India ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: The Honourable Member is referred to the statement* laid on the table in reply to a similar question by the Honourable Raja Promoda Nath Roy. The figures there shown represent the recurring expenditure involved. As regards the non-recurring expenditure likely to be incurred in the Government of India in connection with the building of Council Chambers and residences for members, the rough estimate is Rs. 1,12,20,000. There is no information available in regard to similar expenditure in the Provinces.

FELLOWS OF THE UNIVERSITIES.

77. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of elected and nominated Fellows in each University in India, respectively;
- (b) whether Government propose to increase the elective strength;
- (c) if so, when and where?

The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN MUHAMMAD SHAFI:

(a) The numbers of elected and nominated Fellows in those Universities in which Fellows exist are to be found in the Acts dealing with those Universities, specially in the Indian Universities Act of 1904.

(b) and (c) The question of increasing the elective strength on the Senates of Universities has in recent years been considered by the Government of India, but was postponed in view of the appointment of the Calcutta University Commission. Under the Reforms, education is a Provincial subject and any proposals in this direction for existing Universities would suitably be made in the Provincial Councils.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Shafi having, in the first instance, given the wrong answer to the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri's Question No. 77, the Honourable the President remarked as follows:—I would ask Honourable Members to wait till their names are called. When questions are asked and answers given, this should be done formally.

REMOVAL OF CONGESTION IN CITY.

78. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that the Municipality of Hyderabad, Sind, has proposed a scheme for the removal of congestion in the City by the shifting of the Cantonments and the transfer of the present Cantonment area to the Municipality;
- (b) if so, what orders, if any, have been, or are proposed to be, passed by Government in the matter?

* Vide pages 39—41 of Volume I, No. 3 of Council of State debates of 14th February 1921.

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : (a) Yes.

(b) No decision can be arrived at on this subject until the re-distribution of the Army in India is settled.

The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI : Sir, I should also like to withdraw Question No. 79.

The question was withdrawn.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

80. The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any programme of industrial development has been drawn up in view of the recommendations of the Indian Industrial Commission ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. C. CHATTERJEE : No definite programme of work has been framed by the Government of India who are proceeding, as quickly as possible, with the most important of the Commission's recommendations and such as are capable of being taken up immediately. I would, at the same time, remind the Honourable Member that the development of industries is now a transferred Provincial subject, so that it is mainly for Ministers in the Provinces to frame programmes of future development. Certain large schemes have been taken under their direct control by the Central Government and progress is being made with these as rapidly as circumstances permit. The most important of these schemes are the establishment of an Imperial Tanning Institute with a demonstration boot factory, a School of Mines and Geology, all-India Industrial and Chemical Services, a Central Chemical Research Institute, a Metallurgical Institute and the appointment of a staff of experts to visit and inspect technical and industrial schools and to advise Provincial Governments on technical problems.

EXPORT DUTY ON TEA.

81. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIE M. C. NANDY : Do the Government propose to consider the advisability of taking immediate steps to remove the existing export duty on Tea ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : It is not possible at this stage of the Session to give any reply either in the affirmative or negative to any questions relating to taxation.

LEGISLATION FOR CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

82. (a) The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will the Government be pleased to state what final decision they have come to regarding the proposed legislation for the reorganisation of the Calcutta University ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table complete correspondence which has passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State and between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments on the subject ?

The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN MUHAMMAD SHAFI :
(a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) The Government of India are not in a position to lay the correspondence on the table.

MAHSUD AND WANA WAZIR EXPEDITIONS.

83. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : What is the approximate cost of the Mahsud and Wana Wazir expeditions? Will the Government be pleased to state the causes which led to these expeditions and the dates on which the Secretary of State sanctioned them?

The HONOURABLE MR. DENYS BRAY : No separate record has been maintained of the cost of the Mahsud and Wana Wazir expeditions. The cost of the Afghan and Frontier operations in 1919-20 amounted to 24 crores. If the Honourable Member will kindly repeat at some date after the presentation of the Financial Statement his question regarding the cost of Frontier operations in the current financial year, I shall be happy to give him then the information he requires.

The expeditions were sanctioned by the Secretary of State in October 1919. The causes which led up to them were the open rebellion of these tribes during the Afghan war of 1919, their treacherous attacks on our columns during the temporary evacuation of certain of our posts, and their subsequent terrorising of the inhabitants in the adjacent administrative districts. Between May and November 1919 alone, the Wana Wazirs committed 32 serious offences, the Mahsuds over 100, causing numerous casualties and the loss of much valuable property. A statement giving statistics of these raids will be laid upon the table when complete. Chief among the Mahsud raids were attacks on Tank town and a murderous onslaught on a labour corps working on the Kalabagh-Bannu Railway in which 26 coolies were killed and 20 wounded. The chief Wana Wazir raid was the looting of Gumal village, the loss being estimated at between two to three lakhs of rupees. Military operations against the Mahsuds and the Wana Wazirs became thus imperative in the interests of our harassed border populations, but they were not undertaken before the tribesmen had been given an opportunity of complying with the Government terms, which had purposely been pitched as low as possible, and had rejected them.

ESHER COMMITTEE REPORT.

84. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have addressed the Secretary of State on the recommendations of the Esher Committee's Report and to give a brief summary of their views if they have expressed any?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : The Government of India have addressed the Secretary of State regarding Parts I and II of the Esher Committee's Report, in accordance with the Secretary of State's request for an early expression of their views. The Government of India cannot, at the present stage, communicate to the Council a summary of the views expressed in their despatch. As the Honourable Member is aware, opportunities are being afforded to both Legislative Houses to discuss the recommendations of the Esher Committee. If, as the result of these debates, the Government of India have occasion to modify the views already expressed to the Secretary of State, they will inform him accordingly. In the meantime, they are asking him to defer a decision on the larger issues raised in the Report, until the

Government of India have ascertained the views of the Legislative Houses and communicated them to him.

ARMY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

85. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will the Government be pleased to state if they have constituted an Army Advisory Council ? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to describe the functions and constitution of that Council, and also state if any provision has been made therein for any Indians being appointed to it ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : The Advisory Council has been in existence for the last fifteen years. Its functions are to discuss military proposals and advise the Commander-in-Chief thereon. It is provided over by the Commander-in-Chief, and the members are the Chief of the General Staff, the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, the Secretary in the Army Department and the Financial Adviser.

There are no non-officials on this Committee.

MESOPOTAMIA COMMISSION REPORT.

86. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they have taken on paragraph 28 in page 116 of the Mesopotamia Commission's Report pointing out the desirability of restricting private communications between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : Since the publications of the report of the Mesopotamian Commission communications dealing with matters which require decision by the Governor General in Council are official. When necessary they are supplemented by Private and Personal telegrams if His Excellency desires to place his personal views on any question before the Secretary of State.

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.

87. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any reply from the Secretary of State communicating the decision of His Majesty's Government on the last despatch of the Government of India relating to the position of Indians in East Africa ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : The Honourable Member will have read in the Gazette of the 27th December that the Secretary of State had telegraphed to us on the 24th December that the matter was still before His Majesty's Government.

On Saturday last we received a further telegram from the Secretary of State that the retirement of Lord Milner from the Colonial Office will necessarily cause some delay in the discussion of the question by the Cabinet. We are assured, however, that Lord Milner's successor, Mr. Churchill, fully realises the importance of the issue in East Africa.

PAY OF PROVINCIAL POLICE.

88. (a) THE HONOURABLE MR. V. S. SASTRI : (a) Is it a fact that the revised scale of pay for the Provincial Police Service sanctioned by the Secretary of State (for being given effect to from 30th October, 1919) has not yet been given effect to in most of the Provinces?

(b) Is it a fact that they have protested against the inadequacy of the scale of pay sanctioned by the Secretary of State? If so, what action has been taken on these memorials?

(c) Is the delay in giving effect to the Secretary of State's sanction due to the necessity of revising the scale?

(d) Is it a fact that the Indian officers in the Imperial Police have not yet been given the benefit of the new rates of pay?

(e) Is it a fact that Diwan Bahadur P. Parankusam Nayudu draws a smaller salary than several European officers below him in his grade, and that both he and Rao Bahadur T. Venkoba Rao draw smaller salaries than some European officers in the grade next below theirs?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : (a) The revised scale of pay for the Provincial Police Service sanctioned by the Secretary of State was communicated to Local Governments on the 31st January, 1920. Government have no reason to believe that it has not been introduced, and the fact that memorials have been received from Provincial Police officers regarding the inadequacy of the new scale is an indication that it is already in force.

(b) Memorials have been received from the Provincial Police officers in several Provinces. These memorials are now under consideration.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer I have given to part (a).

(d) The Honourable Member is, I think, referring to the scale of pay for the Indian (Imperial) Police, applicable to European and Indian officers alike, which came into effect from the 1st January, 1920. This scale has been brought into force from that date for both Indian and European officers.

(e) The facts are as stated, but the reason for the differentiation is that the two officers mentioned, being of Indian domicile, are not eligible for overseas allowances, while the European officers in question are. I might add that the case of these two officers is now under further consideration.

SUKKUR BARRAGE SCHEME.

89. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI : Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to what has been done in regard to the Sukkur Barrage Scheme?

The HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR B. N. SARMA : The Sukkur Barrage and Canals Project was submitted to the Secretary of State in December, 1920.

INDIANS IN NAVAL AND MILITARY ARMS.

90. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if Indians are admissible in the Cavalry and Artillery, and the Naval and Air forces of the Crown ;
- (b) if not, the reasons for their exclusion ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) Indians are employed in various capacities in the Cavalry and Artillery, and in the Royal Air Force in India. No Indians are employed in the Royal Navy.

(b) The Royal Navy is not under the administration of the Government of India, and consequently it is not possible to give a reply to part (b) of the question.

MILITARY COLLEGES IN INDIA.

91. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if any Military Colleges exist in India ;
- (b) if so, whether they are open to Indians ;
- (c) if not, why Indians are not admitted ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) The only military college in India is the Staff College at Quetta.

(b) The Staff College is open to Indians holding King's Commissions.

(c) The question does not arise.

STAFF OF EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

92. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR M. C. NANDY: Is it a fact that Indian Station-Masters and Assistant Station Masters in the Eastern Bengal Railway have to undergo severer training and tests for employment in the service of that Railway than Europeans and Anglo-Indians employed on similar work ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: The only additional qualification required of an Indian Station Master or Assistant Station Master is a knowledge of telegraphy, as at unimportant stations he is expected to do telegraph work in addition to other duties.

ADMIRAL JELlicoe's REPORT.

93. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Has there been any correspondence between the Imperial Government and this Government regarding Admiral Jellicoe's Report on the Eastern section of the Royal Navy ?

(b) Will such correspondence be laid on the table ?

(c) Will this Council be consulted or will an opportunity be given to the non-official members of this Council and the Indian public to express their views regarding the apportionment of the cost of maintenance of the projected Eastern Navy between Australia and India?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Jellicoe's Report on his naval mission to India. The views of the Government of India on his recommendations have been recently communicated to the Secretary of State.

(b) The Government of India are unable to lay the correspondence on the table. The Honourable Member will realise that it would not be to the public interest to disclose the Government's views on strategical questions, such as the defence of Indian ports, etc.

(c) The Government of India are not aware of any project for the formation of an Eastern Navy, the cost of which would be shared between Australia and India.

MONEY ORDER SERVICE.

94. The HONOURABLE MR. L. S. MEHTA: (a) Will Government be pleased to say if their attention has been drawn to a Notification issued by the Post-Master General of the Colony of Kenya, East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, notifying that the service of money orders from India to the Kenya Colony and East Africa and Uganda Protectorates had been suspended?

(b) Is it a fact that the Notification was issued on 21st October, 1920, while payments were accepted by Post Offices in this country for transmission to Kenya, East Africa and Uganda Protectorates up to that date?

(c) What is the total amount of money orders received by the Post Offices in India for transmission and which have not yet been paid to the parties in the above-mentioned countries?

(d) What is the loss likely to be suffered by Indian merchants in having the payment of their money orders thus suspended?

(e) Were the Government of India consulted on the subject previous to the issue of the Notification, and if so, did it meet with their approval?

(f) Have the Government of India received any protests regarding this Notification, and, if so, what action have they taken or do they propose taking in the matter?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) Yes.

(b) The Notification was issued in Nairobi on the 21st October, but applied to all money orders which had been advised from India on and after the 5th October. Telegraphic intimation of the notification was not received until the 23rd October by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, who at once issued instructions to all Indian offices to refuse acceptance of money orders for East Africa. Intimation that the suspension was retrospective was not received until the 27th October.

(c) The total amount is reported by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to be Rs. 9,71,000.

(d) At the worst the money will be refunded to the remitters, and has already been refunded by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to any remitter who has applied for a refund. Remitters will, however, lose the interest on their money for the period during which payment has been suspended.

(e) The answer to both parts of this question is No.

(f) We received no protests until the 3rd of this month, when we received a letter dated the 29th January from the Secretary, Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Bombay. On the 2nd November, however, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs had already protested strongly against the refusal of the Kenya Administration to pay money orders which had been accepted and advised before the notice of suspension had been received, and pointed out that such action would cause serious public inconvenience and discontent. The Kenya Administration then offered to pay these orders, provided that we agreed to a special settlement on a sterling basis of two shillings as the equivalent of a rupee. The effect of this proposal would be that the Indian tax-payer would have to make good the difference between the current sterling value of the Indian rupee and to shillings. We were, therefore, unable to accept it, and informed the Kenya Administration that we should be compelled to return the money to the remitters in India, if settlement in rupees according to the terms of the arrangement made in 1896 for the exchange of money orders between the Post Office of British East Africa and the Post Office of India, was still refused. At the same time we entered a strong protest against the action of the Kenya Administration, as being a breach of the arrangement and contrary to international postal usage. We have not yet received a reply to this.

— For future transactions, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs has been instructed to arrange with the Kenya Administration for the exchange of money orders on a sterling basis.

The HONOURABLE MR. L. S. MEHTA: Sir, may I ask a supplementary question as regards (b)? The Honourable Member said that the retrospective effect will hold in connection with the Notification of the 21st October. Under the treaty is any Colony authorised to issue a notification with retrospective effect?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: I will be glad if the Honourable Member will give me notice of that question.

CUSTOMS DUTY ON ROAD MATERIALS.

95. The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR: (a) Are the Government of India aware that a Customs duty of 7½ per cent. is charged on the value of road materials imported from Ceylon ports to Indian ports?

(b) Do the Government propose to issue orders to allow these materials to land free of duty?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India regret that they cannot accept this suggestion.

GRANT OF KING'S COMMISSIONS.

96. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI: Will Government be pleased to state the number of King's Commissions in the Army granted to Europeans and to Indians, respectively, during the last two years?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: The number of King's Commissions (both permanent and honorary) granted to Europeans since the 1st February, 1919, is 1,587.

The number of King's Commissions (both permanent and honorary) granted to Indians since the 1st February, 1919, is 348.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM INDIAN EMPLOYEES ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

97. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR M. C. NANDY: (a) Have the Government received any representations from the Indian employees of the East Indian Railway, the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway with regard to the distinctions made between the pay, allowance and residences of these men and of those of the European, Eurasian and Anglo-Indian servants of those companies employed for work of the same character and description?

(b) Is it a fact that the pay of an Indian Station-Master in the Eastern Bengal Railway is five times less than that of an European Officer doing the same work, and that an European Assistant Station-Master gets about eight times as much pay as an Indian Assistant Station-Master gets for the same work?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian employees in the Eastern Bengal Railway have to work very often on Sundays and holidays without any extra payment for these services?

(d) Is it a fact that the quarters provided for the Indian Station-Masters and Assistant Station-Masters in the Eastern Bengal Railway are inadequate and insanitary; that the Railway quarters provided for Indian officers consist of no more than 2 small rooms, a kitchen, a verandah, a bathing-place, and a privy, and that the quarters of the type 'B' for senior European officers consist of one dining-room, one living-room, two bed-rooms, two bath-rooms, two verandahs, one godown and one pantry, besides an out-office of four rooms for servants' quarters;

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) The answer is No.

(b) All Station-Masters and Assistant Station-Masters, whether Indian or European, are paid in accordance with the class of station in which employed and the class of work involved. Government are aware of no instances such as those the Honourable Member refers to.

(c) Daily paid employees are paid for work on Sundays and holidays. Employees are on monthly scale of pay, and not specifically paid for work on Sundays and holidays. These rules apply equally to Indians and Europeans.

(d) Quarters on the Eastern Bengal Railway are provided on the basis of pay of the staff, the rent charged also varying. Type 'Z' which is meant for Indians drawing Rs. 125 to Rs. 250 consists of three main rooms, one godown, one kitchen, one bathing place, two privies and three verandahs and a court-yard, while type 'B' which is meant for senior Europeans drawing a salary of Rs. 350 and over includes four main rooms, two baths, two godowns (one of which is a pantry) and four outhouses (one of which is a kitchen) and a verandah. There is also a special type 'Z' for senior Indians drawing a salary of more than Rs. 250 per mensem. This type contains four main rooms, one godown, one kitchen, one servants' quarter, one bathing place, two privies and three verandahs.

These types are substantial improvements on the old types of accommodation given. The improvements include extra widths of verandahs and godowns and special attention has been paid to sanitation.

No complaints have reached the Government as regards insanitary conditions in Indians' quarters or as regards their inadequacy.

DUTY HOURS FOR RAILWAY STAFF.

98. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR M. C. NANDY: Is it a fact that Indian Station-Masters and Assistant Station-Masters on the East Indian Railway, Bengal Nagpur Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway have very often to work for twelve hours at a stretch, while European and Anglo-Indian Station-Masters have much shorter and more convenient hours of work?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: Men whether Europeans, Anglo-Indians or Indians are given eight hours' continuous duty per day except at stations where work is light and intermittent when 12 hours is the prescribed hour of duty.

SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

99. The HONOURABLE MAHARAJA SIR M. C. NANDY: (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway, Bengal Nagpur Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway provide educational facilities for the children of the European staff, and that no such facilities are provided for the children of the Indian staff.

(b) Is it a fact that there is no proper arrangement for medical attendance for the Indian staff during their sickness, that the dispensaries and hospitals are not properly equipped, and only one Sub-Assistant Surgeon is placed in charge of an area of 70 miles, so that nearly 400 men are placed under the care of one man?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) Educational facilities are provided for the children of both European and Indian staff on the three Railways mentioned.

(b) Every effort is made to make proper arrangements for the Indian staff during sickness, but if the Honourable Member will bring to the notice of the Railway Board any case in which he considers that the

arrangements made are insufficient, inquiries will be made into the matter by the Board.

RAW HIDES AND SKINS.

100. The HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN: Is Government aware of complaints that the export duty levied on hides and skins in 1919 has adversely affected the trade in these articles? If so, is Government contemplating removal of that duty?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: Government have received representations on the subject. It is not possible at this stage of the Session to give any reply either in the affirmative or negative to any questions relating to taxation.

‘TURKISH PEACE TREATY.

101. The HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN: Has Government addressed within the last two years any representations to the Secretary of State regarding the state of Muhammadan feeling in this country? If so, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the representations so addressed on the table and the replies which have been received from the Secretary of State?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: It is presumed that the reference is to the state of Muhammadan feeling in regard to the Turkish Peace Treaty. Government have addressed numerous recommendations on this subject to the Secretary of State within the last two years, and during the last three months in particular they have sent ten telegrams. Five of these were from the Government of India and five were telegrams sent personally by His Excellency. It is not possible to lay copies of the correspondence on the table, because, irrespective of other reasons, this correspondence relates to matters which affect the relations of His Majesty's Government with a foreign power.

SUPERIOR REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE RAILWAYS.

102. The HONOURABLE NAWAB SIR BAHRAM KHAN: (a) Will Government be pleased to inform this Council if revised scales of pay have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Superior Revenue Establishment of Indian State Railways and, if so, what is the cause of the delay in giving effect to the sanction?

(b) Is Government aware that persistent rumours that the members of the Superior Revenue Establishment will not get the same pay and allowances that are sanctioned for Imperial Engineers is causing great discontent among officers of the Indian State Railways belonging to the Superior Revenue Establishment, and will Government give reasons for differentiation, if any, between the emoluments of Officers of the different departments of Indian State Railways?

(c) Does Government propose to consider the desirability of approaching the Right Honourable the Secretary of State with the request that Officers of the different Imperial Services on Indian State Railways should receive equal treatment as regards pay and privileges?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) and (b) The Secretary of State has sanctioned the revised scales of pay for the Superior Revenue

Establishment of State Railways and I shall be glad to send to the Honourable Member a copy of the Resolution dated the 3rd February 1921, which has been issued on the subject. From it the Honourable Member will be able to see what differentiation there is in the case of the several departments and the reasons why the differentiation is made.

(c) It is not proposed to reconsider the orders.

NON-CO-OPERATION ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

103. The HONOURABLE NAWAB SIR BAHRAM KHAN : Will Government be pleased to inform the Council what steps, if any, have been taken to stop or counteract the non-co-operation and *anti-British* propaganda being conducted on the Frontier beyond the Indus and among troops ?

The HONOURABLE MR. DENYS BRAY : In the administered districts of the North-West Frontier, the Chief Commissioner has enlisted in this matter the co-operation of the leading Khans and Rais to whose staunch loyalty is due in large measure the general absence of disturbing propaganda. He has also excluded from the province the more violent agitators from outside whose presence would have the effect of exciting people who, loyal and contented when left to themselves, are credulous and excitable, and being peculiarly manly and high-spirited are apt to be carried into violent and deplorable action without forethought.

In the tribal areas no serious efforts have yet been made to introduce disturbing propaganda except among the Black Mountain tribes, who, at the instigation of certain agitators in British territory, rose in August last and attacked British territory. This rising was quelled by military force, and a complete settlement has been effected. In other tribal areas the situation is being closely watched, for, though the tribesmen are not likely to associate themselves with the non-co-operation movement, all political excitement and agitation in the frontier districts inevitably re-act on the tribal situation, increasing tribal lawlessness and the harassment of our law-abiding subjects in the more exposed villages.

2. Inquiries regarding the measures taken in the Trans-Indus area of the Punjab should be made in the local Legislative Assembly.

3. In Baluchistan no steps have been taken to counteract these movements first, because they have gained no footing and, secondly, because the people could, in any case, be trusted to defend themselves without help against any influences likely to disturb their old-established tribal system. Indeed in Baluchistan as no one knows better than that authority on Baluch and Baluchistan matters, the Honourable Member himself, it is not so much a case of the people co-operating with Government as of Government co-operating with the people.

4. The necessity for counteracting disturbing propaganda among the troops has not been overlooked, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that the success of the measures taken is likely to be prejudiced by publicity.

PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS AND CLOTH.

104. The HONOURABLE NAWAB SIR BAHRAM KHAN : Do Government intend to consider the desirability of calling for suggestions from Local

Governments to fix maximum prices for different articles of daily use, including foodstuffs and clothing, and to take steps to ensure that people in rural areas are duly advised of the maximum prices fixed ?

The HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR B. N. SARMA : Government consider that it would be most undesirable to take any action in the direction suggested.

EMPLOYMENT IN HIGHER GRADES OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

105. The HONOURABLE NAWAB SIR BAHRAM KHAN : (a) Will Government be pleased to state, if any, and what, regard is paid to the claims of Zamindars and rural classes for employment in higher grades of Public Services, and is Government aware that a general impression prevails in rural areas that, to get a thing done by Government, one must go to some Vakil in a town, and that this impression is doing great harm to the confidence felt by rural classes in Government ?

(b) Will Government pronounce a definite policy as regards the employment of rural classes ?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT : Employment in the higher grades of the Public Services, except the All-India Services, is a matter which falls within the jurisdiction of Local Governments. The Government of India have, however, no reason to suppose that the claims of the rural classes have been or will be overlooked by Local Governments. As regards the appointments with which the Government of India are themselves concerned, the qualifications and suitability of candidates must be the primary consideration ; and it follows therefore that the extent to which the members of the rural classes can be employed in these posts must depend in the main on their progress in education. Education is one of the subjects which have been transferred to popular control, and the other rural classes which are well represented on the Legislative Councils are therefore in a position to safeguard the interests of their members in this as in all other matters which come within the purview of the local Councils.

COAL TRANSPORTATION OFFICER.

106. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) Is it a fact that the post of the Coal Transportation Officer is to be made permanent ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence, if any, and other papers on the subject, and to indicate why it is necessary to make the control system permanent in regard to transport of coal ?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have all along promised to remove the control system at the earliest possible opportunity ?

(e) Is control over movements of goods, minerals, etc., sought to be made permanent anywhere in Europe ?

(f) If not, why is a different policy necessary in India ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : I can assure the Honourable Member that Government are as anxious as he can be to abolish

control over the transport and distribution of coal at the earliest possible moment compatible with safety. There is no question whatever of any permanent system of control.

POSTAL STRIKE, BOMBAY.

107. The HONOURABLE MR. L. S. MEHTA : Will Government be pleased—

- (a) to state the number of employés in the different departments of the Bombay Post Office before the recent postal strike and the number of men employed at present,
- (b) to give a list of the demands of the men who went on strike and the reply of Government to these demands,
- (c) to state the amount spent on salaries of employés of the Bombay Post Office before the strike and the cost month by month after the strike up to the end of December, 1920 ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : I am sorry that all the information for which the Honourable Member has asked has not yet been collected. I will send him the information as soon as I have got it, that is, if the Honourable Member still requires it. He is no doubt aware that the strikers have returned to work.

POSTAL IRREGULARITIES IN BOMBAY.

108. The HONOURABLE MR. L. S. MEHTA : Have Government information to the effect that the Indian commercial community of Bombay is dissatisfied with the Postal irregularities consequent on the strike and, if so, do they propose adopting any measures to improve the Postal Service in the Indian mercantile quarter of the city of Bombay ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : Complaints of postal irregularities in Bombay have been received from certain Indian commercial bodies in that city. The inefficiency of the service has of course been due to the recent strike. I am glad to say, however, that the strikers have now decided to return to their work, and the Post Office administration will at once replace as many as possible having regard to the fact that the Government of India cannot break faith with the new men who have been recruited. I have every hope that there will be great improvement in the Postal Service in Bombay in the immediate future.

DISCOUNTING OF BILLS.

109. The HONOURABLE MR. P. C. SETHNA : (a) Is it a fact that it is a rule with the Bank of England that there must be two British names on any bill offered to them for discount, and that for the purposes of this rule they decline to accept the name of any of the Indian Banks as one of the British names ?

(b) Is it a fact that for the purposes of the said rule the Bank of England accepts the names of some Australian and Canadian Banks, one Bank with its head office in Hong-Kong and other Colonial Banks ?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps to have this disability of Indian Banks removed ?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. M. COOK: So far as the Finance Member is aware there is no discrimination by the Bank of England against Indian Banks as such, and part (c) of the question therefore does not arise. As regards individual Banks, the acceptance or non-acceptance of any particular Bank's name is purely a banking matter and one for the discretion of the Bank of England. Government have no information as to whether the fact stated in part (b) of the question is correct.

COAL TRANSPORTATION OFFICER.

110. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Is it a fact that on the abolition of the post of Coal Controller, a Coal Transportation Officer was appointed to deal only with cases of special emergency, and that it was not the intention of Government that the officer should control and regulate the ordinary wagon supply?

(b) Is it further a fact that the Coal Transportation Officer has been doing the same duties as the Coal Controller and has been controlling and regulating the ordinary wagon supply and his duties are not limited to cases of emergency?

(c) If the answers to questions (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to indicate the reasons, if any, for the procedure and practice followed by the Coal Transportation Officer?

(d) Was it intended that the change in designation from Coal Controller to Coal Transportation Officer should indicate a substantial change in functions?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state the nature of the change in functions contemplated by Government?

(f) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all papers relating to the appointment of the Coal Transportation Officer?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member is mistaken. The Coal Transportation Officer deals only with Government necessities and cases of emergency.

(c) Consequently does not arise.

(d) and (e). On the abolition of the Coal Controller, it was recognised that it would be impossible to revert at once to the pre-war conditions and that it would be essential to introduce some form of intermediary control to ensure that the distribution of wagons for railways and Government coal should be continued in order to prevent dislocation of the services to the country. With this object the Coal Transportation Officer was appointed whose duties were to ensure distribution of wagons for this purpose and to assist consumers in cases of emergency.

(f) I do not think that it would serve any useful purpose to lay the correspondence on the table, but the Railway Board will be happy to show it to the Honourable Member should he wish to see it.

PRICES OF COAL AND COKE.

111. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Are Government aware that the prices both of domestic coke and industrial coal of all

classes have of late gone up very high, and the present rates are higher than the rates for the same classes of coal prevailing in pre-war days?

(b) Do Government propose at once to remove the existing control over transport of Bengal coal by rail?

(c) If not, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) The reply is yes.

(b) and (c) The question whether the existing control over the transport of Bengal coal by rail should be modified is, as the Honourable Member is aware, being discussed with the interests concerned.

TRANSPORT OF BENGAL COAL.

112. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Is it a fact that in the present arrangements for transport of Bengal coal for the indigenous industries, the Jute Mills of Bengal alone have abundant supply through Super X and XA classes of supply of wagons, and that these classes are not sanctioned for the oil mills, rice mills, cotton mills, etc.?

(b) If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment between industry and industry?

(c) Is it further a fact that requisitions for Super X and XA supply from Jute Mills have been passed and sanctioned by the Coal Transportation Officer for months in advance?

(d) If so, how do Government propose to provide for other industries?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) and (b). The supply of coal to the Jute Mills in Bengal is, I am sorry to say, far from abundant; in fact the stoppage of several mills has recently occurred on account of the shortage of coal; requests are being made to the Coal Transportation Officer almost daily for emergency assistance in order to keep the mills from closing down. Supplies for the Jute Mills are placed in X class B, not X class A. Supplies for oil mills, rice mills, etc., are placed in a lower class because it is essential that the larger Industrial concerns, such as the mills in Calcutta, Bombay, Ahmedabad and elsewhere, should be kept working and are classed XB to prevent large numbers of Indian labourers being thrown out of employment.

(c), (d) and (e). A monthly programme in X class B is arranged for the Calcutta Jute Mills in order to prevent perpetual requests for emergency supplies. A monthly programme is also arranged for a number of Indian Depot Holders in Calcutta and the vicinity with a view to assisting small consumers of soft coke and steam coal. Emergency supplies are asked for from every part of India and, so far as possible, given.

COKE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

113. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Is it a fact that in the classification of different classes of coal adopted by the Coal Transportation Officer soft coke for domestic purposes has been relegated to a position which impedes a regular supply of wagons for that class of coal and is opposed to the public interest?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Coal Transportation Officer has introduced new grades under X class supply ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to indicate the authority under which this classification is made by the Coal Transportation Officer ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : (a) Wagons for soft coke for domestic purposes are classed as XC. Government do not consider that this classification is opposed to the public interest.

(b) and (c). It was found necessary to introduce new grades under X class supply to meet the increasing demands for special assistance from the various consumers. This classification was introduced by the Coal Transportation Officer under the general authority of the Railway Board.

SUPPLY OF BUNKER COAL.

114. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) Is it a fact that Indian bunker coal was used both ways by the Mercantile Marine engaged in trade with the East and the West, and that there was not much difficulty about transport for want of wagon supply or dock accommodation ?

(b) Has the supply of bunker coal been curtailed on the ground of insufficient dock accommodation and inadequate railway facilities ? If so, why ?

(c) What was the average quantity of bunker coal stocked and handled in the course of a year at the Kidderpore Docks immediately before the war, and what was the quantity of bunker coal which passed through the same docks last year (1920) ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : I do not know to what period of time the Honourable Member is referring in the first part of this question. Presumably he wishes to ascertain the reason why restrictions have recently been put on the amount of bunker coal which steamers leaving India are allowed to take on board for use during the voyage. Owing to the comparative cheapness of Indian coal and the difficulty of obtaining supplies at foreign ports, steamers leaving Indian ports during the last few months of last year bunkered more liberally than was formerly the practice. They bunkered right up to the port of final destination and sometimes for part of the return journey also. At the end of last year it became evident that the demand for coal in India exceeded available supplies and, as one method of reducing the pressure on our coal supplies, it was decided to restrict bunkers. I am not quite sure what information the Honourable Member asks for in the third part of his question. If he wants to know how much coal passed through the Kidderpore Docks before the war as compared with 1920, the only information I have readily available is that in the first five months of 1914 the docks handled 265,000 tons a month against 143,000 tons a month in the first five months of 1920. Since June, however, the throughput of the docks has been much improved. If he wishes to know the consumption of bunker coal in Calcutta, the capacity of the docks is not in point since most steamers do not bunker in the docks.

BUNKER COAL OTHER THAN INDIAN.

115. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) Is it a fact that, owing to curtailment in the supply of Indian bunker coal both

the Royal Indian Marine and the Mercantile Marine have been forced to use bunker coal, other than Indian, in larger and larger quantities ?

(b) If so, is that conducive to Indian interests ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : The allotment of Indian coal to the Royal Indian Marine under the rationing arrangements now in force is 20,000 tons a month. As far as I know, the Royal Indian Marine is not using English coal, at any rate to any great extent. As regards the Mercantile Marine, the Honourable Member will doubtless be interested to hear that in the nine months ending December last imports of coal, coke and patent fuel into India averaged just over 3,000 tons a month, in 1912-13 they averaged 54,000 tons a month, and in 1913-14 46,000 tons a month. In the circumstances, part (b) of the question does not arise.

ENGLISH COAL.

116. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) Is it a fact that some English coal is now for the first time after years imported into Bombay ?

(b) If so, is there any causal connection between this fact and the diminished supply of Bengal coal through restricted wagons supply ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES : (a) Yes.

(b) It is more probably due to the easier coal situation in the United Kingdom.

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF COAL.

117. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : (a) With reference to the following statement in the Government Communiqué of January 8th last, relating to restrictions on export of coal :—

‘There is at present an actual shortage of coal owing partly to poor raisings in the coal-fields and partly to railway transport difficulties in respect of Bengal coal. The available supplies of Bengal coal now fall short of Indian requirements and there is no possibility of effecting an immediate improvement in railway facilities.’

will Government be pleased to state if the poor raisings referred to therein have not been at least partially due to the artificial difficulties in transport introduced by the control system ?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of wagons have been freed from war service and that owing to poor crops movements by rail of grains and agricultural produce generally have not been as brisk of late as before ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the total number of wagons are now much larger than in pre-war days ?

(d) If so, why is the wagons supply found insufficient ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Howrah-Burdwan chord of the East Indian Railway system has been constructed of late at heavy capital cost for the sole purpose of facilitating movements of coal to the Calcutta port ?

(f) If so, how have railway facilities diminished and have become more insufficient than before ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) The poor raisings referred to are not in any way attributable to the control system.

(b) and (c). The answer to both parts of the question is yes.

(d), (e) and (f). The increase in the transportation facilities that could be effected during the war was not in any way proportionate to the increases in the ton mileage over Railways during and subsequent to the war, with the result that the coal traffic is now restricted by the capacity of Railways to deal with it.

COAL FOR STATE RAILWAYS.

118. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Is it a fact that formerly for the purchase of coal for use on State Railways and on Government account generally tenders used to be invited, but the purchase is now made through two middlemen who are not brokers and who get the necessary quantity by private purchase from colliery proprietors and coal merchants?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons underlying the change in the procedure?

(c) Is this method economical and profitable?

(d) Do Government propose to revert to the old practice of making purchases direct in the open market?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: As far as State Railways are concerned, it is the practice to make purchases on tender. Only urgent or special purchases are made without tenders, and consequently (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

ROLLING STOCK SENT OUT DURING THE WAR.

119. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: Will Government be pleased to state the total numbers of (a) wagons, (b) locomotives, and (c) other rolling stock and the total length of rails sent out of India during the war, the amount of compensation, if any, received from the British Government under each head, the procedure followed in making the valuation, and the basis of such valuation?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: The approximate quantities of rolling stock, etc., sent out of India during the war is as follows:—

(a) Wagons	5,502
(b) Locomotives	237
(c) Other stock	493
(d) Rails	1,886 track miles.

The proposed general basis of valuation of the above for the purpose of recovery from the War Office is the cost of replacement less an allowance representing the depreciation of the material before despatch. Pending settlement of actuals for determining the final valuation as above, interim payments have been authorised.

Information as to the total amount recovered as interim payments is not yet available.

ESHER COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON ARMY IN INDIA.

120. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: Do Government propose to appoint a Committee consisting of members of the Council

of State and the Legislative Assembly with powers to consider the Report of the Lord Esher Committee on Army in India, and to report thereon, with special reference to the action to be taken by Government, and to suspend action pending such report?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: The Government of India are not prepared to appoint a Committee consisting of members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly to consider the Report of the Army in India Committee. Government propose to give the Legislative Houses opportunities of discussing the Report, and have asked the Secretary of State to defer a decision on the more controversial questions raised in that Report until these discussions have taken place and the views of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly have been communicated to him.

REPORT ON ARMY AND NAVY EXPENDITURE.

121. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the Report on Army Expenditure by the Nicholson Committee and the Report on Navy Expenditure by the Slade Committee?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: The report of the Nicholson Committee was not, as the Honourable Member's question implies, a Report on Army Expenditure. It dealt with many important issues relating to the numbers and constitution of the armed forces of India and its obligations. It would, in any case, be contrary to the public interest to make the Report public. Moreover, valuable though the work of the Committee was, circumstances have been materially altered since their Report was written, by the Great War.

The Committee presided over by Admiral Slade did not deal with Navy Expenditure, but with certain questions regarding the services to be performed by the Royal Indian Marine, the administration of dockyards, and the system of marine accounts. This report was received in 1912, and the Government of India's views thereon were about to be communicated to the Secretary of State when the Great War broke out. Their despatch on the subject was therefore held over for further consideration in the light of the experience gained during the war. In these circumstances, Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by now publishing the Committee's Report.

NAVAL DOCKYARDS IN INDIA.

122. The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: (a) Is it the intention of Government to construct Naval dockyards in India?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to make a full statement on the subject, indicating specially the extra cost chargeable to Indian revenues?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) There is no scheme before Government for the construction of Naval dockyards in India. The question of the extension and remodelling of the Bombay dockyard has been mooted, but its consideration has been postponed owing to financial reasons.

(b) This part of the question does not arise.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, LONDON.

123. The HONOURABLE MR. L. S. MEHTA: Is Government in a position to state whether the question relating to the status and rights of Indians will be discussed at the meeting of the Imperial Conference to meet in London this year?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: I am glad to be able to say that on the representations made by His Excellency the Viceroy, the Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to consider the Agenda of the Imperial Cabinet have proposed that the position of British Indians in other parts of the Empire should be placed on the Agenda at the request of India as an item to be discussed.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE BEFORE WAR.

124. The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) What was the military expenditure before the war?

(b) What is it to-day?

(c) If there has been an increase, what portion of this increase represents the provision of better salaries and houses for Indian Regiments?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) The net military expenditure of the year 1913-14 under the three heads Army, Marine and Military Works, amounted to Rs. 29,84,42,000.

(b) The Budget estimate of net military expenditure under the above heads for the current financial year was taken at Rs. 55,18,18,000, but the actual expenditure for the year will, owing to operations on the Frontier, exceed this figure.

(c) Of this increase, a sum of approximately 186 lakhs represents the provision of better salaries and houses for Indian regiments, Rs. 166 lakhs on account of salaries and Rs. 20 lakhs on account of housing. The present cost of maintaining an Indian soldier, excluding the cost of pensions and housing, is Rs. 411 per annum compared with a pre-war figure of Rs. 282, i.e., an increase of 46 per cent. over the pre-war cost. The annual cost of housing has risen from Rs. 18 lakhs (pre-war) to Rs. 38 lakhs.

WAGE IN THE PUNJAB.

125. The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) What is the ordinary wage in the Punjab?

(b) What is the salary of a soldier?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: The Government of India are informed that the ordinary wage of an unskilled labourer in the Punjab varies from As. 14 to Rs. 1-4-0 per diem.

The pay of an Indian soldier varies according to his rank and to the arm of the service to which he belongs. The minimum pay of a sepoy of the Indian Infantry is Rs. 15 per mensem in addition to which he receives free rations,

free clothing, free accommodation, free medical attendance and in certain circumstances free transport while on leave, in addition he and his family have certain pensionary rights.

SIKHS IN THE ARMY.

126. The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) What is the percentage of Sikhs in the army?

(b) How many Royal Commissions have been given to Sikhs?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) Approximately 14 per cent. of the Indian Army is composed of Sikhs.

(b) Five Sikh Indian officers have been granted permanent King's Commissions.

Four Sikhs have been granted commissions as 2nd-Lieutenants on probation.

Eighty-four Sikh Indian officers have been granted honorary King's Commissions as Captains and Lieutenants.

The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: I beg to withdraw question 127.

The question was withdrawn.

ANNUAL COST OF EUROPEAN AND INDIAN SOLDIER.

128. The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: What is the annual cost of an Indian soldier and an European soldier serving in India, respectively?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: The annual cost of a soldier serving in India is —

	Rs.
British	1,971
Indian	411

RELIEF TO INDIAN SOLDIER.

129. The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) Is the Government aware that in consequence of postponement of suits against soldiers during the war interest has accumulated adding to the burden?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what relief, if any, it proposes to afford in hard cases?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) The object of passing the Indian Soldiers Litigation Ordinance, 1915, which was subsequently enacted as Act XII of 1915 and has been re-enacted as Act IX of 1918, was to protect the interests of Indian soldiers serving under war conditions in respect of civil and revenue litigation, so as to secure that cases to which such soldiers serving under war conditions were parties should not be proceeded with unless their adequate representation in such proceedings had been secured. The Act and the rules framed under it therefore usually provided that such cases should be suspended until three months from the time when the soldier ceased to serve under war conditions, or until the soldier was represented in the proceedings. It is true that this may involve an addition

by way of interest to the burden upon the soldier, but the soldier's creditor will have been prevented from using his money for the period of suspension and Courts have discretion in most cases under section 34 of the Code of Civil Procedure as to whether any, and if so, what rate of interest should be allowed from the date when a suit is filed until the date of the decree.

(b) The Government of India have so far received no specific complaint of hardship and they do not propose to take any further action at present.

SORTERS, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

130. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received a memorial, submitted in January last by the Sorters, Railway Mail Service, 'S' Division, addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India, complaining of the withdrawal of local allowance of Rs. 10 from the sorters of Chandpur, Silchar, Mymensingh, Barisal Districts in 'S' Division?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, is the said withdrawal contrary to Government of India (Department of Commerce) Resolution No. 6584, dated 29th September, 1920?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action it proposes to take in the matter?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) A memorial was received from the sorters in the Chandpur and Barisal but not from those in the Silchar and Mymensingh Districts.

(b) and (c) The 'S' Division of the Railway Mail Service is composed of 136 sorters, 59 of whom are employed in Assam. No local allowance was formerly given to the men of this Division. The Postal Committee accepted the recommendation of the Deputy Postmaster-General, Railway Mail Service, Eastern Circle, that the 59 sorters employed in Assam should be granted a local allowance of Rs. 10 a month each. Government accepted this recommendation, and in Resolution No. 6584, dated the 29th September, 1920, directed that a local allowance of Rs. 10 be granted to the sorters of the 'S' Division but, by mistake subsequently corrected, omitted to state that the sorters referred to were those employed in Assam.

MR. SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT, POST OFFICES.

131. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Scott, Superintendent, Post Offices, was appointed as Assistant Post Master, Calcutta, in November last?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, was a representation sent in relation to the said appointment by the Secretary, All-India (including Burma) Post Office and Railway Mail Service Union, in his letter No. B. A.-1-49, dated the 26th November, 1920, to the address of the Honourable Member, Government of India, Department of Commerce, and if so, what action has been taken or do the Government propose to take to give effect to Resolution XV, Clause (b) of the resolutions of the Conference of the said Union, a copy of which was submitted to Government with the Secretary's letter No. 611, dated the 6th October, 1920?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: The answer to (a) and the first part of (b) is yes. With regard to the latter part of (b) the Government of India propose to take no action. The matter was one within the competence of the Director General. Moreover the vacancy in the cadre of Superintendents caused by Mr. Scott's transfer was filled by a Postmaster Mr. Newbould.

POSTAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

132. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: Will the Government be pleased to state what action is being taken on the recommendations of the Postal Committee of 1920 made in Chapter VIII of their report in relation to—

- (a) the creation of a reserve of 20 per cent. clerical establishment to serve as relieving officers ;
- (b) stoppage of the recruitment of outsiders as probationary Post Masters ;
- (c) grant of allowance to the clerical establishment in Post Offices, required to perform split duties ;
- (d) revision of time-test ;
- (e) early hours for closing counter-work in Post Offices ;
- (f) grant of free uniforms (warm and cold) to postmen and menials working in small Post Offices ;
- (g) proper accommodation for Railway Mail Service sorters at out-stations ?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: (a) For the present Government have decided to ask for the Secretary of State's sanction to the creation of a reserve of 17 per cent.

(b) There are now 11 appointments of probationary postmasters. It has been decided to abolish 8 of these appointments as the present incumbents are confirmed. The question of retaining the remaining 3 will then be further considered.

(c) Instructions have been issued to avoid split duties as much as possible by means of additional establishment. The question of providing accommodation near the post office for those who are required to perform such duties, or, in the alternative, of granting conveyance allowances, is under consideration.

(d) The time-test is under examination. It has been found that practically no revision is required in the existing standards, but provision is being made, where necessary, for new items which have not hitherto been included in the test.

(e) and (f) are under consideration, and the recommendations of the Committee are being carried out as far as possible.

(g) There are rest-houses for sorters at all places where they go off duty for rest. All rest-houses are being provided free of charge with (1) cots, (2) cooking utensils, (3) lights, (4) water, and (5) attendance.

IMPROVEMENT OF PAY, ETC., OF POST OFFICE.

133. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received a copy of Resolutions passed by the All-India (including Burma) Post Office and Railway Mail Service Conference, held at Delhi in September last? If the answer is in the affirmative, what action has been or is being taken to satisfy the irreducible minimum demands detailed in its Resolution No. 13?

The HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE BARNES: Government has received a copy of the Resolution.

The irreducible minimum demands detailed in Resolution No. 13 refer to the pay of the subordinate staff. As the Honourable Member is aware, a strong Committee was appointed last April to make recommendations for the revision of the pay of the subordinate staff of the Post Office. The report of the Committee has already been published in the Press. The Committee heard representative evidence from all over India, and its recommendations have been accepted by Government practically as they stand, and have already been given effect to. This revision has increased the annual salary bill of the subordinate staff by no less than 1½ crores. I think that the Honourable Member will agree that the increase in pay already given this year is not only liberal, but is as heavy a burden as can justifiably be imposed on the general revenues of the country. We are willing to consider sympathetically any particular cases of hardship for which the general revision has not provided. But it is not reasonable to ask for a further general revision within a few months of the introduction of the present costly scheme, and we are not prepared to consider any such demand.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

134. The HONOURABLE MR. BHURGRI: Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if it is a fact that the Montagu-Chelmsford report recommended that the Provincial Executive Councils be composed of one official and one non-official;
- (b) if it is a fact that the Bihar Executive Council alone is composed of two officials and one non-official;
- (c) if so, the reasons for this departure from the recommendations made by the Montagu-Chelmsford report and from the practice followed in all the other Provinces in India?

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer* I have given to the question asked on the 14th instant by the Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.

* Vide p. 20 of Vol. I, No. 3 of Council of State Debates of 14th February, 1921.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : With reference to the Resolution of this Honourable Council regarding the publication of the speeches of His Excellency the Viceroy and His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, I have received the following telegram which, I think, Honourable Members will be interested to hear :—

‘The Duke of Connaught deeply appreciates the Resolution passed yesterday in the Council of State regarding the translation and distribution of His Royal Highness’ inauguration speech of February the 9th, and I am desirous to thank you for the transmission of its terms.’

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS OF COUNCIL.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Before we proceed to the business of the day, I have received from the Honourable Mr. Khaparde an application for leave to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. I should like to thank the Honourable Member for his courtesy in giving me early notice, as the procedure is new to the Council. I think the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, and, therefore, I will read the statement to the Council. It runs as follows :—

‘To draw the attention of the Government to the closing of the shops in Delhi on the occasion of the opening of the Indian Legislature and to the necessity of steps being taken to appease popular dissatisfaction of which such manifestations are a symptom.’

While I think the motion is in order, I think it is certainly a matter on which I must take the opinion of this Council and, therefore, I will ask those Members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places.

The HONOURABLE MR. KHAPARDE : One point I wish to ascertain. Unless it is objected to, is it to be taken as leave being granted ?

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Will the Honourable Mr. Khaparde kindly resume his seat. I have stated that I propose to take the opinion of the Council, for this reason that it is not desirable that on a non-official day the business of the Council should be obstructed unless the motion receives some support ; and I intend to exercise my discretion to ascertain that fact. I will now ask Honourable Members who desire that leave should be granted to the Honourable Mr. Khaparde to rise in their places.

The HONOURABLE MR. KHAPARDE : I wish to ascertain one more point. I have expressed it rather tersely and briefly

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member is not entitled to speak on this matter and must resume his seat. I now again ask those Honourable Members who are in favour of leave being granted to the Honourable Mr. Khaparde to rise in their places.

The Honourable Member has no support. Leave is therefore not granted. We will now proceed to the business of the day.

RESOLUTION RE AYURVEDIC COLLEGE.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Sir, it is my good fortune to have the privilege to open the first meeting of the
12 P.M. non-official business of this Council and to move such a Resolution as affects the health of not less than 90 per cent. of the people of this country.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but he must comply with the Standing Orders. He must begin by formulating a motion and then read his Resolution.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: I will just begin, Sir. The Resolution relates to the indigenous system of medicine and runs as follows :—

‘ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to recommend to every Provincial Government the desirability of (a) having an Ayurvedic and Tibbi Medical College in their Provinces, (b) taking measures to develop Indian drugs, and (c) appointing Vaidyas and Hakims in every dispensary to treat patients by indigenous methods.’

With the permission of the President I would beg to add these words at the end of clause (c) ‘ wherever it may be practicable’.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Has the Honourable Member given notice of this? Will you kindly hand up the words which you wish to add?

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: I have not given notice. The words are ‘ wherever it may be practicable’ to be added to clause (c). If the President agrees, they may be added; otherwise I do not wish to press them.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: There is no difficulty in the Honourable Member adding the words; but on the general question I must ask that Honourable Members who wish to add to, or alter the wording of, their Resolutions should come prepared with written copies of the words they wish to add.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: I do not press it.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I do not desire to prevent the Honourable Member from doing it on this occasion. I merely wish to point out what should be done in future.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Sir, the subject to which I invite the consideration of this Council to-day is not a new one. Several times have Resolutions been moved by non-official members in the Imperial as well as in Provincial Councils requesting the Government to take some steps for encouraging and developing the indigenous systems of medicine which for various reasons are more suited to the condition of our country and constitution and temperaments of the people, and if it has been thought necessary to move a fresh Resolution again on the subject, it is because the Government has so far shown no inclination to do anything positive in this connection.

As far back as the year 1911, I moved in the United Provinces Legislative Council a Resolution to the following effect :—

‘ That having regard to the vast number of patients in India who are benefited by the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine, this Council recommends that students of the Lucknow Medical College be given lessons in these two systems also along with those in the English system.’

But it is a matter for regret that although Sir James Latouche had expressed the hope before a deputation of leading Rajas and Taluqdars of the United Provinces that the students turned out by the Medical College, Lucknow, will ‘ appropriate much that is valuable in the native systems of medicine and

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combine the experimental knowledge of the East with the science of the West', the Government of the United Provinces in contradiction of these avowed expressions rejected this harmless and modest Resolution.

Later on in 1916, the Honourable Sir Manindra Chandra Nandy asked in the Imperial Council :—

'Is there in any existing University any Chair for the teaching or any facilities for the study and research of the indigenous system of medicine? If so, where? If not, do Government intend to remove this want by the establishment of such Chairs in the Universities of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta?'

The Honourable Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

'There are no special facilities in any Indian University for the study of, or research in, the indigenous systems of medicine. As the Honourable Member is aware, the Government of India are giving their earnest attention to the matter of placing these ancient systems on a scientific basis and increasing their usefulness, but, as at present advised, they cannot see their way to establish Professorial Chairs for this purpose in the Universities of Madras, Bombay or Calcutta.'

Again, in the year 1917, I raised the same question in a different form by means of a Resolution in the United Provinces Council, which runs as follows :—

'That this Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to be so pleased as to start an Ayurvedic and Unani College combined with a hospital and dispensary at Lucknow as soon as funds permit, and that a small committee be appointed to report on the lines on which the institution should run.'

The Honourable Mr. O'Donnell, the then Chief Secretary who spoke on behalf of the Government, said 'the Government is committed to the Western system, it is committed to developing and expanding it in every way.'

In the same year the Honourable Mir Asad Ali Khan moved a Resolution in the Imperial Council asking Government to place the indigenous systems of medicines on a scientific basis. This Resolution the Government had the grace to accept and promised the Honourable Member that inquiries would be addressed to the Local Governments. But as the inquiries were made through the Police and Executive Officers, Civil and Assistant Surgeons, the avowed rivals of the indigenous systems with their peculiarly hostile prepossessions, the result was very disappointing. Here are a few extracts from the official statement made by Sir William Vincent in reply to a question :—

'The opinion unanimously expressed by Local Governments is that it is practically impossible to place the indigenous systems of medicine on a scientific basis . . . To ignore the instrument of scientific investigations which have made modern medicine and surgery possible and the theories on which they are based are demonstrably unsound . . . To divert the funds available for the purpose to the encouragement of systems which they cannot but regard as unsound would in their opinion be a grave misuse of public revenues.'

Again, Sir, in March 1920, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer moved the Resolution :—

'That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a grant of 5 lakhs be made to the Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbi College, Delhi, for building equipment, etc.'

The statement made at this time by the Honourable Sir William Vincent on behalf of the Government in reply to that Resolution seemed somewhat favourable. He says : 'I have myself heard a very high official of Government

say that he has known of as many cures effected by these practitioners as by any other class of doctors'. On the assurance then given by the Honourable Member in charge that a suitable grant would be made the Resolution was withdrawn.

It would not be out of place to give here a brief analysis of the official arguments and examine their soundness. In the first place, it is said on behalf of the Government that these systems being divorced from modern scientific experiments and instruments, the Government could not undertake to encourage or develop them. The answer to this curious argument is this that they are based on science, but for want of State patronage have been neglected; but supposing these systems are still in an imperfect and unscientific state, it is the Government which is responsible for it. Granted that these systems are unscientific, what has the Government done so far to place them on a scientific basis? It is the Government and Government alone which is responsible for the undeveloped state of the indigenous systems. For while under the State patronage and encouragement, the Western system of medicine and surgery has emerged out of its old barbarous stage into full fledged and organised science, the ancient systems, on account of the lack of Government support, have not been able to come abreast of their modern rivals. Is it not a strange irony that the ancient science of healing, which has stood the test of so many centuries, would have now come in for so much condemnation?

Another argument flung into the face of the people is that the Government is committed to the Western system. It is committed to developing and expanding it in every way. This statement betrays a spirit of trades unionism and would easily lend colour to the impression that since the allopathic system is allied to these drugs and chemicals which are imported in large quantities from Europe, the Government of India does not encourage the use of indigenous drugs and medicines in order to safeguard the interest of European Chemists. It must be remembered that the value of medicines imported into this country is not less than two crores of rupees.

Again, Sir, it is said on behalf of the Government that to place the indigenous system of medicine on a scientific basis would be a grave misuse of public revenues. In spite of this apparent solicitude for the safety of public funds, has not the Government spent a lot of public funds in many utterly fruitless medical experiments? We may take, for instance, the research laboratory which Government has established in Bengal for conducting researches to find out the remedies for malaria. It would be interesting to know that those gigantic experiments resulted in nothing except finding out that the cause of malaria was mosquito. Besides when they spend a large amount of money on exhibitions, museums and other similar things, why should they refuse to grant money for the Ayurvedic and Unani systems which save many millions of lives?

Again, as regards the allegation of the officials that the Ayurvedic system of medicine is an unscientific jargon, I, a layman, would not bother this Council with the merits of the ancient system, but would simply call its attention to the opinions and observations of allopathic doctors in its favour.

Doctor Clarke, M.D. of America, observes that if the physicians of modern day adopt the method of treatment, as explained in Charak, a most ancient exponent of Hindu medicine, there would be less work for undertakers and few chronic diseases in the world.

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Again, Sir Pardey Lukis when accepting the Resolution of the Honourable Mir Asad Ali Khan on behalf of the Government of India, made the following remarkable statement in March 1916 :—

‘The longer I remain in India and the more I see of the country and its people the more convinced I am that many of the empirical methods of treatment adopted by the Vaidas and Hakims are of the greatest value. I may say also that I do not recognise any fixed line of demarcation between the Eastern and the Western systems of medicine. The main difference between the two is that, whereas one has advanced, the other has remained stationary and that is why I am advocating for placing the ancient and indigenous system of medicine upon a scientific basis thus increasing their usefulness . . . This appears to be specially unfair when it is borne in mind that 90 per cent. of the Indian population live in rural areas where the Vaidas and Hakims are—and will be for many years to come—the chief attendants of those dumb millions alluded to in recent speeches in this Council. It was in view of this and in the hope that something might be done to raise the status and improve the education of Vaidas and Hakims, that I insisted on a definite standard of education for the new type of vernacularly-trained Village practitioners which it is proposed to create, for I am strongly of opinion that in the interests of the masses, the improvement of the education of those who profess the indigenous systems of medicine is quite as important as the invention of a lower grade of allopathic practitioner. Personally if I were ill, I say frankly that I would prefer to be treated by a good Vaid or Hakim rather than by a bad Doctor. I resent strongly that spirit of medical trades unionism which leads many modern doctors to stigmatise all Vaidas and Hakims as ‘quacks’ and charlatans, and I shall always be proud of the fact that I was privileged to have the friendship of two such learned men as the late Nawab Shafa-ud-dowla of Fyzabad and Kaviraj Vija Ratan Sen of Calcutta. I will not trouble a lay audience with all the evidence that exists to show that many of the so-called discoveries of recent years are merely ‘rediscoveries’ of facts known centuries ago to the ancients. I will merely remark that I am not alone in my opinion as regards the value of the ancient systems of medicine. If I err, I do so in good company amongst whom I may mention my friend and former colleague Sir Havelock Charles, Colonel King of Madras, to whom India owes the magnificent research institute at Guindy, and that distinguished sanitarian Dr. Turner, the Health Officer of Bombay. For these reasons, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to be able to announce that I am authorised to accept this Resolution on behalf of the Government of India.’

This is what the late Sir Pardey Lukis said in the Imperial Legislative Council.

The advantages of the system cannot better be described than what Colonel Maclaren, Civil Surgeon of Allahabad, said to Vaidas and Hakims on the eve of his departure. ‘When I first came to India I had no idea that your system of medicine has made such advances, but now I know better and I much regret that owing to busy life I had to lead during my service, I have not given it that attention and study which its importance deserves. I know that you can diagnose and treat all diseases and that your treatment of such diseases as asthma, ascites, insanity, diseases of the brain, spine and generating complaints is very successful under the climatic conditions of the country and the habits of the people.’ Again he says, ‘as you know India is rich in medicinal products and herbs, many hundreds of which are incorporated in the Indian Pharmacopoeia.’

Having said this much I however desire to express my belief that large numbers of country men and women, for various reasons, that is to say either from religious belief or owing to climatic conditions or differences in constitutions, temperament or habits of life, prefer indigenous drugs to English drugs. There can be no doubt that with some Indians English medicines do not agree. This shows there must be some unique merit in these two systems and that some people have great faith in the skill of our native physicians. Indeed, there appears to be a growing conviction that the excellence of our

Indian system of medicine has not been sufficiently recognised in the past, chiefly owing to the neglect of their study and the want of qualified professors. There has been, however, I am happy to say, a remarkable revival of Ayurvedic learning and practice within the last 25 or 30 years in Bengal ; and we can also discern a healthy sign of a revival of Unani system in Delhi and Lucknow. It will not be out of place to make a mention of the noble efforts of Hakim Ajmal Khan and his friends who have started a Tibbi and Unani College in the capital of India, which was opened a few days ago by Mahatma Gandhi. That College will serve as a central institution for education in the Ayurvedic and Unani systems on modern lines.

The Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine are not only the most ancient Institutions of this country, but have fully justified their existence in the present day. In spite of the numerous institutions of the Western hospitals, dispensaries, medical practitioners and private practitioners, there are still very large numbers of people who resort to one or the other of these systems, and the results achieved in the way of alleviating human sufferings are by no means inconsiderable. There are many members present to-day who would readily recall cases which have been successfully treated by either of these systems after the more up-to-date science of the West has failed to give relief. That is a thing which cannot be doubted. There is no doubt that the Western medical system has made considerable advance in experimental methods owing to State patronage, but nobody can have the hardihood to challenge the efficiency of Ayurvedic medicine after the favourable verdict of so many eminent European allopaths. And if the experimental methods are not evident now it is because they have not been encouraged and given any help by the State. We note with gratitude that the Government of India is spending annually about 3 crores of rupees to provide medical aid on the Western system to the people, but still it does not meet the requirements of the people to the extent to which one would expect them. One of the chief reasons is the expensiveness of European medicines and the other is that the English medicines being meant for cold climates do not suit the inhabitants of the tropics. The best way to make the aid more effective would be to devise means by which people may get the medicines cheap and get them in a form suited to their temperament. With this end in view, we might look for help to the Ayurvedic and Unani indigenous systems. For centuries past, the Ayurvedic system has been practised in India. Even when the Muhammadans brought in the sixteenth century the Unani system with them, the Ayurvedic system was not neglected but was very much taken into the Unani system, and as such gave much relief to the people. But with the advent of British rule, the European system came into prominence and missing the Government support the Ayurvedic and Unani systems naturally fell into the background. Noting with what confidence and self reliance various Vaid and Hakims cure some of the most difficult and complicated cases, many practitioners of the Western system of medicine have realised that it would be a boon to the people of India if indigenous system of treatment was encouraged by the State by giving financial assistance and devising means for its development.

The number of allopathic doctors that we have is too small to meet the requirements of the country. Nor is it possible to have a sufficient number of trained doctors in the near future. This view is well supported by the remarkable statement made by my friend the Honourable Sir William Vincent who was in charge of the Medical Department last year. 'It is also quite clear'

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says he, 'that facilities for Medical Department that at present exist are very inadequate for the need of the country; and it will be very difficult, if not impossible for many years, for the Government to train a sufficient number of persons in the Western methods of medical science'. This statement was made only in March 1920. And it is chiefly due to this remark that I hereby request the Government of India to recommend to every Provincial Government to take measures for the revival of the indigenous system of treatment, in that its study is far cheaper in comparison with that of the Western methods.

There is another aspect of the question which deserves the attention of the Government. If Government have to spend nearly three crores of rupees in providing medical aid for about 3 crores of people, it must spend nearly 30 crores in ministering to the needs of the whole country, but, on the other hand, if it adopts the cheap indigenous system of medicine, medical aid will be provided for the whole population at normal expense. It is too much to expect that the Government will be able to spend 30 crores on medical relief, having regard to its present financial position.

As I have said before the Indian Government spends about 3 crores of rupees annually on medicine. But not more than 10 per cent. of the inhabitants derive any appreciable benefit from the Western system of treatment, as stated by Sir Pardey Lukis, the Inspector-General of Hospitals. More than 90 per cent. of the patients are treated by the Vaidis and Hakims for whose training no arrangement has been made. Is it wise on the part of the Government to leave such a large majority of the people to be treated by 'quacks' who are not properly trained and educated. India's poverty is an admitted fact. The majority of the people of this country are too poor to bear the high expenses of English medicines and pay the exorbitant fees of Doctors. Such a state of things is chiefly responsible for the high rate of mortality in India. Poor people who live from hand to mouth cannot afford to undergo the allopathic treatment. Many men die simply because they cannot get trained indigenous medical assistance which is within their easy reach. The allopathic, on the other hand, is very difficult for them, partly because it is not always available and partly because of its high expenses.

There is another aspect of the question to which I should like to draw the serious attention of the Council. The public opinion in favour of these systems is very strong. Again and again Resolutions have been passed by the All-India and Unani Conference and Provincial Conferences also pressing the claims of these systems on the attention of the Government and the public, and if measures to improve the indigenous system are not taken, agitation would grow in volume and intensity as time goes on. This strength of feeling was specially evident at the time when the Local Governments passed Medical Registration Acts. It would not be out of place here to give the Resolution recently passed by the Congress held at Nagpore in December last. It runs as follows :—

'This Congress is of opinion that having regard to the wide prevalence and generally accepted utility of the Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine in India, earnest and definite efforts should be made by the people of this country to further popularise these systems by establishing schools, colleges and hospitals for instruction and treatment in accordance with the indigenous systems.'

It is not wise for the Government to shelve this very important question, but to adopt positive measures for improving and reorganising the science along with modern experimental methods. The latest statement of the Government view of this question as expressed by the Honourable Sir William Vincent in March last, shows that the attitude of the Government has changed a good deal for the better. But the main contention is that the Government should actively sympathise with the movement and patronise these systems.

It may be said that medical administration has been made the Provincial and transferred subject in which the authority of the Ministers and Provincial Legislative Councils would be supreme and hence the Government of India need not bother itself with these questions. But the difficulty is not solved as the Honourable Mr. Sarma remarked the other day. 'This question will come to the forefront in the immediate future and I therefore think some kind of definite policy must be pursued by the Government at any rate; some indication must be given so as to guide the people as well as the Government in the near future. Sir, there is a strong volume of opinion in favour of encouraging Unani and Ayurvedic studies'.

These are the remarks made by my learned friend the Honourable Mr. Sarma.

What I want the Government to do is a clear declaration of policy that the Government is prepared to effect the development of indigenous systems and that it is going to issue the instructions and recommendations to the Provincial Governments for their consideration.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent has said, 'it was only a short time ago that I was speaking of co-operation between officials and non-officials. And I spoke of the necessity of this not being one-sided, *i.e.*, while asking the assistance of non-officials we should show that we are anxious to work in with them and accept their recommendations when we can do so.'

I appeal now to the official and non-official members of this Council to give their full consideration to this important question and decide it with a spirit of co-operation.

Sir, I am not taking up the question of medical administration of any particular Local Government. My Resolution is about the general administration of Medical Departments all over the country, and if any reform for the revival of any art or science is desired to be effected for the whole of India, the proper place from where suggestions for that purpose should be made is the very hall where we are sitting to-day. The Government of India will by no means be going out of its jurisdiction in suggesting to the Provincial Governments the revival of the indigenous method of treatment. Why I persist in my Resolution is due to my personal experience, for as I said in the beginning, I requested the United Provinces Government twice to do some thing for the encouragement of the Unani and Tibbi treatment, but to no purpose. What I learn from my twelve years' experience of the United Provinces Legislative Council is that the United Provinces Government has no sympathy for these systems and no wonder if similar may be the attitude of the Governments of other Provinces. How to accomplish the revival of these ancient systems should no doubt be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. Let them achieve this object in their own particular ways. But they should take measures for the development of this science and should

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not hesitate in allotting a substantial sum of money for the study and encouragement of Ayurvedic and Unani systems in the budget.

In the face of Government statements made from time to time as mentioned above, and from the policy adopted by the Government up to this time, it will not be possible for the Local Governments or their Ministers to take any steps for the revival of these two systems of medicine, and therefore it is absolutely necessary for the Government of India to recommend to the Provincial Governments to take up this matter into their immediate consideration. With these few words I put forward this Resolution of mine before the Council for favour of their acceptance.

The HONOURABLE RAJA SIR HARNAM SINGH : Sir, I appreciate the good intentions of the Honourable Member in moving the Resolution.
12-27 P.M. The indigenous systems of medicine have received a good deal of attention in recent years. An Ayurvedic and Tibbi Medical College was opened not long ago in this Imperial City, and it has been doing useful work, I am told. Every institution that professes to give profitable knowledge, especially the science and art of healing, of alleviating human suffering, deserves the sympathy of every right-thinking man. But I do not see any point, I confess, in moving the Resolution in this Council. The Provinces with their Ministers should be left free to deal with such questions. The spirit of the reformed constitution is to make the Provincial Governments more or less autonomous, and I do not think that the initiative should come from without.

I should not like to pass a hasty judgement on such old systems of medicine as the Ayurvedic and the Tibbi ; they are time-honoured, and they are practised with evident success. There is, however, large room for research and experiment in these fields, and in the interests of science our young graduates, especially those who are trained in Western medicine, should be encouraged in research work in this department. The development of Indian drugs is also a very useful subject. But in the matter of the appointment of Vaidyas and Hakims in every dispensary, as the motion proposes, I am not so confident of the result. Western medicine is a living and rapidly progressive science. Not only England and Europe, but the whole of the civilized world have been adding new discoveries and truths to its ever increasing store ; its practice has been successfully adopted in the remotest corners of the world. The indigenous systems, on the other hand, have only the old traditions to boast of ; they are stereotyped, stationary, and hence behind the times. They are empirical in character, and are not truly scientific in methods.

However great the academic value of their study may be, I cannot so enthusiastically support their practical adoption as State institutions of healing, nor as rival systems to Western medicine which has been recognised as having a truly scientific basis, and professed and practised with such wonderful success in all the civilized countries of the world.

However, I should leave the proposal to the Ministers of the Provinces. It is for them to consider the worth and utility of the indigenous systems of medicine. If they are satisfied with the merits of these systems and can find the money for their cultivation and adoption in their respective Provinces, I have nothing to say against them.

The HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR RAMABHADRA NAIDU : It is with pleasure that I rise to support the important Resolution of 12-30 P.M. establishing the Ayurvedic and Tibbi Medical Colleges in the Provinces so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Lala Sukhbir Sinha. Mr. Sukhbir Sinha must thank the Government for their having allowed a transferred provincial subject for being discussed in this Council of State. It shows the importance of the subject in question and the grace with which the Government has condescended to allow its discussion. He is more fortunate than myself.

This subject has come before this Government and Provincial Governments for their consideration in various Resolutions and interpellations. Hitherto the Government concerned were either giving encouraging replies or giving evasive statements. As most of the Indians are warm on the subject the Government will not, I trust, give a discouraging reply.

To say that the ancient science of healing, which has stood the test of many centuries, to be unscientific, passes the comprehension of many a patriotic Indian. The Government say that to place the indigenous system of medicine on scientific basis would be a grave misuse of public revenues. Although I do not agree with the Mover of the proposition that public money is spent on experiments relating to the cause of malaria, exhibitions, etc., yet considering that many millions of lives can be economically saved by following Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine, the Government would be well advised to spend money on the same.

The observation made by Sir Pardey Lukis when he accepted the Resolution of the Honourable Mir Asad Ali Khan on behalf of the Government of India in 1916, gives a lie direct to the charge that the systems of Ayurvedic and Unani are unscientific. Many doctors of eminence who occupied position of trust and responsibility in India and whose opinion must be respected have given their verdict in favour of the efficacy of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines.

It is beyond contradiction that the Government, with all their good intention and with the large amount of 3 crores of rupees spent on medical aid, is unable to cope with adequate relief to the teeming millions of India when dire diseases, such as malaria, cholera, plague are devastating the whole country. The present number of hospitals does not meet the requirements of the people. It would be a wise thing to devise means by which people may get medicines cheap.

Indigenous dispensaries have been doing so much of real service to the poor of this country. The refusal to encourage these dispensaries by the aid of State funds is more or less due to the ignorance and prejudice entertained by the majority of the Indian Medical Service and practitioners of allopathic system of medicine. It is impossible at present to find one Englishman who is trying selflessly to devote his attention to the study of this hoary science as was done half a century ago by such great men as Drs. Wise Oshangney Dimurck, Hooper, Waring and others and all efforts made in trying to understand this science ended with those noble souls . . .

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I shall be glad if the Honourable Member will keep as close as possible to the subject under discussion.

The HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR RAMABHADRA NAIDU : *Chemistry*.—In the Vedic period chemistry began as Rasayana which was

[D. B. Ramabhadra Naidu.]

confined to fluid extracts and vegetable decoctions and became merged into alchemy when the vegetable drugs were supplanted by mercury and metallic preparations. As for applied chemistry, Megasthenes says that Indians were early skilled in the arts. With the aid of chemical arts and manufactures India was able to command for more than one thousand years the markets of the East as well as the West.

Pathology.—There were experts in pathology and surgery.

Anatomy.—The Hindus were the first to practise the dissection of the human body. Both Charaka and Susruta insist that the knowledge of practical anatomy is essential to a practitioner.

To give instances of their cleverness in brain surgery : King Bhoga of Dhar, who lived in 977 A. D., was suffering from a severe pain in the head which baffled all medical treatment. His condition became critical ; it so happened that two physicians arrived in Dhar at that time. They, after careful examination, considered that operation was necessary. Accordingly, under the influence of anæsthetic they trepanned the skull, removed from the brain the real cause of the complaint, closed the opening and stitched the wound and applied a healing balm. The Royal patient was cured completely. The art of surgery began to be neglected after the death of Buddha.

The grand idea underlying the whole system of Ayurveda, namely, the conception of Tridoshas, is altogether unique in any system of medicine. It at once shows how keen and profound was the observation of the ancient Hindus even so early as the Vedic period. It is a pity that the practitioners of the English system of medicine do not understand it. If they understood it, it would be a great help to them in their diagnoses and treatment of constitutional diseases and changes in the body. Here even the degenerate Ayurvedic physicians of now-a-days have excelled them and cured cases given up by English doctors as hopeless. The charge laid against Ayurvedic science that it is unscientific is not a true one. If by unscientific, it means that its great truths have not been demonstrated by physical apparatus of modern design, it may be so, but none the less they are truths.

Let me conclude by quoting what the University Commission says about the system.

‘Notwithstanding the introduction of the Western system of medicine, the ancient indigenous systems continue to exercise considerable influence over the people at large, and large masses of the population have recourse to what is known as the Ayurvedic system among the Hindus and Unani system among the Mussalmans.’

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: Sir, I am well aware of the interest which the Honourable Mover takes in this subject, and I have read with care the debate on the Resolution which he moved in the United Provinces Council in 1918 on this subject when he wished to promote the foundation of an Ayurvedic and Unani College at Lucknow. That motion failed as he was not successful in securing a majority of votes. The attitude of the Government of India towards the development of the indigenous systems of medicine has always been extremely sympathetic ; we can produce ample evidence of this, and I think the Honourable Member has been a little ungenerous in attacking Government for its alleged want of sympathy, forgetting that he himself gave us evidence to the contrary, at any

12-40 P.M.

rate, so far as the Government of India is concerned and I shall give further evidence of this.

Some Honourable Members will perhaps remember that a Resolution was moved in the Imperial Legislative Council some years ago by a non-official member for an inquiry into these indigenous systems of medicines and was very cordially received by Sir Pardey Lukis and accepted on behalf of Government. It is quite true that subsequently we received very unfavourable reports from Local Governments as to the possibility of placing the ancient and indigenous systems of medicine on a scientific basis; and when I was asked for information as to the result of the inquiries, I was so anxious to spare the feelings of Honourable Members that I had the replies paraphrased and more temperately expressed for the benefit of the Council, at the same time conveying the sense of the replies in language which, I think, was not likely to cause offence; but that is the sum total of our offence. Last year again, I had to meet a motion by an Honourable Member of the Imperial Legislative Council asking me if I could make a grant in support of the Ayurvedic and Tibbi Institute in Delhi.

I am quite sure that no one who heard me then can say that my attitude was unsympathetic. In fact, I promised them that I would seek to secure a substantial grant if they came up with the scheme properly framed; and I do not think that anyone who has dealings with Government funds could have asked for less than that. No application for this grant was, however, received, though I understand that the Institute was opened the day before yesterday by Mr. Gandhi. I find it difficult to understand his opening of that Institute in view of his previous statements that medical science was a concentrated essence of black magic, and that quackery was infinitely preferable to what passes as high medical skill. However, that is a matter with which I am not concerned. I think I have now been able to show that our sympathies with this indigenous system of medicine have been clearly pronounced, and I wish that the Honourable the Mover had done us a little more justice in regard to the matter. At any rate, one of his complaints that his previous efforts have been turned down by an official majority can no longer hold good at any time in the future either in this Chamber or in any of the local Councils.

My objection to this Resolution is based not on any absence of sympathy, but on totally different grounds. The position has been very clearly put by the Honourable Raja Sir Harnam Singh. Medical administration is now a provincial subject, and it is not only a provincial subject but a transferred subject. The whole subject is a matter entirely for the Ministers; the powers of interference by the Central Government are extremely limited and they have been rightly and properly so limited. Ministers will have their own ideas on this question of systems; they are entitled, if they can secure support from the local legislature, to give full effect to their wishes and I submit to this Council that it is not their business to begin by teaching the Ministers their business. Leave it to them and they will do what is right and what the people of their Province demand. I think myself, also, that any interference or any attempt at interference would be very injurious to the growth of responsible government in the Provinces. Further, the Government of India, as an executive Government, ought not to intervene in such a matter, as their action would be liable to be misunderstood and if this line were taken generally in regard to provincial subjects, would jeopardise the basis on which the Reforms have been inaugurated. I am sure that every Member of this

[Sir W. Vincent.]:-

Council, if he just thinks for a moment, will realise that this is the correct position, and I feel confident that undue interference in Provincial matters is the last thing which this Council wishes to countenance. But I hope that we may be able to meet the Honourable Member in some degree and I am anxious to do so. The Government will co-operate with him in his desire on this subject by forwarding a copy of the proceedings of this discussion to all Local Governments in order that Ministers may have the benefit of the valuable information and advice contained in the Honourable Member's speech. I hope this will meet his wishes.

On the merits of the indigenous system of medicine I can offer no personal opinion of any value. There are those who are hostile to it, who view it with mistrust, who allege, for instance, that the Unani which originates in the system of Hippocrates who lived about the fifth century B. C. and of Galen who lived in the second century A. D. has made no advance since. Similarly, it is said that the Ayurvedic system is based on the works of Charaka and of Susruta who lived about 100 and 200 A. D. respectively, and that there has been little advance or progress in the system since then; those who follow the allopathic system allege that the indigenous system parted company with Western methods about the 13th or 14th century since when it has remained stationary and I must admit that to the uninitiated person with no acquaintance with their methods at all, some of the precepts of the Ayurvedic system do sound a little curious. For instance, I see here a statement, that the ancient authorities propound the curious idea that a sinful woman may give birth to a snake or a scorpion. This may be true figuratively, but I do not think it can be accepted literally. Similarly, if I were to go into the disquisitions on Prognosis there are some startling propositions in the works of these authorities. But at the same time men have to be practical and it is no use theorising in these matters. We know that these systems are, in practice, of the greatest value, particularly in cases of chronic diseases, and, as I said in a previous speech which the Honourable Mover has cited, I have heard a high official of Government state that he had known as many cures effected by practitioners of the indigenous system as by allopathic doctors. I believe also that this is the common experience of many Indians.

As an instance of the value of indigenous drugs, I think Members of this Council will be rather interested to hear that Sir Leonard Rogers obtained the Gynocardic acid which he used with such success in the treatment of leprosy from chaulmoogra oil, and Dr. Chatterji of the Campbell Hospital, Calcutta, has obtained excellent results from the Margosic acid which he has succeeded in extracting from the Neem tree oil, with which everyone in this country is familiar.

Generally speaking our position is that we know that Indian opinion is very favourable to this system of medicine and we believe the practitioners do a great deal of good.

And if you once go into these superstitions about medicine you find much the same feeling in regard to European systems. Many Europeans for instance believe in faith-healing as much as in any system of medicine. If you have no confidence in a doctor, his skill counts for little only because you have no faith in him, though there may be no ground for your feelings.

The real fact, however, is (and here I agree with what the Honourable Member said), that the facilities for medical treatment in this country are

very inadequate at present, that we should do anything we can to increase them, that theoretical objections to any system of medicine should not avail where it is proved by practical experience that many suffering people of this country have received benefit from it. My objection, however, to the Resolution—and I hope on that point I shall secure the support of this Council—is that this is a Provincial Transferred Subject in which it would be wrong for the Government of India as an executive body to interfere at all and that we should confine ourselves to forwarding this debate to Local Governments for such action as they think fit. I hope that that may meet the Honourable Member. If so, I offer no objection at all to this proposal.

The HONOURABLE MR. SETHNA : Sir, it is a strange coincidence that
 12-53 P.M. the very first Resolution in the Council of State on the first day set apart for the consideration of Resolutions should be similar to one of the earliest Resolutions moved only a week ago in the new Bengal Council. There is, however, this important difference that, whilst the Honourable the Mover of this proposition would like the extension to the masses of this country of the benefit of Ayurvedic medicine, the Bengal Council—although public opinion, as he puts it, is very strongly in favour of the Ayurvedic and Unani system—have passed a Resolution to the effect that every thana in that province should hereafter have a charitable dispensary and in that charitable dispensary there ought to be three medical men trained in the Western schools of medicine. By this remark I do not want the Honourable Mover to infer that I deprecate Ayurvedic or Unani medicine. On the contrary, I am quite in agreement with those speakers who said that there is much good in it. The clinical experience and observations of ancient physicians which have stood the test of centuries are of immense value. Again, we cannot ignore the fact that the hymns in which the Ayurvedic medical works were written were sung in this country long before Homer put into verse the glories of the Trojan War or the first pyramid saw light in the Land of the Nile. But, Sir, my Honourable friend the Mover contended that, since the advent of the English, much has been done for the promotion of Western medicine and the indigenous systems have been allowed to be neglected. May I inquire of him why it was that Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine did not flourish to the extent that they might and should have done even before the arrival of the British, for, although the Honourable Sir William Vincent just now observed that Ayurvedic medicine has made material advance, I think it is generally, and perhaps rightly, believed that the drugs which are used to-day and the manner in which they are used by these schools of medicine are the same as were used in the days of Charak and Shasruta, the founders of Ayurvedic medicine. Further, Sir, Western science has made wonderful strides in one particular branch of the healing art—I mean surgery. I do not think the indigenous systems at any time in their history have claimed more than a nodding acquaintance with it. It is therefore for the country at large to say whether they should endeavour to promote the practice of medicine according to the Western schools or according to the indigenous systems.

As has been rightly urged by the Honourable the Home Member, medical relief is now a Transferred Subject and consequently in the charge of Ministers in the different Provinces, and, if as the Honourable the Mover says, public opinion is very strongly in favour of the indigenous systems, then the better course for him to adopt would be to prevail upon his friends in the different Provincial Councils to take up the attitude which he says he himself took up in

[Mr. Sethna.]

the Provincial Council to which he belonged before he was transferred here. Again, the Honourable the Mover referred, I believe, to the advance that has been made by Homœopathy during the last 20 or 30 years in Bengal. If, therefore, he has brought forward this Resolution asking the Government of India to prevail upon the Provinces to introduce Ayurvedic and Tibbi medicine, why not also Homœopathy? This is a further reason why the question should be left entirely to the Provinces and not be taken up by us, for, again, as the Honourable Sir William Vincent put it, it will be resented by them and be considered as unnecessarily interfering with their powers and their authority.

My Honourable friend observed that if he unfortunately were to take ill he would sooner consult a Hakim than a bad doctor. But, Sir, if a man is a qualified doctor, there are his qualifications to recommend him. In the present state of affairs, what is there to show, and how is my Honourable friend to know, that a man is a qualified Hakim? There is absolutely nothing to prevent anyone from styling himself a Hakim or Vaid. It is because there is no proper qualifying system that the ignorant and the illiterate suffer greatly in consequence of any one setting up as a practitioner of the indigenous systems.

It is not that the Provinces have done nothing in the matter up to now. I believe in Madras a Chair of Pharmacology has been endowed in one of its medical institutions with a laboratory attached where the medical virtues of Indian drugs may be scientifically tested and demonstrated. The Bombay Government has promised help in a similar direction. I may further inform the Honourable the Mover that, so far as I know, one municipality in the Bombay Presidency, namely Poona, has already one of its charitable dispensaries under an Ayurvedic Hakim.

This Resolution interferes with the rights of the Provincial Councils—I mean parts (a) and (b) do. In regard to part (c) I would like to point out that either with or without the alteration the Mover proposes, it is absolutely unworkable. Part (c) says that this Government should recommend to every Provincial Government the desirability of appointing Vaidyas and Hakims in every dispensary to treat patients by indigenous methods. Now, Sir, the Honourable Member, it seems to me, with his close study of the question, would know that under the existing rules of the Medical Council it is not competent for any one registered under the Medical Practitioners Act to associate himself with a Hakim or Vaid and he could not work together in the same dispensary. Even, if the first two parts were accepted by this Council, I say, Sir, that part (c) is absolutely unworkable. I do hope that, after the recommendations made to the Honourable the Mover, he will be induced to withdraw the proposition and leave it to the Local Governments to do as they think best in the interests of the masses committed to their care.

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR-GENERAL W. R. EDWARDS: The question before us is a very serious one, and if the proposals now made are to be carried out, the expense will be extremely heavy.

The most important point to be considered is, whether doctors who intend to practise Unani and Tibbi medicine require a course of medical education which differs from that now prescribed throughout the civilised world.

The origin of Unani and Tibbi medicine corresponds in time to the medicine taught by the Greek physician, Hyppocrates, who flourished some 2,500 years ago. Curiously enough the word 'Unani' has a

Greek derivation and Unani medicine is generally supposed to be identical with that practised in ancient times on the shores of the Mediterranean. One thing, however, is certain and that is, that science has made vast progress in the last 500 years and the curious lore which was taught in ancient times has generally, throughout the world, long been relegated to the historical past. For example, it is interesting historically to read in the *Susruta Samhita* that anatomy may be taught by brushing away the flesh of decomposing corpses, layer by layer, until the bones are bare. But no one in these days would advocate such a method of teaching anatomy. The anatomical descriptions based on this method are of course extremely inaccurate.

Similarly, the embryology and physiology of the systems, as then taught, are in the light of modern science fantastically wrong.

It is unnecessary, I think, to give examples of the hold superstition had on the world in the days when Ayurvedic medicine flourished. To do so might be construed as a desire to cast ridicule on an ancient system.

An almost incredible gulf separates us from those primeval days. Countries such as those of Great Britain, Europe, and Australasia, America, North and South, Egypt, South Africa, Japan and China are agreed on a common system of modern scientific medical education. Indeed, throughout the civilised world, whatever remedial system a medical man may practise, the teaching of the diagnosis of disease by modern methods, based on present day knowledge and discoveries, is essential. A modern school physician who undergoes a training of 5 years, spends some 4½ on the study of the human body, its chemistry, physiology and anatomy, and its diseases; and about six months on *materia medica*, pharmacology, and methods of treatment; it being recognised that it is impossible to treat a disease without first accurately diagnosing it. It is perhaps not generally known that in all countries a doctor who is known as a 'qualified physician,' may make use of any reasonable form of treatment which he thinks will be beneficial. He can use hydropathic, homœopathic and Unani remedies, or he may employ hypnotism and faith-healing. The only thing that the law insists on, in modern times, is that he shall have been taught and trained in a well-equipped school, with an approved syllabus, and have passed such examinations as will guarantee that the knowledge he has acquired is sufficient to enable him to be entrusted with the medical care of human beings in health and sickness. This is what is meant by the words 'a qualified medical practitioner'. When speaking of diagnosis by modern methods, I am aware that Unani and Tibbi practitioners lay great stress on the pulse, and say that much can be learned from it. I entirely agree with this and would point out that modern medicine is here in complete accord with them. The most minute attention has been paid to the study of the pulse, as witness the inventions of instruments such as the Sphygmograph and Manometer, while X-rays have been utilised for the study of the heart-beat itself. It is obvious that the most skilful physician, who refuses these aids, must be hopelessly handicapped in diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

The question of remedies utilised by Unani and Tibbi practitioners is another matter.

There are a great number of such remedies. Unfortunately few of them have been scientifically examined; they have not been subjected to chemical analysis and physiological tests, nor have the preparations and doses been standardised.

[W. R. Edwards.]

One frequently hears Unani and Tibbi medicine described as *Eastern* medicine, in contradistinction to so-called *Western* medicine. I would like to point out that there is no Eastern medicine and no Western medicine. There is an ancient system of medicine surviving in India alone, which is sometimes spoken of as Eastern medicine, and there is modern medicine and surgery which is common to the whole of the rest of the civilised world, including Japan, China, and Eastern Russia, which is called by some Western medicine.

Before coming to any decision regarding the question of a separate educational system for Unani and Tibbi doctors, it seems to me to be very essential that good cause should first be shown. To this end I have two alternative suggestions to make. One is, that the Government of India should ask the Unani and Tibbi medical profession of India to select a small committee of their greatest experts. This committee should draw up a statement, setting forth the principles of Unani and Tibbi medicine, and, at the same time, clearly expressing the reasons which compel the exponents of this ancient system to demand a separate course of medical education. They should further show to what extent the education they desire should differ, and why it should differ, from the medical education now given throughout the rest of the world.

My alternative suggestion is, that a Chair for the study of the history of Unani and Tibbi systems of medicine should be founded, which would include also a scientific study of the remedies utilised in such systems.

If sufficient evidence can be adduced to convince the scientific world that within the compass of all that is known of the Ayurvedic and Tibbi systems, there exist advantages in their training and education hitherto unknown, then our present system of medical education must be revised. A separate and dissimilar system of medical education and training, apart from treatment, is entirely unnecessary. All that is valuable and for the good of mankind, in whatever system of medicine, should be utilised to heal the sick. This brings us to what I believe to be the crux of the matter. I do not think that the people of India find fault with the system of training given in Government and State-aided medical colleges, but I do think that they wish to have the medical practitioners, who are educated in such institutions, taught the remedies employed by Unani and Tibbi practitioners, *in addition* to other well-known remedies. Some of our most successful practitioners have already adopted this course.

It is, therefore, quite feasible that, while the present modern form of medical education is retained, the remedies of the indigenous and ancient system of Unani and Tibbi medicine should be made available for the use of all 'qualified medical men.'

To this end it is essential, and here I cordially agree with the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha, that a scientific investigation of drugs peculiar to India, whose properties are unknown to the world, should now be carried out. This, I am glad to say, is being arranged for. The schools of Tropical Medicine and Medical Research are about to be opened, one in Calcutta and one in Bombay, and a proposal is on foot to found subsequently a Central Medical Research Institute for all India. In these Institutes we propose Chairs of pharmacologists, with trained staffs for the examination of indigenous drugs. We hope to see a thorough investigation made of drugs indigenous to India. The

results obtained will be published throughout the world, and I trust may prove to be of great benefit to mankind.

Reverting again to medical education, I am aware that many think that Unani and Tibbi practitioners require a cheaper and shorter course of medical education than is required for those whose qualifications are registrable in India, and that in consequence they will be cheaper to employ.

This is not so, Sir. The moment Government recognise Unani and Tibbi qualifications, they will have to insist on a course of medical training, which will be a guarantee that the medical man in question may be entrusted with human life. Unless a medical man is educated and trained sufficiently well to be able to make a correct diagnosis, he should not be allowed to use potent drugs, or indeed to advise and treat patients at all. A half educated doctor is worse than no doctor.

For these reasons, I am of opinion that there can be only one form of medical education, and that is the best we can afford, irrespective of the system of treatment the doctor may ultimately elect to take up, for without accurate diagnosis no system of treatment can be safely adopted. All great Governments are unanimous in this opinion.

I am opposed therefore to a separate form of education being given to those who wish to practise the treatment favoured by Unani and Tibbi practitioners. I am also opposed to placing Unani and Tibbi practitioners in charge of State, or State-aided dispensaries, unless, or until, they have passed a State examination, which will guarantee that they possess such knowledge of the human body and its diseases as may be deemed sufficient to warrant Government entrusting the care of its subjects to their hands.

The HONOURABLE MR. E. L. L. HAMMOND : Sir, as has already been
1.12 P.M. recognised by the Honourable Mover, the Resolution proposed involves an entire reversal of policy, and if, as the Honourable Home Member has suggested, our proceedings are to be sent down to Local Governments for information so that the Ministers may benefit by our advice, I put it to the Honourable Mover that it is inevitable that the whole of the proceedings will go including all the criticisms that have been made, and that he should, therefore, in his reply, meet some of those criticisms. He himself has impugned the inquiry that was made. He said, if I remember rightly, that it was made by laymen who were ignorant, and if not by laymen, then by doctors, who were biassed. Exclude your laymen and exclude your doctors, and there would be only the gentleman himself and those associated with him who are to be judges of their own cause. For my part I can vouch that the inquiry was conducted in the same sympathetic spirit in which Sir Pardey Lukis accepted the Resolution moved in 1916. Where any schools or any places of education in the indigenous system existed they were visited, the syllabus, the status of lecturers, the accommodation, apparatus and the rest of it were all examined, and the opinions of the leading Vaidas and Hakims and Kavirajes were also sought. From all those sources there came a consensus of opinion, showing that what I might call the orthodox conservatism of the past resents any admixture of modern science or any attempt to engraft modern science on the ancient systems. The Honourable Mover can tell us whether or not, when these Unani and Ayurvedic schools are started, they would welcome any admixture of modern science. That is the first point.

[E. L. L. Hammond.]

The second is the expense of the proposal. The Honourable Mover has given us no indication of the class of hospital, or the class of medical college he would like to have or of their cost. I can supplement in part this deficiency from what occurred on Saturday last when the Tibbi College here was opened. I see it was stated then that this college had already cost five lakhs of rupees, that there was an income of Rs. 50,000 a year and that still another twenty lakhs would be wanted to complete it ! Does the Honourable Mover suggest that we should send a message to the Local Governments suggesting that expenditure on that scale should be entertained ?

The inquiry also shewed that the main claim advanced, by the Ayurvedic and Tibbi systems was their antiquity. The Honourable Mover said ' they have withstood the test of centuries '. That, Sir, is perfectly true. Not only have they stood the test of centuries, but they have stood still all these centuries, and it rather seems to me that, unless there is to be some advance, it would be a waste of money to start any medical colleges.

The absence of any research connected with these institutions is also somewhat marked. Has there been any discovery in these systems, such as, for example, the saline treatment of cholera, or anything that would enable us to deal with epidemics ? As far as I am aware, there is no such discovery.

Then, if one goes further and takes the third proposal, namely, that the professors of modern and ancient institutions should gather together on the verandah of the mofussil dispensary in friendly rivalry in the relief of human suffering, we come to a very difficult situation. I believe there is a proverb, ' who shall decide when doctors disagree ?, ' and I put it to the Honourable Mover if he found himself in a mofussil dispensary, suffering from the pangs of toothache, and there he found two practitioners, one ready to use the hateful forceps and the other prescribing the application of warm oil on the nape of the neck, he might find it difficult to make his choice, and at any rate both of the practitioners would be put in an awkward position. It seems to me that so long as the claim is one based mainly on antiquity, this Council might just as well say to the Local Governments, ' you have got your railway trains. They do not meet all your requirements. They are expensive at present. The price of coal is going up. There are large portions of the country which they cannot reach. But there is one conveyance which has withstood the test of time. It is cheap and will go anywhere. It is precisely the same to-day as it was when Alexander the Great came to Attock. Therefore, do not spend so much money on your railway development, but divert it to the bullock cart. '

The HONOURABLE MR. L. S. MEHTA : Sir, may I begin by congratulating

1-17 P.M. General Edwards on the very sympathetic and correct tone which he used in replying to the debate. The use of such sympathy and of such a tone is one that will lead to our working together in co-operation for the good of the country. In the same way, may I also congratulate the Home Member for having spared our feelings by not reading the reports of the Local Governments.

The Honourable Mover of this Resolution said that he would better like to be treated by an Unani Hakim or an Ayurvedic Vaid than by a bad doctor. Speaking for myself, Sir, I beg to say that I would very much like to be treated by a fresh graduate of the present day universities than by any of the Hakims or Vaid, and that is for the same reason that was given by

General Edwards. Here I know definitely that this man has got training for five or six years in the science in which I personally believe,—I mean the people who have got modern education,—while we do not know, at least I do not know for certain, whether the man who comes to me has received sound education, whether he is a good Vaid or not. Therefore, I personally would like to be treated by a fresh graduate from our universities.

At the same time, I do think that the old Ayurvedic system does require to be carefully examined. I daresay that when General Edwards used the words 'Unani and Tibbi' he meant Unani and Ayurvedic, because Unani and Tibbi are practically the same, and he wanted to say Unani and Ayurvedic, or Ayurvedic and Tibbi. Much ridicule has been tried to be thrown on the Ayurvedic system remaining still. If it has stood still, it has been doing good work which has been recognised by the Honourable Home Member and many medical men.

If it has not made any progress it is for two reasons. One is, as the Honourable Member has said, that the Government have not come forward to help it as they ought to have done. The second is probably also one of the reasons, that the men themselves thought that the system was so perfect that it did not want to have any further research being made. But, at the present time, we cannot stand still; we must move on, because, where there is no progress, it means retrogression. Therefore, I think it is necessary that Government should take steps to have some sort of Ayurvedic and Tibbi education given either in our colleges or start separate schools for the purpose. The difficulty would be in deciding the sort of education to be given. General Edwards suggested one alternative, namely, that Government should ask learned Hakims or learned Vaidyas to prepare their scheme, tell the Government what they want, prepare a syllabus also and then see whether it is possible to find money for that purpose. Of course the Provinces will, as the Honourable the Home Member said, have to find it. It is a transferred subject, and we cannot do it, but we can pass a pious Resolution on this subject and then send it on to the Provinces to consider and find the money for it.

The most important thing, Sir, however, is about (b), taking measures to develop Indian drugs. General Edwards said, I think, that they are going to have two schools, one of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta and a Research Institute in Bombay. When a similar question came up before the Bombay Provincial Council, the Bombay Government then expressed a very sympathetic attitude and said that they were prepared to find money for a Chair for making inquiries into the possibilities of the drugs that have been used until now by Ayurvedic Vaidyas or Unani Hakims. What I understood General Edwards to say is that along with the study of the present advanced anatomy and physiology, Ayurvedic medicines should be examined, and an attempt should be made to see how far that can be used in place of English drugs or drugs imported from England. In this connection I want to dissociate myself from the remark made by the Honourable Mover who said that possibly this system was inaugurated to help chemists in other countries. I think that is a charge that is not at all fair to Government. But I do want that we should be able, either with the help of research institutes or with the help of chemical departments, to manufacture medicines from indigenous materials in this country. That will go a long way to help the solution of the problem which is that the masses, 90 per cent. of the people who live in the villages, do

[L. S. Mehta.]

not get any medical help. If we are going to help them, if we are going to face the problem, in the correct way we must train up men who will not charge as high fees as the present day medical men, whose education will not cost so much as the education of the present day medical students costs, and who will go into the villages to help the poorer people.

When this Resolution first came to me, I wondered why it was admitted by you, Sir. I thought, Sir, it would not be admitted because it was a Provincial concern and one more for the Provinces, but, when it was admitted, I thought the idea was that you, Sir, wanted this Resolution to be discussed in the Council of State and then, perhaps, without any vote being taken, it might be passed to the Provincial Governments for their opinion.

With these remarks, and with the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member, I hope the Honourable Mover will see his way to withdraw his Resolution and allow all the proceedings to be sent to the provincial Governments.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I should like to point out to the Honourable Member, with reference to what he said, that the power of disallowing a Resolution on the ground that it is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council is not vested in me.

THE HONOURABLE SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN : I will begin with Persian poetry, which, if translated, runs as follows :—

1-25 P.M.

' The Angel of Death went to God. He said " Either tell me to do something else or tell the Hakim to do some other job, because whenever I go to take the life of a man, I find that the Hakim has killed him before I reach " . '

This Hakim was asked ' Have you ever treated a man ' ? He said ' Well, go and see the graveyards ; all these new additions are mine ' .

However, Sir, since the ignorant public for a long time to come has to seek the aid of Hakims, it is much better that their system should be brought up to date by teaching them something new, and for that purpose I would support the suggestion that the Provincial Governments should spend some money to bring them up to date in medicine and science.

THE HONOURABLE Mr. G. S. KHAPARDE : I think myself, Sir, that this

1-26 P.M.

Resolution has been to some extent misunderstood. I do not think the Honourable Member intended that this should be in substitution for European medicine that is being administered now. He meant it to be supplementary and supplementary for this purpose that, notwithstanding the initial character of this Ayurvedic medicine and perhaps even what is called the unscientific character of it, I find in this twentieth century in my own family that I had the aid of nine very highly paid doctors—it cost me a good deal—and they said that my daughter-in-law's case was hopeless and that she was very near her death. Then I put her into the hands of an Indian Hakim and he cured her, and she is there in my family now. So that, whatever the scientific reasons may be, whatever the theories may be, many poor patients given up by European practitioners are cured by Indian physicians. If that is so, and I am satisfied that it is so, then it stands to reason that this Indian system should be investigated and should be systematically studied. It is systematically studied in its own way, but the modern world requires it to be studied in a different way. The modern world believes a great deal in chemistry, but

they forget that in analysing elements some of the elements escape and the analysers are not able to reproduce them ; the test of it being that they cannot reproduce the weight. I give them a substance to analyse, and I say reproduce that substance. They cannot reproduce it for me except in the case of water and a few other small things. That means that the analysis is incomplete and that many of the substances have escaped and they cannot be brought back again to form the original substance. That being so, I do not propose to go into the scientific aspect of it much, but the practical part of it is what I know by personal experience. I know that my daughter-in-law, whose case was pronounced hopeless by ten of the most eminent medical practitioners in Bombay, by M. Ds., by F. R. C. Ss. and everything else, was cured by an Indian physician.

Another fact which I wish to bring to notice and on which I believe some stress ought to be laid is this. It has been said that this is a Provincial subject and also a transferred subject and, therefore, a subject not fit to come in here. I humbly submit that this is not the right view to take. It is an important subject. It has twice, as the learned Mover pointed out, run the gauntlet of being discussed in the Provincial Councils, and it has also been discussed here. Therefore, it is all right that it should come here as well as go there.

Its being entertained here does not prevent its being discussed in the Provinces ; nor does its being discussed in the Provinces prevent it from being discussed here. It is a general policy that we want to lay down here, and a good policy would be that along with these allopathic dispensaries that are maintained by the Government, we might maintain a few Ayurvedic dispensaries also. In addition to Poona, we have in Amraoti tried to start one, and it is prospering. At Ellichpur there is another which also prospers, and probably there are many other places unknown to me where these dispensaries are doing well. And I believe, if I remember aright, that there was a good deal of newspaper discussion in Bombay at one time as to whether the Municipalities have the power to support Ayurvedic medicine. They questioned the legality of spending money on Ayurvedic medicine, and then I believe the conclusion reached was that it was a matter which they had to refer to the Local Government. Each Municipality, if it wanted to support Ayurvedic dispensaries, had to apply to the Local Government for permission to do so and with permission of the Local Government it could do it. But that is a legal matter with which I do not feel concerned now. What I am concerned with is, that I do not think the Honourable Mover means that this should be in substitution. What he means is that alongside of these dispensaries which are maintained at considerable expense some money may be set apart for investigating indigenous medicine also, and for proving its efficacy by actually curing patients. There is, I believe, one man in Calcutta—I met him there—who cures diseases which have been pronounced to be incurable by Western medicine. He has set up there and he prospers. So there is a great deal to be said for this indigenous medicine. Nothing is bad merely because it is ancient, just as nothing is good merely because it is new. New and old have to be put together, to be examined carefully, and the best of both has to be taken. Ayurvedic medicine may be very old, but that does not matter. The circumstance of its being ancient does not make it bad. That which is good in it deserves to survive, and in the interests of humanity, I think it necessary that it should survive, and in order that it may survive it must be taught and practised and demonstrations allowed to be made in the dispensaries and

[G. S. Khaparde.]

hospitals that are maintained by the Government. That is the point, I believe, of this Resolution, and that is the point which I support heartily. I am entirely in agreement with the Honourable Mover on that point. With regard to these old things there is something like what may be called intellectual bias and, oftentimes people who have studied one science and gone on one line generally, are unwilling to examine impartially the claims of rival or older sciences and systems. Therefore I submit that we should rise superior to this prejudice and allow—we do not of course want to lay down the law for anybody, we only recommend a policy; and we might send out as a recommendation to the Provinces that whenever possible and wherever they can do so, they should along with these English medicines try indigenous medicines also and put facilities in the way of their being administered and pronounced upon.

With these words, Sir, I heartily support the Resolution that has been moved by my Honourable friend.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Sir, some Honourable

1-34 P.M.

Members have said that there is nothing scientific in these two systems of medicine. I beg to point out to them that up to this time no scientific investigation has been made into them, and therefore it is not right to say that there is nothing in them scientific. That is the reason why I strongly recommend to the Government to take some practical steps for their development. I admit that they are not up to date. I admit that they are not developed; that they have not developed as they ought to have. But all this, Sir, is due to the lack of attention on the part of the Government and to the people also. Of course, as I said before, the people have come forward and they are taking steps to develop these two systems of indigenous medicine at the present time. But until and unless Government comes forward, I do not think that the unaided efforts of the people will be able to compete with the Allopathic system on which Government spends so much money.

The Honourable Mr. Sethna has said in his speech that Homeopathy also must claim the same help from the Government. But I beg to point out to him that it is not an indigenous system, and my Resolution deals only with indigenous systems and not with foreign systems. As regards the co-operation of Doctors with these Hakims and Vaidyas, I would point out that under the Medical Practitioners Act it has been laid down that no Allopathic doctor has a right to co-operate with them, and if he does so, his name will be struck off the register. When this matter was under consideration in the United Provinces Council, a committee was appointed, some members of which pointed out that it was not right, and these Hakims and Vaidyas were excluded from the operation of the Act. But in other Provinces the Act still applies and if any Allopathic doctor associates himself with one of them his name is liable to be struck off the register.

I quite agree with my Honourable friend Major General Edwards that some investigation has been made with regard to Indian drugs and some of them have been adopted in the materia medica. But, Sir, the question is about medical education. If you have some system of medical education for these Hakims and Vaidyas, then they will be able to make their own enquiries and investigations. 'It is not enough that investigations may be made into these

drugs by doctors who take of them as much as they like and find nothing good in them.' It is also necessary that the Hakims and Vaidyas may have proper education and be able to make researches themselves into the nature of these drugs and render them up to date.

The Honourable Mr. Hammond has remarked that the last investigation was made in 1919 on the acceptance of the Resolution of Mir Asad Ali, and the Government were not in favour of the development of these indigenous systems. But, Sir, I may point out that that investigation was made through the police. Well, I may ask what right the police have to make such an investigation? When laymen have no right to investigate into a matter as this, the police is by no means competent for that. The right course would have been, as I pointed out to the United Provinces Government at that time, to appoint a competent commission for inquiring into it, and then something good might have been found out. But the investigation was made confidentially without giving any information to any public men to come forward. It was made by the police and by Civil and Assistant Surgeons who were biassed against the system. The result was that the Local Governments reported to the Government of India that there was nothing in these indigenous systems to take and it was not worth while to spend any public money on them. Therefore, Sir, without going into the various opinions on these systems, I would point out very strongly to this Council that public opinion is greatly in their favour . . .

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member is replying. He will confine himself to the criticisms which have been made on his Resolution in his reply. He must not re-argue his case; he has already spoken once.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: I only want to point out this fact that much of public opinion is in favour of the course I suggest. It is also a fact that 90 per cent. of the population are treated by these systems. It is also a fact that very little money is spent now by the Government on these systems, and therefore I request this Council to accept this Resolution. It is not an order or an instruction to the Ministers; it is only a recommendation to the Local Governments of the desirability of having Ayurvedic and Tibbi Medical College in their Provinces and of taking measures to develop Indian drugs and appointing Vaidas and Hakims in every dispensary to treat patients by indigenous methods. The Resolution is clearly worded. There is no instruction or direction in it to the Local Governments; it is only a recommendation by this Council to consider the desirability of developing these systems. Therefore, I appeal to this Council to accept the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT: I only wish to say this, Sir, that if it is a recommendation of this Council, we have no objection to forward the proceedings of this debate to the Local Governments. It is the recommendation by the executive Government of India, by the Governor General in Council, to make certain proposals to the Local Governments that I object to. I have no objection if the Honourable Mover would like us to forward the recommendation of this Council. We are quite prepared to do this, but we are not prepared as an executive Government to take the line that we are entitled to direct the Provincial Governments on the matter. This Council can only recommend to the

1-41 P.M.

[Sir W. Vincent.]

executive Government of India to take certain action and the executive Government of India are not prepared, and I hope this Council will still not ask them, to exercise undue interference with the Provincial Governments. We are quite prepared to forward the proceedings of this Council to Local Governments for such action as they think fit, but as an executive Government it is beyond our duty and beyond our power to interfere in a matter of this kind.

The HONOURABLE the PRESIDENT: Before I put the question will the Honourable Mover say if he wishes to add the words 'as far as practicable'?

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Yes, Sir, I would like to add them at the end of sub-clause (c).

The HONOURABLE the PRESIDENT: The question is that the Resolution, as amended, reproduced below, be adopted:—

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to recommend to every Provincial Government the desirability of (a) having an Ayurvedic and Tibbi Medical College in their Provinces, (b) taking measures to develop Indian drugs, and (c) appointing Vaidyas and Hakims in every dispensary to treat patients by indigenous methods *as far as practicable*.'

AYES.—11.

Abdul Majid Nawab, M.
Keshava Prasad Singh, Maharaja
Bahadur.
Khaparde, Mr. G. S.
Maricair, Mr. A.
Moti Chand, Raja.

Nandy, Maharaja Sir M. C.
Nayudu, Mr. V. R.
Rameshwara Singh, Maharajadhiraja Sir.
Rampal Singh, Raja Sir.
Ram Saran Das, Mr.
Sukhbir Sinha, Lala.

NOES.—32.

Acharjya Chaudhuri, Maharaja S. K.
Altaf Ali.
Amin-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur.
Bahram Khan, Nawab Sir.
Barron, Mr. C. A.
Bhurgri, Mr. G. M. K.
Cook, Mr. E. M.
Dadabhoy, Sir M. B.
Edwards, Major-General W. R.
Elliott, Lieut.-Colonel A. C.
Froom, Mr. A. H.
Hammond, Mr. E. L.
Harnam Singh, Raja Sir.
Jha, Dr. Mahamahopadhyaya.
Jogindra Singh, Sardar.
Kale, Mr. W. G.

Lloyd, Mr. E. S.
Po Bye, Maung.
Riehey, Mr. J. A.
Roy, Raja P. N.
Samaldas Mehta, Mr. L.
Sarma, Mr. B. N.
Sastri, Mr. S.
Seddon, Mr. C. N.
Sethna, Mr. P. C.
Shafi, Mr. M. M.
Smith, Mr. H. M.
Umar Hayat Khan, Colonel Sir.
Vincent, Sir W.
Wacha, Sir D.
Zahir-ud-din, Saiyid.
Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sir.

The Resolution was rejected.

The Council adjourned till 2-45 P.M. in the afternoon.

The Council re-assembled at fifteen minutes to three of the clock. The Honourable the President in the Chair.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before I call on the next Honourable Member to move his Resolution, I should like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the fact that we have a lengthy Agenda which we hope to finish this evening.

RESOLUTION *RE* EXPORT OF RICE.

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR: I beg to move the Resolution
2-48 P.M. that stands in my name :

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the restrictions imposed on the export of rice from India to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements be removed forthwith.'

In doing so, I wish to make a few observations. This is a matter that affects a large number of British Indian subjects who are domiciled in the Colonies of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. They have been habituated to eating boiled rice grown in India and which was allowed to be shipped to these Colonies freely. Since the restriction imposed by Government on the shipment of rice for the last two years Indians in these Colonies have undergone a great deal of suffering by eating Burma rice and other inferior kinds of rice. As a matter of fact they have had a great deal of difficulty in getting a sufficient quantity even of this inferior rice. Several of them have starved and died. Well, Sir, they have experienced enough of troubles for the last two years when the Government imposed such restrictions on the shipment of rice on account of failure of crops in India. Now that normal conditions prevail and a surplus of grain is available, I do not see any reason why there should be any restriction of shipment at all. I may mention for the information of the Honourable Members of this Council that the Government of India have recently removed the restriction on importation of rice from Burma, and merchants have consigned a large quantity of rice to all ports throughout India, and I may add that a large stock of that rice is lying undisposed in all the ports. This clearly shows that India has a large and surplus quantity than is required for its own consumption. I am not unmindful of the fact that the Government of India have recently issued a Press Communiqué to allow shipment of 15,000 tons of rice to Ceylon from the Ports of Negapatam, Tuticorin and Dhanushkodi during the quarter ending 31st March, 1921. The shipment of rice and the selection of shippers were left with the Ceylon Government, and that Government have not done anything in the matter until the beginning of February and I may say that no shipment whatever has yet been made as the Government of Ceylon have only recently issued permits. I may further mention, for the information of the Honourable Members of this Council, that the Government of India have taken the responsibility of importing rice from Burma and selling it in foreign countries for a high price. I do not know whether the Government of India or any Local Government are justified in thus interfering with the trade of the country which is open to all merchants. This is the position so far as Ceylon is concerned.

Now I shall go into the question of Indian subjects domiciled in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. The situation here is so grave that no concession whatever has been allowed in this part of the country. I have been getting several representations from the people of this

[Mr. Maricair.]

country with a view to help them in supplying them with the boiled rice they have been usually getting from India. My endeavours in this direction with the Local Government have proved a failure. Now, Sir, I have been given an opportunity to represent the grievances of the commercial public before this Council. It is all well and good for Government to restrict exportation of rice out of India when India itself is wanting rice for its own consumption. I do not see any reason why any restrictions should be imposed when India has a surplus to spare. To prove my statements, I beg to be permitted to read the two telegrams I received from the President, Import Grain Merchants' Association, Karachi, and rice merchants and zamindars of Sind and a letter received from the Rice Merchants of Calcutta. The telegram from the President, Import Grain Merchants' Association read thus:—

'My Association most humbly pray for immediate abolition of restrictions on export of rice to Ceylon, Zanzibar, East Africa and all other Persian Gulf Ports in view of normal conditions prevailing and prices fallen all round. The present allotment system has hit hard on poor farmers, cultivators, zemindars and stockholders; since our Deputation at Simla last August old rice heavy stocks lying undisposed and decaying; pray very careful consideration of all matters and absolute freedom of rice export as Sind suffering very heavily.'

The next telegram from the zemindars and rice merchants of Sind, Larkana, reads thus . . .

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Could not the Honourable Member state the substance of the telegram? That will shorten the matter.

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR: There was a similar telegram which I received and the Council will be interested to hear what it says.

'Fifty thousand tons lying undisposed and rotting; new crops abundant' and so on.

I presume Honourable Members of this Council have received a similar letter to the one which I have received referring to the relaxation of restrictions.

The Honourable Members of this Council are well aware that the Government of India have created the offices of Director of Civil Supplies in all the important Provinces, and I have had the honour of being one of the members of the Committee in Madras. When the question regarding the relaxation of restriction on export of rice was brought to the notice of the Committee last year, it was I who opposed the proposition as it was not the proper time for us to take such action when the import of Burma rice was not allowed freely. Now, Sir, as the import of Burma rice is allowed freely and that a large stock is available in India, I took the liberty of bringing this Resolution before this Council, appealing on behalf of several thousands of Indian subjects under His Majesty's Indian Government, domiciled in those Colonies. Perhaps it may be said that there is no representation made by any foreign Governments as was done by the Ceylon Government. I may say that the foreign Governments are not so much interested in Indian subjects as we are. Finally, I may mention that if the Government still insist upon the retention of the restriction, it will not only be a great hardship to the Indian people domiciled in those parts, but it will also be a serious loss to the various classes of people

in India. It will be a loss to the cultivators ; it will be a loss to the labourers ; it will be a loss to the mill-owners who have invested millions of rupees in erecting the rice mills in various parts of India. It will be a loss to the boat owners ; it will be a loss to the ship owners ; and on the whole it will be a loss to the commercial public. Why should the Government be the cause of all these losses ? Why should the Government stand in the way of people having their own free trade ? As a matter of fact the Government in their Communiqué issued in the year 1918 establishing Ship Building Committees in all the Provincial Governments I had the honour of being one of the members of the Committee in Madras. The Committee induced in various ways private persons to build more ships and accordingly a large number of sailing ships was built by merchants relying upon the Government's support. At this stage the Director of Civil Supplies came in the way by issuing an order that no rice should be brought by sailing ships from Burma to India except by steamers. This order of prohibition has caused a great commotion among the merchants and ship owners and put them to a serious loss. I may say in one word that all these losses are due to the creation of the offices of the Director of Civil Supplies and his orders prohibiting the export and import of rice, etc. Under these circumstances, it is high-time, Sir, that the Government should remove these obstacles and allow India to take up its own free trade. With these few remarks I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the Government.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I think it would be convenient to Honourable Members, in considering this Resolution, if I call upon the Honourable Mr. Chettiyar to move the amendment which stands in his name.

The HONOURABLE MR. A. CHETTIYAR : Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the Resolution just now moved by my Honourable Friend Mr. Maricair. The amendment that stands in my name runs thus :—

‘ That for the words from ‘ India ’ to the end of the Resolution the following be substituted :—

‘ South India to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States be relaxed so as to allow of an export of 15,000 tons per quarter to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States.’

The object, in controlling foodstuffs, is to help the poor of the country by keeping as much home-grown produce as would suffice for its needs. But interference with the right of the agriculturist to reap the profits of his trade is tolerated only in times of famine. This interference, however slight and however small it might be, would not be desirable and public confidence would be lost if a temporary measure is to be continued without end. I may here be permitted to read an extract from Dr. Gilbert Slater, Professor of Indian Economics of the Madras University. He says :—

‘ It is right Government should prohibit export when there is famine, but crops were good last year, and promise pretty well on the whole for this year. High prices are much more due to increase in the quantity of money circulating than to deficiency of grain. I believe it is a *fatal* policy for India to prevent export in normal non-famine years. Grain will not be produced unless it is wanted, and the effect of stopping export is to diminish production in good years, so that when a bad year comes the country is starved.

But, by permitting export Government encourage production of surplus quantity, so that if the crop fails there is a margin ; further, the money and purchasing power the country gains by exporting in good years is available for bad years.’

[Mr. A. Chettiyar.]

The Honourable the Revenue Member the other day informed this Council that the present conditions would not permit the Government to remove the restrictions; and I think the Honourable Member based the statement on facts and figures. I therefore take his authority for it. I am not here to ask you to vote for the wholesale removal of restrictions on exports of rice from this country. All that I want is a licensed export of a small quantity of rice for the consumption of our own people, Indians resident in the neighbouring countries and from an area where there is no sign of famine nor prices high. This year I must say, is not bad. Prices have not soared high as we feared they might. In the Tanjore district in Southern India the price of paddy ranges according to the latest information from Rs. 2-6 to Rs. 2-10 per *kalam*, which works out to Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 a maund. Even at this price the complaint is that there are no buyers and stocks might remain unsold.

That there is a surplus of rice in the Madras Presidency or at least in the south of Madras is also proved by the fact that the Government of India have a few weeks ago permitted the export of 15,000 tons of rice to Ceylon for this quarter. Ceylon is only one of the many countries in the East to which Indians emigrate in large numbers. Perhaps as popular, if not more, are the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements.

There are about 3,00,000 Indians in those countries and most of them happen to be South Indians. Accustomed to South Indian rice in early life they are longing for it. Sir, in South India there is a curious situation. The price is low, the demand is very little. As the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has just now pointed out, there are about two to three hundred rice mills in that district alone. Practically all of them are idle. Yet the export is not permitted. Across the seas there is a dearth of rice. The demand is high. The people are looking forward—our own people there are looking forward to the export of rice from their home land. After all, the demand is not for much and yet even a licensed export is not permitted. Ceylon has been granted its needs. The inter-provincial restrictions have been withdrawn. In spite of all these the price in South India has not gone high, and therefore it may be taken that the grant of justice to Indians in the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements by allowing an export of 15,000 tons per quarter would not at all enhance the price. We may perhaps be told here that this is the first time the Government of India hear of the demand for South Indian rice from those countries. It is because of the discreet silence of the Indians there, who know that one reason or another—war this time, insufficient production a second time, want of shipping facilities a third time—has withheld from them their supplies. Their wisdom which prevented them from being noisy in times of war and famine must not earn them the penalty of a permanent stoppage of supplies from their own country. They shall be told that the non-noisy child also shall get its share by their being granted their quota of the Indian produce. If petitions were wanted, I guarantee the Government a large number of them every month. Before we are flooded with petitions, it is best that their needs are supplied.

With these words, Sir, I would urge upon this Council the necessity to export at least 15,000 tons of rice per quarter to serve the bare needs of the Indian population in the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements.

8-10 P.M. The HONOURABLE MR. E. J. HOLBERTON: Sir, I feel sure that like myself, all of us present here will have been moved by the urgent call for help from Madras. We have heard of mills being shut down and a starving populace in spite of the surplus rice, and I must confess that on the face of it, their case seems a very good one, and I should like to support it. But, on the other hand, we ought to remember that the system of export from Madras must be settled by the Government in consideration of the whole scheme of control. Food control came to us as one of the many evils of the war, and it has remained with us as one of its aftermaths. Until it is possible for us to get rid of control altogether, we cannot look upon the case of one Province without considering the case of the whole of India. In the definition I must definitely include Burma. In making the new control settlement for the Province of Burma, free export was allowed to India and export was allowed to other places under licence. But a condition of it is that an amount of 1,100,000 tons of Burma rice is definitely reserved for India. Now, either it is necessary that this amount of Burma rice should be reserved for India or it is not. If it is necessary, if, that is to say, the whole quantity of rice available in India for India is not sufficient for their needs, then Burma is perfectly willing and anxious to say not one single word against this reserve. If, on the other hand, as we are now told, there is a glut of rice in Madras, if there is any amount to be exported, then it seems unnecessary that there should be any sort of control still retained over the Burma rice crop, and a perfectly free leave should be given to the Burma rice miller and exporter to send his grain wherever he pleases. Therefore, Sir, if I am to support this Resolution to the full, I should desire to hear from the Member in charge whether he is prepared to couple it with a release of Burma from her obligation to hold 1,100,000 tons of rice at the disposal of India during the present year.

As an alternative to this, Sir, as we are perfectly well aware that the fact of the case is that the Ceylon and the Straits coolie likes par-boiled rice in preference to other sorts, for reasons which are perfectly well known to everybody connected with the rice trade or the planting industry, and as we are also aware that in the past this requirement was very largely fulfilled from Madras, it would not, I am sure, be the desire of Burma to stand in the way of the supply at all events of a quantity of par-boiled rice from Southern India. If, therefore, the Resolution could be so amended as to limit it to such quantities of par-boiled rice as are consumed on the plantations in the Straits or in Ceylon, again I should have no objection. But I find myself unable to accept the Resolution exactly as it stands, and I hope we shall be able to get from the Honourable Member in charge some idea as to whether he is able to recede from the position at present taken up by Government that the embargo on the export of rice is definitely not to be removed, and whether he is prepared to accept either of the changes which I have indicated, namely, either that the export from Madras shall be allowed freely in consideration of Burma's obligation being cancelled, or that the export from Madras should be limited to the qualities of par-boiled rice which the coolie community in the Straits and Ceylon have been accustomed to get from Madras.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable Member wish to put forward a formal amendment?

The HONOURABLE MR. E. J. HOLBERTON: No, Sir, not at this moment.

The HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR B. N. SARMA : Sir, if I intervene at this stage to explain the position of the Government with regard to this Resolution, it is in the hope that further discussion on an elaborate scale may be rendered unnecessary by giving the Council an idea as to what the difficulties of the Government of India have been during the last few months in connection with this rice question, and why they have not been able to remove all restrictions on exports.

I may assure the Honourable Member who has moved this Resolution that the Government of India are perfectly at one with him that the true interests of the country would be served by releasing and relaxing all restrictions on free trade with regard to foodstuffs at the earliest possible date. We realise much more than anybody else can realise, that if we continue these restrictions upon exports indefinitely there would be a danger that the margin which at present is already very narrow and very small—the margin of production over consumption in India may be still further narrowed by driving agriculturists to grow crops—productive commercial crops, instead of food crops. We know that. We realise also that no Government machinery can ever advance the interests of the country by tinkering with trade. We realise also that the country is losing a large amount of mobilised capital which might have come into it if only India and Burma were in a position to export to foreign countries foodstuffs in the same manner as they were able to do before the war. Well, I may assure Honourable Members and the outside public that, if the Government have not been able to relax restrictions in the manner desired by the Honourable Mover, it is because they have felt it to be their duty to protect the consumer as well as the manufacturer ; that it would be wise to be cautious at the present moment, and not to release restrictions which have worked comparatively well during the last two years, until they know exactly that the foodstuffs position is much better than they apprehend it is likely to be during the next few months.

There is a good deal of misconception outside that the Government are free traders for the benefit of other countries, which certainly is not the case that a policy of restrictions on exports is a wise policy and that, therefore, the Government ought to be supported to the fullest extent possible if they should conserve stocks in India for the benefit of the consumer. I know that there is that feeling, but it is not because we consult that feeling that we have been compelled to resort to these restrictions, but because the information at our disposal, which we hope may prove incorrect but which we have no reason to believe to be incorrect, shows that the food position is not what it has been depicted to be by the Honourable Mr. Maricair. The whole of his speech and the speech of the Honourable Mover of the amendment proceed upon the assumption that India has enough for herself and to spare for foreign countries, that there are huge stocks here awaiting export and that, therefore, it is meaningless to continue restrictions which might have been for the benefit of the consumer and the general public at a time when there was scarcity, when there was famine

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR rose to a point of order.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member must confine himself to a personal explanation. Is it a personal explanation?

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR: Yes; I refer only to the districts south of Madras. I confine myself to the southern districts of Madras.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: I shall deal with that. I am glad to be told that the Honourable Member does not include in his general optimistic survey the whole of India. These proposals proceed upon the assumption that there is enough food in the country, and that, therefore, there is no reason for any anxiety whatsoever, and that these restrictions are meaningless. On the other hand, Honourable Members will find from a reference to the forecast reports which have been published from time to time that the picture is by no means so rosy. Prior to 1918-19 the Government of India did follow a policy that famine or no famine, there should be no restriction upon trade. In 1918-19, the Government, owing to abnormal conditions outside India, were obliged to intervene and placed restrictions upon the free export of foodstuffs including rice, and the event proved that they were wise and that they did not take that step lightly or too soon owing to the world conditions outside and the unfortunate period of acute distress which prevailed all over India in 1918-19. In 1919-20, the Government of India tried their level best to see as to whether they could revert to the condition prior to 1918, and slowly and gradually removed restriction after restriction, until the only restriction that is now placed upon free trade is that India should be permitted to export certain quantities to countries which have been relying upon her and to the extent which has been permitted in the past, that Burma should be permitted to export to India as well as to outside countries her surplus, with this proviso that Burma should conserve for India, if she should need it, one million and one hundred thousand tons, and with this further proviso that the Government would intervene and impose restrictions if, unfortunately, it should prove that the prices rise much higher than at a fixed definite level, but that the Government were not otherwise going to interfere with the trade and indeed would not interfere with it further except subject to the conditions announced in the Press Communiqué issued on the subject.

You will naturally ask me why these restrictions either? The answer is simple. In 1920 notwithstanding a very good crop in 1919-20, and the prohibition of exports except to a limited extent India imported 800,000 or a million tons from Burma. We inquired as to whether the conservation of foodstuffs which was our immediate object was accomplished. We had no satisfactory answer on that point from the Local Governments, and the fact that imports from Burma were necessary throughout the whole of last year to the extent I have mentioned made us hesitate as to whether our policy of conserving foodstuffs for the benefit of this country has been fulfilled in the manner we desired. Well, assuming that there was no conservation of stocks with another good season we might still have reverted to our established policy of not interfering with trade. But what has happened? Unfortunately for the country the monsoon stopped at a very early date. Several Provinces have reported to us acute distress; scarcity and famine have been declared in some. We asked the Local Governments to give us reports as what, according to their estimate, was likely to be the outturn of the rice crop during the year 1920-21. I do not wish to be an alarmist, and I sincerely trust that the forecast made errs on the side of being extremely conservative. But on the position as it was put to us, there was no alternative but to apprehend that the outturn of foodstuffs and of rice during 1920-21 may be far from sufficient for the needs of the people during the coming year. The average for the

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five years ending with 1917-18 was roughly 27·6 million tons. In 1919-20, we had a good crop, as I told you, and it was 80 million tons; and our forecasts for 1920-21 do not exceed 24·9 million tons. That will show that far from there being any surplus in the country for export, if this should unfortunately prove to be a correct estimate, we shall be far short of the necessary supplies for the country. That was the reason why we had to conserve the Burma stock for the sake of India. We found that on an average in a bad year India imported from Burma more than a million tons. Therefore we felt that it would be wise not to exceed that limit, but to conserve that 1,100,000 tons for the benefit of India and to permit Burma, which always produces a surplus, to export to any country it likes one million tons. Well, Sir, that is our justification for continuing the embargo on the export of rice from India. If we prevent Burma from selling her rice to any country she pleases because we fear that the stocks in India are not superabundant and may not be sufficient and the more so if unfortunately we should have another bad year, what justification is there for the Government to permit India to export to foreign countries for the benefit of her manufacturers or farmers? There is absolutely none, and consequently we were driven to the conclusion that if we conserved the rice stocks from Burma for the benefit of India, there was no justification for India to export her stocks, if any, to outside countries freely. But we did make an exception in the case of those countries which had an Indian population, and we have not prohibited the usual quantities which have been rationed in the past to those countries. We did more. The Ceylon Government represented to us that if they were compelled to buy only from Burma there might be various difficulties and that they should be permitted to buy from Madras also. The Madras Government also were anxious to help Tanjore merchants and manufacturers and rice-millers, and have represented to us that with safety some stocks might be allowed to go from Southern India.

The Ceylon Government to the best of my recollection asked for 60,000 tons from Southern India during the whole year. Divided by four, it would be 15,000 tons per quarter and we did allow 15,000 tons to Ceylon, and therefore we fulfilled all the requirements which the Ceylon Government placed before the Government of India on behalf of the Indians there to the fullest possible extent, and if any further representation should be made to us that those quantities required revision, they would receive the most sympathetic consideration.

Then coming to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, the first time we heard of any inconvenience caused to the Indian settlers there was from the Honourable Mover of the amendment. He depicted to us a picture of people who suffered in silence, and that we should not turn the whole country into noisy agitators. I quite appreciate the full force of that argument. But it is rather curious that no representation has been made hitherto from Southern India, from the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States or from anybody concerned to the Government of India that there was any inconvenience caused. I find the Honourable Member asks for 15,000 tons. What is it I find? I find that the exports, previous to the restrictions being placed, to the Straits Settlements were only 2,753 tons on the average, and the exports to the Federated Malay States were only 921 tons; so that these two countries took from India only 3,600 tons, a very small quantity,

and they found that they were not inconvenienced at all by the stoppage of these small quantities, because they were getting

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR: May I know the year that the Honourable Member is referring to?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: This was the average of the three years ending 1916-17, that is for the years 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17, prior to the imposition of restrictions. The Honourable Mover of the amendment asks for 15,000 tons per quarter or 60,000 tons per annum. That is evidently because he did not have the statistical information which the Government of India have in their possession. But I take it that his point is that whatever quantity used to be exported from India to these countries which have a large resident Indian population should be allowed to be exported there. Well, my point is that Burma has been supplying them, and there has been no complaint there. It would be time enough for us to consider and review the position if there should be any representation made by the people themselves or by the Governments concerned. But at the present moment surely the Honourable Member will realise that there is absolutely no case for us to re-open the question with regard to the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements.

Apart from this there is another point. It is not these three countries alone which have a resident Indian population. We have Mauritius, we have Seychelles, we have South Africa, we have many other places which have been receiving supplies under the rationing scheme to a certain extent, which are exactly in the same position as the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements. I do not see what justification there would be for the Government of India to draw a distinction between the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States on the one hand and the others on the other; and if we throw open exports freely to those countries, what guarantee would there be that there would be no re-export? Even assuming there are guarantees that there would be no re-export, the result would be that we would have to export more than 300,000 tons from India, a proposition which cannot be entertained for the reasons that I have mentioned that we apprehend a shortage of supplies in the coming year for India's consumption. Well, Sir, there is one point I should like to refer to with regard to South India. It is rather curious that in South India prices of rice have always soared up much higher than in the rest of India. I have not been able to understand the reason clearly, unless the figures relate to different quantities and I asked for the figures this morning and I find that in Tanjore rice was selling at Rs. 8-12-0—I hope the gentleman in charge of these figures has not misinformed me. This does not show that there are stocks there which are rotting for want of export. The prices in Madras were Rs. 6-15-0; in Tanjore Rs. 8-12-0, as against Rs. 5-6-0 and Rs. 5-8-0 in Calcutta, and Rs. 6-4-0 in Bombay and Rs. 7-1-0 in Nagpur, which is famine stricken.

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR: Is the price of Rs. 8-12-0 just stated, per maund?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: Yes, per maund, as per figures, on the 12th February. Therefore, the assertion that there are plenty of stocks requires a little re-examination. I hope what I have said is sufficient for the purpose of convincing Honourable Members of this Council that there is not much difference between the Mover and ourselves on the general question

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of principle. We will only be too glad if we can withdraw ourselves from the position which we were obliged to take up for the benefit of the consumer here in the past and to which we are obliged to adhere at the present moment. There is no question of the office of the Director of Civil Supplies controlling movements as heretofore or any more of those restrictions, because we have removed completely all internal restrictions. It is no use referring to ancient history. The present case has been very well put from the point of view of the Tanjore Mirasdar. But we have to remember that even the Tanjore Mirasdars may find some market for their stocks in the areas which seem to be devastated by famine, the Ceded districts, Hyderabad and other places. If they cannot find a market and if they make a representation, we shall see what can be done, but Government are not in a position unfortunately for the reasons I have given to help the Honourable Member by agreeing to his suggestions at the present moment.

The HONOURABLE SIRDAR JOGENDRA SINGH : Sir, the Honourable 3-39 P.M. the Revenue Member seduced me to a lunch, and I did not hear the speech which the Mover made in moving his Resolution, so I do not know what arguments he advanced. But I have heard very carefully what the Honourable the Revenue Member has said. His argument is that on principle he is fully convinced that restriction of exports is wrong. But he says that the stocks in the country are lower than they ever were before, and that restrictions are necessary ; which even in the worst famine years were not considered necessary. I should have liked him to produce facts to show what the stocks in past years were when we had famines and when we had free export of foodstuffs. He has not answered that. But what he has said is simply this, that stocks are low now and that millions of tons of rice are imported from Burma. I should like to know what the normal import of rice is from Burma in normal years. The whole argument is based on the fact that restriction of exports is necessary in the interests of the consumer. The Honourable the Revenue Member has ignored the fact that in India the producer is also the consumer. Perhaps 90 per cent. of the population which consumes food stock is also the producer, and this population has greatly suffered by the restrictions which have worked more for the benefit of the exporter than of the producer. I remember reading an article in the *London Times* pointing out the exports that were made during the war and the prices at which they were made. The prices were regulated by the Government of India through a Wheat Commissioner who was then appointed. It is impossible for me to calculate, but I think the Honourable the Revenue Member will admit that the loss to India runs into millions.

If these millions had come to the country, India to-day would have had a very large trade balance and would not have been in financial difficulties, needing sales of Reverse Council Bills which have drained our finances dry. The question before the Council now is, whether we are justified in continuing a policy which will inevitably lose us the markets of the world. We, the producers of India, after many years were able to establish relations with other markets, our produce was in demand and we were able to export freely. For the last three years our exports are restricted. We can only sell to the Wheat Commissioner or whoever is the controller, at prices which are fixed by the Government of India. The result is that we are every day losing the markets of the world ; and when in the ripeness of time the Revenue Member awakens

to the need of removing the embargo, we may find that we have no markets for our produce.

Another matter to which I want to draw attention.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I wish to draw the Honourable Members's attention to the fact that the matter under discussion relates to rice. I hope he will keep as close to rice as possible.

The HONOURABLE SIRDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: I am sorry, Sir, that I mentioned wheat.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Please keep to rice.

The HONOURABLE SIRDAR JOGENDRA SINGH: Another matter to which I want to draw attention is that the producer of rice has to spend much more than he used to spend before. He pays at least three times as much as he did before the war for his ploughing oxen and the cost of production has doubled. For his own produce he cannot get the price that is his due.

I think the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution was absolutely right in pointing out that the Government of India is moved by the fear that the articulate classes, who have been talking about restricting the exports of food-stuffs and fixing of prices, would be disturbed. I think there is more reason to fear the disturbance in the villages. We, who live in the villages, know that people are finding it difficult to pay their rents; the prices of cotton and other goods are falling, world prices have fallen also, and they can hardly meet their demands. Under these conditions, I do not think the Government of India would be well advised to continue the embargo on the export of rice for any length of time.

I know that the Honourable Revenue Member laid great emphasis on the forecast which his Department prepared. I wonder if the Honourable Member knows how the material for these forecasts is provided. Some *patwari* in the village is asked to report; he sits down and makes a rough estimate, which has generally no relation to the produce that is growing, and sends it in. This is again boiled down in the Office of the Revenue Officer somewhere, put into shape in the Office of the Provincial Director, till the information reaches the heights of Simla or Delhi, and this forecast, so far as I am aware, has really no relation to facts. If in the worst possible years we were able to export foodstuffs, such as rice, I do not know that in the present year we are not in a position to go back to normal conditions. The Honourable the Revenue Member said that in 1918, 1919 and 1920 the stocks were abnormally low. Can he point out that the stocks were lower than in the worst famine year in the United Provinces? (I have no memory, and I cannot point out the year, but it is well known). In 1918 and 1919, so far as I am aware, in the worst affected Provinces it was not necessary to open any large famine relief works: that state was never reached. Under these conditions, I am not prepared to accept the Honourable the Revenue Member's statement that the stocks to-day are abnormally low. In the present year, the conditions, I must admit, are not very favourable. Rain has failed in many places, and it is not possible to say what the *rabi* crop is going to be. But without fear we can depend on the laws of supply and demand. The producer generally always saves up his food and only puts in the market the surplus of his produce; and I think we might leave it to his discretion even now. He would not sell what he needs for him-

[Sirdar Jogendra Singh]

In these circumstances I would very earnestly draw the attention of the Council to the very serious situation that is arising, so far as the agriculturists are concerned, with the restriction on rice and other things. The agriculturist is losing the market and he is the backbone of the country. If he loses the market then a very serious situation will arise. With due deference to the Government of India and the Revenue and Agriculture Department, I must say that we are not in a position to interfere with the country's trade. I was on the Foodstuffs Board. The very first thing that some Provincial Governments did was to stop free trade between the Provinces. It took many months to clear up muddle. I say again that I think the time has arrived when we should remove the embargo and allow the people a free market.

The HONOURABLE DR. JHA : Sir, like the last Honourable Member who
3-49 P.M. spoke, I also come from the villages and the point of view of the villager is that much of their trouble with regard to foodstuffs is due to what they call the 'wicked' policy of the Government encouraging unrestricted trade. They do not of course understand the law of free trade or the law of supply and demand, and they think that it is the unrestricted export of foodstuffs that is responsible for the high prices.

The HONOURABLE MR. KALE : Sir, from the speeches we have heard up
3-49 P.M. to now, I am afraid that Honourable Members have been placed in a very awkward situation. We have had various views put before us in regard to the condition of the cultivators, merchants and other classes of the community. On the one side we are told that the price of rice is going down and that millions are suffering. On the other side, we are told that cultivators look with horror upon the idea of the removal of restrictions on the export of rice. We know that figures have been placed before us by the Honourable Member in charge of the Revenue Department. The accuracy of those figures has, however, been doubted on the other side. If there are such differences with regard to the vital question of the conservation of the food supply of the country, I do not know what is the conclusion at which the Members of this Council are expected to arrive.

Many conflicting things are said about the cultivator; when prices are high, it is the poor cultivator who suffers. He also suffers under low prices. In regard to Southern India, I have read the newspapers from that part of the country and I find that much of the agitation in favour of removing the restrictions on export of rice is agitation led by merchants. It is a middleman's agitation and it is very difficult to understand how the high prices of foodstuffs and the profits of trade will go into the pockets of the poor producers. We know under what conditions ryots sell their produce and what the advantage of dear rice will be, and we know that it will not go into the pockets of the helpless cultivator. Most of the advantage is taken away by the middlemen. In the Madras Presidency itself I have seen that there is a controversy going on in the newspapers on this subject, and the consumer's point of view has been placed before the readers of some of them. And, therefore, if the responsible Department of the Government tells us that there is the danger of a shortage of foodstuffs in the coming months, I think every effort must be made to provide safeguards against such a contingency. During the last few years, on account of the increase in prices, so many evils have crept into the country. There has been so much discontent and unrest in the country, we have been told, on account of

the rise in prices. Are we not going to conserve our food supplies as far as we can? On the other side agitators have been telling us that the Government has been deliberately encouraging export of foodstuffs, that the property of the country, and the prevailing discontent are all due to the policy of the Government. In these circumstances, I do not think that the Government will be well advised in removing the restrictions at the present moment. If, however, Government really finds that Indians in Ceylon and other places do want a reasonable supply of rice, I hope it will take immediate steps to provide that supply. But subject to this, I do not think that at this stage it will be wise on the part of the Government to remove all restrictions, and therefore I do not see my way to support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : Sir, I am entirely in agreement with what has fallen from the Honourable Mr. 8-53 P. M. Sarma that this embargo on rice should be maintained till the conditions obtaining in the country improve and we are distinctly in a better position. Speaking for my province, I must point out that we had for the last two seasons very poor harvests. The province is suffering on account of the scarcity of the last rainfall, and the result has been that not only the price of rice has gone up considerably in the whole of the Central Provinces and Berar, but in some parts of the province it is almost impossible to obtain the ordinary requirements of rice. In view of these circumstances, it is only necessary and proper that this embargo on rice should be maintained. Some of my Honourable friends have spoken about the principle, and have pointed out that it is a wrong policy of Government to interfere with liberty of the people and to maintain a control over foodstuffs. So far as bare principle is concerned we are all agreed. All of us are of opinion that at the earliest possible opportunity the control of all foodstuffs should be promptly abolished by Government, but we have also to look to the exigencies of the case, and, so far as the present situation is concerned, I think no case has been made out for the export of rice. Charity always begins at home. Let us first look after our own internal affairs, let us provide sufficient food for the population of India, before we think of allowing foodstuffs to go out of the country. I am there in entire agreement with what has fallen from my Honourable friend Dr. Jha. One or two remarks were made by the Honourable Sirdar Jogendra Singh about our losing the markets of the world and our agriculturists being placed in an awkward predicament by the control system. I have not been able to follow his argument. I do not see how we can lose the foreign markets once we have got our surplus stocks. If there is a demand in other countries there will always be a market for our Indian rice or for Burma rice. As soon as we are in a position to supply rice our old markets will be restored to us. I do not therefore think that for the mere fact that for a temporary period we have to lose our foreign markets, we should carry on the trade with such foreign markets at a sacrifice of Indian interests. I cannot appreciate that point of view, and I am sure Council will agree that the position taken up by my Honourable friend is altogether unmaintainable. I agree with my friend Mr. Kale when he stated that this agitation is carried on by the merchant classes and the middlemen who benefit by these exports. It is this class of people who make large profits, who profiteer when there is scarcity of crops, and who are directly benefited by the removal of this embargo. It is this class which sets up agitation, and I am of

[Sir M. Dadabhoy.]

opinion that so far as the interests of India are concerned, till we are assured of a proper surplus, every possible attempt should be made to conserve our resources and to stop the export. My friend the Sirdar has also mentioned something about the forecasts which are presented for public information from time to time, and he has challenged the position taken by the Honourable Mr. Sarma. He has rightly stated that these forecasts are always not trustworthy. But Government has to go upon some principle. They have to go on some basis of calculation, and the present system, which has been adopted, seems to be the only method by which some sort of approximate figures could be arrived at. My friend has also challenged the statement that there are no stocks in the country. But he has not pointed out where the surplus stock is or from what part of India the surplus stocks could be obtained. In view of these circumstances, I am of opinion that the attitude taken by the Honourable the Revenue Member on behalf of Government is correct, and as long as Government feels that the interests of India will suffer and her large population will not have ample foodstuffs for their maintenance, the present policy of Government should be vigorously continued. I, therefore, hope that the Council will not accept the Resolution as well as the amendment.

The HONOURABLE MAUNG PO BYE : Sir, the export trade of the Indian Empire, as far as rice is concerned, in the year 1918-19, 3-59 P.M. shows 2 million tons, out of which Burma's share was 1,600,000 tons, or three-fourths of the export belongs to Burma. During the war and during the period of famine the export from Burma was restricted in order to supply rice to consumers in the other provinces of India. So, Burma, as far as rice is concerned, supplies direct to the Indian consumers, and she would like to do it quite willingly at whatever price the Government thinks fit to fix with due regard to the open market price. But Burma objects to the middle people making money between the growers and the consumers. The exporter from any province should not draw any quantity of rice from Burma for the purpose of export again from his province, and I hope the Government would safeguard Burma's interests from existing restrictions in order not to give advantage to the middle man for making money out of the trade.

The other provinces should buy from Burma in open market, whereas for the last three years the Government of Burma have fixed the prices by restrictions. In 1918 it was Rs. 105 for 100 baskets of paddy, in 1919 it was Rs. 120 for 100 baskets, and in 1920 it was Rs. 180. These prices are fixed in order to supply at a low rate rice to India from Burma. I therefore, Sir, want to ask this Council to do justice for Burma and not to take the supply from Burma for the middle man to make money out of Burma.

The HONOURABLE COLONEL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN : Sir, I have been rather uneasy in my seat till now. This is a free 4-1 P.M. fight really between the villager and the paid man in the cities, and I can with truth say that this is a fight between ninety-five per cent. on one side and five per cent. of the population on the other. All the zemindars who produce rice, even if they have got one bigha, have to pay revenue on it, while others, the middlemen, or whoever they may be, though they might get Rs. 2,000 as income, have not got to pay a single pice. We are unfortunately

subject to the settlements which are called *Bandobasts*, which in other words mean putting one to trouble. After every twenty years Government revenues go up; on the other hand they go and stop export for internal consumption and naturally the price of rice goes down. So where are we to get money to pay Government? I hope we shall not be forced to suffer for that five per cent., so that people may not think of going towards Mahatma Gandhi and say that they will not pay revenue at all

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member must keep to the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE COLONEL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN: I appeal to the Council through you, Sir, and to all those who are zemindars to stick to this, as if we do not form a majority to carry it out it will not be our fault, but perhaps the fault of the Reforms.

The HONOURABLE SIR D. WACHA: Sir, I think my friend the Honourable Mr. Kale was correct in crystallising the debate.

4-4 P.M.

There are two sides to the question. One side is represented by the Revenue Member who gave us a very convincing statement to prove that the foodstuffs of the country, so far as rice is concerned, are not so great as to permit the Government to release the embargo on rice urged by the other side.

The first question about all foodstuffs of the country, whether it is wheat, rice or any other article, is this:—whether they are enough for the population to consume, or whether there is a margin. If the margin is very great, then, of course, we can justify exports of any kind of foodstuff, whether wheat, rice or bajra, or any other grain. But if the margin is not so very wide, and if another monsoon fails to give us the necessary produce, where will the country be? That is a question of a most important character.

That is, I repeat, a question of a most important, nay vital, character, and I think any Government, not only the Government of India, but any civilised Government, will be wise to take into consideration the actual agricultural products of each year, and see whether there is enough to suffice for the population or not, and whether there is a surplus, and, in that case, whether the surplus should go abroad or not. Free trade policy inculcates that exports of all kinds of commodities must be freely allowed to go out; but I believe there are limitations even to such a policy of free trade. I myself am a strong free-trader, but in spite of that, I believe that, as far as foodstuffs are concerned, the Government of India are right in still keeping an embargo on rice. I will relate to the Council some ancient history. It goes back as far as 1874 when there was a very severe famine in Orissa. Lord Northbrook was then the Viceroy. He was a strong free-trader. Mr. Robert Knight was a strong economist, and from time to time he wrote telling the Government that the famine in Orissa was so great that the Government would act wisely in not allowing exports of rice to go abroad. Lord Northbrook and his Government, on the other hand, thought 'Never mind, whatever may happen, the exports ought to go freely forward'. What was the result eventually? A very severe famine in Orissa of a most disastrous character occurred carrying off lakhs and lakhs of people. That was the lamentable result of having allowed free exports at a time when there was not sufficient rice in the country to feed even the people of Orissa. We have grown wiser and wiser every time after a famine has taken place; and we now know exactly when we must put an embargo, even a temporary one, on the export of foodstuffs and when we should not. When the famine of 1899 took place, the most

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severe of the 19th century in India, the Government of India appointed a Famine Commission with Sir James Lyall as its President. In his report a remark was wisely made, that as new railways had been built here, there and everywhere, one of the uses of such railways particularly was to greatly utilise them in times of famine. It may happen that foodstuffs were very cheap in one province while there might be none in the other province. Railways would go a great way to help to bring the surplus of one province and pour it into another where there was a famine. In that way railways would not only prove a beneficent agency for the conveyance of foodstuffs but also help to equalise the prices in the different provinces. That is a very important point which Honourable Members at this stage ought also firmly to remember. Sir James Lytall's statement was very wisely endorsed by the Government of India at the time. So, here are two different instances to be borne in mind, one of the Orissa famine and the results of it, and the other of the famine of 1899, and what Sir James Lyall had said as to the uses of railways and how the surplus of one province should be diverted to the other province where there was a famine. That being the case, I think all Members of this Council will agree with the very careful exposition of the rice statistics which the Honourable the Revenue Member had made. I heartily concur with him. I am a student for several years past particularly of foodstuffs. I myself have got statistics from my friend Mr. Shirras, the Director of Statistics, over two years ago, which go a great way to corroborate the statement which the Revenue Member has made to this meeting to-day. Therefore, I do say that the Government are right in conserving the foodstuffs of the country. The population is also increasing. In all probability the Census which will take place next month will tell you exactly how we are situated, and you will possibly find that the Revenue Member will have something more definite to fortify his statement than now, that the population has increased and that whatever margin of rice there may be in the country, even that will not suffice for the increased population which the Census may disclose. Therefore, taking everything into consideration, I think a wise Government in any part of the world would certainly deem that foodstuffs were such a commodity that, whatever free-traders or other economists may say, they must be conserved where the margin is narrow. Under the circumstances, I think the Government of India are doing the right thing and very wisely in putting an embargo on rice for a time. I do not go into the other question of the middlemen and the agitators and one thing and another mentioned by previous speakers. I do not think I would be in order if I were to do so. But I will give only one analogy. On the outbreak of the war, cotton merchants in Bombay were greatly alarmed because the price of cotton went down from Rs. 400 and 500 to Rs. 150 per candy. The middlemen and the cotton dealers rushed to the Government of India to come to the aid of the ryots. In substance they said: 'Oh, the cotton cultivators will be ruined,' just as some people are now saying that: 'The rice cultivators will be ruined if there are no exports.' But what happened eventually to the cotton dealers? The Government of India very wisely, very cautiously sent down Mr. Howard to Bombay to ascertain on the spot independently of all interests what the real position was in the cotton-growing districts.

He made a report to Government, and what was the report? That all the cry was an alarmist agitation of the middlemen; and the deputation

which went to Simla returned to Bombay with heads bowed down because they were very properly told that there was no foundation for their allegation. Exactly the same thing is happening now. I recall all these facts because oftener than not past history is forgotten in these days. But it is better to remember it when similar questions come to be considered by this Council. Starvation or no starvation of a whole class of people is the vital question for their consideration. Therefore I heartily express my agreement with the statement made by the Honourable the Revenue Member that for the present the embargo on rice should be continued till better times are in prospect.

The HONOURABLE Maharaja SIR M. C. NANDY : Sir, from past
4-12 P.M. experience we know that India cannot produce her foodstuffs regularly throughout the year. Under these circumstances, we have to bring our foodstuffs from Burma ; so I think it is not proper to remove the restrictions which have been put by the Government on rice.

The HONOURABLE MR. CHETTIYAR : Sir, with regard to the
4-13 P.M. middlemen's agitation, I should like to say that I am not here to agitate on behalf of middlemen or on behalf of the cultivator or on behalf of the millowners. The object of my bringing in this amendment is to supply the needs of Indians resident in the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, and especially of those who are accustomed to South Indian rice. In the earlier part of my speech I said that after hearing the Honourable the Revenue Member the other day with regard to the conditions prevailing in India, I am not here to ask you to vote for the wholesale removal of restrictions on the export of rice. So I say the remarks made by several Honourable Members of this Council do not apply to me.

Then with regard to the remarks made by the Honourable the Revenue Member that there is much difference between the quantity actually exported from this country to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States and the quantity asked for in the amendment, I must say, as the Honourable Member himself pointed out, that I have not got the figures which the Government have. I am now prepared to reduce the figure from 15,000 tons to 5,000 tons. But with regard to this I should like to say that the figures that the Honourable Member quoted referred to the years 1915, 1916 and 1917. In 1914 the war broke out. I should like to have the figures for the three years before 1914.

Then with regard to his remarks that the representation should come from the people themselves or from the Government of the Straits Settlements, the Indian population in those two countries is very small when compared to the other local population of those countries, and it will be too much to expect the Government at Singapore to ascertain what particular kind of rice the Indian population there would like and send up a requisition to the Government of India here. Then the Honourable Member said that the representation should come from the people. It is natural for a people to endeavour to get their wants supplied through their representatives rather than take the tedious and irksome process of approaching Government. I think we from the Madras Presidency may be considered as the representatives of the people, especially those from South India who are settled in those countries. I have received several letters from responsible men in those countries that the Indians there are anxious to have South Indian rice ; and it is that that made

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me approach the Government. I hope the Honourable Member, even though he is not prepared to accept the amendment, will give us an assurance that such quantity of rice as is required according to his own estimation will be supplied to those who want it. In conclusion, I must say that the Indians in those countries are really very anxious to have South Indian rice.

In South India, as I have already said, the price of paddy has not gone high. The quantity that is required for Indians resident in these two countries can be safely exported.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I call on the Honourable Mr. Maricair to reply.

After a pause as there was no immediate response, the Honourable the President said : Does the Honourable Mr. Maricair wish to reply or not? If Honourable Members wish to speak, they must rise in their seats, so that I can see them. It is impossible for me to see members if they do not stand up.

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR : Sir, I heard the very interesting
4-22 P.M. speeches made by a number of non-official members, and if I say much more about my experience of the trade, Honourable Members will perhaps think that as a merchant myself I am trying to make a business over it. I am on the spot, and I really understand the situation of the Indians domiciled in the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and in Ceylon. I am in close touch with them, and so I mentioned about the representations which I have been receiving from various parts of the country which the Honourable the Revenue Member said that this was the first time that he heard of these representations from the Straits Settlements. As my Honourable friend Mr. Annamalai Chettiyar said, if the Government will kindly make a reference to the authorities in the Straits Settlements, surely our statements will be found to be correct.

With regard to the figures, the Honourable Member referred to the actual quantity of cargo shipped during the three years from 1914-1916. Well, as my friend Mr. Annamalai Chettiyar said, it was during war time when the steamship companies were not able to run their steamers regularly. Those were the years when we were not able to find steamers to carry our cargo, hence the figure is so small. As has already been pointed out, if the figures previous to 1914 are taken into account, Government will see that the quantity is much larger than 3,600 tons.

With regard to his remark, though we are interested in the people who are resident in Southern India, we have no objection to Government allowing the export from all the ports of India. My Resolution refers to the export of rice from India and not from Madras alone.

The fact of the telegrams and letters I have received—and I am sure other Members and the Government also would have received—which distinctly shows that there are surplus amounts available in the Provinces. After all, as some of the non-official Honourable Members said, it is only those who are interested, and the middlemen who want to profiteer, agitate for this kind of arrangement. It is the merchants who realise the situation thoroughly, and not lawyers, big millionaires and some such people. It is the merchants, the

cultivators and the zamindars who realise the situation. The zamindars do not get their crops sold and the cultivators do not get a sufficient price for their paddy to meet their expenses and the payment of taxation. As the Honourable Members of this Council are aware, the expenses of cultivation have gone so high on account of increased wages and many other things, that the cultivators are finding great difficulty in maintaining their crops. As the Honourable Member for Government properly expresses it, if this kind of restriction is continued any longer, those paddy cultivators will surely turn to something else, *i.e.*, cotton cultivation. This may probably be very interesting to the Honourable Sir Dinshaw Wacha for the export to England and to other places.

I am here to look after the interests of the people who are actually starving over the other side and the paddy cultivators of India, and I am so sorry the Government could not see its way to accept my Resolution. I am also sorry that some of the Honourable Members of this House are finding it difficult to accept it and to support my motion.

As regards the remark made by the Honourable Pandit Ganga Nath Jha, I do not know how he is justified in saying that the villagers will be ruined if this is allowed

The HONOURABLE DR. JHA : I did not say they would be ruined. I said that they would view the removal of this restriction with horror.

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR : Well, if it is not so, it will be in the interests of all concerned that export on a certain scale should be allowed. As a matter of fact, it is the first time in our lives that the Government ever interfered with such restrictions, and there have certainly been heavier famines than this time. Even in those times the Government never thought of imposing such heavy restrictions. It is most disappointing that the Government feel they must continue the restrictions for some more time. If it is continued, I do not know what will happen.

With regard to the price the Honourable Member mentioned in Tanjore, *i.e.*, Rs. 8-12-0 per maund of rice we have no such system in our district and there are no bags of maunds like what is in vogue in Calcutta. Our bags contain 195 lbs. and are equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. The price at present is Rs. 17 per bag, *i.e.*, for the superior quality, and so I hope I may be permitted to say that the figure quoted by the Honourable Member is somewhat inaccurate. On the whole, therefore, the situation as it stands at present is uncertain. With regard to Ceylon, some of the non-officials and officials of Ceylon had a deputation with the Government of India some time ago and they have applied for 60,000 tons, and I can say that it was very kind of the Government to allow them 15,000 tons.

If the Government of India, however, think that the deputation sent up by the Government of Ceylon and by the people of Ceylon was genuine, could not the Government of India see its way to increase this allotment by a further 15,000 tons and bring it up to a total of 30,000 tons, because the present allotment, as we all know, is insufficient? Another important point which I wish to make, for the information of this Council, is that the allotment made by the Government, is to import one million and one hundred thousand tons of rice from Burma to India. I do not think such a heavy import is needed and I may at once say that the Government of India are well aware under

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the orders issued last year that a large quantity which has been landed by Best and Company and Walker and Company and one or two Indian firms is lying undisposed of. At this stage, the new cargo is imported, I may say that the Government of India would no doubt have received information that those importers have sustained a serious loss. These imports were unnecessary and I believe that a large quantity has already arrived. I ask the Honourable Members of this Council not to mistake me, for I am not speaking from the point of view of selfishness or self-interest. Last week I consigned by a steamer called the 'Torilla' from Akyab to Tuticorin a cargo of 64,515 bags of paddy, and this cargo is still lying undisposed of. There is no demand for it and I can say that there is a great deal of slackness in that business especially as regards Burma rice and paddy. This is due to Southern India having so much surplus in the country, both of last year's and this year's crop and consequently Southern India could have easily allowed a certain quantity to go abroad. And so, Sir, I request once more that due consideration may be given to the matter. I am sure that my motion will be rejected if I insist upon it, and so I have no other course but to withdraw it. I may say one thing : I hope that the Government will consider my Resolution and see what it can do. Since the Government itself is satisfied that our statement is correct, I hope the Government will do the needful in allowing a certain amount of rice to go abroad. With these few remarks I withdraw my Resolution.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Do I understand the Honourable Member, having argued the Resolution at length, now desires to withdraw it ?

The HONOURABLE MR. MARICAIR : Yes, Sir.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Is it the pleasure of the Honourable Council that the Honourable Member be permitted to withdraw his Resolution ?

The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : We have now made so little progress with the business this afternoon that I think I must give an opportunity to the next Honourable Member to move his Resolution if he so desires. Does the Honourable Member desire to move his Resolution ?

The HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN : I think, Sir, I will take my chance of priority when non-official business comes up next time.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : In these circumstances it will be useless to go on with the other business and I propose to adjourn the Council till Monday, the 21st in this Chamber at 11 A. M.

The Council stands adjourned till Monday, the 21st February at 11 A. M.