

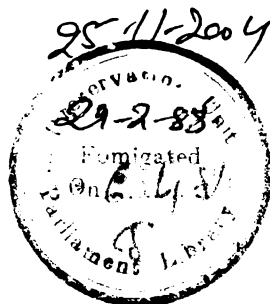
Monday, 2nd March, 1925

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.

Monday, 2nd March, 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

• JOINT ELECTORATES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN DELHI.

116. THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Have Government received a copy of the resolution passed, a few months ago, by a majority of the members of the Delhi Municipal Committee in favour of joint electorates for municipal elections? Will Government be pleased to make a definite statement on the subject?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: The Government of India have not received a copy of the Resolution referred to by the Honourable Member. They understand, however, that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, who enjoys the powers of a Local Government in municipal matters relating to the province, has rejected the proposal embodied in the resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: May I know, Sir, when that decision was taken?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: Quite recently.

PREPARATION OF A FRESH ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

117. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in all the Provinces a fresh electoral roll for the Council of State was prepared after the expiration of a period of 3 years in accordance with Rule 9 (4)?

(b) Are the Government considering the advisability of preparing a fresh electoral roll before the next election?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: (a) The Government of India understand that in one province only the Local Government with whom the preparation of electoral rolls rests, failed to initiate the preparation of fresh rolls on the expiration of the period for which the original rolls were in force. The attention of the Local Government concerned has been called to the necessity of preparing a new roll forthwith.

(b) The Government of India have under consideration the replies received from Local Governments to a reference inviting their opinion on this question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Will the Honourable Member tell the House why the electoral rolls should be prepared after three years when the life of the Council extends to five years?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: That question was very carefully considered in the beginning, and, inasmuch as the Legislative Assembly electoral rolls were to be revised after a period of three years, it was felt desirable, for various reasons, that the same procedure should be adopted in the case of the Council of State also. Whether a revision should take place or a fresh electoral roll should be adopted is a question which is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Does the Honourable Member think that it is desirable to compile the fresh electoral roll at the end of five years?

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: That is a matter which, as I have said, is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF 3 PER CENT. ON PRESS TELEGRAMS WITHOUT PREPAYMENT.

118. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: (a) Is it a fact that the Government have decided to levy from April 1st an additional charge of 3 per cent. on telegraph bills for press telegrams sent without prepayment?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the cost of extra work involved in preparing such bills and keeping accounts?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken pains to consult the Press in the country which will be affected by such an increase?

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

(b) Rs. 7,500 per annum.

(c) Government have not considered it necessary to do so. The charge has been directed to be levied in order to cover the cost incurred in the upkeep of accounts for press messages accepted without prepayment; in other words, it is a charge for services rendered.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. VEDAMURTI: Does the Honourable Member realise that it will impose an additional impost of Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 a month on almost every newspaper in the country?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I am not aware of the figures, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: May I ask, Sir, if the Government of India can inform us whether the Standing Committee for Industries and Labour was consulted before this levy was decided upon?

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India have received any protest from the Journalists' Association of Upper India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Yes, Sir, one complaint has been received.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Was it a protest from the Upper India Journalists' Association, and, if it has been received, will the Government of India give their consideration to it?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I do not remember from what particular association the complaint has come, it might be the Upper India Journalists' Association.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: I want an answer to the last question, that is to say, if a protest has been received, will the Government of India give their consideration to it?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The Government of India have already given their consideration to it.

HIGHER APPOINTMENTS ON THE STATE RAILWAYS ESTABLISHMENT.

119. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will the Government kindly state whether it is contemplated to give any preference to officers of the East Indian Railway in the selection for the higher appointments on the State Railways Establishment?

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

APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AS CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, RAILWAY BOARD.

120. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Is it a fact that an officer of the East Indian Railway is likely to be appointed as Chief Mechanical Engineer, Railway Board, on the retirement of the present incumbent?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The present incumbent is not retiring and his successor has therefore not been decided upon.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will the Government kindly say whether the present incumbent is shortly going on leave, and if so, whether an officer from the East Indian Railway is going to be selected to officiate for him?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I should like to have notice of this question, Sir. I have no personal knowledge. I am answering this question on behalf of my Honourable friend Mr. Chadwick who is unfortunately not here to-day.

APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AS DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC, RAILWAY BOARD.

121. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that another officer from the East Indian Railway is likely to be appointed as Director of Traffic, Railway Board, on the present incumbent vacating the appointment?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: There is no foundation for any such assumption.

SELECTION OF AN OFFICER OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AS PRINCIPAL
OF THE CHANDAUSI RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL.

122. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: (a) Will Government kindly state whether it is a fact that an officer of the East Indian Railway has been selected for the post of Principal, Chandausi Railway Training School?

(b) Will the Government kindly state whether the officer selected ever worked as a traffic officer in charge of any important railway?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

PRINCIPAL OF THE CHANDAUSI RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL.

123. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will Government kindly state whether the name of any officer belonging to the State Railways was considered by Government when making the selection for the appointment referred to in the previous question?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The reply is in the affirmative.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF STAFF OF STATE RAILWAYS ON THE
AMALGAMATION OF THE EAST INDIAN AND GREAT INDIAN
PENINSULA RAILWAYS WITH THE OTHER STATE-WORKED
LINES.

124. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: (a) Will the Government kindly state whether any assurance was given to the staff of the State Railways that their interests will not be prejudiced on the amalgamation of the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways with the other State-worked lines?

(b) Was such an assurance given to the staff of the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative while that to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the reason for this difference in treatment?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) No.

(b) The Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways staff were assured that they would not suffer by being taken over by the State.

(c) The conditions of service of staff on State lines was not being altered and consequently no such assurance was necessary.

BUSINESS FOR FRIDAY, THE 13TH MARCH, 1925.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have been informed that no non-official business has been ballotted for for the meeting on Friday, March the 13th. As the House is aware, that was a day allotted for non-official business, and unless Government have any business to put down for that day, it will not be necessary to hold a meeting. Perhaps, later in the week, the Honourable the Leader of the House will be able to inform the Council whether Government desire to bring forward any Government business on that day.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Law Member): I shall do so, Sir.

RESOLUTION *RE* RECRUITMENT OF MOSLEM CANDIDATES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces: East Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to move the following Resolution that stands in my name :

" This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that early steps should be taken to modify the existing system of recruitment for the public services on the following lines :

- (a) a just and adequate share in the public services, whether recruited by competition or selection, should be fixed for the Moslem community;
- (b) in the case of services recruited by competition, particularly the Indian Civil and Police Services, two lists of successful candidates one of non-Moslem candidates and the other of Moslem candidates, should be prepared; and from each list as many candidates as there may be vacancies available for the men on that list should be chosen in order of merit;
- (c) a minimum standard of qualification should be prescribed and no candidate who fails to satisfy such standard should be selected for appointment."

Sir, so readily is the charge of communalism and separatism brought in these days—and I must admit that on occasions not wholly unjustly—that I owe it to this Council and to myself to say a few words by way of explanation for moving this Resolution. Sir, I have been associated with this Council for the past 4 years and more, and it will be within the recollection of Honourable Members that never throughout that period have I brought forward any measure which was likely to raise any communal questions. If, then, I have decided to move this Resolution in this House, I assure my Honourable friends that it is not with a view to throw an apple of discord between the two great communities inhabiting this country. In fact, the motive which has really induced me to bring this measure is based on an honest and genuine desire to remove a fruitful source of friction between the two communities, and I venture to say that, had I not been convinced that this measure would lead to a removal of a large portion of the unpleasantness that exists at present between the two communities, I would have been the last man to think of bringing it forward. My conviction, Sir, is that my proposal, if accepted, and given effect to, would remove the apprehensions of my community as to its future in a self-governing India, and I deem it my duty to earnestly impress upon my Hindu fellow-countrymen that it is their duty to satisfy the Moslem mind that in the future constitution of the country the Moslems will not be subjected to any disadvantages. I would go a step further, Sir, and say that it is no less a duty of my Hindu compatriots to satisfy the Moslem scruples on that score than it is the duty of the Moslems to assure our Hindu friends that in their relations with their co-religionists in foreign countries they will place the interests of India first and communal considerations afterwards.

Sir, I would very briefly state before this House the Moslem position ever since political consciousness directed itself into fruitful channels in this country.

It will be within the memory of Honourable Members that when in 1890, five years after the foundation of the Indian National Congress, it was proposed to introduce a sort of elective principle in our Legislatures, the Moslems as a body opposed that proposal. At that time it appears from contemporary literature that this opposition gave rise to unpleasantness between the Hindu and the Moslem communities, but it is obvious that it was not the desire to retard the progress of the country that was responsible for this attitude of the Moslem community. What they really

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feared was that under any system of representation their claims would not be duly safeguarded, and those fears, Sir, as the House knows, unfortunately came to be realised, as was proved by the working of the scheme that was introduced in 1892 and that remained in force till 1909. Then, as this House is aware, steps were taken to give a liberal measure of reforms to India under the regime of the Liberal Government when Mr. John Morley was in charge of the Indian portfolio at Whitehall. At that time too there was considerable tension in the country. The Moslems thought that they had been subjected to disadvantages by the introduction of the scheme of 1892 and that any extension of the principle of representation would place them at a further disadvantage. The result, Sir, as this House knows, was that an influential deputation of Moslems waited upon Lord Minto on the 1st October, 1906, and presented the Moslem grievances in an address with which were associated almost all the leading Moslems of the country from different parts. We know, Sir, that fortunately for us, and I say more fortunately for the country, separate representation was accorded to the Moslems in the scheme that is associated with the names of Lord Minto and Lord Morley. That set the Moslem mind at rest and my Honourable colleagues will see for themselves—I need hardly stress the point—that the attitude taken up by the Moslem community throughout that period, namely, from 1909 right up to the end of 1920, is a complete answer to the charge that the Moslem is guided by communal considerations first and patriotic considerations afterwards. Sir, the Montagu-Chelmsford reform scheme is too recent to make it necessary for me to detail the conditions preceding it. Suffice it to say that, had it not been for the enormous effect of the Congress-League Pact of 1916, it is an open question that the Moslems would not have helped to bring about the scheme of reforms with which the honoured name of Mr. Montagu is associated. It was the Congress-League Pact of 1916 that set the Moslem fears at rest, and the subsequent history need not be stated before this House.

Now, Sir, what is the principle that is deducible from this attitude of the Mussalmans during the past 40 years? The principle is this, that the Mussalmans are as patriotic as their non-Mussalman brethren, but it is only natural that, looking to their position, looking to their numbers and looking to other considerations, before any scheme, whether relating to representation on the Councils or relating to the Services, is introduced, they should carefully consider as to how that scheme is going to affect them in the future. I illustrated my point by taking up the question of representation in the Councils. This House will find that the same attitude of mind is revealed when we come either to the local bodies or to the Services and that is inevitable. The first Commission, though it was not a Royal Commission, that was appointed to consider the question of Services and of the greater association of Indians with responsible positions, was appointed in 1886. It may be of interest to some Honourable Members to find that the question that I am raising to-day is by no means a new question. It was carefully taken into consideration in 1886-1887 when the Commission presided over by Sir Charles Aitchison recorded evidence and wrote its report. Summarising the arguments of some of those who were opposed to competitive examinations, this is what the Commission says:

“An open competition in India for the Covenanted Civil Service would operate with inequality, excluding, altogether some important classes of the community, while giving undue advantage to others.”

Further on, the Commission expressed its own opinion thus:

"These statistics show the principal classes of the community to which the students belong who have, during recent years, passed certain University examinations in India; the particular castes to which the successful Hindu candidates belong in the case of the Madras University (from which University alone the necessary information under this head could be procured); and the number of successful and unsuccessful candidates at certain Arts examinations held at the Indian Universities since those institutions were established in 1864."

The question again figured prominently in the deliberations of the Royal Commission that was appointed in 1912 and that was presided over by Lord Islington. Discussing the effect of the introduction of an unrestricted principle of competition the Commission said:

"The development of education in India has not yet been such as to satisfy the second condition which we have recognised as necessary to the success of the competitive system. In the last generation English education has been greatly extended in India, but this extension has been made irregularly in the different provinces, as will be seen from the figures, which we have given in detail in Appendix X, to volume I of our report. This consideration is of importance in the Imperial departments, which operate over the whole of India, as it is desirable that each portion of the country should obtain adequate representation in the public services. English education has also been diffused unequally among the different communities. It has spread more rapidly in those which have had from early days an hereditary association with learning. Other classes, of which the Muhammadans are the largest, are still backward in this respect. As long as these conditions prevail the result of recruiting by means of competitive examinations alone must be to exclude from the public services important sections of the Indian population."

But the question did not assume any very great importance inasmuch as the Commission declared itself against what is known as simultaneous examinations, and this is a very important consideration to which I would invite the attention of my Honourable colleagues. The conditions which obtained in 1912 do not obtain to-day. Sir, after all, the virtues that were claimed for competitive examination came to an end as soon as it was decided in the year 1920 that certain proportions should be fixed for Indians in the Imperial Services. As long as no proportions were fixed and the entire recruitment for the Imperial Services was made by an examination held in England, it was not necessary for my community, or for the matter of that for any community, to urge its own claims to a due share of these important posts. But as soon as it was laid down that there should be a certain proportion fixed between Indians and Europeans, I submit you cut at the very root of the competitive principle. If the result of the working of these examinations held in India during the last four years shows that Mussalmans have fared badly, then I hope I am entitled to invite the attention both of Government and of this Honourable House to that result. I believe I am right in saying that since the examination for recruitment to the Indian Civil Service was held in India, not a single Mussalman has been appointed to that Service. I find from a sign of dissent made by the Home Member that I am not quite correct in my facts. I should be glad to be corrected, but I think I am right in saying that as a result of the operation of a purely competitive principle in the examinations held in India, not a single Mussalman has been appointed—that is what I meant to say in describing its effect. Is this state of things satisfactory when 50 per cent. of these posts are open to Indians? Is it satisfactory that during these years not a single Mussalman has been appointed owing to the operation of the principle of competition? Again, take the case of the examination held for the Imperial Police Service. I must gratefully acknowledge that some Mussalmans have been appointed, but there again I think I am right

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in saying that they have been appointed in exercise of the power that has been reserved to themselves by Government. If I am right in this statement, I submit, Sir, that the conditions of recruitment for the Imperial Police Service are almost as unsatisfactory as those for the Indian Civil Service so far as my community is concerned.

Sir, it is possible to discuss the merits of the principle of competition, namely, whether that is the only principle on which we should base recruitment for our services, but the time at my disposal will not allow me to go into that question. Suffice it to say that the services in most of the continental countries of Europe are not recruited by pure competition. The principle obtains to a limited extent in France, but does not obtain in Germany. Again there are other countries where the principle has been given effect to to a very limited extent, but I think in India, so far as the higher services are concerned, the principle has been put into force indiscriminately with the result that large classes of the population go without representation. Sir, my Resolution embraces all the services whether recruited by competition or nomination. Now the Honourable Members of this House would like to know as to why I have recommended the preparation of two lists. Let me at once point out that there is no charm in having two lists and nothing less than two lists. What I mean is that provided Muslim candidates satisfy a certain minimum standard that is to be fixed for these examinations, the best men from amongst them should be taken rather than the community should go wholly unrepresented for a number of years. This principle already obtains in the United Provinces. If the Council will excuse me for making a personal reference, I may say that in the evidence I gave before the Public Services Commission in 1913 I recommended the adoption of two lists. The question had not arisen at that time in a very acute form for the reasons which I have already stated, with the result that the Commission did not make any pronouncement on the subject. But the United Provinces Government accepting the lines disclosed in my evidence have put it into force for recruitment for the executive branch of the Provincial Civil Service, and the system has been in vogue in the United Provinces for the last nearly four years and has worked satisfactorily.

Now, Sir, so far as the principle of nomination is concerned I do not think it will be at all difficult to recruit the necessary number of Mussulmans by giving due attention to the claims of various communities. A minimum educational standard is obviously necessary and it is all the more easy of fulfilment in the case of nomination than possibly it is in the case of competition. Sir, the matter is engaging the attention not only of the Government but of a number of leading public men. I believe it is recognised on all hands that even if the principle of competition is to be extended, it should not be extended in an unrestricted manner. I would invite the attention of my Honourable colleagues to the presidential address delivered by Dr. Paranjpye at the last session of the Indian National Liberal Federation held at Lucknow. The passage is a rather lengthy one and I do not think the time at my disposal will enable me to read the whole of it. This is what Dr. Paranjpye said :

"The principle of adequate representation of all classes of the people in the public services is accepted by everybody and Government also have made rules for this purpose. At present, however, the various communities look to favouritism in order to get appointments. I am entirely against patronage of this kind being enjoyed by any Government, and I wish to see all recruitment to public services made when possible by open competition and at any rate by an independent body."

He discusses this principle at some length and this is what he suggests :

" In order to see however that the backward communities do not suffer on account of unrestricted competition, I would reserve a certain minimum percentage to be competed for by the candidates from these communities *inter se*. This minimum I would gradually reduce as the communities rise to a position of equality with the advanced communities. For each class of appointment a suitable minimum qualification will of course be considered indispensable. To give a numerical illustration, suppose in a province it is necessary to protect the Mahomedans and non-Brahmins in the recruitment for a class of posts. Of every ten posts to be filled by an open competitive examination, four may be filled up according to the list in order of merit, irrespective of the community or race; of those that are lower three Muhammadans will be taken in order and three non-Brahmins in the same way, provided that these have obtained a certain minimum percentage of marks which is considered as the indispensable qualification for that class of posts."

Now, Sir, the matter has come up before the other House on a number of occasions. It is not possible for me to refer to all the decisions that were taken in the other House. I would confine myself to two occasions. On the 10th March, 1923, a Resolution was moved in the Legislative Assembly urging the claims of minorities to appointments in the public services. That Resolution was carried in an amended form. The amendment was to the fact that not only should the claims of minorities be considered but the claims of provinces also should be taken into consideration. In this connection I would invite the attention of this House to a very important speech that was made by Sir Malcolm Hailey who was then Home Member. He announced that the policy of the Government was to take measures to prevent the preponderance of any one class or community in the services under the direct control of the Government of India. Subsequently another Resolution was moved in the Assembly on the 18th February 1924. The Resolution concerns itself with the grant of full self-governing Dominion status to Indians, but the important words which are relevant to the point under discussion and which were incorporated in the Resolution in the form of an amendment, were that the status mentioned therein should be granted to India "with due regard to the protection of the rights and interests of important minorities." We know that the Government opposed the Resolution but I sincerely trust that the Government never meant to oppose this part of the Resolution. The issue directly involved on that occasion, as I have already stated, was whether immediate self-government should be granted or not, which was a very different question, of course. So that we find that our public men stand committed to this principle and the Government stand to a very large extent committed to this principle. The latest pronouncement on this subject was the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy which was made towards the end of December in reply to a deputation of the Moslems of Bengal that waited upon him. His Excellency had the case of Bengal before him, and here His Excellency clearly said that one-third of the posts should be reserved, provided educational qualifications are possessed by the candidates, in the public services of Bengal for the Moslem community. Sir, a kindred question which may perhaps suggest itself to the minds of some Honourable Members is whether communal considerations should outweigh provincial claims. That is a question which was dealt with at length by Sir Malcolm Hailey on the 10th March 1923. I do not propose to go into that question, but I think I am giving correct expression to the feeling of the Mussalman community when I say that, if any difficulties are experienced in putting into force any system based on provincial representation, the community at this stage would be satisfied by having communal representation. As time goes on I hope

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it will be possible for Government to put forward a scheme which may combine both considerations. I for one admit that there are difficulties in the way of having a scheme which will give due consideration, not only to communal representation but to provincial claims also. But if that can be done I for one have absolutely no objection to a scheme of that character. Now it only remains for me, Sir

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I would remind the Honourable Member that he has already exceeded his time limit. I am afraid I shall not be able to allow him to develop any new line of argument at this stage.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Sir, bowing to your decision, the only other thing which I have to put before the House is certain figures which go to show the extent of Muslim representation in the services, both Imperial and Provincial, recruited by competition and nomination. But I hope this House knows sufficiently well that the present state of affairs is far far from satisfactory. I do not propose, Sir, to use any strong terms, but the position is extremely unsatisfactory. If those figures were laid before this House I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that all Honourable Members in this House, whether they belong to my community or not, would see their way to agreeing to the principle that I have advocated in this Resolution. There is one word, Sir, on this subject that I would say before I resume my seat. On the 23rd of September 1924 a question was put by my friend the Honourable Mr. Yamin Khan and the question and its reply show how deplorable the condition of Muslim representation in the Services is. The question was:

“Is it a fact that a non-Muslim who had not passed the matriculation examination was recently appointed in the office of the Director of Wireless and a Muslim graduate rejected?”

And here we have the honest reply of my friend the Honourable Mr. Ley.

“The fact is as stated.”

Of course he goes on to say:

“The non-Muslim had worked for 2½ years temporarily in the office of the Director of Wireless and had given every satisfaction. He was retrenched in May 1923 and was subsequently re-employed.”

Sir, it is not my purpose to blame any head of a department, be he an Englishman or be he an Indian. The condition of affairs is such that it is impossible for any head of a department to pay close attention to the claims of all candidates for a certain post. Suffice it to say that until proportions are laid down it will not be possible for the claims of my community to receive due recognition.

Sir, I have laid my case briefly before this House and I appeal to all my friends, whether Englishmen or Hindus or of other communities, to give serious consideration to it. And I submit, Sir, that, unless some provision is made for giving a fair and adequate representation to Mussulmans, it will be impossible to redress the grievances of my community, and, unless those grievances are redressed, I am afraid the present tension will not abate and it may be that things in the future—though I hope that will not be the case—may be more awkward than they have been in the past. With these words I commend this Resolution to this Honourable House.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALEXANDER MUDDIMAN (Home Member): Sir, the question raised by this Resolution touches a subject which in my judgment is one of the most important for the future of India. The question of the public services is, if not the most important, almost the most important matter in the Government of the future. Whatever your Government may be, the services are the hands of Government. They are the persons who carry out your policy; they are the persons with whom the ordinary man in the street comes into contact. It is therefore essential that in dealing with a subject of this nature this House should approach it with all the care and caution which it deserves. I think I am justified in saying that the Indian Services as now constituted have done much for the development of India on the lines of peace and prosperity. It must be the prime care of any form of Government to see that they continue that work unimpaired and that their efficiency is not in any way diminished. When I speak of the services, I do not mean merely those services which are regarded as the leading services. I refer to all that band of workers, Europeans and Indians alike, who have admittedly set before the world an admirable example of integrity, industry and public spirit.

Now, Sir, I can well understand that the House generally, and my Honourable friend in particular as representing the community for whom he speaks, have been agitated by the advance in Indianization which will be made in view of the acceptance of the Lee Commission Report. Those recommendations were accepted by this House, I think I am correct in saying, without a division, and they include a large and liberal measure of Indianization. It is natural that when changes of this kind are taking place that there should be anxiety in many quarters. When an old order changes we must be careful to see that we do not in any way impair under the guise of change the fundamental principles which should be followed in dealing with these matters. I should like to take this opportunity of putting before the House the very definite view of Government that in giving effect to their policy regarding the Indian element in all grades and branches of the administration, the Government of India must rely primarily on their measures for recruitment. What is offered to the new recruit, whether Indian, European or of whatever race, is a career open to talent and, once admitted to the public service, his fortunes lie in his own hands. He must not rely for advancement on favour or favouritism but on his own industry, energy and capacity. Promotion must go by merit, and selections for posts requiring special qualifications must be determined by a strict regard for the necessary qualifications and the general public interest. As regards the existing members in the services, I take this opportunity of making it clear that Indianization will not be by the door of supersession. I desire to make that perfectly plain. It is essential that we should have no doubt on this point. I have ventured to make these general observations before I deal with the actual proposition brought forward by my Honourable friend, because I think that we should endeavour to think perfectly clearly before we make any drastic changes in our system of recruitment.

Now, my Honourable friend in his Resolution raises three separate points—and he will pardon me if I first deal with the point which he raises under clause (c), which lays down that “a minimum standard of qualification should be prescribed and no candidate who fails to satisfy

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such standard should be selected for appointment." Now, Sir, I could have wished that he had put that first in these propositions, because that is the most important point. Whatever changes may be made in our system, whatever may be the requirements of the particular situation of India, on the question of maintaining an adequate—not a minimum—an adequate standard of qualification, I think no Member in this House can have any possible doubt whatever. I must impress that on the House very definitely as the fundamental fact from which we can in no sense depart. As my Honourable friend has pointed out, this matter was agitated in another place and it was very carefully examined with his customary acuteness and ability by my predecessor, His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey. As a result of the debate in that place a Resolution was come to that in making new recruitments to the services under the control of the Central Government, steps should be taken to secure that the services are not unduly overweighted with the representatives of any one community or province, and that so far as possible the claims of all communities and provinces are considered. I believe the actual form of that wording is due to one who is now a Member of this House. I may be wrong. (*The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali: "That is so."*)

Now, the main question raised by my Honourable friend will be better examined if I clear the ground by assuming that in his Resolution he is not referring to the provincial services. That would obviously not be a matter for discussion here. I gather that he is merely referring to those services which are under the control of the Government on whose behalf I am speaking. Therefore, we will confine ourselves to these services; and I will give to the House certain figures in my possession which are not without interest. My Honourable friend had them before him probably, but I have them here and I will read them to the House. I will deal first of all with the direct recruitment of the Indian Civil Service in India. As Honourable Members are aware, examinations are held in Allahabad and in London. As a result of those examinations in the years 1922 and 1924, 45 Indian candidates were successful. Of those 45, 41 were Hindus, 2 were Indian Christians, one was a Burman and one was a Singalese. I regret to say that my Honourable friend is correct when he states that there was no Muhammadan who was successful as a result of the direct competition. But the House is aware also that we have some power even now in our hands of redressing or correcting the results of competitive examination; and that power was exercised by the nomination of 8 candidates during the same period. Three of them were Muhammadans, two were Hindus, two were Burmans and one was an Anglo-Indian. These figures I think the House ought to have before it. I will take another service—I do not propose to go through the whole of the services, but I will take another service in which competitive examinations are also held. The service I select is another security service, the Indian Police Service. I have only the figures for two years in that case. 27 candidates were successful in the competitive examinations in the years 1922-23. Fifteen of them were Hindus, 8 were Muhammadans, 3 were Anglo-Indians and one was an Indian Christian. Three Hindus and 2 Muhammadans in addition were nominated.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: The consideration of the claims of Parsis I fear was studiously avoided

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALEXANDER MUDDIMAN: I trust the consideration of the claims of Parsis was not studiously avoided. I wonder if there were any Parsi candidates? The figures I have given to the House, nowever, I admit, call for reflection. They are very striking figures. They were brought to my notice very prominently as a result of a representation which was sent by fifteen Members of this House very soon after I took over charge of my present office. I promised them at that time that I would give my most careful personal consideration to the matter. I have done so, for it is a matter which I regard as one of the most important that the Government can have to consider.

Now my Honourable friend's main thesis is that there should be special representation for the community which he represents. I do not propose to deal with this question from the point of view of the Muhammadan community alone, for I do not think this House or indeed my Honourable friend would wish to separate the case of the Muhammadan community from the case of the other minority communities. (*The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali*: "No".) That simplifies my task considerably. If you accept that proposition, then you are in a better position to survey the situation from a general point of view. The Resolution which has been accepted by Government and which I have read to the House is of a negative character. It does not provide for positive representation, it provides for the prevention of over-representation and overweighting by any particular class or community. Now a Resolution of that kind is theoretically absolutely unexceptionable, but when you come to apply it to existing conditions, you have got to do a little more than that. It is all very well to say that we will not have the services overweighted. But if you rely on a system of recruitment, by competitive examination, I do not myself see how, under that system alone, you are able to prevent overweighting when the key to admission does not rest with you. Indeed the Government recognized that for some time. They do reserve a certain proportion of the vacancies that occur at any rate in the Indian Civil Service. As I have explained to the House, during the years under consideration the power of nomination was exercised in a certain number of cases, and that I think is the manner in which you must deal with the protection of minorities in this matter. If examinations result in the exclusion or almost complete exclusion of any class, you have in some way to modify that.

Now, my Honourable friend has his own panacea. He proposes two lists of successful candidates, one of non-Moslem candidates and the other of Moslem candidates. Now, I did not gather from his own speech that he is very much attached to that; and I think myself that it is a thoroughly bad system, and I will say why. As long as you have a single list, you have rival communities competing among one another, and it must be a matter of great pride to the community concerned if one of its members takes a high place on the general list. And it will be a matter of great

12 NOON. satisfaction I am sure to all Members of this House when the communities are so equipped and brought to such a pitch of education that the loaves of office will be a matter of division on the results of the examination alone. When each community will hope—and reasonably hope—to find that in the list a reasonable proportion of its own men have been successful. That is one of the advantages of maintaining your general list. I am not one of those who think that examination is a perfect method of recruitment. It has advantages; it has disadvantages. It cannot test what I regard as, other things being equal,

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the real test of the matter, and that is character. There is no system of examination of which I am aware which can test character, and character is the basis of what we want in our services.

Now, from the foregoing remarks it will be seen that I am not in any way hostile to the Resolution which he has moved, but obviously in the form in which it stands it is a Resolution which Government could not possibly accept. I admit, and Government have admitted before, that there should be an adequate representation of minority communities. But we must qualify that by the fact that we cannot impair the efficiency of our public services by admitting persons who are not qualified to perform the duties which they are called upon to perform. That is a proposition which cannot be refuted. It gives me pleasure however to be able to inform the House that we do contemplate as regards the all-India services an extension of the present arrangements for securing representation for minority communities. We premise, as I have said, a consideration that I must continually emphasise that there must be an adequate qualification. No minority community can hope for, or ought to hope for, appointment to public service unless adequately qualified to render that public service. That is absolutely essential. I find the Indian Civil Service as a service where the inequalities have possibly been more obvious than in other services. At present we reserve one-third of the vacancies in that service which will be filled by direct recruitment in India to redress these inequalities. We propose in the future to reserve one-third of the whole of the direct Indian recruitment. We shall, as in the past in exercising these powers of appointment, first observe the results of the competitive examination. If those results are satisfactory, we shall be in no difficulty. If they are unsatisfactory, we shall then resort to the process of nomination. We shall nominate as far as possible to the vacancies which we hold in reserve by selection from among the candidates who sat for the competitive examination and attained the adequate standard. If there are no such candidates we may have to adopt other means of obtaining them. If we cannot obtain candidates with adequate qualifications we shall not appoint them. As regards the three remaining all-India services, the Police, the Indian Service of Engineers and the Indian Forest Service, we again lay down the primary condition of an adequate standard of qualification. In the Police Service the existing orders are that Local Governments decide the number of posts to be reserved from time to time to be filled by nomination. We propose no change in this respect save that we shall call for yearly reports to see how this is being worked. In the other services again we shall reserve one-third of the total vacancies for the process which I described in regard to the Indian Civil Service. Now, I think the statement that I have made as regards the all-India service goes far to meet my Honourable friend's Resolution. I think now that he has heard this, it may be that he will be able to withdraw his Resolution. It will show him at any rate that the Government of India are not unmindful, are very anxious on this matter. It recognises that a system which would confine the principal services of the Crown to a particular class or community is a system that must be undesirable, which may indeed in certain circumstances lead to consequences which I do not wish to detail. He will, I think, understand that we are moving in the direction in which he wishes, that we must move cautiously, that it must be subject always to the essential condition of not impairing the efficiency of our

public services; and I would suggest to him that he should wait and see for some time as to how the proposals, the scheme which I have now put before the House works, before he presses his Resolution any further.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces: General): Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Mr. Saiyid Raza Ali has brought this matter prominently before the Government by way of a special Resolution. The Resolution as it stands cannot possibly be accepted and it would invoke the opposition from the minorities, and I represent also one of the minorities in this Council. But my Honourable friend has made sufficient amends by readily and cheerfully admitting in answer to the Home Member that his Resolution, though not specially worded, is supposed to cover the rights and claims of the minorities as well. Sir, I find myself in a somewhat difficult position. All my life I have been opposed to communal representation, both in the Councils as well as in municipalities. When the Minto-Morley reforms came into existence I steadily opposed the principle of communal representation in the Councils in the various speeches which I made from time to time. I then depended fully upon talent, ability and merit, to find its way in the service of the Crown. But, Sir, circumstances have since altered, things have rapidly changed. The unfortunate events which have taken place during the last two or three years, accentuating racial distinctions, the studied opposition of the Legislative Assembly to communal claims and rights, such as the privileges of the Anglo-Indian community, the small claims of the depressed classes, the non-Christian communities, and the other unrepresented and inarticulated communities,—the feeling of tension which has been existing and which I find is daily increasing in the life of our nation, set one thinking whether the existing system of recruitment is likely to tend to the future prosperity of the country and will ensure to the various communities and races in this country their fair share in the appointments of the Crown. Sir, this is a very important question. I feel to-day on this very question considerably puzzled and agitated. I see the force of the opposition. I see the mischief of importing into our services racial discriminations. I see that it would be in the interests of the whole of India as a nation to continue the existing arrangement. But the force of circumstances is such that it is not humanly possible for us much longer, if the present state of affairs continues, to adhere to the present method. Sir, there is no doubt that the minorities which were formerly uneducated and which were at one time unprepared and not so prominent are now vehemently asserting their claims and demanding their privileges. The minorities which at one time were content to remain in the background are forcing their way to the front. But they find it extremely difficult on account of the inherent talents, of the greater ability and of the higher intellectual gifts and marvellous assiduity of certain races to find adequate scope to run the race on equal terms. It then becomes the concern of Government to step in and to protect and shelter the minorities to a certain extent which will not be invidious. In view of my maintaining that opinion I welcome the statement of the Honourable the Home Member that the Government do contemplate a further representation of the minorities in all the services of the Crown. This is a very encouraging statement. It is a statement which will inspire hope and confidence in the backward classes and races. It will not take away from the more cultured and intellectual classes to which my Honourable friend Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary belongs their opportunities in any way, because from the point of ability

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and talents they are bound to force their way to the front. Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has stated that they hope to reserve one-third of the total recruitment for the minorities, if I have understood him correctly. This is so far admirable. But the difficulty will be enormous in the matter of giving adequate representation not only to the classes but to the Provinces. The whole system of our services will have to be considerably altered to admit of a fair and equal distribution and, as far as I am able to comprehend, the matter is one which needs mature consideration, and I pray that the Government will give a suitable opportunity to both the Houses to discuss the scheme which they may bring forward hereafter towards the perfection of this goal, and, if necessary, thresh out the subject by a special committee appointed for the purpose. The solution of the question is not an easy one. It is beset with considerable difficulties from all sides, and the principle, if once admitted, will go to the root of the competitive system. If it is necessary hereafter to alter or modify the existing competitive system of recruitment, it will be advisable for Government to arrange that two-thirds of the appointments should go by competition and one-third of the total number of appointments in the Imperial services should go by such nomination and selection in which each province will have a right and a proper share in the distribution. Sir, nobody in this Council will urge that an unrestricted principle of competition is after all a safe and salutary measure under the changing circumstances and vicissitudes of life. Competition to a certain extent is extremely desirable in view of the fact that it will bring out latent talent and hidden ability. Competition to a certain extent is extremely desirable in view of the fact that it will give satisfaction to the educated classes and cause no heart burning. But any such new system which may be devised, if it is not to be a failure but a system which will ensure confidence and give satisfaction to all communities and all classes, must necessarily be one which should be devised after a great deal of consideration and after a reference to both the Houses. I therefore request Government, before I appeal to my Honourable colleague the Mover of the Resolution and press upon him the desirability of withdrawing this Resolution, to bear in mind that it shall not take any further step in this direction till the country has been properly sounded, till the minorities are properly consulted in the matter, and till both the Houses have had a full and adequate opportunity of expressing their opinions on the merits of any new innovation or policy that may be introduced. I do not think my Honourable and learned colleague, in view of what has fallen from the Honourable the Home Member who has shown the sympathy of Government for the minorities and who has placed the case with such great ability and lucidity before this House, will desire to press his amendment. I feel the subject is an extremely difficult and a complicated one which needs our united, unbiased and impartial consideration. The rights of all the minority communities are to be carefully weighed and considered apart from Muslim sentiments and the Muslim claims. I, therefore, request my Honourable colleague to see his way not to press this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I think the difference between the Government point of view and that of my Honourable friend is so small that if a chance of consultation was given to them and if the debate was adjourned, this Resolution may be drafted in such a way that it may be agreeable to

both the sides. In future, if such Resolutions are discussed in the committee beforehand, I think many such difficulties as I have referred to may be solved. Being a Muhammadan, I must naturally support the Resolution or, at any rate, the object underlying it. I was just reading in the papers, that even in the Punjab they are going to bring forward a similar Resolution for the province. This will show the desire of the Muhammadan community to be safeguarded about these appointments. Again, Sir, another Resolution was being brought forward about a compromise between the Hindus and the Muhammadans. I think one of the causes of the tension has been that hitherto every one has been thinking that they were going to get something out of the Government with respect to Services and when they did not get it, they accused and fought with the Government. But now they find that all these posts have to go either to one community or the other, and the gain of the one is the loss of the other, and as they have become conscious of this, most of the trouble has been the result of this knowledge. Therefore, I think my friend did quite right in bringing forward this Resolution because if we can come to some basis like that suggested, I think a great deal of the tension may be diminished. As a representative of the Punjab Muhammadans I have also to congratulate my friend on changing his views, which he himself tried to explain. I think this is the first time that he has brought forward such a Resolution which is for the good of the Muhammadans. There is a vernacular proverb which means "That when all the right-thinking people are putting the same question they generally come to the same conclusions." As my friend has mentioned, I was also one of the députation which waited on Lord Minto, and at that time I remember we were all thinking that, unless the Muhammadans had separate representation, they would be done for, and we are glad that since then we have had separate representation and are safe. But that is only in the Councils. Unless we get something definite from the Government in the shape of this Resolution, or some standing order that we will get our due share of appointments, we will be labouring under a disadvantage. It is all very well to say, why do not the Muhammadans compete equally with other communities? The difficulty we find in the Punjab (of course I am speaking of my part of the country because I do not know so much about other parts) is that, although we are in a majority, unfortunately most of the Muhammadans in my part of the country are zemindars. In the first place their work as zemindars keeps them off from going to the schools and colleges, and again unfortunately, as we are in rural tracts, there are no colleges in the districts. Thus, if a Muhammadan wants to educate his son, he must send him to some big city where there is a college. That of course, in turn, naturally requires lots of money, and that they have not got. It is for this reason that the number who can be educated up to the standard that Government require is small. Naturally, if when there is a competition, there are 100 men from one side and only three or four from the other, there is very little possibility of the latter being successful. I do not think it is a matter we can put right ourselves. Our circumstances are such that it would not be put right and we would be always under this disadvantage. Therefore, we want that for the future something of this sort as laid down by this Resolution should be done to put us on a safer basis. Just accidentally it was mentioned how in the Allahabad University examination out of 45 candidates there were 41 others and only 2 Muhammadans. This is an illustration. Even if there was somebody lucky enough to be successful, it could not be the rule; it was an exception.

[Sir Umar Hayat Khan.]

My Hindu friends know that when, the other day, there was a debate about the Ganges water, and about their religion, we all fought on their side. In the same way, all we want is justice, and when we want justice, I hope they will help us in the matter, and that the Government Benches will either help us or be neutral. Again, Sir, while recommending the object underlying the Resolution, I would suggest that if the Honourable Home Member could give time to the Mover of the Resolution, some solution could easily be found out by a change of words, either by the acceptance of the amendment that is coming up in Mr. Khaparde's name, or by some other modification that would be acceptable to the Government, so that there would be a compromise.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-official): Sir, my Honourable friend Colonel Sir Umar Hayat Khan, who has just sat down, very often used to tell us that, in matters like this, and other matters, we should take the views of Government. I propose to take those views to-day. As the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy pointed out, this is a difficult and complicated question, and may I venture very respectfully to add, a very delicate question, and I think the House ought to be proud of the method and the manner in which my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali has put forward the case for his community, because any one who is conversant with the state of politics and has been for a long time past, and has taken some part in the negotiations of the Congress League scheme (and my Honourable friend Mr. Saiyid Raza Ali and myself took some little part in it), must be aware that there is some concern on the part of certain communities regarding their position. But I think the manner in which he has brought forward his case, and particularly his answer that in bringing forward this matter, he was concerned more or less with the recruitment of the all-India services, and the speech of the Honourable the Home Member ought to make us feel convinced that not only his community but all other communities which are not so happily constituted with regard to their environments, their traditions and perhaps their culture, will not in the least be neglected. The Honourable the Home Member has assured us that, though he is not able to comply exactly with the desire of my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali, that steps should be taken to modify the existing system of recruitment for the public service, so far as the Government of India are concerned, they are going to make a change for the better. And I do think that if, in the course of competition which, with all its faults, perhaps is the only system that can be devised for the recruitment of services, there are many communities which are not represented, Government will take care to see that with their powers of reserving a certain proportion of the appointments, these inequalities will be set right. They have very rightly, and I think very justly at the same time, assured the public at large, so that other communities may not feel alarmed that in all these matters the Government will be guided by perhaps only one standard of requirements, that of efficiency. If, after this assurance, my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali still thinks the case should be pressed, I think the discussion may perhaps take a turn which may not conduce to the achievement of the very object the Honourable Mover has at heart. I venture therefore to make an appeal to my Honourable friend Sir Umar Hayat Khan that we have now reached a stage in the discussion of this question when the Honourable the Mover understands exactly what is the point of view he wishes to put on behalf of his community and the

Government realise what is the public point of view; and both parties are now in such a happy frame of mind as to understand each its position, and further consideration may be stopped. I beg therefore that this question may not be adjourned for a further discussion. And if I, who am more or less of a youngster in politics, may also make an appeal to my old friend the Honourable Mr. Khaparde, no good purpose will be served by pressing his amendment. We may all part in the hope that in this great and complicated question both parties have come to a distinct and mutually helpful understanding.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Sir, I need hardly assure my Honourable friend Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy that at the time when I drafted my Resolution nothing was further from my thoughts than to ignore the communities that are situated similarly to mine. In fact during the last nearly 15 years that I have been associated with public life I have never disregarded the claims of those communities whose educational position and environment were similar to those of the Mussalman community; and my Honourable friend was therefore perfectly justified when he assumed that not only do I press the claims of my community but I claim for justice being done to all communities who, for various reasons, are not in a position to compete on equal terms with the major community.

Now, Sir, having said so much I feel it my duty to express the gratitude not only of my own community but of all the minority communities to the Government of India for the pronouncement that has been made this morning on behalf of Government by the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman. Sir, it is possible to take different views of the pronouncement that has just been made. It may be that some of the minority communities will not be satisfied with the terms of the pronouncement; but let us all frankly admit and gratefully acknowledge the momentous nature of the statement. Sir, in the past I must say with a feeling of gratitude the Government have done all or almost all that they could from time to time to secure representation of various classes of the people in our public services. Circumstances however proved too much for Government at times with the result that we are now faced with what I may be permitted to call a crisis as regards the Services in India. I however would like to know a little more about the proposal of Government that has been disclosed this morning. I am entirely at one with the Honourable the Home Member that if any community or class of people are going to take advantage of this one-third number of posts that the Government propose to reserve for them, and if these communities and if these classes of people are to get any real benefit from the scheme disclosed by the Government, a minimum standard of qualification should be insisted upon. I do not want any one of these communities to be unfairly or unjustly treated with due regard to their equipment. The second thing that I think I might mention is that looking to our population and looking to its component parts it may be that one-third of the total number of seats that is going to be reserved for them will be inadequate to meet the claims of these various minority interests whose number if we take the total strength will be very large. However, I do not want to strike a discordant note of any sort this morning. I think, Sir, that the discussion has proceeded on very dignified lines and that the Government have been well advised to take their courage in both hands. If the Honourable the Home Member will permit, I may say that perhaps there will be quarters in this country which will subject to strong criticism the policy that has been pronounced this morning. The declaration may

[Saiyid Raza Ali.]

or may not be adequate so far as we are concerned, but speaking for the major minority community, if I may use that expression, I can assure the Government that, if the Government have courageously decided to treat my own community and other minority communities justly and fairly, it will be our duty to see that no political stock is allowed to be made out of the statement regarding the Government's policy made this morning. Sir, the Government may not have done that measure of justice to our claims which we think is our due. All the same they are entitled to our sincere gratitude because they have after all done something in the matter, and therefore, Sir, I do not think it would be advisable for me to put my Resolution to the vote of this Council. My object was to invite the attention of Government to the grave injustice that was being perpetrated in regard to admission into our Services, and I believe that that object has been achieved, if not in full measure, yet in some measure; and I think I shall not be justified in saying that I have any reason to be dissatisfied with the measure of success that the efforts of the minority communities have achieved this morning. Sir, I beg leave of the Council to withdraw my Resolution.

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

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 3rd March, 1925.