

Monday, 10th March, 1924

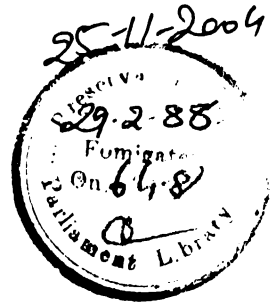
THE  
**COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**  
**(Official Report)**

**Volume IV, Part I**

***(From the 30th January to the 25th March 1924)***

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**FOURTH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**COUNCIL OF STATE, 1924**



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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, the 10th March, 1924.

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

## MEMBER SWORN.

The Honourable Mr. Hopetown Gabriel Stokes (Madras: Nominated Official.)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO MEMBERS OF THE SUPERIOR SERVICES EMPLOYED UNDER THEM.

130. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: In answer to question 68, asked on 11th February 1924, Government replied that Provincial Governments are limited to the grant of compensatory allowances to members of the superior services working under them. Will Government please inquire and state which Provincial Governments have exercised this power since 1st October 1923 (which is about the date of the appointment of the Lee Commission) and in the case of which officers and to what extent?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: The Government do not think it necessary to make detailed inquiry from Local Governments. Schemes for the revision of house allowances and grant of compensatory allowances for officers stationed at the Presidency-towns and at Poona and Karachi have recently been introduced by the Bombay and Madras Governments. I can supply the Honourable Member with the details of these schemes if he wishes.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Do the Government of India consider it right that the Provincial Governments should have introduced these changes even after the appointment of the Lee Commission, when they knew that the Lee Commission were going to take into consideration the emoluments of these officers?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: The Local Governments have been acting within their powers.

### EXEMPTION OF INDIGO FACTORIES FROM PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX.

131. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: In answer to question 79, asked on 11th February 1924, Government replied that indigo-

factories are specially exempted from the payment of income-tax until 31st March 1925. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (i) the reasons for such exemption and the reasons for such exemption up to the particular date mentioned; and
- (ii) if from 1st April 1925 income-tax will be levied on their full income or only on a portion as in the case of Tea Companies and, if the latter, on what percentage of the income and why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (i) (a) The depressed state of the industry.

(b) The previous exemption was for a period of 2 years, expiring on the 31st March 1923. The Government of India considered that it was desirable to extend the exemption for another period of 2 years but no longer. They thought that by that time either the industry would have shown distinct signs of recovery and the exemption would no longer be necessary, or it would be obvious that it was useless to attempt to foster it any longer.

(ii) The present intention of Government is not to grant any further exemption. The basis of future taxation will be considered when the exemption terminates.

#### BILLS, AS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: In accordance with Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table the Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 8th of March 1924. They are as follows:

A Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for certain purposes,

A Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878, for certain purposes.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, a Message has been received.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Let it be read.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: "I am directed to inform you that the Legislative Assembly have at their meeting of the 8th March, 1924, agreed without any amendments to the Bill to consolidate the law relating to Criminal Tribes, which was passed by the Council of State on the 21st February, 1924."

#### INDIAN TOLLS BILL.

THE HONOURABLE SAYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces East: Muhammadan): Sir, may I inquire as to what has happened to the Bill on Tolls

on Public Roads and Bridges that this Council passed on the 21st of February last. I understand, Sir, from newspaper reports that it has been thrown out by the other Chamber.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: I have no information on the point.

#### ALLOTMENT OF FURTHER TIME FOR THE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROMM (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, may I refer to the debate on the Budget which took place in this House on Friday last. I wish to bring forward a general feeling amongst the Members in this Council that sufficient time is not allotted here to admit of a helpful discussion of the Budget. Many Members have told me that they cut short their speeches in order to conform with the general convenience of other Members, and that there were several points on which they would like to have given their considered opinions, but there was not sufficient time for them to do so. I think it is generally recognised that the Members of this Council are in many cases men with considerable business experience, which might be of great benefit to Government in the discussion of the Budget. If it could be arranged that further time in future should be allowed to this Council, it would not only be much appreciated by the Members, but it might also prove of very great assistance to the Government.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Education, Health and Lands Member): The request will be duly noted and conveyed to His Excellency the Governor General.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, under the Standing Orders I rise to request you to allow me to waive my right to move the Resolution which stands in my name and at the same time to ask the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri to move it. I hope I am voicing the feelings and have the general consent of the House when I say it would be better if he moved the Resolution as he has made a great study of this subject.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Education, Health and Lands Member): I have no objection.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Let it be so.

#### RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, as I have already intimated to the Secretary of the Council, I do not propose to move this Resolution,\* nor the one† tabled in my name on Wednesday.

\* "This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India be moved to appoint a Public Service Commission under section 96C of the Government of India Act without delay."

† "This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India be moved to make provisions, without delay, by rules under section 45-A., (1) (d) of the Government of India Act for transfer to the Governor in each Province (acting with the Minister appointed under the Government of India Act) of all "transferred subjects" with the exception of Law and Order, Police, Administration of Justice, and European and Anglo-Indian education."

RESOLUTION *RE* INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COLONIES COMMITTEE  
WITH REGARD TO THE KENYA IMMIGRATION BILL, ETC.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SRINIVASA SASTRI (Madras: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, through your courtesy I move, on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Natesan:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, as soon as practicable, he should cause to be published the brief of instructions to the Committee which will confer with the Colonial Office on the Kenya Immigration Bill and other matters concerning Indians in that Colony, and the materials placed at their disposal in so far as they have not been published already."

Sir, one or two remarks seem to be called for with reference to the Committee mentioned in this Resolution. This Committee has been long in being constituted, and even now my information is that it is without a Chairman duly appointed. It is a matter for gratification that the personnel of the Committee has been chosen and the date of their departure has been fixed for the middle of this month. I am sure the Council would like to send their good wishes to this Committee who are about to proceed on behalf of India to undertake an arduous and extremely delicate negotiation. I am perfectly sure that their high sense of patriotism and their fearless advocacy will bring triumph to our cause. Another remark that I am compelled to make with reference to this Committee is that nothing is known yet of the status of this Committee, about which an important statement was made by Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru at the Imperial Conference and later, the public have been told on his authority that this Committee will have the power to deal directly with the Colonial Office and that they will not be mere agents of the India Office in this particular matter, and that in that way India will have gained a step in constitutional status. Dr. Sapru was at that time the agent of the Government of India and I presume that it was with the knowledge and consent of the Government of India that he made a proposal of that far-reaching character. In answer, however, to a question which the Honourable Member in charge took full time to consider before answering, he stated that nothing was known on this subject yet, and that as soon as something definite should be known he would inform the Council. Now I think it a great pity that, even on the eve of the departure of this Committee, nothing should yet be published authoritatively as to the definite status which they are going to enjoy. Now before dealing directly with the subject may I, with due respect, say a word about the attitude of the Government of India towards this subject of India disabilities in Kenya? Honourable Members of this Council will bear with me for a minute if I ask them now expressly to associate themselves with me in according a very high praise indeed to the courage, to the pertinacity and to the faithfulness with which the Government of India have championed our cause throughout this whole affair. They have, it is well known, recorded their protests and their remonstrances up to the point that constitutional propriety will allow, and I think there is not a man in the country who follows these matters who will not admit that the Government of India have done quite as well as they could, subject to the limitations of constitutional decorum to which they are subject like other people. It may be asked, then, why do I bring forward a Resolution asking for the publication of papers? Sir, we are not fully perhaps, but we are by character, a democratic constitution. The authority the Government of India have, the prestige they carry, the attention they command, are all derived in the last resort from the exact correspondence that at any time prevails between them

and the intelligent section of the people of India. Nobody will deny that, if the representations of our Government have carried any weight so far, they have done so merely because the Government had a coherent, well-expressed, definite public opinion behind them and backing them. It is necessary that this agreement between the attitude of Government and public opinion should be maintained and that the mind of intelligent India should be kept actively employed on this subject and quite alert to the ever-changing nature of the situation. Now, suspicion, misgiving, distrust—these ought to be eliminated as far as possible from the proceedings of this Government. To ask for the publication of papers is the commonest thing in the English Parliament when they wish to obtain a definite statement from Government on the exact stage that a negotiation has reached. Secret papers, confidential documents, demi-official correspondence, that passes between different authorities may not be revealed but their substance must, so far as possible, be made known to the public in order that they may have informed opinion, and not merely highly excited opinion on materials supplied by ignorance. I hope, therefore, nothing will be said to impugn the motive which prompts me to ask to-day for the publication of certain papers. There is intense feeling in the country in respect of this matter and there is further, whatever the Government of India may say in their communiqués and statements to the press, an uneasy consciousness that our last attempt in this matter, about the middle of last year, met with almost complete failure. I do not discuss, Sir, at the present moment how far that failure was complete. I know that Government have been very strenuously maintaining that we had substantial gains. I venture to deny that statement *in toto*. Such gain as we have had—and we have had one gain—was slight. Another gain on which stress is laid in Government communiqués was of a very equivocal and doubtful character, having been yielded in theory but taken away afterwards in substance. And as for the rest, our record is a blank failure and there is no mistaking it. It is well known too that this estimate of our success on the last occasion was shared by the Government of India to a very large extent if not absolutely; for the House will remember that, when first the news of the decisions contained in the White Paper was announced here, the Government of India ventured to say that they could submit to those decisions, if they must submit, only under protest. Now that expression has of course been afterwards withdrawn to some extent, modified and interpreted away. We all know what that means. It means that the Government of India were not allowed by the priests who preside over constitutional ritual in England even to protest. Now, Sir, I must say that the people of India note these things, if not always with official eyes, with a sense of keen anguish when they find that, in their struggles with other peoples within the Empire, they are fighting behind a Government, whose weapons, such as they are, are used to the full extent without doubt, but whose hands are tied behind them. If it were in my power, I would persuade the noble Lords of the second House in the Imperial Parliament that it was not necessary certainly to erase from the vocabulary of a subordinate Government the innocent word 'protest', even though the Government is employed merely on the task of defending the inherent rights of the coloured subjects of His Majesty.

Then, Sir, Mr. Andrews, whose knowledge upon these matters, I venture to say, is not rivalled even by those who have access to secret documents, has definitely stated in one of his writings in the newspapers that some time ago a former Secretary of State, Lord Peel, made a secret

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compact with the Colonial Office—these are the words he uses ‘secret compact’, I am not responsible for them—giving away the stand that the Government of India had uniformly taken in respect of the question of the sale of lands in the Highlands. Such information as I have tends, unfortunately, to confirm this impression that Lord Peel did admit that, so long at least as he was Secretary of State for India, he would not raise this question of the free and unrestricted right of sale and purchase of land in the Highlands. Well, if that was so, it appears to me to be a serious mistake, to be a surrender on a vital point of the position that the Government of India have always taken; and I believe that the Government of India, if they knew this matter at all, should have placed it before the public of India and armed themselves with the necessary authority to repudiate this surrender. The Honourable Member in charge of this subject has throughout shown a reluctance to take the public into his confidence, which I think has not been conducive to the growth of that full trust in the doings of Government in this matter which, as I said before, is a fundamental postulate of success. Some time last year, apparently in September, he was interpellated in Simla by one who was then a member of this House as to whether he would kindly publish the documents that led up to the White Paper. A negative answer was given, and the request was renewed this Session in another place to which that gentleman has recently been translated; still a negative answer was given. Other Members also have been plying the Honourable Member with questions; but he has throughout steadily refused to publish papers or to give necessary information. To a simple question as to the constitution of this Committee the Honourable Member, seeming to give an answer, gave a negative answer. The only information he vouchsafed me was that this Committee was going to be called the Colonies Committee; and when I re-read the Viceroy’s speech on the opening of this House and found that he had employed the word in two places in that speech, I said to myself the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma has succeeded in many words in telling me nothing. The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma has once sat on these benches and it will not be long before he resumes his seat here . . . .

THE HONOURABLE SIR DINSHAW WACHA: I hope you will be there before long.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SRINIVASA SASTRI: I hope not, Sir Dinshaw. And then I venture to think he will renew his experiences of the ravages of an appetite for information which, we feel, is tied away in those bundles before him, marked in all sorts of formidable labels, “secret,” “urgent,” “immediate,” and so forth.

Sir, I have only to refer to two passages in the opening speech of His Excellency the Viceroy which seemed to us to call for some comment and to compel us to ask for information. I will read those two passages:

“The Kenya Government has treated Indians on the same lines as Europeans and granted adult suffrage. Given communal franchise, this method of working may be accepted, and it has now become law. It is open to our Committee, however, subsequently to make representations setting forth our contention that there are grounds for an increase in the number of seats to Indians and that in our view all voters should be registered on a common electoral roll.”

This is satisfactory so far as it goes, but I wish to give a warning to the Honourable Member in charge, if he needs that warning—I am sure he does not. Apparently this passage seems to convey a sort of satisfaction that the Indians have been treated very generously by the Kenya



Government inasmuch as they are now to be endowed with adult suffrage. That, however, is only a plausible sophism, as I shall hope to show to this House. Adult suffrage we did not ask for; adult suffrage it was not in contemplation to give us; but adult suffrage has for a wonder been given. I hope the House will understand the significance of this. Throughout this contest of our people with the white settlers in Kenya the question of a common electoral roll and a common franchise has lain at the bottom of our demand. The white settlers have refused to admit us to the common roll on the express ground—there is no mistaking this—that we are inferior citizens, and that it would not do for them to come and canvass our votes or to have their votes canvassed by Indians. But they said “We will treat you generously, magnanimously, with unexampled generosity and magnanimity if you agree to be put on a separate roll with a separate representation of your own, put away in a certain compartment so that you could be strictly limited, whatsoever your franchise, how many soever you may be as electors; you may be millions, while we are hundreds; still, if we put you in a separate electorate of your own and give you so much representation as a community, you will never exceed that representation and we could always keep you down.” That was their idea. Now by the giving to us of an adult suffrage, they have given us a preponderance of voting strength which is simply overwhelming, so that, if we were with our adult suffrage to be put on a common electoral roll, they would be absolutely nowhere, unless they jerrymander the electorates in a manner that will stand self-condemned. So that the grant of the adult suffrage now and the enactment of it in Statute is practically the closing of the door, so far as they are concerned, to a common electoral roll. For it is impossible for them now, with their deeprooted ideas, to admit us to a common electoral roll. It is not, therefore, a blessing, and I must object to the implication in this passage that it is a thing upon which the Indian community should congratulate itself.

Then there is an ominous reference here in this passage “to an increase in the number of seats to which the Indian community are entitled.” Emphasis is not laid, as it has been laid throughout, on equality of representation. Now, Sir, judged by the rights of the case, the preponderant majority in the community ought to have the preponderance of strength in the Legislative Council, but as the weaker party in this negotiation, we have never asked for the preponderance to which we may be entitled and to which, when the European community are entitled, they would lay claim without any compunction; but we have reduced our demand and merely asked for equality. On the merits of the case, too, the white settlers have always governed the Government of the country. The Government of the country who have the majority of official seats all filled with white men would always be behind the white settlers, so that, if the mere necessity of the case were to be considered, the white settlers do not need any representation at all in the Legislative Council. The officials there ought to represent them, but we do not take that line. We only wish them to have the same representation with ourselves. On the other hand, representation has been given to them which gives them now the power to outvote all other non-official votes together. Now, that seems to me to be unfair, and it is therefore to me a matter of somewhat ominous significance that in this speech the words “equality of representation” are avoided, and the words employed are “an increase in the number of seats allotted to us.” Now the number of seats allotted to us is 5, the number of seats allotted to the European community is 11, more

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than twice our strength. Now I know in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords some people were generous enough to say "Oh! they are entitled to some more seats, 6, 7, 8!" Perhaps some venture-some man may go as far as 9, but I do hope that our Government will instruct our Committee to accept nothing less than equality where, by all the rights and all the necessities of the case, we are entitled to something more than the other community.

Then there is another passage here to which also some attention has to be drawn, and that is the passage relating to the Immigration Bill:

"We took immediate steps",

says His Excellency the Viceroy:

"to urge the postponement of the introduction until the Government of India were able fully to present their objections, and at the same time we strongly pressed that the Colonies Committee appointed by the Government of India should have an opportunity of examining the question of restrictions on immigration embodied in the Bill."

Now that is a small matter. But the large question here is whether there ought to be any restriction on immigration at all. We have always taken the line, and the Government of India have taken the line, that the view to put before the Cabinet was that immigration might continue practically unrestricted as before without any prejudice to the African native community. That view must still be maintained, because the African native stands to gain by the immigration of Indians, and, although it might seem harsh from my lips, I do not hesitate to say, as I have said it before, the African native stands to lose somewhat by the unrestricted immigration of the white farmer, of the white exploiter. However, I am willing that the African native should be protected equally from the white as from the Indian. It has been found, Sir, all over the world, where immigration restrictions had to be adopted, that no type of restrictions will operate evenly and impartially which are based upon considerations where elements of doubt and personal prejudice and individual caprice will come in. America, therefore, trusts to restrict immigration on a numerical quota principle. It is blind in its operations, it is impartial in its operations, it may perhaps be unreasonable, but it is a thing that is understood, it is a thing about which there is no possibility of mistaking, it is a thing with regard to which there can be no imputation of unfairness or partiality. Should in the last resort immigration be restricted in Kenya to which, be it remembered in pre-British days we had unrestricted immigration rights,—let it be on the American quota principle, and the Indian people, however reluctantly, might be induced to reconcile themselves thereto. But, if restrictions are introduced based upon one pretext or another, there is nothing to prevent people suspecting, and we should be constrained at every turn to attribute motives, based upon experience, not blindly or wickedly, but motives based upon our experience and our intimate knowledge of how these things work, and we should be compelled to question the good faith of any restrictions on immigration which are based upon such grounds as have been alleged in the White Paper. I hope our Committee will be allowed—and that is my point—I hope our Committee will be allowed to raise this question of the need of immigration restrictions, and not merely go into the character of the immigration restrictions and try to whittle them down in one particular, modify them in another or soften them in a third.

Now, generally speaking, in small minds accustomed to routine and easy views of matters there is prevalent an impression that the proper attitude of our negotiators in these matters should be "how shall I benefit the Kenya Indian community"—not "how shall I preserve the honour and self-respect of the Indian?"—not "how shall I maintain unassailed the position of equality of Indians with our fellow subjects of His Majesty's Dominions?" There are any number of advisers to tell us that our proper attitude is "how can I get something to-day for my Kenya Indian countrymen, no matter how India loses in the struggle, how can I benefit them?" Now, Sir, I venture in the name of India to repudiate this slave mentality utterly; for I know that when once we assume that position, the bureaucrat will say "yes, the good of the Indian community in Kenya. And what is the good of the Indian community? That which it pleases me so to consider, not that which the Indian community in Kenya vociferously ask for, not that which their Congress may demand; not that which their chosen representatives may voice, but that which it will please my bureaucratic heart to consider as good for them." Now, Sir, I venture to protest most emphatically against this degrading doctrine. The Kenya Indians, whom I know through their best representatives, do not want that India should surrender her case in the smallest particular for any small concession that may be won for them from a reluctant British Government. They wish India to fight her battle unmindful of any harm that might come to the present Indian community. Our honoured representatives, headed by—I should not say headed, because there is yet no head—our representatives, who go in the middle of this month to England, should be allowed to stand up for the dignity, the honour, the right and the claim of India to absolute equality within the Empire and the Dominions, and not merely to look at the question from the extremely narrow, restricted and petty-minded view of what may be temporarily good for the Indian community there. That is why I would, if I may, venture to say a word through this House and on this solemn occasion to our representatives who go forth with all our good wishes, to take no ignoble compromises now; if necessary to leave the question open so that, under better auspices and in happier conditions, we might be able to re-open the question and lead the struggle to a more successful issue. But do not for Heaven's sake, for India's honour and for the consolidation of this Empire, accept a compromise which we shall be obliged afterwards to repudiate. Sir, I would venture to remind the Council of the noble words used by His Highness the Agha Khan in this respect. He told me definitely more than once: "*Our rights in this matter are nothing. But posterity, the Indian nation as a whole, have rights in respect of this Kenya struggle which no representative of India dare compromise.*"

Now there is only one word which I must say to the House before I resume my seat, a word as to the status of Indians as British citizens. To my great grief, and I make no doubt to the great grief of the Government of India, the status of British Indians is not recognised in the Dominions and the Colonies as it should be. If I may venture to say that rather pointedly, in strange and utter contrast to that proverb which says, a slave who sets foot on English soil finds his chains snapped, in contrast, in opposition, to the spirit of that saying what do we find? Instead of British citizenship elevating the Indians, the Indian drags down British citizenship. It is a great pity. Our status and our position in South Africa was lowered after the British occupation of the Transvaal from what it used to be in the time of President Kruger, until it became a commonplace

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in Parliament that, to their shame, they were unable to protect India and Indians from those humiliations against which the British Government had themselves protested in pre-British days. The other day, in a debate in the House of Lords, a remarkable incident happened which perhaps has failed to attract public attention. Lord Chelmsford, Lord Hardinge and our late Secretary of State, Lord Peel, all alike drew attention to a strange anomaly. They said "the Highlands in Kenya are open to immigration to the Greek, to the Bulgar, to the Italian, and they will be open to-morrow to the German and to the Austrian, whom the Indian has fought for our sake; but the Highlands are not open to the Indian and yet the Indian is a British citizen while these people are not." They said, "if the Cabinet found it necessary to accord to the white subjects of His Majesty concessions and privileges denied to the Indians, let that be so," and some of them did really approve of it, "but let not Indians be placed lower than non-British whites." Now a protest so authoritatively made and made with the sole motive of exalting British citizenship, when it attached to a dark skin,—that protest went unheeded, and should I go too far if I take this Council into my confidence and say that, three days before the White Paper was issued, and the Cabinet announced their decisions, when I went to the India Office, the India Office people were exultant over the victory they had won; for they told me: "We have won this for you that, though a white settler belonging to His British Majesty's Dominions will be preferred to you, no non-British white will be preferred to you. We have secured that," they said. No, but the White Paper did not contain this victory, and that is why these noble Lords, whose names I have dragged before you to-day, thought it necessary to protest against that. Now I ask the House to realise what a degradation it is that, in spite of these protests, the British Cabinet should have been unwilling to accord to the British citizen, merely because he had a dark skin, that which they do not shrink from giving to a person who was not a British citizen, but who could boast only of his white skin. Now I am not saying that this will remedy our grievances at all. We do not want to drag anybody down to our level. Our whole attempt is to raise ourselves, through British co-operation, to the level of others. I am not therefore for depriving the Bulgar of his rights to the Highlands, but I am for our being admitted to equal citizenship in the Highlands of Kenya as well as elsewhere. Sir, I move the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Honourable Mr. Natesan asked a question a few days ago in this House on an allied matter, and I ventured to put a supplementary question and asked the Honourable Member in charge whether the instructions to the Committee that was about to start would be made public. The Honourable Member replied it was not proposed to do so, and in answer to my further supplementary question, he said the Government would consider the matter. Now that this Resolution is, forcibly moved, I am sure the Government will make its position known so far as it is conducive to public interest. I have been considering the matter since and I am doubtful whether what is asked for in this motion should be, or even could be, completely complied with.

What the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri would call the narrow and the easy mind—shall I add the professional mind—seems to suggest that, if you want to let your Committee do their work as they ought to do

it, the less that is now made public the better. Having listened to the Right Honourable the Mover's speech, it struck me that he was asking not so much for the brief in the case that is going on, as for the history of what has gone before; and in so far as that is concerned, I am perfectly at one with him. We want to voice our grievance that full publicity has not been given to what has gone before. Knowledge of that would be some help to those who will have to take up the burden afresh—and it is a heavy burden—with regard to carrying on difficult negotiations further. Sir, very few know what the scope of work of this Committee will be—whether it is to be limited strictly to the Kenya case or the general case in many of the aspects that have been mentioned. Is it going to deal with the franchise case, the status case, the immigration case and other allied cases with which the public mind has been made familiar for the past few years, or is the much larger, the much more important, all-India aspect of questions all over the Colonies and Dominions also to find incidentally or otherwise a place in those negotiations? It may or may not be a strength to the Committee to be permitted to deal direct with the Colonial Office. To certain minds it may appear as an enhancement of their status and therefore of the status of India. But it might possibly also be urged later on in certain contingencies, that the Indian representatives, having been given a free hand, it would not be the fault of the India Office or the Government of India that, where the former Indian delegates had failed, the present delegates would fare worse. That is an aspect of things, Sir, about which we have no materials before us for fully considering in advance. At all events, from the point of view of what is called status, it would be good to have the convention further developed that those representing the Government of India and as agents of the Government could deal with other departments of His Majesty's Government in England otherwise than through the India Office.

This morning there is a telegram in the papers about the Colonial Secretary telling the Overseas Club at one of its monthly luncheons of the trust and responsibility that Great Britain has with regard to the millions in these Colonies. This trust argument, it is apprehended, has been brought out before and will be brought out again and again, only so far as keeping out the Indian is concerned. It has been indirectly urged that the aborigines, or natives or whatever else you like to call the local people require to be protected not so much against the white intruder, the white adventurer, or the white settler, as against the Indian. That, therefore, is the position of affairs that appears to be appealing in advance, so far as the present Secretary of State for the Colonies is concerned. How much more our delegation will be able to achieve at the present Colonial Office than our late delegates have been successful in doing, is a matter with which we are naturally concerned and by premature publications of their movements we should hardly hamper them. We shall watch developments with great interest. From one point of view I must regret the chivalry of Mr. Natesan in leaving it to the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to move this Resolution. I would much rather from the point of view that I am going to present before this House that he (the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri) had not moved the Resolution or was not even present in the House to-day. The House would like to know, the country would like to know, how it is that, while an important delegation like this is going to the Colonial Office, one who has been all over the Colonies and Dominions, who was made much of there, who for the time being came back with expectations that the Indian wrong would be

[Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary.]

righted, who had acquired unparalleled experience—how is it that, when this important delegation is going abroad, the Government of India should not have thought of him as the one to accompany at all events that delegation if not to head it? Sir, I think I can understand it to-day. It would have been inconvenient, I suppose, it would have been uncomfortable, it would have been embarrassing to have one of those pronounced views to go and complicate the negotiations. Is that what the Government of India think on the matter? Should not the higher necessities of the case have been allowed to determine the situation, and one who has acquired such unique, such unparalleled experience with regard to these matters, have been entrusted to go and see direct what he could do for his Government and his country? I can imagine, Sir, that his spoken and unspoken opinions in the matter would have been embarrassing to other people, but that is a part of the question that we cannot stay to consider or give effect to, if wrong is really to be righted. It is not a case of a few Kenya Indians getting an advantage or two over others. It is a much bigger case of many millions of our fellow subjects, Indians abroad, who every day are exposed to hardships—more than hardships, to humiliations—the poignancy of which has made the Government, in the words of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, so faithful, so pertinacious, so strong, in the desire for defence of their rights.

I can almost understand, Sir, why the sages, the Rishis of old, our Shastric forefathers laid down injunctions against sea-voyages. History will tell you and history is often unpalatable if it goes back very far in practical Houses like this—history will tell you that sea-voyages were not unknown in the past, not the dim past. In old days Indians colonised and colonised to a considerable extent. Judas colonised Judea some claim and places, overseas. That was before the beginning of christianity and much later. It may or may not be history—it may be romancing; but no one can say that in ancient times sea-voyages and colonization from India were not a recognised and an organised thing. It was a thing that was encouraged and that established world relations, although after a time it was forbidden. One cannot understand how that came about. I do not quarrel with our Shastric forefathers for doing this for I almost understand the reasons; but if instead of stopping it they had continued to encourage it, as our Government should now do, probably we would have been, with regard to the determination of questions like these, upon firmer ground than we are to-day. But that, Sir, is quite another matter. The present question is, so far as lies in the Government of India, the best that can be done has been done; so far as the British Cabinet is concerned, it is, even with its newly developed and little understood committee system not prepared to go very much further. If it is to be a conference with regard to a strictly limited subject, it will be a conference which may not bring any appreciable results.

The question for the Government of India and for India herself will be to say what in those events must be their attitude towards the whole question of emigration. Shall it be given up or shall other avenues be looked for, because without colonisation on a large and widespread scale such as went on eastwards in ancient times, some of the avenues to which India is entitled will not be open? From that point of view it is worth while considering very seriously whether avenues of colonisation cannot be opened eastward, where questions of the

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white settler have not yet begun to complicate the issues where British influences are still great. It is worthy of serious consideration whether for the purpose of future insurance of the safety of India and of the Empire at the India end colonisation eastwards is not more than desirable. It would not be less useful than the Singapore base. That is a speculation however that will not directly arise now; but it is a possibility that should not be lost sight of when the question is dealt with as a whole. For the present the strongest possible insistence should be made on all the points that have been brought out in this debate. At the same time I feel that beyond general outlines, and general propositions, about which there can be no need for confidential treatment, detailed instructions to the delegation cannot conveniently or even safely be given out. I am sure the Honourable Member in charge will be able to tell us, that upon the points that have been raised by the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri, instructions to the delegation will be on the lines, generally indicated, namely, that with regard to the status of the Indian, with regard to the franchise question, and with regard to immigration question, the strongest lines will have to be taken. So far as the particulars of those instructions are concerned, I do not think the House can very well ask Government to make them public. It will be embarrassing for the Government themselves; we know that failure of what the Government have tried to get done has led to a great deal of unrest, apart from other considerations. And publication of instructions that may lead to little will make it still more embarrassing. For the proper handling of the case we must trust more to the men whom the Government have chosen, who, in consultation with the Secretary of State for India, will and ought to be able to give a good account of themselves. From all these points of view it is difficult to support this proposal entirely and as a whole; but to the principles of it we must give our support and leave it to the Honourable Member in charge to tell us generally what the Government propose to tell their delegates for the purpose of furthering the views of which they are taking charge.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA (Bombay: Non-Muham-madan): Sir, the House will remember that early in the Session I had given notice of a Resolution in regard to the Ordinance Bill brought forward by the Government of Kenya colony. I withdrew that Resolution because of the announcement made by the Honourable Member in charge that a Colonies Committee was to be appointed by the Government of India. I say that although I had given notice of that Resolution yet I do not now consider it necessary for me to offer any arguments in support of the Resolution moved by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri after his very eloquent, his very lucid and his very feeling speech that we have listened to this morning. The Right Honourable gentleman has spoken with great feeling because we all recognise that he has done so from the fulness of his heart. He has thoroughly identified himself with this question; and there is perhaps no one in this House or outside who understands the Kenya trouble as thoroughly as he does or who could put up a fight as well as he could. He quoted to us the words of His Highness the Aga Khan and he said that the Aga observed as follows: "Our rights in the matter are nothing." May I be allowed to quote the words of the Right Honourable Member himself: "Kenya lost, everything lost." May I assure this House that that is the feeling endorsed by every one who takes an intelligent interest in the question of Indians overseas. I had no desire to speak on this Resolution to-day and I want to make no further remarks. However, I did rise to speak because of an observation which fell from

[Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.]

my Honourable friend, Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary, that in the list of the Committee Members he did not find the name of the Right Honourable gentleman. I know it was announced in the House of Commons or rather in the House of Lords that the personnel of the Committee would soon be made known. It has not been announced in the Home papers nor have we seen any official notification in the Indian papers. I trust therefore that it is not yet too late to find the name of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri included in the Committee. Sir, what the public feeling is can best be illustrated by the quotation of a few lines from the "Times of India" of the 7th instant. It says:

"It is much to be regretted that when Government had failed to secure the services of any Bombay man for the Committee it did not make up its mind to appoint a man of outstanding ability, such as Mr. Sastri, who would carry the confidence of his fellow countrymen."

We thoroughly endorse that statement and we still hope that the Government of India will not lose the opportunity of including in this Committee the one man on whom the whole country relies for putting the Indian case most efficiently before the Colonial Secretary.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : General): Sir, I rise to give my support to this Resolution with one small reservation. At the outset I wish to associate myself with what my Honourable friend, Dr. Sarvadhikary and my friend Mr. Sethna, have said regarding an important omission in the personnel of this Committee. I feel, and the country feels, that our Right Honourable friend, Srinivasa Sastri, who has made a close study of the South African question, who is so highly respected not only in this country but also in the Dominions, should have been a member of this committee; and even now it is not too late. We all feel—the non-official Members of this Council feel—that he really ought to have headed the deputation. One could quite understand the reasons of Government that a man who has made such pronounced utterances would find it difficult to negotiate on a very important question. But I beg to submit that the knowledge and information that he commands would be of immense service to the delegation.

Sir, as regards the Resolution, I am rather sorry that my Honourable friend has asked for the publication of the instructions. On this point I agree with my friend, Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary, that it would be in the interests of the country and in the interests of the Indian settlers in Africa that the delegation should not be put in any embarrassing position by the publication of many important matters concerning the controversy, but at the same time I do not see any valid objection to a précis being prepared in the department of Government, containing all the material confidential information and instructions and to that précis being handed over to the present delegation. This delegation must be furnished with all the information on the subject, whether of a confidential nature or not, because it is going to lay the claims of the Indian settlers before an important body. I agree that it may not be prudent to publish the details of this brief for the information of the general public, but it is right and proper that this delegation should be in possession of complete information on the subject as well as special instructions if any which the Government of India may desire to give to them.

Sir, the other part of the Resolution asks that materials may be placed at the disposal of this Committee. There the demand too is very just



and reasonable. I do not see any objection to this request. We all know that the Government have information in their possession which ordinary citizens are not always able to obtain. They have correspondence with the Colonial Office and the India Office on the subject. That correspondence might throw considerable light on the work of this delegation, and it is only right and proper that this delegation, which is to go and lay our case before an important and august body, should be possessed of the fullest details of the correspondence that has passed not only between the Secretary of State and the Government of India but between the Colonial Government and the Secretary of State. It is for this reason, Sir, that I do not see any objection to this Resolution and I support it.

I am very sorry, however, that my Right Honourable friend, Srinivasa Sastri, went a little bit out of the scope of this Resolution and referred to the merits of the case. This is not the occasion to speak of the merits of the Kenya question. The Kenya question needs no defence. It has been discussed in this Council before, it has been discussed in the Assembly, it has been discussed all over the country, and I wish he had not referred in detail to the merits of the question in the course of this debate, and had confined himself strictly within the four corners of the Resolution. My aim is this, that when an important delegation like ours is to go to England and South Africa, they should go with their hands unfettered, and, in spite of anything that has been said in this country, our friends in England should be found in a mood to receive our delegation with open arms and in a spirit of co-operation. However, Sir, so far as the merits of this Resolution are concerned, no exception could possibly be taken, and I trust that my friend, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, will waive his request for the publication of the brief, and only ask that a complete brief be delivered, as a confidential State document, to the delegates who are about to go on an important mission.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, before I pass to the Resolution, let me express my grateful appreciation of the very kindly references made by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri to the efforts made by the Government of India last year to secure justice for the Indians in Kenya Colony. I am glad that he cordially blesses the Committee with his good wishes, and I am sure that the Committee will be fortified in its task by the good wishes and support of the whole Council behind it. Honourable Members will readily appreciate that, inasmuch as the Committee has to make representations to the Colonial Office and secure for India and for the Kenya Indians the bare justice which is due to them, it would be difficult for me to expatiate at any very great length upon the merits of a controversy which has existed unfortunately for only too long. I may assure the House, however, that there is no substantial difference between the country and the Government with regard to any vital matters connected with the Kenya question. They have nothing to conceal, they have nothing to withhold, from the public, and if they have not hitherto published the correspondence, it is because the Government have felt that it is not desirable in public interests to publish the whole correspondence which has taken place between them and the India Office, correspondence which relates not merely to what has taken place between them and the India Office, but also correspondence with regard to what has taken place between the India Office, and the Colonial Office, and the Colonial Office and the Government of the Kenya Colony, and particularly at a time when

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the whole question is still a living question. If it were a purely domestic question, if it were a question between the India Office and the Government of India, there would not have been the same difficulty as we now have when dealing with a question to which, as I have said, so many are parties—a matter which is still under controversy and under negotiation. I hope, therefore, the House will rest satisfied with the general statement of the Government of India which I shall make on the many questions discussed in the White Paper with which the Committee is fully competent to deal.

Now, the first question that has been referred to by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri is, as to the status of this Committee. He made a reference to Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru's definition of the status of this Committee *vis-a-vis* the India Office, and he asked the Government to state explicitly as to whether that is a correct pronouncement of the position which the Committee would occupy in making any representation to the Colonial Office. There is nothing very peculiar about the constitution of this Committee or its status. It is a Government of India Committee, appointed by the Government of India. This Committee would have to deal directly with the Government of India. It would take its instructions from the Government of India and it would make representation, on behalf of the Government of India, to the Colonial Office. (*The Honourable Mr. G. A. Natesan*: "Direct?") Direct to the Colonial Office, and this Committee would inform us of the various stages of the representations—I would not use the word 'negotiations'—the various stages reached at any particular time. The Committee would take our final instructions in the matter and arrive at a settlement, if a settlement be possible.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: Is it a final settlement with the Secretary of State?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The relations between the Secretary of State and the Government of India are what the Statute has prescribed. Every Honourable Member in the House knows . . .

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: I mean about the local negotiations.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: The Secretary of State would not interfere with the Committee. (*The Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary*: "Nor help.") Certainly we hope that the Committee would seek his help, and that the Secretary of State would give all the assistance that he can to the Committee. That we look forward to, but it would not take any instructions directly from the India Office. It has to do with the Government of India, and the relations between the Government of India and the Secretary of State would remain what they have always been under the Statute.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Will the Committee be directly empowered to cable to the Government of India should any circumstance arise?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: There is nothing to prevent the Committee from stating its views directly to the Government of India. That, Sir, is the status of the Committee.

Then a further question has been asked as to what are the subjects which will be referred to this Committee. I have already answered it in a way, that there is nothing to preclude it from making representations to the Colonial Office in respect of any matter that is covered by the White Paper. The primary object would necessarily be the Immigration Ordinance, a vital question which has to be settled soon, very soon, almost immediately. I shall deal with that problem first. With regard to that, the Government of India hold that it is undesirable, in the interests of the Empire, that there should be any restrictions upon the free emigration from one part of the Empire, excluding for a moment the self-governing Dominions, to another part of the Empire. They hold that it is not necessary, so far as their information goes, to impose any further restrictions upon the immigration of Indians into the Kenya Colony. They do not see that a case has been made out for any restrictions being imposed. The existing Statute safeguards the position in their view sufficiently, and a case has to be made out that further restrictions are necessary in the interests of the East African native population. In their judgment no such case has been made out so far. It is for the Colonial Office and for the Committee to consider the problem, and for the Committee to make the necessary representations to the Government of India, but as far as I can see, as far as the Government of India can see at present, there is no need for any further restrictions. That I hope will satisfy my Right Honourable friend and the House. There is no difference of opinion whatsoever between them and the Government of India. Assuming for the moment that a case can be made out in favour of restrictions, how far those restrictions should extend is a matter for future discussion, future negotiation. It is impossible for me, at the present stage, with the information that I have, or the Government of India have, to say more on the subject, but we hope that the Committee will be able to satisfy the Colonial Office that there is no need for the imposition of any further restrictions as regards emigration from India.

Before passing from this subject, I may make another statement. Although Uganda was not directly referred to in the negotiations at an earlier stage, still the White Paper contemplates that some restrictions may be imposed in the case of Uganda also. The attitude of the Government of India with regard to Uganda is exactly the same as with regard to Kenya. They go further and say no case has been made out for any restrictions in Uganda; if anything it is even stronger than in the case of Kenya.

Then the second subject which has been dealt with, is the question of franchise. The Government of India stood for a common electoral roll and stand for common electoral roll, and the Committee is free to discuss that question and to secure, if possible, a common electoral franchise for the Indian community resident in Kenya. The Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri doubted whether adult suffrage was really a boon that was conferred on the East African natives. The Government of India, when these proposals were before them, saw the difficulties ahead, saw the implications thereof, but they could not see their way to object to the grant of adult suffrage to all the Indians in Kenya, for it was a generous measure. The Indians were willing to receive it and the Kenya Government was willing to give it. It was not part of their business to say, "no, you shall not confer adult suffrage." They could not reasonably say that. Therefore they welcomed, and they do welcome, the grant of adult suffrage to all the Kenya Indians, only they have not swerved from their original attitude,

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that this should not imply a surrender of their claim for a common electoral roll. Then the Honourable the Mover scented some danger in the use of the words "increased representation" in His Excellency the Viceroy's speech. There is nothing incompatible with the increased representation, amounting to representation which would give the same voting strength to the Indians as to the European community. I know that at one stage of the negotiations, it was suggested that, if communal representation was to be the basis on which the future franchise was to be settled, the Europeans and the Indians should have the same voting strength in the Legislative Council. There is nothing to prevent the Committee from securing that equality of voting power from the Colonial Office. The Government of India's instructions do not in any way infringe upon that liberty, and we wish it success in securing for the Kenya Indians a common electoral franchise and equal representation. It is a matter for negotiation, it is a matter for discussion, it is a matter as to what we can get consistently with the interests of the whole community. Well, Sir, the Government of India have always felt that there was no need, no necessity, for any restrictions in the matter of grants of land in the Highlands or transfers of land in the Highlands, from one community to another. They stood for the principle of free transfer, free grant, and do stand by that now. - Whether it will be possible for the Committee to secure that at the present stage or not is a matter of some doubt.

But the Committee is free to negotiate with regard to the Highlands if it thinks that the time is favourable or that it is possible to secure from the Colonial Office a favourable settlement with regard to the Highlands. There is little more, I think, of substance with regard to any controversial question which is at present agitating the minds either of the Indian public or the Kenya public with regard to this unhappy controversy that I have referred to. The Government of India, I may say, are asking for a common electoral franchise in the case of municipalities also. Whether it will be possible for the Committee to secure that it is not for me to say, but the Government of India have asked the Committee to secure the most favourable terms in this matter also for the Kenya Indians.

Saying so much, I may state, at the same time, that it is not possible for the Government of India to publish the brief or the papers which they are going to place at the disposal of the Committee in order to enable it to make representations to the Colonial Office. The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy was doubtful as to whether the Government of India were prepared to place all the necessary correspondence in the hands of the Committee in order that it may negotiate successfully, with intelligence and with knowledge. He need have no apprehensions on that point.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY:** Also the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Secretary of State for India.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA:** It is a Government of India Committee and I take it the Government of India are able to confide fully, wholly, in the members of that Committee. Of course it is not open to the members of the Committee to disclose the contents of any papers which may be entrusted to them. (*The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy:* "Quite"). But the Government of India have full confidence in the Committee which will be given all the papers that are considered necessary to enable it to make representation usefully to the Colonial Office.

There is one point, Sir, to which the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri alluded, namely, that in this controversy we should look to India's honour, India's future—to India's status even more than the immediate benefit of the Kenya Indians, and that in this respect the Kenya Indians and the Indian public are at one. I do not see that there is any incompatibility between the two. He does not ask us to neglect the immediate interests of the Kenya Indians. I think it is our paramount duty to protect those interests, to safeguard those interests, as far as may be, but in doing so let him rest assured, let the Council rest assured, that the Government of India would not countenance anything which may be derogatory to the honour, the dignity or the future wellbeing of the people of India.

There is one point I think to which I must take exception in the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri's statement, and that is, that we should or that we might adopt the American quota principle if any restrictions are to be imposed. I am not sure that he was quite clear in his remarks or in his own mind as to what that American quota principle means and where it would lead us. I for my part should, as at present advised, refuse to countenance any restrictions based either upon the American quota principle or any other principle, unless such restrictions are needed solely and wholly for the benefit of the native population of East Africa—subject also to the further safeguards that I have mentioned in my opening remarks, namely, that the Government of India do not consider it to be desirable in the interests of the Empire to impose any restrictions upon the freedom of settlement, freedom of movement between one part of His Majesty's Dominions and another, excluding for the moment the self-governing Dominions except in extreme circumstances. We need not, I think, having regard to the statement that I have made on behalf of Government, discuss any further the point about the various classes of British citizenship as propounded in some parts of the Empire. The Government of India have never countenanced a first-class citizenship and a second-class citizenship in any part of the Empire. They have stood for equal status; they do stand for equal status, and I hope any who may have any lingering doubts in that respect will, on further consideration, both in their own interests and in the interests of the Empire, accept the principle which has been recognised by His Majesty's Government, by all the Premiers collected at the Imperial Conference—with one notable exception, and I need not say who it was.

That, I think, Sir, exhausts all the points of substance that have been referred to in the various speeches that have preceded me. It is a Colonies Committee, and the primary object with which this Committee has been appointed is to deal with the Kenya problems, and of the Kenya problems the one of paramount, supreme, immediate, importance is the immigration problem. The Government of India also hope to be able to utilise this Committee to deal with some outstanding questions with regard to Fiji, but the matter has not been completely settled and I shall be able to make a statement somewhat later as to whether this Committee can be asked to undertake that duty also. I think the object with which the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri has moved this Resolution has been achieved and I hope he will not press it further. Let me through this House assure the whole country that there is no vacillation, no hesitation, on the part of the Government of India; that the latest pronouncement of the Secretary of State also inspires us, and ought to inspire the country, with confidence in His Majesty's present Government being able to do justice to

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His Majesty's Indian subjects. The Colonial Office have no doubt expressed in the past reluctance to re-open this question, but I may inform the House that they found the Immigration Ordinance that was sent to them to go beyond the White Paper and therefore sent it back of their own accord for a fresh draft to be submitted to them. That shows that the Colonial Office is prepared to approach the question with an open mind, and have indicated, in the case of another suggestion from the Governor of another Protectorate in Africa, their attitude in this respect. There was a question of segregating Indians not directly but indirectly in another African Protectorate, and His Majesty's Government straight-away vetoed it. Therefore, the signs are propitious and I hope that, with the good wishes expressed here and with the cordial appreciation on the part of the public, the Committee will go forth to its labours with confidence that it will be able to secure justice for the Indian people. The Government of India will back it up whole-heartedly, and I feel confident that His Majesty's Secretary of State for India will give all the assistance that lies in his power to make the mission a successful one.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: Will the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri be included in the delegation, as is the desire of many in this part of the House at all events?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Whatever doubt, Sir, any Members of this House had about the propriety of this subject being discussed should have been dispelled by this time. The object, as pointed out by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, was to ascertain exactly what was the position of the Government of India in regard to this matter, a matter in which their opinion and the opinion of the people have long been held to be the same. I think that the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri has done a service to this cause by the discussion which he initiated to-day and by the manner in which he presented all the outstanding questions upon which this Government and the people feel so much. I am glad the Right Honourable gentleman has enunciated his views in such a manner that even those who are accustomed to regard the Government as hostile—and in this respect I have a different class of people in view—will at least think that they are going to present this case in the manner in which a responsible and National Government is expected to represent it.

So far as I am concerned, as one who balloted for this Resolution, I should like to state at the outset that I am very much pleased with the statement that has been made by the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma and I join in the expression of hope which he and others made that starting, as the Committee does, under these very happy auspices, we shall be able to achieve something and that this problem of the treatment of Indians overseas, which is a standing sore, will soon be healed; and that our relations not only with the Government of this country but with the British Empire itself will become happier and more hopeful.

There is one more point on which I should like to address the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma after having expressed my very complete satisfaction with the statements which he has just made. He has told us that this Committee can negotiate directly with the Colonial Office, that it can correspond from time to time with the Government of India, should any fresh difficulties arise, that it is at liberty to traverse all the points

covered by the White Paper and even the later question of this Immigration Bill. I am anxious that this Committee should be empowered—and I hope in this matter the Government of India will give them every possible support—to challenge the statement, the fundamental statement, on which the White Paper is based, namely, that the interests of the African races should be looked to first, but it seems to me that it might be interpreted as a sort of camouflage so far as Indian interests are concerned. In this connection I would like to point out what Sir Robert Hamilton, an *ex-Chief Justice* of the Kenya High Court, said. He pointed out three striking reasons to enforce the position which I shall presently present to the House. He said:

“The fact remains that from 1897 to 1921 the number of Indians only increased three times, whereas during the same period the number of Europeans increased 23 times.”

And again:

“In 1919 the franchise was granted to Europeans. During all this time the party in power politically were purely Europeans, and, as may be found in any part of the world, and as we have found in our own history, when one party only is in power it naturally legislates in its own interests. If we look back on these years of the history of Kenya, we shall see a succession of laws passed very much in the interests of the white population alone, while the interests of the Africans, the real natives of the place, were very much left out. I refer particularly to the labour laws that have been passed. Most drastic labour laws have been passed from time to time by the Europeans in order to compel the natives to work for them.”

There is a third point which Sir Robert Hamilton wanted to enforce and to press upon the attention of Parliament where this debate was going on. He said:

“I can further illustrate the selfishness of the legislation that has taken place by referring to education. Beyond the small 5 per cent. Customs Duty the first tax was the Hut Tax, which was three rupees. It gradually mounted up until the present moment when it is 12s. It was 15s., but it has come down. That tax brings in something like £500,000 . . .

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. I do not think it is reasonable for the Honourable Member to emphasise his small point by copious extracts from a newspaper; he should make his point and there ends the argument; he cannot be reading copious extracts like that.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: All these points to which I have drawn the attention of the House are quoted from the speech of Sir Robert Hamilton, who was a Chief Justice of the High Court of Kenya. He himself says that if the further conduct of the Government and of legislation were to proceed upon the lines alleged to be for the protection of the African races, the African races themselves will suffer at the hands of the Europeans and not at all at the hands of the Indians. I beg that the Committee that goes on our behalf will bear this point in mind, and that when from time to time it asks the Government of India for advice and help, this Government will give it unhesitatingly and unstintedly. I do hope that this Committee, started under such happy auspices, will be able to solve to some satisfaction at least a problem which has been of great distress to all of us.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SRINIVASA SASTRI: Sir, the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands deserves to be congratulated on the statement that he has made and especially on the emphasis and

[Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri.]

conviction with which he has dwelt on the particulars of the statement. I hope he does not feel embarrassed by the debate which I have initiated this forenoon and—I should also add—I would beg him not to be embarrassed at all in any way by the recommendation of a personal character that good friends of mine on this side thought it fit to make. I hope he knows that I dissociate myself completely from that recommendation, but I am very thankful to my friends for marking their appreciation and good-will towards me by the action that they took this morning.

I do not wish, Sir, if the rules permit me, to press this Resolution.

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

#### RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF A LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN 1924.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint an Indian of suitable rank and qualifications to be the leader of the delegation representing India at the session of the Assembly of the League of Nations to be held in September this year."

This Resolution, Sir, stands on to-day's agenda in the names of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri and also of myself; and I understand that, because the Right Honourable gentleman has already moved one Resolution, the rules of the House do not permit him to move a second . . . .

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I understood the Honourable Member was moving the Resolution as the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri did not move it himself but made the Honourable Member his agent, so to speak.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Then I am thankful to the Right Honourable gentleman for allowing me to move it. Sir, the League of Nations meets this year in September. India, as we know, is a member of that body, and as such contributes its share to the cost of the League; perhaps, in the opinion of some including myself, it is asked to contribute a larger share than what could be considered a proper share.

In fact this very day, or perhaps within the next two or three days, the Finance Member at another place will demand a grant of more than seven lakhs of rupees as this country's share for membership in the League of Nations during 1924. There certainly is a difference of opinion whether the League of Nations has so far justified its existence or otherwise, but, as long as India continues to be a member of the League, it is the duty of this Council to point out to Government that the representatives they send, and particularly the head of the delegation, should be persons who command the confidence not only of the country but of



the world at large. Indians of course have been selected to go to the League of Nations on behalf of the Government of India, but our complaint is that they have always been made to play, as it were, second fiddle and no Indian so far has acted as the leader of the delegation; and we are emphatically of opinion that in future such leader must preferably be an Indian, for otherwise it is a proclamation by the British Government to the world through a body like the League of Nations which deals with world-wide subjects, of the unfitness, as it were, of Indians to fill such a position, whereas I am sure Government themselves must admit that there are capable Indians who can head the deputation instead of filling secondary positions thereon.

At the Imperial Conference of last year the Irish representative, Mr. Fitzgerald, observed as follows:

"Putting myself in the position of the Indian I do not think that Indian representatives here are of an equality with us, because they are not really here in a representative capacity. They are not really sent by an independent Indian Government and they cannot really be regarded as equals with the rest of us."

This was a humiliating remark and cuts one to the quick. Our representatives to either the Imperial Conference or at the League of Nations are of course not there in a representative capacity in the proper sense of the word. They will go there as such in course of time, but, until then, Government should act in a manner as would not lower the position of Indian representatives at either the Conference or at the League. It may be that, because the Secretary of State himself attends the Imperial Conference, he has headed the delegation there and it is a long cry from now to the day when the Secretary of State will himself be an Indian. As to the League of Nations, there is no reason why the senior member of the delegation should not be an Indian. The proper course would undoubtedly be for our representatives to be elected by the Legislature. This I take it is not possible to-day because the delegates are supposed to express not their own views but the views of the Government of India, constituted as it is to-day. There may therefore be conflict of opinion, but this could be prevented by asking the Legislature to elect, say, a dozen men to form a panel out of which Government may select any persons they like whose views would coincide with their own and who would be willing to go.

I am sure that the House will admit that I am not asking for anything which is unreasonable or impossible. It cannot be said for a moment that suitable Indians are not available to fill the position of leader of the delegation. If an Indian can act as High Commissioner for India in Great Britain, if men like the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru can put forward India's case before the Imperial Conference with the dignity and with the ability which they have displayed, surely they or others like them can be found in the country to be entrusted with the leadership of the delegation. It is six months from now, and I trust that Government will not only accept our proposal, but will notify before long on what Indian their choice has fallen for this year to act as the head of the delegation.

THE HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): Sir, before dealing with the proposal embodied in the Resolution which is now before the House, I propose, with your permission, to take a

[Sir Mian Muhammad Shafi.]

bird's eye view of the origin and the character of India's representation on the League of Nations. Honourable Members will remember that it was as a result of the glorious contributions made by her during the world war that India in the first instance was recognised as a partner in the British Commonwealth and, finally, after the conclusion of the war, as a member of the International Association known by the name of the League of Nations. There are two aspects connected with her representation on the League of Nations which it is necessary for us to bear in mind. The Indian Continent is, as Honourable Members are aware, divided into two parts, British India and the India of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs. Both parts of the Indian Continent played their great part during the unparalleled conflagration through which the civilized world had to pass in the years 1914-1919, and, in consequence, it must be recognised that both of them are entitled to proportionate representation on the Indian delegation. In the second place, we must all bear in mind the fact, that, although India has now ceased to be a purely bureaucratic system of government, it has nevertheless not yet reached the stage of an entirely democratic system. It in fact occupies at present what may be characterised, and has often been characterised by speakers both in England as well as in India, as a transitional stage. I have no doubt whatever that, when the ultimate stage of full responsible government is reached, India's representatives, both on the Imperial Conference as well as in the Assembly of the League of Nations, will be selected in the same manner as are at present the representatives of other nations. But, until that stage is reached, the present practice of nominations of India's representatives on the League of Nations, three in number according to the Constitution of the League, will continue, as my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna has in a very reasonable way recognised, to be made in consultation between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India.

Now, bearing these two considerations in mind, let us for a moment

see what has been the actual state of things in the past. When, 1 P.M. after the conclusion of the Armistice, all the powers represented on the side of the Allies met in conference in Paris to deliberate over the conditions of peace which were to be entered into between the Allies and the Central Powers. India was represented by the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Montagu, the Under Secretary of State for India, Lord Sinha, and His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir. In other words, the Indian delegation at the Peace Conference in Paris consisted of the two British Ministers responsible for the Government of India in Parliament and an Indian Chief. In the following year, when the League of Nations came into existence and was formally constituted, the Indian delegation consisted of the High Commissioner, Sir William Meyer, who had been appointed to that high office only about that time and had been a Member of His Excellency the Viceroy's Executive Council here in this country, Sir Ali Imam, who also was once upon a time a Member of the Government of India and at that period occupied the responsible position of President of the Council in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government, and a Ruling Chief of India. In other words, in the very first year of the League's existence, India, instead of being represented by the two British Ministers responsible for the Government of India in the

British Parliament, as had been the case at the Peace Conference in Paris, was represented by two ex-officials of its own, one of whom at that time was High Commissioner for India in England, and the other was occupying a high position in one of the Indian States. In the following year a further development in this representation of India on the League of Nations took place. The High Commissioner for India was still a member of the Indian delegation, but in the place of the second official an ex-official Member representing British India was substituted, namely, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, one of the leading and trusted public men in this country. Since then, as the House is aware, the constitution of the Indian delegation on the League of Nations has followed somewhat similar lines. In 1922-23 an *ex*-Viceroy of India and an Indian public man Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer in 1922, and Saiyid Hasan Imam in 1923 represented British India on the Indian delegation to the League of Nations. It will thus be seen that, even during the last four years of the League's existence, gradual development has been taking place in the constitution of the Indian delegation on the Assembly of the League of Nations somewhat parallel to the constitutional development which is taking place in this country.

Sir, the Government of India fully recognise that the wish expressed in the Resolution, which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna, is natural. In view of the fact that the next meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations is to be held in September—and at present we do not know what will be the subjects for discussion at that meeting of the League—I hope the Honourable Mover will realise that, in those circumstances, it is somewhat difficult for me, on behalf of the Government of India, to give any definite undertaking. The appointment of representatives of India on the Indian delegation will depend to a considerable extent upon what are the subjects which have to be discussed. But the Government of India are prepared to give to the House this assurance, that the proposal embodied in this Resolution will receive their most careful consideration at the time when the nominations are to be made. Hitherto, as Honourable Members are aware, no one has ever been actually appointed a leader of the Indian delegation on the League of Nations. It is true that of the three members, as a matter of practice, the British member has acted as the leader because of his position and of his special qualifications, but no one has ever been actually appointed as a leader. As I said before, the wish embodied in this Resolution is natural, the Government of India fully recognise that fact, and the House may rest assured that the proposal will receive the most careful consideration of the Government of India when the time for appointment arrives. I hope that, under these circumstances and because of that assurance, my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna will think it advisable to withdraw his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the House has been good enough to say that my remarks were reasonable. May I be permitted to say his reply is still more so. I thank him for the assurance he has given and I hope, when he knows the subjects which are to be dealt with by the League of Nations next September, and if it is possible to respect the wishes of this House, and this country, he will see that the senior member of the delegation is an Indian gentleman.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Does the Honourable Member apply for leave to withdraw?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA:** I do apply for leave to withdraw my Resolution.

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

# RESOLUTION RE ESTABLISHMENT OF PIONEER SUGAR FACTORIES AND THE PROMOTION OF SUGAR-CANE CULTIVATION.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Does the Honourable Sardar wish to move to-day, or on Wednesday?

**THE HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH (Punjab: Sikh):** Sir, it will be more convenient to-day, because I have another Resolution for Wednesday, but I leave the matter entirely in your hands.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** It is entirely for the Honourable Member to decide.

**THE HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH:** I beg to move:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a definite proportion of the duty collected on sugar may be devoted to the establishment of pioneer sugar factories and to the promotion of sugar-cane cultivation."

Briefly, Sir, the sugar industry is not only of Indian importance but of Imperial importance. It was during the war that a shortage of sugar was discovered and a Sugar Committee was appointed to find out ways and means for increasing sugar production in India to supplement what could be obtained from other parts of the Empire.

[At this stage the Honourable the President vacated the Chair, which was taken by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri.]

It was then acknowledged that the sugar problem is an Imperial problem. The consumption of sugar amounts to 5,800,000 tons and the production to 4,000,000 tons. There is a deficit of 1,800,000 tons, and, if you look at the diagrams that were prepared by the Sugar Committee, almost half the area under sugar-cane in the world is in India. And yet we in India produce about 11 tons of sugar-cane per acre to 40 tons per acre in other countries. In the case of sugar-cane, as in the case of other crops, while other countries have improved their yields, we have neglected ours. Even to-day in Buma, in Madras, in the United Provinces, in the Punjab, Powndah cane is grown equal to any cane in the world. What we need is organisation, so that these good canes may be multiplied under intensive cultivation. The request I am making to the Government is a simple one, namely, that sugar-cane may be placed on the same footing as cotton. In the case of cotton a cess has been imposed, as recommended by the Cotton Committee appointed by the Government: The president of that Committee was Mr. MacKenna, who also presided over the Sugar Committee. The Government of India not long ago passed the Cotton Cess Bill. The entire income realised from this cotton cess is now to be used for improving and growing better varieties of cotton. A Central Cotton Committee has been formed, which is to look after the spending of this cotton cess and to help the introduction of improved varieties of cotton.

In the case of sugar-cane, Sir, nothing has been done, though the Committee's report was published in 1920. Since the report was published the Government has realised in duty—

Rs.

in 1918-19 . . . . .	1,69,43,000
in 1919-20 . . . . .	1,28,11,000
in 1920-21 . . . . .	1,09,17,000
in 1921-22 . . . . .	6,50,69,000 and
in 1922-23 . . . . .	4,40,93,000

In spite of the jumps the duty has made not much more has been spent on improving sugar-cane cultivation in this country. Now, Sir, on behalf of Indian cultivators, I put it, that some part of the duty that has been realised may be spent in the Provinces, where sugar-cane is largely grown, in promoting intensive agriculture and in bringing sugar-cane cultivation on to a level with other countries of the world.

Another factor, Sir, to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is this. We are going to set up protective tariffs in no remote future. As we are about it we might take into consideration our primary industry, I mean agriculture, which would lead to the general prosperity of the country. The cultivation of sugar-cane could be used as a means of promoting intensive agriculture in the country and at the same time providing the large amount of sugar which we, every year, import. I have again to quote figures which I hope will not tire the House. In 1919 we imported sugar worth 21 crores; in 1922 we imported sugar worth 26 crores; and in 1923 we imported sugar worth 27½ crores. All this sugar, Sir, according to the report of the Sugar Committee, would to-day be made in India if the Government had taken action on the recommendations that the Committee made. It was held by the Sugar Committee that roughly Indian consumption of sugar amounts to 2 million tons of *gur* and 1 million tons of sugar. It was at the same time pointed out that from the waste that goes on at present we can make nearly a million tons of sugar if we only adopt modern methods of manufacture. If intensive agriculture were also introduced, the yield from the present area could be doubled. As I am on the point, Sir, I would draw the attention of the House, that I am not speaking merely theoretically, and that experiments have been made in India which have proved that under proper conditions the same yield as in Java can be secured. At Shahjahanpur and at Marjari in the Bombay Presidency, we have obtained as much as 30 to 40 tons per acre, as against 1½ tons per acre which the ordinary producer gets on an average field. Then, Sir, a very interesting experiment was started by Dr. Barber which is in the hands of a capable officer, Mr. Venkataraman, who has been in charge of the sugar station at Coimbatore for many years, has greatly prospered. He has produced canes which is a cross between the thick canes and the ordinary thin canes. These canes in Bihar and the Punjab have been grown with great success, giving 30 tons per acre where we could only grow 11 tons to the acre. The field for development has therefore greatly broadened. I beg that the Government may now be pleased, in their beneficent activities, to promote the development of sugar-cane production in India. Just imagine if over the greatest area in the world, the yield of cane were to be doubled and at no great cost, what a great boon it would be both for the producer and the consumer! On Government farms, where the experiments have been made, the cost has not been very much greater than in Java. For instance, in Java we get about

[Sardar Jogendra Singh.]

1,000 maunds of cane to the acre and the cost per maund of cane is 4 annas. In Shahjahanpur we have secured 838 maunds of cane to the acre and the cost has been 5 annas a maund. In Marjari in Bombay yields have come up to 1,069 maunds per acre and the cost at the factory about 5 annas per maund. You will admit that these costs compare favourably with Java, and when you realise that the area in India is about seven times that of Java, which sends to India the largest amount of sugar, does it not seem strange that we in India should go on following primitive methods and do nothing to acquire this new wealth which is so easily available? I need not draw attention to what other countries have done in promoting their sugar industry—particularly Japan which by the supply of better strains, rebates, subsidies and other things has established a strong and flourishing industry in Formosa. Even in England during the war all attempt was made to introduce beet sugar and efforts are still being made in that direction. Then why in India, which is the home of the sugar-cane, should we not organise the sugar industry to its utmost capacity? You will possibly ask me, Sir, why it is that, if sugar-cane is such a good thing, private enterprise is not able to take care of the industry and reap the wealth that is so easily available? The Sugar Committee very pertinently pointed out that the one need for establishing a great sugar factory was that it should be situated amidst a fairly large cultivated area, that you cannot start a central sugar factory without at least 10,000 acres of land under cane somewhere in the neighbourhood. You cannot cart sugar-cane more than a hundred miles, even that often leads to deterioration. One great need of the sugar factory is that it should be in the heart of the sugar-yielding tracts. Now what has happened is this: we have many districts where sugar-cane is under cultivation; sometimes as much as 50,000 acres of sugar-cane is available in a District, but it is so scattered that it cannot easily reach the factory. Then again, without a fairly large plantation the sugar factory is at the mercy of the producers; it cannot depend on getting all its cane straight to the factory at a fairly reasonable price. The Sugar Committee therefore recommended that certain areas should be reserved, if possible, and that the Government should start a pioneer sugar factory. As I am on the point, I may say that the production of sugar-cane has passed beyond the experimental stage in Bihar; a great many factories have sprung up and under the able management of Begg, Sutherland & Co. are yielding very large profits. If you look at the capital of these companies you will see that some of the factories have accumulated reserves which are much larger than the capital itself. In the United Provinces and the Punjab the sugar factories have not come into our own. The necessary land to establish a large plantation is not available; the people are shy of contributing capital, and the whole industry suffers; and yet the largest area under cane is in these two provinces. The United Provinces top the list and then comes the Punjab, and yet, if you look around, there is not a single modern sugar factory in the Punjab; in the United Provinces we have one or two but they too are behind Bihar in many respects.

In recommending this Resolution to this Council all that I need say is that the principle of using cesses has been recognised by the Government in the case of cotton. The case for sugar is stronger than that of cotton. I recommend that the Government may use a very small part of the duty, say about a crore a year out of six crores in the next five years, to establish pioneer factories in the provinces.

The Sugar Committee proposed also other ways of raising capital, if the Government wanted to do so. The investment, if the report of the Sugar Committee is to be relied upon, would not be unproductive. They put down, in those days, that the capital needed for establishing a 1,000 ton factory would be Rs. 59 lakhs and the Committee prepared a balance sheet showing that the profit would be in no case, even if the price of sugar went down to Rs. 12 a maund, less than 9.43 per cent. The prices of plant for sugar factories have since fallen; the capital needed would be much smaller and the profits naturally much greater, as the prices of sugar have remained fairly high. I hope the Honourable the Member for Education, Health and Lands will tell us if any fluctuations in prices have taken place and made any material change. At the same time, Sir, the Sugar Committee laid great emphasis that capital if needed, can be raised by a loan issued specifically for this purpose in the form of debentures on which Government would guarantee 7 per cent. interest free of income-tax, and the holders of which would also share equally with the Government in any profits above 7 per cent. up to 13 per cent. The debenture holders would thus receive a definite guarantee of 7 per cent. interest on their holdings and would also have the possibility of obtaining a further 3 per cent. I have read these extracts to point out that, if the Government ventured to help the sugar industry, they would not only be assisting this industry, but would make a profitable investment as well.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Resolution to the Council. There are a few photographs here showing different kinds of cane grown in these Government farms which I circulated to the Members to see what great results have been obtained.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA:** Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh has directed the attention of the Government and the Council to this important subject by means of his Resolution. The Government have not lost sight of the subject since the last discussion in the Council about two years ago. They have invited the attention of all the Local Governments concerned to the various recommendations of the Sugar Committee and impressed upon them the desirability of continuing research, of finding new areas for the growing of sugar-cane and of developing the manufacture of sugar. The Honourable Member has already told you that through the efforts of the Government their expert at Coimbatore has been able to evolve a type of cane which has been shown to yield about 50 per cent. if not more juice than the cane which is now grown in the United Provinces and in the Punjab and Bihar. I have recently had a very interesting conversation with Mr. Venkataraman on the subject and he hopes to be able to solve on the botanical side the problem of finding a cane suitable to the climatic conditions prevailing in Upper India and enabling factories to continue the process of manufacture without a break, so that the yield to the manufacturer may be nearly as good as it is in Java.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** May I interrupt the Honourable Member? The Honourable Mover has had unfortunately to leave owing to a pressing engagement. I should like to ask the Honourable Member in charge whether it would not be more convenient for him to answer when the Honourable Mover of the Resolution is present. He has requested me to say that it would be convenient if the debate could be adjourned till Wednesday. He is not in his place now.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): The Honourable the President asked the Honourable Mover if the debate could be adjourned till Wednesday, and he said that he would prefer to discuss the Resolution to-day, and it seems to me, Sir, that the Honourable Mover is treating us with scant courtesy in abruptly leaving the Chamber, leaving the debate unfinished.

THE CHAIRMAN: I much regret it, because the matter is not in my hands. He has left me word to say that he would like the discussion to be adjourned till Wednesday. I am entirely in the hands of the House.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: It is rather unfortunate, but I think I should not press the point. I have no objection to the discussion being continued on Wednesday, if the House so desires.

The motion that the debate be adjourned till Wednesday, the 12th, was adopted.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1924.