

Tuesday, 25th August, 1925

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SIXTH SESSION
OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE, 1925



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, the 25th August, 1925.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Viceregal Lodge at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President (Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, Kt., C.I.E.) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

His Excellency Field Marshall Sir William Birdwood, Bart., G.C.B. G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., (Commander-in-Chief in India); the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, Kt., (Education, Health and Lands Member); the Honourable Mr. Manmohandas Ramji (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan); the Honourable Sir William Crawford Currie, Kt., (Bengal Chamber of Commerce); the Honourable Mr. A. A. L. Parsons (Industries Secretary); the Honourable Mr. J. P. Thompson, C.S.I., (Political Secretary); the Honourable Mr. E. G. L. Laird-MacGregor (Bombay : Nominated Official); the Honourable Mr. Birendra Chandra Sen (Bihar and Orissa : Nominated Official), and the Honourable Mr. K. C. Roy (Bengal : Nominated Non-Official).

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have a Message from His Excellency the Governor General. The Message runs:

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63A of the Government of India Act, I, Rufus Daniel, Earl of Reading, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the Panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State.

In the first place, the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy,

In the second place, the Honourable Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan,

In the third place, the Honourable Sir Arthur Froom, and

Lastly, the Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary.

(Sd.) *READING,*

Viceroy and Governor General."

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Under Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders I am required at the commencement of each Session to constitute a Committee on Petitions, consisting of a Chairman, and four

Members. The following Members have at my request kindly consented to preside over and serve on the Committee. I accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary and as Members the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh, the Honourable Mr. R. P. Karandikar, the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali, and the Honourable Mr. G. S. Khaparde.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PIECE SYSTEM IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES, SIMLA, DELHI, CALCUTTA AND ALIGARH.

1. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Does the piece system obtain at present in the Government of India Presses in Simla, Delhi, Calcutta and Aligarh ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : The piece system is in force in the presses at Calcutta and Delhi, and to a small extent at Simla and Aligarh.

NUMBER OF PIECE-WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

2. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (a) What was the number of piece-workers in each of the Government of India Presses in Simla, Delhi and Calcutta in 1921 and what is their number now in each of the said presses ?

(b) Into how many classes were the piece-workers in each of the presses divided in 1921, and into how many classes are they divided now ?

(c) What was the average income of each class in each of the said presses in 1921 and what is it now ?

(d) What was the number of hours they worked in each of the presses in 1921 and what is it now ?

(e) What changes, if any, have been made in their leave and allowances between 1921 and 1925, both inclusive ?

(f) Is casual leave granted to piece-workers ? If so, on what conditions ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS :

				1921,	1924-25.
Simla	..	..		231	32
Delhi	..	..	..	281	136
Calcutta	..	..	..	1,176	518

(b) Twenty in both years.

(c) The information is not available and its collection would entail labour out of all proportion to its value.

(d) The average number of hours worked monthly by piece-workers in each press in 1921 and now are as follows :—

			1921.	1924-25. .
			Hrs.	Hrs.
<i>Simla—</i>				
Compositors	..	..	179	<i>Nil.</i> •
Distributors	..	..	179	<i>Nil.</i>
Pressmen ..	..	..	186	178
<i>Delhi—</i>				
Compositors	..	..	205	198½
Impositors ..	..	..	222	199
Distributors	..	..	201	187
Pressmen	..	..	195	184½
<i>Calcutta—</i>				
Compositors	..	..	186	196
Impositors ..	..	..	194	194
Distributors	..	..	182	191
Press and Machinemen		..	199	205
Binders ..	..	..	196	198

(e) and (f). Piece-workers are now allowed payment at class rates for 16 days (including the King Emperor's birthday) each year, to cover absences on account of holidays, sickness or leave, provided the worker has been in regular employment for the previous 12 months. As a result of this concession, 15 days' winter leave previously allowed to piece-workers in the Simla Press has been reduced to 8 days.

WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE DELHI PRESS.

3. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (a) Is the Works Committee of the Delhi Press still in existence and does it hold its meetings ? If so, how many meetings did it hold in each of the years 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925 ?

(b) If no meetings were held in all or any of the years mentioned in (a), will the Government be pleased to state why they were not so held ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) and (b) The Works Committee of the Delhi Press is no longer in existence, as no desire for its retention was shown by the men. The second part of the question does not arise.

AMOUNTS SANCTIONED FOR WAITING TIME FOR PIECE-WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT PRESSES.

4. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (a) What amount was sanctioned in each of the years 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925 for waiting time to be allowed to the piece-workers in each of the presses at Calcutta and Delhi ?

(b) How much of it was spent in each of the presses in each of the years mentioned in (a) ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) No specific amount is sanctioned for waiting time. The amount is always paid out of the grant for payments to piece-workers.

(b) The amounts actually paid for waiting time in 1922-23, 1923-24 and 1924-25 have been :—

			1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Delhi	..	..	6,055	Nil.	1,876
Calcutta	..	..	489	43	Nil.

RENT FOR QUARTERS OF SALARIED HANDS AND PIECE-WORKERS COMPOSITORS
IN GOVERNMENT PRESSES.

5. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Is it a fact that rent for quarters is charged equally to the salaried hands and piece-workers compositors at one uniform rate, though furniture is supplied to the former and not to the latter ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : No. Some of the quarters provided are furnished and they are available both for salaried hands and for piece-workers.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT PRESSES.

6. The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : With reference to the answer given to my question No. 47 of 3rd February 1925, will the Government be pleased to state why the scheme of Provident Fund has not been brought into operation in Government Presses ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : The question of a Provident Fund for the press employees is part of the larger and complicated question of a State-aided Provident Fund for Government employees holding non-pensionable appointments generally, which is still under consideration.

CLOSING OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY OFFICES ON MUHAMMADAN FESTIVALS.

7. The HONOURABLE HAJI CHOWDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the offices under the East Indian Railway remain closed on all the Muhammadan festivals ?

(b) Is it a fact that the office of the Agent, East Indian Railway, was not closed on the last *Id-ul-Zuha* festival ? If so, why ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : I propose to answer this question and the two following questions together :—

7. (a) The offices of the East Indian Railway Co. remain closed on all Muhammadan gazetted festivals.

(b) It is correct that the Agent's office was not closed on the *Id-ul-Zuha* festival in 1924 and this was due to a misunderstanding owing to the Bengal Chamber notice not having been received.

8. The rule is that Muhammadan employees are allowed to leave office at 4 P.M. during the month of *Ramzan* if they desire to do so.

9. Does not arise.

CLOSING OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY OFFICES AT 4 P.M. DURING "RAMZAN."

8. The HONOURABLE HAJI CHOWDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN: Is it a fact that the Muhammadan employees under the East Indian Railway are not allowed to leave office at 4 P.M., during the month of *Ramsan*, in spite of the standing order of Government?

[See reply to Question No. 7.]

GOVERNMENT ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NON-OBSERVANCE OF MUHAMMADAN HOLIDAYS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

9. The HONOURABLE HAJI CHOWDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN: As regards questions serial Nos. 7 (b) and 8, if the Government reply is in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take?

[See reply to Question No. 7.]

PERCENTAGE FOR MUHAMMADAN EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

10. The HONOURABLE HAJI CHOWDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN: Is there any fixed percentage for Muhammadan employment under the East Indian Railway? If not, do Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The policy to be followed in this matter is expressed in the Resolution passed by the Assembly on March 10th, 1923. The Agent of the East Indian Railway Company was asked to give effect to this policy and the Government do not doubt that he is doing so.

GRANT OF LEAVE TO MUHAMMADAN EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY FOR THEIR JUMMA PRAYERS.

11. The HONOURABLE HAJI CHOWDHURI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL KHAN: Are the Muhammadan employees of the East Indian Railway allowed to say *Juma* prayers on Fridays?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 16 asked on the 22nd January 1925 in the Legislative Assembly. The Government will recommend to the Railway Administration that the same practice should be followed on the East Indian Railway.

FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN THE 2ND SELECTION GRADE OF POSTMASTERS FROM DECEMBER 1920 TO JUNE 1925.

12. The HONOURABLE MR. CHANDRADHAR BOROOAH: (a) Will the Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the number of vacancies which occurred in the 2nd selection grade (Rs. 175 to Rs. 225) in the Postmasters' line, from December 1920 to June 1925, and showing separately the number of such vacancies filled by the men of the 3rd selection grade (Rs. 145 to Rs. 170) and by Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks (Rs. 100 to Rs. 175)?

(b) Is it a fact that the Inspectors and the Superintendents' Head Clerks, who have been promoted to the 2nd selection grade of the Postmasters, were junior to the Postmasters of the 3rd selection grade whose claims have been superseded, both according to pay and length of service?

(c) Is it a fact that these Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks once before superseded the claims of the 3rd selection grade men while both were in the clerical cadre and the former were taken as Inspectors or Superintendents' Head Clerks on higher pay irrespective of their juniority ?

(d) Are the Government aware of the discontent prevailing among the Postmasters of the 3rd selection grade for the supersession of their claims again and again by the men of the combined cadre of Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) In certain instances Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks who were junior both in pay and in length of service to some Postmasters of the 3rd selection grade have obtained promotions to the 2nd selection grade. The principles for determining the relative seniority of the two classes of officials for the purpose of promotion to the second selection grade are laid down in the Director-General's General Letter No. A. X.-127, dated the 2nd December 1922, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(c) No. All officials in the clerical line had and still have the same chances of being selected for the special cadre of Inspectors and Superintendents Head Clerks, the selection depending on the qualities which they display and on their success in the prescribed departmental examination.

(d) Government are not aware of any general discontent. Certain postmasters from three out of the nine Postal Circles submitted representations to the Director-General. These representations were rejected mainly on the ground that no change in the prescribed procedure for filling up vacancies in the second selection grade was necessary or desirable.

Postal Circle.	Number of vacancies in the Rs. 175—10—225 grade of Postmasters from December 1920 to June 1925.	Number filled by officials in the Rs. 145—10—170 grade of Postmasters.	Number filled by officials in the cadre of Inspectors of post offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of post offices on Rs. 100—5—175.	REMARKS.
1. Bengal and Assam	54	42	12	* One was formerly a Probationary Superintendent. † One was formerly a Probationary Postmaster.
2. Bihar and Orissa ..	10	7	3	
3. Bombay	30	28	2*	
4. Burma	13	9	4	
5. Central	9	5	4	
6. Madras	17	9	8†	
7. Punjab and N.-W. F.	42	23	19	
8. United Provinces ..	21	6	15	
9. Sind and Baluchistan	13	6	7	
Total ..	209	135	74	

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, TO ALL POSTMASTERS-GENERAL AND THE DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL, SIND AND BALUCHISTAN, No. Ax.-127, DATED DELHI, THE 2ND DECEMBER 1922.

SUBJECT :—*Promotion of Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents of post-offices to the Selection grades.*

With reference to your reply to this office letter No. Ax.-127, dated the 21st April 1922, I am directed to say that the Director-General considers that a definite method should be prescribed on the subject of promotion of Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices in the time-scale of Rs. 100—5—175 to the Selection grades. He has accordingly decided that with effect from the 1st December 1922 the following revised orders should be acted upon in supersession of all previous orders issued on the subject :—

- (i) In the event of an Inspector or Head Clerk to a Superintendent being reverted or voluntarily reverting to the general line, he will be given the position in that cadre that he would have held if he had never been appointed to the rank of Inspector. For his purpose Postmasters-General should keep a note of the proper position of each Inspector in the general line. It will not be necessary to publish this information in Circle gradation lists.
- (ii) Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents are eligible for promotion to the second selection grade of Rs. 175—10—225 along with officials in the general line according to their seniority to be determined in the following manner :—
 - (a) Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents who attained this position *before the introduction of the revised scale of pay* will be ranked with the officials in the general line according to the dates of entry into their respective grades of Rs. 100—5—175 and Rs. 145—5—170. If the dates happen to be the same seniority should be reckoned by the position held prior to the entry into those grades.
 - (b) Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents who attained this position *after the introduction of the revised scales of pay* will be ranked with the officials in the general line according to the date on which they reach the Rs. 145 stage of pay in their own respective cadres.

NUMBER OF ASSAMESE SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES, POSTMASTERS AND POSTAL INSPECTORS.

13. The HONOURABLE MR. CHANDRADHAR BOROOAH : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state separately the number of Superintendents of Post Offices, Postmasters and Postal Inspectors, who are natives of the Province of Assam ?

(b) Is there any bar to the direct recruitment to these posts? If there is none, was the process ever tried, with a view to get a fair representation of the people of Assam in these posts?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) One Postmastership and one Inspectorship are at present held by natives of Assam ; no post of Superintendent is at present so held.

(b) Postmasterships and Inspectorships are not filled by direct recruitment, but by promotion from the ranks of the Department. Half the vacancies in posts of Superintendent are filled by direct recruitment of probationary Superintendents from among qualified candidates, and natives of Assam can and do become candidates for these appointments.

NUMBER OF CLERKS OF POST OFFICES ALL OVER INDIA AND BURMA PROMOTED TO THE 3RD SELECTION GRADE.

14. The HONOURABLE MR. CHANDRADHAR BOROOAH : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of clerks of the Post Offices all over India and Burma promoted to the 3rd selection grade (Rs. 145—5—170) from the 1st January 1921 to the 30th June 1925?

(b) How many of them have since retired and on what actual pay? Of the remaining, how many, in the ordinary course, are expected to reach the 2nd selection grade before retirement?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) 466.

(b) 62 have retired viz., 3 on Rs. 145, 14 on Rs. 150, 19 on Rs. 155, 16 on Rs. 160, 8 on Rs. 165 and 2 on Rs. 170. 131 are expected to receive promotion to the selection grade of Rs. 175—10—225.

DEPRESSION IN THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY.

15. The HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the depression in the cotton mill industry, and

(b) if so, whether they intend to take any steps to meet the situation?

REMISSION OF EXCISE DUTY ON COTTON.

16. The HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will Government be pleased to say :

(a) whether they have considered remission of excise duty as a possible remedy, and

(b) whether they propose remitting excise duty up to the time of the next Budget?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : I will answer questions Nos. 15 and 16 together.

The depression in the cotton industry has received the careful attention of the Government of India and they have considered the remedy suggested in the Honourable Member's question. For the rest, I refer the Honourable Member to the reply from His Excellency the Viceroy which he heard last evening, a full copy of which is appearing in the Press.

The HONOURABLE MR. K. C. ROY : May I know whether Government have noticed the suggestion made by Mr. N. M. Joshi about the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the crisis in the mill industry of Bombay and whether they will be in a position to announce the remission of the cotton excise duty after the six-monthly estimate has been prepared in November ?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : I saw the suggestion of Mr. Joshi in the Press reports last night. It will be seen from His Excellency's speech the kind of inquiry which was suggested to the mill-owners ; I think there is no hope of Government being able to remit the cotton excise duty two months hence, which I infer was the second portion of the Honourable Member's question. The time for considering future taxation or remission of taxation is in connection with the Budget when the future commitments and revenues of the year are known.

The HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : Is it not a fact that Government were prepared to remit the duty to a certain extent last year and the consummation did not come about because there were differences of opinion amongst the members from Bombay themselves ?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : I am in no better position to draw inferences from the debates which took place in the Legislative Assembly last March than is the Honourable Member himself.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONVENTIONS PASSED AT INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCES.

17. The HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing recommendations and conventions passed at International Labour Conferences and ratified and put into effect by India and Japan, respectively ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : Up to the end of 1924, seventeen Draft Conventions had been approved at International Labour Conferences. Of these, India has ratified nine and Japan six. I place on the table a statement giving the details. Recommendations are not capable of ratification.

Conventions of the International Labour Conference.

Subject.	RATIFIED BY	
	India.	Japan.
1. Hours of work	X	..
2. Un-employment	X	X
3. Child birth .. .. .	..	..
4. Night work for women	X	..
5. Minimum age (industry) .. .. .	..	..
6. Night work for young persons	X	..
7. White phosphorus*	X	X
8. Minimum age at sea .. .. .	..	X
9. Unemployment indemnity (sea) .. .. .	..	..
10. Employment for seamen .. .. .	..	X
11. Minimum age (agriculture) .. .. .	..	X
12. Rights of Association (agriculture)	X	..
13. Workmen's Compensation (agriculture) .. .. .	..	..
14. White Lead .. .. .	..	..
15. Weekly rest (industry)	X	..
16. Minimum age (trimmers and stokers)	X	..
17. Medical examination of young persons at sea	X	X

*A Berne Convention forming the subject of a recommendation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Has Japan ratified the hours of labour Convention ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : No, Sir.

TREATIES BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN.

18. The HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table any treaties which may be in force at present between Great Britain and Japan ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : The only treaty or convention regulating the fiscal relations between India and Japan is the Commercial Convention of 1905 which has already been laid on the table of this House and is printed on pages 370 and 371 of the Proceedings of the Council of State for September 1922. The Honourable Member is referred to it.

LORD BIRKENHEAD'S SPEECH IN CONNECTION WITH THE REFORMS.

19. The HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : (a) Would the Government please state whether its attention has been called to the speech of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State in the House of Lords in which His Lordship states that the Indian Legislative Assembly will be consulted about the various matters referred to in the speech?

(b) Would the Government please state whether it is proposed to consult this Council also regarding these matters ?

(c) If so, when and in what shape ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : (a) and (b) As the Honourable Member has already been informed by His Excellency the Viceroy an opportunity will be afforded to this Council to discuss the report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee.

(c) Government propose to move an official Resolution on the subject, but I cannot say at present when it will be moved.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : Is the Honourable Member in a position to give the House an idea of the reasons of the omission of the Council of State from reference in the speech of the Secretary of State and a similar omission on the last occasion ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : I can only infer, as the Honourable Member himself is equally at liberty to infer, that the omission if correctly reported was due to a *lapsus linguæ* or a *lapsus memoriæ*.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : I refer to the repetition of the omission by the Secretary of State which makes the Honourable Member's explanation inapplicable. On a previous occasion I had to call attention to a similar omission and I received an answer somewhat of the kind received to-day. But the same omission was repeated months later by another Secretary of State.

EXPORT OF BONES AND BONE-DUST.

20. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of bones and bone-dust exported out of India within the last three years ?

THE HONOURABLE MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : 2,51,253 tons.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE ALL-INDIA AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

21. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : Why has the All-India Agricultural Conference been indefinitely postponed ?

THE HONOURABLE MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : The object of the proposed Conference was chiefly to discuss a suggestion for an all-India organisation for the advancement generally of agriculture in India. It was not found possible to hold this conference but the question of establishing such an organisation will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board of Agriculture in December at which it is hoped that in addition to the regular Provincial representatives, Ministers of Agriculture of the various Provinces will also be able to attend.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA.

22. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : With reference to the recent announcement of Lord Birkenhead in the House of Lords on the development of agriculture in India, what steps do Government propose to take ?

THE HONOURABLE MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : As the Honourable Member is aware, Agriculture being a transferred subject, the problem of

agricultural development is one primarily for the Provincial Governments. But the Government of India, who are fully alive to the importance of this question, are now considering, how, subject to the limitations imposed by the Devolution Rules, they can best assist and further this development. The remarks on the subject of agriculture made in His Excellency the Viceroy's opening speech on the 20th August, to which the Honourable Member is referred, indicate generally the lines upon which action is at present contemplated.

FLOW OF GANGES WATER BELOW NARORA.

23. The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : With reference to a resolution passed in this Council in February last, regarding the Ganges question at Narora in the United Provinces, do Government propose to appoint the Committee recommended in the Resolution and if so, when ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : The Government of India do not propose to appoint a Committee for the purpose mentioned in the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : Are the Government prepared to take any steps with regard to the matter ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : No, Sir.

PERCENTAGE FOR HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN INDIA BY PROVINCES FOR MUHAMMADANS.

24. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI : Will the Government be pleased to state if they propose to introduce a percentage for higher administrative posts in India by Provinces for the Muhammadans ? Will the Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the speech of Dr. Zia-ud-din Ahmed, M.L.C., of Aligarh, with regard to this matter in London ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : Appointments to most of the administrative posts in Provinces are made by the Local Government without reference to the Government of India, and the Government of India have no intention of restricting the powers of Local Governments in the manner suggested by the Honourable Member. The attention of Government has not been drawn to the speech by Dr. Zia-ud-din Ahmad and I regret I have not been able to procure a copy of the speech.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS BY DEPUTY POSTMASTERS GENERAL.

25. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Deputy Postmasters General in the Provinces have the power of appointing any officer under their administration without the sanction of the Postmasters General ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : Deputy Postmasters General attached to the larger Circles in order to assist Postmasters-General have no independent powers of appointment. Deputy Postmasters-General in charge of Railway Mail Service Circles and of the minor postal Circles of Sind and Baluchistan have such powers.

CONSTRUCTION OF CHITTAGONG-BURMA RAILWAY.

26. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI : Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any chance of the Chittagong-Burma Railway being opened within five years ?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : The Government are unable to indicate any date for the construction of this railway at present as it is difficult to see how it can give a remunerative return on the capital cost of its construction.

NUMBER OF MUHAMMADANS IN STATE RAILWAYS DRAWING RS. 100 AND UPWARDS.

27. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI : How many Muhammadans are there in the State Railways drawing a salary of rupees one hundred and upwards and what is the proportion they bear to other Indians and non-Indians ? What policy do the Government follow in filling up the vacancies occurring in this Department of Government ? What administrative control does the Railway Board have over the guaranteed Railways ?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : As regards the first part of the question the Honourable Member is referred to the statistics given in Chapter V of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1923-24 showing the numbers by Departments of superior and subordinate staff on State-owned Railways classed under European, Anglo-Indian, Muslim and non-Muslims. Government have no further statistics and do not propose to call for them in any greater detail.

As regards the second part of the question, while seniority is given due weight in the filling of vacancies, the main consideration is efficiency and in accordance with the undertaking given by Sir Malcolm Hailey in March 1923, Government endeavour to correct marked communal inequalities, wherever this is practicable. As regards Company-worked Railways the filling of vacancies rests with the Agents and their Boards of Directors who are aware of the general policy of Government in such matters.

NUMBER OF MUHAMMADANS IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT AT SIMLA AND DELHI DRAWING RS. 100 AND UPWARDS.

28. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI : How many Muhammadans are there in the Imperial Secretariat at Delhi and Simla, drawing a salary of rupees one hundred and upwards ? Do the Government propose to give a definite share to the Muhammadans in the appointments in the Imperial Secretariat in both the upper and lower divisions ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : There are 121 Muhammadans in the Imperial Secretariat who are drawing pay of Rs. 100 and upwards.

Government are considering the question whether the policy which has been adopted to secure a measure of communal representation in certain

superior services can suitably be applied to the Government of India Secretariat offices.

MUSSALMAN COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

29. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI: How many Collectors of Customs are there in India and how many of them are Mussalmans?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: The superior Customs Service consists of 5 Collectors and 30 Assistant Collectors. Of the former appointments none, and of the latter two, are held by Mussalmans.

MUHAMMADAN CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS.

30. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI: How many Conservators of Forests are there in India and how many of them are Muhammadans?

The HONOURABLE MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: There are at present 31 Conservators of Forests in India including Burma, none of whom is an Indian.

MUHAMMADAN EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS AND P. W. D. SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS.

31. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI: Will the Government be pleased to state how many Executive Engineers and P. W. D. Sub-Divisional Officers there are in the various provinces of India and how many of them are Muhammadans?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS: The information required is given in the statement laid on the table.

Statement.

Province.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS.		SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS.			
			Assistant Executive Engineers.		Assistant Engineers.	
	Total.	Muham- madans.	Total.	Muham- madans.	Total.	Muham- madans.
Madras	47	..	23	1	67	..
Bombay	67	2	25	1	124	1
Bengal	22	..	16	..	38	1
United Provinces ..	64	5	27	2	92	11
Punjab	96	5	56	6	112	14
Burma	34	..	37	..	63	1
Bihar and Orissa ..	20	..	8	3	13	1
Central Provinces ..	18	..	18	1	49	1
Assam	14	1	2	..	20	1

ADOPTION BY PROVINCES OF THE WAKF ACT OF 1923.

32. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI: Will the Government be pleased to state which of the provinces have adopted the Wakf Act of 1923?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR: The Act has been brought into force, with the exception of section 6, in the Punjab and without exception in the United Provinces, and in six districts in Burma, namely, Rangoon including the town of Rangoon, Mandalay, Amherst, Bassein, Akyab and Prome. In the Bombay Presidency the Act has been brought into force except in respect of *wakfs* established for the benefit of the Dowoodi Borah community. The Bihar and Orissa Government propose to apply the Act shortly to the whole province. The Act has not however been brought into force in any other province.

MUHAMMADAN RESIDENTS IN INDIAN STATES.

33. The HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MOULVI AMAN ALI: Will the Government be pleased to state how many Residents there are in the Indian States and how many of them are Muhammadans? Do the Government make these appointments or the States themselves?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. P. THOMPSON: The number is approximately 23. None of those is a Muhammadan. The appointments are made by Government.

DENIAL TO THE DEPRESSED CLASSES OF ACCESS TO POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

34. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that, in certain rural parts in some Districts of the Madras Presidency, members of certain communities called depressed classes, including their representative in the local Legislature like Mr. Virian R., M.L.C., are denied free access to Post and Telegraph Offices situated in localities inhabited by caste Hindus and that they are driven to the necessity of transacting their business through the agency of caste Hindus?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to take such steps as it may deem effective to remove this hardship?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS: (a) Yes. Since January 1924 the Postmaster-General has received eighteen complaints with respect to extra-departmental offices and two with respect to departmental offices. Eight of these complaints were found to be groundless; in respect of nine the offices have been removed to accessible localities. The three remaining complaints are still under inquiry.

(b) The question of the inaccessibility of rural offices to the depressed classes came to the notice of the Postmaster-General, Madras, in May 1916. The Postmaster-General issued orders to Superintendents of Post Offices in 1916 and again in 1917 to have all such offices removed to accessible localities. As a result one hundred and three rural offices were removed to accessible localities and, as stated in my reply to (a), nine others have now also been removed.

COLLECTION OF INCOME-TAX BY TWO INSTALMENTS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

35. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the system of collecting income-tax in two instalments in the Madras Presidency was replaced by a system of single payment?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it will consider the desirability of reverting to the old system of collecting by two instalments?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) Yes. Before the passing of the Income-tax Act, 1922, the system of payment of tax by instalments was in force only in Madras and the United Provinces, but since that Act was passed, a uniform set of rules and instructions has been issued for all Provinces.

(b) On the information before them the Government do not consider it necessary to revert to the old system in Madras.

GRANT OF INCREASE OF PAY IN LIEU OF OVERSEAS ALLOWANCES TO INDIAN OFFICERS IN RAILWAY SERVICE.

36. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether, when the new scale of pay was for the first time introduced in 1919-20 along with overseas allowance, it was ruled with regard to Indian officers, already in Railway Service at the time, that they should get increase of pay in lieu of overseas allowance to the same extent as officers of European domicile in corresponding grades;

(b) whether it was not the intention that this privilege should be extended to existing Indian officers in respect to the higher grades to which they might have subsequently been promoted;

(c) whether this rule is being observed in practice on all Company-worked lines on which there had been previously no distinction in scales of pay between European and Indian officials;

(d) whether it is a fact that this rule is not being observed by the South Indian Railway Administration?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) Yes, to officers of certain departments of the State Railway Revenue Establishment only.

(b) No. The overseas pay was confined to officers of Assistant and Executive ranks only.

(c) and (d). Government have no information nor do they propose to call for it.

REDUCTION OF THE DUTY ON SALT USED FOR FISH CURING.

37. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the use of salt-earth for curing fish was prohibited on sanitary grounds?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the terms on which owners of fish curing yards on the West and East Coast of Southern India are supplied with salt necessary for the industry ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of the duty levied on such salt and whether it is a fact that the duty was enhanced from 10 annas to Rs. 1-4 per maund since April 1924 ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for such enhancement when the duty on edible salt was reduced from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 ?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to remove the hardship caused to the industry by this enhanced duty ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being obtained and will be furnished to him in due course.

ANNUAL CLASSIFICATION IN THE PIECE WORK ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRINTING, CALCUTTA.

38. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : With reference to the answer given to my question No. 45, dated the 3rd February 1925, will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the new scheme mentioned therein is ready and has been brought into operation ;

(b) if so, since when ; and

(c) what are the modifications made thereby in the present system ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PROVIDENT FUNDS IN GOVERNMENT PRESSES.

39. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : With reference to the answer to my question No. 47 of 3rd February 1925, will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) why a Provident Fund has not been brought into operation in the Government of India Printing Presses ; and

(b) what is the provision for piece-workers who, by some mishap or otherwise, get incapacitated for further work after 10 or 15 years' regular work in the Press ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to his question No. 6.

(b) A piece-worker who is incapacitated for further work after 10 or 15 years' service is entitled to a pension in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations.

METHOD OF PAYMENT TO PIECE-WORKERS IN THE BOOK-BINDING DEPARTMENT
OF THE CALCUTTA PRESS.

40. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (a) With reference to the answer given to my question No. 316 of 3rd September 1924, will the Government be pleased to state whether in the book-binding department of the Government of India Printing Press at Calcutta, piece-workers, who make up plates, plans, diagrams, etc., are still paid by the hour ?

(b) Is it a fact that, since 5th June last, they are paid not by the hours but by rates ? If so, why ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) No.

(b) Yes. When hour rates were paid the men worked so slowly that it was found necessary to adopt the piece rate system under which they are remunerated strictly in accordance with the amount of work done.

MAKING OVER CHARGE OF THE GOVERNORSHIP OF ASSAM BY SIR JOHN KERR.

41. THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : (a) Would the Government please state the reasons that necessitated Sir John Kerr having to go to Shillong from Calcutta to make over charge of the officiating Governorship of Assam to Sir William Reid prior to going on leave ?

(b) Is it not a fact that this involved considerable expenditure of time and public money ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : (a) In order to remove any doubts as to whether the Warrant appointing Sir John Kerr to be Governor of the Province of Assam was still in force after his tenure of the appointment of Acting Governor of Bengal, it was considered advisable to issue a new Warrant of Appointment, and Sir John Kerr had in consequence to proceed to Shillong to be installed as Governor.

(b) The point involved has been noted for consideration when the Government of India Act is next amended.

PHILIP DUFF COMMISSION'S REPORT.

42. THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : (a) Would the Government please state what action has been taken on the Philip Duff Commission's Report regarding the amalgamation of the Ooria-speaking tracts of India in one administration ?

(b) If no action has been taken, would the Government please state what and how soon action will be taken ?

The HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : The Government of India have recently received the reply of the Madras Government and this is under active consideration. They are unable to make any further announcement at present.

AMOUNT OF EXTRA POSTAGE REALISED YEARLY ON BOOK AND OTHER PACKETS WHEN REDIRECTED.

43. THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY :

(a) Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the amount of extra postage realised yearly on book and other packets when redirected ?

(b) Would the Government please state why such extra postage is collected ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : (a) No extra fee is levied for the redirection of packets. A fee has been levied since the 1st July 1924 for the redirection of parcels and this fee brought in about Rs. 28,000 from July 1924 to June 1925.

(b) Unlike other postal articles the work involved in dealing with a re-directed parcel is just as great as for first transmission. The expense incurred in handling and transmitting parcels is also much greater than with other articles. The differential treatment between the former and latter classes of articles is also recognised in International Postal Regulations.

The HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : Is the Honourable Member in a position to define what a packet and a parcel is, and whether a packet of books sent by the Government here to Honourable Members, which comes back to them redirected here or elsewhere, would come under the term parcel, entailing a levy of extra postage ?

The HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : I understand that a packet is a parcel which is open at both ends, and that a parcel is a packet which is closed at both ends.

The HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : Will some Honourable Member belonging to the Government take steps to see that bundles of papers sent to Honourable Members are kept open at both ends and do not entail the levy of extra postage ?

INTRODUCTION OF COUPÉ COMPARTMENTS ON RAILWAYS.

44. THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY ;

(a) Will the Government please state what steps have been taken for the introduction of coupé compartments on the different Railways ?

(b) Will the Government also please state when a larger introduction of lower class coupé compartments will be effected ?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK : The Honourable Member will find information concerning the steps taken by Railways to introduce coupé compartments in Volume I of the Report by the Railway Board for 1924-25 which it is hoped will be published very shortly.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the Convention and Statute on the International Regime of Maritime Ports and Protocol of Signature ratified on behalf of India.

Ratified on behalf of India.

C.-823 M.-312 VIII, 1923.
[C. G. C. T.-36.]

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

• SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT.
(NOVEMBER 15TH—DECEMBER 9TH, 1923.)

CONVENTION AND STATUTE ON THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME OF MARITIME
PORTS AND PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

(As this Convention is to remain open for signature until October 31st, 1924, the names of the countries and of their plenipotentiaries will be inscribed on that date in alphabetical order.)

* * * * *
Desirous of ensuring in the fullest measure possible the freedom of communications mentioned in Article 23 (e) of the Covenant by guaranteeing in the maritime ports situated under their sovereignty or authority and for purposes of international trade equality of treatment between the ships of all the Contracting States, their cargoes and passengers ;

Considering that the best method of achieving their present purpose is by means of a General Convention to which the greatest possible number of States can later accede ;

And whereas the Conference which met at Genoa on April 10th, 1922, requested, in a resolution which was transmitted to the competent organisations of the League of Nations with the approval of the Council and the Assembly of the League, that the International Conventions relating to the Regime of Communications provided for in the Treaties of Peace should be concluded and put into operation as soon as possible, and whereas Article 379 of the Treaty of Versailles and the corresponding articles of the other Treaties provide for the preparation of a General Convention on the International Regime of Ports ;

Having accepted the invitation of the League of Nations to take part in a Conference which met at Geneva on November 15th, 1923 ;

Desirous of bringing into force the provisions of the Statute relating to the International Regime of Ports adopted thereat, and of concluding a General Convention for this purpose, the High Contracting Parties have appointed as their plenipotentiaries

[Here follow the names.]

* * * * *
who, after communicating their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :—

Article 1.

The Contracting States declare that they accept the Statute on the International Regime of Maritime Ports annexed hereto, adopted by the Second General Conference on Communications and Transit which met at Geneva on November 15th, 1923.

This Statute shall be deemed to constitute an integral part of the present Convention

Consequently, they hereby declare that they accept the obligations and undertakings of the said Statute in conformity with the terms and in accordance with the conditions set out therein.

Article 2.

The present Convention does not in any way affect the rights and obligations arising out of the provisions of the Treaty of Peace signed at Versailles on June 28th, 1919, or out of the provisions of the other corresponding Treaties, in so far as they concern the Powers which have signed, or which benefit by, such Treaties.

Article 3.

The present Convention of which the French and English texts are both authentic, shall bear this day's date, and shall be open for signature until October 31st, 1924, by any

State represented at the Conference of Geneva by any Member of the League of Nations and by any States to which the Council of the League of Nations shall have communicated a copy of the Convention for this purpose.

Article 4.

The present Convention is subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who shall notify their receipt to every State signatory of or acceding to the Convention.

Article 5.

On and after November 1st, 1924, the present Convention may be acceded to by any State represented at the Conference referred to in Article 1, by any Member of the League of Nations, or by any State to which the Council of the League of Nations shall have communicated a copy of the Convention for this purpose.

Accession shall be effected by an instrument communicated to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General shall at once notify such deposit to every State signatory of or acceding to the Convention.

Article 6.

The present Convention will not come into force until it has been ratified in the name of five States. The date of its coming into force shall be the ninetieth day after the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the fifth ratification. Thereafter, the present Convention will take effect in the case of each Party ninety days after the receipt of its ratification or of the notification of its accession.

In compliance with the provisions of Article 18 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Secretary-General will register the present Convention upon the day of its coming into force.

Article 7.

A special record shall be kept by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations showing, with due regard to the provisions of Article 9, which of the Parties have signed, ratified, acceded to or denounced the present Convention. This record shall be open to the Members of the League at all times; it shall be published as often as possible, in accordance with the directions of the Council.

Article 8.

Subject to the provisions of Article 2 above, the present Convention may be denounced by any Party thereto after the expiration of five years from the date when it came into force in respect of that Party. Denunciation shall be effected by notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations. Copies of such notification shall be transmitted forthwith by him to all the other Parties, informing them of the date on which it was received.

A denunciation shall take effect one year after the date on which the notification thereof was received by the Secretary-General, and shall operate only in respect of the notifying State.

Article 9.

Any State signing or acceding to the present Convention may declare at the moment either of its signature, ratification or accession, that its acceptance of the present Convention does not include any or all of its colonies, overseas possessions, protectorates, or overseas territories, under its sovereignty or authority, and may subsequently accede, in conformity with the provisions of Article 5, on behalf of any such colony, overseas possession, protectorate or territory excluded by such declaration.

Denunciation may also be made separately in respect of any such colony, overseas possession, protectorate or territory and the provisions of Article 8 shall apply to any such denunciation.

Article 10.

The revision of the present Convention may be demanded at any time by one-third of the Contracting States.

In faith whereof the above-named plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

• DONE at Geneva the ninth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, in a single copy which shall remain deposited in the Archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

[Here follow the signatures.]

STATUTE*Article 1.*

All ports which are normally frequented by sea-going vessels and used for foreign trade shall be deemed to be maritime ports within the meaning of the present Statute.

Article 2.

Subject to the principle of reciprocity and to the reservation set out in the first paragraph of Article 3, every Contracting State undertakes to grant the vessels of every other Contracting State equality of treatment with its own vessels, or those of any other State whatsoever, in the maritime ports situated under its sovereignty or authority, as regards freedom of access to the port, the use of the port, and the full enjoyment of the benefits as regards navigation and commercial operations which it affords to vessels, their cargoes and passengers.

The equality of treatment thus established shall cover facilities of all kinds, such as allocation of berths, loading and unloading facilities, as well as dues and charges of all kinds levied in the name or for the account of the Government, public authorities, concessionaries or undertakings of any kind.

Article 3.

The provisions of the preceding article in no way restrict the liberty of the competent Port Authorities to take such measures as they may deem expedient for the proper conduct of the business of the port provided that these measures comply with the principle of equality of treatment as defined in the said article.

Article 4.

All dues and charges levied for the use of maritime ports shall be duly published before coming into force.

The same shall apply to the by-laws and regulations of the port.

In each maritime port, the Port Authority shall keep open for inspection by all persons concerned a table of the dues and charges in force, as well as a copy of the by-laws and regulations.

Article 5.

In assessing and applying Customs and other analogous duties, local octroi or consumption duties, or incidental charges, levied on the importation or exportation of goods through the maritime ports situated under the sovereignty or authority of the Contracting States, the flag of the vessel must not be taken into account, and accordingly no distinction may be made to the detriment of the flag of any Contracting State whatsoever as between that flag and the flag of the State under whose sovereignty or authority the port is situated, or the flag of any other State whatsoever.

Article 6.

In order that the principle of equal treatment in maritime ports laid down in Article 2 may not be rendered ineffective in practice by the adoption of other methods of discrimination against the vessels of a Contracting State using such ports, each Contracting

State undertakes to apply the provisions of Articles 4, 20, 21 and 22 of the Statute annexed to the Convention on the International Regime of Railways, signed at Geneva on December 9th, 1923, so far as they are applicable to traffic to or from a maritime port, whether or not such Contracting State is a party to the said Convention on the International Regime of Railways. The aforesaid articles are to be interpreted in conformity with the provisions of the Protocol of Signature of the said Convention. (See Annex.)

Article 7.

Unless there are special reasons justifying an exception, such as those based upon special geographical, economic, or technical conditions, the Customs duties levied in any maritime port situated under the sovereignty or authority of a Contracting State may not exceed the duties levied on the other Customs frontiers of the said State on goods of the same kind, source or destination.

If, for special reasons as set out above, a Contracting State grants special Customs facilities on other routes for the importation or exportation of goods, it shall not use these facilities as a means of discriminating unfairly against importation or exportation through the maritime ports situated under its sovereignty or authority.

Article 8.

Each of the Contracting States reserves the power, after giving notice through diplomatic channels, of suspending the benefit of equality of treatment from any vessel of a State which does not effectively apply, in any maritime port situated under its sovereignty or authority, the provisions of this Statute to the vessels of the said Contracting State their cargoes and passengers.

In the event of action being taken as provided in the preceding paragraph, the State which has taken action and the State against which action is taken, shall both alike have the right of applying to the Permanent Court of International Justice by an application addressed to the Registrar; and the Court shall settle the matter in accordance with the rules of summary procedure.

Every Contracting State shall, however, have the right, at the time of signing or ratifying this Convention, of declaring that it renounces the right of taking action as provided in the first paragraph of this article against any other State which may make a similar declaration.

Article 9.

This Statute does not in any way apply to the maritime coasting trade.

Article 10.

Each Contracting State reserves the right to make such arrangements for towage in its maritime ports as it thinks fit, provided that the provisions of Articles 2 and 4 are not thereby infringed.

Article 11.

Each Contracting State reserves the right to organise and administer pilotage services as it thinks fit. Where pilotage is compulsory, the dues and facilities offered shall be subject to the provisions of Articles 2 and 4, but each Contracting State may exempt from the obligation of compulsory pilotage such of its nationals as possess the necessary technical qualifications.

Article 12.

Each Contracting State shall have the power, at the time of signing or ratifying this Convention, of declaring that it reserves the right of limiting the transport of emigrants, in accordance with the provisions of its own legislation to vessels which have been granted special authorisation as fulfilling the requirements of the said legislation. In exercising this right, however, the Contracting State shall be guided, as far as possible, by the principles of this Statute.

The vessels so authorised to transport emigrants shall enjoy all the benefits of this Statute in all maritime ports.

Article 13.

This Statute applies to all vessels, whether publicly or privately owned or controlled.

It does not, however, apply in any way to warships or vessels performing police or administrative functions or, in general, exercising any kind of public authority, or any other vessels which for the time being are exclusively employed for the purposes of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of a State.

Article 14.

This Statute does not in any way apply to fishing vessels or to their catches.

Article 15.

Where, in virtue of a treaty, convention or agreement, a Contracting State has granted special rights to another State within a defined area in any of its maritime ports for the purpose of facilitating the transit of goods or passengers to or from the territory of the said State, no other Contracting State can invoke the stipulations of this Statute in support of any claim for similar special rights.

Every Contracting State which enjoys the aforesaid special rights in a maritime port of another State, whether contracting or not, shall conform to the provisions of this Statute in its treatment of the vessels trading with it and their cargoes and passengers.

Every Contracting State which grants the aforesaid special rights to a non-Contracting State is bound to impose, as one of the conditions of the grant, an obligation on the State which is to enjoy the aforesaid rights to conform to the provisions of this Statute in its treatment of the vessels trading with it and their cargoes and passengers.

Article 16.

Measures of a general or particular character which a Contracting State is obliged to take in case of an emergency affecting the safety of the State or the vital interests of the country may, in exceptional cases, and for as short a period as possible involve a deviation from the provisions of Articles 2 to 7 inclusive; it being understood that the principles of the present Statute must be observed to the utmost possible extent.

Article 17.

No Contracting State shall be bound by this Statute to permit the transit of passengers whose admission to its territories is forbidden, or of goods of a kind of which the importation is prohibited, either on grounds of public health or security, or as a precaution against diseases of animals or plants. As regards traffic other than traffic in transit, no Contracting State shall be bound by this Statute to permit the transport of passengers whose admission to its territories is forbidden, or of goods of which the import or export is prohibited, by its national laws.

Each Contracting State shall be entitled to take the necessary precautionary measures in respect of the transport of dangerous goods or goods of a similar character, as well as general police measures, including the control of emigrants entering or leaving its territory, it being understood that such measures must not result in any discrimination contrary to the principles of the present Statute.

Nothing in this Statute shall affect the measures which one of the Contracting States is or may feel called upon to take in pursuance of general international conventions to which it is a party, or which may be concluded hereafter, particularly conventions concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations, relating to the traffic in women and children, the transit, export or import of particular kinds of articles such as opium or other dangerous drugs, arms, or the produce of fisheries, or in pursuance of general conventions intended to prevent any infringement of industrial, literary or artistic property, or relating to false marks, false indications of origin or other methods of unfair competition.

Article 18.

This Statute does not prescribe the rights and duties of belligerents and neutrals in time of war. The Statute shall, however, continue in force in time of war so far as such rights and duties permit.

Article 19.

The Contracting States undertake to introduce into those conventions in force on December 9th, 1923, which contravene the provisions of this Statute, so soon as circumstances permit and in any case on the expiry of such conventions, the modifications required to bring them into harmony with such provisions, so far as the geographical economic or technical circumstances of the countries or areas concerned allow.

The same shall apply to concessions granted before December 9th, 1923, for the total or partial exploitation of maritime ports.

Article 20.

This Statute does not entail in any way the withdrawal of facilities which are greater than those provided for in the Statute and which have been granted in respect of the use of maritime ports under conditions consistent with its principles. This Statute also entails no prohibition of such grant of greater facilities in the future.

Article 21.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the second paragraph of Article 8, disputes which may arise between Contracting States as to the interpretation or the application of the present Statute shall be settled in the following manner:

Should it prove impossible to settle such dispute either directly between the Parties or by any other method of amicable settlement the Parties to the dispute may, before resorting to any procedure of arbitration or to a judicial settlement, submit the dispute for an advisory opinion to the body established by the League of Nations as the advisory and technical organisation of Members of the League for matters of communications and transit. In urgent cases a preliminary opinion may be given recommending temporary measures, including measures to restore the facilities for international traffic which existed before the act or occurrence which gave rise to the dispute.

Should it prove impossible to settle the dispute by any of the methods of procedure enumerated in the preceding paragraph, the Contracting States shall submit their dispute to arbitration, unless they have decided or shall decide, under an agreement between them, to bring it before the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Article 22.

If the case is submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice, it shall be heard and determined under the conditions laid down in Article 27 of the Statute of the Court.

If arbitration is resorted to, and unless the Parties decide otherwise, each Party shall appoint an arbitrator, and a third member of the arbitral tribunal shall be elected by the arbitrators, or, in case the latter are unable to agree, shall be selected by the Council of the League of Nations from the list of assessors for Communications and Transit cases mentioned in Article 27 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice; in such latter case, the third arbitrator shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the penultimate paragraph of Article 4 and the first paragraph of Article 5 of the Covenant of the League.

The arbitral tribunal shall judge the case on the basis of the terms of reference mutually agreed upon between the Parties. If the Parties have failed to reach an agreement, the arbitral tribunal, acting unanimously, shall itself draw up terms of reference after considering the claims formulated by the Parties; if unanimity cannot be obtained, the Council of the League of Nations shall decide the terms of reference under the conditions laid down in the preceding paragraph. If the procedure is not determined by the terms of reference it shall be settled by the arbitral tribunal.

During the course of the arbitration the Parties, in the absence of any contrary provision in the terms of reference, are bound to submit to the Permanent Court of International Justice any question of international law or question as to the legal meaning of this Statute the solution of which the arbitral tribunal at the request of one of the Parties, pronounces to be a necessary preliminary to the settlement of the dispute.

Article 23.

It is understood that this Statute must not be interpreted as regulating in any way rights and obligations *inter se* of territories forming part of or placed under the protection of the same sovereign State, whether or not these territories are individually Contracting States.

Article 24.

Nothing in the preceding articles is to be construed as affecting in any way the rights or duties of a Contracting State as Member of the League of Nations.

ANNEX.

Text of the articles of the Statute on the International Regime of Railways and of the provisions relating thereto contained in the Protocol of Signature :

Article 4. Recognising the necessity of granting sufficient elasticity in the operation of railways to allow the complex needs of traffic to be met, it is the intention of the Contracting States to maintain unimpaired full freedom of operation while ensuring that such freedom is exercised without detriment to international traffic.

They undertake to give reasonable facilities to international traffic and to refrain from all discrimination of an unfair nature directed against the other Contracting States, their nationals or their vessels.

The benefit of the provisions of the present article is not confined to traffic governed by a single contract ; it extends also to the traffic dealt with in Articles 21 and 22 of the present Statute subject to the conditions specified in the said articles.

Article 20. The Contracting States, recognising the necessity in general of leaving tariffs sufficient flexibility to permit of their being adapted as closely as possible to the complex needs of trade and commercial competition retain full freedom to frame their tariffs in accordance with the principles accepted by their own legislation, provided that this freedom is exercised without detriment to international traffic.

They undertake to apply to international traffic tariffs which are reasonable both as regards their amounts and the conditions of their application, and undertake to refrain from all discrimination of an unfair nature directed against the other Contracting States, their nationals or their vessels.

These provisions shall not prevent the establishment of combined rail and sea tariffs which comply with the principles laid down in the previous paragraphs.

Article 21. The benefit of the provisions of Article 20 shall not be confined to transport based on single contracts. It shall extend equally to transport made up of successive stages by rail, by sea or by any other mode of transport traversing the territory of more than one Contracting State and regulated by separate contracts, subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions :

Each of the successive contracts must specify the initial source and final destination of the consignment ; during the whole duration of carriage the goods must remain under the supervision of the carriers and must be forwarded by each carrier to his successor direct and without delay other than that necessary for the completion of the transport operations and the Customs, octroi, police or other administrative formalities.

Article 22. The provisions of Article 20 shall be equally applicable to internal, as well as to international, traffic by rail as regards goods which remain temporarily at the port without regard to the flag under which they have been imported or will be exported.

Protocol of Signature. It is understood that any differential treatment of flags based solely on the consideration of the flag should be considered as discrimination of an unfair nature in the sense of Articles 4 and 20 of the Statute on the International Regime of Railways.

PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME OF MARITIME PORTS.

At the moment of signing the Convention of to-day's date relating to the International Regime of Maritime Ports, the undersigned, duly authorised, have agreed as follows : —

1. It is understood that the provisions of the present Statute shall apply to ports of refuge specially constructed for that purpose.

2. It is understood that the British Government's reservation as to the provisions of Section 24 of the " Pilotage Act " of 1913 is accepted.

3. It is understood that the obligations laid down in French Law in regard to ship brokers shall not be regarded as contrary to the principle and spirit of the Statute on the International Regime of Maritime Ports.

4. It is understood that the condition of reciprocity laid down in Article 2 of the Statute on the International Regime of Maritime Ports shall not exclude from the benefit of the said Statute Contracting States which have no maritime ports and do not enjoy in any zone of a maritime port of another State the rights mentioned in Article 15 of the said Statute.

5. In the event of the flag or nationality of a Contracting State being identical with the flag or nationality of a State or territory which is outside the Convention, no claim can be advanced on behalf of the latter State or territory to the benefits assured by this Statute to the flags or nationals of Contracting States.

The present Protocol will have the same force, effect and duration as the Statute of to-day's date of which it is to be considered as an integral part.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned plenipotentiaries have signed the present Protocol.

DONE at Geneva, the ninth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, in a single copy, which will remain deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations ; certified copies will be transmitted to all the States represented at the Conference.

[Here follow the same signatures as those appearing at the end of the Convention.]

FINAL ACT OF THE SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT.

The second General Conference on Communications and Transit, convened in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for General Conferences adopted at the Barcelona Conference, and in execution of the resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Nations on April 19th, 1923, met on November 15th, 1923, at the seat of the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva.

The Conference discussed the Agenda prepared by the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit. In particular, it considered a Draft Convention and Statute on the International Regime of Railways, a Draft Convention and Statute on the International Regime of Maritime Ports, a Draft Convention and Statute relating to the Transmission in Transit of Electric Power, and a Draft Convention and Statute relating to the Development of Hydraulic Power affecting more than one State.

The Council of the League of Nations appointed

M. Ettore CONTI, Senator of the Kingdom of Italy,
as President of the Conference.

The Secretarial work was entrusted to the following members of the Communications and Transit Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations :—

M. R. HAAS (Secretary-General of the Conference) ;

Mr. T. A. HAM ;

M. J. M. F. ROMAIN.

The following States participated in the Conference, and for this purpose appointed the Delegations, whose members are set out below :

[Here follow the names of States and their Delegates.]

The Conference met from November 15th until December 9th. The Conference adopted the four Draft Conventions submitted to it for discussion.

The Conference also adopted the following recommendations :—

"The Conference recommends the Contracting States to encourage the conclusion of special Conventions, in the sense of Articles 21 and 38 of the Statute on the International Regime of Railways, with a view to providing for the carriage by rail, or other means of transport, of goods which cannot be consigned on a single contract and which are therefore forwarded by successive contracts and remain, throughout the whole duration of carriage, under the charge of the carrier."

* * * * *

"With a view to ensuring the widest possible extension of the principles of freedom of communication, of equality of treatment and of reciprocity, which are the basis of the Convention and Statute relating to the International Regime of Maritime Ports adopted by the Conference held at Geneva on December 9th, 1923, and which govern, in accordance with the principles of the Covenant and also in conformity with the resolution of the Economic Conference held at Geneva in 1922, the rights laid down in the above-mentioned Statute ;

"Considering that the critical conditions in all countries are due, among other causes, to restrictions affecting passenger and goods traffic which have come into being and have recently become accentuated ;

"The Conference recommends that all States, including those which are not members of the League of Nations, should accept the fundamental principles of the above-mentioned Statute, and should refrain from inequitable economic measures such as, in particular, an abusive extension of the conception of maritime coasting trade ;

"More especially, the Conference recommends to States signatories of the Convention relating to the International Regime of Maritime Ports, or adhering thereto, which are under the same sovereignty as other States whose territory is situated overseas or which have such territories under their sovereignty or authority, to apply, in all circumstances, in their ports or in the ports of such territories, and, under the conditions laid down in Articles 2, 5 and 6, to ships of their nationality carrying on trade between their territories and such States or territories overseas, and to their cargoes and passengers, the same treatment as is applied to the ships of other Contracting States utilising the aforesaid ports and carrying on other trade than the trade specified above."

* * * * *

"The Conference expresses the hope that the Contracting States will endeavour to ensure the widest possible application of the provisions of the Convention on the Regime of Maritime Ports, the Convention on the Regime of Railways, the Convention relating to the Transmission in Transit of Electric Power and the Convention relating to the Development of Hydraulic Power, in the colonies, overseas possessions, protectorates and overseas territories placed under their sovereignty or authority, unless special circumstances render this impossible, and meanwhile that, in particular as regards the Convention of the Regime of Maritime Ports, they will grant equitable treatment to the vessels, passengers and cargoes of the other Contracting States and maintain the facilities existing at present in the chief colonial ports open to international traffic."

* * * * *

"The Conference notes the recommendation made by the Central Commission for Rhine Navigation which is as follows :

'The Commission hopes that the competent organisations of the League of Nations will consider the best method of assuring collaboration between waterways and railways.'

"Considering that the question raised by the Central Commission is of a highly complicated character and calls for full and careful investigation,

“And, in view of the great importance of the question,

“The Conference refers the matter to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations and requests him to instruct the competent organisations of the League to carry out this investigation with a view to the making of such recommendations as may appear desirable.”

In faith whereof the Delegates have signed the present Act.

DONE at Geneva the ninth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, in a single copy, which shall remain deposited in the Archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

[Here follow the signatures.]

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, information has been received that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant his assent to the following Bills:—

The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Workmen's Breach of Contract (Repealing) Act, 1925.

The Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act, 1925.

The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Legislative Assembly (President's Salary) Act, 1925.

The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Obscene Publications Act, 1925.

The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Cantonments (House Accommodation Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Indian Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925.

The Indian Finance Act, 1925.

The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Indian Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Indian Income-tax (Second Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Prisons (Amendment) Act, 1925.

The Indian Cotton Cess (Amendment) Act, 1925.

DEATHS OF LORD RAWLINSON, SIR SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA AND MR. C. R. DAS.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Law Member): Sir, let me, on behalf of the House, discharge a very pleasing duty of extending a cordial welcome to the new Members who have taken their oaths of office this morning. I feel sure that their accession to our ranks will lend considerable weight and prestige to our deliberations.

[Sir Narasimha Sarma.]

I next proceed to the sad task of recounting a melancholy tale of the losses which this country and the House in particular have sustained since the Delhi Session was closed in March last. Honourable Members will remember how towards the close of the March Session they found one morning suddenly missing from their midst the stately and stalwart figure of His Excellency the then Commander-in-Chief, Lord Rawlinson, who adorned these Benches for upwards of four years. All of us recorded a fervent and tearful prayer and expressed a devout hope that Lord Rawlinson might be restored to us again in the full vigour of his health, but alas it was willed otherwise, and the cruel hand of death has snatched away from us a distinguished soldier-statesman, one to whom India and the Empire looked forward eagerly for a continuance of the eminent services which he had rendered to the Empire both in times of peace and war. The unique demonstration of affection and gratitude which followed and the poignant grief with which all classes of the population and all parts of the Empire mourned his sudden death are proof positive of the immense loss which the country and this House sustained in Lord Rawlinson's disappearance from the ranks of the fighters in the country's cause.

I have had exceptional opportunities of watching what Lord Rawlinson had been attempting to do on behalf of India. I did not always see eye to eye with him, and I have had occasions to repent my folly in pressing several points on his attention: and let me therefore assure my countrymen that in Lord Rawlinson they had a friend who would have placed this country on a firmer foundation where progress was possible in all directions. Efficiency, economy and self-dependence were his mottos, and he succeeded in an eminent degree in fulfilling those objects. But, alas, we are all creatures of circumstances: and if he did not do more, if he could not do more, it was not for lack of will or lack of determination to help India but owing to other causes. But we need not weep in vain. Nature knows no void, she does not permit it, and we are grateful that His Majesty has been pleased to permanently appoint as Lord Rawlinson's successor a soldier no less distinguished in war, a Field Marshal, whom we can welcome in an even greater degree as being associated with India and the Indian Army, one whose family has been connected with India for generations past. We welcome him, and we feel assured that under his able guidance the Indian Army will make even more rapid progress towards efficiency and economy, and that India will be placed firmly on the path by which she can become self-dependent.

But the tale of woe and suffering of India does not end in a recital of the premature death of our Commander-in-Chief. Yama has always been impartial, is known to be impartial, and he has asked us to spare, for his company, two of our most ardent patriots. India and Bengal alike mourn the loss from their midst of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and Mr. C. R. Das. But India has always been known to be a land of sacrifices, and she cannot grudge Yama the company of these two distinguished men. Both were men of great intellectual eminence and considerable emotional feeling. These two virtues, these two qualities, were combined in their personalities in varying degrees and varying proportions. I had the honour and privilege of a longer acquaintance with Sir Surendra Nath than with Mr. C. R. Das. I remember,—as

if it occurred only yesterday—how 37 years ago at the third Indian National Congress held in Madras in the year 1887 I had the privilege of listening to the magnificent eloquence which always distinguished Sir Surendra Nath. He and I were both delegates. I was a mere youth who, drawn by the political glamour of the advancement of his country, joined the ranks of the Congress so far back as 1887. Sir Surendra Nath lived to see the partial fruition of his endeavours, of his unremitting labours on behalf of his country, which extended over a period of fifty years and more. He had the satisfaction that the reforms which he pleaded for over a period of 40 years had been introduced partially, slowly, gradually, but certainly—and I could mark a note of satisfaction, a warmth of feeling towards the British connection in which he believed lay the best chance of progress for India, and he felt optimistic, he felt hopeful that that union was being consolidated on firm foundations. He has been truly described as the father of Indian nationalism. If he was not the sole father of Indian nationalism, he was certainly its foster parent also. No one did more towards consolidating national unity than did that eminent statesman. I can well remember the immense sacrifices that he had made on behalf of his country, the distinguished services he had rendered both in and out of the Parliaments of India, and, lastly, as a Minister of the Crown. His wise guiding hand has disappeared just at the moment when it was being lifted again for the benefit of his countrymen. Mr. C. R. Das could lay equal claim to patriotic fervour, to undoubted self-effacement and self-sacrifice in the nation's cause: and the energy and the fervour which in the case of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea were spread over a period of fifty years found aggressive expression—spread over a very much shorter period and naturally with greater intensity—in Mr. C. R. Das. He was possessed of great ability as a lawyer and of considerable intellectual powers, but I should think, though my acquaintance with him had not been very long, he possessed the emotional faculty, deep emotional feeling in even greater abundance than Sir Surendra Nath, and hence the difference in the careers of these two eminent personalities. Mr. Das's pent-up emotions and his energies were suddenly brought into activity at an acute phase in the country's development of political ideals.

I remember how we sat facing him at one of the Committee meetings of the Congress where some of us could not appreciate the logic of his arguments, and I remember the flash of fire from his indignant eyes when he brushed aside logic and arguments as of no moment in these large questions we were discussing and I sat cold and unmoved, it is true, but still could appreciate what was moving that patriot and how that emotional fervour was gaining adherents daily to his view point. Alas, we have lost him just at the wrong moment, at a moment when his richly earned claim to a following and his dearly bought experience were inducing him to make his activities run into new and fruitful channels. Just at that time when India could ill spare him, when his guiding hand and the guiding hand of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea might have been of inestimable use in moulding and shaping the current of popular feeling, he has been snatched away from us. India's loss, Bengal's loss, have been great indeed. Sir, he lived too intensely. His generous impulses appealed to a nation which always looked upon asceticism as one of the highest ideals

[Sir Narasimha Sarma.]

of man and there is no doubt that he floated on the wave of this enthusiastic national feeling and headed its course and might have moulded that current into channels which would have fructified the country's energies in useful directions. Sir, our loss has been great. Greater has been the loss of those who have been nearly and dearly connected with him. Lady Rawlinson deserves our sympathy. I think Sir Surendra Nath's son, B. S. Banerjea, and Mrs. Das are equally entitled to an expression of our sympathy. May I, Sir, on behalf of the House, ask you to convey to them an expression of our heart-felt sympathy in the bereavement which has overtaken them.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : We associate ourselves, with a heavy heart, with the expressions of sorrow on the tragically sudden and unexpected death of that great soldier and good man, our late Commander-in-Chief. Beloved was he not only of the Army, literally whose idol he was, but of all who came in contact with him in any way. His memory will be long cherished and revered by them all. Lord Rawlinson's efforts towards Indianisation of the Army, necessarily limited as they were in scope, and His Excellency's keen endeavours to place the military training of Indian youth on a solid basis and sound foundation, are additional claims to the gratitude of the people which is willingly conceded.

I feel sure that good work in this direction, so well and so sincerely begun will be continued and expanded by Field Marshal General Sir William Birdwood, the friend of the Indian Army and the Indian people, whom we welcome as a Member of this House.

I had your permission, Sir, for which I am grateful, to mention to the House, the other lamentable deaths—colossal national bereavements—regarding which the Leader of the House has anticipated me. This anticipation—against what smaller minds may call precedents—is in itself a fine tribute and compliment to the memory of the great departed, for he speaks here in advance, not in his private and individual capacity, but as the Leader of the House and therefore on behalf of Government. The attitude of Government demonstrated by this delicate anticipation is a significant sign of the times upon which they are to be congratulated.

The death of two of the greatest Sons and Leaders of India that has been referred to has plunged the country and the people into profound grief. The removal of Deshabandhu Chitta Ranjan Das and Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea within a few days of one another, following with tragic swiftmess upon the death of Babu Aswini Kumar Dutt, Sir Ashutosh Chaudhury, Sir Ashutosh Mukherji and Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu has been a heavy and exacting toll, which few countries with depleted resources all round, could afford and survive. Never were their services worse needed by their country than now, when from every point of view, it has arrived at a parting of the ways. Both come from good old Vikrampur stocks, the salt of Bengal life, though it is not generally known that Sir Surendra Nath in his origin was an East Bengal man, which probably lent additional vigour to the anti-partition campaign. Sir Surendra Nath, who was long the bulwark of his country's

cause in the Central Legislature before its division into two Houses, died literally in harness, though well within view of reaching four score of years. Full of years and though debilitated in health, he reshouldered the heavy burden and the thankless task of leading Moderate India and died full of honour and glory that such leadership connoted. The forward movement that he initiated half a century ago and which was the foundation and beginning of later day social, political and economic activity in India, for good or evil, will have the credit for all that is achieved in the promised "spacious" day. The whirl-wind campaign of agitation and national awakening in Northern, Northern-Western, Western and Southern India that he organised gave the other provinces life that had rich fruition later on and that made Mr. Gokhale say that what Bengal thinks to-day all India will think to-morrow. That is Bengal's rich reward, though in the nature of things it is not in the ascendant in the sister Provinces to-day. Well indeed has Sir Surendra Nath been claimed as the father—and I call him the father-founder—of Indian Nationalism, a claim that all sections of political thought have readily and generously conceded. The present and the late leader of the Swaraj party imbibed their initial inspiration at his feet.

The late Leader of the House used lovingly to call him Guruji, which was more than an idle compliment, and the present Leader has told this House what his relation with Sir Surendra Nath was. His and Deshabandhu Das's career are a romance and evolution in Nationalism that will make thoughtful students of politics think deeper.

Deshabandhu Das, separated from Sir Surendra Nath by the span of a quarter of a century in age, came under Sir Surendra Nath's influence like myself in the early student association days but drifted away from politics to which he returned with rebounding vigour towards his waning years. How startlingly eventful, though short and intensive, that career was is now a matter of history. He had also a literary, professional, and social service career that marked him out as a towering personality, apart from his later political career. After notable vicissitudes Mr. Das died almost unexpectedly when in sight of richer fruition of his labours, with changing views about responsive co-operation, which he did not hesitate to adumbrate shortly before his death, in spite of assured unpopularity with some of his own Party. That did not daunt him, but nevertheless told on his health and spirit and probably hastened the end. He of all men could alone have carried into successful operation the revised programme of his Party, which would bring him soon closer to other schools of political thought, without real and reasoned union and unity among whom no tangible advance in our remarkably mixed polity would be conceivable in the near future. His premature death is therefore a double calamity, a keen sense of which, as well as high appreciation of his unique self-sacrifice and powers of organization, evoked spontaneous outbursts of tribute from all parts of the country and all sections of the community, including the highest officials here and in England, even though they wholly disagreed with his political methods and objectives. Demonstrations at his funeral, the like of which had never been seen, nor heard of, staggered imagination. It will make thoughtful people—officials and otherwise—pause and ponder on its significance and possibilities.

[Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary]

Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Moderate of Moderates of the day, had been looked upon as the rankest of Extremists of yesterday. He had suffered imprisonment, arrest, fine, and public ignominy and narrowly escaped deportation and detention, not so very long before he was called upon to take up a responsible Minister's portfolio. I vividly remember the hard task I and other friends had in convincing a Ruler of Bengal of his steadfast loyalty to the country, the constitution and the Government, and it was only at the last moment that his name was taken off from the contemplated list of detenus. And shortly after his imprisonment another Ruler of Bengal, who has just made his mark as Viceroy and officiating Governor General, offered Deshabandhu Das the Minister's portfolio, which for party reasons and passing political phases, he was unable then to accept. The Magistrate's Court that sentenced Deshabandhu Das to imprisonment echoed with eloquent and sincere tributes to his memory and Government offices and Courts—again against all precedent—were closed in his honour and the highest officials, from the officiating Governor downwards, readily helped to contribute to the remarkable success of the funeral demonstrations. Both Mr. Das and Sir Surendra Nath were denied the opportunity of serving the country through the medium of Government service, by itself no mean service to the motherland. Both suffered prosecution and imprisonment, both earned obloquy at the hands of authority. Yet both were loyal, faithful and life-long servants of the people and the country in their own individual way, to whose memory willing homage has been paid by the people and the authorities alike. Sir Surendra Nath had to force his way into the service after invoking the aid of the Queen's Court, and when he found himself dismissed, he was refused admission to the Bar. He had to fight every inch of his way in life and politics afterwards, but he was never embittered against law, order and authority, but was their staunchest friend right on to the end. It was bad government that he opposed and not Government.

The lives and death of two such men afford lessons for serious consideration of the people and the Government alike, contemplation of which would now and here be impossible. A mourning people has voiced its grief on many platforms and in the Press and has also voiced hopes and aspirations, as an unavoidable corollary of their unparalleled devotion, sacrifice and "energetic patriotism", as His Excellency Lord Reading was pleased to put it, in referring to their services. Those undying services cannot end with their death, and it must be our pious hope to see them continued to their rational and legitimate consequences. The void created by their removal from our midst will be impossible to fill and for many a long year Bengal and India would be signally the poorer by their death. May God give their souls rest and peace and grace untold.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROMM (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, in a very few words, on behalf of the non-official Europeans of the Council of State I wish to associate myself with the remarks which fell from the Leader of this House in mourning the loss, first of all, of the late Commander-in-Chief. In his sudden and tragic death the British Empire has lost a distinguished and gallant soldier and in his sudden and tragic departure from among

us we have lost in this Council not only a gallant soldier, but a friend of all of us. The House will remember how sympathetically the late Lord Rawlinson used to deal with the numerous questions which were hurled at his head in connection with the Army. I do not think I ever recollect his acting hastily when he had to answer questions which were put to him relating to the Army. He could not in his high office reveal all the secrets which were entrusted to him, but he promised that he would reduce the cost of the Army in India as far as he could. But beyond a certain point he would not go. For this, I think, we all admired him. The Army was in his care and he refused to take any step which would in any way endanger its efficiency. The late Lord Rawlinson endeared himself to us all not only by our knowledge of the way he worked hard, but also by the knowledge of the way he played hard. On the polo field he was a great expert. He was a difficult man to beat at tennis, as I had occasion to know personally. I think this goes to build up a big man, a man who will not spare himself in his work and who knows how to play as hard as he works. Sir, if it is given to those who have gone before us to look back for a brief moment, I think that the late Lord Rawlinson would find some consolation in the fact that the Army he loved so well, the soldiers both British and Indian he loved so well, have now passed into the hands of one who is not a stranger to us. And we know full well that the well-being and the welfare of the soldier will be looked after with an equal keenness by the successor to the late Lord Rawlinson, I refer of course to Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood.

Sir, I should also like to associate myself with the remarks that fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House in his regret at the deaths of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and Mr. C. R. Das. I will not detain the Honourable Members at length here because the speaker before me gave a most interesting review of the work of these two distinguished gentlemen. I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea some years ago in the old Legislative Council of His Excellency the Viceroy, and we all recognised him as an earnest patriot. I think the same designation can be attributed to Mr. C. R. Das, who was not only a patriot, but a strong man, a strong man because he changed his opinions. It takes a strong man to change his opinion. It is an obstinate man who does not.

Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the suggestion of the Leader of the House that a suitable message of sympathy should be sent to Lady Rawlinson and also to the relatives of the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and Mr. C. R. Das.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to associate myself with all that the Leader of the House has said regarding the death of the late Lord Rawlinson. My acquaintance with His Lordship was very brief as a Member of this Council, but I will never forget the very kindly way in which he asked me whether I had ever had a ride in an aeroplane and whether I would like a ride in Delhi when he was giving an exhibition to the Members of the House. He very greatly impressed the Members of this House, and when I was introduced to him, the

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treated me most kindly, and from that I can guess what a kind soldier and statesman he was.

The next in order of time was Mr. C. R. Das, whose death the country had to mourn. Many striking references were made to the great qualities of that leader, but to me, Sir, it seems that the note which His Excellency Lord Reading struck the other day in his speech was the truest. His Excellency singled out the "*energetic patriotism*" of Mr. C. R. Das for special mention. Indeed he was an energetic fighter. It was this feature of his life that made the greatest impression on me when I had the privilege and the pleasure of his intimate acquaintance and association during his tour in my province in the summer months of 1923. He addressed a very large public meeting, advocating the lifting of the boycott on Council entry. On that occasion a No-changer disturbed the meeting by shouting at Mr. C. R. Das that he was destroying the authority of the Congress by rebelling against it. Mr. Das promptly and sternly replied that the charge was true, that he was a born rebel, and that he rebelled against the authority of every institution which impeded the progress towards freedom of his country. That silenced opposition and the meeting proceeded placidly. His personal magnetism, his forceful advocacy and his keen powers of reasoning made him almost irresistible as a fighter. He devoted all these great gifts of his to the service of his country. He made stupendous sacrifices, and his sacrifices added lustre and glory to his political teachings. He gave away all his worldly possessions and went to jail to vindicate his political faith. As a man he was generous to a fault. He spent little upon himself from the magnificent income he commanded at the Bar, and spent almost the whole of it for the benefit of his needy countrymen. I may mention to you one small instance, which will appeal to this House, for it only shows the nature of the man. We were travelling in a railway compartment and a barber came to shave him, and he put his hand into his pocket to find what he could, and the smallest change he had was a ten-rupee note and he gave it to this barber. A smile by way of protest drew the remark that it was all right, "It is a trifle to us, but it is a fortune to him." That showed the nature of the man. As a man of letters I understand his position among literary men of Bengal was very high. His Sagarsangit and other works are works of outstanding merit. His achievements on the constructive side of public life are also worthy of our attention. The way in which he captured the Corporation of Calcutta and became its first Mayor and ran the affairs of the City, having been elected to that responsible position by the almost unanimous and spontaneous choice of his fellow citizens, compelled the admiration even of his opponents. In all his activities he was only guided by one motive, namely, the desire for the freedom of his country. I believe with most of his countrymen that he spoke the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth when he mentioned from his death-bed to Mahatma Gandhi, that if he survived his illness, he lived for Swaraj, and if he succumbed to his illness, he died for Swaraj. That was the key-note of the man's life. The Indian nation manifested, in the only way in which it could do so outwardly, its love and reverence to him by according to him a funeral such as the greatest of the world's rulers might envy.

The next in turn was Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee, whose death followed in quick succession to that of Mr. Das. He was an equally great patriot. The history of modern Indian nationalism is intimately bound up with the life history of this great man. We knew him as an intrepid and brave fighter in Bengal. As students we used to call him by the nickname *Surrender-not*. Those who knew of his activities in connection with the anti-partition agitation of Bengal knew what a fighter he was. He was always on the side of peaceful and non-violent and orderly progress. I should say he contributed to the progress of Bengal by setting his face against terrorism and violence in Bengal. Mr. C. R. Das did the same. Both these patriots, although they pursued different methods had the same aims, and we feel keenly our loss of these two great patriots in succession. I am very thankful to the Leader of the House for the very generous way in which he has referred to them, and I join with him in the request that you, Sir, may be pleased to convey the expression of the feelings of this House to the members of their families.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I desire to associate myself and the House at large in the first place with the welcome that has been extended by the Honourable the Leader of the House to those Members who have taken their seats to-day, and in the welcome which he extended to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his return to the seat which he occupied with such distinction a year ago. I have been asked to convey to the bereaved relatives of the late Lord Rawlinson, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee and Mr. C. R. Das messages of sympathy and condolence on the great losses they have sustained. It is apparent, I think, from the speeches delivered from both sides of the House that the propositions put to me meet with the unanimous approval of the House, and I unhesitatingly assure the Council that I shall without delay give effect to their wishes in this matter. When this Chamber was last sitting, Lord Rawlinson was a Member though we were deprived of his presence at the last meetings. One of the last things we did in the Council before we adjourned at Delhi was to give public utterance to our prayers for his speedy and complete recovery; and it was a great shock to learn so very soon afterwards that he had passed away. His death occurred within a very few hours of the Council being adjourned, and many of us were thereby enabled to pay our last tribute of respect to his memory by attending the splendid memorial service which was held in Delhi at the end of March. It is no common place to say, as has been said already, that by his death the Empire has lost a brilliant and a gallant soldier and a distinguished administrator, and we in this Council have lost a valued colleague, and I think I may venture to say, a friend, whose sympathetic utterances in debates on military affairs rarely failed to still the voice of controversy, and whose charming personality endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. We may hope that our message to Lady Rawlinson may prove some small consolation to her in her loneliness.

Neither Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee nor Mr. C. R. Das was a Member of this Council. Indeed, the latter never had any connection with the Central Legislature. I personally had not the privilege of his acquaintance, and I think it is possible that many of us here are in the same position. On the other hand, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee was for a considerable time a Member

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of the Indian Legislative Council, and in that capacity many here knew him as a true and ardent patriot, as a brilliant orator and as a friend. He and Mr. C. R. Das in their political life both set one goal before them, one and the same goal, and that goal was the welfare of their beloved motherland. The roads by which they sought to reach that goal were at times wide apart—sometimes so divergent that to the onlooker it seemed almost impossible that they should ever lead to the same destination. But we cannot doubt their sincerity of purpose. They were true friends of India; they loved India, and India loved them, and mourns for them, and it is fitting that we should share her sorrow at their death.

INDIAN SUCCESSION BILL.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HENRY MONCRIEFF SMITH : I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate the law applicable to intestate and testamentary succession in British India.

INDIAN SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROM (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the provisions of section 27 of the Indian Succession Act, 1865.

RESOLUTION *RE* PIECE-WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE (Berar : Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Resolution which I wish to move reads as follows :

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee of official and non-official Members of both the Houses of the Indian Legislature to determine the effect of the changes introduced in consequence of the report of the Committee appointed in 1921 in the interests of the piece-workers in Government of India Presses, and to make recommendations.”

Sir, this Resolution has a history and a rather long one. In 1920 there was trouble in the Government presses both in Simla and elsewhere, and unfortunately there was a strike also, and these people used to wander about the whole of Simla, and somehow they came to me and I felt sympathy for them, and then I brought forward a Resolution on the 14th September 1920. That Resolution was unfortunately opposed by the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland, and I made a long speech and he also in his turn made a still longer speech and in the end my Resolution was rejected. I remember one thing in connection with that Resolution, and that is very important to-day, and with your permission, Sir, I shall read out only a few lines which are of great use to us to-day. Sir Thomas Holland said :

“I have told the people repeatedly that if the terms sanctioned in the Government of India Resolution of the 15th July do not demonstrate that they would get higher wages

for shorter hours of work, I would tear up the Government of India Resolution and I would revise the rates and again revise them until the men would *acknowledge*."

I suppose this is what he meant though he did not use this word —

"that they were able with these terms to earn a decent living by working during decent hours."

That was the pronouncement made on behalf of Government by the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland. I took that assurance, and I waited for one year and after waiting for one year I found that there was no change. So I brought up another Resolution on the 30th September 1921. That Resolution met with a better fate. It was accepted by Government, and a small Committee was appointed, and I also had the honour to have a seat. We met and we made various investigations, and ultimately the Report came out, but unfortunately our Chairman was in bad health and he died soon afterwards. It came therefore to be "my opinion against the higher opinion of the Member for Government on that occasion." Ultimately the Report was signed by Sir Vithaldas Thackersey; therefore, that became the Majority Report, and mine went to the limbo of the Minority Report, and there the matter ended. Well, then, I waited for four years more to see how things would turn out, and I put some questions in the meantime to keep up the subject and to keep it alive; and then on the 3rd September 1924, after waiting for nearly four years, I put a question, and this was my question :

"Will the Government state whether all the recommendations of the Piece-Workers' Committee's Report have been given effect to?"

The reply given by the Honourable Mr. Ley was as follows :

"The recommendations of the Piece-Workers' Committee have been given effect to in full subject to the following provisos, namely, that the distinction between permanent and temporary establishments has been abolished only so far as to give temporary hands the same right to pension as permanent hands. Secondly, the proposal to condone 16 days' absence in each year with retrospective effect entitling them to qualifying service for pension has been accepted."

Except these two small matters, we were told that all the recommendations made in the Majority Report of the Committee, in which I was a minority, had been carried out. I have great respect for my friend, Mr. Ley, both privately as a friend and publicly as an officer. With due deference to him I think this answer was given under a misapprehension. Either my question was not clear or it was interpreted differently. It has been said that the recommendations, with two small exceptions, have been carried out. But as a matter of fact we find now—and it is acknowledged and there will be no difficulty in proving it—that many of the recommendations have never been carried out at all. How that misconception arose I cannot imagine, but it did arise and therefore now it becomes necessary to bring a further Resolution, and this is the further Resolution with which I approach this Honourable House. I said that it was a misconception, because we know that the provident fund which was promised in one of the Majority Report paragraphs was never brought into operation. We know that many of the matters that were pressed in paragraphs 21, 22, 15 and 13 etc., have not been carried out. So there must have been a great misconception here. I shall point it out later on in my speech. Therefore, at this initial stage I do not propose to dwell on it much further.

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The present Resolution, as it will be seen, is intended to appoint a Committee to examine the changes and to make recommendations. The reason is this. First of all these piece-workers should be converted into Government servants. Let there be one system all through. Let there be no trouble about it. But that was opposed by Sir Thomas Holland and the opposition has to this day continued in some shape or other. I knew that there was no hope of ever converting them into Government servants. Therefore I said that the best thing is to get a Committee which will make inquiries and make recommendations. I still hope that if such a Committee is brought into existence a recommendation will be made for converting the piece-workers into Government servants. It looks very unusual that I should make this recommendation and that I should talk about it. The reason is this. The Government of India Presses at Simla, Delhi and Calcutta reproduce to a certain extent the whole of the Government of India in its very crude form, in its undeveloped form. The gentleman who is the Controller of all these may be compared to the Viceroy and the Superintendents of these places may be compared to the Local Governments, and the salaried servants in these places may be compared to the superior service ; and then there are others who come under the inferior service and the piece-workers for whom I speak this afternoon are very poor people, non-descripts. You cannot classify them with anybody. They are paid according to the work that they do. If they work for one hour, they are paid so much. In that way the piece-workers are a sort of contractors. But the piece-worker is not a contractor, because after a certain amount of service you give him a little pension, which is never given to contractors. So they are servants ; they are not servants, because there is no fixed pay given to them. There is no allowance given to them. These people are not entitled to these leave rules and other concessions that are given to Government servants. I call them non-descripts ; they are servants and they are not servants. They get leave and they do not get leave. The whole thing is a difficulty. In fact the whole trouble arose in 1920 out of this. In that year on the 15th of July 1920, a new circular came out. I may say that these piece-workers came into existence as early as 1875. How the rates were settled and what was done and how they were paid I have been unable to discover, because probably they are very old papers. Either they have been stored away somewhere about which nobody knows anything or perhaps they have been destroyed. I could not discover on what basis their pay and all that was settled. That system continued till 1920 ; and about the 15th July 1920 a circular came out and that circular was either misunderstood or probably it was brought out under some misconception. Now, that led to a great deal of trouble and that led to a strike ; and I remember the days on which the Government Gazette could not come out in proper time, because there were no persons to put the copies together. I remember one evening, about midnight, the Honourable Member in charge then and a few of his assistants were going about and trying to put the Gazette together and they brought out the Gazette a few days later. That was the circumstance. What was the circular of 15th July 1920 that caused so much stir ? It made certain changes in the system which has been going on from 1875 to 1920. Probably the people did not understand. I also studied that matter and I thought

that the people were right. I sympathised with the people and I said that this circular is not right. It should have been gradually brought about. The old system had worked very well. There were no complaints and there was no reason why it should not have been continued. On that point there was difference of opinion ; and then it was in consideration of that difference of opinion that Sir Thomas Holland made that promise. He said " You wait for one year ; let this system work ; at the end of the year I will put all the papers at your disposal and the whole Council will see what benefit I have done. Then they will themselves acknowledge that they have been benefited and if they do not do so, if you find that their condition has not been bettered, then I shall tear up this Resolution or that circular of 15th July 1920." I accepted it and I waited for one year. In the meantime many changes took place and Sir Thomas Holland went home, but still the matter remained, and we went on. In the inquiry that was held under the auspices of the Committee that was appointed, unfortunately the evidence taken has not been recorded. All that we have of that Committee is my dissenting minute and the majority report. Be that as it may, it came about that in those paragraphs that I shall now mention specifically certain grievances of the piece-workers were acknowledged. The inquiry began with a statement of about 15 grievances and 13 of them were admitted. In the inquiry that we held we found that some 13 of those grievances were real and they had to be put right. Of those 13 grievances some were held to be irremediable, because of the system. One of the grievances, I may tell you, was beyond remedy. The central pivot of the new system was like this. We shall begin with the life of the piece-worker in the morning. He comes to his factory or his place of business. The first person that he has got to see is what is called a section holder ; that is to say, the section holder is an officer who issues all the work that has to be printed ; he calls each of the compositors and says to one, " Look here, you go and get this done ", and to another " You do this." He distributes the work in that way. He is called the section holder. The man to whom the work is given does the work. Sometimes it is complicated kind of work ; sometimes it is called original work, or merely block work, or table work, or display work. There are various kinds of work. Taken all of them together, when the work is done by the man, he comes and the section holder asks him to make out a bill. He says that he worked at this question for one hour or two hours and he would charge so much for it and so on. Then this man has got to deal with another person who is called the compositor. This man looks at his work and asks if it was given to him. He asks him how much time he took in doing it. This man says : " I took two hours." Then the compositor looks at the work and says : " This work ought not to take two hours at all. This could be done in one hour or even half an hour." This dispute has to be settled by a third person called the checker. This man says : " Oh, yes." Generally the superior man is right and the inferior man is wrong : " You had better do it in half an hour." So the piece-worker gets payment only for half an hour. It is just like the old Greek story in which a man has got to roll up a stone to the top of the hill. As soon as he gets to the top, the stone somehow slips and comes to the bottom of the hill. The same is the case with this poor piece-worker. I suppose like all human beings even this section holder has got his likes and dislikes. Probably he likes some

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people better than others and so on. The better-liked people get easier work. This unfortunate man—supposing we take him to be an ill-favoured man—gets all the work and he does it. Then there is the checker who has got something to do with his work. In fact, there is a large number of things which have got to be gone through. At the end of the day this poor man finds that he has been rolling the stone as far as he possibly could up to the top of the hill, but the stone has got back to the bottom. That is an unfortunate life to lead. However good the section holder may be and however honest other people may be, still in the mind of the piece-worker there is a rankling feeling of injustice being done to him and he never goes home satisfied or pleased with himself. I objected to this portion of the system. I said that he has worked. After all 30 years ago this sort of work had to be done by copyists who were employed in the Secretariat. I do not think that the copyists had this thing given to them. At that time the papers came to the Head Clerk, who distributed them and the thing went on as usual. There was nothing very bad about it. But somehow that system got changed. I know the history, but it is not necessary for me to tell it here. But after all what is the difference between a compositor and a copyist? A copyist takes his pen and copies out the paper before him. The compositor, instead of using his pen, collects so many types and produces a copy which is more legible and easier to read. Barring this difference, these poor people are as good as a copyist. There is a proverb in Persian which says : *Naqal Navis Aqal na darad*. When translated into English it means that a copyist has no wisdom. I do not know how they came to this conclusion, but that is the proverb. Before the copyists were separated they were looked upon as respectable people. From among them some rose to higher posts and so on. With these changing conditions, these poor people have been debarred from all promotions. A man who begins his life as a compositor remains a compositor up to the end of his life. In the beginning when he is paid by the hours he gets a little sum, which is subsequently increased by pies. In the beginning he gets about 3 pies and then gradually he receives 9 pies and so on. It goes on increasing as the time goes on. Formerly they used to give him pension by calculating his average income during the last six years of his service. The last six years generally are of bad service because the man gets old. His hand loses its cunning; his eyes do not see clearly and he can turn out very little work. In the middle of his age he may have earned Rs. 50 a month, but towards the end he is incapable of earning more than Rs. 30 and it was on this sum that the pension used to be calculated. He suffered a great deal of injustice and the Committee admitted that there was something wrong and they promised to do what they could. The trouble really begins with the section holder. He is the pivot of the whole system which they do not want to change. So it is still retained in the same form. Then there are the checkers and the computers. There used to be a fourth officer. He has got a very unpronounceable name, so I will let him alone. They said : “ We have done some good ”. But I should like to know what is the good they have done. I tried to ascertain it. I made a sort of tabular list for all these things. It will take too long to detail to you all the grievances that were put forward, but I may tell the House that, excepting

two, I put forward 15 grievances. Thirteen grievances were accepted and something was to be done for the piece-workers. One of the things they said was to provide these poor men with some pension. The general provision about pension is that if a salaried man after 10 years' service gets incapacitated or is unable to do further work, he gets a certain proportion of his pay as his pension. In the case of these poor piece-workers it was provided that they must put in 25 years approved service in order to be eligible for pension. If a man puts in 24 years' service and gets incapacitated, he does not get any pension. They said that it was a great hardship and therefore they said that they would provide these men with a provident fund. I said: "All right; that is something". Five years have elapsed and the provident fund is not yet in sight. So I made inquiries. They said: "Oh, it is a very difficult thing and it requires a great deal of calculation. Actuaries will have to be employed and a great deal has got to be done." I said: "Quite so. But five years is a long period and during this time all these actuarial calculations could have been made. Many of the workers have died and got nothing. Who is responsible for this injustice?" They said: "Still it is a big thing and it will come on gradually". So it is still coming on like honey, but the honey is to be found nowhere. That is how these things are going on.

Another thing they said was that they shall establish what is called a Works Committee. I asked: "What is this Works Committee?" They said: "The piece-workers will elect a certain number of persons and they will also elect a Secretary and the Superintendent of the Press will be the President of that Committee. Any complaints which these piece-workers may have will be brought before that Committee and the Committee will submit a report on those complaints to the Controller of the Press, who, in turn, will submit it to the Government of India Secretariat." I said that it was a very good idea and it was a step towards the beginning of a democratic government. But I am sorry to say that this Committee has not yet come into existence. Although five years have elapsed, we know nothing more about this Committee than we knew in 1921. I put a question about this Works Committee. They said that it has not come into existence. People do not like to talk about it. It is just like what happened to a fish called the eel. In the old days they used to skin the eel alive. They caught it alive and skinned it alive. Then everybody said: "It is very cruel. You should not skin an animal while it is alive". When this complaint was going on, a certain gentleman said: "But does the eel object to its being skinned while it is alive? No eel came to me to complain". So the position of these poor piece-workers is something like this. They have appointed a Committee, but the Committee does not meet. They said that people do not appreciate it and that is the end of the whole matter. It is really very unfortunate that because the eel does not come to complain, it is being skinned alive. Therefore, there is no complaint on that ground.

Similarly, I have got with me a number of things. In fact, I can keep you here the whole day telling you the history of these things. But it is no use detaining you. Perhaps I might tire your patience.

All that I say now is, as Sir Thomas Holland said, if I demonstrate to you and if these people agree that their condition has been improved and that they

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get by working decent hours, a decent sum, enough to maintain them, what we ordinarily call a living wage, then it is all right, if not I say tear up this circular of 15th July and inquire into these changes which have been introduced and which have been the cause of these troubles. I hold Government to that promise which was made on behalf of the Government. That previous Committee acknowledged all these things, but did not provide a remedy. They said it was inherent in the system, but expressed their opinion that the Superintendents should be more sympathetic, and that the people should see to their own interests and agree with each other and not fight with one another. These pious expressions are all right in their proper place, but they do not work; they generally end in what is said. So I hold Government to their promise. If it is demonstrated that these people are better off now than they were before 1920, and that they have got a living wage, that is to say they earn enough to live comfortably by working a decent number of hours and not having to slave from morning to evening, if they do that, then the system stands. If however that is not the case, that is to say, if I am able to show that these people have got longer hours of work than before; if I can show you that their earnings are less than they used to be; if I can show you that the same trouble exists as did before, or that where no trouble existed before now trouble has been created; if I succeed in showing you that these poor people are worse off than before then this system must be changed. The Resolution means that the system will be changed, and what that change will be will be a matter for the future. In my dissenting minute I proposed two schemes. I showed that economies could be effected and that a scheme could be made better and more efficient, but naturally, being in the minority, my Minority Report did not receive any attention at all. So these are the many questions of fact that will have to be determined, namely, what the men's earnings are, are they better off than before, what their hours are, what provision is made for them to retire, are they able to do their work better and more easily now than they used to do before, all these five or six questions will have to be determined, and evidence brought to show the facts. Just as in our Courts we have assessors, Judge and jury, similarly Government may appoint a Committee in which their officers will be present and can speak from their experience and can take evidence into consideration. I have mentioned both Houses because in the other House there are Members who have devoted all their time to the consideration of improving the conditions of workmen. They have studied this subject, I suppose, independently of other subjects, and as we send them annually to the International Labour Conference, we recognise their position, the Government recognise their position. So, if this Resolution is accepted, on this Committee I expect there will be Government officers having experience in that branch; some of our Members here would be elected, I for preference. I hope I will not be omitted because I have taken some trouble about this matter. Then from the other House those who have interested themselves in these labour questions will be called in and a beginning will be made in order that labour questions may be settled as soon as they arise. It is no use trying to suppress them, and throw them back, because throwing them back only makes matters worse and makes them more troublesome than before, as the old saying tells us, "a stitch in time saves nine." So they would settle these questions as they arose and they would be

settled easily and they will not become so troublesome as they have become elsewhere in the British Empire. We know that lately the Prime Minister of England had to give a sort of a concession to some of the workers and pay so much money to keep an industry going while he worked out a scheme. I am anxious that India should be saved from these things. We can profit by the experience which they have had on the Continent and in England, and these things should be settled before and then it will not lead to these complications. I hope I have said enough to induce Honourable Members to believe that this is the proper time to make an inquiry as to whether the promise made by Sir Thomas Holland has been carried out, and whether the improvement which he expected has really come about, and if it has not come about, then it is time for a Committee to sit and devise means for carrying out either his promise, or substituting for it a new Committee that will arrive at conclusions, which will come before these two Houses and will be carried out by Government.....

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member's time is exhausted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: Time up, thank God! Sir, I am only finishing. I recommend my Resolution to the consideration of the Council. I have tried to compress my remarks as much as I could, and I think I have said enough to recommend the Resolution to Honourable Members.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS (Industries Secretary): Sir, it is a matter of some personal regret to me that my first speech in this House should be one opposing a motion of perhaps my oldest friend in the House, the Honourable Mr. Khaparde. And I have a friendly complaint against him in that after he had his Committee in 1921,—and I am afraid was unable to persuade his colleagues of the value of the panacea for the grievances of piece-workers which he had put forward,—he waited for four years before bringing up the subject again. Had he not been so patient it would have fallen to some one other than me to reply to him. I do not wish to detain the House long; and I should like, if I may, to take the two parts of his Resolution, as he has himself done, separately. He wishes this House to appoint a Committee, first of all to determine the effect of the changes introduced in consequence of the report of that Committee of 1921. Now I want to be as brief as I can; to run through the recommendations of this Committee—there are a round dozen of them—as rapidly as possible; to show what changes were introduced, and to show what the effect of these changes has been. If I can do so successfully, if I can prove to Mr. Khaparde that the Government have given full information to this House, I am sure Honourable Members will agree that there is no reason for the appointment of a Committee to elicit this information. As a matter of fact a very large part of it has already been elicited by the answers which I gave to questions put to me this morning and by other answers given before this Session to questions put in this House.

I think perhaps I can most easily make the position clear, if I try to group the recommendations of the Committee and do not take them in the order in which they were made. There are, to start with, two very important recommendations for the better organisation of the presses. They were, first, that we should go in very much more for machine composition instead of

[Mr. A. A. L. Parsons.]

hand composition, and secondly, that we should introduce a Printing Clearing Office. Now both these changes have been introduced. They were accepted by the Government and they have had a marked effect on the fortunes of piece-workers. The increased use of machinery is largely, though not wholly, responsible for a very notable decrease in the number of piece-workers in our presses; it is almost entirely responsible for a still more noticeable change in the proportion that piece-workers bear to salaried hands. I gave certain figures to the Council this morning in reply to a question; I will now give a few more. In 1922 we had 1,144 piece-work compositors and distributors in the presses at Calcutta, Delhi and Simla: we now have only 317. On the other hand our salaried hands employed on monotype and linotype machines, which I take to be the classes most suitable for this comparison, have risen from 100 to 167. And if we take all hands employed, at the time the Committee were holding their meetings there were 60 per cent. piece-workers and 40 per cent. salaried men; there are now 55 per cent. salaried men and only 45 per cent. piece-workers. I hope Honourable Members will give due weight to these statistics, because they do show that the dimensions of the problem have altered very materially since that Committee reported. The Central Printing Office, as the Printing Clearing House is called, has also played a large part in the reduction of the number of piece-workers. It has not only led to a great reduction of Government printing as a whole, with a consequent reduction of establishment, but it has regulated the distribution of work to presses, so that we now no longer have, as we used to have, conditions in which one press has not enough work to do while another press is working long hours. In this way one of the grievances which came before the Committee of 1921 found its remedy, the grievance about idle time. The piece-workers generally complained that the superintending staff in their efforts towards economy would not give them payment for idle time, and the Committee were only able to recommend that Government should draw the attention of the supervising staff to the existing orders on the matter. That was of course done. But as a matter of fact the more scientific distribution of work has made it quite unnecessary now to keep men idle except in very exceptional cases, and as a result the payments which Government have had to make for idle time have dropped from Rs. 19,000 in 1922 to about Rs. 2,500 last year.

Those are three of the recommendations which the Committee of 1922 made. There is another group of recommendations dealing with the grievances of piece-workers, not so much against the Government or its orders, as against their fellow-labourers in the press, the section workers and so on. One grievance concerned favouritism on the part of section holders. To prevent this as far as possible the Committee recommended closer supervision by officers and the starting of tabular statements which the manager of the press could examine every month and from which he could discover whether any particular compositor seemed to have been ill-treated by being given too much work of a difficult type. This recommendation was accepted by Government; but as a matter of fact with the increase of mechanical composition there is only one type of composition work which is now done in any quantity by the

piece, namely, correction work, and so section holders have now no longer the opportunities for favouritism which they chiefly exercised by giving one man an easy type of work and another whom they did not like a difficult type. There were also complaints made by the compositors against distributors, that because distributors were on time work they did their work quickly and inefficiently, and the work of the compositors was thereby impeded, or their earnings reduced. The Committee, I think I am right, found that there was a good deal in that complaint. They were unable however to recommend that all distributors should be put on time work ; and they therefore proposed that compositors should be allowed to do their own distributing. Government accepted this proposal. What was the result ? Not a single compositor has I am told attempted to, or expressed any desire to, do his own distributing, and not a single complaint against the distributors has subsequently come to notice.

I now turn to the recommendations for further concessions by Government. There was one minor one, that Government were not able to accept, namely, that the 16 days' absence now allowed on class rates to all press hands should with retrospective effect be allowed to count for pension. Government were unable to accept that proposal, for it would have benefited men who had not been regular workers in the past, as against regular workers. They could not give this retrospective effect, but otherwise all the recommendations were accepted. Temporary hands equally with permanent hands now get superannuation pension ; and as my Honourable friend referred to it, I had better explain what I understand the position with regard to pensions to be. I have not got exact figures, but I understand that about 55 per cent. of the piece-workers are now classed as permanent, the balance being classed as temporary. When a man first comes in, he ordinarily comes in as a temporary man. After he has been in for some time, as vacancies occur and if his work is all right, he is promoted to the permanent staff. He then gets pension under the Civil Service Regulations, and I believe that as a general average the sort of time which a piece-worker may expect to take before he becomes permanent is from 15 to 18 years' service. That is the position; and so at present they have, as I say, generally good prospects of becoming permanent hands. The other recommendations of the Committee have all been accepted. The older hands are put on light work. In all presses, except at Delhi, the hours of work are now regulated according to the wishes of the men. In Delhi the men could not come to an agreement and the Controller had to step in and arbitrate. Section holders are now appointed alternately from assistant section holders and senior compositors, and so on. It is only in one respect that Government have not been able to give effect to the recommendations as yet, and that is in the establishment of a State-aided Provident Fund ; and I sincerely hope that it will soon be introduced, not only because it will do away with all this trouble about pensions, but also because I know how irksome it must be to the men to possess their souls in patience. But it is a very intricate matter, the starting of a provident fund of this character. It means the careful collection and sifting of a lot of statistics. You have got to be on sure ground before you can announce the terms of the Fund, and I do not see how we can expect to curtail the laborious processes of the actuary. But I am hopeful—as a matter of fact

[Mr. A. A. L. Parsons.]

I have seen the papers myself during the last few days—that it will not take very long now—anyhow not another three or four years—before it is introduced. I think I have now mentioned all the changes introduced as a result of the Committee's recommendations and I have also explained their effect. If I have overlooked any, it is purely by inadvertence, and if a question is put to me, I shall try to answer it. I hope I have also answered most of the points raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde.

I will now turn to what is really the important part of this Resolution. Have we or have we not done all that we should for these piece-workers? Now, the position is as follows. Before 1920 I understand that piece-workers worked from 10 to 12 hours a day on the average and sometimes as much as 15 or 16 hours a day. They had to work for so many hours to earn a decent wage. In order to meet their grievances, the altered terms contained in the Resolution of 1920 were specifically devised, but, as Mr. Khaparde has explained, there was trouble and the Committee, of which Mr. Khaparde was a member, examined the question. The finding of that Committee was as follows:

“There has been an almost invariable decrease in the actual hours of work. There has been an invariable increase in the average earnings of each class, in some cases to the extent of 50 per cent., while the increase in earnings per hour has increased to a still greater extent.”

They also found that under the new system piece-workers worked 212 hours a month for an average pay of Rs. 56, while in private presses the men worked 225 hours a month for an average pay of Rs. 36. Our piece-workers were in fact being paid between 50 and 60 per cent. more than the salary paid to corresponding men in private presses for considerably fewer hours of work. The position has not changed since. The figures I gave this morning show that there is now only one class of men who do over 200 hours work a month, namely, the pressmen and machinemen of Calcutta. The rest of our piece-workers work less than 200 hours a month, that is to say, less than 8 hours a day, for 25 days in the month. So far as working hours are concerned, their position has improved and has not deteriorated since Sir Vithaldas Thackersey's Committee reported.

Now, about rates of pay. I will take the Calcutta Press because as a whole they are the least favourable to my argument, the hours of work there have not dropped so much as elsewhere. In Calcutta in 1922-23 the average earnings of compositors were Rs. 41 a month; last year they were Rs. 51. The average earnings of distributors were Rs. 25 a month; they are now Rs. 38. The average earnings of pressmen were Rs. 32 and they are now Rs. 40. Binders' average earnings were Rs. 51 a month; they are now Rs. 52. In all cases there has been an increase; and I may say that that applies to Delhi and Simla as well, though I will not trouble the Council with figures for the Delhi and Simla presses. They also show that there has been an increase in wages. I do hold therefore that the conditions which Sir Thomas Holland mentioned in 1920 have been realised under these new rules; piece-workers are able in less working hours to earn a larger wage than before the Resolution of 1920 issued; they then secured wages far in excess of those of salaried hands in

private presses, and their wages are now still higher. But if this is so, is there any ground whatsoever for holding an inquiry into their conditions of service? I would add that since I had notice of this Resolution I have made such inquiries as I could as to the contentment of the workers in our presses generally, and I am assured by the Controller of Printing that the men are contented. There are of course occasional grumbles, that is only natural, but on the whole the men are at present contented. If we set up this Committee, what shall we be doing? We shall merely be disturbing the contentment of the men, a contentment which there is no reason to believe to be either placid or pathetic.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution that is before the Council. My object is to have a thorough inquiry made into the grievances of those people who must have approached the Honourable Mr. Khaparde with such real grievances as they had. I am not afraid of disturbing the contentment which appertains to the services generally, as it might be said with truth, with reference to any Committee that may be appointed on particular questions. It is an argument in a circle. We want to ascertain if there is contentment. The Honourable Mr. Khaparde says that it has been represented to him that there is no contentment. On the other hand, we find it represented to us that there is contentment. It is just the reason why a Committee is needed. I do not find that the points made out by the Honourable Mr. Khaparde have been so successfully answered. One thing that struck me was that the information which was elicited or tried to be elicited by the Honourable Mr. Khaparde through his questions should have been furnished in this Council only this morning. I pity the situation. I myself do not know when the Honourable Mr. Khaparde sent his questions in. Possibly if he was late in sending the questions, the Department is not responsible. But if the questions had reached the Department sufficiently in time to enable the Department to frame the answers, I do not know if the rules stood in the way of Mr. Khaparde having the information earlier than this morning....

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. A. L. PARSONS : If I may interrupt, Sir, for one moment, the questions reached the Department in time for information to be given as a matter of courtesy to the Honourable Mr. Khaparde ; and I spoke to Mr. Khaparde and understood that he was coming round to see me, so that I could give him all the information he required. The information he required was not merely the information for which he had asked in his questions ; in fact much of the information which I have now given was not actually covered by the terms of his questions. There was a misunderstanding between Mr. Khaparde and myself. He thought he was going to be sent the replies to his questions and I thought he was coming in to see me.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR : I am thankful for the explanation which has been elicited by the few remarks of mine. We members who are not furnished with similar information beforehand are placed in a very difficult position in dealing with the Resolution. The Resolution is replied to on behalf of Government and the information is supplied this morning. Possibly it may be that, in consequence of the information, the Resolution needs no acceptance by this House. But, as I find now there has been a diver-

[Mr. R. P. Karandikar.]

gence of opinion and there is nothing lost in appointing a Committee, I do really hope that this House will accept the Resolution as it is before the Council.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: Fortunately, Sir, it is not necessary for me to speak much or at any great length because I touched only upon a few points to make out that it was necessary to have an inquiry. As to my Honourable friend's argument that these people get more now than they used to get before, I will read out a circular that has been recently issued. Government sanctioned the higher rate to be 8 annas. I do not know how they have made out that it should be 6 annas. And this is the letter that has been written.

"I am directed to refer to paragraph 10 of the Board of Industries and Munitions Resolution No. 431, dated 15th July 1920, in which sanction was accorded to piece-workers in the Government of India Presses being paid according to their class rates if during normal working hours they had to remain idle for lack of work. Arrangements for the supervision and regulation of work in the presses have since been made and the Government of India are of opinion that the need for this concession has ceased to exist."

The reason given in the report is that the rates are so munificent and so good that no last allowance should be paid. Now that the work has been scientifically corrected, last time could not be paid. In every case last time is not to be paid. That is the end of the matter. There is a reclassification made in every year so that those who have taken more pains on their work may get more afterwards in the reclassification by being put on the higher class. But this reclassification was never carried out and I put questions and I will read out to you the order that has only recently been issued. This order is dated 15th July 1925. It runs as follows:

"Orders have been received from the Controller of Printing and Stationery that reclassification may be proceeded with subject to the maximum rate of 6 annas per hour for any compositors who may....."

Government sanctioned 8 annas; but they say that they can only go up to 6 annas. That is the way in which the thing is being worked out. Formerly there was a reclassification every year and the men in the lower class got into the higher class and got paid a little more. Eight annas was to be the rate per hour sanctioned by Government, but they do not want to let it go beyond 6 annas. Under what order these sort of things are being done, it is difficult for an outsider like me to discover. I think, therefore, that a Committee will bring a number of these things to notice and then you will be able to see how promises are made to the ear and broken to the heart. They always say that they are doing this and that but they give it on one side and take it away by the other side.

Statistics are no doubt a very good and useful thing, but they are equally deceptive. A student used to tell his friend: "I am first in my class." His friend told him: "You always stand first in your class. How many boys are there?" He replied: "Only one." So in a class of one he is always the first. That kind of thing will not do. These are deceptive things. As I said, statistics are very good but one has got to go behind them to find out how the truth stands. My friend Mr. Parsons just now said that the number

of piece-workers has been very much reduced. That is all the more reason why everybody should be brought under one rule. If there were a larger number of people among the piece-workers, then it might have been necessary to have, separate rules and separate orders for them. But as they are only a few, they should be governed by one rule. Similarly, last time has been abolished. It was abolished without my knowledge and without the knowledge of the people concerned. The percentage of pay has been increased but the reclassification has never been carried out. In fact, if I were to speak on this matter in detail it will really take a much longer time than is permitted to me by the rules. I believe I have said enough and have showed enough. After all an inquiry does not hurt anybody. I shall be glad if these poor people get a few annas more and live in a better style. Where is the harm? Why should Government oppose an inquiry? I can understand that they may not like the proposals of the Committee, but there can be no objection to the inquiry. It will bring the truth out. With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

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

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee of official and non-official members of both the Houses of the Indian Legislature to determine the effect of the changes introduced in consequence of the report of the Committee appointed in 1921 in the interests of the piece-workers in Government of India Presses, and to make recommendations.”

The Council divided :

AYES 17.

Akbar Khan, Major Nawab Muhammad.	Manmohandas Ramji, Mr.
Aman Ali, Khan Bahadur.	Mitter, Dr. D. N.
Amiruddin Ahmad Khan, Nawab Bahadur Sir.	Moti Chand, Raja.
Borooah, Srijut Chandradhar.	Ramadas Pantulu, Mr. V.
Harnam Singh, Raja Sir.	Ram Saran Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
Ismail Khan, Haji Chowdhuri Muhammad.	Sarvadhikary, Dr. Sir Deva Prasad.
Karandikar, Mr. R. P.	Vedamurti, Mr. S.
Khaparde, Mr. G. S.	Wacha, Sir Dinshaw.
	Yamin Khan, Mr.

NOES—21.

Abbot, Mr. E. R.	MacWatt, Major-General Sir Charles.
Chadwick, Mr. D. T.	McWatters, Mr. A. C.
Charanjit Singh, Sardar.	Parsons, Mr. A. A. L.
Commander-in-Chief, H. E. the.	Roy, Mr. K. C.
Crerar, Mr. J.	Sarma, Sir Narasimha.
Currie, Sir William.	Sen, Mr. B. C.
Dadabhoy, Sir Maneckji.	Singh, Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwara.
Dutt, Mr. P. C.	Tek Chand, Diwan.
Fazl-i-Husain, Mian Sir.	Thompson, Mr. J. P.
Froom, Sir Arthur.	Zahir-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.
Laird-MacGregor, Mr. E. G. L.	

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION *RE* REFORMS.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Law Member): Sir, before we proceed to the next Resolution on the agenda, I have a request to make. The Government intend bringing in a Resolution dealing with the Reforms Inquiry Committee's recommendations, and it will be convenient both to the House and the Government if this Resolution No. 2 be considered along with that, or some little time after that Resolution is dealt with. There is a connected Resolution dealing with the Reforms question put in by Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary tabled for the 27th. I have suggested to Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary that it might be agreeable to him to take up these two Resolutions some time after the Government Resolution, and I hope, Sir, he will be able to comply with our request that these two Resolutions should be dealt with later, or along with the other Resolution. The Government promise a definite time, either on that day or a succeeding day for Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary's Resolutions.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, subject to what you may be pleased to rule, I have myself no objection to comply with the Government request in the matter, so long as it is quite understood that I retain my place and right with regard to this Resolution as well as the Resolution of the 27th, which is likely to be more connected with any Resolution that the Government may move. I should be delighted if it was, but I cannot imagine that the Government are going to table a Resolution that will cover or even practically cover my Resolution tabled for to-day. If that is so, I shall be delighted to come in with necessary amendments; but that is not likely to be. Therefore I suggest and submit that my Resolution should stand intact and be taken up on such date as by mutual agreement between the Honourable the Leader of the House and myself can be arranged. As regards the Resolution fixed for the 27th instant, I realise that this is likely to be more connected with the proposed Government Resolution. With regard to that, the right I should like to reserve would be either to move my Resolution as it stands and as framed for the 27th instant, or to bring it in in some shape as an amendment to the Government Resolution when it is tabled. With these observations, and subject to what you may rule in the matter, I place myself in the hands of the Government.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA: I appreciate the view that this Resolution may stand on an absolutely independent footing and I undertake that this may be treated as such if Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary wishes that that should be done. With regard to the second, he may move an amendment in the shape he may require or an independent Resolution. That also is understood.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: In view of what has fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the House, I think the Honourable Member may rest assured that his position is secure. If in respect of the first Resolution the Government Resolution does not satisfy him, and he is unable to draft his Resolution as an amendment to that, Government will, I understand, find time, if necessary, for a discussion thereof. And the position is

very much the same in regard to the second one. Therefore in any case the Honourable Member's Resolution stands, as I have not called him to move it, and he has not been required to move it or withdraw it.

FILLING OF A VACANCY ON THE EXTERNAL CAPITAL COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I have received notice from the Honourable Mr. McWatters of a motion he desires to make to-day and which was not received in time to put on the agenda paper for to-day. It is a more or less formal matter. It deals with the filling of a vacancy on the External Capital Committee, and as that Committee is sitting at the moment, the Government desire apparently to fill the vacancy as early as possible. I therefore permit Mr. McWatters to move the motion, though it is not on the paper for to-day.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I move :

"That a member be elected to fill the vacancy created in the External Capital Committee by the resignation of Mr. J. W. A. Bell."

After what you have said, Sir, it is not necessary for me to say much more about this motion. The External Capital Committee contains three members elected by this House and four, I think, elected by the other House. The Committee has lost by resignation Mr. W. S. J. Willson in the other House and the Honourable Mr. Bell in this House, depriving it therefore, as they realise, of very valuable experience of a particular kind. It is therefore at the desire of the Committee, which met the other day, that I am making the motion which I have just read out. The natural course perhaps would be, if I may so suggest, that the election should fall upon the Honourable Member who has taken Mr. Bell's place, and who happens, curiously enough, to bring with him exactly the same experience as the Honourable Mr. Bell ; but that of course is for the House to decide. The urgency of the matter has been explained to you. The Committee desire to hold their next meeting on Saturday, if possible, and therefore it is important that this election should be disposed of as quickly as possible, if the House agrees to my motion.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : In connection with the motion which has just been adopted by the House, I fix 11 o'clock to-morrow morning as the hour up to which nominations will be received to fill the vacancy. If the House adopts the suggestion just put forward by the Honourable the Finance Secretary, and decides to elect the Honourable Sir William Currie in the place of Mr. Bell, then an election will be avoided. If not, a further date will be fixed for the election. Nominations will be received up to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : May I inquire whether there will be any business on the 27th ? The only item on

[Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary.]

the paper for the 27th is my motion, which, as arranged already, will stand over. It will perhaps be convenient for yourself and the House to know in advance whether there will be a meeting.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA : There will be no other business on the 27th.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That being so, there will be no meeting of the House on the 27th, the day after to-morrow.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 26th August, 1925.