

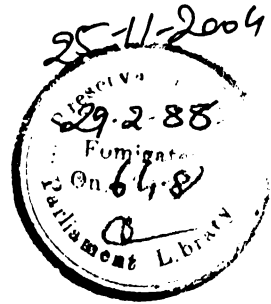
Monday, 11th February, 1924

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES
(Official Report)

Volume IV, Part I

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

FOURTH SESSION
OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE, 1924



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, the 11th February, 1924.

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

The Honourable M. R. Ry. Ganapati Agraharam Annadhurai Ayyar Natesan Avargal (Madras: Nominated Non-official); and the Honourable Mr. James William Anderson Bell (Bengal Chamber of Commerce).

NOMINATIONS FOR PANELS FOR STANDING COMMITTEES.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: With reference to the announcement I made the other day regarding nominations for Advisory Committees, the following nominations have been received:

For the Home Department:

The Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna,
The Honourable Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan,
The Honourable Sir Umar Hayat Khan,
The Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary,
The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali,
The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy,
The Honourable Sir Muhammad Rafique,
The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, and
The Honourable Sirdar Charanjit Singh.

For the Commerce Department:

The Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das,
The Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna,
The Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha,
The Honourable Sir Arthur Froom,
The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy,
The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, and
The Honourable Haji Chowdhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan.

For the Department of Education, Health and Lands:

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh,
 The Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha,
 The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas,
 The Honourable Mr. S. Vedamurti,
 The Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary,
 The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali; and
 The Honourable Maharaja Soshi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhuri of
 Muktagacha, Mymensingh.

For the Department of Industries and Labour:

The Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das,
 The Honourable Mr. S. Vedamurti,
 The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy,
 The Honourable Sir Arthur Froom,
 The Honourable Sir S. M. Annamalai Chettiyar,
 The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali,
 The Honourable Sir Dinshaw Wacha,
 The Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary, and
 The Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.

As in all cases, the nominations are in excess of the actual number required, it will be necessary to hold an election, and as forms have got to be printed, that cannot be done till Thursday. The election, therefore, will be held on Thursday. Honourable Members are aware that the election is made by the single transferable vote and they are doubtless familiar with the procedure, which is not the simplest.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

52. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state the present strength of the Department of Commercial Intelligence and the salaries of officials connected therewith, and how many of these officials are Indians?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The Commercial Intelligence Department consists of 4 gazetted officers, 90 ministerial officers, 8 of whom will come under retrenchment on the 1st March 1924, and 29 menials.

The salaries of the 4 gazetted officers are Rs. 2,800, 1,400, 1,000 and 650, respectively. Two of these officers, namely, the second and fourth, are Indians.

The ministerial staff is practically entirely Indian.

CONTRACTS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF MAILS BY WATER.

53. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether they have any contract for the carriage of mail by water, either inland on rivers anywhere in India or as between one port and another;
- (b) the terms and conditions of such contract, and whether such contract is with a Steamer Company registered in India and controlled by Indians;
- (c) if the reply to (b) is in the negative, whether open tenders were invited for this work when these contracts were given out; and
- (d) if any contract or contracts are made for a period of 5 years or longer and, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) Yes. A list of the principal steamer services employed under contract for the conveyance of mails will be found at pages 80 to 82 of the Annual Report on the Posts and Telegraphs of India for the year 1922-23. The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company expired on the 31st January 1924, and negotiations for a fresh contract are now in progress.

(b) The list referred to above shows the main conditions of the contracts. The British India Steam Navigation Company is registered in the United Kingdom, and is not controlled by Indians. Complete information regarding the remaining companies is not at present available, but will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

(c) and (d). The old contract (now expired) with the British India Steam Navigation Company was for a period of ten years, and was extended for one year. For the new contract tenders were invited by public advertisement, but only one tender has been received, and this tender is now under the consideration of Government. Information regarding the other companies is not immediately available, but will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

BRITISH CONSULS.

54. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) what arrangements exist for securing commercial and other information relating to foreign countries and markets abroad;
- (b) what money contribution, if any, they make to the Consular Service maintained by England in various countries;
- (c) what protection are British Consuls expected to give to Indians who need such protection, assistance and guidance in the territory under their charge; and
- (d) if they will be pleased to lay on the table any correspondence that may have taken place with the Secretary of State at any time on this question and the nature of the obligation which the Secretary of State has incurred with the knowledge and sanction of the Cabinet towards Indians abroad on the part of British Consuls?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON: (a) The Government of India are allowed, free of cost, to utilise the services of His Majesty's Trade Commissioners appointed within the Empire, the duties of Trade Commissioners being *inter alia* to reply to commercial inquiries and notify changes in customs tariffs or other regulations affecting trade.

The Director General of Commercial Intelligence is also permitted to correspond direct with Consular Officers in the Far East owing to the saving of time involved. Commercial information relating to European countries is obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, London, through the India Office or through the Indian Trade Commissioner according to the nature of the inquiries.

At the last Imperial Conference His Majesty's Government offered to make arrangements under which the services of Commercial Diplomatic officers outside Europe and of the Senior Consular Officers in countries outside Europe where there are no Commercial Diplomatic officers would be placed at the disposal of the Government of India, in the same way as the services of His Majesty's Trade Commissioners are already at their disposal.

The Governments of the Dominions which have appointed Trade Commissioners in countries overseas offered also to make similar arrangements for the utilisation of those officers by Governments of other parts of the Empire.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) The duties of British Consuls in regard to the protection, assistance and guidance to be rendered to British subjects who are in need of them are laid down in Chapters XXII, XXIII and XXIV of the Consular Instructions, copies of the relevant portions of which are laid on the Table.

These instructions apply to all British subjects including Indians and British protected persons.

(d) As regards correspondence the Honourable Member is referred to the Report of the Welby Commission published in 1900. There appears to have been no further correspondence since then till that now in progress between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the subject of India's share in Consular and diplomatic expenditure in Persia. This cannot be published without the consent of His Majesty's Government.

The nature of the obligation incurred by the Secretary of State which the Honourable Member appears to have in mind is indicated by the extracts from the Consular Instructions which have been laid upon the table.

CHAPTER XXII.

ADVICE TO BRITISH SUBJECTS.—CLAIMS.

Part I.—Assistance and Advice to British Subjects.

General duty as to advice and assistance.—1. A Consular officer should give his best advice and assistance to His Majesty's subjects trading in, residing in, or visiting his district, and should do his utmost to avert and arrange differences among them, or between them and the natives of the country.

Maintenance of rightful interests.—2. If British subjects suffer injury, or are likely to suffer injury, either in their persons or property, the Consular officer must uphold rightful interests and privileges, secured by treaty, by due representations in the proper official quarter, made in the manner prescribed by these instructions. He must be temperate and judicious in such representations.

Reference to Diplomatic representative.—3. If redress cannot be obtained from the local authorities, or if the matter of complaint be not within their jurisdiction, the case must be referred to His Majesty's Diplomatic representative.

Answers to private inquiries.—4. A Consular officer should reply to the best of his ability to inquiries addressed to him by British subjects, and also by other persons where such inquiries can properly be answered by him in his official capacity. He must in any case acknowledge as soon as possible the receipt of all letters addressed to him in that capacity. It is, however, no part of his official duty to give opinions or to furnish confidential information as to the respectability, private character, or solvency of individuals or firms.

CHAPTER XXIII.

REPATRIATION OF DISTRESSED BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Necessity of circumspection.—1. The greatest circumspection is required in dealing with the relief of distressed British subjects at the public expense. Such relief should be afforded only in cases of proved necessity. It should be refused to persons who make a profession of begging; their stories must be carefully examined and tested.

Proof of nationality indispensable.—Applicants for relief must be required to give reasonable proof that they are British subjects.

Ordinary extent of relief.—2. The primary object with which relief should be afforded is to enable distressed persons to return to the United Kingdom. It should not, as a rule, be granted when they desire merely to remove from one place abroad to another place abroad.

When they are sent home their journeys should be paid, at the cheapest rate, to some port in England. As they become chargeable to a parish immediately on their landing in England their expenses are not paid beyond the port of arrival. A through ticket to London can sometimes be obtained at a smaller cost than to the port of arrival. Advantage should, of course, be taken of this facility in the cases of persons born in London.

Money should not be handed to them, except in very small amounts, sufficient to provide food on the way.

No charge for luggage is admissible, unless in peculiar circumstances.

In exceptional cases where there is no direct communication with the United Kingdom, or where the adoption of a circuitous route would result in economy, a Consular officer is permitted to send distressed British subjects to some intermediate Consular port, but he should in each instance be careful to advise the officer at such port of their arrival, and explain his reasons for having sent them. No money must be given to them in anticipation of expenditure at the intermediate port.

Relief of Colonial subjects.—6. As a general rule no payments are made by Consular officers on account of British Colonial subjects except under authority from the Governor of the Colony to which such persons belong, and the officer must therefore apply to the Colonial authorities before giving relief.

Exceptions to this rule exist as regards certain British Colonies, where the Local Governments have accepted the responsibility of repaying expenses incurred on behalf of distressed natives. India also comes within this category.

The conditions upon which natives of such Colonies, the Channel Islands and India, may be repatriated at the public expense are set forth below under separate heads, and Consular officers must be careful to see that these conditions are fulfilled before relief is granted.

Reimbursement.—Reimbursement of payments on account of Colonial subjects must be claimed from the Colonial Governments.

India.

British Indian subjects can be relieved under the following conditions:—

A Consular officer must in every case, before incurring any expense as regards the provision of a passage to India, communicate either direct with the Government of India, or, through the Foreign Office with the Secretary of State for India, whichever may be most convenient, in order to obtain the necessary authority for the expenditure.

When authority has been granted, an undertaking should be required from the applicant that he or she will return at once to India. The applicant should then be provided, if there be direct communication by sea with India from any port in the Consular district, with the cheapest direct passage. If there should be no direct communication, the applicant should be forwarded to the nearest Consulate on the direct route to India, whence he should be despatched with the least possible delay.

Reasonable expenditure incurred in either case will be defrayed out of the revenues of India. Expenditure in assisting Indians to pass from one port to another, except under the conditions above stated, will not be allowed.

When it appears to the Consular officer necessary to telegraph for instructions, the telegram should be addressed to the Secretary of State for India through the Foreign Office, or to the Government of India, as may be found most economical.

Reasonable proof must in every instance be given to the Secretary of State or the Government of India as to the nationality of the person relieved, and a full report must be furnished detailing the steps taken by the Consular officer, and giving satisfactory evidence that he has taken all the precautions prescribed in this Chapter relating to the relief of distressed British subjects.

It must be distinctly understood that no authority is given to Consular officers to afford temporary relief in the way of maintenance without previous sanction except in cases where, in the exercise of their discretion, such relief appears to be absolutely necessary, and where the withholding of it would result in the death of the distressed person.

In the term "British Indian subjects" natives of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Mauritius, or of any other country not under the administration of the Government of India, are not included. Care must consequently be taken to ascertain precisely the nationality of claimants.

CHAPTER XXIV.

CARE OF PROPERTY OF BRITISH SUBJECTS AND OF DECEASED BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Acceptance of sums for which Government is responsible.—1. A Consular officer is bound to accept sums on the following accounts, for which His Majesty's Government hold themselves responsible :—

- (a) Wages of seamen and other moneys to be accounted for to the Board of Trade, which are paid to him in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Acts, including the estates of deceased seamen;
- (b) Sums deposited in exchange for money orders at ports at which the money order system exists;
- (c) Sums and other effects received by him in respect of the estates of deceased British subjects to which he is administering, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State, in the absence of representatives competent to administer to them.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any complaints with regard to assistance being asked for by Indian subjects from British Consuls and the same being denied to them?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON: I will have inquiries made and let the Honourable Member have the information he asks for.

MILITARY COLLEGES.

55. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) how many military colleges there are in India;
- (b) how many Indians are taking advantage of the facilities granted; and
- (c) for what careers the training is being given?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I assume that the Honourable Member has in mind institutions at which candidates are prepared for an army career and does not require information regarding the many instructional institutions which exist within the Army for the purpose, amongst other things, of qualifying officers and men for promotion. On the assumption which I have made, the reply to his question is as follows:—

- (a) The only institution in India at which candidates receive a preliminary training for a military career is the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun.
- (b) At present there are 70 Indian cadets at this College.
- (c) The training is designed primarily to enable Indian cadets to qualify for King's Commissions in the army.

PURCHASE OF STORES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA.

56. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state what was the total amount of material purchased in the United Kingdom during 1922-23 on behalf of Government, including State Railways, and what was the total amount of materials purchased in India of Indian origin for the same purpose?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The expenditure on (a) stores of Indian origin and (b) stores purchased through the High Commissioner by the Central Government including State Railways and minor Local Governments during 1922-23 was as under:—

(a) Stores of Indian origin	...	Rs. 6,61,12,424
(b) Stores purchased through the High Commissioner	...	£6,109,000

The figures at (a) do not include (1) purchases of articles of the same kind and of an aggregate value not exceeding Rs. 50 at one time and place, (2) purchases made by contractors for Government stores, (3) purchases invariably made in India such as bricks, Indian lime and mortar, Indian timber, etc., (4) purchases made by or on behalf of the military authorities other than textile goods obtained through the Indian Stores Department.

DEMobilISED OFFICERS.

57. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total amount paid during the year 1922-23 to officers of the Army who retired or were demobilised by way of gratuity, allowance, passage money to themselves, their families and payment of equipment or of any other kind;
- (b) also the total number of officers who have received such sums?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) During the financial year 1922-23, a sum of Rs. 2,20,18,237 was paid on account of salary, gratuity, passages, etc., to surplus officers who were retired or demobilised.

(b) The total number of such officers who retired or were demobilised during 1922-23 was 1,582.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS IN THE SUPERIOR SERVICES ON PROPORTIONATE PENSIONS.

58. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (i) the number of officers in the Superior Services who in each year from the date of the inauguration of the Reforms up to 31st December 1923 offered to resign by availing themselves of the privilege of retiring on proportionate pension and subsequently withdrew their resignations; and
- (ii) how much longer it is intended to extend the privilege to officers to retire on proportionate pension?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR: (a) A statement containing such information as is in the possession of Government is laid on the table.

(b) The privilege of retiring on proportionate pension has been extended until the action proposed to be taken on the Report of the Parliamentary Commission provided for by the Government of India Act is known, when the whole position will necessarily be reviewed.

Statement showing number of officers in the Superior Services who, year by year, since the inauguration of the Reforms and up to the 31st December 1923, applied to retire on proportionate pension and subsequently withdrew their applications.

Service.	Number in 1921.	Number in 1922.	Number in 1923.	GRAND TOTAL.
Indian Veterinary Service		1		1
Indian Forest Service		1	...	1
Indian Police Service		2	15	17
Indian Civil Service		4	...	4
Indian Service of Engineers		2	1	3
TOTAL		10	16	26

CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO THE INDIA OFFICE.

59. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to give—

- (a) the names of firms of Consulting Engineers engaged by the India Office for Railway, Naval and other purposes with the remuneration earned by each of these firms during the year 1922-23; and
- (b) against each such name the remuneration earned by firms or any individual members thereof by way of fees from Local Governments and local and statutory bodies in India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) The Consulting Engineers to the Secretary of State for India and the High Commissioner for India are Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton. The Naval Architects are Sir John Biles and Company. Final figures showing the remuneration earned by the Consulting Engineers and the Naval Architects during the year 1922-23

are not available to the Government of India, but the estimated payments for that year were to the Consulting Engineers £25,000, and to the Naval Architects £11,000.

(b) Local Governments and local bodies in India do not pay fees direct to the Consulting Engineers or to the Naval Architects. The payments mentioned in the answer to part (a), constitute the whole of the remuneration paid to the Consulting Engineers and the Naval Architects for work done both for the Central and for the Provincial Governments. The share of the Provincial Governments is recovered by means of the ordinary percentage charges made by the London Store Department on purchases made for them.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: The name of Sir John Biles and Company was mentioned as expert Naval Architects. May I know if the head of the firm, Sir John Biles, who is now serving on the Indian Marine Committee, is getting anything in addition to the fees which the Government paid him as their expert at Home, and if so, what?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: As far as I remember, Sir, Sir John Biles is getting his daily allowance and travelling allowance like every other Member of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee. In addition to that he gets, I think, an honorarium of £1,500. I am not quite certain about that. He has given up entirely over eleven months of his working time to the work of this Committee.

COINAGE OF SOVEREIGNS AT THE BOMBAY MINT.

60. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) what arrangement they have made for the coinage of gold sovereigns at the Mint in Bombay;
- (b) if they are aware that considerable sentiment exists on this question since the days of the late Mr. Gokhale;
- (c) if it is true that the gold produced in India is being refined at the Mint in Bombay and is then exported in the form of bullion instead of being made available to the bullion market of this country; and
- (d) whether any arrangement exists between the Kolar Gold Mines and the Bank of England in this connection and, if so, what are the conditions?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to a question on the same subject put by the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha on the 30th January last.

(b) Yes. The Government are aware that such sentiment has existed and still exists in certain quarters.

(c) The Kolar Gold mines send their outturn to the Bombay Mint to be refined as they require the Mint's Assay mark. The gold is then disposed of by the Mines through their Agents in Bombay. The question whether the gold is sold locally to the bazar or shipped abroad is naturally one of relative prices. The Government understand that the last occasion on which any of this gold was shipped abroad was in December 1921.

(d) The Government understand that the arrangement referred to terminated before the year 1920.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Am I right in understanding that the Indian gold is available to the bullion market in India if prices permit?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: Yes.

**CREATION OF NEW POSTS FROM THE TIME OF LORD CURZON'S VICEROYALTY
UP TO THE 31ST DECEMBER 1923.**

61. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) how many new posts were created with the Government of India from the time of the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon and since up to 31st December 1923, carrying salaries of more than Rs. 1,000;
- (b) which of these posts were abolished afterwards; and
- (c) which have the Incheape Committee recommended for abolition?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR: The period mentioned by the Honourable Member would comprise the wholly abnormal period of the war and he will doubtless recognize that the information he asks for, the compilation of which would involve an extremely heavy expenditure of time and labour, would have little practical value in its bearing on present conditions.

If the Honourable Member will specify the posts he has particularly in mind, I shall be glad to inquire further.

**EXPENDITURE ON CABLES EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AND THE INDIA OFFICE.**

62. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state the amount of cable charges paid by Government in connection with the cables exchanged by the Government of India and the India Office during 1922-23?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I regret that the information required is not readily available. Particulars are being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: When the particulars are submitted, will it be possible to show separately the cost of the telegrams sent personally by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Secretary of State for India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I will make inquiries on that point. I cannot answer off-hand.

**EMOLUMENTS OF THE SUPERIOR SERVICES EMPLOYED UNDER PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS.**

63. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) if the Provincial Governments can increase the salary, emoluments and allowances of any member of the Superior Services working under them;

- (b) if the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, can any Provincial Government also reduce the salary, emoluments and allowances of the members of the Superior Services holding a covenant from the Secretary of State;
- (c) in what province or provinces and by how much and in the case of how many officers have such increases, if any, been given; and
- (d) if any of the Provincial Governments have given any increases even after the appointment of the Public Services Commission now sitting and since 1st October 1923?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: If by "Superior Services" the Honourable Member means the all-India Service, the powers of Provincial Governments are limited to the grant of compensatory allowances. Compensatory allowances are allowances granted to meet personal expenditure necessitated by the special circumstances in which duty is performed and the grant of them is limited by the condition that they must not be on the whole a source of profit to the recipient.

Government are not aware to what extent Provincial Governments have exercised this power.

EXCESS EXPENDITURE ON THE NEW CAPITAL WORKS, DELHI.

64. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Is it a fact that, during the last inspection of the stoneyard of the New Capital works by the Financial Assistant, it was found that an excess expenditure of nearly three lakhs was incurred? If so—

- (a) on whose authority was it incurred;
- (b) how is it being adjusted;
- (c) who was responsible for incurring it; and
- (d) will Government be pleased to state whether there are reasons why the auditing of these accounts should not be done by the Accountant General as in the other Provinces?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a), (b) and (c). No excess expenditure was incurred. There was, however, an unadjusted balance due to overburden at quarries being greater than provided for in the issue rates, and secondly, to depreciation of value of balances made under the orders of the Chief Engineer to accord with market rates. The difference is being adjusted *pro rata* on the works concerned.

(d) The accounts are audited by the Deputy Accountant General, Central Revenues, Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: What was the amount?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I cannot tell you the amount. It will not be known until the final accounts are completed.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS OF THE III AND X DIVISIONS, DELHI, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

65. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) Is it a fact that the work of the Executive Engineer of III Division, who is on leave, is being carried on since nine months by the Executive Engineer, X Division, with a duty allowance of Rs. 400 a month?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether there are reasons why both these divisions could not be amalgamated as was done recently in the case of Divisions II and IV?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) Yes.

(b) The III and X Divisions could not be amalgamated because the character and quantity of the work did not permit of it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Is it not possible to have them amalgamated?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Not altogether. What has happened is that a portion of the work in one of these divisions has been allotted to another and a new charge has been created. That has just recently been done.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Could it not have been done ten months ago, thus saving Rs. 4,000?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: No.

EXPENDITURE ON THE EASTERN AND WESTERN HOSTELS, RAISINA.

66. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) What was the cost, estimated and actual, of construction of the Eastern and Western Hostels, Delhi? Is it a fact that a sum of Rs. 75,000 was incurred by the Works Assistant in excess of his own estimate?

(b) What action, if any, was taken against him?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) The estimated cost of the Hostels was Rs. 14,46,010 and the actual expenditure against this was Rs. 19,85,426. Of the total excess of Rs. 5,39,416, and excess of Rs. 3,18,000 was anticipated before the work was put in hand and was provided elsewhere. The statement in the second part of this question is not correct.

(b) Does not arise.

SUB-DIVISIONS OF THE DELHI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

67. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) How many Sub-divisions are there in the Delhi Public Works Department?

(b) How many of the officers, who man the Sub-divisions, are qualified?

(c) What is the expenditure incurred in each such Sub-division?

(d) How many of the officers, who man the Sub-divisions, are unqualified and what is the expenditure in each such Sub-division?

(e) How many qualified Engineers are there who are not in charge of Sub-divisions?

(f) What is the expenditure incurred as Sub-division allowances by the appointment of subordinates to Sub-divisional charges?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are reasons why unqualified men are placed in charge of Sub-divisions when qualified men are available for the same pay?

(h) What proportion do the Sub-divisions under the charge of subordinates bear to the total number of Sub-divisions?

(i) How far is that proportion in accordance with the Public Works Department Reorganisation Committee's Report?

(j) What is the amount of Sub-division allowances paid to the sub-ordinates annually?

(k) Will the Government consider the advisability of entertaining qualified Engineers for Sub-division charges?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) 24.

(b) Twenty-two of these have passed Engineering examinations of one kind or another. Two, one a Hindu and one a Muhammadan, are qualified by practical experience.

(c) The information is not available, as the expenditure is not booked by Sub-divisions.

(d) See the answers to (b) and (c) above.

(e) Six.

(f) Rs. 10,800 per annum.

(g) No men are in charge of Sub-divisions who are unqualified to hold charge.

(h) 50 per cent.

(i) The Public Works Department Reorganisation Committee made no specific recommendation in this matter.

(j) See my reply to (f) above.

(k) Government already do so.

DIVISIONS OF THE DELHI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

68. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: How many Divisions are there in the Delhi Public Works Department? How many of these are under the charge of temporary Engineers and how many under permanent?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Ten Divisions. Seven are under the charge of permanent officers and three under temporary officers.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: What is the principle underlying the creation of the new divisions? Is it done as a matter of necessity or is it done simply as a provision for officers?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I do not think, Sir, that that question arises either out of the original question or of the answer that I have given.

OFFICERS IN THE DELHI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

69. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of officers, both Imperial and Provincial, in the Delhi Public Works Department and the amount of deputation allowances paid annually?

(b) What is the necessity for importing provincial men when persons with English and Indian qualifications are available for employment?

(c) Will the Government consider the question of reverting these men during the next financial year with a view to reduce the expenditure on the Delhi works?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state why deputation allowances are given to the Indian Service Engineers when they are recruited on an all-India basis?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) Twenty officers are on deputation to Delhi, of whom two are at present on leave, preparatory to retirement. Excluding the two officers on leave, the amount paid annually in deputation allowances* is Rs. 25,656.

(b) Officers with the necessary qualifications and practical experience were not available except from the provinces, when the project was started.

(c) It is not proposed to revert the officers employed on the project until the reduction of work permits of it. There would be no reduction of expenditure but on the other hand an increase, as suitable persons could not be obtained in purely temporary appointments at the same cost as is now incurred.

(d) The allowance (now called special pay), was sanctioned by the Secretary of State on the principal ground that the establishment would be required to work at very considerable pressure and in strenuous circumstances, if the project was to be carried out within a reasonable time.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Are they not all recruited on an all-India basis?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: No, not all of them by any means.

COMMISSION ON BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

70. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Will the Government be pleased to state the reason why the commission on British postal orders is less than inland money order rates?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The reason is that the services rendered by the Post Office in return for the commission payable on an inland money order are far greater than those rendered in return for the poundage on a British Postal Order.

The Indian Post Office has to carry an inland money order to destination, pay it at the house of the payee, convey back the payee's acknowledgment and deliver the latter to the remitter. A British postal order, on the other hand, has to be sent by post by the purchaser himself. The intended payee or his agent must attend at the post office to cash the order and, if it is desired to convey to the purchaser an acknowledgment of receipt of the order, the payee has to send a separate communication to the purchaser by post.

STREET LIGHTING OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN QUARTERS, RAISINA.

71. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Will the Government state the reason why there should be any differentiation between quarters occupied by Indians and Europeans in the matter of street lighting?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I should explain that there is no distinction between Indian and European quarters as such. There is a distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters. As it happens, a certain proportion of the orthodox quarters are situated in an area where the through traffic is not expected to be heavy, where the lighting scale has not yet been completed and where the cables are overhead and not underground. The occupation of the houses has nothing whatever to do with the street lighting, which is determined by the amount of traffic anticipated.

*Now known as special pay.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Is it not a fact that there is no provision for light between Pahargunj and Ibbetson Road which is a main thoroughfare and which has a dangerous corner?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I should like to have notice of that question. I am not aware of the exact locality to which the Honourable Member refers.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DELHI.

72. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) What are the duties of the Financial Assistant attached to the Chief Engineer of the Delhi Public Works Department?

(b) Is he an inspection officer of the Divisional Accounts? If so, why is the same duty done by the Deputy Accountant General, Central Revenues?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) To supervise, generally, the correct booking of expenditure, and to see that executive orders of the local Administration and the Chief Engineer are observed; to advise Superintending Engineers in the Central Office on financial and account questions, and to make all Central Office disbursements.

(b) He is not an inspection officer of the Divisional Accounts. The duties of the Deputy Accountant-General, Central Revenues, are audit duties and of an obviously different character.

REDUCTION OF THE STAFF OF THE DELHI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

73. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: What is the reduction proposed in the staff of the Delhi Public Works Department, clerical and executive?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: There has already been a certain reduction in the establishment in 1923-24, and a further reduction in cost of Rs. 1,62,000 is being budgeted for in 1924-25.

FINANCIAL ADVISERS.

74. THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what Departments of the Government of India have Financial Advisers attached to them?

(b) Are these appointments made by the Departments themselves or by the Financial Department?

(c) If in any Department the Department itself makes the appointment, what control or check has the Finance Department on the work of the Financial Adviser?

(d) How in such event can he be looked upon as a representative of the Finance Department?

(e) Would the Government please state what has been the financial and administrative improvement in these departments since the appointments were made?

(f) Would the Government please state what the relation of the officer in question is in each Department with (1) the Department itself, (2) the Financial Department, (3) the Audit and the Accounts Department?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (a) There are two officers with this designation—the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs.

(b) Appointments to the posts of Financial Adviser are made by the Governor General on the advice of the Finance Department.

(c) and (d). These questions do not arise. The officers are representatives of the Finance Department and are borne on the list of officers of the Finance Department.

(e) It is impossible to give the results of the creation of these appointments in the form of a statement of facts and figures. From the financial point of view the deputation of special officers to these two important Departments has resulted in a much closer control over their expenditure and a better organisation of their finances. From the administrative point of view the main advantages are the more speedy disposal of business and more harmonious relations between the administrative and financial Departments.

(f) (1) The Financial Adviser, Military Finance, is the adviser in financial matters of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Army Member. The Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, stands in a similar relation to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs and also advises the Department of Industries and Labour on financial questions affecting Posts and Telegraphs and certain other subjects.

(2) The Financial Advisers are the representatives of the Finance Department in matters arising in the Departments to which they are attached. They have free access to the Finance Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council and the right to submit to him any case they think fit.

(3) The Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, has no direct relations with the Audit and Accounts Department. The Financial Adviser, Military Finance, administers the Military Accounts Department, but in matters relating to audit the officers of that Department are required to obey the directions of the Auditor-General.

Besides the two Financial Advisers there is a Financial Commissioner for Railways. This officer is a member of the Railway Board, but his position is analogous to that of the Financial Advisers. He is the representative of the Finance Department on the Board, and he has free access to the Honourable the Finance Member and the right to submit to him any case he thinks fit.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: With regard to the Financial Commissioner in the Railway Department mentioned by the Honourable Member in his answer I gather from the answer that he discharges his duties in two capacities, one as a member of the Railway Board and another as a representative of the Finance Department. How does he reconcile duties in these two capacities and discharge them loyally to the two departments concerned.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: So far no difficulty has arisen in practice in reconciling these two capacities.

SEPARATION OF RAILWAY FINANCE FROM GENERAL FINANCE.

75. THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: (a) Would the Government please state whether it is in contemplation to separate Railway Finances from General Finances?

(b) If the answer to the question be in the affirmative, would the Government be pleased to state when and in what shape the matter will be taken up and what advantages, financial or otherwise, are expected to be derived from the change?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) Yes.

(b) The scheme for separation will, I hope, be placed before the Legislative Assembly in the course of the present Session with a full exposition of the various advantages expected to be derived from it. I would, however, refer the Honourable Member to Chapter III of the report of the Indian Railway Committee (1921) in which many of the disadvantages of the present system and advantages of separation are made apparent.

BRINE SALT.

76. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) how many Bengal maunds of brine salt are produced at various places and at what cost and at which stations;
- (b) what is the capital spent at each of such stations where salt is produced from brine; and
- (c) what is the cost of manufacturing such salt from brine at these places:—
 - (i) with cost of interest and sinking fund on the capital spent; and
 - (ii) without cost of interest and sinking fund on the capital spent?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (a), (b) and (c). Brine salt is produced at Sambhar, Didwana and Pachbhadra in Rajputana (under the control of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department); Maurypur, Dawari and Saran in Sind; Kharaghoda, Udu, Dharasana and Chharwala in Bombay; and in various scattered districts in Madras and Burma.

The other information required by the Honourable Member, so far as it is available, will be found in the Administration Reports concerned, namely, those of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department and of the Salt Departments in the various provinces. Copies of these reports are in the Library.

IMPORTATION OF SALT.

77. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing what quantities of salt are imported and from what places and to which ports in India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: The Honourable Member will find the information he desires in the "Accounts relating to the Seaborne Trade and Navigation of British India", copies of which are in the Library.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: The Honourable Member has obliged me with a copy from which I see that the shares of the different provinces are shown province by province. May I ask the Honourable Member if it would be possible to show them port by port?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: If I may be allowed to answer that supplementary question, I will point out that in all our returns of sea-borne trade for every article figures of imports and exports have always been shewn province by province which is really the most useful distribution. The adoption of the suggestion of the Honourable Member would mean either recasting or largely elaborating these returns. As a matter of fact the figures do indicate largely the trade of the different ports, because in each province there is as a rule only one large port. Particulars of the imports by ports may be obtained from the provincial volumes.

LIABILITY OF INDIAN TEA COMPANIES TO INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX.

78. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) since when Indian Tea Companies have been made chargeable to Income Tax;
- (b) what was the amount of Income-tax and Super-tax collected from them in each year since then; and
- (c) why were they not made liable to the tax earlier?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: Tea companies were not assessed under the Income-tax Act, 1886, as the Government of India were advised that they were not legally liable to income-tax under that Act. When it was decided to tax them under the Income-tax Act, 1918, the question of the liability of tea companies to income-tax was referred at the request of those concerned to the High Court, Calcutta, under section 51 of the Act. The High Court decided in 1920 that the profits from tea were partly agricultural and partly non-agricultural, and that tax could only be levied on that portion of their profits which was non-agricultural. It took some time to work out with the representatives of the tea industry, what proportion of its profits could be held to be non-agricultural, and it was not until October 1922 that a rule was finally issued under the Income-tax Act, 1922, prescribing that 25 per cent. of the income derived from the sale of tea grown and manufactured by the seller should be deemed to be derived from business. Tea companies were thus assessed for the first time in the year 1922-23. Government do not know what sums were collected on account of Income-tax and Super-tax from the various tea companies in that year, but the information has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

COLLECTION OF INCOME-TAX FROM INDIGO, SHELLAC AND SILK FACTORIES.

79. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state the amount of Income-tax collected respectively from indigo, shellac and silk factories in each of the five years ending 1922-23?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: Indigo factories also were held not to be liable to tax under the Income-tax Act of 1886 and have been specially exempted from the payment of Income-tax till the 31st March 1925. Government do not know what sums were collected on account of income-tax from shellac and silk factories, but information has

been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

SEA-BORNE COAL TRAFFIC.

80. THE HONOURABLE LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will Government kindly state what was the amount of Indian coal carried by sea for Indian State and other Railways and the Indian Marine in 1913-14, 1918-19, 1921-22 and 1922-23—

- (a) by steamships owned by companies registered in the British Isles; and
- (b) by steamships owned by companies registered in British India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The quantity of Indian coal carried by sea for railways was—

- (i) in 1913-14, 735,452 tons; information is not available as to where the steamship companies were registered;
- (ii) in 1918-19, 117,774 tons, all carried by companies registered in the British Isles or foreign countries;
- (iii) in 1921-22, 394,396 tons, all carried by companies registered in the British Isles;
- (iv) in 1922-23, 459,851 tons, all carried by companies registered in the British Isles.

As regards coal carried by sea for the Indian Marine the information is not available. Inquiries are being made and the figures will be supplied to the Honourable Member when available.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: Was it not necessary to place information of the kind which the Honourable Member says is not forthcoming (regarding the amount of coal carried by vessels belonging to companies registered in British India) before the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee for purposes of that inquiry?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: In my answer I only said that the information is not available as to coal carried by steamships in 1913-14. That is ten years ago. I understand that it is impossible now to trace the names of the actual ships which carried the coal ten years ago, and therefore it is impossible to ascertain the names of the owners. As regards coal carried by sea for the Indian Marine I said that the information is not available. Inquiries are being made and figures will be supplied when available.

RESOLUTION RE MURAL PAINTINGS IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT RAISINA.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (Bombay: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, my Resolution reads as follows:—

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, if and when the work of mural paintings in the buildings at Raisina, including the Government House and the Secretariat, is taken in hand, the same be entrusted to Indian artists and preferably to the Bombay School of Arts.”

[Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.]

New Delhi is being built at a cost of several crores of rupees. In the scheme of decorations in the Government House and the Secretariat I understand there are also to be mural paintings, and the recommendation I make in my Resolution is that such work be entrusted to the Bombay School of Arts.

I do so with the conviction that the Bombay School of Arts produces the most excellent work of this kind and even better than what may be expected from European artists. This statement may appear an exaggeration to some Honourable Members, and particularly to European Members of this House, but the testimony of European experts themselves will convince them that, so far as mural paintings are concerned, the Bombay School of Arts unquestionably takes the lead. Sir John Marshall, who must be regarded as an authority on the subject by the Government themselves, in a paper which he read before the Royal Society of Arts in London only three or four months ago says:

"From start to finish this decorative quality, this sense for rhythmic, flowing ornament and particularly for floral ornament, is the special prerogative of the Indian artist. It is his birthright. You will find it inherent in every phase and in every period of Indian art, whether it be in these early sculptures of the Buddhists, in the mediæval paintings of Ajanta, in the elaborate architecture of the Hindus and Jains, or in the fairly-like structures of the Mughals. And seeing to what a high pitch this sense for the decorative had been developed in the earliest monuments that have survived to us, we can hardly doubt that it had come down from an immemorial antiquity."

Dr. F. M. Thomas of the India Society, Sir Francis Oppenheimer and others who have seen mural paintings done by the Bombay School of Arts and who can speak with authority on the subject have all acclaimed it as work of the highest order. Mr. M. A. Hydari, the Finance Minister of Hyderabad, in which State are the world-famed mural paintings in the Ajanta Caves, looks upon the Bombay School as "the lineal descendant of the great National Art School of Ajanta". I recognise that for every man we put up who will conscientiously praise the work of the Bombay School of Arts in mural painting it is easy enough for those who hold the contrary view or are interested in getting the work done by other than Indian artists to put up others to decry their work. The indisputable point is, a point which needs must appeal to this House, that the Bombay Art School which has done astonishingly well, has by virtue of its existence and even without the fact of its fine record in mural painting, the right to its chance at Delhi, and Government must see to it that it does get this chance. The patronage of art must first come from Government themselves, and particularly in a deserving case like this, which, if they do, it will follow that the public who can afford it will imitate the example of Government and the art of mural painting will receive greater encouragement. This has already been done to some extent on the Bombay side.

The classes of mural painting in the Bombay School were opened only a few years ago and they have advanced with great rapidity from one success to another, and it has shown a vitality that would have been impossible except in a country of natural artists. The introduction in this school of something akin to the facilities of instruction enjoyed by the Art Schools of Europe has already produced results that would do credit to any Art School anywhere. Yet more rapid would be their advance if they were given work in the public buildings at New Delhi which would be an advertisement to them: all the world over and which they merit. It is no

use training artists unless you can find a field for their labours. The Government of Bombay appreciate the value of the work, and the mural paintings done in the Government House at Bombay are applauded by all who have seen them and by those who are in a position to express an authoritative opinion on them provided, of course, they are impartial judges. If the Cartoons and Mural paintings in the School of Arts itself, in Government House and elsewhere in Bombay show the skill of "prentice hands" of these young art students what greater success may we not reasonably expect if the School were permitted to essay a larger task at Delhi under the able leadership of its principal Mr. W. E. Gladstone Solomon and for which it is perfectly competent. What I put forward therefore is quite a reasonable and legitimate claim. It is precisely what is being now accorded to the London Art Schools, that is the right of a School of Art to participate in such decorations as a School of Art working under its own masters.

And yet we understand the claims of the Bombay School to be given a chance at Delhi are seriously opposed by eminent Academicians, although the Royal Academy of London itself and the heads of other British Art Schools are urging on their own students to decorate the walls of public buildings in London on a large scale. It is believed that the suggestion is to get the work done at new Delhi by English artists or even by Italian decorators, which means the elimination of India from the field of artistic support. It may be suggested that the students from the Bombay School may be made to work as assistants to the artists who may be brought out from Europe. This too we ought strongly to oppose as such an idea would be ruinous in its results, as it would only make copyists of our Indian artists, whereas they have displayed distinct originality in this particular art as also great proficiency.

As to mural paintings in India by Europeans we have specimens at the Victoria Memorial Hall in Calcutta. We do not desire to see that style of work perpetuated by Indians. They may not be inferior to the work done by the Bombay School of Arts, but they are not mural decorations at all as the phrase is understood in India and by Indian artists, but merely easel pictures fastened on to the wall. They are essentially un-Indian and not at all what we want to see here. Sir John Marshall has officially stated a very unfavourable opinion of them and I personally think that to every nine out of ten Indians who see them they make no appeal whatever, for they are very feeble works of art. British mural painting is still in a stage of experimentation. Indian mural painting had hardened into a received tradition, as the earliest panels of Ajanta testify nearly two thousand years ago.

The Indian point of view in decorative art, which is quite unique, is entitled to the respect due to age at least. Within its own bountiful conventions it is capable of unlimited expansion. If there is one department of national enterprise in which India is justified in refusing to be instructed by any other country whatsoever, it is in the domain of decorative art, of which, in the opinion of experts, she stands sole and unrivalled mistress.

If any Honourable Member thinks that the question of the decoration of New Delhi belongs to that class of special subjects that scarcely need come within the scope and province of this House and that it may be dealt with by experts outside of it and perhaps outside of this country, I personally strongly dissent from such a view. The art of a country is its

[Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.]

immortal part, and problems touching the art of India, touch also the soul of India and are correspondingly vital to Indians. The question that has been raised in Bombay must be answered here and cannot be referred to the architects of New Delhi for its solution, without a delegation of duty which the country will regard as a derogation from duty on the part of this House. Nor is this question one which we, as laymen, must beware of approaching. It is not necessary to be a practising architect in order to give an opinion on this question. We need not therefore be unduly moved by the criticism of the work of the Bombay School of Arts or the strong opposition to its wishes on the part of Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A., the architect of New Delhi.

In the work of that school, the soundest judges have recognised sterling promise which is ready to be ripened by the sun of opportunity. In that word, you have the crux of the problem of Indian art to-day. Indian artists are extremely poor, and cannot afford to miss any opportunity, least of all one of such magnitude as Delhi offers. They are not very articulate in their demands. Artists all the world over rarely are. But in Bombay they are asking through the School of Arts with no uncertain voice for a share of the opportunities provided at such heavy cost to the country by the extensive walls of the New Capital. And that the production of the School of Arts has fully kept pace with its aspirations no one conversant with the artistic currents of Western India can doubt. No other Art Schools of India have specialised in Higher Art Training. In the Mayo School of Arts and Crafts, Lahore, there are still no painting classes—nor anything worth mentioning in Madras, Lucknow or I am afraid we must add Calcutta. The curriculum at the Bombay School of Arts now conforms to the courses of the Royal Academy Schools of London. Students draw and paint not from copies but from the living model, and the work they have done for the Bombay room of the British Empire Exhibition shows what excellent results they can achieve and what a magnificent revival of Indian painting will follow this act of official patronage.

At the annual prize distribution of the Bombay School of Arts on 1st December last the then Governor of Bombay, Sir George Lloyd, said as follows :

“ Last year at your annual prize gathering, I appealed most urgently to the Indian public to provide that opportunity for the sake of their own national art and I expressed my strong opinion that in the decoration of New Delhi lay the immediate opportunity, which should not, indeed could not justly, be denied to the students of the oldest Art School in India. That opinion of mine has remained unchanged and to-day it is infinitely strengthened by my inspection of the admirable work that has been prepared for the British Empire Exhibition. I do not believe that further proof can be required of the School's capacity for artistic production, and I congratulate the staff and the students most heartily upon the success they have achieved.”

All those who like Sir George Lloyd have seen the work of the Bombay School of Arts, which is to be exhibited at the British Empire Exhibition, cannot but consider it as reflecting the highest credit on the School. That work will be seen by hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, at Wembley Park during this year, and I have no doubt it will be pronounced as work of the very highest order. In view of the genuine revival of Indian painting that is going on in Bombay I feel that this Resolution represents the least that can be done by this Council towards reassuring the hard-pressed School of Arts in its fight for the recognition of Indian Art as a living

factor, and of Indian artists as artists. The gift of patronage to art brings to the giver a thousand-fold return, as the history of our own country and of other countries has abundantly proved. This House has at least that gift, the gift of its official encouragement in its power to bestow, and its bestowal by means of this Resolution will signify something more than an empty expression of opinion. Besides bringing immediate hope to the Indian student of Art, the act will mark a return to the faith that his forbears had in their own art. Give them but faith and opportunity and our artists may be trusted, and speedily, to work out their own salvation and in doing so to raise our country immeasurably in self-respect and in the respect of mankind.

That the mural paintings in contemplation for the decoration of New Delhi shall be as Indian as possible and that the Arts School, Bombay, should be granted the right to be allowed to paint them, are postulates that belong, or ought to belong, to the category of foregone conclusions. Yet, Sir, there is a real and a genuine and an urgent national need for this House to adopt this Resolution, and it has fallen to my duty to-day to indicate the reality of the need, the genuineness of the Bombay School's supplication and the urgency of the case.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : General): Sir, this Resolution is of a patriotic character and 12 Nov. certainly needs the sympathy and support of Government. I do not propose to traverse the same ground and speak in support of Indian art, and also in support of the merits of the Bombay School of Arts. There is no necessity for special pleading on this occasion. The fact is very plain that, if the architects propose to go in for mural paintings in respect of the new buildings at Delhi, and that they are required to be of an Indian character, it is only right and proper that Indian art and Indian industry should be supported and encouraged. I am therefore to that extent in entire agreement with my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna, and would like to support the Resolution. But what I fear is that, if you pass this Resolution in the form in which it is now proposed, we make it of a mandatory character. We make it obligatory on the part of Government to exclude the services of all other painters of different nationalities. I really do not know what sort of paintings it is proposed to resort to in the various buildings that will be constructed. There may be a certain class of buildings in which the Indian or mural paintings may not be suitable. There may be certain buildings where perhaps Italian architecture would be necessary. There may be certain buildings where English architecture would be indispensable. For these reasons I object to the wording of the Resolution as it stands, and, though I am in entire agreement and in full sympathy with the proposal that it is the duty of the Government to see that the Indian industries and Indian arts are supported, and though I firmly believe that in the matter of cost also there will be a considerable saving if the work is entrusted to Indian artists, yet I feel that I cannot support the Resolution as it is worded. If a slight alteration is made in this Resolution, I am sure it will be acceptable to Government and the Council and no exception can be taken to it. I, therefore, by way of amendment, move that after the word "entrusted" the following words be added:

"as far, as practicable."

[Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.]

This amendment, Sir, will serve the purpose, will take away the mandatory character of the Resolution and will not exclude European and other foreign artists being employed, if it is essentially necessary, and will in no way exclude the Indian artists from obtaining the patronage that they deserve.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: To the Resolution under discussion amendment moved:

After the word "entrusted" the words "as far as practicable" be added.

That amendment and the Resolution are now under discussion.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DINSHAW WACHA (Bombay: Nominated Non-official): Sir, as an old student of the Bombay School of Arts in 1858, I have taken a great interest in that school, and I believe that during the last sixty years that it has been in existence the progress it has made is remarkable and, under the able guidance of the present Principal, Mr. Solomon, the School has attained a high degree of proficiency, particularly in mural painting. I myself have seen the mural paintings of the School and I was present at the last Exhibition, when Sir George Lloyd made those laudatory remarks to which my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna, just referred. I hope that this part of the Indian art will receive the support of Government. Properly speaking, art is always patronised by the prosperous citizens of any country. Of course, it is partly the duty of Government also to encourage it. In India, particularly, where, of course, the patrons of art and literature are so few, I think it is only right and proper on the part of Government that it should support it as far as possible as my Honourable friend, Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy has said. Therefore, I do hope that at least this Bombay School of Arts will be offered the opportunity of a trial and experiment as an encouragement. That great distinguished artist Forsgusson, who came here somewhere about 1864 or 1865 and went round the whole of India and took notes of the sculptures and architecture of India, has written two big volumes in which he highly praises the Indian art of ages past, and very often speaks of the beautiful paintings at Ajanta in terms of praise. When such an artist speaks of the Ajanta paintings in such terms, and when there are good mural painters in India, I do not think that the Government will be doing something highly praiseworthy by promoting the cause of Indian art, if they accept the Resolution. With these remarks I heartily support the proposition of the Honourable Mr. Sethna before the House.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN: (West Punjab: Muhammadan): I am glad that the craze of wheeling over the half-built Delhi to another station for the convenience of individual members is now over. It has already done a great deal of disservice because lots of people who have bought lands in the Station have been affected being in suspense as to whether to start the buildings or not. However, Sir, we have entered on another phase. I have been hearing about this new Arts School in Bombay, (*A Voice*: "It is not new.") But there are other provinces who have their own Art Schools. We have got one in the Punjab. Why not also allow artists from there to do the same work? We praise these schools because students, unless

they are backed in that way, get disheartened. But nobody has so far compared the art of the School here with the art of those in Europe. If they compare them, they will surely see that there is a great difference. What is this School learning? I think it is learning mostly from art in Europe. We are learning many things that way. No doubt, there may have been very fine arts in India before, but everything is changing and I believe, improving. So, if money has to be spent, we ought not to go to fancy schools of ourselves but we ought to see that the amount is properly spent. If we can get with this sum the best men and best material from Europe, why should we not utilise them? Because I say this, I hope my Honourable friends will not think that I am against all Indian efforts. But I only say this that if somebody has to be operated upon I am sure he would not like a student to come and operate upon him simply because he is an Indian student and that he may learn by this operation. Supposing there was a case of murder and you wanted to get the best pleader, I am sure you would not go to a Muhammadan or a Hindu simply because he is your co-religionist. We ought to recognise that the art of the country is a bit backward in some particulars. (*The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhai*: "Indian art is not backward".) I personally think that the arts of Europe are better. Why is the Bombay School called only a school and not a college? If it was a better institution they would have called it a college. It is only called the Bombay School of Arts. How are school boys going to excel their masters and professors. If we do help the School of Arts, it should be done only to the extent to which it should be encouraged. But we should not say simply that we will have only this School in spite of the best institutions and the best artists procurable in England.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY (Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour): I feel a little embarrassment in rising to speak on the subject of this Resolution which, as far as I can see, cannot be adequately discussed without going into some details as to the merits or demerits, as my Honourable friend behind me would have, of Indian pictorial art as it exists to-day; a subject in which, I must say, and must admit frankly, with all due apologies to the Council, I am less than a novice. I cannot pretend to any of the qualifications of an art critic, nor even perhaps of an art student, and I cannot follow my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna on the discussion of this subject. I am quite willing to accept what he says as to the merits of the Bombay School of Arts. I do not propose to discuss them, and, if he hopes to draw me into discussing the merits of any particular Indian school as compared with the western schools of painting or any other schools of painting, I am afraid he will be disappointed. I can only treat this Resolution on the broadest general lines, and I can say at once that the Government of India have, and I think every Member of this Council will have, the fullest sympathy with the main idea underlying this Resolution. I think that there are few who will not feel that the construction of this great new City, which is going on before our eyes, and which we all hope will be a worthy representation in stone and marble of the greatness of the British Indian Empire, does afford an opportunity for stimulating and enlarging the legitimate ambitions of Indian artists, an opportunity such as has not arisen in this country for at least 300 years. Speaking as a Member of the New Capital Committee, I can frankly say that I believe it has always been the intention of that Committee, and therefore of the Government of India, and I believe also the intention of the architects

[Mr. A. H. Ley.]

themselves, that when the time comes to put the finishing touches, so to say, on the great building which will be the Government House of the future, those finishing touches should be laid by Indian artists, if artists in India with the requisite talent can be discovered. I must however come down for a moment from these lofty themes to the consideration of one or two rather cold and hard facts. I should like to say in the first place that I think it is a little doubtful whether there will be very much scope for mural decorations of this nature in the Secretariat. There will probably be in Government House. It has always been the idea that the Durbar Hall and some of the principal State rooms in the new Government House should have decorations, probably mural paintings or some similar kind of decoration, but the scope is possibly not quite so large as my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna anticipates. In the second place, there are certain technical questions which have still to be considered. We have heard a great deal this morning, and I think quite rightly, as to the merits of modern mural painting in India; but I have heard it stated, and here I am speaking without authority as I have no technical knowledge of the subject myself, I have heard it stated by a person who is an authority on these subjects, that a suitable plaster for mural paintings in the climatic conditions which prevail in this part of India has yet to be discovered. I am not sure how far that is the case, but I have seen it stated. I have no reason to suppose that these difficulties will not be got over; but my point is that it is a question which will require close investigation and probably some prolonged experiment. Thirdly, and here I come to the main point, this work is not likely to be undertaken for some years. Some years are likely to elapse before the Government will really take up the question of decorating these buildings. There is no provision in the project estimate for work of this nature; the actual building of Government House will not be completed till 1926, and of course there is no question of undertaking mural paintings for some time to come after that. It is largely a question of finance. This Council will remember that there was a Committee on which non-officials were represented, which was appointed some time ago to go into the question of the financial scheme of New Delhi, the New Delhi Inquiry Committee, and they did go into the question of Government House. They found that it was impossible at this stage to suggest any definite economies in the construction of the building, as the general design had gone too far but they did suggest, if I remember right, in their report that work of this nature should not be undertaken until financial conditions improve. I have seen one or two estimates for the formation of studios in Delhi, one from the Principal of the Bombay School of Arts and another from the Architects and Chief Engineer of New Delhi, none of them costing less than £100,000 and probably more. It is therefore largely a question of finance and it must be some time before this work is really undertaken; and possibly it is a little academic to be discussing this question at the present moment, although I quite agree that it will be necessary for the Government of India to consider what steps they can take to discover the requisite talent in India before carrying out this work. Now, I come to deal with the precise terms of the Resolution. Here my Honourable friend Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy has stolen my fire. I have explained that it is the idea of Government, and it is the idea of the New Capital Committee, that, when the time does come, this work should be entrusted to Indian artists, if the requisite talent can be found in India. It is a question of finding

the requisite talent, but I do suggest to this Council that it is not wise to adopt a Resolution in such categorical terms as my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna wishes to put forward. Is it not better and wiser to leave to Government a certain amount of latitude to utilise the best talent they can find; for we are all anxious that work of this nature should be done by artists who are worthy of the theme. Would it not be better to leave some latitude for following the example of the greatest Indian architect—and when I say the greatest Indian architect—I say also one of the greatest architects in the history of the world? For what did Shah Jehan do? He employed Italian artists; he employed French artists; he employed Indian artists. In fact he searched the world over for the best artists he could find, to give the final decorative touches to those magnificent buildings, which are now the wonder and admiration of the world. I suggest that, although it is the intention to utilise the services of Indian artists, if artists can be found worthy of the theme, it is not wise to tie ourselves down at this day, probably some years before the work is undertaken, and still less to express any particular preference for any particular School of Art in India. Art, after all, has no boundaries, it has no geographical limits. Here I agree. I must say, with my friend Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy and my Honourable and gallant friend behind me. We do want to have some latitude in this matter, and, although I think the Government should obviously in their search for the requisite talent in India look round to different schools which may exist, they should not definitely tie themselves down to one particular school. I say nothing about what Mr. Sethna said as to the particular merits of the Bombay School of Arts. I am quite willing to accept what he said. But other schools may arise in India in the future. There are other schools in India now. We should have latitude in this matter. With this idea, Sir, if I may have your permission, I should like myself to propose an amendment, not quite in the terms of my Honourable friend, Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, but going, possibly, a little further than what he said in the direction originally desired by Mr. Sethna. What I should like to propose, if I may have your permission, Sir, would be:

“To substitute for the words ‘and preferably the Bombay School of Arts’ the following words:—

‘if the requisite talent can be found in India and that Government should consider the possibility of utilising the services of art students selected from the Schools of Art already existing in India.’”

That, I think, while pointing out the sympathy of Government with the idea underlying the Resolution, should allow a certain amount of latitude to Government in carrying out that idea.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before I put the amendment to the House, I should like to inquire from the Honourable Sir Maneckji whether this more comprehensive amendment will not enable him to withdraw his amendment.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: Yes, Sir, I think the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ley, is more elaborate and fully covers my amendment. I am quite prepared to withdraw mine.

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

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: To the Resolution under consideration an amendment moved:

"That for the words 'and preferably' to the end of the Resolution, the following words be substituted:—

'if the requisite talent can be found in India and that Government should consider the possibility of utilising the services of art students selected from the Schools of Art already existing in India.'"

That amendment is now under consideration with the original Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, in this atmosphere of what some outside this House are pleased to call unreality, and as a new-comer, I take heart in some matters. For example, when my Honourable and gallant friend from the Punjab (the Honourable Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan) tells us that in a murder case a Muhammadan would not like to be defended by a Muhammadan pleader because he is a Muhammadan or in a serious case of surgical operation he would not like to call in a Muhammadan doctor as such.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I do not think that is quite a fair statement of the Honourable Member's speech.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: It is in effect what he is good enough to say and I was going to say that I begin to take heart from this. And when Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy reminds this House that nothing mandatory ought to be adopted in this Resolution, there again is reason to take heart because one feels on Sir Maneckji's authority that now and again, at all events in regard to innocent and inoffensive subjects like this, it is possible for this House to adopt something that partakes of the mandatory character. The Honourable Mr. Ley has attempted to prove that we are dealing with an unreality so far as the remote object of this Resolution is concerned. When the time comes, when money is available, and if Indian talent can be found, Government's sympathy will be extended towards the promotion of Indian Art, particularly with regard to the mural decorative part of it. Those are big "ifs", Sir, for those who every day feel the want of a little window to their bathroom, the want of proper drainage to their compounds, the want of proper cementing to their floors. It is useless to talk in advance, according to him, of these fine artistic possibilities that may or may not crystallise except at a somewhat distant future. 1926 has been suggested as the date when the walls and the roof of Government House will probably be ready and then will come the question of decoration. Between then and now many a new "school of art" will have arisen. I do not want to take a provincial view of the proposition before the House and to urge the claims of this school or that school that is doing work in directions of this kind. Mr. Ley's amendment, if it is adopted, will cover that ground. But I do not want to let go by default the claims of my Province. Bengal is doing very useful work in this direction as those who have seen the work of artists like Mr. Arva Chaudhri, and others in the domains of mural decorations will admit. But what strikes me, Sir, in this connection is that expenses that we can afford on worthy mural decorations must be a long time in coming. Those who have been inside the Parliamentary Houses in Westminster will remember how some of the panels are still waiting for the public and not the Government to take up. Where large avoidable expenses are concerned, beyond general acceptance of the

principle that Indian Art is to be promoted as much as possible, one can hardly go. It is only in the Indian Legislature that the necessity of an elaborately discussed Resolution like this would be felt. In another country it would be a matter of course that local art ought to be utilised to the utmost possibility. That we are obliged here solemnly to record a pious Resolution that will not come into effect for a long long time is only possible and necessary in India. That we have to be content with general benedictions of the kind that Mr. Ley proposes is significant enough. I do not think any useful purpose would be served by accepting a Resolution with such remote safeguards, and we may well let the whole matter stand over and see what Arts Schools flourish and what decay.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-official): Sir, the Resolution which has been moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna distinctly points out that if the question of mural painting is to be taken up, the work should be entrusted to Indian artists and preference given to the Bombay School of Arts. So, I think the Honourable Member has rightly anticipated that it may be undertaken or may not be undertaken. I for one would not undertake this work at all, if it is to cost enormous expenditure of money, particularly as one is anxious for retrenchment in these days.

I regret I cannot support the amendment that has been moved by the Honourable Mr. Ley. There are two very serious defects in it, if I may say so. First it is stated "if the requisite talent can be found in India." I question that statement. I think the speech of the Honourable Mr. Sethna and the speeches that have followed—and I will say the remarks of Sir Dinshaw Wacha also—have shown that there is a lot of requisite talent available in India. The second clause, it seems to me, is somewhat dangerous. "And that Government should consider the possibility of utilising the services of art students, etc." That means that even if the requisite talent is available, it is to be left to the Government to consider the possibility or otherwise of entrusting the work to Indians. It also means that the Government may not care to do it at all. I therefore will not jeopardise a somewhat innocuous proposition of this description by accepting an amendment of this character which will defeat the very purpose the Honourable Mover has in view. My Honourable friend very well pointed out that, if the work of mural paintings in Delhi is to be entrusted to Western artists, it means the elimination of Indian art. I think he might have gone further and added that it is not merely the elimination of Indian art but a slur—an unmerited slur—on Indian art. I am strongly of opinion that if there is to be any provision at all for mural painting, the work should be entrusted to Indian artists.

There is one other point on which some stress has been laid. A sort of competition, if I may say so, between the work of the different Schools of Arts in India,—each one praising the work of the School of Arts in his own province—has been going on. That seems to me quite unnecessary because the Honourable Member has said "preferably to the Bombay School of Arts." The chief point is that this House should unhesitatingly give its opinion that it is anxious that, when the question of mural painting in Delhi is taken up hereafter, that work should be entrusted to Indian artists. I think that, if this is accepted, it will be satisfactory to all. I regret therefore I cannot support the amendment and I give my most hearty support to the proposition which has been moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna. .

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR (Bombay: Non-Muham-
 madan): Sir, from the time I visited the Ajanta Caves in 1883 I have been
 under the impression that we did at one time possess the best plaster,
 fresco paintings and water colours which we see there durable enough for
 centuries. I was so tempted by what I saw in the Ajanta Caves in 1883
 that I renewed by visit later on. On these two occasions I found the
 Bombay School of Arts sending out its establishment to copy for the
 benefit of the whole world the nice paintings that one discovers there—
 paintings which at later times have had to suffer at the hands of—I will
 not say visitors—but unknown individuals. Copies were being made of
 those paintings. I was told that those copies had been sent to be kept
 in the British museum. I was also told that later on those copies were
 not to be found, they were either burnt or somehow lost. There was another
 endeavour made by the School of Arts to copy these paintings again. I
 merely mention these circumstances to indicate the value of that art,
 that it is praised even to-day after two thousand years by those well-
 versed in the present day paintings, and that Indian art has not suffered.
 When I visited Tanjore, I was struck with the paintings that I saw there,
 which depict to-day for the benefit of visitors those who were the 14 rulers
 that ruled Tanjore for a certain time. After that, when I visited Pompeii
 in 1908, I was able to see the paintings on the walls of the houses excavated,
 and all visitors were struck with the durability of the colour of the paintings
 there. When in London, at the approach of the House of Commons I
 found that there were paintings which illustrated parts of history which
 are very interesting and instructive, I was so enamoured by the view I
 had of all these paintings that I thought that whenever any question of
 this kind arose I was sure to go in for some words in favour of them.
 When I visited some cities in Italy, I really found students making copies
 from the paintings that I found there, and I was struck by the beauty of
 the paintings such as appertained to the ceiling. When I found students
 copying them I wondered, if what was displayed in the various places I
 visited, could be indigenous art, and when I was told that those were their
 own arts,—not copied from other nations, but the work of their own
 artists—I thought to myself that there would dawn a day in India when
 the emporium of the whole of India might contain a magnificent edifice
 such as will accommodate at least in some small corner the exhibition of
 its own art. To whom would India say “Paint me as I am” if not to
 her own sons and daughters? Indians will be the first to imagine what
 their country is and portray nature. India alone will give opportunity
 to her own sons and daughters, not to others, to imagine what she was in
 days gone by. It is said that we must have the most beautiful art exhibited
 in this capital. Possibly we may have, but what do we exhibit thereby?
 Do I not love my child more than anybody else? In spite of the precept
 “Do unto others as you would be done by” would not India care more
 for the arts belonging to herself rather than having the best specimens
 in the world? If art were to be imported into India, it would be
 for the edification of those that have to further the glory of India, but it
 must be understood that there should be an exhibition containing not the
 best things in the world, but the best things belonging to India.

It is only in that sense that this recommendation is made. We do not
 want to tie down the hands of anybody. It is, after all, a recommendation.
 The Honourable Mr. Sethna says “if and when.” When the time comes,
 and the time must come, when it is taken in hand, is it not better to
 be prepared beforehand? Forewarned is forearmed. What is considered
 premature now should be looked upon as the best warning to be

prepared for the time. It may be that at the present moment our students may be lacking in perfection and may not stand the test of competent examination. But is it not time enough—and I think no time is too early,—to be prepared for the occasion? If we pass this Resolution here, it will be the greatest incentive to everybody concerned and, if there is any art to be found defective at the present moment, I have full faith that in time there will be a sufficient improvement of it enough to stand any test.

Then we are told that the present estimates do not contain these things. Possibly. This is a thing which has to appear after the buildings are complete. I see side by side buildings being pulled down, which contained the best specimens of the art that then existed. By the side of these I find an endeavour made—I see a struggle between art and nature. If this Delhi is to contain the best possible features of art, it must contain the best possible specimens of Indian art. In spite of the fact that the places of instruction are called schools, they are colleges in the sense that they give the best instruction possible and, when the thing is quite ready for the inception of these paintings, there will be no voice from anywhere that Indian art is wholly lacking in that capacity to stand the examination of Members here. I have great pleasure in supporting the proposition as it stands.

Speaking about the amendment I should say that it is a wide amendment. Possibly it may be that India at the present moment may not contain the best possible material, but I should think that there is time enough, and I do hope that when the Honourable Mr. Ley comes into greater power, he will see his way to utilise his influence in favour of this new art in spite of his attitude at the present moment. I therefore vote for the Resolution as it is moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: My Honourable friend, Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, has withdrawn his amendment by which he had asked for the addition of the words “as far as practicable”. “As far as practicable” we know means at the best no more than a pious hope. But my Honourable friend, Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, further says that this Resolution is of a mandatory character and so also did say the Government Member, the Honourable Mr. Ley. May I remind both these gentlemen that our Reforms have not yet reached that stage when Resolutions passed by either House of the Central Legislature are binding upon Government. That time is yet to come and I hope it will come soon. Until then, we have to be content with begging of the Government to do what the country wants it to do.

Now, Sir, I shall refer in brief to the observations made by my Honourable friends, Sir Umar Hayat Khan and Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary. The gallant Colonel first of all referred to the Bombay School as a school of yesterday. Perhaps he did not know of its existence earlier. May I inform him that the Bombay School of Arts is older than himself, that the Bombay School of Arts had for one of its principals a person who, if he is not as well known to the whole world as his son Mr. Rudyard Kipling is, was Mr. Lockwood Kipling, one of the principals of the Bombay School of Arts so far back as I believe about sixty years ago. It has had several good principals, but notably the present principal Mr. Gladstone Solomon. Then again, the gallant Colonel asked, why not students from Lahore? My Honourable friend, Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary, referred to painters in Bengal. Have I eliminated them? My Resolution clearly says “Indian artists” and says further “preferably the Bombay School

[Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.]

of Arts " for the reason to which I shall presently advert. If there are students available elsewhere in India than in Bombay, by all means avail yourself of their services. As I said in my opening remarks, so far as I know, the school to which my Honourable friends refer, have not made the same advance and the Lahore School, I believe, have no painting classes. If other schools show proficiency by all means let the students from those schools come in. In fact, that leads me on to suggest that it would be well to have in India a post-graduate course on the lines of Villa Medici in Rome to which even students from France, who win the Prix de Rome, are sent for advanced courses and I understand a similar prize called the Prix de Rome, has also recently been established for British students. If there is competition of that kind, healthy competition between different schools in India, Indian painting will have the means of a revival which it so sorely needs.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Ley, began his statement by saying that Government are in fullest sympathy with my motion. We want Government to translate that sympathy from lip sympathy to action. Times out of number Government profess sympathy with us, but just as I remarked only the other day, Government times out of number will not accept a Resolution which is put to them in the name of the people, and which we non-officials know is the opinion of the general public. The Honourable Mr. Ley says that my Resolution does not give Government enough scope. He pointed out the instance of the great Moghuls who also imported artists from other parts of the world, notably Italy. May I remind my Honourable friend that they were brought out here not for mural paintings to which my Resolution refers. They were brought out here for the purpose, particularly, of architecture. I do not say that these Indian students should design buildings at new Delhi. All I say is that these Indian students are perfectly well qualified, and better qualified in the opinion of Government experts themselves, like Sir John Marshall, to be the best workmen to-day in mural painting whether in India or anywhere else in the world. It is, Sir, for that reason that I worded my Resolution in the manner I have.

Again take the money point. I say 'if and when' in my Resolution. If Government have not the funds, surely I am not pressing them to take the work in hand immediately. Government say that the buildings will not be completed till 1926. We will wait if they like till 1928, if there is an assurance that Government will then give this work to Indian artists and preferably to the Bombay School of Arts, for the simple reason that at the present moment it is only the Bombay artists who are qualified to carry on that work in a very superior degree. I cannot see my way therefore to accept the Honourable Mr. Ley's amendment. Mr. Ley puts in the words "if the requisite talent be found in India?" What is the assumption he makes thereby? He absolutely denies the existence of such talent.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: No, Sir. I never made that statement.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Then why not eliminate those words? I say that that talent exists. I refer the Council to men like Sir Francis Oppenheimer and Sir John Marshall, whose testimony Government will accept anywhere except it would appear for the purpose

of accepting my Resolution. The next part of the Government amendment reads: "and that Government should consider the possibility of utilising the services of art students selected from the Schools of Art already existing in India." What does this imply? Are not Government prepared to say that, if and when they will get the funds, they will utilise their services for certain. They are evidently not so prepared to do and that is because Government will rely on the opinion of their experts. Mind you, not experts in painting but in architecture.

In my remarks I challenged Government and I said that one of the architects of New Delhi, Sir Edwin Lutyens, is opposed to giving this work to the Bombay School of Arts. There is not a word in reply from the Government Member to that charge. I understand that the buildings at Raisina are in charge of two architects, one is Sir Edwin Lutyens and the other Mr. Herbert Baker. I made no reference to Mr. Baker, because I do not know if Mr. Baker is favourably disposed to the Bombay School or not. If Mr. Baker is not opposed to the proposal in my Resolution and if, as I understand, the work of the most prominent buildings at New Delhi is divided between these two eminent architects then, if Mr. Ley is prepared to say that Government will give the work to the Bombay School of Arts or to other Indian artists, no matter where they come from in buildings which are constructed by Mr. Baker, I am prepared to accept such an amendment. As regards the Government amendment, I can only say that it attempts to shelve the question, because at a later date 1926 or 1928 Government will come down and say "Our architects do not advise us." Why should an architect advise in a case of this kind? Why should Government take the advice of architects in matters relating to painting? Honourable Members of the Council who belong to the legal profession will hold with me that there is a *prima facie* case against accepting the opinion of an architect on matters of pure painting. That being so, I regret I am not able to accept Mr. Ley's amendment.

I am much obliged to my friend the Honourable Mr. Vedamurti for passing on to me within the last few minutes a telegram which appeared in Indian Newspapers and is dated London, 5th February. In that telegram there is the opinion of another authority in regard to the value of Indian painting. Sir Charles Holmes, Director of the National Gallery, speaking quite unofficially at a meeting of the India Society, said:

"that he was eager to see the great paintings of India, Persia and China and Japan represented in our national gallery side by side with the great paintings of Europe. In saying this he must not be thought to disparage or to be complaining about what had been done for oriental art by the British Museum and the Victoria Albert Museum. That was beyond all praise. But there was a function which those museums could not perform. Only by accepting the great painters of the East in juxtaposition with the great painters of Europe could we properly estimate, proclaim and emphasise the place of the East in the vital artistic achievements of the world. Our knowledge of art was not complete until we could include paintings of India, Persia, China and Japan in the same comprehensive vision with which we surveyed the works of Northern and Southern Europe."

Sir, I am sorry I have to press my Resolution for the acceptance of the Council to the exclusion of the amendment moved by the Honourable the Government Member. I shall be content to wait until such time as Government are in funds, but what I want is an assurance that, when funds are available, Government will entrust this work to Indian artists. As I have said in my previous remarks, if there is such an assurance and if the assurance is to apply only to the buildings which are in the charge of Mr. Baker, then too I shall be exceedingly thankful and will accept such an

[Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.]

amendment. If not, I have no other recourse except to press my motion. But before doing so, I will appeal to the Honourable the Leader of the House, as he did on the occasion of the Nobel Prize question, to request official Members not to vote on this question. This will give a clear indication of the feeling of the people on the question as expressed on their behalf by non-official Members.

It is all very well for Government to come forward with amendments as they have done. There has hardly been a Resolution by a non-official Member of this Council, which is now in its fourth year, which has been accepted *in toto* by Government without some sort of change or other. I do not know why they are so keen on changes. I do not know whether they consider that non-officials in this House do not understand their business and that it is only they who do.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I would remind the Honourable Member that the change in the Resolution was suggested by the Council and not by the Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE G. SETHNA: That enables me to return to the charge I made a week ago to-day that the constitution of this Council is such that no matter whatever Resolution non-official members may bring, it is not possible for them to get it passed unless Government are favourably inclined. That is my complaint and therefore the constitution of the Council ought to be changed.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is not the point before the Council.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE G. SETHNA: Then, Sir, I would remind the Government Benches that crores of rupees are being spent on New Delhi. It is the tax-payer's money. The man who pays the piper must have the right to call the tune. Therefore, I do want Government to give us the assurance I ask for and I hope that the Council will accept my Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna, that the money being spent on New Delhi is the tax-payer's money. I believe that every Member of this House is included in the category of "tax-payer", including the officials, and therefore I see no reason why I should give the direction to officials that my Honourable friend wants me to do.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Sir, I did not imagine when I put forward what I thought was a harmless amendment to the Resolution that it would cause so much heat. After all, there seems to me to be very little difference between the terms of the amendment and the terms of the Resolution. All I have said in the amendment is that, if the talent could be found in India, it should be utilised, and that I stick to, and that is the intention of Government. If it is found in India, it will be utilised. I was particular not to be drawn into any discussion as to the merits of the Bombay School of Arts in particular. I am really not competent to discuss them. I have said that I was, speaking personally, quite willing to accept Mr. Sethna's opinion. But there is very little difference between the amendment to the Resolution and the original Resolution. There is this difference that we are not tying ourselves down, except to the extent that Indian artists should be utilised, if Indian artists can be found worthy

of the theme. That is all the amendment says and I think it is a perfectly reasonable proposition. I understood from my Honourable friend's remarks that he understood, or had heard, that Sir Edwin Lutyens was entirely against this proposition. Well, I am afraid I know nothing of that at all. I do not know what Sir Edwin Lutyens' views on the subject are. All I do know is that it has been the express intention of the New Capital Committee—and I believe of the architects, but I am speaking without definite authority here,—that, if the right talent could be found in India, it should be utilised. That is all the Resolution, as I wish to see it amended, says. There is no idea at the present moment of bringing out any Italian artists or English artists or any other kind of artists. The simple fact is that we have not yet got to the time, when we are going to consider this. All that is being done is that we are getting on with the work of construction and we shall leave it to the future to decide, when the buildings are completed. But I say that it should be done by Indian artists, if Indian artists can be found who are worthy of the theme, and who can do it. I am quite prepared to say that, if the Bombay School of Arts or any other School of Art, is found to be worthy of the work, they will be given it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Found worthy by whom?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: By Government, in consultation with their expert advisers.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Expert architects?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Well, it may be.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: I suppose the Committee will have to decide.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: If the Committee are in existence at the time we undertake the mural decorations, they will probably have a voice in the matter. But I suspect they will long have ceased to exist. I suppose the architects, if they are alive at the time, will be consulted. It is really a rather premature discussion at the present moment. After all, the one thing that has got to be borne in mind is that the decorations which are undertaken in these buildings will certainly have to be in consonance with the general theme of the buildings, and it will probably be done by Indian artists, because after all the general theme of the building is semi-oriental at any rate. All that I have suggested in this amendment is that we should not tie Government's hands but simply say: if we can find the talent for this work in India, Indian talent will be used. I submit that this is an entirely reasonable proposition.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The original Resolution moved was:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that if and when the work of mural paintings in the buildings at Raisina, including the Government House and the Secretariat, is taken in hand, the same be entrusted to Indian artists and preferably to the Bombay School of Arts."

To that Resolution an amendment was moved:

"That for the words 'and preferably' to the end the following words be substituted:

'if the requisite talent can be found in India and that Government should consider the possibility of utilising the services of art students selected from the Schools of Art already existing in India.'"

[The President.]

The question before the House is whether that amendment should be made or not.

The Council divided :

AYES—24.

Akbar Khan, Major Nawab.
Amin-ul-Islam, Mr.
Amiruddeen Ahmad Khan, Nawab Bahadur.
Barron, Mr. C. A.
Bell, Mr. J. W. A.
Briscoe, Mr. H. K.
Chadwick, Mr. D. T.
Crerar, Mr. J.
Dadabhoy, Sir Maneckji.
Ley, Mr. A. H.
MacWatt, Major-General R. C.
McWatters, Mr. A. C.

Misra, Pandit Sham Bihari.
Muhammad Hussain, Mr. Ali Baksh.
Rafique, Sir Muhammad.
Sarma, Sir Narasimha.
Shafi, Dr. Mian Sir Muhammad.
Shepherd, Mr. W. C.
Singh, Sirdar Charanjit.
Stow, Mr. A. M.
Thompson, Mr. J. P.
Umar Hayat Khan, Col. Nawab Sir.
Zahir-ud-din, Mr.
Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sir.

NOES—13.

Abdul Karim, Maulvi.
Aoharyya Chaudhuri, Maharaja S. K.
Ismail Khan, Mr.
Karandikar, Mr. R. P.
Khaparde, Mr. G. S.
Natesan, Mr. G. A. A. A.
Rampal Singh, Raja Sir.

Sarvadhikary, Sir D. P.
Sastri, Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa.
Sethna, Mr. P. C.
Sinha, Mr. Sukhbir.
Vedamurti, Mr. S.
Wacha, Sir Dinshaw.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The further question is that the 1 P.M. amended Resolution be adopted, namely :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that if and when the work of mural paintings in the buildings at Raisina, including the Government House and the Secretariat, is taken in hand the same be entrusted to Indian artists if the requisite talent can be found in India and that Government should consider the possibility of utilising the services of art students selected from the Schools of Art already existing in India."

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: With reference to the next Resolution* on the paper, I notice that there is practically no business for to-morrow. It may be convenient—I leave it to the House—it may be convenient to the Mover of the Resolution and the Member in charge of it, if the Leader of the House agrees, to take that Resolution up to-morrow. I would ask the Mover if he agrees to this.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI (Burma: General): Yes, Sir.

(The Honourable Mr. A. H. Ley and the Honourable Dr. Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi also agreed to this course).

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: We will therefore take the next Resolution to-morrow. That will avoid an afternoon sitting and also give work for to-morrow.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 12th February, 1924.

* This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the New Capital Committee, Delhi, be reconstituted with non-official members in the majority."