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OF THE

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 24th March, 1923.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock.
Mr. President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURES.

617. *Mr. Mohammad Ahsan Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to give the number of Members of:

- (i) Council of State;
- (ii) Legislative Assembly;
- (iii) Madras Legislative Council;
- (iv) Bombay Legislative Council;
- (v) Bengal Legislative Council;
- (vi) United Provinces Legislative Council;
- (vii) Punjab Legislative Council;
- (viii) Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council;
- (ix) Central Provinces Legislative Council; and
- (x) Assam Legislative Council

who became the recipients of Indian titles during the years 1921, 1922 and up to 1st January, 1923?

(b) Is it a fact or not that the United Provinces Legislative Council gives a greater number than any other Council?

Mr. Denys Bray: The information asked for is not available. It could only be obtained by a reference to Local Governments but the expenditure of time and labour in making these inquiries would be incommensurate with the value of the results to be obtained.

Mr. S. C. Shahani: Will Government be pleased to state if the Members of Council referred to in the question have been the recipients of titles for services rendered inside or outside the Councils or both inside and outside?

Mr. Denys Bray: The question sounds so complicated to my ears that I must ask for notice.

ASSISTANTS TO DIRECTOR GENERAL, POST OFFICE.

618. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is it a fact that the Director General of Post offices had one Deputy Director General and one Personal Assistant, associated with him in his office at Simla and Delhi, prior to the creation of a Deputy Postmaster General's appointment for Sind and Baluchistan, last year?

(b) Is it a fact that the post of Personal Assistant to the Director General was abolished on the creation of the Deputy Postmaster Generalship for Sind and Baluchistan?

(c) Is it a fact that an appointment of Assistant Director General has recently been transferred from the main office in Calcutta to Delhi, although the section of which he held charge is in Calcutta; and has not this practically resulted in the substitution of the post of Personal Assistant by a higher appointment in the office of the Director General?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank: (a) and (b). Up to March, 1922, the Director General had at Simla and Delhi one Deputy Director General of the Post Office and one Personal Assistant. The appointment of the latter was abolished from the 1st April, 1922, but its abolition was in no way connected with the creation of an appointment of Deputy Postmaster General for Sind and Baluchistan.

(c) The Assistant Director General in charge of the Establishment Branch has been transferred to the Simla Delhi office as a matter of administrative convenience. Establishment cases which require special care in preparation are dealt with by the Deputy Director General who is stationed in Simla and Delhi and it is convenient for him to have the Assistant Director General who works up these cases close at hand rather than in Calcutta. This arrangement has not resulted in the replacement of the post of Personal Assistant by a higher appointment.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ARMS RULES COMMITTEE.

619. ***Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi:** Will Government be able to give the information to this House in this Session regarding my question No. 367?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: The Honourable Member is referred to the statement I made in the House on the 22nd February. A letter is under issue to Local Governments on certain questions of detail and we are asking for very early replies.

BABU WISAKHA RAM, REGISTRATION CLERK.

620. ***Dr. Nand Lal:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if Babu Wisakha Ram, Registration clerk, Post Office Multan City, was tried, under section 52, Act 6, 1898, in May, 1922, for the theft of an insured bundle containing two insured articles for Rs. 1,200 each?

(b) Was he discharged by the City Magistrate who tried him?

(c) Has Babu Wisakha Ram been re-instated after his discharge?

(d) Did he receive the pay of the period of suspension and the expenses incurred in his defence.

(e) Has he submitted any representation to the Postmaster General, Punjab?

(f) If answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of it (representation) on the table of this House, and state as to what response was given?

(g) What are the expenses that the Government incurred in the case against said Wisakha Ram?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Babu Wisakha Ram will get full pay for the period of his suspension when the case is finally settled on receipt of the decision of the Court on the Civil Suit filed by the sender of the article. His application for expenses incurred in his defence has not yet been received by the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.

(e) No.

(f) In view of what has just been stated, these questions do not arise.

(g) The required information is not available.

CONVICTIONS UNDER FRONTIER CRIMES REGULATION.

621. ***Dr. Nand Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state as to (a) how many men have been bound over under section 40 of the Frontier Crimes Regulation with effect from January, 1920, to May, 1922;

(b) how many of them are still in jail on account of their not having given security;

(c) in what jails they are confined?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: The information is being collected and will be supplied when available.

CONVICTION OF PANDIT AMIR CHAND BAMBWAL AND HAKIM ABDUL JALIL.

622. ***Dr. Nand Lal:** (1) Is Government of India aware that Pandit Amir Chand Bambwal and Hakim Abdul Jalil, of Peshawar City, were under section 40, of Frontier Crimes Regulation, bound over to furnish security of Rs. 10,000 each for the period of three years?

(2) If the answer to question No. 1 be in affirmative, will they be pleased to lay on table the copy of that order?

(3) Is Government of India aware that they have failed to furnish security and are undergoing rigorous imprisonment?

(4) If so, will the Government be pleased to state as to what jail they are confined in?

(5) Will the Government of India be pleased to state as to whether it is a fact that the aforesaid Pandit Amir Chand and Hakim Abdul Jalil, were bound over because they were agitating for the amalgamation of the North-West Frontier Province with the Punjab?

(6) If the answer to question No. 5 be in negative, will the Government be pleased to state the cause of and ground on which they were so bound over?

(7) Will the Government of India be pleased to state as to why so excessive security, for rupees ten thousand each and for so long a period of three years was demanded?

(8) Will the Government of India be pleased to state that the aforesaid Pandit Amir Chand or Hakim Abdul Jalil had asked for a copy of the documents alluded to in the aforesaid order, dated the 22nd February, 1921, and it was refused?

(9) Is it true that they (the aforesaid Pandit Amir Chand and Hakim Abdul Jalil) applied within time to give evidence personally or in writing before the North-West Frontier Committee, and they either were not allowed to do so or no answer was given to them?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The information is being collected and will be supplied when available.

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE JUDICIARY.

623. ***Dr. Nand Lal:** (1) Is Government of India aware that a large section of the people of North-West Frontier Province are very anxious that it or at least its judiciary may be amalgamated with the Punjab?

(2) If answer to this be in affirmative, will the Government of India be pleased to say when are they going to appreciate people's wishes and order the aforesaid amalgamation?

Mr. Denys Bray: Government are not aware that the section who desire amalgamation in any form is large relatively to the size of the section who oppose it. As the Honourable Member is aware the whole question is now under the consideration of Government.

WORKING OF INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

624. ***Dr. Nand Lal:** (1) Is Government of India aware that there is a great discontent and dissatisfaction owing to the ill-treatment of the Income-tax Department with Assesseees in the Punjab?

(2) Is the Government of India aware that some questions, in connection with the aforesaid treatment of the income-tax Department were submitted in the Punjab Provincial Council by a certain Member of that Council and were not allowed to be asked, because the income-tax was a Central subject?

(3) Is Government of India aware that in the Punjab, in some cases the income-tax returns duly verified and signed by the assesseees were wrongly disbelieved and assesseees were unduly put to hardship?

(4) Is Government of India aware that in the Punjab in some cases, the income-tax assessors summon a large number of busy and respectable assesseees on a certain day for the examination of their accounts and they or their Munims have, in some cases, to come again and again and in some cases they are unduly detained and put to a great hardship?

(5) Is Government of India aware that, in the Punjab, there were a number of complaints, against certain income-tax assessors and officers, to the Local Government?

(6) If answer to question No. 5 be in affirmative, will the Government of India be pleased to state as to what action was taken on those complaints?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The replies to parts (1), (3) and (4) are in the negative, and the reply to part (2) is in the affirmative.

(5) and (6). One complaint against an income-tax assessment from a firm in Amritsar was received by the Punjab Government and forwarded to the Government of India. The Board of Inland Revenue have asked the complainant to address the Commissioner of Income-tax in the Punjab in the first instance.

RECRUITMENT OF TELEGRAPH SIGNALLERS.

625. *Dr. Nand Lal: Will Government be pleased to say:

- (1) Whether recruitment of signallers to the Indian Telegraph Department has been entirely stopped, if so, when?
- (2) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to say whether it is a fact that Eurasian boys of the 4th and 5th Standards from the Lovedale School at Ooty are still regularly recruited annually without any entrance examination?
- (3) Are Government aware that there is an intense feeling among the Indian community on account of the frequent transfers of signallers from one corner of India to another, say from Madras to Lahore, Karachi to Calcutta, Lahore to Rangoon and so forth? If so, will Government be pleased to state the object of such frequent transfers causing extreme inconvenience to the transferees and financial loss to the tax-payer consequent on the payment of heavy travelling allowances?
- (4) Is it a fact that in recruiting men for the General Scale, Eurasian and Anglo-Indian boys who have not studied even up to the 4th or 5th standard are freely admitted, while in the case of Indians, the minimum educational qualification insisted upon is the B. A. degree before they are selected for the General scale, and even then there is a considerable disparity in the salaries and allowances paid to the two classes of employees?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank: (1) and (2). No. The recruitment in departmental training classes only, with the exception of certain vacancies already promised, has been stopped since the 22nd August, 1922. The telegraph training classes attached to approved educational institutions are still open.

(3) Government are not aware of the existence of any such feeling. Transfers are ordered in the interests of the public service and considerations of economy are not ignored. One of the conditions of the General Service for the signalling staff, which enjoys a higher rate of pay, is liability for transfer anywhere in India or Burma. Signallers who object to this condition may join the local or station service.

(4) The reply is in the negative. In April, 1920, 12 vacancies for probationers for the General Service were offered, as a temporary measure, to Indian graduates; whereas Anglo-Indians, who were recruited at the same time for vacancies in the same service were of lower educational qualifications, but none of them had passed anything less than the 7th standard. It is not the case that this differentiation in educational qualifications has been a regular practice.

Mr. S. O. Shahani: Will Government be pleased to state if, specially for Sind, they will be prepared to recruit for the Indian Telegraph Department annually students from the only first grade College in Sind—the D. J. Sind College—with or without an entrance test?

Mr. H. A. Sams: I shall be glad to consider the question.

Mr. S. C. Shahani: Are Government prepared to state that hereafter in the Indian Telegraph Department transfers from one corner of India to another will be discouraged?

Mr. H. A. Sams: These transfers are never made without necessity.

INDIAN TROOPS IN IRAQ, PALESTINE, ETC.

626. ***Mr. W. M. Hussanally:** (a) What Indian troops are at present serving in Iraq, Palestine, the Persian Gulf or the Persian Frontier?

(b) How long have they been so employed?

(c) When is it proposed to return them to India?

(d) What is the nature of their employment?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) It would not be in the public interest to give the information asked for regarding the troops serving in Iraq and Palestine. There are one battalion and two companies of infantry serving in the Persian Gulf and on the Persian frontier respectively.

(b) There have been changes of composition from time to time in accordance with the ordinary system of reliefs and from other causes. Subject to this qualification, Indian troops have been employed in the localities referred to since the war.

(c) There is no immediate intention of withdrawing the troops employed in the Persian Gulf and on the Persian frontier. It would not be in the public interest to give the information asked for so far as the troops employed in Iraq and Palestine are concerned.

(d) The employment of troops in Iraq and Palestine is in pursuance of the Resolution adopted by this House on the 28th March, 1921. The troops in the Persian Gulf and on the Persian frontier are employed for the protection of British and Indian interests on the Persian Gulf littoral and in Western Baluchistan.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Will Government say what prospect or advantage there is for India in sending out troops to Iraq, Palestine, Persian Gulf and the Persian frontier?

Dr. H. S. Gour: Before that question is answered, Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member to say as to who pays for these troops?

Mr. E. Burdon: The troops in Iraq and Palestine are paid for entirely by His Majesty's Government. The Persian Gulf charges are divisible, as my Honourable friend can see from the Army Estimates, between His Majesty's Government and Indian revenues.

Mr. T. V Seshagiri Ayyar: Does it include the transport charges from India to these places? Is it paid by India or by England?

Mr. E. Burdon: As far as Iraq and Palestine are concerned, every item of extra expenditure is borne by His Majesty's Government, including pensions and including mustering out charges and disbanding charges when the troops are returned.

Mr. K. Ahmed: May I repeat my question, therefore, Sir? What prospect India has or what advantage do we get by sending out Indian troops to the Frontier of Iraq and Palestine and Persian Gulf and the Persian Frontier? Is there any prospect of getting anything by spending so much from the revenue of India?

Mr. President: The question of advantage is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. Ahmed: No, Sir; it is a matter of settled fact that we must pay. I want to know if there is a prospect of getting any advantage out of it; otherwise what is the use of sending our army to those places?

Mr. E. Burdon: I have already explained, Sir, that the troops in Iraq and Palestine are employed there in pursuance of a Resolution adopted by this Assembly.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Was it not, Sir, the Resolution of this Assembly that by service overseas these troops acquire a wider experience of actual warfare which strengthens the Indian Army?

Mr. E. Burdon: My Honourable friend is correct; that is one of the reasons.

RETAIL SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

627. ***Mr. W. M. Hussanally:** (1) When was the system of the departmental retail sale of postage stamps introduced in supersession of the system of selling them on commission to stamp vendors?

(2) What were the reasons for the change and what are the advantages of the departmental sale?

(3) (a) What is the total cost to the post office per year of selling stamps departmentally to the public?

(b) What would be the cost if the old system of sale on commission were reverted to?

(4) (a) Is it a fact that at the time of the introduction of the present system the public strongly protested against the change in the press?

(b) Were any protests received by the Government; if so, from whom?

(5) (a) Are Government aware that the public are put to great inconvenience in purchasing stamps from the Post Office?

(b) Are Government aware that on the Post Office holidays and Sundays no stamps are sold and the inconvenience is greater?

(c) Is it a fact that this inconvenience leads to loss of revenue?

(6) (a) Do Government propose to arrange that stamps be sold to the public at every post office on holidays and Sundays?

(b) If not, do they propose to revert to the old practice of sale to stamp vendors on commission?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crockshank: (1) 1st April, 1907.

(2) Prior to the 1st April, 1907, there were two classes of postage stamp vendors, namely, postmaster, and licensed vendors. So far as postmasters were concerned, it was as much their duty to sell postage stamps as to perform any other postal work, and there was no reason why they should be given special remuneration for doing this duty. It was considered that if the discount was to be withdrawn from post office officials, it could not be allowed to licensed vendors. With the large and rapidly increasing number of post offices, not only in towns but in rural tracts as well, and with postmen and village postmen selling postage stamps at the doors of the public

everywhere, there was little need for any person to have recourse to a licensed vendor in order to obtain postage stamps. In the circumstances, it was considered that no inconvenience to the public would be occasioned by the withdrawal of the discount allowed on these stamps, nor would the sale of postage stamps be checked in any way.

(3) (a). It is regretted that the required information is not available.

(b) About 10 lakhs.

(4) (a). No such protest is on record.

(b) Yes; from the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau.

(5) (a). No.

(b) Government are aware that on Post Office holidays and Sundays no stamps are sold by the Post Office except at certain important towns; but they do not consider that this causes any real inconvenience. The public, knowing that the Post Office is closed, presumably provide themselves with stamps beforehand.

(c) Government do not consider that any loss of revenue is involved.

(6) (a). No.

(b) No, the old system cannot be reverted to for financial and administrative reasons.

Mr. S. C. Shahani: Are Government aware that the public would be put to great inconvenience if they have to purchase stamps only from the stamp vendors?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Sir, I do not think the public are put to any inconvenience at all. This question of Mr. Hussanally has been brought up after the lapse of nearly 18 years. Since then it has not been found that the public has suffered any inconvenience whatsoever from the introduction of the new system in 1907.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Is the Honourable Member aware that stamps are sold by grocers and public-house keepers in England?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Yes, I am aware that this is the case so far as grocers are concerned; about public-houses I do not know. As far as I know grocers do not get any fee for doing so; they do it to suit their customers.

Mr. S. C. Shahani: Will Government be pleased to state if they will think it suitable to combine the two practices, the old practice of sales to stamp vendors on commission and the new practice of the departmental sales of postage stamps?

Mr. H. A. Sams: No, Sir, I do not think it will be any convenience to the public.

COTTON COMMITTEE.

628. ***Mr. J. N. Basu:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is intended to appoint a representative of cotton-growers in Burma, on the Committee to be formed under clause (4) of the Bill for the creation of a fund for improvement and development of cotton-growing in India, passed on 24th February, 1923, in the Assembly?

Mr. J. Hullah: The Committee provided in the Bill which has now become an Act is a large one and the Government of India do not at present propose to add to its membership. The Act provides that a representative of the Department of Agriculture in Burma shall be a Member.

COMMISSIONERS OF FEUDATORY STATES.

629. ***Babu Braja Sundar Dass:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there have been two Commissioners and Superintendents of Feudatory States in the Geographical Orissa Division in the place of one?

(b) Was the appointment sanctioned by the Government of India?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Formerly the Commissioner of a neighbouring division of Bihar and Orissa held political charge of the Orissa Feudatory States assisted by a Political Agent and an Assistant Political Agent. Since the 1st April, 1922, the Commissioner has ceased to carry out any political duties, the status of the Political Agent has been raised and he is styled Political Agent and Commissioner, Orissa Feudatory States.

(b) The appointment was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India.

POLITICAL AGENT OF FEUDATORY STATES, ORISSA.

630. ***Babu Braja Sundar Dass:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Political Agent of the Feudatory States of Orissa is a public servant of the British Government paid by the Government of Bihar and Orissa or by the Government of India?

(b) Are the Members of the Indian and Provincial Legislatures competent to ask questions regarding his actions in his official capacity?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) He is a Government servant paid by the Government of India.

(b) Attention is invited to rule 8 (1) (ii) of the Indian Legislative Rules.

DESIGNATION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS " LOWER HOUSE."

631. ***Lala Girdharilal Agarwala:** Have the Government decided to style the Legislative Assembly as the ' Lower House ' officially? If not, do the Government propose to delete the words ' Lower House ' printed in the Council of State Debates for Legislative Assembly (*Vide* Volume 3, No. 28, page 969 of the Council of State Debates)?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith: The answer to both parts of the Honourable Member's question is in the negative.

Mr. S. C. Shahani: Is the so-called Lower House constitutionally the Upper House in the control of the public purse?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith: That is a matter of opinion.

Maulvi Abul Kasem: Sir, with your permission I would ask a question of which I have given private notice to the Honourable the Home Member?

Mr. President: I thought the Honourable Member was going to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. S. C. Shahani: Is the so-called Upper House constitutionally competent to revise the decisions of the Lower House relating to the public purse?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith: That also, Sir, is a matter of opinion.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Sir, is it a matter of opinion, or is it part of the constitution?

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is red distinguished from black in the opinion of the Government of India?

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Sir Montagu Webb: Sir, I desire your permission to ask the Honourable the Finance Member a question of which I have given him private notice. Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the present amount of the Gold Standard Reserve, and
- (ii) what portion of this amount is made up of interest as distinct from profits on coinage?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (i) The balance of the Gold Standard Reserve on the 31st December, 1922—the latest date up to which detailed figures are available—was £40,142,620.

(ii) The profits on coinage from 1900 onwards amounted to £28,573,606. There was a net profit on investments of £14,801,740. On the other hand, a sum of £1,123,655 was devoted to capital outlays on railways in 1907, and £2,109,071 was devoted to the reduction of created securities in the Paper Currency Reserve in the last two years.

Sir Montagu Webb: Do I understand, Sir, that there is no interest in that amount at all?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Interest is included in the figure of fourteen millions and odd on net profits in these figures.

Sir Montagu Webb: May I ask if the Honourable the Finance Member will take into consideration the expediency of using some portion of the interest of fourteen millions as revenue during the coming year?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: 159 lakhs is included in the estimates of our revenue of the year or rather for the year 1923-24 representing the interest on the forty million in the Gold Standard Reserve.

Mr. B. S. Kamat: What is the rate of interests which the Gold Standard Reserve is earning in England?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: That depends on the money market in England from time to time. The figure for next year is calculated at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. B. S. Kamat: Is it not possible to earn a better rate for all this money there?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The difficulty of course is, if you are going to keep the money so as to be readily available and in a form in which it may be turned into cash at short notice, under the conditions under which the Gold Standard Reserve is invested, it is impossible to earn anything better than the short money rate of interest, which, as the Honourable Member is aware, is not very much above 2 per cent. in London at present.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar: Is it not a fact that last year more than a year's interest was used for the purpose of meeting the deficit?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Last year no part of the interest was used towards meeting the deficit.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar: Was it done at any time before?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Budget for 1923-24 is the first Budget in which any credit to revenue is taken for interest on Gold Standard Reserve.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Is not the rate of interest for short term loans in India higher than the corresponding rate in England?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Certainly it is. If the Honourable Member's point is that it would be desirable if we could earn the short money rate in India rather than in England, it is obviously a higher one, but then the Gold Standard would cease to be a support for exchange.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Is it necessary to keep the full amount on short terms? Won't it be possible to keep part of it as long term and another part as short term?

Dr. H. S. Gour: Before that question is answered, I should like to ask, if it is not possible to transfer a portion of the Gold Standard Reserve in India and utilise it here at better rates of interest, so that it may serve the same purpose?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The transfer of the Gold Standard Reserve from England to India would have a very serious effect on Exchange unless it were brought here in the form of gold bullion. In that case it would earn no interest whatever.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: You have not answered my question.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: With regard to Mr. Rangachariar's question, the question of the best use of the Gold Standard Reserve is intimately bound up with the question of the future of our exchange policy. I think it is possible that when the question of our exchange policy has been gone into a little further, it might be found that something better than 2½ per cent. could be earned on some part of the Gold Standard Reserve.

Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary: Can the Government give us any idea as to what has been the longest period of these short loans?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I think the rule is that no investment must be made out of the funds of the Gold Standard Reserve, the maturity of which is more than a year ahead.

Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary: And that is the shortest period of the loan?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Yes.

Sir Montagu Webb: If the Honourable Member is going to utilise over a crore and a half of interest for revenue during the forthcoming year, is there any reason, in principle, why the interest of the current year should not be similarly used?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The interest during the current year has already been devoted to writing down all created securities, and so it is no longer available.

OLD MOSQUES IN AND AROUND DELHI.

Maulvi Abul Kasem: Sir, I asked a question of which I gave private notice to the Honourable the Home Member. Will the Government be pleased to state if they have taken any steps to repair the old mosques in and around Delhi, if so, how much have they spent on the mosques which they have repaired and are they open to Moslem public?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I am very glad, Sir, to be able to give this information, because I think that from a number of questions which we have received on the subject an attempt has been made to create an impression that we are devoting our energies in the neighbourhood of Delhi demolishing mosques and tombs. Now we have on the contrary spent a great deal of money in the conservation and repair of Muhammadan mosques and tombs, of historic and archæological interest, and I think perhaps the House will bear with me if I give some full details of it. In the twelve years 1911 to 1922-23, we spent:

	Rs.
On the Kutab mosques and grounds	1,33,075
On repairs to the Kadam Shariff in 1921-23	6,559
On the Khirki Mosque in 1911 to 1923	6,555
On Sher Shah's Mosque in Purana Killa in 1912-22	4,154
On the Jama Masjid in Ferozshah Kotla in 1914-22	3,019
On the Wazirabad Mosque in 1913-16	2,753
On Moth ki Masjid in 1911-13	1,720
On Shah Abdul Nabi's Mosque on the Delhi Muttra Road in 1917-18	978
On the Chauburj Mosque on the Ridge in 1913-23	804

We have spent minor sums on the Begampuri Mosque, the Mahrauli wall mosque, Jhunan Shah's mosque at Nizamuddin, the Maulana Jamali Kamali tomb and mosque, and Shah Alam's mosque amounting in all to Rs. 1,550. This gives a total expenditure on special works on mosques in the twelve years of Rs. 1,65,877. This does not include the annual recurring repairs which cannot be separated from the total Public Works Department expenditure on repairs.

In addition to this, Sir, we were instrumental in obtaining from His Exalted Highness the Nizam a sum of Rs. 11,000 for expenditure on the Nizamuddin buildings. Then let me take tombs.

	Rs.
On Humayan's tomb in 1911-12 to 1922-23	60,413
Ghayazuddin Tughlak's Tomb in 1913-23	5,501
Safdar Jang's Tomb in 1914-15 and 1921-22	3,578
Nizamuddin's Tomb in 1912 to 1920	3,316
Darya Khan's Tomb in 1913-20	2,174
Sikander Lodi's Tomb in 1912 to 1916	1,753
Isa Khan's Tomb in 1911 to 1915	1,535
Adham Khan's Tomb in 1918-19	1,526

Smaller sums spent on Razya Begum's tomb, the Pir Ghaib, and Farid Murtaza Khan's tomb amounted to Rs. 631. Including an expenditure of Rs. 1,17,651 in the nine years 1914-15 to 1922-23 on the maintenance of the gardens attached to the Humayun, Isa Khan and Safdar Jang tombs, the total expenditure comes to Rs. 1,98,129. As in the case of the mosques this does not include the ordinary annual repairs expenditure. We have, I may add, been in the receipt of comments based on the belief that we had spent considerable sums of money on Hindu temples and Sikh shrines and had spent nothing on Muhammadan monuments and mosques. But this is incorrect; we have spent nothing on the former objects in the New Delhi area. We are, it is true, repairing the wall round the Rikabgunj Quidwara, but that is part of the ordinary lay out of the New City.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Has Government spent nothing on Hindu temples, or Sikh shrines or Jain temples?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: No, Sir. We have spent a certain amount of money on the gardens round two of the Sikh shrines in the new City, but on the shrines themselves we have I think spent nothing.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Why is this, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Mainly because, Sir, they have not the same archæological interest and the Sikh shrines did not ask for assistance. Our motives were to preserve monuments of archæological and historical interest. I have quoted the above facts simply to refute the statement that we have shown no care to preserve Muhammadan tombs or mosques.

Maulvi Abul Kasem: Sir, may I ask, in connection with all these mosques and tombs which are now under the control of Government and which the Government is not repairing or putting under repair, are they prepared to hand them over to the Muhammadans if they ask for it?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I assume that the Honourable Member refers to buildings within the new City area. He suggests that the proper course is for us to hand these over to the Muhammadan community. Now, I might say in the first place as a general rule there is no body or authority to whom these could be handed over. They are our property and I consider that our obligations towards them end when we see that those buildings which have historical or archæological interest or which are required for present religious use are not allowed to fall into further decay.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally: Sir, is it a fact that any of the smaller mosques in or round about Pahargunge or within the new Imperial Delhi City have been demolished by Government after they began building the new City?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I have given all the information I can to the House in regard to the charges that have been levelled against us for demolishing these mosques. I believe that it is the case—it happened indeed in my own time—that a mosque to which some local importance was attached, although it was a very small one, was demolished, but we rebuilt it. The charge of demolishing mosques has been denied by the local authorities, and, as one inquiry after another comes up as to whether such and such mosques have been demolished, I invariably make further inquiries and give an answer on the subject. I think I may say that to my knowledge at all events, with the single exception that I have now given, no mosque has been demolished.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally: Is it a fact that recently, within the last few days, a compound wall of a small mosque in Asoka Road was demolished by the Public Works Department?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: If the Honourable Member will furnish me with further details on the subject, I will make further inquiry into the matter.

Mr. W. M. Hussanally: Would it be possible to appoint a small local committee for the purpose of investigating these complaints and settling the question of mosques within the new Imperial Delhi City area?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I understand, Sir, that certain Members of this House have already approached the local administration on the subject. I need not point out that we have in Delhi a Chief Commissioner with the powers of a Local Government, and that suggestions of this nature should be made in the first instance to him. I believe, however, I am correct in saying that the answer given by the Chief Commissioner was that he was quite prepared to have a local committee's advice on the subject of these various buildings.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Did you not, Sir, within the four walls of this House give an undertaking and promised since the 15th of January last that inquiries would be made and efforts would be given to them? What has happened about the circular handed over to you, Sir . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member handed me no circular.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Well, Sir, the circular was handed to me and it was handed to me, as Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din picturesquely said, within the four corners of this House. I have already replied to at least three of the points that were raised in that circular. If Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din's recollection is good, he will remember that he referred in that circular to two mosques in the Lady Hardinge College grounds, one at No. 27, Asoka Road. I have already given answer to these points. There were three or perhaps four other points mentioned, about which I have made inquiries and have not yet received the answers. As soon as I have done so, I shall place the answers at the disposal of the House. The mosques had existed for some centuries before we came here. They had for the most part fallen into disrepair some generations before this House assembled, and, if the Honourable Member has to wait another day or two before I am able to place the information in his hand, I hope he will not be impatient. But, Sir, I may also add that, as regards part of circular, I can give no answer to the Honourable Member, for it contains general allegations and appeals to Muhammadans on the subject which do not in my opinion require an answer. All I can promise to do is to take up any point in which any definite statement is made and give the best information in my power to the Honourable Member.

Mr. K. Ahmed: I take it, Sir, that Government is afraid to come forward and meet these points that are in the circular and only on a few points they will answer questions here.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: No, Sir, where definite questions are put to me by Honourable Members, Government, so far from being afraid to take up the question, are fully prepared to take up the matter both in its own interests and those of the Muhammadan community. All

I said was that I was not prepared to enter, in reply to questions or otherwise, into general allegation that all the mosques in the neighbourhood of Delhi were being demolished, because I have already proved to the House that such allegations are false.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: Sir, are not the ruins of Hindu temples at Brindaban, Muttra, of archaeological and historical interest. and will the Honourable the Home Member

Mr. President: The original question referred to Delhi. I understand the Honourable Member is now referring to Muttra.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Sir, I may add, as it is a corollary to questions that I was asked from the other side just now, that the reason for our spending so much on Muhammadan monuments in the neighbourhood of Delhi is, of course, that the history of Delhi is mainly a Muhammadan history,—(*Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar*: “Why not Hindu also”?) and that, although Delhi may have by tradition great connection with the Hindu Delhi of mythology (*Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar*: “Three generations”) and has an historical connection with the era which considerably preceded the Muhammadan conquests, yet there are no noteworthy remains of those periods; at all events such Hindu temples as we have in the particular area to which I am referring, namely, the New Delhi area, are not of any historical or archaeological importance.

Mr. S. O. Shahani: Are Government aware that the public will be against the Government handing over to the care of any groups of people bulidings of historical and archæological interests?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I am of opinion myself that we are better guardians of such buildings than anybody else.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: What has been done with regard to Hindu Rao Koti?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Hindu Rao Koti is a hospital.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: Is it not a Mahratta building?

Mr. President: Order, order.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RAILWAY SLEEPERS.

252. **Dr. H. S. Gour:** (1) With reference to the reply given by Government, to my question on the difference in price between the sleepers tendered for, on the 9th instant, will the Government be pleased to state the difference in price between the sleepers tendered for and the *jarrah* sleepers ordered by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(2) What was the total amount spent upon the *jarrah* sleepers?

(3) (a) What is the life of a *jarrah* sleeper compared with the *deodar* sleeper?

(b) Is it a fact that *jarrah* sleepers are more perishable than *deodar* sleepers?

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley: (1) The price of a deodar sleeper delivered in the locality where these sleepers are required would be about Rs. 9-12-0 including freight, whereas the jarrah sleepers will cost about Rs. 8-14-0 each.

(2) A contract has been made for the supply of 1,00,000 jarrah sleepers at Rs. 8-12-3 each.

(3) (a) and (b). The life of a sleeper depends on the local conditions, such as climate, soil, etc., and in the very wet locality in which these 1,00,000 sleepers are to be used, the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, states that experience has proved the jarrah sleeper to be more satisfactory than deodar.

TRANSFERS OF POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS.

253. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to statements made in the General letter of the All-India Postal Union, dated the 7th February, 1923, relating to the transfers of Maulvi S. Ahmed and Mr. J. Newton, Superintendents of Post Offices?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Ahmed has been transferred from the Central Provinces to Mymensingh, and Mr. Newton from Dibrugarh to the Central Provinces?

(c) What is the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of these officers on this occasion?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state particulars of transfers of Mr. J. Newton during the last five years, and the reasons for these transfers?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank: (a) No; this matter had reference to an ordinary transfer and would not necessarily have been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) Maulvi S. Ahmed was transferred to Mymensingh, but took leave and asked for a transfer to the United Provinces, which request has already been granted on the occurrence of a vacancy in that Province. Mr. Newton was transferred from Bengal to the Central Circle.

(c) The amount of travelling allowance drawn by Mr. Newton is not known, but he will be entitled to the amount which is ordinarily admissible under the rules. Mr. Ahmed received his order of transfer to the United Provinces while at Delhi from which place he will get the travelling allowance ordinarily admissible when he joins his appointment.

(d) In September, 1919, Mr. Newton was transferred from the Bengal and Assam to the Bihar and Orissa Circle in the interests of the public service. In March, 1922, his re-transfer to the Bengal and Assam Circle was ordered as a result of the abolition of the post of the Reserve Superintendent in Bihar and Orissa. The Reserve Superintendent happened to be a Bihari and it was desirable to retain him in Bihar and transfer another Superintendent. In October last he was ordered to change places with Mr. Ahmed of the Central Circle whose transfer from that Circle was necessary in the interests of the public service.

CANTONMENT MAGISTRATES AS SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATES.

254. Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Government propose to appoint the Cantonment Magistrates as Sub-Divisional Magistrates under the District Magistrates?

DUTIES OF CANTONMENT MAGISTRATES.

255. Mr. Mohammad Yamin Khan: Do the Government propose to give option to the Cantonment Magistrates either to accept Magisterial post under the District Magistrate or executive career as Secretary to the Cantonment Committee?

Mr. E. Burdon: I propose to answer questions Nos. 254 and 255 together. Before this Session ends, Government propose to initiate legislation which, if carried out, will, amongst other things, have the effect of depriving Cantonment Magistrates of their judicial functions. The measures which it may be necessary to adopt in order to safeguard the legitimate interests of existing Cantonment Magistrates, if their conditions of service are affected in the manner which I have indicated, have not yet been finally considered by Government; and Government are accordingly not in a position to make any statement in regard to the suggestions of the Honourable Member.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Secretary of the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary the duty leviable on certain articles under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, and to fix rates of income-tax, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting of the 20th March, 1923, was passed by the Council of State on the 23rd March, 1923, with the amendments indicated in the attached statement. The Council of State request the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the amendments."

The statement of amendments attached is as follows:

"1. In sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the words 'construed as if' the words 'with effect from the first day of March, 1923' were inserted, and for the words 'one rupee and four annas' the words 'two rupees and eight annas' were substituted.

2. At the beginning of sub-clause (2) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following words were inserted, namely:

'With effect from the first day of March, 1923.'

3. Sub-clause (3) of clause 2 of the Bill was omitted.

4. To clause 3 of the Bill the following new sub-clause was added, namely:

'(3) The amendments made in the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, by this section shall have effect from the first day of March, 1923.'

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Home Member): Sir, in pursuance of the rule of practice laid down as No. 137 on page 45 of the Manual of Business and Procedure, I hereby beg to hand you a communication from the Governor General.

Mr. President: The following Message has been received from His Excellency the Viceroy:

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, I, Rufus Daniel, Earl of Reading, do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary the duty leviable on certain articles under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, and to fix rates of income-tax in the form in which it was passed by the Council of State.

(Sd.) **READING,**

Viceroy and Governor General."

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, arising out of that Message, might I draw your attention to section 67B under which this Message has been sent to us? Are we to pass the Bill again, Sir? We have already passed the Bill, Sir. I thought it only remained for us to agree or disagree with the amendments made by the Council of State. I see the recommendation is to pass the Bill. Is there any further procedure of passing the Bill in this House?

Mr. President: A motion will have to be made in relation to the Bill, on the day on which it is set down for consideration, by Government.

RESOLUTION *RE* RAILWAY CONCESSIONS AND REDUCTION IN FARES.

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in all State Railways return tickets for the 1st, 2nd and inter class passengers be issued at a fare and a third during the Puja, Christmas and Easter holidays and fares for the third class passengers be reduced by one-fourth immediately."

Sir, this House is aware that it is a recognised principle of Railway economies that passenger traffic is a great contributor to the total revenues of the Railways and that the passenger traffic consists mainly of third class passengers. The importance of the third class passengers, Sir, is so great in the balancing of the Railway Budget that it has been suggested that the Railways would make a lot more profit by paying a premium to every first and second class passenger to induce him not to travel in order that the accommodation thus rendered available might be occupied more profitably by the third class passengers. In the interest of equality, particularly in these days of rampant democracy, I propose to include in the benefits to be derived by the passing of my Resolution the richer classes as well, because it is not equitable that a man should be penalised for no other reason than that he has more money in his pocket than his fellows. My Resolution, moreover, Sir, is as much in the interests of the Railways themselves as in that of the classes and the masses, for whom the facilities are provided by the Railways. It is well known that increased passenger fares tend to reduce the revenues of Railways from this particular source of income. As a matter of fact, Sir, the principle was so well understood by the authorities that Railway concessions in fares had long been in existence in this country and it was only during the unfortunate years of

the last great war that these long-enjoyed concessions were ended, not because by that measure the Railway authorities hoped to increase their revenues, but because the war conditions made it impossible for them to cope with the large traffic that the concession rates usually promote. Now that the war conditions have ended, I beg to suggest in their own interests that the Railway authorities ought to grant concession rates for all classes of passengers, because thereby not only will they benefit the public but themselves as well.

I need hardly spend more than a few minutes, Sir, upon the social and the commercial sides of the question. People travel, Sir, for a variety of reasons; some for business, some in search of employment, some for pleasure or pastime, some for marriages, some for funeral ceremonies and so on. Besides, there is a large portion of the public that travels either in search of work or in execution of the work they have obtained. Fairs and festivities also draw a large number of people. We have an example of it in the fair held at Meerut close by, at Ajmer, at Bindhachal and other places. The social side of the railway question is as important as any other aspect and it is highly desirable that the concessions which had been long enjoyed by the people of this country should be restored to them. Again, Sir, the educational aspect of the question is a very important one, but it is not necessary for me to lecture to the Honourable Members of this House upon the broadening effects of travel as almost all of them more or less must have at one time or other written their school essay on the subject. It is known everywhere that labour in India is cheaper than in any other country in the world, and in comparison to those countries the Indian labour has got very little asset, very little saving to pay the rate, I mean the increased rate of railway fare in order to travel in this country, considering his income is so small,—it is, I believe, one-sixth, or some say it is less than one-sixth.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member seems to have composed his speech for a different Resolution altogether. I must draw his attention, lest other Members should fall into the error of following him, to the fact that his Resolution is confined to concessions during certain holidays and to the reduction of the 3rd class passenger fares. He must confine his remarks strictly to that.

Mr. K. Ahmed: If you follow me patiently, Sir, you will find that I am not very far away. It touches third class passengers, and I shall deal with the first and second classes along with the third class when I come to give the statistics. So I have a perfect right so far as the Resolution is worded. The language also will not take me far away.

Mr. S. O. Shahani (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders): I beg to rise to a point of order. Are not tickets being issued at concession rates during holidays now?

Mr. K. Ahmed: That is not a point of order. It will be for the Honourable Member to enlighten the House when I have finished if he has got any additional information. In Japan the third class fare is 5 and one-fifth pice for the first 50 miles gradually reduced to 4 pice. Second class is double third class, and first class treble third class. 20 to 50 per cent. of the third class fare is reduced in the case of schools and colleges. 50 passengers or more travelling together get a reduction of from 10 to 60 per cent. 3rd class passengers here render possible a larger profit to the railways than the 1st and 2nd class passengers. I shall give the

[Mr. K. Ahmed.]

statistics later on. In the 1886-87 account of the East Indian Railway we find the receipt from 1st class was 17·17 pice whereas the haulage was 11·77. Therefore at that time there was a profit of 5·40. Of course, now there is no profit. Honourable Members will remember that on the 1st March 1922, the Honourable the Finance Member stated that there was a lot of deficit, several crores. This year also you have heard that there is a large amount of loss of revenue from the railways. I shall bring out that point also later. The income from second class was 21·03 and the cost was 11·77. Therefore there was a profit at that time of 9·26. In the 3rd class we had 56·05 income and haulage was 11·17. Therefore the profit was 44·88. I now come to the statistics relating to the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway. First class income was 13·20 and the haulage was 14·89. Therefore there was a loss of 1·69. With regard to the second class, income was 12·60 and haulage was 14·89, thereby giving a minus balance of 2·29. So, the first and second class did not fetch any income at all. Now, with regard to the third class it was 66·27 against a haulage of 14·89. Therefore there was a substantial profit of 51·38. That is the income from the third class passengers and that is how the railways get their revenue and how the salaries of high officers are paid as lump sum out of the income of the poor third class passengers who are looked down upon as is evident from the debate in the Assembly last year and this year, especially from the speech of Mr. Joshi. Then, I shall come to the Administration Report of the Indian Railways for the year 1921-22, Volume I, page 15. The number of passengers carried (in thousands) of third class was 490,733 and the amount of money that was earned in that year from third class passenger fares was about 28·5 crores of rupees. The Report says:

"In respect of the last year it will be noticed that the numbers of passengers by first, second, and intermediate classes have declined compared with 1920-21, while the third class shows a small increase. In spite of the fall in numbers the earnings from the first two classes have risen, while the yield from the intermediate and third classes has fallen compared with 1920-21. This latter result which is very significant is due to decreased load. Economic factors have in fact forced the third class passengers in India to forego indulgence in long journeys in the same way as has happened elsewhere in the world, and have checked the rapid increase in the numbers travelling which is evidenced in the figures of previous years. Decreased third class travelling is also to some extent attributable to the fact that insufficiency of stock has forced many railway administrations to refuse to make special arrangements for *melās* which in the ordinary course of events attract large numbers of passengers."

Now, Sir, last year in explaining the budget of 1922-23 the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir Malcolm Hailey, said "There can, 12 Noon. I imagine, be no room for diversity of opinion, namely, that the railways must pay their own way. The estimates which I have given already take account of a substantial increase in goods rates

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must address himself to the subject of his own Resolution, which is concessions during certain holidays.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Last year when the Finance Member introduced the Budget he said that he wanted 6 crores of rupees to be raised by increasing railway fares to the extent of 25 per cent. and, Sir, this year on the 1st of March you have heard that in spite of that increase the railways did not get the income which the Finance Member anticipated. That is the reason why I am making this argument, that the way of thinking of the Railway Department and of the Finance Member was no good and that it was futile for him any longer to think that by increasing the rate of fares he will get a higher income.

Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Ismail (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Is a quorum present in the House?

Mr. President: As a quorum has been demanded, the division bell will ring for two minutes.

Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Is it in order for Honourable Members to lure away others as is done?

Mr. President: The quorum is present.

Mr. K. Ahmed: What has been the result of the enhancement of passenger fares. The Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech only on the 1st of March, said that the receipt from passengers has been disappointing and that there has been an appreciable falling off in the passenger traffic.

Mr. President: I have pointed out four times to the Honourable Member that he is not addressing himself to the terms of his Resolution.

Mr. K. Ahmed: I therefore say, Sir, that following the precedent set by some company managed railways that have already introduced the concession rates, for instance the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and other lines, the proposal in my Resolution should be accepted, not merely in the interests of the travelling public but also in the interests of the Indian railways and the financial interests of the Government of India itself because, Sir, the Government of India at the present juncture is in a hopeless financial condition and more revenues will be, in my opinion, very welcome indeed. With these few words, I strongly and emphatically move my Resolution which is:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in all State Railways return tickets for the 1st, 2nd and inter class passengers be issued at a fare and a third during the Puja, Christmas and Easter holidays and fares for the third class passengers be reduced by one-fourth immediately."

I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I am not in a position to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, but so far as I am able to support it, I have set out in my own amendment and I therefore move it:

That the following be substituted for the original Resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure the resumption of return tickets on Railways and the reduction of third class fare for passengers."

The two points involved in my amendment are the resumption of return tickets on railways and the reduction of third class passenger fares. I need not dilate on the first point because I have no reason to doubt that Government will be in a position to give us a reassuring reply. As Honourable Members are aware, return tickets were issued before the war on almost all the railways, but owing to the shortage of the rolling stock the return tickets were discontinued and I understand return tickets have been resumed in several railways, but I think they have not been generally resumed. I happen to know that there is no resumption of return tickets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. All I want is that Government should do what all countries, including England, have done to restore the conditions of normal traffic.

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

As regards my second point, the reduction of third class fares, I think, Sir, I am voicing the general complaint of the public that the third class fare has increased of late to such an extent that it has a marked effect upon traffic of that class. I therefore request Government to see whether third class fares cannot be reduced. With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment to the vote of the House.

Mr. K. Ahmed: I accept the amendment, Sir.

Mr. President: I have some difficulty here. The Honourable Member who moved the Resolution explicitly confined himself to State Railways and the issue of concession tickets; but I am not very certain of the bearing of the last 8 or 10 words of his Resolution. If the Government wishes to reply to the point raised by Dr. Gour I am prepared to overlook the point of order.

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley (Chief Commissioner, Railways): I do not think, Sir, I need take up the time of the House very long over this question. It is purely a practical question, a business question, and we have, as the House is aware, been urged very strongly for the last year or two and again very recently by the Retrenchment Committee to deal with railway business on commercial lines. Now, Sir, the House itself has I think absorbed that idea very rapidly as the result of perusing the Retrenchment Committee's report and Honourable Members of this House have been very insistent upon our carrying out such measures as will ensure the railways earning a profit. It really seems to me very inconsistent that one week some Members of this House wish to reduce working expenses of railways by 4 crores in order to show a profit and in the following week other Members come forward with a proposition which, taken literally, would reduce the revenues of railways by $7\frac{1}{4}$ crores. If the House is looking for commercial management and for a satisfactory return on the capital invested in railways, it cannot expect to get these results by making arbitrary reductions in earnings such as the Mover of this Resolution demands. The matter of making rates for railways is a very complicated and difficult one, but there are certain essential principles which must be observed in fixing rates. In the first place, these rates must be such as to pay for the working cost of carrying the traffic. That is the lower limit. The upper limit should be fixed in such a way as to produce the maximum revenue without causing a shrinkage of traffic. Those are the two limits, and as the House is aware, we leave the actual rates to the local administrations to settle. It is only by judging local conditions and watching the traffic that appropriate rates can be fixed for different kinds of traffic. These remarks apply equally to the question of reducing or otherwise altering third class passenger fares and to the so-called concessions to which the Honourable Mover has referred. Any railway administration which finds that it can increase its revenue by reducing fares, either partially for special occasions or wholly for all third class passengers, will do so at once. There is no question about that. It is purely a matter of business and it is a matter which is being watched most carefully by all Agents. Having regard to the fact that the only scientific way of fixing rates is to fix them with regard to traffic in different parts of the country it is necessary for the Government to confine itself to fixing maxima and minima rates, as the House is well aware; and Government do not interfere in these matters of fixing actual rates. The maximum rate for

third class passengers stood at 3 pies per mile from the year 1887 until it was raised in April, 1917, to 4 pies for mail and fast passengers, the old rate remaining in force for slow trains. And Honourable Members will be aware that practically through the whole of the war years the railways of India were almost alone amongst all the railways in the world in not increasing fares appropriately to meet increased costs. It was only as the result of the two years following the war, when we were faced with enormous increases of wages and materials, that it became absolutely essential to raise the fares again last year. In Great Britain, for instance, the fares were raised early in the war by 50 per cent. and again subsequently raised to a point which brought them up to 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. They have been recently slightly reduced but they still stand somewhere about 50 per cent. over pre-war rates.

With regard to the Honourable Mover's remarks about the falling off in numbers of passengers, the figures for the complete year are not yet available; but Honourable Members have been given the figures for the first 9 months of the year, that is, to the end of December, in the memorandum which was issued with the budget. I think perhaps these were the figures to which the Honourable Mover referred. If Honourable Members will bear with me a moment I will remind them that during the nine months the total number of third class passengers carried fell from 358½ millions in 1921-22 to 357·9 millions in 1922-23, a total reduction of about 650,000 passengers out of 358 millions, or rather less than ·2 per cent. At the same time the increase in earnings was over 2 crores in the 9 months. It will therefore be seen that the increase in fares has brought in increased revenue without any very serious reduction in the number of passengers who travel. During those 9 months the earnings from third class passengers amounted to 22·37 crores, and on the same average it may be expected that the total earnings of the year will amount to 30 crores of rupees from third class passengers. Now, taking the Honourable Mover's Resolution literally, that third class fares should be reduced by one-fourth, during the coming year we should have to expect a drop of 7½ crores in earnings on third class passengers. I do not think, Sir, it is necessary for me to labour that argument any further. It is perfectly obvious that the railways, if they are to be worked at a profit, could not stand a reduction of revenue of that kind.

In regard to the concessions, the question of cheap return tickets at certain holiday and festival times during the year, and the larger question which Dr. Gour has mentioned regarding the resumption of return tickets, this is also a matter of business. They are not concessions doled out to the public for being good. They are purely a matter of business and they are so regarded by every railway administration in the world. They are purely a matter of business and they are so regarded by every Railway Administration in the world. If a Railway can increase its traffic and increase its earnings by offering cheap fares at certain periods of the year or over certain distances or for certain occasions, it will do so; but they cannot be regarded by the public as rights or even as concessions which the railways should hand out as the result of exceptional prosperity or anything of that sort. It is a matter of business. If a railway can earn more traffic and has the carrying capacity to increase its traffic, it will undoubtedly see the business side of it and give these cheaper fares, cheaper rates and cheaper return tickets or concessions of that kind at holiday times. But as every Honourable Member is aware, the railways are not in a position at the present time to cater for a very large increase of traffic. We

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still have to some extent, not perhaps overcrowding but distinctly, crowding—complaints about overcrowding have, I am glad to say, dropped for some time, but there is no question about the practical impossibility of attempting to attract much traffic by offering cheap terms when we cannot carry the traffic which would in that case offer. The amendment which Dr. Gour has proposed, I understand, reads thus: "This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure the resumption of return tickets on railways and the reduction of third class fares for passengers." I do not think, Sir, that I can accept that amendment as it stands, because it requires the Government to take steps to ensure the resumption of return tickets. Now, Sir, as I have pointed out, this is a pure matter of business. Railways are being compelled by public opinion and by their own good sense to work on business lines, and it would be impossible for Government to force an early resumption of return tickets or a reduction of third class fares unless it could be shown that that was a sound business proposition. I would suggest that the following might perhaps take the place of the Honourable Mover's Resolution if this meets the views of the House, and as I believe the House wishes to express an opinion on this subject, I would suggest an amendment in this form:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the effect of the last increase in third class passenger fares be carefully watched, and that Railway Administrations be advised to reduce them if experience shows that they are greater than the traffic can bear."

That, Sir, is the amendment which I propose.

Mr. President: I informed the Assembly before I called upon the Chief Commissioner of Railways, that I was prepared to overlook on this occasion the point of order which would otherwise arise regarding the character of Dr. Gour's amendment which I have not accepted. I should be creating an awkward precedent if on this occasion

Dr. H. S. Gour: It is not objected to by the Government, Sir, and we are prepared to accept the Government amendment in supersession of both the Resolution as well as my amendment

Mr. President: Then some day on a Resolution of much greater importance the Honourable Member will attempt to trip the Chair up with the proceedings of this day. I must treat this merely as an undertaking by Government and not as an amendment,—and then I think I must put the original Resolution to the vote unless of course it is withdrawn.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes: Perhaps the Honourable Mover will withdraw his Resolution on the understanding that we give the assurance which is contained in the draft amendment which has been handed in to you, Sir?

Mr. K. Ahmed: I have not followed the amendment, Sir. I do not know the amendment, Sir.

Mr. President: It is not an amendment, it is an undertaking given by Government.

Mr. K. Ahmed: What is the undertaking, Sir?

Mr. President: The form in which it is given is this :

"That the effect of the last increase in third-class passenger fares be carefully watched, and that Railway Administrations be advised to reduce them if experience shows that they are greater than the traffic can bear."

Mr. K. Ahmed: I accept the amendment. I beg to withdraw.

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

RESOLUTION *RE* STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT FOR SERVICES OUTSIDE INDIA.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam : Rural) : Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name runs as follows :

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that with a view to effect substantial reduction in expenditure under service heads, necessary steps be taken for stopping further recruitment for services, outside India, excepting the employment of Foreign experts on special terms when necessity arises."

This is an important Resolution, Sir, and to adopt the phrase of the Honourable Mr. Innes, if I am honest to myself and to my country, if my candid criticisms may not be agreeable I only request the indulgence of the House that they should be taken in the spirit in which they are offered. A Resolution was moved by the Honourable Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas on this subject on the 11th February, 1922, to this effect :

"That having regard to the Declaration of August 1917 the recruitment for all-India services excepting those of a technical character shall be made as far as possible in India and provide educational facilities for Indians to enter technical services in large numbers."

An amendment was moved and subsequently adopted by the House which ran as follows :

"That inquiries should without delay be inaugurated as to the measures possible to give further effect to the Declaration of August 20, 1917, in the direction of increased recruitment of Indians for the all-India services."

But so far as I am aware, I do not know whether any inquiries were inaugurated; nothing was done to our knowledge. But, my Resolution, Sir, is quasi-economic rather than wholly political. Lord Inchcape's Committee made it abundantly clear that the country cannot afford to spend money on the present scale, and that in spite of post-war new taxation estimated to yield 49 crores annually being enforced, and the tax-paying capacity being limited, substantial retrenchment of expenditure is inevitable. Though grateful to the Committee for what they have said, we must say that theirs is not the last word on the subject. On the eve of their recommendations, the already heavily burdened people are now threatened with additional taxation, especially the poverty-stricken masses. My object is to suggest measures in this Resolution to reduce the heavy burden and emancipate the nation. We have heard their words and empty promises in abundance, which have not availed us much. I propose in my Resolution a drastic change of policy, nothing short of which can satisfy public opinion. The British policy of seeking primarily the advantages of the mother country must be entirely reversed, and the paramount motive of the good of India alone should guide every action of the Government of India. It should seek first, last and only the good of the country, unswerved by any other considerations. Queen Victoria of

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blessed memory, in the memorable words of her Proclamation on assuming the charge of direct rule of our land, said :

"In their prosperity shall be our strength, in their contentment our security and in their gratitude our best reward."

And may God grant to us and those in authority under us, strength to carry out these our wishes for the good of our people. The disability of Indians in the matter of appointments was removed as far back as 1833, and the Government of India were instructed in 1834 to admit Indians to places of trust as freely and as extensively as their individual aptitudes justified. Queen Victoria stated further in her Proclamation that Indians should be freely and impartially admitted to offices in her service. Their Majesties King Edward and King George echoed the same sentiment. After seven decades of these declarations what do we find? We find 13 per cent. of Indians employed in the Indian Civil Service, 5 per cent. in the Police, 14 per cent. in the Forest, 26 per cent. in Agriculture, 38 per cent. in Educational, 38 per cent. in Engineering, 11 per cent. in Medical, and 23 per cent. in Customs. Are we to take it that Indians have been impartially and freely admitted to appointment during all these 70 years? I am aware that this Assembly or even the Government of India has no control over the recruitment of all-India services, unlike the self-governing colonies. Sir William Vincent told us that from 1897 to 1916 recruitment to the Civil Service was 66 Indians out of 960. From 1917 to 1921, it was 59 Indians against 126 Europeans, and in 1921 37 Indians and 38 Europeans. In the Medical Service the proportion was 48 Indians and 112 Europeans before, and after 1917-1921, it was 78 Indians and 43 Europeans. We must be thankful for little mercies. The only point of view that is reasonable according to my humble submission, is that the importation of officials from outside India should be limited to clear cases of necessity. The question is not how many or how few Indians should be employed, but how many it is indispensable to recruit from abroad for want of men in India. If the question is not approached in that spirit, self-government as the goal is mere camouflage and economical administration is impossible. The suggestion that in the Civil Service there should be 33 per cent. of Indians rising by $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. every year till the maximum of 48 per cent. is reached in 10 years, in Education 50 per cent., in the Indian Police 33 per cent., Engineers 75 per cent., State Railways 50 per cent., Telegraphs 50 per cent. and so on is based on wrong and untenable grounds. I do not understand the necessity for recruiting not only to the Indian Civil Service, but also the Indian Medical Service, the Military, Military Finance (I do not know if the figures are to be scanned differently), Education, Police, Public Works, including Railway Engineering, Telegraphs, Agriculture, Forest, Survey, Mines, Mint and Assay. They account for 3,426 officers drawing average pay of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,600, of whom the Indian Civil Service average 1,350. There were only 269 Indians, of whom 69 were promoted from the Provinces by 1913. My suggestion is that the public services of India and all these branches of all-India services should be recruited in the country itself. If the assumed British responsibility for the good Government of India necessarily implies the perpetuation of British officers, then it is high time that we should ask for responsible government, with its concomitant power of control over recruitment. Fixing any proportion for recruitment is postponing the date for conferring self-government indefinitely. This Assembly should definitely pronounce their opinion that when qualified Indians are available, recourse

should not be had to recruitment elsewhere except in India, both on economic and political grounds. The standard of qualifications required should be fixed high for the superior services so as to secure efficient men from all communities without showing undue favour to any one community or another, to the prejudice of others. The salary should be fixed according to the qualifications and demands made of the candidates and the financial resources of the country, and the market value of the services. Naturally experts recruited abroad should be paid higher salaries according to the competitive value. In the military, as was pointed out by Lord Inchcape, since 1913-14 the pay and allowances of British officers alone was increased from Rs. 4½ crores to Rs. 8½ crores. British other ranks from 3·6 crores to 10·39 crores. In Military Works 225 draw 27½ lakhs, and in Civil Services, 2,890 was increased to 3,242 with salaries and allowances 172 lakhs raised to 259 lakhs; clerical establishment from 231 to 533 lakhs; Industrial and Technical, 68,094 from 193 to 402 lakhs; temporary staff 1½ officers draw 16 lakhs. Railway traffic expenses increased from 488 to 964 on account of staff. State Railways employ 425 Europeans and Anglo-Indians drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 1,35,000, and 164 Indians drawing Rs. 40,000. State Railways worked by Companies unfortunately employed 1,143 Europeans drawing Rs. 8,92,000 against 42 Indians drawing Rs. 16,000. I may mention, Sir, when we compare the pre-war wages of our railway officials in India with those of officials employed in Europe, it looks as if we are paying extravagant salaries. Danish State railways paid only Rs. 73 to Rs. 900 per mensem; Swedish railways pay Rs. 63 to Rs. 1,387 per mensem; Norwegian railways pay Rs. 55 to 450 rupees . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. I do not understand how that is in order on this Resolution.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: I may mention, Sir, that the Government of India has complete control over the appointments made on State railways, whether managed by the State or by Companies, because all appointments have to be confirmed by the Government of India, and therefore I believe I am in order.

Mr. President: Questions of pay do not arise here. The Honourable Member is moving a Resolution to stop recruitment outside India for services under the control of Government, except in cases where experts are required. He must address himself to the substance of the question, which is the stoppage of recruitment in England.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Most of these railway employees are imported from abroad

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley (Home Member): Might I further make a request? I think we might know exactly what case we have to argue. Is the Honourable Member referring only to the civil service or the military services? As he proceeded to quote a large number of facts about military services, he has left a doubt in my mind as to the exact proposition I have to answer.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: I am referring to all services under the control of the Government of India, where they have to employ men, and whether Indians or from abroad. If they have no control over them, I have no business to bring it to the notice of this Assembly at this stage.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: Then may I inquire whether the Honourable Member wishes to argue the case of the Indian Army also?

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: I am mentioning all officers that are imported with reference to whom the Government of India or the Secretary of State has control, because I want steps taken by the Government of India in order to see that further recruitment from abroad for the services is stopped.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I cannot demand that the Honourable Member should tell me what points he intends to raise. I merely ask as a matter of courtesy if he would inform me whether his proposition includes Indian Army officers or only others. I do not see that there would be any difficulty in mentioning it.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: I was not able to catch the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey. I was only mentioning those services which have been employed by the Government of India. If the Army officers are to be placed on a different footing, I do not mind leaving them aside. I am only mentioning those matters in which the Government of India can join with us in asking the Secretary of State or the British Parliament to stop recruitment in England. Therefore, for the convenience of the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey, I will not refer to military officers. I will only refer to those branches of the service which are employed in India under the control of the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The Civil Services?

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Yes. I may mention, Sir, that the Railway Board in their Administration Report for 1921-22 state that in the superior posts the number of Indians was increased from 85 in 1916 to 212 in 1922. The Railways employ a staff of 6,858 Europeans, 11,831 Anglo-Indians and 735,789 Indians, in lower grades where others are not available for those salaries. The Railway Board states that no definite arrangements have so far been attempted to meet the needs of indigenous Railway recruitment. Both the Public Services Commission and the Industrial Commission recommended that there should be secured for all normal requirements properly trained Indians and that every educational facility should be offered. Why was this neglected? Is it because they think that the country need not provide such services? I am rather doubtful why the Honourable Mr. Hindley should state on the floor of this House, when he was asked about it, that the Government policy is not to interfere. I may mention that State Railways, although they are managed by Companies, are subject to the controlling authority of Government and State Railways are the property of Government, and all appointments made by the railways are subject to the confirmation of the Government of India. As long ago as 1879 the Secretary of State impressed on the Government of India the expediency of employing Indians in posts of importance. I might quote the authority of Mr. T. W. Tutwiller, the General Manager of the Tata Iron and Steel Works, who states that "Indians are very intelligent and quick to learn, more amenable to discipline than the foreigner, less costly, and work has not suffered either in quantity or quality." If we say there were difficulties in technical branches. I ask, was there any difficulty in administrative branches? Mr. Houlcroft, late Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, expressed the same view. The Industrial Commission were forcibly struck, when visiting large Railway workshops throughout India, with the complete absence of Indians from the ranks of foremen and chargemen. What was the policy underlying the Government neglecting to secure recognition of the claims of Indians and thus economising expenditure, if they

had not adopted a step-motherly attitude? Sir Michael Sadler, than whom we cannot find a greater friend of India, and for whom the Government also has some respect, stated before the Students' Committee of Lord Lytton, with special reference to educational policy, "the bold road towards the recognition of Indian independence is the safest one which the British nation can follow in its relation with India. Under present conditions it seems more likely that this road will lead to voluntary and close alliance than to disruption. Frank acceptance of this aim would remove all animosities." He urges, therefore, that in education and therefore in what our educational ideas pre-suppose, we should be prepared to give India, if she deliberately asks for it, what we consider best for ourselves. It is proposed in my Resolution that recruiting should generally be confined to India. This does not at all mean that the privileges and rights which the persons already appointed possess have to be disturbed. Mr. Fisher admitted that this, the poorest country, has the costliest administration. The Honourable Mr. Reddi has pointed out in his budget speech of 1922 that Lord Hardinge has admitted that the Government is under an obligation to give the greatest service for the lowest possible cost. He quoted the comparative figures to show the extravagant salaries paid in India. The Prime Minister of Canada does not get more than Rs. 3,000 per mensem; other heads of departments, Ministers, Rs. 1,750 per mensem; Deputy Ministers Rs. 760 to Rs. 1,500 per mensem. In Australia the Prime Minister gets Rs. 2,625 per mensem, Ministers Rs. 2,062, Secretaries Rs. 875 to Rs. 1,875 per mensem. In New Zealand similar salaries are paid to these officials. I will not weary you with other figures, but I would ask the Honourable the Home Member to compare the salaries paid in India with the salaries paid in other parts of the world, by richer countries, by countries where there is no deficit year after year, either pre-war or post-war. In those countries I may mention for the information of the Honourable the Home Member, who already is aware of it, that the wages of unskilled labourers range from Rs. 5 to 10 a day, while our labourers get four annas to twelve annas on the average. Such being the difference between one country and another, should we be prepared to pay higher salaries, and it is plain that even these higher salaries are not enough to secure proper recruitment in other countries. Why should you not utilise indigenous talent? You may say efficiency would suffer but I doubt whether the Ministers in the Provinces and the Executive Members here are unable to discharge their duties efficiently. Is it not nobler for individuals as well as for nations to struggle towards excellence with its natural force and vitality however imperfectly than to work efficiently under expert guidance from without in all matters? Do you think artificial limbs better than natural ones? We call a people free when they have some voice in the Government, and in the appointment of recruits for the services. When India was rich, Sir, we found nation after nation came here to secure those riches by one means or another, and when India is so poor we find people are coming here from one colony or another to exploit cheap Indian labour. Should we continue this sort of administration which would bring poverty to such a pitch as to compel us to send our countrymen for a pittance of 6 annas or 8 annas a day to other lands than our own? Is my suggestion at all a really strange one? Has not the Government of India itself issued a circular called the 'O'Donnell Circular' postulating the possibility of stopping further recruitment abroad? Even if it is stopped from now, it will take 25 years more to complete Indianisation of the services. More pertinent, is it not a fact that you are afraid to part with administration on account of British Service and trade interests?

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If we want the British character of the administration, does it mean uprightness, just treatment and progressive amelioration of the people and has Britain the monopoly of all rare virtues?

Don't you think that if Indians have the controlling voice India would be better in more respects than one because they can enter into the feelings and spirit of the people and understand their difficulties better than is being done now? We are always told that the country is so prosperous. Is it not a fact, Sir, that if you dive deep enough into the matter, you see that there is only a thin crust of prosperity above ground covering immense layers of squalor, misery and suffering? Have you ever passed through any village in any province and noticed if they have got decent homes or clothing or even sufficient food? Are you afraid of Lord Sydenham's attack on that O'Donnell Circular, characterised by him as which I think is quite absurd, as lacking in statesmanship and discretion on the part of the Government of India in offering to employ Indians for the Indian services? Are we not grateful to the Government of India for issuing that circular? When we heard of that circular we eagerly waited to see the phase of pressing reforms to the issue of self-governing India. We have also heard of Indianisation of the Indian Army instead of the miserly concession of gradually Indiansing eight units to be completed in 26 years. It is a pity that in Parliament some gentlemen should have objected to Englishmen serving under an Indian. Is it such a strange thing? Persons who are prepared to eat the salt of India, are they not prepared to serve under Indians, and are they not doing it now? Why should there be this racial claim of superiority? We were told Lord Reading—to his lasting glory it must be said—went a step further and sent a despatch setting up a gradual scheme of appointment of Indian officers to mature in 30 years. This was published in the papers, which also reported that the Cabinet had considered and rejected it. Is it not a serious denial of the spirit of the Reforms? Sir William Vincent said very truly that without an Indian Army the Indians cannot have self-Government. Then when are we going to get self-Government if you do not do one thing or the other? When are we to expect the transfer of ultimate authority from the British Parliament to an Indian Legislature, and from the British electorate to an Indian electorate? Are we to pass our days under the certificated system of Government even with regard to the services? The Secretary of State sanctions scales of pay and allowances and appoints men as he pleases and the amount wanted will be put as non-votable items and we have to sit here wringing our hands. Is it not necessary for us, as Captain Sassoon boldly pointed out, that we should serve our country better outside than inside the Legislature and to be sure, as Mr. Lloyd George seemed to be sure, that the position of the Indian Civil Service will in future remain unchanged and their decreasing number will still remain the still frame of the whole structure of Indian Government? If the policy announced is carried out, it will spell disaster both to England and India. Are Indians so dead to all the feelings of liberty as voluntarily to submit to be slaves for ever? I do not believe that our quondam trustees, the British Parliament and the British electorate, are so neglectful of their duty as to believe that the beneficiaries, Indians, can so easily be duped to lose their birth-right as British citizens. But we must tell our justice loving Viceroy that we prefer liberty before the easy yoke of servile pomp. When the birth-right of British citizenship is denied to us, no station, no rank, no authority, no power can safely disregard the

unmistakable declarations that have been made from time to time that we should be masters in our own homes. When we are claiming this privilege for ourselves, we are claiming it for the Government of India who have no control at all in the matter of recruitment. May I invite your attention, Sir, for a moment to the Civil Service in the Colonies? An English Civil Servant employed in a colony holds his post there at pleasure, but by practice he holds it during good behaviour. There would be a Civil Service Commission (unlike our Staff Selection Board) to hold examinations and decide the fitness of candidates for the posts. They are also to give certificates for increases of salary, for promotion and improvement of status. For instance, Canadian Civil Service Legislation includes no provision for pensioning officers but provides a superannuation fund based on contribution of 3 per cent. on the officer's salary and grant from Government. Unlike the Imperial Service it has not the compensation of a pension at its close and is not redeemed by social consideration and marks of Royal favour. In the colonies, civil servants are servants, not masters as in India. They are a comparatively poorly paid service as the salary does not exceed the wage of unskilled labourers by more than five or six times. I may mention, Sir, that the Inchcape Committee say that the number in military service was increased by 3 per cent. and in civil services by 9.9 per cent. while the increase in pay and allowances is 101.3 per cent. from 20 crores to 40 crores. But the Committee point out that in 1920 when the cost of living was at its highest the rate of pay was increased by about 100 per cent. without any stipulation as in England to reduce the pay when the cost of living came down. They also speak of the reduction of travelling allowances.

Leaving alone all those cases of those who are already employed, may I not appeal to the Government of India, that they should strengthen the hands of the Assembly by carrying out our wishes that in order to reduce our expenditure it is far better wherever possible and wherever available qualified Indians should be employed in India, and only in extreme cases we must go to other places. By experts I mean persons who have specialised in any branch of knowledge. How is this necessary in India when no colony has suffered by not employing men from abroad? In America none other than an American will be employed permanently in their service and in colonies only persons born in that colony are employed. Only in exceptional cases, which are very few, others are employed. Is it because the Government do not find sufficient Indian talent or capacity to run this administrative machinery? Therefore, I earnestly appeal to the House that in order to secure contentment and happiness and to reduce the unnecessary expenditure and abolish deficits and the consequent necessity of taxing the poor, I appeal once more to recruit in India before I sit down. This is the first step in the direction of granting self-Government and if you do not take this step, I am afraid that by fixing any proportion you are postponing the grant of self-Government indefinitely, which the country cannot brook for any longer time. Therefore, I move my Resolution.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support this Resolution very strongly. The first term of the first instalment of Swaraj is almost over, and let us see what this Swaraj means to the country. We have taxed our poor countrymen to the extent of not less than 28 crores of rupees. And notwithstanding the reductions made under the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee we are again this year going to force a taxation of about 4 crores on

[Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal.]

the poor man's salt. The poor masses were all along expecting in their heart of hearts that after the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, there shall be some relaxation in the unpopular taxes . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member cannot discuss questions arising out of the Finance Bill on this Resolution.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal: The financial crisis, Sir, is sure to continue in the country unless some change of policy is adopted by the Government like the one covered by the Resolution under discussion. The whole difficulty is that this poor country is being governed on a standard which is really more costly than it can afford, and unless there is some change of policy in the administration, neither the financial crisis will improve, nor will there be any money to relax the unpopular taxes or for developing the resources of the country which the Honourable the Finance Member kindly referred to in his Budget speech and for which the country is very thankful to him. But where is the money to spend for the development of the resources of the country? Where is the money to relax the unpopular taxes? Where is the money to remove the financial crisis of the country? Money is badly needed for these three purposes, and unless some change of policy is adopted by the Government, the financial crisis will continue and with it will also continue the discontent in the country which means more expenditure. Sir, I support this Resolution.

Dr. Nand Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, if I could rightly follow the scope of this Resolution, it is this, that India will make recruitment for our services and that England may not take the trouble of making these recruitments in that country, and the reason which has been suggested in the terms of this Resolution is this, that if this policy is adopted, if this recommendation is accepted by this House, then there will be a reduction in expenditure, and India will become a rich country. Unless and until the present policy is changed and the recommendation embodied in this Resolution is accepted, India will remain as poor as she is now. The genesis of the question has been given by the Honourable Mover. He has made reference to the declarations of Queen Victoria of blessed memory, he has made reference to various other Acts which gave us certain rights; he has made reference to certain statistics which prove to the hilt that the salaries which are being given in India to Government officers and other officials are much higher than those in other countries. And this is a fact which cannot be denied, and if I can think aright, it is one of the chief causes of the present poverty of India. The machinery which is set, I mean the official machinery, is so expensive, that India cannot afford to pay such heavy salaries. I adopt some of his arguments and substantially hold with him that our present pay scale is very high. He has made reference to a number of other points which I need not repeat. But shall offer a few remarks which are pertinent to the question suggested by this Resolution, Sir, the present question, before this Assembly, so far as this Resolution goes, is not what proportion of a certain nationality, European or non-European, should be recruited; the question is that, if recruitment is to be effected with a view to bringing officers or employees for the services in India, then India herself will be the fittest country to decide, and England should not take that trouble. I think there could be no two opinions about this. Our Government of India is the best Government to see what sort of

officer is really capable of doing a particular branch of service in India. The Government of India is fully cognisant of the merits and capabilities of the people living in this country and therefore that Government, it cannot be denied, is the best suited to do this work of enlistment or recruitment. Therefore, on this ground, the Resolution deserves the general support of the whole House. The other ground is that, if enlistment or recruitment is effected in England, naturally we shall have to pay travelling allowance and oversea allowances and the people who are going to be recruited there, who are going to be employed in England, naturally will lay claim to higher salaries. I am not here to discuss the comparative merits and abilities of the candidates. I would concede at once that some of the people who come from England are really capable men, very able men, whose merits are of a very high order, no doubt, but here economically we have got to see that, if those officers themselves come to India in order to seek for appointment, then we shall not have to pay so much as they would claim when they are in their own country or their own homes. If I shall try to secure appointment, I shall make a competition. Then my employer will dictate terms. But, if the same employer makes a requisition to a province or a country that he wants so many men to have a certain administration carried on, then the candidates will demand inflated salaries. This is a question of common sense. So, therefore, India suggests to England that this method, which "I propose" and which this Resolution is proposing, will be better, will be less expensive. We shall be able to get men of equal capabilities on less salaries if recruitment is effected here in India. These men may come to India. There is no question of nationality, if I can rightly understand the terms of this Resolution under debate now. *

The other ground which I find in favour of this Resolution is this, that, if some candidates are really in need of service and the posts are to be filled up, then the employer, who has got to see that those appointments are conferred on the ablest candidates, will naturally hold competitive examinations and go by merit and merit alone. And, when this policy is adopted, it will become known to every body in India and in England, and very efficient men will come here, we shall hold examinations—competitive examination will be held by the Government of India—and we shall choose the best men. So, therefore, the efficiency of the services will also be increased. These are the grounds, in brief, which I place before this Assembly. I hope this Assembly will appreciate them. I have got an amendment of a similar nature and character. It suggests some verbal changes simply. I do not agree with the phraseology of the Resolution which has been moved by my learned friend and so I propose some changes. The changes which I propose, Sir, are, as submitted above, of a very verbal character. They are

Mr. President: I propose to take the amendment of greater substance and, then, if it is not carried, we can deal with the verbal changes of the Honourable Member.

Dr. Nand Lal: Very well, Sir. With these few remarks I support this Resolution.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I think that most Members of this House will agree with me in regretting that this motion has come on at this moment at a time when the minds of most of us are directed to another problem of an anxious nature. It has another disadvantage. For,

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at the end of a long Session, after we have discussed many other questions of the highest importance it puts before us a proposition which properly should be the subject of what we know as a full-dress debate; and to-day a full-dress debate on this subject is not psychologically possible. The House is my proof; when the Honourable Member was speaking, the House was thin; as he proceeded it got thinner, and still thinner. That was not because the House was not interested in this question. It is one of the questions on which on all sides there is always the greatest interest manifested. It was because the House obviously felt that the occasion for discussion was inopportune, not only with reference to the circumstances of this Session but for another reason. In essence, this is one of the questions which must come before the Royal Commission

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar: Would it?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: And the Royal Commission will be obliged to form opinions bearing on the general subjects discussed to-day; representative opinions will have to be collected, weighed and examined. It is quite clear, therefore, that it is not one of those Resolutions on which there can be that free and fruitful discussion as between Government and the Assembly which can be of value to both. Take the case as it stands. How can we in these circumstances undertake to send any recommendation to the Secretary of State on the subject? All that the Secretary of State could reply, and would certainly and reasonably reply, would be that the whole field opened by the question is about to be examined by a Royal Commission, and it would be of little value, therefore, for us to make any recommendation to him on the subject now. We had of course a long debate on one aspect of this case in Simla and in Delhi. That debate dealt with Indianisation, pure and simple. The Honourable Member who proposes this Resolution now proceeds to go much further. The exact progress of Indianisation necessary or suitable in view of the administrative changes following in the wake of the reforms is yet to be settled. But the Honourable Member is not for that; there is no half measure for him; he would thrust aside the whole question at once. He will admit of no progressive stages of Indianisation. He would admit of no advance in the proportion of Indian recruitment, gradual, speedy, or otherwise. He would at once lay down a rule that except in the case of technical services there should be no recruitment at all in Europe. He does not merely mean, as Dr. Nand Lal thought,—that the Government of India should take the recruitment into its own hands instead of allowing the recruitment to be made at Home. That is not his meaning at all. His meaning obviously is, and he expressed it in so many words, that we should cease at once to attempt any process of gradual Indianisation as defined by any progressive rule of proportion,—and that we should forthwith, barring the exception of a few technical appointments, recruit Indians purely and simply. That is a proposition which goes a great deal further than anything which was advanced in the course of our previous discussions. He admits that his proposition is drastic, and demands an entire change of policy. I am impelled to ask, what support has he behind him when he puts forward this proposition? I do not want to examine his arguments, because, his arguments hardly deserve examination; they hardly deserve indeed the name of arguments. I do him I think little injustice if I say that all he had to produce before us to-day was a series of jottings and cuttings from a common place book, strung together without system or connection.

He began by referring to the declaration of 1833. He glanced at irregular intervals at the history of our services during seventy years. He indulged us with a variety of irrelevant information regarding topics so wide apart as position of the civil servants in the colonies, and the pay of the Prime Minister of Norway. But I would stop there. I will not trouble the House with what he said; the House has been troubled enough with it already. What he did not say was more important. He never once adduced himself to the definite question whether he had behind him any considered body of opinion in demanding that all European recruitment should immediately cease. I ask him where is his support for that proposition. (*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju*: "O'Donnell's Circular.") I have yet to learn that that circular was supposed to represent public opinion. His proposition has never received any support in this Assembly. It has not, as far as I am aware, received support from the Legislative Councils of the Provinces. I am aware that in Madras there was a proposition that the pay of the services should be reduced at once and that of European recruits re-assessed on a new basis. There was no proposition that the recruitment of Europeans should immediately cease. There was a proposition much like his put forward the other day in the Bengal Council; and it was voted down. I ask what province demands this. Begin at the North. Does the North-West Frontier Province demand it? Does the Punjab demand it? The Punjab which is at present racked with one of those recurring spasms of communal differences which we all regret so deeply in the interests of the Punjab itself. Is the United Provinces demanding it? The United Provinces where at the moment the chief topic which agitates people's minds seems to be the legitimacy of the wholesale conversion of Muhammadans back to Hinduism—is the United Provinces demanding it? I have shown the feeling in Bengal; can he quote any legitimate support from Bombay or Madras or Burma? But let me have this, and come to a second point. He has put it forward as an economic proposition. Now let me ask him what Provincial Retrenchment Committees have asked for this? I can quote him an instance to the contrary. The Bengal Retrenchment Committee which reviewed the whole range of their expenditure did not ask for it. I am therefore justified in saying that in this demand for the complete and immediate cessation of European recruitment the Honourable Member cannot quote to us the valid authority which lies behind his proposition. Let us be a little more precise in our own minds as regards the exact economic effect: I could have wished that for my own information and that of the House the Honourable Member instead of giving us a series of extracts from his commonplace book could have proved to us the exact value to our central finances of the proposal which he advocates. He talked of our immense central deficits; he did not tell us what effect he expected his proposal, if carried, would have on the position. I admit at once that if the whole of the services of India could be Indianised on a proper Indian basis of pay, and the amendment put forward by Dr. Gour is at last constructive on this point, there would be a saving in the charge of the services. But while the Mover proposes that we should immediately stop European recruitment, he does not propose to take the initial step which would secure us the financial advantage of doing so. He does not apparently propose that we should immediately place all-India services on an Indian pay. He may assume it; but if so that only gives me another point; for that is a process which must be considered and considered in detail by the Royal Commission—another reason why I say that this proposition at this moment lacks reality. But when he talks of the effect on our central finances, it is of little use to quote to us the figures of

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employment of European officers throughout India. If he is to make any serious inroads on our deficit by the proposals that he has put forward, he will have to do it within the expenditure of the Central Government itself. He will find it difficult. Some of our purely central service such as Audit and Accounts, or Posts and Telegraphs, or Customs are very largely Indianised at present, he would not effect much by stopping European recruitment there; and to stop European recruitment would of course have practically no effect on the cost of our Secretariats, until the whole of the pay were reorganized on an Indian basis, and even then the saving would not be anything which would have an effect on the budget. In most of his remarks, however, he is obviously referring to our recruitment of the all-India services, which of course are paid for by the provinces. All this talk of reducing our deficits by stopping the recruitment of Europeans is really quite beside the point and to pursue the discussion on these lines would be fruitless.

Well, Sir, that is how the case stands from my point of view. I need not say that as far as I am concerned this is not a question on which one can compromise or a proposition which one can accept. I am not here going into the grounds why we maintain that a proportion, whatever that proportion may be, of Europeans is necessary in the services of this country. I am not going into the long history of what the European services have done for this country in the past. I am not going to fight again the battles which we had when the Public Services Commission reported. I am not going to fight again the contest which we waged when Mr. Jamnadas's Resolution was put forward. It seems to me that little is to be gained by doing this now. I put it to the House that discussion at this moment is of little use in view of the fact that the whole of these questions will now be gone into in an orderly manner by the Royal Commission—and when I say gone into in an orderly manner, I mean to say that they will have to take regard not only of one aspect of the question as the Honourable Member has done, but of every aspect, namely, how far the all-India Services can with profit be provincialised: how far it is possible to re-organize pay generally on a purely Indian basis: whether in doing so we should also re-organize our leave and other service conditions on an Indian basis: and what additional pay, if any,—I won't say “if any” because everybody allows that additional pay is necessary for Europeans—what additional pay, leave or pension should be given to Europeans who are brought out here either on the Honourable Member's system or on any other—those are the questions they will have to consider; and over and above all they will have to consider what proportion of Indians and Europeans will still be required in this country. That the House should now be asked to vote on a proposition which puts the whole of these questions on one side and merely assumes, assumes without proof and as far as I can make out without support, that it is advisable that from henceforth there should be no European recruitment at all except for certain technical posts—that the House should be asked to answer that proposition at present seems to me unreasonable. I say that the House would be well advised to adjourn this debate; it would be well advised to wait until the Royal Commission sits and to allow public bodies to place their views before it. But in making that proposition I wish to make it also perfectly clear that in no circumstances can Government itself accept the proposition as it now stands. I wish to move, Sir, that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. President: The question is that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Before it is adjourned, may I have the right of replying to Sir Malcolm Hailey?

Mr. President: The question is that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Sir, I am thankful to the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey for stating that at the fag end of the Session he does not want to deal with it as a full-dress debate

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Sir, I stated that the House obviously did not wish to deal with it,—and if the Honourable Member wishes any proof of that, I refer to the state of the House when he was speaking.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: There are some people, Sir, who bury their heads in hand and do not see anything. Does the Honourable the Leader of the House mean to say that he has convinced the people in this House or outside that there is no demand at any time? Has he not referred to the 1887 Commission, has he not referred to the 1912 Commission,—and what were the views expressed before them, what was the recommendation made by Mr. Justice Abdur Rahim?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Certainly not the same as yours.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: At that time they had not considered whether Self-government was within the reach of the people. The recruitment question comes only when we are thinking of Self-government. The Honourable the Leader of the House gave absolutely no reply as to why during all this period of 70 years, recruitment of Indians was neglected when statesman after statesman, His Majesty after His Majesty, proclaimed and gave pledges to the people that they would be freely and impartially admitted, is there any reply from the Leader of the House on the point whether you are impartially and freely admitting the people of this country? That requires an answer,—not whether

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must address himself to the question that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Now the only point that was raised in favour of adjourning this debate was on account of the pending arrival of the Royal Commission which this House on more than one occasion never wanted. I ask, Sir, if the Royal Commission would consider, according to the Leader of the House, whether recruitment outside India should be stopped, if I understand from the Leader of the House that they will consider not only what services should be provincialized, whether there is any necessity for recruitment outside, and, if so, to what extent, if that point is to be considered by that Commission, Sir, I do not at all stand in the way of having the debate adjourned, because it serves no useful purpose at this time when the Royal Commission will consider those points.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, though we are met in an atmosphere of great depression, I should like very briefly to state what advantage would be gained if we went on with the discussion of this motion and did not accede to the proposal of the Honourable the Home Member for the adjournment of the debate. The main part of his argument was that a Royal Commission on Public Services had already been appointed, and, therefore, that Commission will go into the

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whole question, to which my friend, Mr. Venkatapatiraju, replies that we did not want the Royal Commission. But that is no answer. A Royal Commission has been appointed, but because a Royal Commission has been appointed, therefore it is necessary that this Resolution and its amendment should be put to the vote, because when the Royal Commission comes, the Royal Commissioners will have the view of this House before them, of which they would be deprived if this debate is adjourned. Judging from the reports which come to us from the English press and in Reuter's telegrams, there is an anxiety on the part of the Home Government to send out this Royal Commission almost immediately. At any rate, Sir, even if it comes later in the autumn or early in the winter, this House will not be then sitting, and the Royal Commission, therefore, will not have the collected views of this House, and it is therefore necessary that we should decide as to what is the view of this House regarding the future of all-India services. The second point made by the Honourable the Home Member, which I take in connection with his motion for adjournment, was that this question is of such paramount importance that it requires a full-dress debate. That is perfectly true, but unfortunately we cannot put in all the Resolutions for a full-dress debate. A very large number of important questions are awaiting their fate and the fortunes of the ballot box. Consequently, I submit that when the Honourable the Home Member promises no date on which there can be a full-dress debate, we are I think justified in utilising the half day that has been given to us for discussing this very important motion. The third argument used by the Honourable the Home Member was what Provinces want, or are in sympathy with the Honourable the Mover's Resolution. Very shrewdly he omitted to mention the Central Provinces. I think Honourable Members will know the reason why. Only recently the Central Provinces Council, not by a majority, with the officials and the Civilians dissenting, but unanimously, with the concurrence of the Civilians present in the House, passed a Resolution for the stoppage of all over-seas recruitment

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: Not quite unanimously.

Dr. H. S. Gour: There was only one Member belonging to the depressed classes, who never understood the proceedings and therefore he did not vote for the motion. With his exception, every one, official and non-official, Government Members and Non-Official Members, voted in favour of that Resolution

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: Do you really represent that all the Government Members voted in favour of it?

Dr. H. S. Gour: I ask the Honourable the Home Member to correct me. The statement I make is, with the exception of one Mahar representative, the whole House unanimously voted and supported the Resolution, and Mr. Mitchell, who spoke on behalf of the Government, supported the Resolution on the ground of economy. And it is because I am encouraged by the attitude of my own Government and the very good reasons given by the exponent of the official view, that I have tabled my own amendment, namely, that a reduced pay must be fixed for all posts in India, and as far as possible the Indian services should be Indianised subject to the limitation with which my amendment closes. I am at present speaking on the subject of adjournment, and therefore I submit, that nothing would be

gained, and this opportunity lost, and the Royal Commissioners deprived of our views as expressed in this Assembly, if we acceded to the Honourable the Home Member's request for an adjournment.

Sir Campbell Rhodes (Bengal: European): I move, Sir, that the question be put.

Mr. President: The question is that the question be put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is that this debate be adjourned.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 26th March, 1923.
