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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume IV, Part V

(3rd September to 16th September 1924)

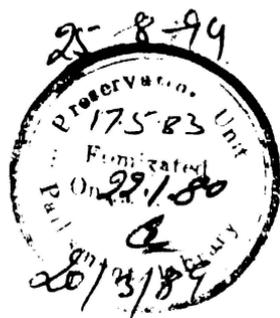
FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 11th September, 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

AUDITING OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FARM AT TARNAB.

†1763. ***Lala Duni Chand** : (a) Is it a fact that the accounts of the Government Agricultural Farm at Tarnab, Peshawar District, in the North-West Frontier Province were audited for the first time since its establishment in 1910, from 1st September 1923 to 6th October 1923, by M. Fateh Mohammad, senior auditor ?

(b) Has the Audit Department furnished an audit and inspection note for the period April 1922 to August 1923 ?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the said audit and inspection note ?

(d) Is it a fact that the said audit note discloses serious defalcations in accounts and misappropriation of Government money ? If so, do Government propose to take criminal proceedings against the officials concerned ? If not, why not ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether M. Sharbat Ali Khan, Head Clerk of the Tarnab Agricultural Farm, has been made to retire on pension after twenty years' service, simply because he had assisted the auditors in finding out misuse and misappropriations of Government money by an important European officer ?

SUPPLY OF FREE FRUIT TO EUROPEAN OFFICERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FARM AT TARNAB.

1764. ***Lala Duni Chand** : (a) Is it a fact that in spite of orders to the contrary by the head of the Agricultural Department in the North-West Frontier Province, the European officer at Tarnab has been making free distribution of the farm fruit to various European officers in the Province, and the said Farm Officer did not bill anyone even when asked to do so ? Do Government propose to realise dues on account of the farm fruit from the European officers and others to whom it has been supplied free of charge ? If not, why not ?

(b) What has been the total expenditure of and the total income from the said Agricultural Farm during the last fourteen years of its existence, and if the expenditure has exceeded the income, are the Government

† For answer to this question—see below Question No. 1764.

prepared to take early steps to abolish the Farm and thereby prevent the waste of public money ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : With your permission I shall reply to questions Nos. 1763 and 1764 together.

The Government of India have requested the Chief Commissioner to see that a thorough inquiry is made in regard to the working of the Agricultural Farm at Tarnab with reference to the facts disclosed by the report of the Auditor. They would accordingly prefer to postpone answering the Honourable Member on the points he has raised till they have obtained all the facts of the case.

Lala Duni Chand : Why is it that invariably questions relating to the North-West Frontier Province are not fully answered in the open House ? I may draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my questions Nos. 286 and 287 which were similarly treated. I understand it is to avoid inconvenience of exposure that this procedure is adopted.

TENDERS FOR STORES FOR THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPÔTS AT SARGODHA AND FARM AT TARNAB.

1765. ***Lala Duni Chand :** Is it a fact that the salary of Mr. Robertson Brown, Officer in Charge of the Tarnab Farm, has recently been increased from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,350 ? and if so, will the Government be pleased to mention the reasons for such increase ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : Mr Robertson Brown's new scale of pay is Rs. 1,050—50—1,350 per mensem. The reasons which led Government to increase it were that he had drawn the maximum of his old scale of pay, namely, Rs. 750, for five years and that his pay had not been revised to meet post-war conditions as had been done in the case of other officers, that having to live in a remote locality, the cost of living was high, and that his Circle had developed with a consequent increase of responsibility and was equal to that of an ordinary Deputy Director of Agriculture in the Indian Agricultural Service. The Government had also received good reports of his work.

TENDERS FOR STORES FOR THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPÔTS AT SARGODHA AND MONA.

1766. ***Lala Duni Chand :** 1. (a) Is it a fact that tenders are invited for the contracts of petty stores and other things required by the Army Remount Depôts at Sargodha and Mona ? If so, are the contracts given to those whose tenders are lowest ?

(b) If the contracts are not given to those whose tenders are lowest, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this ?

2. (a) Is it a fact that in very many cases at the said two depôts the contracts are not given to those whose tenders are lowest, but are given to those whose tenders are higher and thus loss is caused to the Government ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the names of those persons whose lower tenders were rejected and the names of those persons whose higher tenders were accepted, and also the rates of the tenders rejected and accepted at the said two places during the last year ?

Mr. E. Burdon : 1. (a) and (b). Tenders are almost invariably invited by public advertisement for the supply of petty stores required by the Army Remount Depôts, including those at Mona and Sargodha. The contracts for such supplies and services are not necessarily given to those whose tenders are the lowest. The practice is to accept the most favourable tender received from a tenderer who is considered reliable and suitable in all respects. A factor always taken into account is whether the tenderer possesses a knowledge and experience of the work of supplies required, and is punctual and efficient in the performance of contracts.

2. (a) As already explained in reply to part 1 of the question, contracts are not necessarily given to those whose tenders are the lowest. Government are satisfied that the system at present in force is the best calculated to obviate loss to the State.

(b) Government are not prepared to furnish the details asked for by the Honourable Member.

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 101 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT.

1767. ***Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Government be pleased to inform the House how far the consideration of the matter in connection with the amendment of section 101 of the Government of India Act, as promised by the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey, the then Home Member, in reply to the Resolution *re* constitution of High Courts, moved by Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar on 19th February 1924, has progressed so far, and how long it will take to give effect wholly or partially to the said Resolution ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : My predecessor stated that the Government of India cannot frame any definite policy which they can place before the Secretary of State until they have considered the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Services and of the Bar Committee. The Bar Committee's Report has been referred to Local Governments for opinion and the matter will be taken up as soon as their replies are received.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it a fact that the number of Indians competent to be Judges of His Majesty's High Courts in India is far greater than the number of Europeans equally fit and competent ? And if it is a fact, will the Government be pleased to take steps to make larger use of the available material.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Government in making appointments to the High Court endeavour to make the best use of all the available material.

INDIAN FOREST SERVICE OFFICERS.

1768. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to the reply of Government, stating " There are 303 officers of the Indian Forest Service who have been trained in Europe and appointed by the Secretary of State. Of these 33 are Indians " to starred question No. 1258 asked in the last Simla session of the Assembly, will the Government please state what was the number before Indianisation began ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : There were four Indians.

PROPOSED NEW CENTRAL INDIA COALFIELDS RAILWAY.

1769. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) if the construction of the New Central India Coalfields Railway is under the consideration of Government ?

(b) if so, will they please state how far the scheme has progressed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The Central Indian Coalfields Railway project consists of two lines, one running from Daltonganj *viâ* Hutar to Barka Khana, and the other from Hutar to Anuppur. The construction of the former line has recently been sanctioned and the question of constructing the latter is under consideration.

Devaki Prasad Sinha : By what time do the Government hope that the construction of the Daltonganj-Barka Khana line will be completed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am afraid I cannot answer directly—I do not remember ; I think in about two years but I am not quite certain.

GRIEVANCES OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY THE BANDEL-BARHARWA LOOP SECTION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1770. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 11th July, 1924, page 11, under the heading "Inconveniences of Bandel-Barharwa loop section passengers" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct ?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue necessary instructions to the railway authorities concerned to have the grievances complained of redressed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) Owing to shortage of stock Nos. 19 Up and 20 L. trains occasionally do not have their full complement of intermediate and III Class carriages. Government understand that the loads of these trains will be increased when stock is available.

Government are also informed that the passenger traffic on this section does not warrant more trains, and that the other matters complained of are receiving the attention of the railway authorities.

(c) In the circumstances Government do not propose to issue any instructions.

EUROPEAN AND INDIAN STATION MASTERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1771. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of railway stations on the East Indian Railway at which there are European station masters, and the number on which there are Indian station masters ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : There are 35 stations with European Station masters and 466 with Indian Station masters on the East Indian Railway.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Why is the number of Indian station masters so small—can you say ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The number of Indian station masters is 466 and of European station masters 35 !

COST OF MAINTENANCE OF THIRD CAVALRY REGIMENT, REDUCTION OF WHICH WAS REFUSED BY THE WAR OFFICE.

1772. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that the Retrenchment Committee recommended the reduction of the military establishment of India by three cavalry regiments and that in consequence of the War Office objecting to that recommendation only two regiments have been removed ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cost of the maintenance of the one regiment which has not been reduced ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 1st February last to part (a) (5) of starred question No. 40, and to the supplementary questions thereto.

(b) The cost of a British cavalry regiment is estimated at approximately Rs. 19,05,350 per annum.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : What did you say about the regiment—was permanent or temporary ?

Mr. E. Burdon : If the Honourable Member will refer to the previous replies which I have mentioned, he will find that his question is fully answered.

CONDITIONS OF RECRUITMENT OF INDENTURED LABOUR IN THE ASSAM TEA PLANTATIONS.

1773. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will the Government be pleased to state what are the conditions of recruitment of indentured labourers employed in the Assam tea plantations ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : No indentured labourers are employed in the Assam Tea Plantations.

ALLEGED HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF TRAVELLING TICKET CHECKERS ON THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

1774. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 13th July 1924 page 11 under the heading "A. B. Railway Travelling Ticket Checkers' Alleged High-handedness" ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if the statements made therein are correct ?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue instructions to the railway authorities concerned to check the evil complained of ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) and (c). On receipt of a report of the incident inquiries were at once instituted by the Railway Administration and necessary action taken. The system of paying bonuses to Travelling Ticket Examiners out of the amounts recovered by them is no longer in force.

INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCES.

1775. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Is it or is it not a fact that Government consult the Unions or organisations and the associations of labourers and agriculturists before they send their representatives to the International Labour Conferences ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to consult them in future ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me on the 18th February 1924 to Mr. K. G. Lohokare's unstarred question No. 140.

LEGISLATION FOR REGULATION OF THE SYSTEM OF PAYMENT OF WAGES.

1776. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to undertake legislation for regulating the system of the payment of wages within a fixed period after they become due ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : No, but the Department of Industries and Labour is at present engaged in examining the systems of payment of wages in vogue in different industries and in different parts of the country.

AMENDMENT OF THE WORKMENS' COMPENSATION ACT.

1777. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Forward* of 16th July, 1924, page 9 under the heading "Workmen's Compensation Act" ?

(b) If so, do the defects pointed out, exist ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of making necessary amendments in the Act ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Yes.

(b) No. The criticisms appear to be based on ignorance of the provisions of the Act and on misunderstanding of the principles underlying legislation of this type.

(c) Does not arise.

CONSULTATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY REGARDING INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES DEPUTED TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

1778. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to state if they would consider the desirability of consulting the Legislative Assembly before representatives are appointed to represent India at the meetings of the League of Nations ?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith : In reply to a similar question asked by Mr. Lansbury in the House of Commons on the 14th of July 1924, the Under Secretary of State for India gave the following reply :

"It is not usual for Executive Governments to consult their legislatures in making such appointments."

The Government of India have nothing to add to that statement. I lay on the table a copy of the complete question and answer.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Is the Honourable Member aware that he was referring to Executive Governments responsible to the Legislatures and was not referring to an Executive independent of the Legislature ?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith : I think the Under Secretary's reply had particular reference to India.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Is the Honourable Member prepared to give a single instance where an Executive independently of the Legislature made nominations for which the Legislature is held financially responsible ?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith : Is the Honourable Member aware of a single instance when they did not ?

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha : Does the representative represent the Government of India or the people of India ?

Non-oral Question No. 2, dated 14th July, 1924.

Mr. Lansbury.—To ask the Under Secretary of State for India, whether the Legislative Assembly in India was consulted before the appointment of Lord Hardinge to represent India at the meeting of the League of Nations in September next ; will he inform this House by whom Lord Hardinge and the other members of the delegation were appointed ; was any effort made, either in this country or in India, to discover whether the members of this delegation represent, directly or indirectly, the views and opinions of representative Indians on either national or international questions ; and will he give the names of the members of the delegation Lord Hardinge is to lead ?

Answer.

The answer to the first part is in the negative. It is not usual for Executive Governments to consult their legislatures in making such appointments. The answers to the second and fourth parts have been given in my reply to question No. 1. The answer to the third part is in the affirmative.

GROSS EARNINGS OF THE DELHI-UMBALA-KALKA RAILWAY.

1779. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 18th July, 1924, page 18 under the heading "Delhi-Umbala-Kalka Railway" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct ?

(c) If so, is there any special reason for a decrease in the gross earnings for the year to such a large amount as £26,000 ?

(d) Does the East Indian Railway's contract include the Delhi-Umbala-Kalka Railway ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, except that it would have been more correct to say that the Delhi-Umbala-Kalka Railway would be worked by State agency.

(c) In 1922-23 the earnings were increased by special pilgrimage traffic to Kurukshetra on account of the Sun Eclipse Mela held in that year ; those in 1923-24 were not similarly assisted.

(d) No.

GRIEVANCES OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY THE DIAMOND HARBOUR LINE
OF THE E. B. RAILWAY.

1780. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 18th July, 1924, page 9 under the heading "Grievances of Diamond Harbour line passengers" ?

(b) If so, are the statements made therein correct ?

(c) If correct, do the Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the railway authorities concerned to redress the grievances referred to ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) and (c). Government understand that there is no room for additional carriages on No. 137 Up train. The III class accommodation could be increased only by curtailing the intermediate class accommodation, and the latter was recently increased as the result of representations. The question, however, is being reconsidered.

The possibility of starting No. 148 Down train 10 minutes later is also being examined.

In the circumstances Government do not propose to take any action.

RECENT RIOTS AT DELHI.

1781. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government please furnish the House with complete information regarding the recent riots at Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The information asked for is laid on the table.

Report on Delhi Bakr Id Riots.

When Mr. Barron made over charge to me he remarked that he was handing over the quietest spot in India. This seemed clearly to be the case. As the Government of India is aware however the "shuddi" movement had been actively conducted in this part of India for some time previous and the efforts of certain enthusiastic spirits to convert various classes of Muhammadans to the Arya tenets were bitterly resented by equally ardent Muslims. Attempts to get hold of orphans and derelict women of either community by agents of the other were certainly made. The local newspapers on either side published accounts of such attempts with bitter comments. It seemed undesirable to try and prevent the publication of accounts which were not palpably untrue and it was a matter of opinion whether the comment was justified or no.

There seemed however every prospect that the local Congress Committee would be able to induce the proselytising agencies to desist from their efforts and thus allay the feelings that had been aroused in the newspaper reading public. There was in fact some cessation of cases by the beginning of July. The meetings of the Congress Committee however were by no means harmonious and relations were strained within the two communities themselves over political disagreements in which Delhi had no monopoly. This want of unanimity among prominent men had probably little direct effect on subsequent events but it no doubt had a serious indirect effect in removing a possible restraining influence over the more turbulent members of the population.

Among the latter a more disturbing influence was the long standing dispute over some land in Bara Hindu Rao in the west of the City. Litigation had been going on for some years between two Hindus over a plot of land upon which meanwhile a

Muhammadan praying place known as the Jamadarwali mosque had gradually been established. A decision on title had recently been arrived at by the Courts and the successful litigant was prepared to take possession. An enthusiastic Maulvi thereupon proceeded to address an audience of Musalmans at this mosque in very violent language inviting them to resist any attempt of the Hindus to take possession of the property. A large Hindu crowd collected and the police had the greatest difficulty in preventing a very serious riot which however they were actually able to avert. This took place on the 4th July. Minor disputes over this mosque took place on subsequent dates. The leading participants in this disturbance were sent up for security and the maulvi was prevailed upon to desist from provocative language. I think however that this dispute was a very considerable cause of the bitterness displayed in the Bara Hindu Rao on July 15th.

It was considered advisable as a precautionary measure to ask for the presence in Delhi of some troops to support the police in the event of disturbances occurring during the Bakr Id. These precautions were intended to be complete by the evening of July 13th. Meanwhile the usual proclamation had been issued by the District Magistrate prohibiting the sale in public of any cattle intended for slaughter; the slaughter of cattle in any place other than the municipal slaughter house; prescribing routes by which cattle and meat might be taken to and from the slaughter house; and making other minor provisions.

An order was also issued prohibiting the carrying of *lathis* during the period covering the Bakr Id; which was subsequently extended up to the end of August.

There was certainly tension in Delhi and the usual protests by the Hindus against cow killing appeared with counter claims by the Musalmans. There appeared however to be no reason why anything untoward should happen before the festival itself.

On the morning of the 11th July, a dispute arose between a Muhammadan boy and some Kahars at a well in Bagh Diwar, in the course of which the boy was seriously injured. A report was made to the police and inquiries started at once. Shortly afterwards a rumour was spread that the boy had been murdered and his assailants were concealed in Katra Nil. A number of Muhammadans gathered and made a somewhat half-hearted attack on Hindus in Katra Nil and the Chandni Chauk. All shops in the Chandni Chauk immediately shut but the police had no difficulty in quelling the disturbance. About 4 P.M., however, more serious rioting began in the same place and spread down to the clock tower and up to Fatehpuri. Muhammadans were mostly appearing with *lathis* and endeavouring to attack the closed shops, while the Hindus pelted them with bricks from the house tops. The police arrived on the scene and cleared the Chauk driving the Muhammadans up Egerton Road, Ballimaran, and Katra Barian, and holding them there by means of pickets. About this time a solitary Hindu coming from the other end of Balli Maran in search of his cow was surrounded by Muhammadans and murdered. The rioting spread thence to Khari Baoli, Naya Bans, and Lahore Gate, and it was only stopped after repeated *lathi* charges on the part of the police. Rioting broke out again in Naya Bans and simultaneously a crowd of Muhammadans attempted to cross the Sadar bridge into the city. The Naya Bans rioting was again quelled, and the crowd at Sadar Bridge was forced back by the police into Sadar Bazar whence the disturbance spread as far as Idgah Kohna through the back streets, and it ended there with the burning of some thatched huts and the murder of one Hindu occupier and wounding of several others. The District Magistrate had meanwhile asked for the assistance of the armoured cars, which arrived at this moment and had an excellent moral effect. The Officer Commanding, 10th A. C. C., a little later telephoned for the troops previously arranged for. The troops already available provided three pickets to stand during the night, and the armoured cars continued to patrol the city for several hours. Everything was quiet and the pickets and the armoured cars were withdrawn after midnight; meanwhile police pickets were posted at all important places and two striking forces of about 50 men each with lorries were posted at the Kotwali and Sadar Bazar posts respectively. They carried out patrols and proceeded at once to any place where disturbance was apprehended.

During the next 3 days isolated attacks on members of both communities and a certain amount of stone throwing occurred; but more serious disturbance was averted.

On the 13th July, a Muhammadan from Moradabad, who was apparently unacquainted with the orders in force, was caught by some Hindus in Pahari Dhiraj attempting to sell a cow for sacrifice. He was removed by the police and no disturbance occurred but the incident aroused hot resentment among the Hindus and focussed attention upon the Hindu quarter in Pahari Dhiraj. It was therefore considered inadvisable to allow cows for sacrifice to be taken along Pahari Dhiraj, although it was not at the time one of the routes prohibited by the proclamation. The prohibition of this route by a further proclamation was to be avoided if possible, as

such a course would doubtless have been construed as an undue favour to the Hindus. The owners of two cows at Bara Hindu Rao who were desirous of using this route were accordingly approached by the Sub-Inspector and on his representation agreed to take their cows by another and equally short route.

On the morning of the 15th, however, it was reported that these two cows were actually brought to the slaughter house as agreed, but at the instigation of certain evilly disposed persons were again returned to Bara Hindu Rao with a view to being taken along Pahari Dhiraj. A considerable and excited crowd collected at Bara Hindu Rao and it became necessary to decide whether to force the cow through in the teeth of the Hindu opposition or to prohibit the route to the Musalmans. A row was in any case inevitable. The Senior Superintendent of Police advised the Deputy Commissioner to prohibit the route and this was done. The proclamation was duly read out by the District Magistrate and Muhammadans concerned expressed their acquiescence in the matter. Unfortunately evil influences again prevailed, and before long an organised attempt was made by a large and excited mob to force the cow through Pahari Dhiraj. The police picket at Bara Hindu Rao was unable to hold the crowd and was gradually pressed back. On arrival at the Hindu quarter at Pahari Dhiraj the mob was greeted by a fusillade of brick-bats directed from the house tops. Severe fighting followed and the police were eventually compelled to fire. The street was then cleared but both Muhammadans and Hindus were constantly collecting in the neighbouring *galis* and the police had hard work in dispersing and disarming them. In this they were assisted by the cavalry.

While the fighting was going on at Pahari Dhiraj a gang of murderers attacked several Hindu houses and a temple, killing several Hindus, setting fire to two houses, and desecrating a temple. The Fire Brigade arrived without loss of time and extinguished the fires. The wounded were removed to the Civil Hospital in tramcars and the sight of their arrival there was the cause of a minor disturbance which was suppressed without much difficulty.

I have come to the conclusion that Mr. Orde's advice in this matter was undoubtedly correct. The position was a difficult one but in past years no sacrificial animal had been brought this way and there were several alternative routes. Although there was no legal prohibition of this route the attitude of the Musalmans was purely provocative. I think that there is no doubt that this route was rightly claimed.

The next occurrence of importance was an attack on the night of 16th-17th by Hindus on a mosque in Egerton Road in which two Muhammadans received serious injuries but the arrival of the police prevented the affair from further developing. Later on however another gang of Hindus was reported to have collected in a side street of Egerton Road; the police arrived and ordered them to disperse, and on their refusal to do so dispersed them by force.

During the next few days further isolated cases of assault and of stone throwing continued to be reported, in one of which a Hindu was fatally stabbed; but no further attempt at organised rioting having taken place, the troops from the New Cantonment were gradually withdrawn from duty, and on the morning of the 19th returned to Cantonments.

Feelings ran very high and though in many Mohallas the members of the minority community were protected by the majority there is no doubt that for days after the riots there were parts of the City where it was dangerous for a Hindu or a Muhammadan to go. In the acts of violence which occurred after the rioting neither community is free from blame.

It is in my opinion clear that no disturbance was organised before this festival. The early rioting on the 11th shows that feeling was only gradually aroused. It is doubtful if any preparations for defence were made before the 11th but it is perfectly certain that before the 15th village *jats* were called in by the Hindus as *lathials* probably only for defensive purposes as *chaukidars*. Some of these men certainly engaged in rioting and many were injured but got away home. There is certainly no doubt that stores of stones were collected on the roofs to pelt at passers-by, particularly by Hindus.

One of the chief difficulties in restoring confidence was the dissemination of wild and exaggerated rumours and recriminations by the local press. Daily bulletins were issued giving a correct version of the various incidents which had occurred during the previous 24 hours, and an appeal to reason was addressed to the leading men of both communities, and a warning to the press. The shops however remained closed in the affected areas till the 20th of July, when the *Jats* and butchers of Sadar

Bazar were persuaded to effect a mutual reconciliation. Two days later the shopkeepers were prevailed upon to reopen their shops, but the Hindus in Chandni Chauk are still closing their shops at sunset. Investigations are proceeding but the efforts of the magistrates and the police conducting them are largely frustrated by the production of a large amount of false evidence implicating some of the most respected men of both communities.

Elaborate arrangements were made for the maintenance of peace during Muharram which passed off quietly. This situation is now much improved and the police pickets are being gradually withdrawn.

The officially known casualties, *i.e.*, those admitted to hospital, are as follows :

	Hindus.	Musalmans.
July 11th	45	25
July 15th	55	25

Of these 16 Hindus and 1 Musalman died before or after reaching hospital. Many more were injured, but these preferred either to forego treatment or to get themselves treated privately.

I think that it is extraordinary that the damage done in the Bakr Id rioting was so trifling. For this I give the greatest credit to Mr. Orde whose original dispositions were excellent and whose coolness in emergency was beyond all praise. He was ably supported by Deputy Superintendent Hamid-ud-din, Inspector Nazir-ul-Hak, C.I.D., Sub-Inspectors Hari Pal and Qazi Zamiruddin and by Inspector Milchem and Sergeants Liddell and Macgill: but the whole force well maintained its traditions.

Mr. Dodd did himself credit in handling a situation new to his experience and of the Magistrates Mr. Sohan Lal and Mr. Lincoln were of the greatest assistance. The Honorary Magistrates did not embarrass the official authorities.

Called upon unexpectedly the military responded with great promptitude and I am particularly indebted to Major Forestier Walker in Command of the striking force. Colonel Budgen Commanding the Brigade placed his resources unreservedly at our disposal.

What would have happened had the situation got out of control it is difficult to say but the chief feature of the rioting was that it was man to man Hindu to Musalman. There was no looting and very little material damage. The mob idea was to attack a male member of the opposite community. Women and children have been hurt in some cases seriously but attacks on women and children were the exception rather than the rule.

SHOOTING OF INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

1782. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) With reference to the reply given to the starred question No. 1364 asked in the Assembly during the last Simla session, will the Government be pleased to state if the inquiry made by the British Guiana Government has been completed and the result of it known to Government ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) and (b). The Government of India have not yet been apprised of the results of the inquiry referred to by the Honourable Member but they have not lost sight of the matter and will make a statement on it as soon as the necessary information becomes available.

INDIA AND BURMA MILITARY AND MARINE RELIEF FUND.

1783. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the year in which the India and Burma Military and Marine Relief Fund was started ?
- (b) the annual amount of interest derived from the capitalised amount of the Fund ?
- (c) (i) the total number of persons who have received assistance since the fund was started ?
- (ii) the number of Indians and Europeans respectively, who received such assistance ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The India and Burma Military and Marine Relief Fund was created by the Government of India Resolution No. 771, dated the 10th September 1923.

(b) The amount of annual interest derived from the capital constituting the fund is Rs. 34,586-8-0.

(c) (i) The total number of persons who have received assistance since the fund was started is 39.

(ii) European 1.
Indians 38.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICERS ON PILGRIM SHIPS.

1784. **Mr. K. G. Lohokare :** Will Government please say :

(a) Whether they have received any complaints from any steamship company or other authority or passengers regarding the efficiency or otherwise of medical officers on board the ships who hold qualifications registrable in India only ?

(b) Whether such complaints were (i) against Licentiates of Indian medical schools only and not against Military Assistant Surgeons or (ii) against persons holding Indian registrable qualifications in general ?

(c) Have any of the authorities concerned or individuals specially asked the Government to continue the Military Assistant Surgeons to be medical officers of the ships ?

(d) What are the reasons that have led Government to notify a change in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, Rule 80, so as to prohibit licentiates of Indian medical schools being employed by shipping companies ?

Mr. J. W. Bhole : With your permission, Sir, I shall answer the question as a whole. No complaints were received from Indian shipping companies but even prior to 1909 such complaints were made frequently by the medical staff of the Kamaran Lazaretto regarding the inefficiency and low qualifications of Hospital Assistants or Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed as medical officers on pilgrim ships from British India. Accordingly in 1909 the Government of Bombay proposed that every medical officer employed on pilgrim ships should possess either a degree or at least the license of a recognised University or the qualification of a Military Assistant Surgeon, and the proposal, which was accepted by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, was incorporated in rule 80 (3) of the rules issued in 1910 under the Pilgrim Ships Act. The Honourable Member will thus observe that the exclusion of the licentiates of Indian medical schools from the appointments of medical officers on pilgrim ships under the notification referred to by him is not a new departure. As regards Military Assistant Surgeons, the position prior to 1922 was that while initially they acquired the same qualifications as sub-assistant surgeons, later on they had to pass a special examination of a much higher standard which was held by the Director General, Indian Medical Service. Military Assistant Surgeons who may qualify after 1922 have to do a five years' course and are also on a different footing. Officers of both these classes, therefore, remain eligible in virtue of their superior qualifications. I may add that the reasons for insisting on a comparatively high standard in the case of medical officers of pilgrim ships are the desirability

of making such ships medically self-sufficient and the increased importance attached by international opinion and by public opinion in this country to the provision of competent medical aid for pilgrims during the voyage.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : Do Government not think the licentiate qualification sufficient for taking general charge of a pilgrim ship ?

Mr. J. W. Bhole : No, Sir, they do not.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : Do Government propose to move the Provincial Governments to make the medical schools work up to the desired standard ?

Mr. J. W. Bhole : No, Sir ; that is a matter for the Local Governments to initiate themselves.

PROVISION OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1785. **Mr. K. G. Lohokare :** (a) Is it a fact that on the G. I. P. Ry. intermediate class accommodation is provided only in the express and mail trains and not in any other through passenger trains ?

(b) Is it a fact that the intermediate class accommodation on such trains on the G. I. P. Ry. as have it, is in many cases limited to only one compartment without any sleeping accommodation therein ?

(c) Is it a fact that on many branch lines on the G. I. P. such as the Dhond Manmad, Dhulia-Chalisgaon and many others no intermediate class compartment is ever put on ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to say if they have taken notice of this absence and scanty accommodation of the intermediate class on through trains on the G. I. P. even when such trains are running first class invariably unoccupied, second class partially so, third class overcrowded ; if they yet intend to allow the G. I. P. Railway to do without intermediate class accommodation on through passenger trains ; if the Railway management and Government have considered the convenience to the public and return to the Railway from intermediate class instead of first class carriages where they are scarcely occupied ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) On some trains two compartments are provided and on others one compartment with 46 seats. Sleeping accommodation is not provided for intermediate class.

(c) No intermediate class accommodation is provided on branch lines.

(d) Government understand that sufficient intermediate class accommodation is provided on the two express trains between Bombay and Poona and the express trains between Bombay and Delhi and that therefore similar accommodation on the Poona and Punjab mail trains is not necessary. They also understand that the provision of further intermediate class accommodation is receiving the attention of the Railway Administration.

CONSTRUCTION OF A STATION AT BHAMBURDA ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1786. **Mr. K. G. Lohokare :** Will Government please say if the arrangements to hand over the land for Bhamburda station on the G. I. P. Railway are completed as per reply to my starred question No. 978

asked on the 24th March 1924, and if it is possible to undertake the construction of the station by the next financial year ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The question of the amount of land required for a station at Bhamburda is still under investigation.

CLOSURE TO THE PERMANENT CADRE OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE TO INDIANS.

1787. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare :** Will Government be pleased to say :

- (a) What are the reasons for closing the competitive I. M. S. examination and introducing method of selection only ?
- (b) Why the I. M. S. permanent cadre is now closed to Indians, from what year was it closed and when the door will be reopened ?
- (c) What is the total number of admissions to the I. M. S. permanent cadre and appointments on short term contract, since the closure till now ?
- (d) Out of these appointments how many officers hold—
 - (i) the F. R. C. S. or M. D. (ii) Hygiene and Tropical Medicine qualification (iii) additional University degree other than the professional ?
- (e) How many Indians holding the above degrees are serving for the present on the temporary list and how many such persons have relinquished their appointments during the period of closure ?
- (f) If they had taken notice of a pamphlet " Medical Services in India " published by the Servant of India Society, if so, what action has been taken on the views expressed therein ?
- (g) If the D. G., I. M. S. or the D. M. S. or the C.-in-C., or the Government of India had represented against this closure against Indians to the Secretary of State and the War Office ? If not, do any of them intend doing so ?
- (h) Which of these above authorities recommended the closure of I. M. S. to Indians and which do yet wish it to be continued ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The competitive examination for admission to the Indian Medical Service ceased in 1915 because it was impossible to hold an examination during the war. It has not been considered feasible to revive the examination because conditions have been generally disturbed and also because there have not been sufficient European candidates available in the United Kingdom to make it worth while holding a competitive examination. The method of selection was also introduced to enable officers who had served in a temporary capacity during the war to be considered for the grant of permanent commissions.

(b) The grant of permanent commissions to Indians has been held in abeyance since March 1922 for the reason that in the years preceding that date the number of Europeans recruited had been disproportionately small. As was stated on the 27th May last, in reply to the Honourable Member's

question No. 1047, it is impossible to say at present when the recruitment of Indians to permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service will be reopened.

(c) Since March 1922, 44 officers have been admitted to the permanent cadre of the Indian Medical Service, but 4 subsequently died or resigned, 32 of them have the option of resigning the service after 5 years.

(d) The records of these officers are not complete, but so far as information is available, the particulars are as follows :—

F. R. C. S.....1 ; M. D.....3 ; Hygiene and Tropical Medicine qualifications.....2 ; Additional University degrees other than professional4.

(e) In order to furnish the information desired in this part of the question, it would be necessary to examine the personal files of all the officers concerned. This would involve a considerable amount of labour which, in the opinion of the Government of India, would not be justified by the result.

(f) The Government of India have not seen a copy of the pamphlet referred to by the Honourable Member.

(g) and (h). On these points, the Government of India are not prepared to furnish any information. I may explain, however, that neither the Director General, Indian Medical Service, the Director of Medical Services or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is competent to make any representation of the kind suggested.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : I want to know if they made any representations.

Mr. E. Burdon : I said that the Government of India were not prepared to furnish information on that point.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : As regards (b), what is the proportion of Europeans that the Indian candidates have been debarred ? Was it so high ? In reply to (b) the Honourable Member said that the percentage of Europeans was disproportionately small, therefore the examination was closed. I beg to inquire what was that percentage of Europeans in the competitive examinations held before.

Mr. E. Burdon : There were no competitive examinations at the time.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : When there was competitive examination, the European percentage was higher. This was the reply given. I beg to inquire what was the percentage.

Mr. E. Burdon : You mean to say, prior to 1915 ?

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : Yes.

Mr. E. Burdon : Then I must ask for notice of that question.

Sardar V. N. Mutalik : With regard to (c), what do the Government of India intend to do with regard to those persons who are holding temporary appointments in the department ?

Mr. E. Burdon : A certain number of them will, I hope, in due course be considered for the grant of permanent commissions.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : What is the percentage of Indians for the permanent service ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare : As regards (f), will Government be pleased to take notice of the pamphlet referred to ?

Mr. E. Burdon : If the Honourable Member will give me a copy, I will read it.

POLL-TAX IN KENYA.

1788. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Indians punished either with fine or imprisonment or both for refusing to pay the poll-tax in Kenya ?

(b) Will Government lay on the table a complete list containing the names and occupations of the Indians referred to in (a) ?

(c) Does the poll-tax apply to women and children ; does it apply to minors also ?

(d) What steps if any have Government taken to get this tax removed ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) and (b). The Government of India are not in possession of the information.

(c) No : it is paid by every male adult, other than a native.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to Mr. Ramachandra Rao's question No. 1229 on the 4th June 1924.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : As regards (a) and (b), will Government be pleased to inquire and furnish the information ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : I do not think, Sir, any useful purpose will be served by obtaining that information.

INTERCEPTION OF TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES.

1789. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the officers who have been specially authorised under section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, to order the interception of messages under section 5 (1) (b) of the said Act ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the persons or the classes of persons whose messages had been stopped in the official years 1921, 1922, 1923 and the classes of subjects in regard to which the transmission of messages had been stopped during the same period ?

(c) If there is any periodical return submitted to the Governor General in Council by the Local Governments or by any specially authorised officers in regard to action taken under section 5 (1) (b) of the said Act, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table for the official years 1921, 1922, and 1923 ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) Action is taken under this section only on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interests of the public safety, and Government do not consider it to be in the public interests to divulge the names of any officers especially authorised under the section.

(b) The Government of India have no information, as no lists are maintained.

(c) No such returns are submitted to the Governor General in Council.

INTERCEPTION OF POSTAL ARTICLES.

1790. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of goods intercepted in the official year 1923, by the Post Offices under section 25 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 ? If there is any periodical return of such goods, will the Government be pleased to lay such return for the official year 1923 on the table ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many cases orders were passed in the official year 1923, by the Governor General in Council, the Local Governments and specially authorised officers under section 26 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any intimation has been given in each case to the senders of the postal articles where such articles had been intercepted under section 26 of the said Act ?

(d) Are the Government prepared to direct that in future the orders should be published in the official gazette of the province when action is taken under section 26.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) The information is not available. No return of such goods is maintained.

(b) Action is taken only on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interests of public safety or tranquillity, and Government do not consider it to be in the public interests to state the number of cases in which action was taken in 1923.

(c) The Act does not require intimation to be given to the senders of intercepted articles and presumably no such intimation is given.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : Will the Honourable Member take steps to ensure that such intimation is given to the senders of the intercepted articles ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : That is, with reference to action taken under section 26 ? Certainly not, Sir.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : Then how is he to know whether the articles have been detained ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I do not think he should know, Sir.

EVIDENCE OF PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND EX-MINISTERS BEFORE THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

1791. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami** : Have Government invited all Ministers and ex-Ministers (of the Provinces) to appear as witnesses before or send in written statements to the Reforms Inquiry Committee ?

If not, (1) do Government propose to do so ?

(2) Which of the Ministers and ex-Ministers have been so invited ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The question as to which Ministers and ex-Ministers should be invited to appear as witnesses before the Reforms Inquiry Committee is a matter for the Committee to decide and

not for Government. In the Resolution of the Government of India dated the 20th June, 1924, constituting the Committee, however, all persons who desired to supply written evidence for the consideration of the Committee were invited to do so and to say at the same time whether they were prepared to give oral evidence or not.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do Government propose for the benefit of the country first of all to examine persons specially and particularly from the community that forms the majority of the people of Bengal and listen to their statements which they will make on the subject as stated in question No. 1791, in view of the fact that the Honourable the Leader of the House is the President of the Reforms Inquiry Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I am the President of the Committee but here I am representing the Government, not the Committee.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Sir, is it a fact that an invitation was sent and notified in the Gazette to the public at large that any person who had any standing, position or experience of the working of the Reforms should send in his memorandum ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : As I have stated before, all persons who are interested were invited to send in a memorandum.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : And was the time which was originally fixed at the 1st of August extended to the 15th of August ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I believe the Honourable Member is correct.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Was any responsible person refused an opportunity to give evidence ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Committee will be able to answer that question.

Mr. T. C. Goswami : Sir, do I understand that the Ministers and ex-Ministers, who have been invited to give evidence or to submit written memoranda, have done so on their own initiative and not at the invitation of the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Committee would be in a better position to answer that question. I am standing here for the Government and I cannot reveal what is going on in the Committee.

Mr. K. Ahmed : In view of the fact that the President of the Reforms Inquiry Committee or his Secretary has already received some written memoranda from the particular community that is in the majority in Bengal, do Government propose for the benefit of the country and the purposes for which this inquiry is being held to examine them first ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have said to the Honourable Member before that the question of the examination witnesses is one for the Committee and not for the Government.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : But, Sir, may I ask, so far as the Government are aware, has the Committee refused to give an opportunity to any responsible person to give evidence ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Certainly not, Sir.

PUBLICATION OF THE EVIDENCE OF PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND EX-MINISTERS
BEFORE THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

1792. * **Mr. T. C. Goswami** : Will the Government be pleased to publish or lay on the table of the Assembly, now or at a later date, the written and oral evidence of Ministers and ex-Ministers before the Reforms Inquiry Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The written and oral evidence in question is evidence supplied not to Government but to a Committee appointed by Government, and Government will not be able to decide the action which should be taken as regards the evidence until they receive the report of the Committee.

Mr. T. C. Goswami : Will the decision rest with the Committee as to what is going to be published ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Certainly not. It will rest with the Government, to whom the Report will be submitted.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do Government propose to gather the true version of the real state of things in Bengal as far as the present political situation is concerned ?

Mr. President : I think the Honourable Member had better ask to be allowed to appear before the Committee himself.

OPINIONS OF PRESENT AND PAST PROVINCIAL MINISTERS ON THE REPORT
OF THE LEE COMMISSION.

1793. * **Mr. T. C. Goswami** : (i) Have the present and past Ministers been given an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the Report of the Lee Commission ?

(ii) If so, will Government kindly lay these opinions on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have answered this question several times. A report was laid on the table at the first meeting of the Assembly.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha : Sir, have the Government noticed that in the memorandum which has been circulated this morning all the present Ministers have opposed the recommendations of the Lee Commission ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I do not think, Sir, that arises out of my answer. The answer relates to the laying of the Report.

RANCHI RADIUM INSTITUTE.

1794. * **Khan Bahaqur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph under the heading "Ranchi Radium Institute" in chapter VII pages 117 to 118 of the Local Government publication "Bihar and Orissa in 1923" ?

(b) If so, will they please state (i) if they agree to the remarks made therein and (ii) whether they propose to ask other provinces to co-operate under the directions of the Central Government as suggested in the last portion of the paragraph ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) (i) and (ii). As the Honourable Member is aware, medical administration is a transferred subject and it is not possible for the Government of India to take any initiative in the matter without the consent of Local Governments. They have, however, drawn the attention of these Governments to the passage in question and asked for an expression of their views on the suggestion made therein.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha : Sir, is it not a fact that the management of this Institute rests with the Government ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : No, Sir.

THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE EDUCATION STAFF.

1795. * **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that the officers of the Indian Forest Service Education Staff seldom serve as Instructors for more than three years ?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to consider the desirability of retaining the members of the Staff for longer periods, as suggested in the first paragraph of page 3 of the pamphlet " Forest Research at Dehra Dun " Reprints from the *Englishman*, the *Civil and Military Gazette* and the *Rangoon Times* ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

MAJOR PRODUCTS OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN.

1796. * **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) The major products of the Research Institute, Dehra Dun, in the year 1923-24 ?

(b) The quantity exported from India in the year 1923-24 ?

(c) The quantity consumed in India in the year 1923-24 ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Forest Institute at Dehra Dun is for research. It does not yield products in commercial quantities. Questions (b) and (c) therefore do not arise.

DECORATIVE WORK IN NEW DELHI.

1797. * **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will the Government please state whether the work of decoration in New Delhi will be given to Indian artists ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Resolution passed by the Council of State on this subject on the 11th February 1924. The Government of India propose to act in accordance with that Resolution.

THIRD CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON MAIL TRAINS.

1798. * **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the

Forward of the 23rd July 1924, page 11, under the heading "Bombay Mail, and Inter Class Passengers" ?

(b) If so, are the statements made therein correct ?

(c) If correct, do Government propose to issue instructions to the railway authorities concerned to remove the inconvenience of the passengers referred to in the letter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) Yes.

(c) The restriction is imposed and the higher fare is levied, because accommodation by mail trains is limited. Passengers, travelling under 200 miles or not wishing to pay the higher fares, can use fast express trains for any distance on payment of ordinary fares. In the circumstances, Government do not propose to issue any instructions in the matter.

PROMOTIONS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1799. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 1457 asked in the last Simla session of the Assembly will the Government please state if the inquiry they promised to make has been completed ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Yes, and the information has been supplied to the Honourable Member on 21st June 1924. A copy is placed on the table.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, RAILWAY DEPARTMENT (RAILWAY BOARD), TO N. M. JOSHI, ESQ., M.L.A., No. 674-E., DATED SIMLA, THE 21ST JUNE 1924.

Promotion of Indian Traffic Staff.

With reference to the reply given to question No. 1457 in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th June 1924, I am directed to state that no Indian Station Master, Asstt. Station Master or Guard of the Eastern Bengal Railway has been directly promoted to the posts of Traffic Inspector, Transportation Inspector, Claims Inspector or Assistant Traffic Superintendent, the reason being that until recently the men taking up these appointments were not generally speaking suitable for the higher posts referred to owing to insufficient education and inability to control others.

I am however to add that Indian office clerks, Shed Inspectors and Assistant Goods Supervisors of the Eastern Bengal Railway have been appointed as Traffic Inspectors, Claims Inspectors and Outstanding Inspectors and that one Indian Traffic Inspector and one Indian clerk have been appointed Assistant Traffic Superintendent in the Local Traffic Service.

EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1800. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 1458 asked in the last session of the Assembly will the Government please state if the inquiry they said they were making has been completed ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes, the information was sent to the Honourable Member on the 29th July 1924.

(b) The station masters and assistant station masters in question are not required to pass in telegraphy or work as signallers as this is not considered necessary, their duties in this respect being of a supervising nature. All such employees are, however, required to pass examinations in Coaching and Goods work.

ALLEGED CHARGES OF BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION AGAINST CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT, KATIHAH, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1801. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to the reply "Government have no information but have asked the Agent to let them know the facts" to starred question No. 1460, asked in the last Simla session of the Assembly, will Government please state if they are in possession of the facts ?

(b) If so, will they place them before the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes and they were communicated to the Honourable Member on 5th July 1924.

(b) An inquiry into an alleged extortion from menials on the Katihar District of the Eastern Bengal Railway was held and it was not proved that such extortion took place. Certain features in the working of the Chief Clerk and the Menial Establishment Clerk, however, were found to be unsatisfactory, and on this account their future promotion has been affected. The transfer of the menials was considered necessary as it was undesirable that they should remain in the District after the occurrence.

OVERCROWDING OF NIGHT TRAINS LEAVING BOMBAY FOR NASIK AND POONA, RESPECTIVELY.

1802. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to the reply "Government have no information on the subject, but inquiry is being made", to starred question No. 1465, asked in the last Simla session of the Assembly, will the Government please state, if the inquiry has been completed ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway Administration, with a view to checking the numbers of passengers, had a count taken during the week ending 12th July, 1924. This was the week in which the Ashadi Ekadasi Fair at Pandharpur took place and only on two trains during this week was there found an excess of passengers over the accommodation provided.

LAST GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS.

1803. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates for the last general elections both in the Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Councils ?

- (b) the number of candidates who forfeited their deposits for failing to secure one-eighth of the votes polled ?
- (c) the names of the provinces in which women have been admitted to the franchise ?
- (d) whether any women have exercised their right of voting, and if so, in which province or provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Honourable Member is referred to the Return showing the results of election in India, 1923, a copy of which is in the Library of this House.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

1804. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the "Forward" of the 24th July, 1924 page 11 under the heading "Grievances of Railway Passengers" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct ?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue necessary instructions to the railway authorities concerned to redress the grievances complained of ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) and (c). Government understand that, although the stock used is old, it is the best that is available for the service. A census taken during March, since when extra trains have been put on, showed that No. 42 Down was not overcrowded. The Railway Administration are not aware of passengers having had to travel on foot-boards.

PROVISION OF REFRESHMENTS ON THE LINE BETWEEN PURULIA AND RANCHI.

1805. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that at none of the stations between Purulia and Ranchi (B. & O.) are refreshments such as tea or biscuits available ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to issue instructions to the railway authorities concerned to remove this inconvenience to the public by ordering some refreshments to be kept at some station midway between Purulia and Ranchi ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government are aware that there are no tea rooms between Purulia and Ranchi, but understand that refreshments other than tea and biscuits can be obtained on trains and at most stations. Ample time is also allowed for through passengers to obtain what they require in the refreshment room at Purulia.

(b) On the completion of the Hesia-Chandil Chord, there will be a junction at Thulin, midway between Purulia and Ranchi, and it is intended to open a refreshment room there.

In the circumstances Government do not propose to issue any instructions.

REMOVAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES,
FROM CALCUTTA TO DELHI.

1806. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, will be removed from Calcutta to Delhi ?

(b) If so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, will move to Delhi early in October next, except a portion of the staff which will remain at Calcutta in connection with—

- (1) the experiment which it is proposed to try in Calcutta in connection with the scheme for centralisation of payments ; and
- (2) certain other items of work which are at present done in the Accountant General, Central Revenues' office but which will have to be transferred to the office of the Accountant General, Bengal.

DISMISSAL OF MR. B. A. FAUZDAR FROM THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN
RAILWAY.

1807. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Searchlight* of the 25th July 1924, page 2, under the heading "B. & N. W. Railway Association" "Welfare Committees" ?

(b) If so, will they please state :

(i) if it is a fact that B. A. Fauzdar has been dismissed summarily for having refused to be a member of the "Welfare Committee" ?

(ii) If so, whether they will please make an inquiry, and communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Government have not seen the paragraph but have the Agent's assurance that the statements made in it have no foundation in fact.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask, Sir, what are the facts ? Will Government be pleased to state what the facts are in connection with this matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I do not think there are any facts, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I cannot understand what the Honourable Member means by saying that there are no facts. Is there no Welfare Committee started there, and what sort of Welfare Committee is it ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The question does not ask whether there is a Welfare Committee there, but relates to the dismissal of a gentleman called Mr. B. A. Fauzdar.

EXCESS FARE EARNINGS OF TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL
RAILWAY.

1808. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : With reference to the reply stating "Government have no information but will make

inquiries" to starred question No. 1524 asked in the last Simla session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) if their inquiries have been completed ?

(b) if completed, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) The orders were issued as stated but they were intended only to ensure Ticket Collectors performing their duty in preventing passengers travelling without tickets—a very common occurrence. The Agent, however, recognised that the method adopted in this matter was open to possible objection and the orders have been since withdrawn and modified.

INDIAN ARMY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION.

1809. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there are other Indian Army Schools of Education for the training of Indian officers and non-commissioned officers as Instructors, besides the one at Belgaum ?

(b) If so, at what other places ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The answer is in the negative, and (b) therefore does not arise.

SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY WAGONS.

1810. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the first paragraph of the paragraph published in the issue of the "Englishman" of the 26th July 1924 page 10 under the heading "Shortage of Wagons" ?

(b) If so, will they be pleased to state if the complaint made therein regarding the "Shortage of Wagons" is correct ?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue instructions to the authorities concerned to make such arrangements as to remove the complaint referred to ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) and (c). Temporary difficulties in the transport of coal are liable to occur from time to time, but the supply of wagons to the coal-fields may be said generally to have improved in the last few months. At the moment there is an ample supply of wagons, but there is some difficulty in meeting in full indents for certain destinations owing to temporary restrictions. For instance, on the East Indian Railway booking *viâ* Agra East Bank is closed owing to breaches beyond that point.

There is no need to issue any special instructions as the matter is constantly under the consideration of the Railway Board and Railways.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha : Do the Railway authorities take any steps to meet the demand for wagons during the busy season ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Yes, Sir, every step we possibly can take.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha : Will the Government be pleased to state at least one of the steps that they propose to take or that they do take ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : We buy more wagons, improve our marshalling arrangements,—I am afraid I cannot detail now all the steps we take.

CLOSING AT NIGHT OF BIRATI, HRIDAIPUR AND DAGOCHIA STATIONS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1811. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the "Forward" of the 27th July, 1924 page 9 under the heading "Grievances of Railway Passengers" in connection with the decision of the railway authorities of the E. B. Railway for the night closing of Birati, Hridaipur and Dagochia railway stations on the central section between the hours of 20 and 6 from 1st August 1924 ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct ?

(c) If correct, do they propose to recommend to the authorities to see that the inconvenience of the public as complained of, are removed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) and (c). Government understand that orders have already been issued for No. 101 Up train to serve Birati and Hridaipur stations as before, but that owing to the necessity for curtailing expenditure, the stoppage of Nos. 9 Up, 10 Down and 32 Down, at the three stations mentioned cannot be arranged.

GRIEVANCES OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY THE BANDEL KATWA LINE OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1812. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the "Forward" of the 29th July 1924, page 9, under the heading "Grievances of Bandel Katwa Line Passengers" ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct ?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue instructions to the railway authorities concerned to see that the inconvenience of the passengers be removed and the grievances referred to redressed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer just given to his question regarding inconveniences of Bandel-Barharwa Loop section passengers.

As regards the timing of No. 20 L. Down train Government understand that it would be impracticable to make the alteration suggested.

CASE OF ARJAN SINGH, CLERK, RAWALPINDI POST OFFICE.

1813. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) With reference to the reply, stating "The Government of India are not aware of the facts of this case, but are causing inquiries to be made" to starred

question No. 1554 asked in the last Simla session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state if the inquiries have been completed ?

(b) If completed, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Yes.

(b) The orders passed by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, have been revised by Government, who have decided that Arjan Singh should receive the full pay for which he would have been entitled during the period of his suspension and that his increments should not be stopped.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Government earnestly tried to satisfy Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan and through him the public even with regard to a single matter, while he has been putting so many questions on so many matters of public importance ?

DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF THE STAFF OF THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPARTMENT AND THE CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

1814. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (1) Will the Government please state if it is a fact that the Veterinary Assistants in the Army Remount Department get Rs. 30—50—70 as their graded pay while in the Civil Veterinary Department their compeers who possess exactly the same qualifications, get Rs. 60—75—90 ?

(2) Similarly will the Government please state if it is a fact that the Veterinary Inspectors in the Army Remount Department get Rs. 75—125 while in the Civil Veterinary Department they get Rs. 120—170 ?

(3) Is it also a fact that the graded pay of the Veterinary Deputy Superintendents in the Army Remount Veterinary Department and the Civil Veterinary Department is

200—400 and

250—750, respectively ?

(4) Is it also true that in the matter of travelling and daily allowances also the members of the Veterinary Branch of the Army Remount Department are worse off than their compeers in the Civil Veterinary Department ? Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the rates at which such allowances are allowed to the various officials in the two Departments ?

(5) If the answer to questions (1) to (4) be in the affirmative will the Government please state the reasons that have led to this disparity of conditions between the two cognate services ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (1), (2) and (3). The Government of India are not in possession of the details of the conditions of service in the subordinate grades of the Civil Veterinary Department. These vary in the different provinces. The rates of pay obtaining in the Army Remount Department have been correctly stated in parts 1, 2 and 3 of the question.

(4) For the reason which has been given, the Government are not in a position to make the comparison here suggested. Deputy Superintendents, Veterinary Inspectors and District Veterinary Assistants of the Army Remount Department draw the following fixed monthly allowances

which are intended to cover actual expenses connected with their movements within the limits of their charges :

	Per mensem.
	Rs.
Deputy Superintendents	.. 60
Veterinary Inspectors ..	.. 45
District Veterinary Assistant ..	.. 22-8-0

(5) As I have explained, Government are not in a position to verify the disparity which the Honourable Member alleges. In reply to a subsequent question I will explain what the present position is as regards the pay of the Veterinary Staff employed in the Army Remount Department.

Mr. Abdul Haya : Is it a fact that there are seven circles in the Army Remount Department out of which six are located in the Punjab ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I am afraid I cannot answer a question of that kind offhand. If the Honourable Member will give me notice I shall be very glad to answer.

STATUS OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT AND THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPARTMENT.

1815. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** Is it a fact that the post of Deputy Superintendent in the Civil Veterinary Department is gazetted while that in the Army Remount Department is not ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Yes.

LIABILITY TO ACTIVE SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE VETERINARY BRANCH OF THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPARTMENT.

1816. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** Will the Government please state if it is a fact that the members of the Veterinary Branch of the Army Remount Department at the time of entering service are required to execute an agreement whereby they render themselves liable to enlist for war on the same pay, while no such agreement is demanded from the members of the Civil Veterinary Department ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Members of the Veterinary Branch of the Army Remount Department are not now required to execute such an agreement and all those subordinates who were enrolled and attested at the time they joined the Department have been released from such enrolment and attestation.

MEMORIAL FROM MEMBERS OF THE VETERINARY BRANCH OF THE ARMY DEPARTMENT REGARDING THEIR PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

1817. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Is it a fact that in the year 1921 the members of the Veterinary Branch of the Army Remount Department submitted memorials to the Government pointing out the disparity of conditions between the two services and praying for an increase in their pay and allowances, etc. ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what action did the Government take in the matter ? If no action was taken during the last three years, will the Government please state the reasons for the same ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Yes.

(b) The consideration of the question of revising the pay of Veterinary Assistants in the Army Remount Department has been delayed owing to the imperative necessity of first giving effect to the various measures of retrenchment recommended by the Indian Retrenchment Committee in respect of the Remount Department. It is hoped that a final decision in regard to these retrenchment measures will very soon be reached ; the question of revising the pay of these Veterinary Assistants will then be proceeded with.

PURCHASE AND BREEDING OF HORSES FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

1818. **Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Will the Government please state what arrangements there existed before 1903, (when the Army Remount Department was first established) for the purchase and breeding of horses for the Indian Army ?

(b) What was the total expenditure per year incurred by the Government for purchasing and breeding horses before 1903 ?

(c) What yearly expenditure is incurred by the Government at present for the above purpose ?

(d) Whether the demand for horses for the Army has increased since 1903 ? If so, by how much ?

(e) Will the Government please state what was the total number of British Officers employed for this purpose before 1903 and what was their aggregate salary ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The production of horses for the Army is inseparable from the operations for the provision of mules and the reply to the Honourable Member's question which has, for the reason stated, been treated as applying to both horses and mules, is as follows :

(a) The answer to this question is necessarily very long and with your permission, Sir, I will furnish the Honourable Member separately with a statement which contains the information he requires.

(b) The total aggregate annual cost prior to 1903 of the Remount Department and of the Civil Veterinary Department which, at that time, controlled operations for breeding horses and mules for military purposes, amounted approximately to Rs. 50,13,450.

(c) The expenditure during 1924-25 is estimated at Rs. 79,40,760.

(d) Two statements giving the normal requirements of horses and mules for the years 1903 and 1924 are laid on the table.

(e) Twenty-one, drawing a monthly aggregate salary of Rs. 20,305.

Statements showing the normal requirements of horses, etc., for 1903 and 1924.

(I)—1903.				
Horses—				
Artillery, British cavalry, Madras cavalry ..	..	..	..	2405
Silladar cavalry regiments ..	..	..	..	2697
Ponies ..	..	..	..	169
Mules ..	..	..	..	1895
Young stock horses ..	..	..	..	400
Total				7816
(II)—1924.				
Horses ..	..	..	..	3153
Ponies ..	..	..	..	134
Mules—				
Equipment ..	..	..	..	607
Army Transport ..	..	..	..	1549
Pack Artillery ..	..	..	..	414
Young stock horses ..	..	..	..	1000
Young stock mules ..	..	..	..	984
Testing ponies ..	..	..	..	7
Donkey colts ..	..	..	..	10
Brood mares ..	..	..	..	10
Total ..				7868

N.B.—Though the demands of silladar cavalry are included in the requirements of 1903, the State incurred no expenditure on their purchase, the horse being supplied by the soldier through regimental arrangements.

INDIANISATION OF THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPARTMENT.

1819. ***Mr. Abdul Hays :** (a) Will the Government please state the total number of British officers now employed in the Army Remount Department and what is their aggregate salary ?

(b) How many out of the British officers employed in the Army Remount Department are merely attached officers and not on the permanent list and what is their aggregate pay ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is not a single Indian employed as an officer from the District Remount Officers up to the Director in the Administration Branch of the Army Remount Department ?

(d) Has the Government considered the desirability of Indianising this Department ? If not are the Government now prepared to consider this question at an early date ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) There are altogether 44 officers employed in the Remount service, including those officers who are employed in the Remount Directorate at Army Headquarters, and their aggregate salary amounts to Rs. 53,000 per mensem. (Of this amount, however, Rs. 12,000 represents the army rank pay of rank and the regimental staff pay of 15 unseconded officers of the Indian cavalry who are attached to the Remount Department for duty.

(b) As already stated in reply to part (a) of this question, there are 15 British officers who are attached to the Remount Department for duty. Their aggregate monthly pay is Rs. 13,500, of which Rs. 12,000 is included

in the cost of the units to which these officers belong as they are unseconded and therefore not replaced in their units.

(c) Although no Indian officers with the King's Commission are at present employed in the Army Remount Department, such officers, like all other officers of Indian cavalry units, are eligible for such employment provided they satisfy the conditions required, namely, that they must enter the army as combatant officers in the first instance and then have some years' experience of regimental life. The Indian officers holding the King's Commission at present in the Indian Army are young and have not yet obtained sufficient experience of regimental service.

There are 10 Indian officers with the Viceroy's Commission holding junior appointments in the Remount service.

(d) From the answer which I have just given to part (c) of the Honourable Member's question he will observe that Indian officers with the King's Commission are eligible for appointment to the Army Remount Department. No special measures for the Indianisation of this Department are contemplated.

REFUSAL OF A LICENSE TO MR. S. D. NADKARNI OF KARWAR TO POSSESS A SET OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPH APPARATUS.

1820. **Mr. D. V. Belvi :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorials and letters published under the heading " Science and politics " in the *Indian Social Reformer* of Bombay in the issues of the 13th and 27th January 1923, 17th February 1923 and 7th and 21st July 1923 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether Mr. S. D. Nadkarni of Karwar had applied on 19th March 1923 to the Director of Wireless, Simla, through the Government of Bombay, for the grant of a license to possess one set of wireless telegraph apparatus of the minimum available range and power for amateur purposes ?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that his application for license was rejected by the Director of Wireless without any reasons being assigned for so doing ?

(d) Are the Government aware that the Director failed to give the reason or reasons for his refusal, though Mr. S. D. Nadkarni requested him to do so in his letter, dated 26th June 1923 ?

(e) Will the Government of India be pleased to state whether the Director of Wireless refused to grant the license on his own initiative or under instructions from the Government of Bombay ?

(f) If the license was refused under instructions from the Government of Bombay, will Government be pleased to give the reason or reasons for not recommending the application for a grant of a license ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the withholding of the sanction was not due to the fact that the applicant was a Congressman and that he wore a Khadi-cap ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a), (b), (c) and (d). Yes.

(e) Licenses are issued only after receipt of the concurrence of the Local Government of the province in which the apparatus is to be installed. As the Local Government did not recommend the issue of a

license in this case the Director of Wireless informed Mr. Nadkarni that it was regretted that his request for a license could not be complied with.

(f) The Local Government did not recommend the issue of a license, and stated that, the applicant did not possess the qualifications necessary for the grant of a license.

(g) No.

Sardar V. N. Mutalik : May I know what is the policy of Government with regard to education in wireless ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : That is a question which it would be very difficult to answer as an answer to a supplementary question just now.

Mr. M. A. Jinaah : Will the Honourable Member kindly say what are the qualifications necessary for the grant of a license ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : They are published, and I shall communicate them to the Honourable Member.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Is there any license given in the Bombay Presidency for educational purposes in wireless ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : That will appear from the answer to a question which my Honourable friend Mr. Belvi is going to ask me just now.

CONFISCATION OF SET OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPH APPARATUS BELONGING TO MR. KHANDESHAI, A GRADUATE OF THE BOMBAY UNIVERSITY.

1821. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** Will Government be pleased to state whether a set of wireless telegraph belonging to Mr. Khandubhai, a graduate of the Bombay University and son of the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, C.I.E., was confiscated by them ? If so, had the apparatus come in his possession before the wireless license rules were framed or after ? If it was after, were the rules made retrospective ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : Government have no information regarding the alleged confiscation of the Wireless Set in question. If the Honourable Member will supply definite details the matter will be further investigated.

APPLICATIONS FROM COLLEGES TO POSSESS WIRELESS TELEGRAPH APPARATUS.

1822. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any applications were made by any colleges affiliated to any Indian University for the issue of licenses to possess a wireless telegraph, since the framing of the wireless license rules, for teaching and experimental purposes ? If so, how many applications were made and by what colleges ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether all the applications were granted ? If not, how many were granted and why were the rest refused ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Applications have been received on behalf of Colleges, or from Professors of Colleges, for instructional and experimental purposes and licenses have been issued to :

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling.

Lucknow University.
 Forman Christian College, Lahore.
 Royal Institute of Science, Bombay.
 Presidency College, Calcutta.
 Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
 Dacca University, Dacca.
 St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.
 University College, Lahore.
 Presidency College, Madras.

(b) All applications have been granted.

REFUSAL OF A LICENSE TO THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE TO INSTAL A WIRELESS TELEGRAPH APPARATUS.

1823. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi** : Is it a fact that the Calcutta University College of Science applied for a license to instal a wireless telegraph apparatus for *bona fide* teaching and experimental purposes but the application was refused ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : I am informed that no application has been received from the Calcutta University.

Dr. S. K. Datta : May I ask whether the circular issued by the Government of India, Department of Education, in the year 1913 or 1914 to the Universities instructing them that in the curriculum for Physics wireless telegraphy and wireless demonstrations should be omitted and instructing the University Boards to ensure that questions on wireless were not asked in the University question papers is still in force or not ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : I really could not say. The Honourable Member has referred to a circular which was issued I may say in pre-historic days.

Dr. S. K. Datta : Those were not pre-historic days. I was a member of an Educational body that received that circular.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : As I have stated, a large number of applications from various educational institutions have already been granted.

Dr. S. K. Datta : I am glad to see that a new spirit has come over the Government of India.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Are Government prepared to withdraw that circular now ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : I am not aware that any such circular is in existence or is extant at the present time.

Mr. T. C. Goswami : Will you make the necessary research ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : That question should be addressed to my Honourable Colleague.

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON A MUHAMMADAN GENTLEMAN IN HIS EFFORTS TO INVENT AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF WIRELESS MESSAGES THROUGH WATER.

1824. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the comments in the issue of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," dated

18th January 1923, (Bi-weekly edition) regarding the restrictions imposed upon an Indian Muhammadan gentleman of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh employed in the Government Telegraph Department in his efforts at the invention of an instrument for the transmission of wireless messages through water ?

(b) If so, are the allegations made in the said newspaper true ?

(c) If not, what are the facts according to the information of Government ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) I have nothing to add to the answers given to question No. 456 on the 5th March 1923 by Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank in this House and to the answers given to question No. 191 on 21st March 1923 by the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma in another place.

WIRELESS LICENSES GRANTED TO INDIANS.

1825. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** Will the Government of India be pleased to state how many Indians, other than Anglo-Indians, are to-day in possession of wireless licenses in this country ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : Eighty-two.

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON ENGLISH SUBJECTS WITH REGARD TO THE POSSESSION OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPH SETS.

1826. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi :** Will the Government of India be pleased to state whether there are any restrictions imposed either by law or rules prohibiting the subjects in England from possessing a wireless telegraph set for amateur purposes or otherwise ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The maintenance and working of wireless telegraphs in England is governed by the Wireless Telegraph Act, 1904, and rules made by the P. M. G., under which no person may establish, install or work any wireless telegraph set whether for amateur purposes or otherwise except under license from the Postmaster-General.

JUDGMENT OF MR. JUSTICE MCCARDIE IN THE NAIR-O'DWYER CASE.

1827. ***Haji S. A. K. Jeelani :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their opinion has been invited by the Secretary of State for India on the judgment of Mr. Justice McCardie in the Nair *versus* O'Dwyer case ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the views submitted to the Secretary of State ? If the answer is in the negative do the Government propose to repudiate Mr. Justice McCardie's judgment by reaffirming their views expressed on the Hunter Committee's Report ?

The Honourable Mr. Alexander Muddiman : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply I gave to Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer's question No. 1682.

HINDU-MUSLIM RIOTS.

1828. ***Haji S. A. K. Jeelani** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (a) the number of Hindu-Muslim riots that have taken place from January last in those Provinces which are directly under the control of the Government of India, (b) the places where they have occurred, (c) their originating causes, (d) the steps taken by the Government to quell them, and (e) the number of deaths reported and registered in each riot including those caused by the shooting of the police ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SINCE JANUARY 1924.

1829. ***Haji S. A. K. Jeelani** : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications received from qualified men for posts from January last and the number of appointments made in the various departments of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I assume that the question refers to application for employment in the clerical establishment of the Government of India Secretariat. 41 such applications have been received since January last from educationally qualified candidates who had not passed the Staff Selection Board's examination. 31 appointments have been made during the same period from the Board's reserve of passed candidates. The majority of these were temporary appointments.

ADDITIONAL DUTY ON BOUNTY-FED ARTICLES.

1830. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many cases from 1st April 1920 to 31st March 1924, His Excellency, the Governor-General in Council exercised his powers of levying additional import duty on bounty-fed articles under section 8-A of the Indian Tariff Act VIII of 1894 with details as to (i) the articles imported, (ii) the amount of additional duty, (iii) the names of countries from which the articles were imported or wherein they were manufactured ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to give similar information regarding the levy of special import duty on sugar under section 8-B of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : In no cases.

ACCESS TO HOWRAH RAILWAY STATION.

1831. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami** : (a) Are Government aware of the serious inconvenience to passengers at the Howrah railway station caused by the railway employees in charge of the gates keeping the entrance to the platforms as narrow as possible, thereby making crowding and jostling inevitable for all classes of passengers, and that these railway employees justify this by saying that they are under orders to do so ?

(b) Who has issued the order, what exactly is the order, and are Government prepared to see that this order is immediately revoked ?

(c) Are Government aware that sometimes *bona fide* passengers are not admitted into the platform a quarter of an hour before a train is timed to start, at Howrah ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this Assembly on 23rd January, 1923, to (i) and (ii) of question No. 212.

MEMORIAL OF GAZETTED POSTMASTERS FOR IMPROVED PAY.

1832. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (a) Is it a fact that gazetted postmasters in India and Burma submitted a memorial to the Government of India in August 1920 and again in September of the same year regarding the improvement of their pay as a result of the adverse economic conditions caused by the Great War ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken by them on these memorials ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Yes.

(b) The prayers of the gazetted postmasters for a revision of their pay were carefully considered by Government and the decision arrived at was that while there was no justification for revising the pay of the Presidency Postmasters at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and of the Postmaster, Rangoon, the pay of the remaining gazetted postmasters should be revised. This was accordingly done, and instead of the rates of pay being of local application as heretofore, all gazetted postmasters, except those at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon and Lahore were placed on personal pay. This revised system with the revised rates of pay was brought into effect from the 28th October 1921, the date of the issue of orders by Government.

GRANT TO GAZETTED POSTMASTERS OF THE CONCESSION OF COUNTING OFFICIATING SERVICE FOR INCREMENTS.

1833. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (a) Is it a fact that the pay of the postmen, the clerical staff and the Superintendents, was improved retrospectively with effect from 1st December 1919, and that they were allowed to count officiating service for increments in the time-scale, while gazetted postmasters were not brought on a time scale until eleven months later, namely, until the 28th October 1921 and that they were denied the concession of counting officiating service for increments ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state why gazetted postmasters were not given any relief such as was granted to all other officers of the Department from 1st December 1919 and also denied the concession of counting officiating service ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Yes. The pay of the subordinate Postal staff was revised by Government with effect from the 1st December, 1919, on the recommendation of the Postal Committee of 1920. A time-scale of Rs. 250—25—300—20—700 was introduced from the same date for Superintendents of Post Offices as a result of the recommendations of the Public Services Commission, 1912-1913, but the concession of counting officiating service for increments was allowed only from the 28th November, 1921, the date of the issue of orders.

The pay of the three grades of Gazetted Postmasters was revised by order of 28th October, 1921. The time-scale 350—650 was not sanctioned till 1st July, 1923.

(b) As already stated, the revision of the pay of Postal Superintendents, which was given effect to from 1st December, 1919, was the result of the recommendations of the Islington Commission. No similar recommendations were made by the Commission in the case of gazetted postmasters, the revision of whose pay was however considered on the receipt of petitions from them in August and September, 1920, and was sanctioned with effect from the 28th October, 1921, the date of the issue of the orders.

The pay of each officer in the revised scale was regulated under the ordinary rules of the Civil Service Regulations which, under the circumstance of this case, did not permit of the concession of counting officiating service.

TIME-SCALE FOR GAZETTED POSTMASTERS. [

1834. *Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : (a) Is it a fact that the time-scale introduced for gazetted postmasters was felt by all postmasters as a retrograde step benefiting none, but adversely affecting many and that they memorialised the Government of India on the subject in December 1921 ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken by them on the memorials ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) The memorial of December, 1921, referred to by the Honourable Member did not refer to the time-scale, which was introduced for gazetted postmasters, except those at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon and Lahore, only with effect from the 1st July, 1923.

(b) Does not arise.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF PRESIDENCY POSTMASTERS AND THE POSTMASTER, RANGOON.

1835. *Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : (a) Is it a fact :

(i) that the pay of the three Presidency Postmasters and the Postmaster, Rangoon, was not revised as it was then advanced that the pay of corresponding officers of the Department, namely, Deputy Postmasters-General and Assistant Directors General was not going to be revised, and

(ii) that the pay of the latter was improved subsequently while nothing has been done for the former ?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state the reason for not improving the pay of the three Presidency Postmasters and the Postmaster, Rangoon, and do Government propose to consider the desirability of revising the pay of these officers similarly with retrospective effect ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee (a) (i) Yes.

(a) (ii) No. The pay of Deputy Postmasters-General and Assistant Directors-General was not improved. It was merely converted from a

graded scale to an equivalent time-scale in order to admit the Postal service to the benefits of the revised rules regarding officiating pay.

(b) Does not arise.

CLASSIFICATION OF POST OFFICES.

1836. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : Will the Government be pleased to state the principles followed by them in classifying post offices as first and second class offices ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : A first class head office is one which is sufficiently important to justify being in charge of a gazetted postmaster on the scale of pay Rs. 350—650. The other head offices are called ' second class '.

GRANT OF GAZETTED RANK TO POSTMASTERS ON RS. 250.

1837. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : Is it a fact that postmasters in India and Burma submitted a representation to the Government of India in December 1921, urging among other things that the gazetted rank in the Postmasters' cadre should commence from Rs. 250 as in the case of the Superintendents' cadre, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken by them thereon ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : Yes. The selection grade of Rs. 250—20—350 introduced by Government on the recommendation of the Postal Committee, 1920, for the subordinate Postal staff includes not only Postmasters but also officials of the clerical class, and Government did not consider that either clerks or Postmasters in this grade should be granted gazetted status.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE OOTACAMUND AND TRICHINOPOLY POST OFFICES AS SECOND CLASS OFFICES.

1838. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : (a) Is it a fact that post offices like Ootacamund and Trichinopoly which were treated as first class offices when the pay of the postmaster was only Rs. 150—200 are now treated as second class offices though the pay of the appointments has been raised to Rs. 250—350.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this step ?

(c) Are the Government prepared to consider the desirability of placing all postmasters on Rs. 250 and above in the first class ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) and (b). A few head post offices were specially treated as first class although the pay of the postmasters was Rs. 150—200. In accordance, however, with the departmental rule adopted in 1907, head postmasters in or below the grade of Rs. 200—300, corresponding to the present grade of Rs. 250—350, are ranked second class.

(c) In the interests of economy and efficient administration it is necessary that the number of first class head offices, which are independent of the control of the Divisional Superintendent of post offices, should be strictly limited. It makes no difference whatever to the convenience of the public whether a head post office is first or second class. The Government of India, therefore, do not consider the arrangement suggested by the Honourable Member to be desirable.

PROMOTION OF GAZETTED POSTMASTERS TO SUPERIOR APPOINTMENTS.

1839. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any order expressed or implied precluding the appointment of competent gazetted postmasters as Personal Assistants in the Circle Offices and also as Deputy Postmasters-General and Assistant Directors-General, who are at present recruited exclusively from the officials in the Superintendents' cadre ?

(b) If there is no such order, will the Government say how many of these appointments are at present held by officials from the postmasters' cadre.

(c) If there are none, will the Government give an assurance that they would examine the question and remedy the defect ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) There is no order express or implied precluding the appointment of gazetted postmasters as Assistant Directors-General. The appointments of Deputy Postmasters-General are reserved for Superintendents of Post Offices in the same way as Presidency Postmasterships, and the Postmastership of Rangoon, are reserved for gazetted Postmasters. The appointments of Personal Assistants are included in the cadre of Superintendents.

(b) None, but there have been recent cases of men who had risen from Postmasters holding the position of Deputy Director General.

(c) This question was very carefully examined by me on a recent occasion. I found that fifty per cent. of Superintendents were selected from the subordinate staff many of whom were or would in time be postmasters. Men entering these grades have therefore a clear avenue to rise either to the posts of Deputy Postmasters-General through the posts of Superintendent or to the posts of Presidency Postmasters through the higher grades of Postmasters. Any other arrangement will lead to serious complications. It was therefore decided not to interfere with the present arrangements.

GRANT OF RENT-FREE QUARTERS TO POSTMASTER.

1840. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (1) The principles on which postmasters were granted rent and tax free quarters,
- (2) Whether in fixing their pay, the fact that they have been granted free quarters was taken into account or in other words, would not a higher scale of pay have been fixed for them but for this concession ?
- (3) Whether there is any intention on the part of the Government now to deviate from the accepted principles and make them pay rent or taxes, and
- (4) If so, whether Government propose to consider the question of revising their pay to compensate their loss ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (1) A Postmaster who is provided with rent-free quarters on the post office premises is granted the concession in consideration of the fact that it is necessary for the proper discharge of his duties that he should reside on the premises. Such an official was exempted from payment of taxes in respect of his quarters so long as officials of other Government Departments in occupation of rent-free quarters were so exempted.

(2) No.

(3) Postmasters who are provided with quarters on the post office premises are already required to pay taxes at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of their pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 a month, but the question of calling upon them to pay rent has not been raised.

(4) Does not arise.

DISCONTENT AMONG OFFICERS IN THE POSTMASTERS' CADRE.

1841. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : (a) Are the Government aware that there is general discontent among officers in the postmasters' cadre on Rs. 250 and above running down to the rank and file of the clerical staff regarding pay, prospects and conditions of service of the officers in the cadre of postmasters on Rs. 250 and above ?

(b) If so, what steps do they propose to take to improve the pay, prospects and conditions of service of these officers ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) From the fact that towards the close of 1923 a memorial was submitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India by the All-India and Burma Postmasters' Association praying for the improvement of the pay and prospects of Postmasters in the grade of Rs. 250—350 and higher grades, Government have reason to believe that these officers are not satisfied with the existing rates of pay. No representations have, however, been received from them recently with regard to the conditions of their service.

(b) The memorial to the Secretary of State has been rejected by him. In the circumstances the Government of India do not propose to take further action.

RAILWAY DISASTER AT HARAPPA ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Sir, with your permission I should like to communicate to the House some further details which I have just received of the unfortunate accident at Harappa. I have just heard from the Agent of the North-Western Railway that owing to further deaths in hospital the total death from the accident are 105. The total casualties remain as before 202. I thought I had better place this information at the disposal of the House immediately.

REVISION OF RAILWAY COAL CONTRACTS MADE IN 1921.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Sir, I beg to put, with the consent of the Commerce Department, the following question :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state if any changes have been made either regarding quantities or rates in the contracts for coal made in 1921 by the then Mining Engineer to the Railway Board ?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the total direct saving to Government by such change ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I should like, if the House will permit me, to go rather beyond the limits of my Honourable friend's question in order to make the position clear.

At the beginning of the current year deliveries under the contracts for rail-borne coal made in 1921, by the advice of the then Mining Engineer to the Railway Board, were in arrears to the extent of rather over 2½ million tons. Railways were well stocked with coal; they were liable under the contracts to take over four million tons this year at the rates fixed for this year in the contracts; they did not require any of the arrears; and the Railway Board were advised that under the terms of the contracts they were not obliged to take them. They, therefore, instructed the Chief Mining Engineer to cancel the arrears.

Representations were immediately received from the coal trade protesting against this action, and in consequence two Members of the Railway Board proceeded at once to Calcutta with the object of coming to an amicable solution. They and the present Chief Mining Engineer met the officials of the Indian Mining Association and Federation in conference at the beginning of July and arrival at the following arrangement :

- (i) The cancellation of past arrears amounting, as I have said, to over 2½ million tons of coal to stand;
- (ii) Coal supplied under the contracts this year to be paid for at prices Rs. 2 less per ton than the contractual rates for Deshurgarh and Re. 1-4-0 less per ton than the contractual rates for coals of other descriptions.
- (iii) Contractors accepting this arrangement to be given contracts for the requirements of railways in 1925-26 at rates four annas per ton less than the revised rates fixed for this year, and for quantities based on the quantities provided for in this year's contracts and determined in the following manner. Where a contractor was in no way in default, that is to say, where responsibility for the arrears of previous years could in no way be attributed to him his contract for 1925-26 is for the full contractual quantity for the current year; in other cases the contract for 1925-26 is for 75 per cent., 50 per cent., 25 per cent., or exceptionally *nil*, according to the measure of the contractor's responsibility for the default which has produced the arrears. The effect of this part of the arrangement is that we have contracted for rather over 3 million tons next year or about a million tons less than the contractual quantity for this year.
- (iv) The contractual quantities for this and next year to be taken at the revised prices without cancellation of any arrears remaining to be delivered after the termination of each year.

The estimated direct saving to our revenues in the current year from this revision of the contracts by mutual arrangement is 65 lakhs.

All I have so far said applies only to the rail-borne contracts for coal made in 1921. At the instance of the Railway Board acting under the authority of the Government of India the contracts for sea-borne coal made in 1921 by Indian railways have been repudiated by the railways concerned, and as suits have been lodged against the repudiation and are still *sub judice*, I regret that I am unable to give the Honourable Member at present any further information with regard to the sea-borne contracts.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson : Have Government purchased any coal by private treaty since those negotiations referred to in July ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I think not, Sir, at any rate not for the railways who are concerned with the rail-borne contracts I have been mentioning. I understand that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has lately called for tenders ; but it was not concerned with the contracts with which I have now been dealing.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : Can the Honourable Member give a rough idea of the amount involved in the suits which are pending in Courts ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I should prefer not to, Sir.

UNREST AMONG WORKERS ON THE ASSAM TEA GARDENS.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Sir, I propose to ask a question of which I have given private notice.

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the statements that have appeared in the press regarding the unrest amongst some workers on the tea gardens in Assam ?

(b) Will they also be pleased to state whether it is a fact

(i) that about 900 garden labourers in Assam are anxious for repatriation and that the Deputy Commissioner of the district affected has refused the application of some of these labourers to allow them to return home,

(ii) that a large number of labourers have already left their gardens and after eight days' march have now arrived at Jakhlabandha.

(iii) that six deaths have already taken place on account of starvation and disease amongst these labourers ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to take immediate steps to arrange at Government expense to repatriate these labourers ?

(d) Will they also be pleased immediately to make an inquiry into the causes of the discontent and take steps to remove it ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The answer to part (a) of the question is " Yes ".

(b), (c), and (d). Government have asked for a report from the Government of Assam and will await the receipt of their reply.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Government will inform the House what the facts are as soon as they receive the reply ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : Yes, Sir, I shall do so.

THE LAND CUSTOMS BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate, amend and extend the law relating to the levy of duties of customs on articles imported or exported by land from or to territory outside British India, with the Bill as amended.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir I lay on the table the *interim* report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1922-23.

INTERIM REPORT
OF
THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE ACCOUNTS
OF
1922-23.

I.—INTRODUCTORY.

1. In this report we deal with the accounts of the year 1922-23, the second year after the introduction of the Reforms and the second year for which the accounts of the voted expenditure of the Government of India have been brought to the scrutiny of a Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

2. The report of the last Committee brought to light certain defects and included various suggestions for improvement; but it could not have any effect on the accounts before us, as it was published in July 1923, three months after the close of the year under review at present. It is not surprising therefore that we have come across a number of the defects already pointed out, but except in those cases in which it was deemed clearly necessary to emphasize the remarks of the previous Committee, we have not referred specifically to them, as we trust that they will not recur in the future. Our report must, however, be considered as supplementary in many respects to last year's report.

3. In considering the Appropriation Reports this year, we had the benefit of the assistance of the Auditor-General and of the Accountants-General responsible for these reports, namely, the Accountants-General, Central Revenues, Railways and Posts and Telegraphs.

II.—EXCESS OVER VOTED GRANTS.

4. The total amount of grants voted by the Assembly for the expenditure (both capital and revenue) of the year 1922-23 stood originally at Rs. 144,41,32,000; the final grants as voted in March, amounted to Rs. 117,98,27,150; and the total expenditure for the year out of these grants was Rs. 113,27,48,503. The expenditure was thus over 31 crores less than the original grant and about 4½ crores less than the final.*

5. We have examined carefully the causes of the large variation between the original grant and the actual expenditure, as we thought it desirable to pay particular attention to the possibility of over-budgeting under the present system, a point to which we shall revert later in our report. The variation, however, is easily explained. Almost exactly half is due to decisions taken in the course of the year which had the effect of transferring expenditure from voted to non-voted heads. The main cause was the transfer of the lump grant for 'Exchange' to the various heads of expenditure, with the result that the loss on exchange attributable to non-voted heads was treated as non-voted. This accounts for no less than 14½ crores—the balance of ½ crore is due to the fact that the expenditure on Bangalore, and the assignments to the Provincial Governments of Burma and Assam for the cost of Frontier Police, for which provision had originally been made by the Assembly, were treated as non-voted on account of their being political in nature. The rest is mainly accounted for by the savings in expenditure (both

*These figures refer to voted grants only. The final figures of expenditure both voted and non-voted as compared with (a) Original (b) Revised Estimates are as follows :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Capital.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
Original Estimate	.. 220,57,90,000	33,47,69,000
Revised Estimate	.. 220,42,35,900	24,20,39,000
Actual Expenditure	.. 218,96,10,359	20,96,08,962

capital and revenue) in Railways and Posts and Telegraphs. There was an underspending of about 2 crores in the Railway grant, which corresponded to the fall in revenue, owing to trade depression; the saving in Posts and Telegraphs was about 68 lakhs and was mainly due to a policy deliberately pursued in view of the financial position of spending as little as possible, even though it meant in many cases merely postponing of inevitable expenditure. As regards capital expenditure, the position was the same. Railways were unable to spend the 30 crores provided for owing to a variety of causes which are now fairly familiar and expenditure fell short of original anticipations by about 11½ crores. The underspending under Posts and Telegraphs was about 80 lakhs—due partly to the drastic curtailment of construction and partly to a large receipt from the sale of property which was taken in reduction of expenditure. It is clear that such underspending as was not due merely to a change in classification can be accounted for as either inevitable, as in the case of Railways, or as due to a deliberate resolve to restrict expenditure as in the case of Posts and Telegraphs. This curtailment of expenditure may perhaps be regarded as the result of the shadow cast by the Incheape Committee which sat at the end of the year and is observable in other departments also, as may be seen from the large saving in actual expenditure even as compared with the Revised Estimates.

6. As compared with the final grants passed in March 1923, which were based on the Revised Estimates, and were 26½ crores less than the original grants, there was a total saving in expenditure of Rs. 4,70,78,647. This is mainly explained by the lapses under Railways (capital 273 lakhs; revenue 18 lakhs) and Posts and Telegraphs (capital 45 lakhs; revenue 30 lakhs). A sum of 50 lakhs which had been kept as a reserve provision under 'Exchange' also lapsed at the end of the year. The other variations are of comparatively minor importance.

7. There have been, however, excesses under 23 individual demands aggregating in all Rs. 19,09,207, for which an excess vote of the Assembly is required. We give below a table detailing the excesses:—

Expenditure charged to Revenue—

Remarks.

	Rs.	
5 Land Revenue ..	2,450	....
6 Stamps ..	10,73,110	Fewer recoveries from other Governments. No excess over gross grant.
15 Police	9,547	Partly due to transfer of expenditure from Provincial to Central.
17 Survey of India	3,07,853	Due to Revised Estimate being too low: no excess over original grant.
18 Meteorology ..	24,847	Ditto.
22 Archæology ..	24,005	Ditto.
23 Mines ..	4,667	....
24 Other Scientific Depts.	3,829	Mainly due to the distribution of the lump provision under 'Exchange' being slightly incorrect.
25 Education	7,497	Due to non-realization of certain anticipated recoveries.
26 Medical Services ..	23,870	Due to revised estimate being too low.
28 Agriculture ..	31,894	Due to Revised Estimate being too low: no excess over original grant.
31 Aviation ..	6,208	Ditto.
33 Census ..	37,241	....
34-B Emigration—External.	1,019	Revised Estimate too low.
35 Joint Stock Cos.	12,781	Mainly due to certain expenditure having to be classified as voted whereas provision was made under non-voted.
36 Mis. Departments ..	13,509	Revised Estimate too low.
43 Stationery and Printing.	41,382	No excess over original grant.

Expenditure charged to Revenue—contd.

	Rs.	<i>Remarks.</i>
45 Adjustments with Provincial Govts.	7,320	....
Refunds ..	89,377	These are inevitable payments and it is impossible to estimate them correctly.
48 Delhi ..	32,943	....
52 Rajputana ..	62,642	....
53 Central India ..	66,497	....
Total ..	18,83,988	.

Expenditure charged to capital—

59 Irrigation ..	25,219	Due to Revised Estimates being too low. No excess over original grant.
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Disbursement of Loans and Advances—

62 Interest free advances	74,49,592
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8. The explanation of most of the excesses is, as will be seen from the above, the practice that obtained in the year under review of basing the final grants for the year on the revised estimates of expenditure prepared by the Finance Department in order to arrive at an approximate idea of the total results of the year's working over all the heads of expenditure. As a whole, the revised estimates proved indeed to have over-estimated the expenditure during the year by over 4 crores; but in their distribution over different heads of expenditure voted and non-voted, there were naturally some cases in which they proved too low. We are glad to note that, as a result of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in their last report, the system has been changed. Consequently, in future years, we shall not have this source of excess.

9. As to the other items where excesses have occurred, the excesses under 'Mines' and 'Census' showed that the central control of expenditure was insufficient. We were similarly struck by the absence of any proper system of control from headquarters over the grants made for local areas beginning (in the year 1922-23) with North-West Frontier Province and ending with Bangalore, so much so that it was almost a matter of surprise that the total grants were exceeded only in Delhi, Rajputana and Central India. We could not get a fully satisfactory explanation of these excesses from the representatives of the Departments of the Government of India who control the administration of these areas, chiefly because they were themselves, not un-naturally, ignorant of the details of the expenditure. We were informed that the system had since been improved, but we would suggest that Government should take steps to study thoroughly the question of devising adequate checks against such excesses in future.

10. Before leaving this part of the subject, we feel it necessary to draw attention to certain mis-classifications that have been brought to our notice in the appropriation reports—as a result of which expenditure that ought to have been accounted for as 'voted' expenditure has been shown as 'non-voted' and *vice versa*. . . As instances, we would refer to page 15 of the Appropriation Report of the Accountant General, Punjab (1922-23) in connection with the expenditure of the North-West Frontier Province where he says "The excesses under these heads (41—Civil Works) are mainly due to the erroneous adjustment of charges amounting to Rs. 3,49,127 under 'voted' instead of 'non-voted'. Again in page 47 of the Appropriation Report of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, appears the remark "The excess (Rs. 30,190) is mainly due to a mis-classification between voted and non-voted expenditure. The pay of a Director, Telegraph Engineering, which is subject to the vote of the Assembly has been classified under non-voted expenditure". To take a third instance, in page 250 of the Appropriation Report of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, is shown as non-voted an item of expenditure amounting to Rs. 309 which is stated to represent the cost of a first class passage of an officer from Bombay to Mombassa. So far as we can see, this ought to have been taken as 'voted' expenditure, and if so, would have gone to swell the excess under Grant No. 36—Miscellaneous for which an excess vote is necessary. We mention these instances to show how important, from the point of view of parliamentary control, is a proper classification of these

charges in the accounts, for expenditure on any voted head in excess of grants voted by the Assembly cannot be ascertained and may sometimes escape notice altogether if some votable expenditure is by mistake classified under 'non-voted'. We recognize that it is sometimes difficult to determine whether a particular class of expenditure is voted or non-voted, but in view of the importance of this form of mis-classification we trust that the Government of India and the Auditor General will devise some method by which it may be avoided.

11. We also desire to emphasise the importance of correct classification generally. We understand that the Auditor General has put forward a suggestion that the drawing officer should record on the bills presented by him at the treasury the classification of the expenditure to meet which he is drawing the money. We recommend that this suggestion be adopted.

12. In addition to the excesses over grants above-mentioned in the actual expenditure (capital and revenue) of the year, there is an excess of 74½ lakhs under the head 62, Interest-free advances, where—

	Rs.
the original grant was	12,06,37,000
the final grant was	10,31,12,000
and the actual expenditure was	11,05,61,592

The actual expenditure was a crore below the original grant and the technical excess must in the present case also be attributed to the fact that the revised estimates proved too low. The actual excess occurs under the head 'advances repayable' and is explained* as due partly, as last year, to the system of accounting in the Army Department and partly to heavier advances being made to contractors. As the grant voted by the Assembly is a gross grant and recoveries are shown as receipts, the excesses under this head are only nominal, being counter-balanced by excess receipts.

13. With these remarks we formally recommended that the Assembly assent to an excess grant for 1922-23 which the Governor General in Council will place before them for the following sums in respect of the heads referred to in the preceding paragraphs:—

	Rs.
Expenditure charged to revenue	18,83,988
Expenditure charged to capital	25,219
Disbursements of loans and advances	74,49,592

14. Under the terms of our appointment we are required to bring to the notice of the Assembly every re-appropriation from one grant to another grant. We have noticed in the course of our examination of the Appropriation Reports that the Foreign and Political Department sanctioned in two cases such re-appropriations. One was from savings in Grant No. 46—North-West Frontier Province to Grant No. 50—Ajmer-Merwara (both voted heads), and the other from a non-voted head 29—Political to the voted Grant No. 50—Ajmer-Merwara. These appear, somewhat to our surprise, not to have been objected to by the audit officer concerned. The re-appropriations were not, however, effective, as the grants voted by the Assembly in March were necessarily taken as the final grants, and all re-appropriations were *ipso facto* cancelled. We desire to emphasise the fact that grants voted by the Assembly can be added to only by the Assembly, and that any transfers to a grant from another grant, or from a non-voted head are invalid unless voted by the Assembly.

III.—GENERAL.

15. In commencing this part of our report, where we deal with the general questions that have come under our consideration, we desire to express our gratification at the fact that the Government of India have given effect already to most of the recommendations made in the last report of the Public Accounts Committee. These recommendations were made as we have already pointed out long after the expenditure which we have had to examine this year had been incurred;

*Page 200 (Appropriation Report of the Accountant General, Central Revenue).

† Page 178, *ibid.*

and the resolution* of the Government of India dealing with it was issued in January 1924. The effect can therefore be seen only when the next year's appropriation reports are ready if even then. We have no doubt, however, that a considerable improvement will be visible in the appropriation accounts for 1923-24.

16. It has been brought to our notice that the Railway Board, in a memorandum on the separation of the Railway from the general Finances have interpreted one of the remarks in the last report in a sense which we feel sure was far from the intention of the Committee responsible for the report. The remark was as follows:—"It is not quite clear why a preliminary allocation of the amount for which the Railway Department had decided to place a supplementary demand before the Assembly was not made earlier and communicated to the Railways in anticipation of the sanction of the Assembly to the grant". The Railway Board conclude from this that 'the Public Accounts Committee have censured the Railway Department for not ignoring the budget'. We wish to make it clear that there was, and is, no intention to suggest that as a matter of practice, the Railway Board, or any other department, should be encouraged to incur expenditure in anticipation of the sanction of the Assembly. What the Committee intended was that the Railway Board should have decided on a preliminary allocation of the grant between railways beforehand, without waiting till the Assembly had voted the total grant, so that there might be no delay in making the allocation as soon as the grant had been passed. Had this been done no technical excesses due to the failure of the Railway Board to distribute the grant under different units need have occurred. As a general principle, the Committee wish to emphasise again the importance of impressing upon the actual disbursing officers the absolute necessity of obtaining funds from the Assembly before incurring expenditure on voted heads.

17. In connection with the machinery for ensuring proper control of expenditure, we are glad to know that Government are taking steps to make a particular officer responsible for the total expenditure on a particular grant. As we have indicated in previous paragraphs, we have come across cases which suggested that such control had hitherto been far from effective.

18. There were three points referred to in paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 of the last report about which the Committee did not come to any definite conclusion. We have considered them with reference to the views of the Government as expressed in paragraphs 9—11 of their Resolution* No. 37-A. of 15th January 1924 and, in connection with the splitting up of the Railway and Posts and Telegraphs votes, have had the advantage of consulting the Financial Commissioner, Railways and Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs. In regard to this question, Mr. Parsons told us that the Railway Board were at present considering the desirability of further sub-division of the railway vote into such subjects as general administration, maintenance, operating expenses, programme revenue, suspense, etc. We understand that the question has been before the Committee for the separation of Railway from general finance. We hope that some solution which will have the effect of increasing parliamentary control over this grant can be arrived at in the near future.

19. The question of splitting up the Posts and Telegraphs votes further is of comparatively minor importance, and we understood from the Financial Adviser (Mr. Ryan) that the accounts of this Department were in the process of being commercialised, and any change in the form of the demands might accentuate their difficulties. We have therefore decided to postpone consideration of the general question for the present, but we are glad to learn that the accounts will show the revenue and expenditure of the Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Departments separately.

20. As regards the question of making the appropriation accounts more elaborate, we understand that the Auditor General has already placed an officer on special duty to go thoroughly into the question and that this officer's report may be expected to be available for consideration by the Public Accounts Committee next year. In the circumstances we make no specific recommendations at present, but we shall be glad if the Auditor General will arrange, in cases where grants for large amounts are involved (e.g., the head 'Direction' under 'Salt') that a sub-table showing the variations under the more important items making up these grants is given in the Appropriation Report.

* Appendix XIII.

† Para. 38 of the Interim Report.

21. We now come to the important question of the powers of executive officers of re-appropriation within a vote. We are not convinced that the decision of the Government of India in paragraph 9 of their resolution goes far enough. It is common ground that very frequent use of the powers of re-appropriation is undesirable in itself and that the details of the budget should within reasonable limits be adhered to by all subordinate authorities. We do not wish to suggest that all powers of re-appropriation except within 'primary units of appropriation' should be withdrawn, for we feel there is much force in the view expressed by Mr. McWatters that if re-appropriation is not allowed within reasonable limits, there would be a tendency for each Department to leave a margin in estimating its requirements and that the cumulative effect of these concealed reserves might be considerable. We think however that it is open to question whether stricter rules should not be framed as to the limits within which re-appropriations should be permissible without prior consultation with the Finance Department, and that any cases in which the powers of re-appropriation are in his opinion being unduly applied should be carefully brought to notice by the Auditor General.

22. The question of over-budgeting, is, as pointed out by Mr. McWatters, intimately connected with the question of re-appropriations, and, in view of the extraordinarily large variation between the total of the original grants and the actual expenditure of the year, we investigated the question thoroughly.

23. In paragraph 5 above, we have given explanations of these variations in the total; numerous lapses in minor heads that confronted us in the course of our scrutiny of the Appropriation reports can very probably be, in the majority of cases, explained by the fact that the spirit of retrenchment, so commendable in itself, had taken possession of disbursing officers in general. Mr. McWatters has also assured us that under the present system of framing the budget, the risk of over-budgeting is very slight. We feel, however, that we cannot, from the accounts of a single year which moreover was far from normal, express any confident opinion on the question. We trust that the Finance Department though considering the present system 'completely watertight' are fully alive to the risks of over-budgeting and will exercise a watchful care over the estimates as a whole in this respect.

24. In connection with another point which was raised in last year's report* by the Public Accounts Committee, *viz.*, the necessity for separate grants for expenditure in England, we have gone carefully into the question of the preparation of the Demands as a whole with Mr. McWatters, whose assistance and counsel we gratefully acknowledge. We entirely agree with him that in considering the form in which the Demands should be presented, it is desirable to start with the general principle that there should ordinarily be one controlling officer for a grant. Applying this principle to the demands for territorial areas, like Baluchistan, it is easy to see what heads should be excluded from the grant in respect of each area. All expenditure incurred in these areas under the control of outside authorities, *e.g.*, the Central Board of Revenue (Customs, Taxes on Income, Salt, Opium, Stamps), the Controller of the Currency (Currency), the Controller of Printing (Stationery and Printing) should be shown under the respective grants for those heads. Similarly such heads as interest, where also the head of the administration cannot exercise any control should be left out, and the demand for each territorial area should include only items of strictly local interest corresponding, in some measure, to provincial items of expenditure in the case of Governors' Provinces. Such would be General Administration, Forest, Education, Police, Medical and the like.

25. The above arrangement has this drawback that it will not enable the total cost of the Administration to be included in one demand. We consider however that all that is necessary is that it should be possible to find out the total expenditure on any territorial account from the Book of Demands for grants at a glance. This object can be easily achieved by adopting the expedient suggested by Mr. McWatters of showing as a footnote to the demand the expenditure incurred in that area on each of the several heads which are shown elsewhere together with a comparison of the previous year's figures.

26. Similar arrangements can be made in the grants for 'Expenditure in England.' We agree that it would not be practicable to abolish these grants altogether, and incorporate the various items included in them under the corresponding Indian grants. Moreover, we consider it desirable at present to retain

*Para. 10, P. A. C.'s Interim Report, 1921-22.

a system which effectually prevents transfer of funds from Expenditure in India to Expenditure in England and *vice versa*. Again, we recognise that it is essential for administrative purposes that the funds placed at the High Commissioner's disposal for sundry purposes, should not be, as it were, kept in watertight compartments as would be the effect if they were in separate grants. In a very real sense, the expenditure is under his control and he should have like other authorities powers of reappropriation *within reasonable limits*. It is desirable however that large items like the expenditure on Currency Stores should not be retained in this demand which should so far as we can see include only expenditure on minor stores, leave salaries, and such items of purely English origin as expenditure incurred on Establishments in England.

27. Another point connected with the demands is that of ensuring that in the case of grants like Stamps and Stationery and Printing where recoveries of large amounts are involved, both the gross and net expenditure come under the control of the Assembly. At present the grant is a net grant, and if the recoveries are more than are anticipated, the gross amount which the Assembly intended to grant for the total expenditure can be exceeded without any technical breach of the rules. To prevent the possibility of expenditure of this sort without the sanction of the Assembly, we consider that it would be desirable to obtain a grant for the gross expenditure in all cases as well as for the net expenditure. If any fall in recoveries occurs which has the effect of increasing the net expenditure, a supplementary grant should be obtained from the Assembly.

28. This brings us to the general question of whether these recoveries should be shown on the receipts side of the accounts, or as at present as deductions of expenditure on the disbursements side. This may be taken as part of the general question whether revenue and expenditure should be shown as gross or net in the accounts for a similar difficulty occurs in the case of the Commercial Departments like Railways where at present the accounts show the net revenue, after deducting the working expenses of the undertaking.

29. We print as appendix X to this report a memorandum on the above subject which was presented to us by the Finance Department. We have not had time to discuss this question, but propose to deal with it in a later report.

30. Another very important question that came to our notice in considering the Railway Appropriation report was in connection with the purchase of stores in England. The Assembly votes in March the amount expected to fall due for payment for stores in the course of the next financial year; but, in many cases, orders for these stores have to be placed long in advance, and without the sanction of the Assembly. This practice in effect commits the Assembly to provide a certain sum in future years to pay for these stores. At present we understand the Railway Department obtains from the Finance Department what is technically called 'an advance grant'. This is not really a grant in the sense of an appropriation; it is only an assurance from the Finance Department that it will place before the Assembly when the time comes a demand for the sum in question and it only ensures that the Railway Board does not send indents without the knowledge of the Finance Department. In other words, there is treasury control, but no parliamentary control.

31. We considered various methods of bringing this under the control of the Assembly but could not find any suitable alternative. We think that from the fact that the Assembly votes grants from year to year for Railways, the executive is entitled to assume that they intend that Railways should be carried on, and, after reviewing the position and taking stock of the stores in hand and the uses to be made of them, to take the necessary steps for the purpose in the belief that their action would be ratified by the provision of funds at least to the extent to which orders had been placed already. This ought to be accepted, we think, as a working convention, but, if a regular Railway Finance Committee is appointed it would in our opinion be desirable for the Railway Board to get the concurrence of that Committee before approaching the Finance Department. The Assembly cannot of course delegate its powers of appropriation to any Committee, but it can reasonably be expected that it would not ordinarily hesitate to ratify the decision of a Committee selected by itself.

32. We now turn to some of the comparatively minor points of general interest that were brought to notice in the course of our scrutiny of these reports. One of the most important is the part that accounts adjustments play in causing excesses over grants. When the adjustments are made in the course of the year, no excesses need take place, except by reason of absence of touch between the audit and administrative authorities. We trust that this defect, traces of which we noticed in the accounts

for 1922-23, no longer exists. But, in India, the accounts of a year are kept open for adjustments till a long time after the close of the year, and it is difficult to hold administrative authorities definitely responsible for excesses due to such adjustments. We think however that excesses of this sort can be prevented to a great extent if the following principles are observed :—

- (a) When the budget is being framed, suitable provision should always be made for anticipated liabilities. In illustration of this we would draw attention to the excess under the head 'Police' in grant* No. 52 Rajputana which was due to the adjustment of about Rs. 57,000 on account of arrears of rent payable to the Rajputana-Malwa Railway for Railway quarters since 1919-20.
- (b) Items should not ordinarily be charged in the first instance to a suspense head merely for want of information as to whether the charge is to be borne by the Central Government or a Provincial Government. We understand that it is the rule that expenditure incurred in any year is brought to account and charged to a service head. We think the rule should always be followed, so that, even if there is any doubt as to the ultimate incidence of the charge, it should be debited to the Government incurring the expenditure pending a final decision, the amount being if necessary recovered in a later year from the Government which was actually liable.
- (c) As far as possible, it should be settled, before any expenditure is incurred, which Government should bear the cost. In the accounts for 1922-23 we came across a curious instance of expenditure amounting to Rs. 7,060, on a Committee appointed early in 1922 by the Government of Bombay in connection with country craft registration and measurement rules. This was treated in the accounts as Central expenditure as it related to a Central subject; but no provision could be made for the expenditure as the Government of India first learnt of it in December 1923.

33. A case has been brought to our notice where a clerk was granted leave on average pay for 14 months. This seems to have been in excess of that allowed under the rules, which we gather are not too easy of comprehension. We understand that leave on average pay for 9 months and 2 days was admissible in this particular case, and that ordinarily, on medical certificate, leave on average pay for 8 months would be admissible. This shows, it seems to us, the necessity of again drawing attention to the recommendations of the Incheupe Committee with reference to the desirability of amending the leave rules which seem to be unnecessarily complicated. We understand that the Government have the question of revision of these rules under their consideration and we trust that the decision will be expedited.

34. The Auditor General has brought to our notice the fact that in the year under review, there was an increase in the number of defalcations and irregularities in the civil and military departments. We draw attention to this, in order to give expression to our opinion that the value of proper local inspections by the administrative and audit authorities should not be under-estimated and that economies resulting in the reduction of such inspection tend to defeat their own object.

35. A suggestion has been put before us that it is desirable that there should be an inventory of all Government property—buildings, furniture and the like—so that the total value of Dead Stock in the possession of Government can be arrived at at least approximately. We hope the suggestion will be carefully considered by the Government, as also the question of the adequacy of the existing system of checking Dead Stock Registers.

IV.—PARTICULAR ACCOUNTS.

Irrigation.

36. We find that owing to the system of distribution of charges on account of establishment and tools and plant between Civil Works and Irrigation, an excess may occur under one of the grants, by the portion of these charges debitable to this grant being in excess of anticipations, though the total charge for establishment and tools and plant over the combined grants may be well within the sanctioned amount.

* Page 181, A. G. C. R.'s Appropriation Report.

† Audit Report of the A. G. C. R.

‡ Page 38, Accountant General, Central Revenues' Appropriation Report.

We understand that the Auditor General is submitting proposals to Government in order to secure a better control of expenditure and is suggesting separate grants for establishment and tools and plant. We have not been able to discuss his detailed proposals and cannot therefore give a definite opinion on them at present.

Education.

37. The excesses under this head are due largely to the fact that anticipations in regard to recoveries from the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and the Aitchison College, Lahore, were not realized. We understand that, though the only liability that has been undertaken by Government is the definite subvention promised, the practice is that the total expenditure is met initially by Government and all but the fixed grant recovered from the Colleges later. We do not consider it proper that, when the Assembly sanctions a definite amount for the purpose, the Government should spend a much larger amount in the hope (not always realised) of recovering the amount spent in excess of the grant; and if the practice is to be continued, we think that the Assembly should be invited to sanction the gross expenditure. But we do not recommend this course in these cases. We are of opinion that either the practice of meeting the expenditure initially should be abandoned, or steps should be taken to ensure recoveries being made in advance.

Census.

38. The expenditure against this grant seems to indicate some insufficiency of proper control at headquarters and absence of touch between the audit and administrative authorities.

39. We suggest that in cases where non-recurrent expenditure for a particular object continues over more than a year, the appropriation accounts should contain a statement comparing the total expenditure from the beginning of the period with the total sanctioned grants. Examples where a comparison would be useful, apart from this vote, are such items of expenditure as the visit of the Prince of Wales, Commissions of Enquiry, etc.

Central India.

40. We notice that the excesses are mainly due to revision of pay with retrospective effect and to the insufficient provision made for it. We hope that the first cause will not be operative in future as Government have already issued instructions* that retrospective effect to revisions of pay should not be given except in special circumstances. As to the second, we trust that all disbursing officers are by now aware† of the paramount necessity of obtaining grants sufficient to cover the voted expenditure which may be incurred within the year.

Railways.

41. We were interested in the statistics given in para. 18 of the Appropriation Report of the Accountant General, Railways, showing the percentage ratio of working expenses to gross earnings in individual Railways in the years 1921-22 and 1922-23. We think it would be useful if we could have similar statistics with regard to the more important minor heads under the head 'Working Expenses,' so as to enable a comparison to be made between particular Railways in particular respects. The Auditor General has promised, if possible, to include further statistics on the above lines in future reports.

42. The other point to which we wish to draw special attention in this part of our report is the alarming increase‡ in payment of compensation claims by the East Indian Railway for goods lost or damaged. The amount increased from 27 lakhs the previous year to 53 lakhs in 1922-23.§ This increase though partly due to payment of arrears is undoubtedly a serious matter, specially as there is little doubt that even these large amounts paid as compensation are far below the actual loss to the public by pilfering, etc. We understand that a special staff is being employed to deal with this, but it is too early to say what will be the results of the change.

Posts and Telegraphs.

43. The Auditor General has brought to our notice that a sum of about 17 lakhs representing the claim of the Government of India against the Iraq Administration for 1920-21 has been outstanding since 1921. We were informed later by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, that payment has provisionally been made

* Para. 12 of Finance Department Resolution No. 37-A., dated the 15th January 1924.

† Para. 8, *ibid.*

‡ Para. 19, Audit Report of Accountant General, Railways.

§ Page 21, Appropriation Report, Accountant General, Railways.

recently. We agree with the Auditor General in suggesting that the question of claiming interest for the period for which it was outstanding should be considered by Government.

44. In page 25 of the Appropriation Report of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, we came across a curious saving of a lakh which is explained as follows :

“ At the time of the annual verification of stores by actual count there is always the probability of a small discrepancy between the actual count and the book balance. The difference is written off to ‘ Stores ’ as stock adjustment. The estimated debit on this account was Rs. 20,000, whereas the actual turned out to be a credit to the extent of Rs. 82,000.”

This matter is being further investigated, but it is a reasonable inference from the statements made to us that the previous stock-takings had been very faulty. We have been assured by the Director General that he is taking steps to improve the system of verifications.

45. We discussed at length with the Director General the causes of the fall in postal revenue in 1922-23. It is difficult to determine whether the fall was due mainly to the increased rates of postage or the general depression in trade and we have been unable to come to a conclusion in the matter. We suggest that Government should investigate the question departmentally, for we feel sure that it will be extremely useful if any reliable data could be collected to throw light on the effect on revenue resulting from these causes separately.

46. Another question that we discussed with the Director General was the possibility of reducing the superior staff in his department, for some of us feel that retrenchment has left them practically untouched and has spent its force on the rank and file. There is force in what he has said about the impossibility of reduction of officers proportionately to the reduction in staff, but we are of opinion, specially in view of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, that the matter requires further investigation.

Military.

47. It has been brought to our notice by the Auditor General that under arrangements in force prior to 1st April 1923 no charge was made by the Army to other departments in respect of stores issued by the former and similarly no debit was raised by other departments against the Army for supply of stores, but, as a result of the recommendation made by the Retrenchment Committee, it has now been ruled that when stores were issued by the Army to other departments, a debit should be raised against the department concerned. It appears that there is at present no corresponding liability on the Army and that when it receives stores, e.g., stationery, etc., it receives them free of charge. We consider that this system is *prima facie* incorrect and suggest that the question of having the arrangements between the Army and other departments put on a reciprocal basis should be considered by the Government of India.

Conclusion.

48. In conclusion, we desire to add that we have dealt in the preceding paragraphs only with the more important points that have come to our notice in the course of our examination of the appropriation accounts of the year 1922-23. There are certain other points of minor importance which have come under our consideration, but which we have not dealt with specifically in the report. Our opinions thereon will be found in the minutes of our meetings which are appended to this report and should be considered as part of it.

BASIL P. BLACKETT.
K. C. NEOGY.
N. M. JOSHI.
S. K. DATTA.
HUGH G. COCKE.
K. AHMED.
V. N. MUTALIK.
GULAB SINGH.
K. RAMA AIYANGAR.
SHAMLAL NEHRU.
W. S. J. WILLSON.
MAURICE WEBB.

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. W. Bhore (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes.

THE EXTERNAL CAPITAL COMMITTEE.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Mr. President : I have to announce that, as a result of the ballot held yesterday, the following Members have been elected to serve on the External Capital Committee :

Mr. W. S. J. Willson,
Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer,
Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and
Mr. V. J. Patel.

RESOLUTION *RE* RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION—*contd.*

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney (Nominated : Anglo-Indians) : Sir, with your permission and with the indulgence of the House, I desire to seize this opportunity of presenting and discussing the amendment I have presented as also to remark on one other part of the Lee Commission's Report. If you will allow me, Sir, to combine both my remarks, I shall be very happy and grateful. The first matter to which I wish to refer is the Chapter in the Report of the Royal Commission on Indianisation, and I crave the indulgence of both my Indian brethren and my European Colleagues as also of the Government if in what I am about to say I may appear to stray from the main issues at stake in the deliberations of this House. Believe me, Sir, I have no desire to do so, but the issues at stake in Indianisation of the Services are of such vital importance to the community I represent, that I feel I would be failing in my duty if I did not voice their opinion and obtain a definite answer from Government. In the recommendations by the Lee Commission on Indianisation of the Services there is a studied absence of any mention of the words "Domiciled Community". If may be this Commission did not include this matter in the terms of its reference though I tried to Show its importance and correlation when I gave evidence before it. But the reference made yesterday in this House by the Honourable the Home Member so far as the Muhammadan community and Indianisation was concerned emboldens me to refer to this matter, and as a representative of the community, which has played a not unimportant part in India, I do so and wish to ask what position does it occupy in either of the two cadres, "European" or "Indian". The Government will tell me, as they always have, that, as a Statutory Native of India I am included with Indians. I expect this reply from the Government, but I regret to say I place very little value on it. As a Statutory Native of India, I have been told *ad libitum*, I am entitled in all matters to the same claims and privileges as my Indian brethren. I wish I were,

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

because then I would be getting my legitimate share in Indianisation to-day. But I find, Sir, that although I am called and officially classed as a Statutory Native of India, I am not treated in the same cadre as are Indians (*A Voice* : "Treated by whom?") If you will kindly let me have a little time, I will tell you. I shall place before this House specific cases showing that I have not been treated in the same cadre as 'Indians'. Even though Government tell me I am a Statutory Native of India, I cannot understand the omission of the Status of the Domiciled Community in the Lee Commission's Report on Indianisation, and it is with a desire to bring it before this Honourable House for its sympathetic consideration, that I have gone, if I may say, in a way astray from the main points at issue in to-day's debate. To prove that what I say is undeniably true, and that I am not treated in either of the categories "Europeans or Indians" in Indianisation of the Services indeed—to prove that Indianisation of the Services means to me "*ex-Anglo-Indianisation of the Services*". I have with me a series of cases, but I shall confine myself to only four of the most important cases. The first case refers to an Anglo-Indian lady, a Deputy Nursing Superintendent in the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Calcutta, who after many years of excellent and faithful service received a letter from the Government of Bengal discharging her from the service and telling her that, with a view to further Indianisation of the Service, her place was to be given up to an Indian nurse. Lord Lytton, I am thankful to say, cancelled this order or this lady would to-day have swelled our army of unemployed, which owing to Indianisation of the Services is daily increasing. The next case refers to a batch of 28 Anglo-Indian railway employees at Ramrajatolla on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway who were *en masse* discharged from the Railway to give place to 28 *ex-Indian* sepoy, and the Agent of this Railway in his official letter admitted that this was an effort at Indianisation on his Railway. The third case I desire to place before this House is that of an Anglo-Indian named Mr. Syms, a Farrier Major in the 28th Light Cavalry, who took his discharge voluntarily from the Indian Army and was denied being placed on the Reserve, with the following words written on his discharge certificate. "On account of being an Anglo-Indian". The fourth and last case I wish to put before you to prove my complaint to the hilt and to clarify the issue, as also to show you and the Government that I am not imagining but that I have every reason to apprehend the exclusion of the Domiciled Community from the term "Indianisation" as it appears in the Lee Commission's Report and other Government orders on it. This case refers to the three Anglo-Indian sons of a present Member of the Council of State, all of whom gave their lives during the past war. These three sons had applied at varying times for admission into the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. The General Officer Commanding, Burma, flatly refused to consider the claims of these three splendid types of Anglo-Indians who had had an English education and whose father occupied a very important position in Burma. The General Officer Commanding, Burma, General Johnstone, officially wrote about their application :—"I am not knowingly recommending any Eurasian candidates for the I. A. R. of officers, so I regret it is no use young—coming to see me" I have the original letter here in my possession. Sir, these four cases out of many explain the position of the Domiciled Community to-day in Indianisation of the Services. For us it spells *ex-Anglo-Indianisation* and a complete occupational ostracism.

Have I not adequate grounds to be apprehensive of being excluded from the term "Indianisation" as presented in that Chapter by the Lee Commission? I submit most emphatically I have, and I wish here and now to ask Government very respectfully, yet very emphatically, to let me know, to let this Honourable House know once for all, so that I may be able to make my own arrangements for the safeguarding of my future and, if necessary, to enter into my own pacts with the rest of India, in which category am I included as "European" or "Indian"? If I am to be considered an Indian, give me the same rights, privileges and opportunities; otherwise tell me so frankly. Do not call me one thing and treat me as nothing. This complaint of mine is not an imaginary one, but an absolute statement of fact, and I hope it will be the very last time I shall have to present this matter to the House. I demand from the Government a clear and definite statement on this point.

I shall now deal with my amendment concerning Chapter III of the Lee Commission's Report which refers to the Indian Medical Service. Sir, before this Honourable House can realize the enormity and the significance of this recommendation of the Lee Commission, it seems to me desirable that I should very briefly tell you a little about the composition of the two Services concerned in this recommendation. I refer to the R. A. M. C. and I. M. S. These terms are familiar to everyone in this House, though I have heard these letters R. A. M. C. interpreted, as "Rather-A-Mixed-Corps" and "Rather-A-Mediocre Corps". I have also heard the letters I. M. S. interpreted as "Infinitely-More-So" and "Infinitely-More-Superior". Anyhow these are two distinct and separate Services. A little inside information about these two Services of the Administration has a direct bearing on the recommendations made by the Royal Commission.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma (Member for the Deptt. of Education, Health and Lands) : On a point of order, Sir, the Government Resolution does not deal with the question as to the future army organization of the Medical Services. Whether the R. A. M. C. and the I. M. S. should be incorporated in one Service or should continue to be two Services, that question the Government have not dealt with nor considered yet, and no Resolution on that point has been tabled. Government therefore do not ask this House to accept any suggestions or recommendations of the Lee Commission with regard to the future of the I. M. S. or the R. A. M. C. in so far as the army organization is concerned, and I therefore respectfully submit that any discussion here with regard to the future composition of that Service would be not only irrelevant, but would also lead to no fruitful results.

Mr. President : So far as I can judge, the Honourable Member who is addressing the House is perfectly in order in laying his views before the Assembly and the Government on the points raised by the Lee Commission and raised by implication in section (3) of the Resolution.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : I take it, Sir, that the Honourable Member's amendment is being discussed?

Mr. President : No, the amendment under discussion was moved by Pandit Motilal Nehru, as the Honourable Member is very well aware. Colonel Gidney.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Thank you, Sir ; I shall be very brief. The R. A. M. C., as we know, supplies the medical needs of the British Army under a system called the Station Hospital system to which is attached certain corps recruited in India, *e.g.*, the I. M. Dept., the Indian Hospital corps, etc., etc. The I. M. S., as the House no doubt knows, supplies the medical needs of the Indian Army and the civil medical needs of India.—40 per cent. of it is engaged in military hospitals and 60 per cent. of it in civil medical appointments. The 40 per cent. of the cadre of the I.M.S. doing duty with the Indian Station Hospitals has attached to it the Indian Branch of the I.M.D. consisting of Indian Sub-Assistant Surgeons. They occupy in Indian Station Hospitals the same position as the I.M.D. men do in the British Station Hospitals, with this great and glaring difference that, whereas in the Indian Station Hospitals these Indian Sub-Assistant Surgeons are treated as doctors in the British Station Hospitals, the Anglo-Indian I.M.D. members are treated as glorified compounders and clerks. That is an undeniable fact and there is no gainsaying that it exists in the British Station Hospitals of to-day.

Such are the two divisions of the Medical Services in India, the R.A.M.C. and I.M.S. I shall not enter into further details except to say that both these Services treat their sick by pooling them into British and Indian Station Hospitals, a system which was introduced into India years ago by the R.A.M.C. and has since 1918 been slavishly imitated by the I.M.S. The expenditure involved and paid by the Indian tax-payer on the maintenance of these two Services, excluding the Civil Medical Service, is the enormous sum of 2½ crores. I would inform this Honourable House that with a British Army in India of about 70,000 the strength of the R.A.M.C. was about 333, and though the British Army has been reduced by about 8,000 troops the R.A.M.C. strength is practically the same. This means one R.A.M.C. officer to 250 able-bodied soldiers. The I.M.S., on the other hand, though the Indian Army has been reduced from 140,000 in 1913 to 130,000 in 1923, has increased from 290 in the year 1913 to 445 in the year 1923.

Now this is the position and strength of these two Services. In my opinion the Royal Commission in making its recommendations on the I.M.S. did so with much hesitancy, great diffidence and with an admitted inability to deal with the complexities of this difficult problem. It has put forward a recommendation which, when shorn of all its finesse, means the complete extermination of the Indian Medical Service—a Service whose glorious traditions and scientific work it would be hard to equal, a Service which has certainly very materially helped in the development of India, a Service to which I am sure every Member in this Honourable House will pay a deserving tribute. This is what the Lee Commission recommendations amount to, and it is very doubtful whether this Royal Commission, which consisted of five eminent Englishmen and four well known and able Indians, did not really exceed its terms of reference. I hesitate to make such a charge, but in its terms of reference there is certainly no such authority empowering it to recommend the complete extermination of a Service. It has done so nevertheless, and strange to relate it has done so without the inclusion in its ranks of one single medical man as adviser. I would draw the attention of Honourable Members to the hesitancy this Commission

displayed in the preamble to what it calls its "consequential recommendations." On page 11 you read the words :

"We approach this matter with some *diffidence*, since, though we have heard many witnesses on the subject we have not been able to devote ourselves *entirely*, as *did the Verney-Lovett Committee*, to this one question."

And yet this Commission was pleased to discard the proposals of the Verney-Lovett Committee in favour of the recommendations of a single individual by the name of Sir Charles Burtchaell. Further on on the same page, we read :

"This being mainly a military question, it would *not be fitting* that we should attempt to *expound* or *argue* the *merits* of the Burtchaell scheme."

On page 12, paragraph 23, you will read what it calls "our consequential recommendations". Consequential on what I ask? On this feeling of *hesitancy*, this feeling of *diffidence*, this feeling of *inability* to go into the labyrinthine aspects of this complex question, this inability to *expound* or *argue* the *military parts* of it. Without any desire to be disrespectful I would remark that such weakness and hesitation does not add weight to the recommendations which we are seriously asked to consider here, the "Summum bonum" of which is the extermination of the Indian Medical Service. This hesitancy and indecision certainly lend support to my amendment in which I recommend that we should as a House unanimously recommend the complete omission of Chapter III from this Commission's Report. Indeed I am fortified in this my belief by the remarks made by the Honourable the Home Member, not the remarks, I mean the omission by the Home Member in his Resolution of any reference whatever to Sir Charles Burtchaell's scheme and on which this Commission has based its recommendations. It seems to me therefore that this recommendation by the Lee Commission in Chapter III of its Report is on its own admission devoid of any strength or force.

After what I have said Honourable Members might say it would be much better if, having condemned it or rather it having condemned itself, I were to say no more but resume my seat. I should be glad to do so if it were not made clear to me, from various discussions I have had with Members of this House that they believe, rightly or wrongly, that no matter what this House says, willy-nilly this Report will be submitted to the House of Commons and accepted by the British Parliament. I am however not one of those who thinks that the Government of India would give us an opportunity of expressing our opinions upon this Report and then refuse to recognise them. I also do not think that the present Labour Party in England would treat the views of this House with such supreme indifference as to say "Willy nilly we shall accept the recommendations of the Lee Commission." Having indulged in a little necessary destructive criticism to establish my amendment, I now wish to say something constructive. In the event of the Honourable the Home Member's amendment being accepted, let us analyse what it means to us, what it means to India, for I am of India and I speak as an Indian citizen. It means the gift to us of a Civil Medical Service which is to be recruited by open competition both in India and in England, the basic principle being an open competition coupled with the control of the Provincial Government, subject to certain control by the Public Services Commission, the Secretary of State in certain matters having the ultimate voice of control. Now this is supposed to be provincialising a Service which has hitherto gone by the proud name of an All-India Service. If that were so, I mean if this were a Provincialised Service, I am sure it would

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be acceptable to this House possibly with just a little weak opposition so far as the control of the Secretary of State was concerned. But that is really not so. For, if you read sub-clauses (d), (e) and (f) of clause 23 of this Report, you will find what I think constitutes the cause for much of the mistrust and doubt which permeates the minds of many Indian Members, but which I am happy to say does not permeate my mind. I believe certain Indian Members feel that, if this is to be a Provincial Medical Service, it must be so in every sense and not partly under the Secretary of State's control. I agree with them. But what does that connote? It connotes that recruitment for this Service must be in India and in India alone. In any case and at the same time you must be willing to satisfy the desires of the English community. I submit that if Indians wish their sentiments to be respected by Englishmen, they, on their side, must respect the wishes of Englishmen, be they officials or otherwise, regarding the treatment of their wives and children by English doctors. How is it to be done? This is the crux of the whole situation. I feel sure if the Government of India presented to the country and this House a Civil Medical Service entirely recruited from Indians, it must be acceptable to this House. But I am not one of those who, like my learned colleague Dr. K. G. Lohokare, think that India is fit to-day to supply all her own medical needs. I wish she could but she certainly cannot do so to-day. And therefore till she can and we raise the standard of our medical schools, we must depend on the European element or what has come to be called the "steel frame", or as my friend the Honourable Pandit said yesterday the "wooden horse". I say that you must have this little leavening, who would also supply the medical needs of the European Members of the Services and their families. But if that were all that you were asked to do, I am sure you would even then accept this recommendation. The larger mistrust which enters your mind, I feel sure, is not due to this but to the introduction into this Civil Medical Service of the military element. We are told in sub-clauses (d), (e) and (f) of clause 23 of the Lee Commission's Report that one-half of the British element in these Services must be supplied from the Indian Military Medical Service in India and be a war reserve or, as Sir Charles Burchaell would be pleased to call it, the R. A. M. C. (India). I do not advocate this. I consider that the civil and military medical departments should be entirely and wholly divorced one from the other. I know the Army and Government will say: "How is this possible? How could we get our reserve for the army in case of mobilisation?" This is a difficulty but can be done. It is done at present and it could be done for many years to come by utilising those of the I. M. S. officers—about 50 per cent. of its present cadre—who are to-day in civil employ. They would form the military medical reserve until such time as India is in a position to supply her own medical needs.

Mr. President : I would remind the Honourable Member that he has reached his time-limit.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : So, I say that if we are to accept any recommendation in this Report we should accept (c) of clause 23 and we should refuse to accept (d), (e) and (f), that is, we should insist on separating the military from the civil side. But the Army Member may say that this cannot be done, that the I. M. S. military is hard up for men and that there is a scarcity of European medical men. I disbelieve the Honourable Member on that matter. I have here the figures

that were supplied to me relating to the state of British military hospitals in the Indian Army, and I refer to them only to show that this cry of shortage of British medical officers which has been raised is a false cry. It is an inflated complaint ; it is not really a genuine complaint, and it emanates from a man named Sir Charles Burtchaell who reigned here as Director, Medical Services, from the year 1918 till 1922 and looked at everything medical through a pair of glasses marked R. A. M. C., and who considered everything emanating from India as an inferior article, so much so that he objected to the term " Indian Medical Corps " as suggested by the Verney-Lovett Report. It is not surprising that this man should want to decry the Verney-Lovett Report and press his own view which was nothing else but taking up the whole of the medical needs of India within the grasp of the R. A. M. C., and so ultimately within the grasp of the War Office, and also of a good slice of the civil medical administration of India, giving India a subordinate position and depriving the Provinces of complete control of their civil medical service.

I have here these figures and I will conclude my remarks with them. These figures show that in 1913 there were 333 R. A. M. C. officers, the number of beds in the same year was 6,769 or 7 per cent. of the total strength ; in 1923 there were 8,653 beds with the same number of officers. In 1913 I ask you to note that out of a total bed accommodation of 6,769 beds, only 2,000 beds were occupied and 4,700 were lying fallow and vacant. In 1923 out of 8,651 beds 1,793 were occupied leaving 6,857 beds unoccupied ; and these unoccupied beds in the Station Hospitals had their required personnel, menial staff and all sorts of stores and paraphernalia which go with such military medical institutions. This means that one-fourth of the accommodation was utilised and three-fourths unutilised. Coming to the Indian Army, with a strength in 1913 of 131,000 men, there were 273 I. M. S. officers or 2.1 per million ; whilst in 1923 the strength was 143,000 with 495 I. M. S. officers or 3.5 per million. The total bed accommodation in 1913 was 8,815 out of which 2,702 were used ; in 1923 the total number of beds of the Indian Army was 12,047 out of which only 2,704 beds were occupied....

Mr. President : Order, order. The question of bed accommodation in hospitals is not in order. Will the Honourable Member bring his remarks to a close ?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I lay these facts before you to show that this scarcity of European medical officers for the I. M. S. is inflated. We have these two medical services spending Rs. 2½ crores of the taxpayer's money, making use only of one-fourth of the hospital bed accommodation provided, and we are asked to spend money maintaining the remaining vacant three-fourths. I know the Member in charge of the Army Department, Government of India, will say: " the health of the army is not indicated by the number of beds occupied in the hospitals, but those unoccupied ". If that is so, I think the army would do well to adopt the Chinese system and pay their doctors when they are well and not when they are ill. I submit that the civil medical service must be a distinct one from the military medical service ; and to accomplish this, in the second part of my Resolution, I have suggested to this House the formation of a Select Committee to go thoroughly into this matter—the same as the Honourable the Home Member said in (c) of his Resolution in which he suggests further consideration of the question. I therefore submit that we should as a House refuse to accept *in toto* Chapter

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III of the Lee Commission's Report, and that we should also accept that part of my amendment in which I suggest the formation of a Select Committee. It is almost the same as the Honourable the Home Member's amendment on the medical services and not very dissimilar to the Honourable Pandit's amendment, and as such I feel sure that the points I have placed before you will commend themselves to this Assembly. The details I would leave to the Select Committee in which both Houses should be represented with civil and military medical men as expert advisers.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the House asked me yesterday to explain to the House the proposals of the Government with regard to the Indian Medical Service ; but the course of discussion yesterday and the amendment moved by Pandit Motilal Nehru induce me to deal with some of the recommendations of the Lee Commission with which the Department over which I preside is intimately and immediately concerned. The amendment asks that the recommendations of the Lee Commission with regard to the Educational, Agricultural, Civil Veterinary, Forest and other Departments with which I am now immediately concerned should be rejected, subject to one qualification with which I shall deal later, namely, that all further recruitment in England in respect of these Services should be stopped ; and inasmuch as I believe that the recommendations of the Commission in this respect, which have been provisionally accepted by the Government, lead on the whole to an improved situation, a situation which the people of India, I believe, would welcome, I cannot help regretting that the amendment should have assumed that wide scope without due limitations, in dealing with the Departments with which I am concerned. I can understand and appreciate the reasons which are moving many of the Members of this House and the outside public as well in condemning wholesale the recommendations of the Lee Commission. Among other contributory factors are two important considerations, namely, first, there is a feeling of fear and mistrust lest the Lee Commission recommendations should somehow and in some manner interfere with the progress of the Reforms which the country has at heart ; and the second consideration is the expenditure which would be involved by the acceptance of these recommendations. I shall not deal with the latter part of the subject in respect of which the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett are more competent to deal than myself, but I may say this that many of the British officers serving in the Departments under me did complain before this Royal Commission was appointed that they were suffering pecuniarily and that some relief was needed. I must say that in fairness to the Services under my control. It is hardly necessary to go back to the genesis of this Commission. There were retirements on proportionate pension. There was agitation in India ; there was pressure brought to bear on the Government of India and the Secretary of State by the Services and, what is more, there was the difficulty felt by the Government both here and in England with regard to the recruitment of British youths for the Services in this country. (*Pandit Shamal Nehru :* " May I know the number of premature retirements ? ") I have not got the figures here but there was an appreciable number in the Police, a few in the Civil and many to my regret of good officers in the Agricultural Department, hardly any in the Forest ; and that is all that I can say at present. (*Pandit Shamal Nehru :* " Shall I say 20 at the utmost ? ") Well, I will not

care to reply to that question. I would put it to the House that the people might have been confronted with a decision, taken after due consultation no doubt, with regard to expenditure without the corresponding advantages which are the immediate result of the appointment of this Commission. I am not here to try and justify the appointment of the Commission, there is no need for it. I am not here to say that the needs of the hour might not have been met in a different way, but, taking the Commission as an accomplished fact, I would ask the House to remember that the position might have been easily worse from their standpoint, and that we should dispassionately view the recommendations of the Lee Commission both from the standpoint of the advantages which have been gained as well as from the standpoint of the expenditure involved, which to some minds may appear to be large. It is fair play that the Government ask from the House in dealing with the recommendations of the Royal Commission. It has been said : Is there any principle which has been laid down by the Lee Commission ? Can we discover it even with the aid of a microscope and, if any can be discovered, is it not subject to so many limitations that it is hardly worth while calling it a principle ? We know as practical men that there are no principles to which exceptions and limitations cannot and should not be made. But, broadly-speaking, I think what the Lee Commission has laid down is a position new to the country, namely, that, in respect of subjects which have been provincialised and transferred, the Services, subject to vested rights, should be under the entire supreme control of the Local Governments. Up to the date of the recommendations of the Lee Commission, the accepted principle has been that, although a subject may be provincialised and transferred, still the Superior Services controlling or at any rate administering those subjects should be in the main All-India Services. A breach has been made in this principle and a new principle has been enunciated that, in respect of transferred fields hereafter, at any rate in regard to recruitment, the control, subject to vested interests, should be entirely in the hands of the Provincial Governments. I would suggest, Sir, that this is a principle which, whatever doubts may be felt from the large point of the consolidation of India, has its merits and deserves recognition, and it is by acceptance of that principle that the House can secure the complete provincialisation of the future recruitment of the Services with which I am intimately connected. I recollect the controversies which raged in 1914 when the Islington Commission was sitting and reported. I recollect as a Member of the Government of India the attitude which had to be assumed in dealing with further Indianisation, and I must frankly state to the House that it is a large step which the Government have taken, a step of far-reaching importance in accepting the complete provincialising of these Services and in leaving to the Local Governments future recruitment under these heads.

And, mark you, gentlemen, hereafter it cannot be said that the nation-building Departments would not be entirely in the hands of the Ministers who control them. (*Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha* : " Not entirely ".) They would be for a time subject to the vested interests of the officers already in the Services which would have to be protected. In all transitional stages—and the stage may be a long period—(*A Voice* : " Very long indeed.") It is so. But that is a period we will have to face, and I do not think anybody in this House or outside this House would ever enunciate the principle that the vested interests of anybody should, at any rate with-

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out adequate compensation, be sacrificed. We have to take things as they are, and I go further and say that India would require the help, the guidance, and the friendly co-operation of the men who would be left in these Services for the purpose of building up her national agriculture and industries. And I hope—now that the friction with the Local Governments that the people who ought to guide the Local Governments are not allowed to choose the servants whom they have to employ—now that that friction, that sort of irritation, is removed, I earnestly hope that the Ministers backed by the people would realise the need for seeking the aid of the best men outside India for some time to come, and that this would not mean the extinction of recruitment of Englishmen or of outsiders whenever their services may be required for the benefit of the country. In passing, I cannot help paying—it is my duty to pay—a tribute to the Services which will shortly be placed on a provincial basis, which have contributed to the growth, advancement and development of this country. The achievements of the officers of the All-India Services in the Educational, Agricultural and other fields are too well known to require any recapitulation at my hands, and I am sure that this House will readily recognise, especially at a time when the Government are prepared to leave entirely in the hands of the people the future recruitment for these Services, the merits of these officers and the help which they have rendered in the past and which we hope they will willingly render in the future. Let me say one word with regard to the feeling of mistrust which is largely influencing the people of this country, namely, that the recommendations of the Lee Commission, if accepted, might in some way retard the granting of reforms on a large scale or in the manner in which the country expects in the immediate future. The Honourable the Leader of the House and Sir Charles Innes have on behalf of Government stated to the House freely and frankly that there is nothing in this Report which should in any manner be taken as embarrassing the Government in any manner whatsoever in dealing with the question of future reforms. That was a question with which, as has already been stated, the Commission had not to deal. They were asked merely to organise the Services on the assumption that the *status quo* will, in the main, be preserved. You may quarrel with particular details of the proposals which they have made, but they have envisaged the position when the reserved fields of activity would be converted into transferred fields. You may quarrel with the details of the proposals as to what should be done if such a change is brought about. But I would submit that there is nothing in the Lee Commission's Report itself which can expressly or impliedly be taken as precluding the progress of the reforms in the manner in which the people and the Government may find it desirable to proceed. I suggest to the House that it would pay better to take the Government at their word when they have stated that there is nothing in the Lee Commission's recommendations which could even impliedly stand in the way, rather than import doubts and difficulties, which after all, I would suggest, from the larger point of view, would never pay.

I shall now deal, Sir, with the question of the Medical Services and the proposals of the Government. I should explain at the outset that the Government have tabled these proposals for the consideration of this House in order to show it that they treat the recommendations of the Lee Commission as a whole, as integral parts hanging together, and that the Gov-

ernment have no idea of going back upon any of the recommendations which may be considered to be in favour of the proposals which the people have been pressing upon the attention of the House and of the Government. They have asked the Local Governments to state their views on this difficult and perplexing problem. They have not yet received the replies, except from one or two of the Local Governments. The question is further complicated by the fact that the suggestions of the Lee Commission touch upon the future organisation of the Army, and that is a subject which was entirely outside the purview of the Commission. That has no strict bearing upon the constitution of the Civil Services. That is a matter which has to be dealt with on its merits in respect of considerations which ought to prevail in Army matters. The War Office has to be consulted and Honourable Members will readily recognise that it would be impossible for the Government to arrive at any reasoned conclusions with reference to the future composition of the Army Medical Services. So I will ask you to dismiss from your minds any suggestions with regard to the future composition of the R. A. M. C., as to whether the Government are in the least inclined to abolish the I. M. S., and to have a unified single Service. I would ask you to confine your attention to the proposals as formulated by the Government, which ask you to accept in principle one point subject to three limitations. The recommendation which I am asking you to accept, and which I believe will find ready acceptance in this House, is that Provincial Civil Medical Services should be constituted in the Provinces. I will deal with the limitations later on. On that subject, public opinion has been pressing very hard upon the Government in the past that the civil needs of the population deserve greater attention in the constitution of their Civil Medical Services than the needs of the Army, and that there should be accepted in principle the necessity and the desirability of constituting an All-India Civil Medical Service. This is a recommendation which has been made by the Islington Commission subject to certain limitations. What the Islington Commission contemplated and what was pressed upon the attention of the Government by a Resolution moved by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri was the constitution of an All-India Civil Medical Service with Provincial Medical Services attached. The departure made by the Lee Commission is in the direction of constituting it entirely on a provincial basis. Much can be said, for the sake of the future consolidation of the interests of India, in favour of continuing on an All-India basis the future composition and constitution of the Civil Services of the country even when those Services are composed entirely, or almost entirely, of Indians. The centrifugal forces operating powerfully in this country, the divisions, and the provincial jealousies, need to be checked as far as possible and the All-India Services have been a very useful factor in the past in that direction. And I for one have had some difficulty in reconciling myself to this recommendation in favour of Provincial Medical Services, but I accepted it because I felt from my practical experience during the four years and odd of my service as Member of Government, as well as on other considerations, that there was no alternative but to accept the Lee Commission's recommendations notwithstanding the consideration that I have placed before this House. Provincial jealousies, the desire of each Local Government to recruit from amongst men of their own province, communal differences, and various other factors have rendered the position of the Government of India an extremely unenviable one in the past, and when the Lee Commission, on which there were four members from different Provinces,

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had come to the conclusion that in future the Services especially in these branches, should be on a provincial basis, the Government of India felt that they would be wise in accepting the recommendation which they hoped would be backed up by the people. I hope therefore that whatever may be your difficulties, whatever may be your inconveniences, whatever may be your misgivings, regarding the future composition of the Medical Services, the main recommendation will be accepted in principle by this House.

Then I have subjected the proposal to three limitations, one of which is extremely important and I may say, may be far-reaching in character, and the other two are not of such great importance. The first limitation is that the Civil Medical Services should absorb the military reserve. My Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, has quoted to you certain figures in order to show that the Army has too large a number of medical officers and that the needs of the country could be met by a smaller number, and I could not follow him in one place when he said that India can furnish all the medical men she requires.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I rise to a personal explanation. I said that I did not agree that India could furnish all its medical needs. It certainly cannot. I was emphatic on that point.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : I am glad to see the position clearly now. I may say that those figures are somewhat inaccurate. The Army Department, to do it justice, has been trying its level best to keep down the number of medical officers, especially after the Inchcape Committee has made its recommendations, and in the R. A. M. C., in the Budget for 1924-25 I note this, there were not 331 but only 265, and in the I. M. S., not 495 but only 388 medical officers provided and so there has been....

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : May I rise to a personal explanation. I am very sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member. He has made a mistake in thinking that my figures are incorrect. I have these figures signed and furnished by the Office of the D. M. S., India, and they are dated about ten days ago. So I believe they are accurate and I accept them as accurate.

Mr. Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : May I inform the Honourable Member that those figures are for 1923-24. The Honourable Member for Education has referred to the figures for 1924-25.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : I am taking the figures that I am quoting from the Budget for 1924-25,—265 and 388.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : My Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney's figures are for 1923.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : And I have no reason to suppose that there have been additions since to these figures. There might have been small additions, but not at any rate the figures which would reach the dimensions quoted by my Honourable friend. In any event, the question as to what the number of medical officers for the Army should be is entirely outside the purview of our discussion this morning. The question is, is it necessary to make provision for the absorption of the Indian Army Reserve, or is it not necessary to do so? In asking you to accept my recommendation I will have to give you figures

necessarily and I have been informed that approximately the war reserve that would have to be absorbed would be about 195 officers, of whom there would be provision for not less than 65, or, including the leave reserve, 83, in the departments directly under the Government of India. Therefore, it is not a very large number that has to be absorbed by the Provincial Governments with a reformed constitution under the proposals that I am tabling before you. Then, again, Honourable Members will find that from more than one standpoint the absorption of this medical reserve in the civil with due safeguards would be a source of immense strength, immense benefit, to the Civil Medical Services themselves. We have practically accepted, I think,—because I have not seen in the past or in the present any dissent from the view that the civil medical officer should, as far as possible, be ready to undertake the duties of going into the field in case of necessity, and I would ask you, would it not be helpful to have a small leaven of officers who have gone through the drill, through the course of discipline in the Army—a small number—who in the past have justified their existence, who in the past have brought about incalculable benefits to this land—is it not wise to keep them? Even from a narrow standpoint there must be a number to stiffen, to help, to stimulate the activities of the civil officers who would have in case of the painful necessity of the occurrence of a war to go to the field. Apart from that,—I was just now alluding to the centrifugal tendencies—is it not desirable that there should be a small leaven of officers trained in the best European institutions who have gone through the mill as it were, through a course of discipline, serving in the Army for about 4 or 5 years—is it not useful to have such a small stiffening element even from the larger standpoint of the interests of the consolidation and solidarity of India?

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Small means 50 per cent.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : It cannot be 50 per cent. The number of officers who would in future have to be absorbed may not exceed—I will not make a positive statement because the question has not been thoroughly examined—122 or 123 at the utmost out of 570, the full strength of the civil medical service at present.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Percentage to civil?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : The whole strength at present is 570 approximately. There are at present 420 I. M. S. officers provided for in civil employ, and I may state to the Assembly that with the consent of the Local Governments, including the Ministers, there has been provisional reservation made under the orders of the Secretary of State under Devolution Rule 12 of 333 appointments for the I. M. S. 333 posts have with the consent, omitting one or two Provinces, of the Ministers and the Local Governments, been reserved provisionally, but the decision has not been made final. Taking it that this would continue it will have to continue for an appreciable period. Therefore, you will see immediately what an immense improvement from the point of view that is being urged on the Government it will be if the recommendations of the Lee Commission are accepted in their entirety in this respect. I was on the point that the military reserve under this condition that I have stated is not a very large one, and there is another greater reason why the House should readily consent to absorb this military reserve because in the past, although there has been no contract, the position of the Medical Services, their constitution and the

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staffing of the hospitals has been such as to secure suitable and adequate provision for British officers and their families. I know there is a good deal of feeling in the country that somehow racial considerations are being imported into this question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated : Labour Interests) : Is it not true ?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : I may assure the House that there is absolutely no foundation for that belief if the facts are really understood. I will not say that there is no ground for misunderstanding. During the last one century the Civil Medical Service has been composed entirely or almost entirely of the I. M. S. officers, at any rate the higher branches. There were only 73 out of 566 and odd, 73, mind you, non-I. M. S. officers in 1914 when the Islington Commission made their report. Now the figure is nearly four times as large, and it will be still larger if the recommendations of the Lee Commission are accepted, and the proportion which is being reserved for the war reserve would be infinitesimally small if the civil needs of the population have to be met and are met on an adequate scale. I do not see any limitation to the numbers which will have to be recruited in future if the civil needs of the population have to be adequately and properly attended to, and therefore with an increasing civil cadre what would this small war reserve be especially when that war reserve would be useful also for the purpose of administering to the medical wants of Europeans and their families ? If we entered into a contract for a breach of which there would be compensation, if entered into a covenant for the breach of which an officer could leave our service, then Honourable Members may say that racial discrimination has been introduced ; but we merely wish to provide the facilities which at present are open to the civil officers, especially having regard to their susceptibilities and having regard to the interests of future recruitment. Here I wish you for a moment to put yourself into the position of people having sentiments on these subjects.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Do the Government repudiate the obligation suggested by the Lee Commission ?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : The Government intend to provide adequate facilities.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Without undertaking any obligation ?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : Civil obligation if you wish to put it like that. I would not let anything escape from my lips which might lead the Services to believe that the Government do not intend to fulfil the promise that they give them. They do mean to provide adequate facilities. There exists at present adequate facilities. It is because the power is being passed on to a transferred field completely that the Government have had to subject this Resolution to that reservation. Otherwise there would not have been any necessity for it.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City : Muhammadan Urban) : Is that the reason for fixing the numbers of the British Medical Service ?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : The Local Governments have been asked as to how they intend to meet the needs of the Europeans in the civil employ and their families. We have had no replies from them. Therefore there has been no opportunity to consider as a

Government any proposition as to the method by which the future needs of these officers will have to be met. But I may give you this information that at the present moment in the reformed Provinces, excluding Burma, there are about 93 British officers working as Civil Surgeons, and I have told you that about 130 at least, excluding leave reserve and so on, would be available from the war reserve. Therefore, the Government have found themselves in this convenient position. They can absorb with great utility and great economy a small war reserve. From that war reserve, they can meet, they hope to meet, at any rate the needs of the European Services and their families, and you are asked therefore to accept two propositions which in themselves, analysed in the light of the figures I have given, do not mean much and do not imply at all any racial discrimination.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Who will control the war reserve officers, the War Office ?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : There is a limitation, there is a formula under which the Army war reserve is fixed. If you reduce the total cadre of the Army medical officers it follows automatically that the cadre would be reduced in respect of the war reserve also. We look not merely to these army officers but to the civil officers also in the case of a great war. But I think the army reserve numbers that I have mentioned would adequately fulfil the needs of the situation, in the case of a small war and I hope wars, small or large, though they may be eliminated in the distant future cannot be eliminated altogether just at present.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Why do not you call them supermedicæ ?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma : I come now to the third part, namely, further scrutiny or examination of the needs of the recruitment of the Army. Here you may smell danger. I have already told you the existing position under the present constitution and the rules as they stand, namely, that 333 posts have been reserved and including leave reserve 420 I.M.S. officers are being employed in the civil branch of the administration. This examination will, I may assure you, relieve that situation to a considerable extent. As to how far and what may be the exact proposals which would have to be taken up is a point on which I will not dogmatise or give any assurance. But, supposing you had an Indian Government, pure and simple, and you found it difficult to find recruits for the Indian Army Medical Corps except by throwing open certain avenues of civil employment, would you as a Government dissociate yourself from your duty towards the Army and say we do not care whether the Army is administered by proper army doctors or not ; this is a civil matter and therefore we shall entirely dissociate the two spheres and make our recruitment proposals on that basis ? I am sure that a Swaraj Government composed entirely of Indians, if the situation necessitated, would take the needs of the Army into consideration. And a situation somewhat similar has arisen, Sir, because I may tell you that the figures give a most gloomy aspect with regard to the recruitment of British medical officers. Since 1915 there has been no open competitive examination. During the last two years we have not been able to secure a single British medical recruit for the I.M.S. except on special terms. The number recruited previously was small and inadequate, and the R. A. M. C. wanted 30 men for their commissioned ranks this year and they could not get more than four candidates. There are causes which are operating against recruitment—war weariness, adequate employment in England and so on—and we do not expect this state of things to continue.

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very long. But still the position is as I have stated, and because the Army requires a certain number of British recruits, the Government of India, you may easily realize, will have to do something, or at any rate will have to do nothing which will further dissuade recruits from entering the Army Medical Service. That is a problem which we have to investigate, which we hope to investigate, with the aid of Local Governments and with the aid of the War Office and the Army in India. That is the reason why I have been obliged to move the acceptance in principle of the constitution of the Civil Medical Service subject to further examination as to what may have to be done in the interest of recruitment of British medical officers for the Army. That is my justification. No one wants a large number of British medical recruits imported unnecessarily into the civil services of the country against the wishes of the Local Governments. I have already told you that the number required for the Army Reserve is very small; that the number required to meet the needs of the European officers in civil employ and their families would be very small. I have already told you that there is a large number of places at present reserved for I.M.S. officers in civil employ. The position will be brighter, better and in no way worse from the Indian point of view under the proposals I have discussed, and I hope therefore that the Council will see the utility and wisdom of not rejecting the recommendations of the Lee Commission, which rejection will lead them nowhere, which might easily lead to a continuance of the *status quo*—and I may assure you that there are many who would not in the slightest degree object to the maintenance of the *status quo* who would indeed be only too glad because they believe that these changes are leading us on the wrong track. Therefore, I think the House will be well advised not to reject the recommendations of the Lee Commission in so far as they have been accepted by the Government and formulated in this Resolution.

Well, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for your indulgence. It is a very difficult subject, and any remarks which Honourable Members may make with regard to the essential principles governing this problem would be very carefully borne in mind by the Government. And I may assure the House that the Government are only too anxious to meet the wishes of the House and the people in this matter subject to the limitations that I have mentioned.

BILLS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of Assembly : Sir, in accordance with Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table the Bills which were passed by the Council of State at its meeting of the 10th September 1924. They are :

- (1) A Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Government and other Provident Funds; and
- (2) A Bill to give effect to certain articles of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Circulation of, and Traffic in, Obscene Publications.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

RESOLUTION *RE* RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COM-
MISSION—*contd.*

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, at the very outset of this debate the Honourable the Home Member referred to the atmosphere of prejudice in which the Royal Commission came into existence. He invited us to consider the recommendations without any appeal to passion, in a spirit of judicial impartiality. It is in that spirit that I have approached the consideration of this problem. I have approached the question from an independent point of view, and the amendment which I sent in embodies the results of my independent examination. Sir, I belong to a different school of thought from that which is represented by the Honourable and learned Pandit, my friend, Pandit Motilal Nehru. I am not a politician nor a practising lawyer, and I am not going to set up the prison bar or dilatory pleas or pleas of jurisdiction. I am going to deal with the question from the point of view of a plain, practical man having to deal with a Report which has been presented by a Commission appointed by the Government and which is going to be considered by the Government, whatever may be your objections by way of direct attack. Nor am I going to question the composition of the Commission, the qualifications of the Members of the Commission or the character of the Indian Members of the Commission. I have no doubt that the qualifications of the Members of the Commission were quite as good as those of any Members of this Assembly, and I am free to acknowledge that they approached the problem in a spirit of fairness and with a desire to solve the questions in the best manner possible and according to their best lights. Now it has been asked what were their qualifications, what was their character? I very much doubt whether a stormy political life is a guarantee of sound judgment or even of character. Sir, I will indicate my conclusions in a brief way. I am not for the wholesale rejection of the recommendations of the Commission, and I do not desire the disappearance of the British element from the Services. I am prepared to give a sympathetic ear to their grievances and afford such means as the circumstances of the case and of the country may require and permit. Now, Sir, there is an intimate connection undoubtedly between the question of the organization of the Services and the question of the constitutional reforms. Undoubtedly there is a connection. But I for one do not wish to raise that question of constitutional reforms at this stage or by way of a condition precedent to the consideration of the various questions which arise upon this Report. We all know that this question of constitutional reforms must come up in the near future and that will be the time when we shall have to consider those questions. I desire as far as possible to deal with the questions raised by this Report free of any other question with which they may be intermingled but not oblivious of the probability of constitutional changes in the near future. Sir, the only point which I think it is necessary for this House to insist upon is that any conclusion that we may arrive at with regard to the questions arising out of this Report should in no way prejudice the consideration or the decision of those constitutional changes; and I am quite sure that the Members of the Treasury Bench opposite will agree with me in that expression of view.

Sir, the main questions which arise out of this Report are those relating to the recruitment of the Services and the financial relief to be afforded to the Services. I do not propose to deal at length with

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the various topics arising out of this Report ; and I shall endeavour to condense my remarks as much as possible upon these two problems. Now, Sir, with regard to the question of recruitment, my conclusion happens to be the same as that of the school represented by my friend, the learned Pandit. But I have arrived at my conclusion by a different route altogether, from another point of view. I will first of all take the reserved Services which are most important for this purpose. The number of reserved Services is four : the Civil Service, the Police, the Forest and the Engineers. Now, before I go into this question of recruitment, I should like to keep clear of the two non-security Services, the Forest Service and the Engineer Service which may encumber the consideration of the Report. I see no reason whatever why these two Services should not be transferred like the other Services which have been transferred. It may be said that these two subjects have not been transferred and that the two Services should not therefore be transferred. But there is no insuperable obstacle to the transfer of these two subjects as well. In the province of Burma we know that Forests has been reserved, and I am not aware that there is any province in India which has more valuable forests than Burma ; and if the provincialization or transfer of the Forest Service in Burma can be contemplated with equanimity, if it can be contemplated with equanimity in Burma, I do not see any reason why it should not be treated in the same way in the other provinces like Madras, Bengal and the United Provinces.

It seems to me puerile to suggest that, if the Forest Services were transferred, the importance of the preservation of forests would be overlooked or not properly appreciated, and that the vital interests of the country at large would suffer. Take again, Sir, the question of the Indian Engineers. In several provinces the Roads and Works Branch has been transferred. There is no reason why the Irrigation Branch also should not be transferred. What is the plea in answer to this ? That if for instance owing to mismanagement the canals were not properly looked after and water not laid on in time, there might be terrible disaster and calamity in the country. But can any sane person believe that the agency which will look after this Service, if it is transferred, is not competent enough to look after the maintenance or construction of canals or that it will not have sufficient regard to the importance of this work ? I consider, Sir, that there is no valid reason for the retention of these two Services as reserved fields.

Now, Sir, passing from these two Services, I come to the Indian Civil Service and the Police—the two security Services. My own opinion is that they should remain All-India Services. I am not in favour of the provincialisation of these two Services ; but it does not follow from that that the recruitment which is now going on should be continued. Let me come at once to this question. What are the considerations which should govern the determination of this problem of recruitment ? In the first place, let me revert to the test which was referred to by the Honourable the Home Member. What is the essential minimum of the British element necessary for the purposes of the Indian Civil Service in the interests of law and order ? Now I refuse to believe that anyone could suggest that a minimum of more than 50 per cent. is necessary. Whether 50 per cent. is necessary in my opinion is another matter ; but what I do submit is that you cannot very well say that a minimum of more than 50 per cent. is necessary. Taking my own province of Madras

I believe the Madras Government have expressed their view that they would be quite content to go on with 50 out of 148 posts given assigned to the British element. No doubt Madras is in this respect an advanced province. There may be other provinces which cannot be equally advanced and perhaps the percentage may have to be raised a bit in those provinces but making all these allowances, leaving out for the present the backward province of Burma, a remark which perhaps will be resented by my friend, Maung Kun, leaving aside Burma and perhaps the North-West Frontier Province, can you say that a minimum of more than 50 per cent. is necessary for the purpose of the Indian Civil Service ?

Now, Sir, the purposes which we have necessarily to bear in mind in considering this question of recruitment are the maintenance of the present standard of efficiency and integrity—an object to which every sane Indian must attach the highest importance and to which I give full recognition. The second object which we must have in view in considering the question of the organisation of the Service is how far does it tend to foster and develop the administrative faculties of the people. The second is a consideration which to some extent must act as a counterpoise to the first consideration. Now, having regard to these two considerations, can we really say that more than 50 per cent. of the British element is necessary ? And granting that a minimum of 50 per cent. is necessary, when are we likely to attain it ? Now the Lee Commission contemplates that it may take 15 years with a recruitment at the rate of 60 per cent. Indian and 40 per cent. English ; and the Honourable the Home Member was somewhat astonished at the progress we had made recently in the Indianisation of the Services. He asked us to look back on past history. Now according to the figures supplied by him yesterday, out of 1,000 Civil Service officers, 38 were Indians. In 1913, 66 were Indians. In 1924, out of 1,220 officers 164 were Indians, that is, about one-eighth. Well that is not to my mind so astonishing a rate of progress. Now this minimum of 50 per cent. to which I have referred as a hypothetical minimum, as probably the hypothetical limit or the minimum which may be desirable—that I say is desirable for other reasons as well. The Lee Commission themselves admit that in the interests of the spirit of camaraderie, in the interests of the development of an equal sense of responsibility, it is desirable to attain this equality in the cadre of the Civil Service as early as possible—a proposition on which I have not yet heard a note of dissent from the treasury Bench. Now if that is desirable, the question is how soon should it be attained ? Is there any reason why it should not be attained as early as possible ? It is perhaps merely a breach of an open secret if I say that in the famous O'Donnell Circular it was stated, as I have heard it said, that, even if English recruitment were stopped this moment, it would take 10 or 12 years before complete equality was attained. And I say if it will take 10 years to attain complete equality even on the basis of a complete stoppage of recruitment, then it is not necessary for us to go further and provide for any further recruitment—at any rate during the next 10 years. Now in matters of this kind I claim somewhat of the British characteristic of being a practical politician in refusing to look long ahead. It is quite sufficient for us if we look to the progress of events during the next 10 years. Constitutional changes are impending and must come. Let us not waste our time in considering whether they will come as soon as the learned Pandit on this side wants, or whether they

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will come in 1929 as provided by the Statute. Certainly within a period of 10 or 15 years it may be, constitutional changes are inevitable; and if they are inevitable, I ask, is it fair to English recruits themselves to ask them to enter the Service with this cloud of uncertainty hanging over them and come out on trial to this country; or to ask us that, in order to dispel the apprehensions caused by this cloud of uncertainty, they should be offered special attractions in the way of premature retirement on proportionate pensions and various other means? I am not now dealing with the claims of the present members of the Service to relief. Now I say under these circumstances it is neither fair to your English recruits nor fair to the interests of this country to go on recruiting further before we are yet in sight of the attainment of equality between the two cadres. These are my reasons for not advocating the continuance of recruitment.

I just want to refer—I have my eye on the clock, Sir—I only want to refer to one or two arguments against the stoppage of recruitment which have been used by its opponents. One is that once you stop recruitment it cannot be revived. I am not disposed to say there is no force in that argument. I am always ready to admit whatever force there is in the arguments of my opponents and to make allowance for them. There is some difficulty undoubtedly; but the British element will be at greater strength than 50 per cent. for the next 10 years, and those who enter the Service and become senior officers will continue for a period of 25 years or at any rate 22 years, let us say—at any rate to enable them to earn a decent pension. Now there seems to me to be no likelihood of any catastrophe happening if the recruitment is stopped, say for the next 10 years. If, however, the country were going to be plunged into those conditions of chaos and disorder which the imagination of some has conjured up as the only too probable result in the future if there is a stoppage of recruitment, I think the country will probably in that state of things invite the outsider to come and help it, as it has oftener than once done in the past. I do not believe that there is such an insuperable difficulty and I do not believe that the necessity will arise for considering the question.

Then, Sir, another argument is brought forward. Even supposing that it is possible to revive recruitment, there will be a gap in the British official hierarchy—at one stage there will be a number of seniors without a number of junior officers and by the time these junior officers grow up to be seniors there will be no senior officers left and they will all be Indians. If the British and Indian officers are there, imbued with the traditions of the Service and if they can co-operate as they are likely to do, there is no great harm done by the Indian officer having his turn of seniority after the long spell of seniority which has been enjoyed by the English officers. It does not seem to me to portend any great administrative catastrophe. Sir, these are my reasons for advocating a stoppage of recruitment for the present, because I consider it essential that there should be equality between the two elements attained as soon as possible in the cadre of the Service and the continuance of recruitment will merely put off the time to a long period.

Then, Sir, I shall pass on to another Service, namely, the Medical Service. My Honourable friend, the Member in charge of Education, dealt at considerable length with this question. There are these points to be

considered in connection with the Medical Service and the proposals of the Lee Commission. The first proposition which they put forward is that the needs of the Army—the needs of the British and Indian units—should be served by the same organisation. That is a proposition to which with all my effort I cannot reconcile myself. The less room allowed for the interference of the War Office and for the interference of the British authorities, the better for this country. The R. A. M. C. has never been appreciative of the claims of Indians to enter its ranks. I make no complaint; it says it is for a British unit; I have no legal right, though perhaps some people might be disposed to base a claim on the ground of our payment for those Services. I do not wish to enter any such claim; but the R. A. M. C. which was run by the British authorities has never hitherto opened its portals to Indians; and is there the least chance that if the R. A. M. C. in India, as proposed by the Lee Commission, subserves the needs of both the British Army and the Indian Army the claims of Indians will be generously recognised? I refuse to believe it, and the ground for my refusal is my experience of the past management of these matters by the War Office. That is one of the considerations; and another consideration I may mention in this connection is that the presence of the R.A.M.C. in India is in my opinion a factor which should steadily diminish. I look forward to the day when the presence of British units will be less and less necessary and I look forward to the day when the presence of the R. A. M. C. will consequently be less and less necessary. I do not wish our medical organisation to be tied up in any way with the organisation of the British medical units and our progress in Indianisation or in the matter of any reforms to be hampered by this unfortunate, and as I should call it deplorable, alliance between the two branches. To the first recommendation therefore I am entirely opposed, heart and soul. The next recommendation is that the Civil Medical Service should be provincialised—that there should be a separate Civil Medical Service. The need for a separate Civil Medical Service has been frequently urged and is recognised in General Burtchaell's note; and however much I may disagree with it in other respects, I agree with it in this respect; it has been adopted by the Commission and I shall not therefore waste my breath on that point. The only question is this: if there is to be a Civil Medical Service, the question whether it is to be a provincial or All-India Service does not to my mind seem to be of very great importance. The great apprehension in the minds of many of my friends with regard to these All-India Services is this exercise of the power of control by the Secretary of State. If they can be assured that the power of control will be vested in the hands of the Government of India, I believe that the objections of many of my friends will disappear. However that is a question that I do not propose to discuss now. I accept the recommendation of the Commission in this respect.

The next question is, in this provincial medical organisation what are the conditions with which the Lee Commission has coupled its recommendation. The conditions are reproduced in the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Sir Alexander Muddiman, that they must serve two or three purposes; there must be provision for a military reserve and there must be provision for facilities for the attendance on British officers by medical men of their own race. Those are the two conditions. My Honourable friend, Sir Narasimha Sarma, dwelt upon this first aspect of the question in great detail. Now, I recognise at once the need for a

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military reserve—I grant it; but then the question is, shou'd the military reserve be formed only out of the I. M. S.? Is it not possible to build it up otherwise? The I. M. S., if you look at its past, has not been found to be so very well-fitted for administrative duties in the field as the R. A. M. C. That was the deliberate opinion of the Esher Committee in their Report. The thing is they get out of touch with military duties; they are not kept in the same state of efficiency as the R. A. M. C., and they get so fond of civil work that most of them are unwilling to go back. Now my proposal as contained in my amendment is that all the members of the Civil Medical Service should be compelled to undergo a period of training—not in the Territorial Force, not in the Auxiliary Force, but in the regular army.

3 P.M. Send them there for a couple of years—two or three years—whatever the period may be—I am not particular; I will leave that to my expert friends to arrange. Let them be compelled to serve a certain period of training in the Army. I have no doubt that they will prove quite capable of undertaking the duties which are now discharged by military reserve officers in the I. M. S.

Then, Sir, the next question is this—with regard to medical attendance on officers. I for one recognise the naturalness of this desire on the part of British officers. Whether they have a legal claim or not is another matter. If they have not the legal claim, they have the fact of actual attendance by British officers. But, since the war, conditions have greatly changed and there have been many situations where the Civil Surgeon's post has been held by an Indian. We have known cases where Indian officers have discharged their duties to the satisfaction of their patients. As I have said, I do not forget the naturalness of the desire but the question which I would put is this. Is it reasonable—put yourselves in a detached position—is it reasonable that the whole basis of organisation of any particular Service in the country should be adapted to the needs not of the population at large but of a few scattered individuals here and there, perhaps half a dozen individuals in a district and so on. Is it right, is it reasonable, that the whole organisation should be adapted to their requirements, however natural, however much they may be entitled to our sympathy—to the requirements of a few scattered officers living here and there? It seems to me that, without in any way flouting this desire or making light of it, there is a great deal to be said against basing the whole framework of your Service upon the recognition of this. On the other hand, I have made a suggestion in the amendment which is on the table to the effect that a certain proportion of the civil posts might be reserved for officers of the I. M. S. and that recruitment might take place accordingly for the whole number of I. M. S. posts required for the Army and Civil. I know that many of my friends here have accused me of having a soft corner in my heart for my English friends. I do not mind that imputation, speaking for myself, and I do not mind some provision being made. But the question, of course, is to what extent it is necessary. The more reasonable, the smaller the limits, the better.

Then there is. . . .

Mr. President : I must ask the Honourable Member to bring his remarks to a close.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : The next matter that I would suggest is this: that with regard to the various education and professorial and scientific chairs and so on, they should be thrown open to the best talent

wherever it may be found. Instead of appointments being regarded as the preserves of any particular Service, these appointments in particular ought to be regarded as available to the best talent in the world wherever you can get it. And while I am ready to acknowledge the distinguished attainments of I. M. S. officers in the past, while I am ready to acknowledge the services they have rendered to the country not only in the obvious and private capacity of administering to the country, but also in developing a proper standard of teaching, I do not think that one result of the present organisation has been to train the Indian for research and for higher medical work. These are the reasons which underlie my propositions in regard to the Indian Medical Service. I have only one word, Sir, with regard to the financial question.

Mr. President : I have allowed the Honourable Member a great deal of latitude already. He promised me that he would keep his eye on the clock.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : I have only to say this with regard to the question of financial relief which I do consider important. I do not think it fair to put off the Services by reference to some other person or body. While I say that the findings of this Committee will not absolve the House from the responsibility of coming to its own conclusions and while they are not absolutely binding upon this House, I do think that greater moral weight attaches to the results of the examination of the question by that body. As regards rise in prices, which of us can honestly say that prices have not risen so that we have not suffered by it or that we had not found it difficult to make both ends meet. I believe that many of the members of the Services are in great straits and that they are hard put to it to make both ends meet. Many of them are in embarrassed circumstances, as pointed out by the Lee Commission Report. It has been said that they have a higher standard of living. Granted for the sake of argument that it is exceedingly difficult for a man who has adopted a certain standard to reduce that standard of living, everybody has been accustomed to a particular standard so much so that that standard has been adopted by the Indian as well and it has become equally necessary to him. Under these circumstances, I think that the question of financial relief ought not to be put off and the only relief I would suggest is that contained in certain paragraphs of my amendment. If you will allow me, Sir, I will read them.

Mr. President : Honourable Members will observe that I have allowed a considerable degree of latitude, on account of the magnitude and difficulty of the subject, to those speakers who opened the debate. I must warn Honourable Members in future that, if I allow any latitude and they abuse it, I shall have to use the powers of the Chair to the full.

Mr. E. Burdon (Army Secretary) : Sir, I had not intended to attempt to gain a hearing in this debate. When the debate commenced, it seemed to me—and I am still of the same opinion—that the discussion of individual questions of military medical organisation would only serve to divert attention from the central issues which the House is engaged in considering. But certain statements have been made and certain opinions have been advanced by previous speakers which makes it necessary that I should say a very few words, for the purpose of removing any possibility of misunderstanding and of clearing out of the way what I consider to be certain extraneous matters.

In the first place, Sir, I have heard severe condemnation expressed of the proposal to constitute a Royal Army Medical Corps (India) under a

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scheme which was referred to by the Royal Commission. Now, Sir, the question of the structure of the military medical organisation was plainly outside the terms of reference to the Royal Commission, and the Government of India have kept the same question apart from their consideration of the Royal Commission's Report. They have (I wish to emphasize this) arrived at no conclusion whatsoever in regard to the matter. They have not yet considered it. While, therefore, I do not propose on the present occasion to contest or examine any proposition that has been advanced, I can assure the House that the observations which have been made in regard to this particular matter will receive very careful attention from Government.

Now, Sir, the same considerations apply very much to the details of the structure of the military medical reserve that may be required. No detailed conclusion has been arrived at as to how this should be constituted in the event of the Civil Medical Services being provincialised.

I had intended to make certain observations regarding the necessity of having a military reserve and the necessity in particular of having a trained reserve. But after what my Honourable friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has said on this subject I do not think I need trouble the House except with a very few remarks indeed. Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has acknowledged that there must be a military reserve of medical officers. The necessity of course flows from the fact that India has a land frontier of five thousand miles and from the conditions which obtain along that land frontier. These are the circumstances which have led to the Army in India being maintained practically at all times on an active service basis, a fact with which every Honourable Member in this House is perfectly well acquainted. The necessity of a military medical reserve is purely consequential. The necessity of a trained reserve need not be further elucidated after what Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has said. It is plain that it would not be an efficient arrangement to transfer a civil medical practitioner, who has had no practical experience of military organisation or of military medical organisation to be in charge, let us say, of a field ambulance in frontier warfare.

There is another feature of our existing military medical organisation which has been severely condemned. I am referring here to the Station Hospital system and to the observations made on the subject by Colonel Gidney. Well, Sir, I should like very much to know what substitute Colonel Gidney would propose for the Station Hospital system. I should like to hear his views but on some other occasion and not on this. What system could be substituted which would provide an equally efficient medical organisation, not merely for peace time but also for war? What the Station Hospital system is, what purpose it serves, what its merits are, are very clearly stated in a book called "The Army in India and its Evolution" which my Department produced only a few months ago and which I sincerely hope every Honourable Member of this House, who proposes to discuss military matters, either has read or will read. Now, Sir, I do not propose to follow my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, into the precise figures which he quoted, but in answer to the general tenor of the charges which he brought against the Army Medical administration I think it is desirable that I should inform the House that in pursuance of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee reduction has been constantly going on, ever since that Committee reported, not only in the number of medical officers employed in the Military administration but also in the number of hospital

beds. Reduction is going on below standards which the medical authorities, if left to themselves, would consider to be desirable.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru (Meerut Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Would the Honourable Member give us an idea of the reduction of numbers ?

Mr. E. Burdon : In 1924 a reduction of 4,117 hospital beds, British and Indian, was effected, and further reductions are contemplated. Again, in 1914, there were 334 R. A. M. C. officers employed in this country. At the present moment there are 333, a number which will be reduced to 302 by the end of the next month. A further reduction to 282 is intended to be carried out during the next financial year. The number of Indian Medical Service officers in military employment has increased. It has increased from 281 in 1914 to 477 at the present day. But in this case also, reductions are contemplated in pursuance of the Incheape Committee's recommendations. The cadre has been fixed at 402, and reduction will be effected by wastage in the course of this and the next financial years. Any further details regarding the expenditure on the military medical services might, I suggest, be more conveniently placed before this House on a more appropriate occasion, say when we are discussing the Budget.

There is only one other matter to which I desire to refer, and that is, the observation which my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, permitted himself to make regarding Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Burtchaell, formerly Director of Medical Services in India. If I understood my Honourable friend correctly, the purport of his observations was to disparage both General Burtchaell's efficiency and his *bona fides* as a servant of the Government of India. Sir, it appeared to me to be contrary to all tradition, and to be regrettable, that a charge of this kind should be brought against a distinguished officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps by a senior officer of the sister service. Sir Charles Burtchaell is no longer in India to defend himself against attacks from which, I venture to say, his exceptionally distinguished services in the great war should have availed to protect him. If General Burtchaell were here, he would need no assistance from me. He could defend himself very adequately. But when I come to analyse it, the *gravamen* of the charge brought against General Burtchaell amounts to this, that in his departmental capacity, throughout his service in India, he endeavoured to secure for Indian troops the same degree of medical care and attention which for many years had been given to British troops.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Sir, I fully recognise the importance of the occasion and also the great self-restraint one has to exercise in dealing with the questions before this Assembly. I am also a plain, practical man and it will be untrue to say that I am not a politician, it will be true to say I am not a tactician or diplomat. I am not accustomed to sugar-coat my pills and I am always accustomed to speak out what is in my mind. I have no less a soft corner for my English friends than my friend to my right, but I have a softer corner for my country and my countrymen. Sir, one main point which has to be kept in mind is the nature of the recommendations. They are interdependent. The main recommendations of the Commission are claimed by the authors of the Report to be interdependent, and no one part can be given effect to without the other part being also given effect to. That was the difficult position in which I found myself when like my friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, I tried to separate what can be passed and what cannot be passed by this Assembly. I was faced with that

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difficulty and I therefore came to the logical conclusion which my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, would not accept, that you have either to accept the whole or reject the whole. There is no question of acceptance in part on their own showing, and it is therefore idle on our part to attempt to separate the milk from the water.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : The Government of India have not accepted the whole.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Sir, it is said that the Government of India have not accepted the whole. Here again I am in this unfortunate position. What useful purpose we are serving by this debate, I have been trying to cogitate and consider. The Government of India have taken upon themselves to follow the example of that noble Lord who presided over this Commission to claim for its verdict, to elevate its verdict to that of a jurymen. And in the House of Lords he took the undue position—I should say a position which he should not have taken, namely, “ We have delivered our verdict,” and he asked the Judge, the Judge being His Majesty’s Government at home, to pass a decree in accordance with that verdict. And I am surprised to see that my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, has also accorded that position to this Commission. If that is the position accorded to this Commission, what is the object of this debate ? Are you merely redeeming the pledge of giving us an opportunity to discuss like children, “ Play with your doll as you like. We are not going to attach any importance to what you say. The verdict has been given. It only remains for us to pass a decree in accordance with that verdict.” Then why go through this farce of discussion in this Assembly ? Sir, I do not believe that the British Cabinet, as it is now constituted, is at all of that opinion. I am willing to believe that when they gave us this opportunity to discuss the merits of this Report they intend and genuinely intend to be informed and instructed and influenced in their dealing with this Report by the discussion which may take place here. Sir, unfortunately, I am sorry to say, the Government of India here are not in that fortunate position. They have committed themselves to accepting the recommendations of the Commission elevating its report to the position of a verdict of a jury, which they had no business to do. (*A Voice* : “ Who said so ? ”)

What is the financial effect of these recommendations ? It is adding a recurring burden of 1½ crores to the already overburdened finances of this country. Now, how can any Government justify its position and say, “ We will not examine the materials on which the Royal Commission came to its conclusions. We are willing to be insulted by the Royal Commission. They will take the materials home and deal and deliver them to the Secretary of State. The Government of India are not anxious to look at the materials on which the Royal Commission came to its conclusions. We are prepared to elevate it to the verdict of a jury.” If that is the responsibility, if that is the sense of responsibility of the Government of India in adding an additional burden of 1½ crores (*A Voice* : “ 2 crores.”)—I beg your pardon, 1½ crores—to the financial burdens of this country, I cannot but express my pity for such a Government. Sir, we on our part owe a responsibility to our constituencies. We on our part have to recognise what is the financial position of this country, and therefore it is our duty to exercise the utmost care in

examining, in scrutinising every item, every pie of expenditure which may be added to the financial burdens of this country. Otherwise, we will be failing in our duty. Therefore, I feel it is idle to ask this Assembly to pass a verdict on the proposals without placing the materials before us. We cannot blindly accept the verdict of these gentlemen, however eminent they may be, for God has blessed us with some intelligence, and we ought to exercise that intelligence to the best of our lights for the benefit of our country. We deny that intelligence, fairness, justice and capacity are only confined to these gentlemen who formed the Royal Commission. It is in that view that I approach the consideration of this question. Looking at it from that point of view, let me consider what was the financial position. In 1923-24, Sir, from the Central revenues alone I find that the total staff increased by 10 per cent., from what it was in 1913-14, whereas the pay and allowances increased by 101 per cent. Take the Civil Services alone. The total staff increased by 21.3 per cent. in the same period whereas the cost in pay and emoluments increased by 103.7 per cent. Take the officers alone. The increase in staff was 16.3 per cent, whereas the cost of pay and emoluments increased by 56.2 per cent.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee (Industries Member) : Are you quoting the figures for the Superior Civil Services only ?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : I am quoting from the Report of the Indian Retrenchment Committee.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : This has nothing to do with the Superior Civil Services.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : They embrace the Superior Civil Services, and I think the officers are almost all of them in the Superior Civil Services. In 1913-14 the Civil Services from the Central revenues cost us 6.75 crores. In 1923-24 it mounted up to 13.75 crores. The total of pay and allowances from the Central revenues in 1913-14 was 20.2 crores, whereas in 1923-24 the pay and allowances alone mounted up to 40.74 crores, the total increase being 20.54 crores. I am now willing to present to my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, the cost of the Superior Services, about which he is anxious. The Superior Services in 1917 cost the country 572 lakhs, 98 thousand and odd. Now, after the revisions made between the years 1919 to 1920 they mounted up to 6.67 crores, an increase of 1.15 crores.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : What is the percentage of increase ?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Now, the revision, the re-revision, the re-re-revision which were made in connection with all these All-India Services in 1919-1920, when the prices reached the high water mark, were made by the Government of India in consultation with the Secretary of State who took all these factors into consideration—the difficulties of recruitment, the high rise in prices since the Public Service Commission had reported, and all the various other factors were taken into account in 1920 mostly. The Government of India and the Secretary of State considered these points and revised the pay of all these Superior Services and their allowances, and the net result of that was an addition of 1.15 crores to the expenditure. Now, this Commission is made to sit in judgment over that decision, which was come to in 1919-1920, and asks us to increase the burden by another 1.25 crores.

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Sir, is that not an occasion when we should examine the position carefully? It is said that the prices have gone up since 1914. But they had gone up in 1920 when the Government of India—no doubt my Honourable friend the Leader was not then a Member of the Government—they had gone up in 1920 to the highest point. I will give you the figures. In 1920 the index of the cost of living showed 183 compared with 100 in 1914—the highest point 193 was reached in that year. Since then it is steadily falling. (*The Honourable Sir Charles Innes* : “What about exchange?”) In the next year, 1921, the average was 173. In the next year, 1922, it was 164. In the next year, 1923, it was 154 and to-day, Sir, as I see from the *Labour Gazette*, it is 150 or 152.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Are they wholesale prices?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member) : What about exchange?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : I will come to that.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : That does not represent the cost of living of Europeans.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : If my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee, will possess his soul in patience I will deal with that point. This *Labour Gazette* has taken the trouble to compile such figures from 1922 or 1923, I forget which. What do I find? Taking the cost of European articles, that is, articles of food in October 1920 when these revisions were made, it stood at 207 and to-day it stands at 180. Fuel and lighting stood in October 1920 at 159. To-day they stand at 120. Take articles of clothing. They stood at 249 and my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee, may be enlightened to hear that they stand at 180 to-day. Now as regards household articles consumed by Europeans, they stood in October 1920 at 168. To-day they stand at 125. Taking other articles, they stood at 220 and to-day they stand at 213. Now, what is it that has gone up? Rents have gone up in Bombay. Conveyance has gone up in Bombay. Servants have gone up in Bombay. Passages have gone up. School fees have gone up. These are the five items alone which have gone up. Now, Sir, can any one pretend that the Services working in the districts have to pay so much house rent as people in Bombay city have to pay? Can any one pretend that the Services working in the districts have to employ servants at that costly figure? Can any one pretend that people in the districts have to pay the same conveyance charges? I know how district officers are served by the public. I know it from my own experience. Let me not be dragged into a discussion on that. They are served amply. Even witnesses appearing in their courts are made to pull *punkhas*. Now, Sir, it is unnecessary for me to dilate further. Prices have gone up. What did His Majesty the King Emperor do? He cut down his expenditure on his household. His civil budget was not enhanced by one penny on account of the rise in prices. It continues the same as it was in 1913-14. Of course all of us have to be visited by these visitations, rise in prices, floods, famine, illiteracy, sickness, disease, infant condition of industries and exchange fluctuations. One matter about exchange. Now I have been searching

in vain for the authors for the statement at page 24 of the Report that there was a belief that exchange would remain high. I have got here a whole file of Government orders dealing with this revision of pay in 1919 and 1920. I do not find any reference, any single allusion, to the fact that the revision was based on that assumption, though it would be a very foolish assumption to make, knowing how exchange varies in this country, that 2s. to the rupee was ever promised either remotely or otherwise. Perhaps some Honourable Member will enlighten me. The only authority for this is this. One Secretary of State is responsible for this revision in 1920. That Secretary of State disappeared in March 1922 and another Under Secretary of State in July 1922 states that these revisions were based on the expectation that 2s. will continue, though it was not a definite promise. If that is the only authority, I am not inclined to attach as much respect to it as I should to a contemporaneous statement either published to the officers or even mentioned in the orders making the revision. Now, may I ask what happened when the exchange rose to 2s. 9d. and 2s. 10d. ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : How long ago was it ?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : A year. (*A Voice* : "Two months.") Exactly, that is my point. Did any sane man expect that these high rates would continue ? If he did, I will challenge him to stand up and say so.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : What about Bombay merchants who refused to pay ?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : They were in a tight corner. Now, what I was emphasising was this, that while I am willing to give all respect to this Commission they have not condescended to follow up their conclusions with reasons. They think they are merely registering decrees. I am willing to admit, there is a *prima facie* case for benefiting the Services, but where have the Commission considered this steady fall in prices since 1920 ? On the other hand, they lead the reader to fall under the impression that the revision of 1919-20 did not take note of the rise in prices since 1914. They talk of the period 1914-23, but where do they draw attention to the fact that the Government of India and the Secretary of State took note of the rise in prices between 1914 and 1920 ? On the other hand, they talk of the full period of 1914-1923 and again have they given us the benefit of their examination as to what the Crown Colony in our neighbourhood has done in order to meet the awkward situation ? We have got a small Colony in our neighbourhood, Ceylon. What have they done in this connection ? What did the Malay States do ? Have they proposed to increase the salaries in the same way ? They are also affected in the same way as we are. They have never thought of these matters. There is no evidence of their having done so and I therefore think there is a case for further examination. While I am willing to give weight to the recommendations of the Commission, I am not willing to accept them as conclusive. I want a further examination. Now the Honourable Sir Charles Innes told us yesterday that he is not prepared to accept a Committee of this House. What else is he prepared to accept ? He would not examine the case himself. He would not allow others to examine it. He asked us to blindly accept the verdict of the Commission. Is that what the Secretary of State wants ? Does he want a blind acceptance or a blind rejection ?

[Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar.]

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : We are asking you to discuss the recommendations.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : I am trying to show that, so far as the financial aspect is concerned, it requires a thorough re-examination. Great principles are involved in the recommendations to which this country is asked to commit itself. Now, if you are going to provide for every child born, for its education, for its passage, what about the army of Indian servants who are also blessed with a large number of children ? Is the State to undertake an obligation to repatriate them to their homes ? They have also got their homes. Men from Madras come here to serve in the Secretariat, two thousand miles away. I see many of my Madras friends here sitting there in that gallery. I am glad to see them. They too find it difficult to educate their children. They have to send them to learn Tamil, which is their mother tongue. Is the State to undertake that obligation ? What again about the susceptibilities of my Muhammadan friends who would like to be treated by Muhammadan doctors ? What about my Sikh friends, Sardar Gulab Singh and others ? Do they want Sikh doctors ? And about myself, Sir, I should prefer to be treated by a Brahman doctor, and preferably by a Tengalai Iyengar. And if the State accepts all these responsibilities, where is the limit ? Again Sir, there is a great danger in allowing facilities in the matter of this education abroad. My own experience, having been recently in England, is that the English people are what they are on account of their educational institutions, and we are what we are on account of the educational institutions which these gentlemen have provided for us. You talk of law and order. In England how is law and order maintained ? Not by force, police force or military force, but by education, education of the right type. Where have you given us a single public school like the ones you have in England ? Now I will compel you to keep your children here, educate them here, make public schools ; for that I am prepared to pay so that I may have the advantage of educating my children in them. (*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett* : "Public schools in England are not created by the Government in England".) I know that. But the people are made by the Government. (*A Voice* : "No, the people made the Government".) That is what encourages neglect of educational institutions in this country. Again, on the question of passages—I am willing to concede that there should be some facilities given, but still the undertaking of an obligation in the shape of passage money is a precedent which you are now creating for the first time. Hitherto passage money was included in the pay. You took it into consideration in giving them their pay and other overseas allowances. Now you want to create a separate liability on account of passages not only for the enhanced rate, but wholesale. That is again a dangerous precedent. As I have already said, the Indian servants would claim trainage fares when they go on leave. How can you with any face deny it to them when you are giving it to other classes ? Railway fares have gone up and the Indian servants are also grumbling because of the expense involved when they wish to go home on leave, when they have to travel a long distance with their families. Many of them on that account cannot avail themselves of the leave which is due to them. So these are questions which require careful consideration. They have not been carefully considered by the Commission, and I therefore suggest that some machinery should be devised to go into all

these things more thoroughly than the Royal Commission have done. I do not want to impute anything wilful to the Royal Commission. But I do say, I refuse to surrender my responsibility here and to accept that verdict without further opportunity of examination.

I have a great deal more to say, but I have taken up your time. All I say is that I see no other way than that contained in the recommendation we have made that the whole thing should be re-examined and that such arrangements as may be required now for future recruitment should be merely temporary and provisional pending the further reform of the constitution, and in the meanwhile let the question of the real grievances of my English friends be sympathetically examined, which we are ready to do.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, in all discussions about the fitness of the people of India for self-government we very often hear that the existence of caste and communal differences in this country offer very serious obstacles for the realization of that ideal. But, Sir, since the inauguration of the Government of India Act of 1919 I have always felt that even more serious than the obstacle presented by the existence of these social differences is the existence of a powerfully enthroned vested interests which goes under the name of the Services. That is one of the most serious difficulties with which we have to contend in our struggle for responsible government. When I make this statement that this powerfully enthroned vested interest offers a very serious obstacle I do not mean to cast any aspersion upon the distinguished individuals that compose the Services. My complaint is against the system which, whatever might be the personnel, is bound to present very serious difficulties in the way of the establishment of responsible institutions in this country. As is well known, the Services in this country came to occupy the position which they are occupying at the present day not by their own choice but by force of historical circumstances. In the guise of Services they have existed as a ruling class. With all the sympathy which Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford showed to Indian aspirations, they enhanced the difficulty of the situation by trying to keep aloof this class of the Services by inaugurating a system of safeguards and privileges. In short, by keeping them aloof from the proposed constitutional machinery. And if to-day I ask this House to agree to the amendment of my Honourable leader, Pandit Motilal Nehru, to reject the recommendations of the Royal Commission, it is on this ground, that the acceptance of those recommendations will further enhance and perpetuate those difficulties that have been created. (Hear, hear.) The Royal Commission in their inquiry have taken into consideration only the existing constitution as such. My Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes, in his speech yesterday remarked that the Commission ought not to be blamed for this. I quite agree with him in what he says. I do not blame the Commission for the limited scope of the inquiry. Unfortunately, Sir, the very terms of reference are fundamentally defective in my view. The Commission were asked to take into consideration three factors in arriving at their conclusions. First, the necessity for maintaining the standard of administration in conformity with the responsibility of the Crown for the Government of India ; secondly, the declared policy of Parliament in respect of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration, and thirdly, the experience now gained by the operation of the Government of India Act, 1919. It is these three considerations that the Commission were asked to take into consideration in arriving at their conclusions. But I have always thought that the most important portion of

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The Preamble to the Government of India Act has been unfortunately omitted in the terms of reference. If I have understood the Preamble to the Government of India Act correctly, the fundamental part of it is when it speaks of the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the realization of responsible government in India. Sir, it is an eloquent testimony of the mentality of the Government of the day that inaugurated this Commission in that they have most tactfully omitted any reference to this declared intention of His Majesty's Government embodied and expressed in an Act of Parliament. If only the Commission had been asked to take into consideration the pledge of the British Parliament and of His Majesty's Government to so work the Indian constitution as to bring about the ultimate realization of responsible government in this country, then the scope of the inquiry of this Commission would have been altogether different and their conclusions might perhaps have been fundamentally different from what they are at present. It is because the terms of reference are fundamentally defective that we in this House find ourselves unable to accept the recommendations as made by this Commission. In paragraph (8) of the Report speaking about the Islington Commission, it is observed :

"It was however impossible to produce a scheme which would fit new circumstances without a complete re-examination of the problem, and the orders which were passed during the year 1919-20 on the recommendations of the Islington Commission suffered from having been passed on an investigation which subsequent events were rendering obsolete."

Sir, my contention is this, that since the terms of reference of this Commission were very restricted, if Government are going to give effect to their recommendations in the year 1924, perhaps in 1925, it might be said that the recommendations of the Lee Commission suffered inevitably from having been based on an investigation which subsequent events rendered obsolete.

My Honourable friend, Pandit Motilal Nehru, very pertinently asked yesterday in his speech what is the principle which underlies the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and he came to the conclusion that he could not find any principle at all. But, Sir, I find one fundamental principle which runs through the whole of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and that principle is a deep distrust of the Legislatures of this country. At every turn safeguards are sought to be provided for the Services on the supposed ground that the Legislatures of this country, both Provincial and Central, will repudiate their obligations to maintain these Services (*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett* : "By throwing out the Budgets"); provisions are proposed for the safeguarding of pensions ; recommendations are made that legal covenants must be entered into not merely for new recruits but for all those now in the Services, and the recommendation is made to make passage allowances, contributions to Provident Funds and remittance privileges non-votable. These go amply to show that the one fundamental idea that underlies the recommendations of the whole Commission is, as I said, a deep distrust of the Legislatures of this country.

After making their recommendations, the Commission speak of "the spirit of compromise which has inspired our agreed conclusion". One might very pertinently ask, what is the spirit of compromise? Compromise between whom? Who were the parties to this compromise? Evidently the parties must be the Indian members of the Commission on the one side and the European members of the Commission on the other side. And what is the compromise? It is this. The Indian members agree to give

more pay for the European members of the Services and the European members in their turn are prepared to give to the Indians some more posts. That seems to be the compromise that is pervading this whole recommendation. Well, Sir, I can only say that if this is the bargain, it is not a bargain creditable to any of the parties. I thought that the principle of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration had been already recognized by a Statute of Parliament, and that no more bargaining was necessary to put that into practice. Evidently the Act of 1919 enunciated the principle, and the Royal Commission thought it necessary to enter into a bargain to give effect to that declared intention. Apart from that, the Indian members of the Commission, I am afraid, in thinking that they secured a victory in getting more posts for Indians have thoroughly misunderstood and misconceived the demand for Indianisation of the Services by responsible Indian public opinion. Sir, while I do not in the least disparage the importance of the personnel in the Services and the necessity for maintaining a substantial Indian element, at the same time, I must emphatically say that Indianization is not an end by itself; the demand for Indianization is only made as a means to a greater end. Even if the whole of the Services in India are to be manned by Indians under the existing circumstances and under the same administrative machinery as exists at the present day, responsible Indian public opinion will equally object to the existence of a service under these conditions. So what we ask for is not merely a change in the personnel of the Services. We want the service to be a real service and not a ruling power. The Honourable the Leader of the House very rightly remarked that the Services must be responsible to the authority whose policy it is meant to carry out. The position is no doubt realised by the Commission. But in what way have they tried to give effect to it? No doubt, in so far as they recommend that all the Services under the departments that have been transferred in the Provinces must be provincialized, they recognize this principle. But in so far as they are perpetuating, with regard to the other administrative branches in the Provinces, the same system that is continuing at the present day, in so far as that is sought to be done, I contend that it is perpetuating the present system which, when the other subjects are transferred in the course of time, will present serious obstacles in the way of administration by Ministers. The invidious distinction that is maintained between All-India and Provincial Services is still sought to be perpetuated. Sir, this distinction came into existence for reasons which do not hold good to-day. The classification of the Services on an All-India basis with recruitment in England was devised originally as a means of keeping the big offices for the European members and the Provincial Service was designed to meet the then limited requirements of the Indian claims. That was the origin of the All-India and Provincial Services. I see that my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee, is shaking his head, but I would like to hear from him what was the basis of this distinction. (*A Voice*: "No other.") But, as I pointed out, the sooner the distinction is done away with, the better will it be for the administrative efficiency of this country. As was observed in the able memorandum presented by the Madras Officers' Association to the Royal Commission, the All-India hall-mark exists only for the purpose of enabling these officers to claim to be appointed, confirmed and dismissed by an extra-provincial authority and to escape effective control either by the Provincial Executive or by the Provincial Legislature. An All-India service with these extraordinary privileges is an anachronism in any system of provincial responsible government and, we would add, is a violation in spirit of the Government of India Act of 1919. Therefore, Sir, in so far

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as no serious and deliberate attempt is made by the Commission to do away with this invidious distinction, I must say that this House cannot find its way to accept its recommendations.

I do not want to go into the question whether the increase in the emoluments of the Services suggested by the Commission is justifiable in the present state of affairs. As my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar, pointed out, a revision in the scale of pay of these Services was made only in the year 1919-20, and speaking in a general way we may say that from the year 1920 the tendency of prices has been to decline and not to rise, so that if to-day we are asked to agree to an increase in the emoluments of these Services, we certainly require much greater proofs of their necessity than the *obiter dicta* contained in the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Sir, unfortunately this insistent demand set up by the Services here for increase in their emoluments has engendered a wrong spirit in the minds of even the Indian members of the Services. Some years back when the late Mr. Gokhale wanted the rapid Indianization of the Services, he based the claim on the fact that to have Indians in the Services was cheaper than to have Europeans and that Indians could be satisfied with a lower pay and, as such, we must have more Indians. The Indian members of the Services have, not unjustifiably, put forward their own claims to prove that they also are entitled to get increased emoluments. If the cost of educating their

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children in England is a heavy burden upon the European members of the Services, are you not to take into consideration the special social structure of India and the joint family system which imposes a heavy burden upon the Indian officer? If the education of the children of the European officer is a heavy burden, what about the marriage expenses of the daughters of an Indian officer? The marriage of two daughters perhaps will consume more than the earnings he has put away in the course of his whole career. These arguments are sought to be put forward by Indian officers, and I say this clamour and this agitation has produced a very unhealthy and undesirable atmosphere. But I am not one of those who would refuse to look into the grievances of the Services, if there are any. In fact, my friend, Pandit Motilal Nehru, has made an offer that this House would look into the question if there are real grievances in the Services.

I am one of those who believe, Sir, that the very foundation of democratic institutions at the present day is the existence of an efficient, well organised, contented and well paid Civil Service. The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman quoted Professor Rainsay Muir to show that nine-tenths of the administration in England is carried on by a bureaucracy, and he asked us to swallow that pill. I can only tell the Honourable Member, borrowing the phraseology of Dr. Johnson, that comparisons are odious. Can you imagine the Civil Service of England claiming compensation or solatium for a change in the government of the country? Can you ever imagine the possibility of the Civil Service in England claiming to retire on proportionate pension if they venture to disagree from the political principles or views of the Government of the day? But here you have the strange spectacle of the Indian Civil Servant claiming to retire on proportionate pension because he cannot see eye to eye with the political principles and policies of the Ministers in office for the time being. The real fact of the situation is this. In England and in other countries the Civil Service is a Service, but in India the Civil

Service is a ruling class, and that makes all the difference. The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman I think needlessly took upon himself to justify the Services on the ground that mercenary motives had been imputed to them. I have a shrewd suspicion that he brought in this reference to the alleged mercenary motives of the Service merely to fit in with the beautiful quotation with which he concluded his speech. Sir, I am confident that no responsible politician in India has for a moment denied the extraordinary sense of duty, the integrity or honesty of purpose with which the Civil servants of India have discharged their duty.

Mr. President : I must ask the Honourable Member to bring his remarks to a close.

Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Sir, almost like a machine they have been efficient in the discharge of their duties. But what is wanted to-day of them is not merely the qualities of a machine, in the exhibition of which they have been very successful in the past. They are asked to show more of the human qualities. Here to-day they are face to face with the aspirations of the Indian people towards responsible government—a state of things which has been said to be the consummation of all the services which the Indian Civil Service has rendered in the past ; and the question is—will they as loyally stand for this new policy and be content to serve as they have been able to rule in the past ?

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal : European) : Sir, on this the first occasion as a newly elected Member of this House I desire to make perfectly clear to the Members of this House what my position in this House is. The fact that I was recently an officer under the Government of India and that to-day I stand prepared to support the Government Resolution, with qualifications, may lead some Members of this House to believe that I may be taken therefore practically as a Government Member. I desire to disabuse the minds of the House on that point, because since I retired I have been constantly a critic of the Government policy. As regards my position towards Indian aspirations, as an officer of the Indian Army who has served in the closest contact with Indians in the trenches and in the face of death, I would never under any circumstances be in opposition to the legitimate aspirations of Indians and their country. But I do differ largely in my opinion as to the methods by which progress must be made.

Before turning to the amendment moved by the Honourable the Pandit, I would like to thank him for his support to the amendment which stands in my name. If I remember aright, he did say that he objected to the words " in principle " and to the words " approximately ". That is support from an unexpected quarter ; but possibly my point of view is somewhat different from that of the Pandit. Having served in the Government of India, I have seen on several occasions very just and very reasonable demands accepted by the Government of India only to be turned down by the Finance Department whose only principle appears to be to refuse all demands. But I will not deny that, so far as Government servants are concerned, their suspicions are aroused by the indefinite nature of such proposals ; and I was glad to see the Honourable Sir Charles Innes definitely state that the Government did not intend to attach any particular point to the words " in principle ". My object in wanting to move the amendment was to get a definite reply from the Government that they intend not only to accept the general recommendation

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of the Lee Commission's Report "in principle" but to move the Secretary of State to put them into practice.

I would like now to turn definitely to the amendment of the Honourable Mover. I find myself faced with the remark—"Having regard to the following among other facts"; but on going through those "facts" I say to myself "Surely these are controversial questions and not facts." And that is my feeling in regard to many of my Indian friends—that they are not prepared to give that true consideration that they should to the recognition of realities. I take the first "fact" in the Honourable Pandit's amendment and this I find to be to my mind a half fact :

"That the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India was appointed and allowed to enter upon its functions in utter disregard of the Resolutions passed by the first Assembly."

Gentlemen, my point of view and the point of view of very many non-official Europeans is that the terms of reference of the Lee Commission went much further than there was any justification for them to go. We understood that the maintenance of a European element in the Services was one of the safeguards under which the Government of India Act was introduced. It was one of the safeguards which we believe is of paramount importance to every minority community in this country. I believe that, in stating that, I will have the support of my Muhammadan friends. The Honourable the Home Member stated that there was a feeling of apprehension amongst Muhammadans. I can say from my own personal knowledge that it is true. They realise that they are backward in education, that their own political organisation is backward and that if the safeguard of the British element in the Service was to be withdrawn to-day, they will have precious little chance of getting their rightful share in the government of the country. I therefore differ from the Honourable Mover of the amendment on the point mentioned in part (a) of it ; I do believe very great concessions have been made to this House, the Legislature framed under the Government of India Act, in permitting it to discuss the recommendations of the Lee Report and the safeguard afforded by the European element and I feel that if this House is possessed of the political acumen on which it prides itself, it would to-day accept without reservation all the recommendations of that Commission and that this would form the most telling in fact an irresistible argument for the grant of further powers to this House. (Laughter.) It would mean that we are capable as a civilised body of looking after the welfare and interests of those who may be our servants, that we are prepared to listen to their legitimate grievances and to adjust them and that there is no fear from us that they will not receive in the future every reasonable consideration. I fear, however, that if the House accepts the recommendation of the Honourable Pandit, they will be showing themselves not a civilised body. (Laughter).....

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao (Godavari *cum* Kistna : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : On a point of order, is it open to an Honourable Member to characterise this body in the way in which the Honourable Member who has just spoken has done, namely, that if it accepted the amendment it would not be a civilised body ?

Mr. President : It depends entirely on the definition of civilisation.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : I should like to tell the Honourable Member who asked that question that I am using the remarks of an Indian Member of this House. This House would I believe like to declare that it represents the voice of the peoples of India. On that point I have my doubts ; they undoubtedly do represent to a certain extent the intelligentsia ; but if you want to find—and I believe it is difficult to find—the real voice of the people of India, I think it is to be found in those moments when communal feeling runs high and this fictitious campaign of race hatred is forgotten for the moment and you hear both the Hindu and Muhammadan cry for British troops and British magistrates ; it is to be heard from the depressed classes when they made their representation before the Lee Commission and when they cheered the Prince of Wales ; it should be heard from His Majesty's Commissioned Indian officers of the Indian Army when they refused to serve in an Indianised regiment. (*Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha :* " And from yourself.") I believe that the real peoples of India do desire to retain a European element in the services. (*Cries of " No."*) I am glad to hear you say that you do not desire it ; but I would point out that some of us differ from that point of view and we are entitled to hold our opinion.

I will now come to part (i) of the Honourable Pandit's amendment in which he objects to the fact of the evidence being given in camera before the Commission. I do believe the Honourable Pandit would not himself desire to place the whole of his domestic affairs in front of this House or of the public and I do feel that those officers who were placing their grievances and who were placing their budget in front of the members of the Commission had every right to ask that that Commission should consider in privacy the nature of their evidence. But with the very greatest reluctance I myself will inform the House of the exact position which was mine when I was in the service. I entered the service twenty years ago on, if I remember aright, the magnificent pay of Rs. 212, some odd annas and pies. On the first day I went to draw my pay I discovered a minus quantity. The whole amount had been swallowed up by certain mess bills and regimental subscriptions. From that day onwards I was never able to manage to make my budget meet ; and had it not been for a small windfall about the fifth year of my service, I would have had to seek work elsewhere. Again but for the period of enforced retirement in the trenches in the great war I doubt if I should have lasted ; and when I returned I found the very high rise in prices did not admit of my pay in spite of an increase in the least covering my expenses. Finally I decided, when I got my pension, that there was no purpose to be served in further remaining in Government service. That is my own position ; and I believe that is the position of every other Government servant. During the whole of my service I was enabled, mainly owing to the generosity of my bank, to proceed Home on one occasion in twenty years. I believe that if you prevented an Indian sepoy from visiting his country once every three years you will have a mutiny. I do not believe that the Members of this Assembly are prepared to deny to the European Services the same privileges which they already grant to Indians.

Sir, I would like the Government to understand that the support of the non-official European, as far as I represent him, is given to their

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Resolution on the understanding that they are prepared to put those general recommendations in force in their entirety. We view with very grave misgivings as to the future of India the amount of Indianisation that has been granted by the Lee Commission. But the question has been referred to a Commission in the nature of an umpire and we are not prepared to go back on the decisions of that umpire and like true sportsmen we are prepared to stand by them.

I would add one word as to why I believe India wants Europeans. It is because they are honest, they are efficient and they are impartial. I would remind you that Indians will follow their British officers into the jaws of death without any hesitation—and why? Because they know those officers are honest and impartial, and I believe that nearly every Indian in his heart believes that the British officers who have served India so well either in the Army or in the Government service are honest and impartial. But if you are to remove once and for all your European Members can you replace them to-day? I would invite the House to listen to some experiences I went through in Russia where I was detailed for duty as Assistant Food Controller to the Russian Food Controller who was a Communist. Owing to their attack on the Bourgeoisie (the middle class) they had removed every man who knew any thing about his job and they put Tom, Dick and Harry into their places to do the job, and, when I became Food Controller, I found that, as a result of the fact that they had not any man who knew how to bring the food, where to find it, how to make it fit for consumption or how to distribute it, the price of bread had risen to Rs. 30 per pound. That is the position which I believe would be reproduced in India to-day were we to withdraw all the men who are qualified at a moment's notice and before we had men prepared to replace them. I value the remark of my Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar, because I believe he aims right at the heart of the whole thing. It does not matter what has happened in the past. We have to face the position as it is. He said that we have provided no public schools in India. It is for the Indians to provide those public schools. Train these men to fill these posts and not one European will ever refuse to give a post to the Indian who is qualified first and foremost.

I would like to make a few remarks on the question of the Medical recommendations. I understand the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma stated that he was prepared to receive considerations from this House. I do believe that it is reasonable to grant to any man medical attention for his women folk at the hands of his own countrymen. I would not desire to force on Indian ladies medical attendance to which they objected. I do not think that Indians desire to force on Europeans or to deprive Europeans of the right to European medical attendance for their women. I personally have no prejudice and I know there are a large number of Europeans who are prepared to receive medical attendance at the hands of qualified Indians. It is a matter very largely of high qualifications. I have been attended myself by an Indian doctor and I believe there are many Europeans prepared to accept that position. But for those who have a prejudice, I do say that it is a reasonable prejudice and that this House should concede it. I would ask the Government to remember that in making provision for their European officers they should not forget to make provision for specialists, particularly maternity specialists. I would ask them also to remember the Presidency General Hospitals for Europeans

and the possibility of allowing them to remain under European control.

I would like to add one word in support of what Colonel Gidney has said regarding the position of the Anglo-Indian, and I would like to read to the House the remarks of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on this point :

“ With reference to the question of recruitment, it would appear to be necessary to define the position of the Anglo-Indian, or Eurasian, community. Nothing seems to be said in the Report as to this, except that in paragraph 42 (b) it is mentioned, in respect of the Imperial Customs Services, that ‘ recruitment should remain on the present basis, i.e., not less than half the vacancies are to be filled by the appointment in India of statutory natives of India.’ Nothing is said as to how statutory natives of India are to obtain admission to the other Services or even as to whether they are eligible at all. But obviously they ought to be included within the term ‘ Indian,’ and the Committee presume that this is the intention of the Commissioners.”

I wish to point out that the position of the Anglo-Indian in India to-day is anomalous. For the purposes of the Auxiliary Force he is to be called a European British subject, but in the ordinary course of law he is denied the rights of a European or an Indian. I do believe that his position should be accurately defined.

Finally, I would ask the House to give this Report its very earnest consideration, because I do believe it is in the best interests of India that we should secure for ourselves a future European element. I would impress upon Government the fact that I do not believe and the non-official European does not believe that the recommendations of the Lee Commission's Report will produce further European recruitment. This House to-day is in fact and in fancy faced with the possibility that European recruitment is dead. I do feel that Government ought to assure those in the country who are of the opinion that the European element is required that, if a position does arise that these recommendations do not bring forth the necessary European recruits to fill the quota, that they will take further steps.

And, lastly, I thank the House for the kind way in which it has listened to me on this my first occasion of addressing it and I do trust that its political acumen will rise to the highest pitch and that this House will definitely state that we are prepared to treat our Services well so that it may justify the demand of this House for a further grant of power later.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Sir, at the risk of being characterised as uncivilised I wish to join issue with my esteemed friend, Colonel Crawford, who has so ably and eloquently pleaded the cause of the non-official Europeans in India. The Honourable the Home Member in his opening remarks wanted this House to accept the Report of the Lee Commission mainly in principle, but Colonel Crawford is prepared even to better the Home Member and wants us to accept the Report in all its details.

Well, Sir, I am not here concerned either with the Honourable the Home Member or with the accredited representative of the European community in Calcutta. I am here concerned with the Report of the Royal Commission which the Government asked us to accept in principle and for that purpose I would ask the Honourable Members of this House to hark back to the genesis of the appointment of this Commission contained in the communiqué of the Government of India. Those of us who were Members of the first Assembly will remember that one of us

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moved for a further advance in the constitutional progress of this country, and at the same time a cry was raised by the All-India Services for increased pay.

Lord Peel in his despatch of the 2nd of November, 1912, dealing with the question of further reforms made the following statement :

“ The new constitutional machinery has to be tested in its working as a whole. Changes have been made as a result of the Act of 1919 in the composition, powers and responsibilities, not only of the Legislature but also of the Executive Government. No estimate of the success of the new system would pretend to completeness which was not based upon proof of the capacity of these bodies as now constituted to administer the duties entrusted to them, duties which from the point of view of the public welfare are at least as important as those of the Legislatures, and trustworthy proof of such capacity can only be established by experience of the extent to which the increased association of Indians in the sphere of executive responsibility has justified itself in practice.”

Now, Sir, shorn of its verbiage, what does this despatch mean ? It means simply this. The Government of India Act has not been sufficiently long in existence nor has the country tried it for a sufficiently long period to justify a further step in advance.

(At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was taken by the Deputy President, Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar.)

His Lordship further went on to point out that the question is not merely a question of the Transferred Departments of the Government in the provinces but also a question relating to the Executive Governments of the Provinces and the Central Government. Indians had been associated in the Reserved as well as the Transferred Departments and a long experience was necessary before the Secretary of State would advise Parliament to give further reforms. That was the position of the Secretary of State. Not a month passed before the self-same Secretary of State appointed a Royal Commission and in appointing which he said :

“ In view of the experience now gained of the operation of the system of Government established by the Government of India Act in respect of the Superior Services, the Royal Commission is appointed.”

In the one case the system had not been sufficiently long tested, but a month later it was said that experience of the system had been so far gained as to justify the appointment of a Royal Commission. Now, Sir, it is in view of these facts that this Assembly objected to the appointment of a Royal Commission, and later on, when the question of its cost came up, the grant was rejected by this Assembly. The Royal Commission was nevertheless appointed, and its Report is before this House. Honourable Members will remember that at the last meeting of this House we asked the occupants of the Treasury Benches to give us copies of the evidence of witnesses examined by the Royal Commissioners, and the Honourable Member promised to consider our suggestion. When speaking on the subject, the Honourable the Home Member has referred to a passage contained in the Report of the Royal Commission in which they refer to the subject of evidence, and the Honourable the Home Member read it in justification for refusing to give this House access to the evidence recorded by them. Colonel Crawford in his speech has also referred to this aspect of the question. I ask the Honourable the Home Member and the Members of this House that if for the sake of argument some evidence was given in camera—and you know that some evidence was given in camera—what was there to prevent the Government giving

us the facts, suppressing the names of the witnesses, so that we may be in possession of the facts and the secrecy which the witnesses had enjoined upon the Royal Commission would be preserved inviolate. That has not been done. The evidence which was given by the witnesses in public has also not been given to us. The Honourable the Home Member says, "Accept this Report upon three grounds. First, look to the personnel of the Royal Commission, secondly remember that their report is unanimous, and thirdly, do not forget that it is a compromise based upon mutual arrangement," to which the Honourable Sir Charles Innes in his speech added that it is a Royal Commission and that therefore this House must treat its report with great sanctity. Now, Sir, while making every allowance for the personnel and nature of the Report this House asks itself one simple question—and I have no doubt that the Honourable the Home Member with his long legal training will be able to answer the question. Supposing a long and voluminous record consisting of oral and documentary evidence and the judgment pronounced thereupon was placed before him and it was proposed to abstract from the record everything except the judgment and ask the Honourable the Home Member to justify that judgment. What would be his answer? I have not the slightest doubt, Sir, that the Honourable the Home Member will say, "Take away this judgment. I cannot pronounce any opinion upon it because you have taken away from me all the evidence and documents upon which this judgment was based" and this would be a perfectly reasonable answer of the Honourable the Home Member to the case I have supposed. And yet he wants this House to accept the Report in principle. In fact, he goes further and asks this House to accept the detailed proposals which he has categorised. Now, Sir, one grave apprehension in the minds of the Honourable Members of this House—and I have no doubt that it is an apprehension universally felt by the people of this country—is that if we accept this Report, it would prejudice and embarrass the reforms, because, it is an axiomatic fact that the question as to what should be the pay and prospects of the Civil Service must depend upon the future political constitution of this country. It is a fact which cannot be denied that the future of the Civil Service is linked and bound up with the future of the reforms, and the question of their pay cannot be determined without determining the nature of the work which they will be called upon to do in the future. I therefore venture to submit, how can any settlement be made regarding the pay and prospects of the Civil Service unless we know what is to be the future constitution of this country?

Then, Sir, turning to the Report itself, one feeling which Members of this House must have in their minds, and a feeling which I share, is how the Indian Civil Service compares with its sister services in England and the Colonies. What nature of relief has been given, say, to the Home Civil Service and what nature of relief has been given to the members of the Colonial Civil Service? If I remember aright, I read so far as the Home Civil Service is concerned, that they have been given temporary bonus based upon index figures, and as the prices fall, that bonus is reduced. Now, Sir, I ask Honourable Members of the Government why a similar system should not have been adopted in this country. The Honourable Mr Rangachariar has pointed out that the basic pay and the emoluments of the Civil Services which the Royal Commissioners recommend for adoption by the Government of India are not liable to revision even if there is an increasing tendency of falling prices. The recommendations

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of the Royal Commission are therefore inelastic and fixed, whereas the relief given by the Home Government to the English Civil Service is elastic and liable to variation according to the fall in prices.

Mr. Deputy President : May I remind the Honourable Member that his time for finishing is nearing.

Dr. H. S. Gour : I wish also to ask the Honourable the Finance Member how this country will be situated in relation to the demand that is likely to arise on the All-India Services being granted increased emoluments. We have a very large number of officers in the Army in India and we have a very large number of officers in what is known as the uncovenanted civil services. Now, Sir, if you give the higher and better paid servant of the Crown these special privileges and emoluments, would not the lesser paid officials of Government in the Army and in the uncovenanted civil services demand similar privileges? These are questions, Sir, which the Royal Commissioners did not take into consideration. I should like to know what would be the cumulative liability of the people of this country if all these demands were conceded, which I fear will have to be conceded if once the Government of India and the Secretary of State accede to the recommendations of the Lee Commission.

Then, Sir, I should like to ask one more question of the occupants of the Treasury Benches and it is this. In the communiqué, and indeed in the Report of the Royal Commission, it is postulated that the All-India servants in the reserved fields will be subject to the control of the Secretary of State, those employed in the transferred fields being subject to the control of the Local Government. That is a system based upon the present system of Government by diarchy. Now, we, the Members of this House, and the public at large have condemned diarchy and are asking for a further advance in the direction of self-government. What position would the Government take with reference to the existing and future entrants in the Indian Civil and other All-India Services if hereafter the Government and Parliament were to accede to the demand of the people of this country and grant them a larger measure of self-government doing away altogether with the Reserved Departments in the provinces?

Mr. Deputy President : Will the Honourable Member bring his remarks to a close?

Dr. H. S. Gour : On these grounds, Sir, I feel that we are not in a position to decide forthwith on the various questions raised in the Lee Commission's Report, and long before the Home Member tabled his Resolution I had sent in notice of an amendment that the whole question be examined by a Committee of this House. I am glad, Sir, that the Honourable Pandit Motilal Nehru is substantially of the same opinion, and I am therefore glad to support his amendment.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces : Landholders) : I rise, Sir, to oppose the Resolution of the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman and to support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Pandit Motilal Nehru. The reasons that prompt me to oppose this Resolution are twofold. Firstly the question of the Civil Service in the country is inseparably connected with the larger question of constitutional progress of India and it cannot therefore be considered separately without prejudicing the constitutional advance of the country. Secondly, the Lee Commission has been appointed not only without consulting this House, the represen-

tative of the tax-payers, but also against the considered opinion of the country.

I shall not speak here, Sir, at this time on the merits and demerits of the recommendations of the Commission itself, which have been so ably discussed by my Honourable friend, Pandit Motilal Nehru, and others on this side of the House. I shall content myself with the discussion of broad general principles that ought to regulate the relations of the Services to the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable the Home Member in his speech yesterday laid down a very dangerous doctrine in saying that the House should have nothing to do with the organisation, control and discipline of the Services and quoted Professor Ramsay Muir in support of his dictum. Now, Sir, I do not at all agree with his view, and I have the support of such eminent authorities on constitutional law as Dicey and Anson, in saying that Parliament lays down by legislation the conditions under which the Services have to work. Am I to understand, Sir, that theories of Government differ from place to place? It is a general axiom of sound constitutional government that the policy of the State is to be formulated by the Legislature, while the execution of that policy is to be left in the hands of well-chosen, well-trained permanent officials, the Civil Service. Now, Sir, in India unfortunately both the formulation and the execution of policy has been to a large extent entrusted in one and the same hands, the Members of the Civil Service. The reforms of 1919 have, no doubt, introduced some changes in this matter, but still may I be permitted to say, Sir, that the formulation of State policy is to a larger extent determined by the Civil Service in India than anywhere else in the world. This, Sir, seems to me the first great point of contrast between the Indian and the Home Civil Service. In the western countries the Services exist exclusively for the benefit of the people, while in India, rightly or wrongly, an impression prevails that the country exists for the benefit of the Services. This impression gathers weight for two reasons, firstly, the higher Civil Services have been almost entirely composed of a foreign element, and secondly, the emoluments of the Services have been quite disproportionate to the payable capacity of the country, though I do not deny that the Services have rendered good work in the past in their own way. But, Sir, no other country in the world, not even the richest like the United States of America or England pays a remuneration to the members of the Civil Services comparable to what India has been paying, and we are now asked to enhance this payment still further, so that it will cost the taxpayer an additional crore of rupees per year at a time when retrenchment is the order of the day the world over. It is curious to see the Government proposing in one and the same breath two different things, namely, retrenchment of the subordinate services and an increase of salaries for the Superior Civil Services. It is difficult to understand the mentality of a Government that wants to reduce the salaries of the subordinate services and proposes at the same time an additional expenditure of a crore of rupees per year on services that are already getting princely salaries. Lala Lajpat Rai, writing in the *Modern Review*, about the year 1917, compared the scale of salaries paid to the Civil Service in the United States of America, Japan, England and India and conclusively proved therein that India is paying more than any other country for its general administration and certainly far more than it can reasonably afford to pay. But, Sir, this state of affairs is inevitable so long as we have a Civil Service composed of men of non-Indian domicile and the

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remedy lies in the complete Indianisation of the services on an Indian scale of pay based on the standard of living in India and in stopping the further recruitment in England except for short-term contracts based upon the law of supply and demand in the open market. But then, Sir, it was urged by my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, that India cannot get on without the help of the *ma-bap* members of the Indian Civil Service for a long time to come. I submit, Sir, that the present bureaucracy is neither *ma*, nor *bap*, whenever its own or the commercial interests of England are concerned. If it were not so, it would not have levied excise duties as early as 1874 at a time of severe famine in India....

Mr. Deputy President : I am afraid the Honourable Member is straying away from the point before the House.

Seth Govind Das : I shall leave this point and come to another, Sir. The Honourable the Commerce Member also declared that the people of India require personal rule, but, Sir, is not personal rule prevailing even in so-called democracies like the United States of America, France and England according to Lord Bryce? Have not democracies existed in ancient India long before they were known in Europe, according to the high testimony of the historian, Vincent Smith, himself a distinguished member of the I. C. S., and Havell and others?

I now come, Sir, to the Honourable Member's third point, namely, that due to communal and caste differences, India requires British members in the Civil Services. May I point out to him, Sir, the fact that under Muhammadan rule, Hindus held the highest appointments including that of the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief under Akbar. Now, Sir, during the 150 years of British rule in India, not one single Indian has been appointed by the *ma-bap* Government to any such high positions. Is it not the case even now that in Hyderabad and Kashmir communal differences are less than in British India?

Now, coming to the financial side of the question, it is a fact, Sir, that India spends far less *per capita* on the nation-building departments, such as education, public health, sanitation and the development of industries, than any other civilised country in the world. The Civil servant, due to the high cost of the civil and military administration of the country of the future, according to Lord Haldane, when he enters the Service, has to take upon himself the triple vow of poverty, anonymity and obedience. I am afraid, Sir, the Indian Civil Service, whatever its other virtues may have been, has never been guilty of this ideal of Civil Service. It has been aggressive, vocal and as far as emoluments go, the best paid service in the world. A word may be said with reference to poverty. By poverty, Sir, I do not mean destitution. There is a technical distinction between the two terms. I do not mean that the Civil servant should not have enough to live on. But I do mean that he should not try to compete with the business world in profits and income. I think the Civil servant should look upon his salary as maintenance adequate to the needs of himself and to bring up his family, if he has one, according to the highest standards of education in the country and that is not always the standard of the business and profit-making world. I do not think, Sir, the Civil servant should aim at salaries which really compete with the income of the business man. Judged from this standpoint the members of the Superior Civil Services in India are already getting more than the same class of men obtain in England or elsewhere. We may roughly take it that the average income of a member of the

Indian Civil Service at the age of 40 is at present £1,600 to £1,700 per year in addition to allowances, pension, etc. Surely very few men of the age of 40 in England make as much as that either in the learned professions, such as law and medicine, engineering or teaching, or in any other profession except business. £2,000 a year at the age of retirement together with a pension of £1,000 a year will hardly be called poverty, or destitution even according to the highest Western standards. Even the Cabinet Ministers in England and America are content with £2,000 a year while in Japan the Prime Minister gets only £1,000 a year.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I would point out to the Honourable Member that his figures are quite incorrect.

Seth Govind Das : I will prove them later on. I now come to the second point, anonymity. It would be obviously impossible and even disastrous for the Civil servant to pass beyond the stage of obedience (that of carrying on policy, and advising on policy if need be) and to attempt to dictate policy as was alleged to be the case in some provinces (Bihar, the United Provinces, the Punjab, etc.) as that would lead to the worst form of bureaucracy. I think perhaps it is rather important that the extent of the Civil servants' obedience should be known to the public in future, so that they may regard them as truly servants of the nation and not masters. According to the testimony of Sir Sydney Webb, a leading member of the present British Cabinet, it is not uncommon in England for the Civil servant to carry out the Minister's orders such as the drafting of a Bill, though he himself may be opposed to the principles of the Bill proposed by the Minister. In India, unfortunately such obedience is rare (as the Civilian has direct access to the highest executive authority) and here it is, Sir, that the spirit of the Civil Service has to undergo a thorough and radical change. Let us now compare the conditions of the British Colonial and Foreign Civil Services with the Indian Civil Service. The Sudanese and African Civil Services do not certainly pay as highly as the Indian Civil Service. The amenities of life in Africa and the Crown Colonies are not as attractive as in India and West Africa (Nigeria) and Sierra Leone has been described as the "White Man's grave." Though these evils are admitted by Englishmen they are attracting a large number of men from England for service in Africa and I have no doubt, Sir, that India will still continue to draw some of the best men from England. due to its better climate, better pay and better amenities of life. Dr. Gregory in his recent address at Toronto before the British Science Association declared that the white man can live and thrive in the tropics, thus exploding the old theory of the unsuitability of India to Europeans. Many of the hardships felt in India by the British Civil services are fancied and imaginary and the scale of remuneration certainly compensates for the self-imposed exile.

Sir William Beveridge, himself a distinguished *ex-Civilian* of the Home Civil Service, says that members of the Civil Service "must in a very real sense belong to an 'Order' like the order of St. Francis under a vow". It would be disastrous if Civil servants gave up the idea of working as hard as they could for their salary, if they gave up that idea for the idea of adjusting their effort to the pay which they are getting. It would be no less disastrous if they were to abandon anonymity for applause; or if they stepped beyond giving advice on policy to try and dictate policy as was alleged to be the case recently in some of the provinces. The future recruits to the Service, whether Indian or European, must have

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this true understanding of the nature of the Service and of its new conditions as a community of service.

Before I conclude, Sir, I wish to point out that the adoption of the recommendations of the Lee Commission would mean the very antithesis of that new spirit in Civil Services the world over and of acute dissatisfaction in India, as it would introduce racial discrimination in the terms of service between Indian and European officers, and of the adoption of a standard of remuneration which not even the richest countries have dared to adopt, and which India, one of the poorest nations in the world, cannot certainly afford, if her nation-building departments are to be properly looked after and if she is to advance on a par with the Western nations in the moral and material development of her people and civilisation.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, I rise to make a personal explanation. The Honourable Mr. Burdon stated that in my speech I made use of certain remarks that belittled, decried and under-valued Sir Charles Burtchaell as a R. A. M. C. officer and a soldier who had performed meritorious service in the Army both in India and in England. Sir, I have not got a copy of my speech with me, but I would be very surprised and pained if I saw in my remarks one word having such an implication. If any word I said conveyed this impression I withdraw it and apologise to Sir Charles Burtchaell. If my memory serves me right, Sir, I judged Sir Charles Burtchaell by his scheme on which the Lee Commission's medical recommendation was based, and taking that I believe I said that he saw medical reforms, as judged by his scheme, through a pair of glasses marked "R. A. M. C." and that he looked upon anything medical trained in India with the brand of inferiority. How these remarks can be considered in the light taken by the Honourable Mr. Burdon I fail to understand. But I repeat, Sir, that if on reading my speech, I find any of my remarks conveyed such an impression, or even a suspicion of it, I gladly and readily now state that I apologise and withdraw them.

Mr. E. Burdon : Sir, I was not alone in the interpretation which I put upon certain remarks made by the Honourable Member. But of course I am only too glad to accept his assurance that this was not intended.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : Sir, I should like to tell the House the course of business for the next week.

On Monday the House will be asked to take into consideration the Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Bill, as passed by the Council of State, the Report of the Select Committee on the Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, the India Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Council of State, the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code now known as the Morality Bill, and, if there is time, the Obscene Publications Bill, as passed by the Council of State. Tuesday has been allotted, as Honourable Members are aware, for non-official Bills, and Thursday for non-official Resolutions. Wednesday will be a Government day and we hope to be able to resume the discussion on Sir Charles Innes's Resolution relating to the separation of Railway Finance. On Friday certain supplementary demands will be laid before the Assembly, and it is hoped to find

time to discuss the Reports of the Select Committees on the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, the Land Customs Bill, and the Provident Funds Bill which has been passed by the Council of State.

Mr. Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I ask the Honourable Member if he is prepared to give an extra half day on Saturday?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: For what purpose?

Mr. Chaman Lall: For the discussion of the Lee Commission's recommendations.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I must see how the debate goes to-morrow before making any promise about it.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 12th September, 1924.