

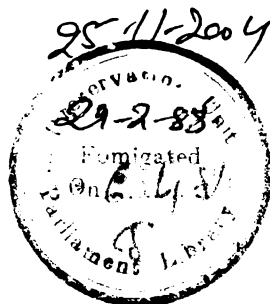
Tuesday, 17th February, 1925

THE COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

Volume V

(20th January to 26th March 1925)

FIFTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, 1925



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 17th February, 1925.

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

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the Honourable Mr. Sethna's question in the Council of State on the 22nd January, 1925, on the subject of the number of Trustees and the number of non-official and official Indians on the different Port Trusts.

Statement showing the total number of Trustees and the number of non-official and official Indians on the different Port Trusts on the 1st January 1925.

Name of Port Trust.	Total number of Trustees.	Number of non-official Indians.	Number of official Indians.	REMARKS.
1. Madras Port Trust . .	15	4	Nil.	
2. Bombay " "	21	8	Nil.	
3. Karachi " "	11	3	Nil.	
4. Aden " "	10	2	1	
5. Calcutta Port Commissioners	16	2	Nil.	
6. Chittagong Port "	9	2	2	
7. Rangoon " "	13	1	Nil.	

INDIAN SOLDIERS—(LITIGATION) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR (Home Secretary): Sir, I move:

"That the amendments made by the Legislative-Assembly in the Bill to consolidate and amend the law to provide for the special protection in respect of civil and revenue litigation of Indian soldiers serving under special conditions, be taken into consideration."

Since this measure was last before the House, it has been considered in another place where it was referred to a Select Committee, the report

[Mr. J. Crerar.]

of which is before the House. Honourable Members will observe that the Select Committee recommended some minor amendments which have been adopted by the Assembly and are now for the consideration of this House. I need not detain the House very long in indicating the nature of these amendments, which I think it will be agreed, are improvements in the Bill. The first amendments are made in clauses 7 and 9 of the Bill, the result of which is to give the benefit of postponement of proceedings to soldier plaintiffs and defendants—a slight extension of the original Bill, but entirely within its policy and intention. The second amendment has been made in sub-clause (2) of clause 10. Some apprehensions were expressed as to whether this clause as originally framed would not operate to raise doubts whether the benefit to the soldier litigant of Article 164 of the Schedule to the Indian Limitation Act might not be prejudiced. The object of this amendment, therefore, is to make it clear that such protection as a soldier already possessed under Article 164 of the Schedule to the Limitation Act will still continue to operate in his favour. The third amendment is in clause 11 of the Bill and it follows the analogy of section 13 of the Indian Limitation Act, which provides that in computing the period of limitation prescribed for any suit the time during which the defendant has been absent from British India and from the territories beyond British India under the administration of Government shall be excluded. Here again we are merely inserting the provision of the Limitation Act into the present Bill for the removal of all doubts in the matter. There is a minor drafting amendment in sub-clause (4) clause 10, to which I do not think I need refer more specifically. These are the amendments for the consideration of Honourable Members and I think my explanation will be adequate to make clear their intention. I make the motion standing in my name.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

“That the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in the Bill to consolidate and amend the law to provide for the special protection in respect of civil and revenue litigation of Indian soldiers serving under special conditions be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Amendments made by the Legislative Assembly:

- “(i) In sub-clause (1) the figures ‘1925’ were substituted for the figures ‘1924’;
and
- (ii) in sub-clause (3) the word ‘April’ was substituted for the word ‘January’.”

The question is that this Council do agree to that amendment.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: No. 2. “In clause 7 of the Bill the words ‘in respect of’ were substituted for the words ‘as against’ wherever they occur.”

The question is that this Council do agree to that amendment.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: No. 3. "In clause 9 of the Bill the words 'in respect of' were substituted for the words 'as against'."

The question is that this Council do agree to that amendment.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: No. 4. "In clause 10 of the Bill—

(i) in sub-clause (1) the word 'April' was substituted for the word 'January'."

The question is that this Council do agree to that amendment.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: "(ii) In sub-clause (2) between the words 'decree or order' and the words 'during no part' the following words were inserted, namely:—'or where the summons or notice was not duly served on the applicant, after the date on which the applicant had knowledge of the decree or order'."

The question is that this Council do agree to that amendment.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: "(iii) In sub-clause (4)—(a) the words 'Where a' were substituted for the words 'If the', (b) for the word 'the' occurring between the words 'sets aside' and the words 'decree or' the letter 'a' was substituted, and (c) the words and figures 'sub-sections (1) and (3) of' were omitted."

The question is that this Council do agree to those amendments.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: No. 5. "In clause 11 of the Bill for the words 'in which the plaintiff, appellant or applicant' the words 'any party to which' were substituted, and the word 'April' was substituted for the word 'January'."

The question is that this Council do agree to those amendments.

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN PORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

The object of this Bill which I ask leave to introduce is to enable Local Governments to issue rules regulating the bunkering of vessels with liquid fuel within port limits and the description of barges, pipe lines and tank vessels to be employed in any such bunkering. The need for this amendment of the Act arises from a very simple fact. The Indian Ports Act was passed in 1908, and at that date there were very few ships, if any, that were burning liquid fuel. Since that date liquid fuel as a means of power for marine purposes has become much more common. It is therefore necessary to provide facilities for the bunkering of such ships at our ports, and bunkering not infrequently has to take place from lighters or barges

[Mr. D. T. Chadwick.]

or from the vehicles on the dock side. It is therefore obviously desirable that the Port Trustees or rather the Local Governments should be in a position to issue rules in regard to such bunkering and in regard to the specification of such vehicles in the interests of the safety of the other merchandise and ships in the harbour. That need has arisen in Bombay. This amendment is made at the direct request of the Bombay Port Trust and the Bombay Government. That is the reason, Sir, why I beg leave to introduce this Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908."

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE, DELHI.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to take steps to secure the appointment to the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, of one Member of this House to be nominated by him from a panel of three Members to be elected by this House."

Honourable Members are doubtless aware of the circumstances under which the Lady Hardinge Medical College came into existence and the great historical event which it was intended to commemorate. The Government of India have from its inception not merely provided land for the location of this college, but have been making an annual grant for its upkeep. That grant this day stands at the figure of two lakhs per annum. The affairs of this institution have been managed by a Governing Body presided over by the Honourable Director General of the Indian Medical Service. It was felt—and I think very rightly—that a few Members of both the Houses should be associated with this Governing Body. The Governing Body itself has suggested to the Government of India that steps may be taken to secure that end and I have, therefore, Sir, the honour to move this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Resolution moved:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to take steps to secure the appointment to the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, of one Member of this House to be nominated by him from a panel of three Members to be elected by this House."

The question is that that Resolution be adopted.

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE PANEL FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: Sir, I beg to move:

“That this Council do proceed to elect in the manner described in the Department of Education, Health and Lands Notification No. 114, dated the 7th February, 1924, a panel of 8 members from which the members of the Standing Committee to advise on questions relating to emigration in the Department of Education, Health and Lands will be nominated.”

In doing so, I will merely state that my Honourable colleague Sir Narasimha Sarma had made a similar motion about this time last year and the Council had on that occasion elected a panel of 8 members from out of whom the Member in charge, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General, had appointed 4 members. That Committee is now functioning. According to the rules its term of office will expire on the 5th March next and 't is, therefore, necessary to adopt measures to secure the re-election of that Committee. In passing, I may observe, Sir, that that Committee has been doing very useful work and rendering very valuable assistance in giving advice regarding the solution of problems which are placed before it for its advice. I, therefore, Sir, have much pleasure in moving this motion.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

“That this Council do proceed to elect in the manner described in the Department of Education, Health and Lands Notification No. 114, dated the 7th February, 1924, a panel of 8 members from which the members of the Standing Committee to advise on questions relating to emigration in the Department of Education, Health and Lands will be nominated.”

The motion was adopted.

With reference to the motion just carried by the House, I have to announce that nominations will be received in the office of the Council up till 11 A.M. on Friday next.

RESOLUTION *RE* INVESTIGATION INTO THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF CHOTA NAGPUR, ETC.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HAROON JAFFER* (Bombay Presidency: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to undertake a full investigation at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and to consider the advisability of establishing thereat a School or Institute of Mining.”

In moving this Resolution, I hasten to point out that I am not asking for a committee of inquiry, as was the case with the Resolution moved yesterday, for which I believe my Honourable friend Mr. Ley will doubtless be extremely pleased. I find him smiling, and I therefore consider it a good augury for my Resolution to be accepted by the Government. Here, I am dealing with a highly technical subject about which I presume it will be advisable to say comparatively little, leaving it to this Honourable House to pass my Resolution so that Government can undertake a full investigation into the matter without feeling that their action will be condemned as extravagance when we come to discuss the Budget.

[Mr. Haroon Jaffer.]

There was a time when India was looked upon as a vast treasure-house of precious gems and valuable minerals, but to-day, generally speaking, we seem to have lost sight of the sources of these commodities and to take but very little interest in prospecting for mineral wealth. It is because of this that I have ventured to move my Resolution, and I have selected Chota Nagpur as the seat of my proposed School or Institute of Mining because I know that the Chota Nagpur area is very rich in mineral resources. It is a wonderfully mineralised country, with rich deposits of gold, copper, manganese, iron, and other valuable minerals. An Institute or School of Mining located in that area would have abundant opportunity of paying its own way, as well as providing young Indians with a geological bent an opportunity of learning a profession which would give them an independent career and incidentally make them of great service to the country.

Sir, such an Institute would, of course, carry on other work than the mere localised task of exploiting the resources of Chota Nagpur. India has a large number of mineral deposits which are, unquestionably, the world's best, particularly, in the case of mica, manganese, graphite, baryta, bauxite, monazite, and corundum. But want of knowledge is doing untold harm in connection with the production and the export of these minerals, especially mica and graphite. Mica mining, with but a few exceptions under European management, is being carried on, in a most unmineral-like way, whilst when it comes to export there is absolutely no attempt made to grade it before shipment. The same applies with more or less equality to the production of graphite.

As for other metals of the more common variety, it must be admitted that the fullest opportunity to get the best out of the earth is very rarely manifested. Iron ore deposits are plentiful all over India and, if only the work was properly organised and controlled, the known deposits could be worked not only to supply all India's needs but also for a good export trade. Copper deposits have been found in many localities, but no real serious endeavour has been made to exploit them, except in the copper belt where it extends over 80 miles in length, from Dalbhoom to Kerson in the district of Singhbhoom. But probably for want of proper direction the mining here has not proved a financial success. The only part of India, in which gold mining is being carried on successfully, is in the Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore. Indians of ancient days had mined in almost precisely the same spots, and there was evidence that the ancients had gone deep for their treasure. Our modern engineers have taken the hint and at a depth of about three thousand feet have found their efforts amply rewarded.

In the direction of petroleum, much could be done by such an Institute of Mines. Of all India's minerals, it has the greatest future ahead of it, for the resources of Bengal, combined with those of Assam and Burma, are large enough to supply all of India's needs which are now being mainly supplied by foreign countries at prices that are manifestly absurd. Drillers trained at such a School or Institute of Mining would be of the greatest use to go-ahead prospectors, and their work would lead to tremendous benefits.

What can be done in the direction of utilising India's minerals has been demonstrated during the past few years, by the "Big Push" given to the Steel Industry, by the Tata Steel Works, at Jamshedpur. It has

been demonstrated in more ways than one that in the field of hematite ore in the Singhbhum district and in Keonjhar State India is rendered potentially one of the world's greatest sources of iron and steel. The computed content of this field is 2,800 million tons of ore, so that the industrial question of the moment is the feasibility of converting this theoretic wealth into an economic possession which will justify the expenditure of capital on its exploitation, give work to many hundreds of thousands of workers, and provide the basis whereon alone in India can be reared the great experiment of educating the masses and alleviating the drabness and the misery of their present existence. Government have recently shown their appreciation of the importance of this mineral wealth by giving the steel subsidy, but unless plans are made to educate trained geologists and engineers, such beneficence will be robbed of much of its value. India is at the door of her opportunity, for her mineral resources are, to say the least, very attractive. The great aim of the country should be to win a high place among the industrial nations, but she can only do this by liberal exploitation of her mineral resources. Let Government give the lead by the establishment of some such Institute or School of Mining as my Resolution suggests, and I am sure that the great men of the country will respond. Most of them know by experience that metal begets metal, and that more often than not base metal produces precious metal. So if we start to train our young men into being geologists and enthuse them with a love for mining, then we can expect in the future to stand a chance of developing her industries and holding her own in the markets of the world.

I have painted but a skeleton picture of what such an Institute will mean, but I hope that I have said sufficient to make Government decide to conduct such an investigation as I ask for and to consider very seriously the establishment of an institution of study and research and propaganda in the heart of that wonderfully wealthy spot at Chota Nagpur.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. H. BERTHOUD (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official): Sir, as I come to this Council from Bihar and Orissa and have had charge of districts in Chota Nagpur for several years as Deputy Commissioner, I have something to say on this Resolution. The Honourable Member asks the Council to make two recommendations to the Governor General in Council. The first is that a full investigation be undertaken at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur. The second is, to consider the advisability of establishing a School or Institute of Mining there.

Sir, it is a long way from Poona to Chota Nagpur and I am afraid that the Honourable Member has not been very well informed as to what is going on there. As regards his second request the Government of India has long ago anticipated his wish. A school of Mining at Dhanbad in the Chota Nagpur Division has not only been sanctioned at a cost of nearly 10 lakhs of rupees, but the construction commenced last November and the main buildings are well above the plinth level.

As regards the Honourable Member's first request, the development of the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur is a matter for which the Local Government of Bihar and Orissa is responsible and that Government is fully alive to its responsibility. In 1921, after an exhaustive debate in the local Legislative Council, a Resolution was passed that a committee consisting of non-officials and officials be appointed to examine the possibilities and the methods of development of the mineral resources of this

[Mr. E. H. Berthoud.]

Province and to suggest how far the revenues of the Province can be increased by such resources. This Committee was appointed in 1922 and sat for a year and published its report in 1923. The chief result of the Committee's deliberations was to show that there was no novel form of action which Government could take to expedite the development of minerals in the Province, and that the exploitation of these resources must depend in the future as in the past on private capital and enterprise and that action on the part of Government can only take the form of giving all reasonable assistance and encouragement to the private investor or qualified pioneer. With a view to giving such assistance to the private pioneer a handbook was published last year on the mineral and mining resources of Bihar and Orissa, which I commend to the Honourable Member's attention. Amongst other valuable material in that handbook will be found an exhaustive article by Dr. Fermor on the Mineral Resources of Bihar and Orissa which shows what a very large amount of investigation has already been done in Chota Nagpur. In addition to this there has recently been special work by Mr. Jones and Dr. Pascoe on the iron deposits in Singhbhum, and an exhaustive investigation has recently been made into the mica deposits in Hazaribagh by Mr. Hobson, an Assistant Superintendent of the Geological Survey. The Geological Survey has also a working party in the Province which is at present in the feudatory states of Orissa. This party is following up the topographical survey by the Survey of India and it will move into the Palamau district of Chota Nagpur in about two years' time when the topographical survey is completed. Lastly, the Government of Bihar and Orissa gives every facility to the *bona fide* private prospector who means business and it is for him to complete detailed investigation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY (Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour): Sir, after what my Honourable friend on my left has said, there is very little for me to say on this subject. I should be quite prepared to accept a portion of this Resolution, but not the whole of it. As the Honourable Mr. Berthoud has pointed out, it falls into two parts and my objection to the first part is not only that, as Mr. Berthoud pointed out, Development of Mineral Resources is a provincial subject which is not the immediate concern of the Governor General in Council. That is one objection; there is another, and I should like to develop a little what my Honourable friend said with regard to the extent to which Government, that is, the Central Government, can assist the development of mineral enterprise in the manner suggested by the Honourable Member.

I think there are two forms of technical expert knowledge required for the development of a particular area of land or a particular mineral enterprise. One is the theoretical knowledge, which is provided by the geologist. The other is the practical knowledge, which is provided by the mining engineer. It is with regard to the first, and the first only, I think, that any real assistance can be given by Government in a matter of this kind. Now I do not want to elaborate what my Honourable friend said. The geological data of Chota Nagpur are perfectly well known already and I am quite sure; if my Honourable friend studies the very useful handbook published by the Local Government, he will find there very full and complete information on the mineral resources of the Province. Indeed I rather doubt whether there is a single portion of India whose mineral resources are better known than those of Chota Nagpur. Practically the whole of

Chota Nagpur has been geologically surveyed, except a very small portion of the southern part of the district of Singhbhum, and there is a geological party there now as my Honourable friend pointed out. Indeed during the last 5 years something like 2,200 square miles of Chota Nagpur have been surveyed, or resurveyed, by the Geological Survey of India. I am quite prepared to admit that it does not necessarily follow that the Geological Survey have completed all the investigation that is necessary in that area. Some of that survey is undoubtedly old, carried out at a time when field methods and laboratory methods were perhaps not so informative as they are now. But I can assure the Honourable Member, and I can assure this Council, that the Director of the Geological Survey and his Department have this matter perpetually in their mind and are doing all that they can possibly do for finally completing the geological survey of this district. They are as a matter of fact just about to undertake a resurvey of the whole of the coalfields of India, the object of that being the very important one of ascertaining fairly approximate estimates of the reserves of high grade coal in the country, and they will take up that work as soon as they can. So that there is no question of any kind of special investigation, which could be conducted by Government, into the mineral resources of the Province, which could be usefully undertaken now that has not been undertaken in the past. Then of course there is the constitutional objection. That is my objection to the first part of the Resolution. The second part I certainly am prepared to accept, because it is really advising Government to do what they have been doing, as my Honourable friend pointed out. . . .

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: Government are not doing it in Chota Nagpur.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: At Dhanbad. Nobody denies the great importance, which my Honourable friend puts forward, of providing really first class and adequate mining education in the neighbourhood of the mining districts. Nobody denies also, I think, the want that there is at present, and there has been in the past, of really adequate facilities for first class mining and geological education. But I need not remind the Council again, as my Honourable friend has already done it, that the Government of India in 1920 issued a formal Resolution announcing their intention of establishing just such a school as my Honourable friend wants for the purpose of providing those facilities and giving the training that is required. It is quite true that the preliminary steps for the establishment of that school were postponed for some period for financial reasons, but that difficulty, as the Council is well aware, has now come to an end. Money has been provided, and the school is actually in course of construction, and I may mention that it is hoped that construction will have so far advanced that it may be possible to open the first year classes by the autumn of this year. It has always been the express intention—expressed in the Resolution of the Government of India in 1920—that this institution should be of collegiate rank, in which the very highest form of teaching in the art of mining and its accessory sciences will be provided, and that will be done. The school will include an associateship course of 4 years' duration in geology and mining engineering and diploma courses of 3 years' duration in geology, coal mining and metalliferous mining. It is proposed that the school should be known by the designation of the Indian School of Mines, and every possible step will be taken by Government to push on its construction as fast as funds can be provided. I do

[Mr. A. H. Ley.]

not know whether, with this explanation, my Honourable friend would be prepared to withdraw his Resolution, or possibly to omit the first part of it. If he did that, I would be quite prepared to accept it. I understood from his speech that what he was really driving at was a School or an Institute for teaching the art of mining and its accessory sciences, and if that is his intention and he would confine his Resolution to that, I would accept it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR (Bombay: Non-Muham-
madan): Sir, this is a very important matter and I hope and trust that some way will be found out so to amend the Resolution that is before this House as to make it acceptable to all. I am of the opinion that the Government are indicating the proper line in which the Resolution may be amended, and if it serves the purpose I would recommend the amendment of the Resolution by dropping out the words "to undertake a full investigation at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and" If these words are dropped, the Resolution will read:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to consider the advisability of establishing thereat a School or Institute of Mining."

The exact wording of the Resolution may be considered further if the mover of the Resolution agrees to this amendment. I trust that this amended Resolution may commend itself to the whole House.

Before I conclude I have just to draw the attention of the House to a fact which perhaps has been left unnoticed for a considerably long time. Mining operations have attracted the attention of ancients in India, and referring to Kautilya's Arthasastra, which is dated the 3rd century before Christ, I find a whole chapter devoted to the discussion of this important branch of education. Chapter 12 of that compilation, which is a translation by Dr. Shamasastri, deals with this matter in various aspects. It speaks of the Superintendent of Mines; it speaks of where the minerals are to be found. It speaks also of the liquids and it also speaks of ocean mines and winds up by saying—it is a very important statement so far as the treasury is concerned:

"Mines are the sources of treasury; from treasury comes the power of Government; and the earth whose ornament is treasury is acquired by means of treasury and army."

The whole chapter is very suggestive of what had been done by the ancients. Undoubtedly the matter came to be neglected for a very very long time, and it appears to us now as if fresh endeavours are being made to unearth what India contains for the benefit of her children. But it is absolutely necessary that whatever is hidden underneath Indian soil should be brought out by scientific means. The ancient methods will not do. We must have scientific methods, and education to that extent is absolutely necessary. It is in this view that I have emboldened myself to suggest the amendment which I trust may be acceptable to the House. A few formal changes here and there might bring us to a proper conclusion.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I would point out to the Honourable Member and to the Council that the suggestion of an amendment does not carry us very much further. Does the Honourable Member move the amendment?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: I do move the amendment to drop out the words "to undertake a full investigation at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and". Those words may be dropped, because Government have been doing it. The Resolution will then be to consider the advisability of establishing thereat a school, etc. Of course the word "thereat" loses its force. I therefore move the amendment, and the amended Resolution will read:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to consider the advisability of establishing in Chota Nagpur a School or Institute of Mining."

I move that amendment, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Amendment moved:

"To omit from the Resolution the following words:

'to undertake a full investigation at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and'

and for the word 'thereat' to substitute the words 'in Chota Nagpur'."

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces: General): Sir, in view of what has fallen from my Honourable friend Mr. Karandikar and the charge of supposed neglect which he has brought apparently against the administration or Government, I, as one . . .

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: I have never done it.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: I, as one who is somewhat intimately connected with the mineral industries of this country, coal mines, manganese mines, copper mines, etc., am entitled to express some opinion on the subject. Sir, as regards the first part of this Resolution my Honourable friend Mr. Berthoud has made the matter abundantly clear. The geological reports which have been published for the last 40 years, or rather since 1860, contain an abundant mass of information regarding every mineral that can be found or is traced or is traceable not only in the districts of Chota Nagpur but in other parts of Bihar and Orissa, in Bengal, in the Central Provinces and in parts of southern India south. This information is available to anybody who cares to obtain it, and I do not think anything further will be gained by a re-examination of the subject or by going over what has been done so efficiently in the past by the Geological Department. The work of the Geological Department has been considerably supplemented by mineral prospectors and I assure my Honourable friend Mr. Karandikar, that there is no part of Bihar which has not been tramped over a thousand times by ardent prospectors in search of minerals. I know this as a matter of fact, because on various occasions I had to send my own prospectors to the various parts of the country, and the information which I received made it perfectly clear to my mind that it would be hardly possible to supplement the useful and exhaustive labours of the Geological Department. In Chota Nagpur not only have some minerals like mica and iron been found, but they are worked on a very large and extensive scale. My Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution has referred to the copper belt extending over 80 miles as he said in that part of the country. I myself had something to do with it and I tell you I lost money over it. (*The Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary*: "Bad survey.") Sir, in Giridih itself one copper mine was started by the Cape Copper Company and it had lately to be shut down because it was not a paying concern and could not compete with the South African mines.

[Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.]

As regards the second part of this Resolution, the Honourable Mr. Ley has pointed out what the Government have been already doing in the matter. The Council is perhaps not aware that private mineral holders are doing considerably more than the Government could possibly do in the matter. The proprietors of many private concerns have apprentices in their establishments under their mining engineers in which mining is being taught. In my own concerns I have got a system of apprentices and I largely employ Indian apprentices and they are trained there. But my difficulty in this matter, which has also been realised by many other people connected with the mining industry in this country, is to find out careers for these apprentices. I know of several Indian gentlemen who had gone to England and received excellent mining training. They have now been in this country for some years and have not been able to get suitable appointments. That is the real misfortune. I have no doubt that the School of Mining which has already been established and which will begin work next autumn, as the Honourable Mr. Ley pointed out, will impart useful knowledge and instruction. A class of mining engineers will be prepared in that institution, but the difficulty is to find suitable careers for these people. Now, what is happening in the coal mines of Bengal? There are so many coal mines in Bengal and I speak from some personal knowledge when I tell you that in most of these coal mines in Bengal, even in Jharia itself, we find that small proprietors never care to appoint or put their mines in charge of qualified men. There is under the Mines Act a certain obligation to appoint one qualified man in charge of the mine. That is being done and there the matter rests. I say that the resources of the country are being dissipated and squandered by mismanagement and by refusal to employ a proper class of people. The fact must be brought home to the proprietors of minerals that the minerals underground are a source of wealth to the country and on the proper conservation of minerals and management of those mines depend the industrial future of the country.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HAROON JAFFER: Sir, I was very glad to hear from my Honourable friend Mr. Berthoud that there was some investigation made into the resources of Chota Nagpur. But only in November last some geologists and others took part in a meeting held at the Rotary Club, Calcutta, and among them was Dr. Fermor of the Indian Geological Survey. It was then thought that it was necessary that there should be an investigation into the mineral resources of that part of the country. However, if the Government of India concur with what my Honourable friend has said then there is an end to it.

With regard to the amendment proposed by the Honourable Mr. Karandikar I think it meets the wishes of my Honourable friend Mr. Ley. I therefore raise no objection to it. I accept the amendment proposed.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Sir, I am prepared to accept that amendment.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The original question was that the following Resolution be adopted:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to undertake a full investigation at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and to consider the advisability of establishing thereat a School or Institute of Mining."

Since which an amendment has been moved to omit from the Resolution the words:

“to undertake a full investigation at an early date into the mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and.”

The question is that those words be omitted.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Further amendment moved:

“That for the word ‘thereat’ the words ‘in Chota Nagpur’ be substituted.”

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question then is that the following Resolution, as amended, be adopted:

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to consider the advisability of establishing in Chota Nagpur a School or Institute of Mining.”

The motion was adopted.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 18th February, 1925.
