

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1925

Vol. VI—No. 9

OFFICIAL REPORT



CONTENTS

Member Sworn.

Questions and Answers.

Resolution *re* Re-Transfer of Sylhet and Cachar to
Bengal—Withdrawn.

Resolution *re* Prohibition of the Import, Manufacture and
Sale of Liquor—Adopted as amended.

Statement of Business.

Resolution *re* Future Recruitments to the Indian Medical
Service—Adopted.

Resolution *re* Amendment of the Rules made for Election
to the Indian and Provincial Legislatures—Moved and
discussion adjourned.

SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1925

Price Five Annas.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 2nd September, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN.

Colonel Richard Arthur Needham, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.L.A. (Government of India : Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ADJUSTMENT CONSEQUENT ON THE AMALGAMATION OF THE EAST INDIAN AND THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAYS.

432. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : With reference to Government reply " The question is under correspondence with the Secretary of State and no detailed announcement can be made at present " to the unstarred question No. 55 in the meeting of the Council of State held on the 11th February 1925, regarding the " Adjustment consequent on the amalgamation of the East Indian and the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways ", will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) If any settlement has been arrived at between them and the Secretary of State ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a) Yes.

(b) The Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway was amalgamated with the East Indian Railway with effect from the 1st July 1925. The Ghaziabad Delhi Section of the East Indian Railway was transferred to the North-Western Railway with effect from the 1st April 1925 to form part of that system, and the working of the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway was also transferred to the North-Western Railway from the same date. The Allahabad Jubbulpore Section of the East Indian Railway will be made over to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from the 1st October 1925 to form part of that system.

OPENING OF A NEW BOOKING OFFICE AT SYLHET, ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

433. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan** : (a) Are Government aware that by reason of the expansion of trade in the town of Sylhet the booking of goods for carriage by the Assam Bengal Railway to and from Sylhet has considerably increased ?

(b) Are Government further aware that the location of the station on the other bank of the Surma River is causing growing inconvenience to the mercantile and travelling public ?

(c) Are Government prepared to open a booking office for passengers and goods on the same side of the river as that on which the town is situated ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a), (b) and (c). The Government have no information on the subject but will forward a copy of the question and answer to the Agent.

PROHIBITION OF THE EXPORT OF CATTLE.

434. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan :** (a) What is the number of cattle exported during the three years, 1922-23, 1923-24 and 1924-25, to countries outside India ?

(b) Are Government aware that the export of cattle has resulted in depleting some of the best breeds of Indian cattle ?

(c) In the circumstances are Government prepared to prohibit any further export of cattle to places outside India ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) 1922-23	..	..	13,675
1923-24	..	..	12,597
1924-25	..	..	10,195

(b) The Government are satisfied that there is no evidence that export of cattle has resulted in the serious depletion of good breeds of Indian cattle.

(c) The Government do not consider that there is any case for the prohibition of further export of cattle.

PROPOSED SEGREGATION BILL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

435. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan :** (a) Are Government aware that a Bill has been introduced in the South African Assembly expressly aiming at a considerable reduction of the Indian population by the application of pressure ?

(b) Do Government propose to take any and, if so, what action, in the matter ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's question No. 234 on the same subject.

REFUSAL OF CONTRACTS TO MR. SALEBHAI ASMATJI AND MESSRS. ABDUL KADAR TAYABAJI OF DEOLALI.

436. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) If it is a fact that Mr. Salebhai Asmatji and the firm of Messrs. Abdul Kadar Tayabaji, S. and T. Contractors of Camp Deolali, Bombay District, were refused contracts for supplies, though they were accredited persons for the past several years, on the ground " that they were connected with persons whose association is considered inexpedient " ?

(b) What are the grounds and which authorities led the investigation so as to made the authorities believe in the contractors being associated with undesirable persons ?

- (c) If it is a fact that the contractors had offered to satisfy the authorities if they informed them of the names of persons, association with whom the authorities considered inexpedient ?
- (d) What is the nature of such association that is being objected to ? Is it association with persons working in the public field of politics, or with criminals of moral turpitude, or only persons whom the authorities do not like or anything else ?
- (e) If there is any evidence to show that the said contractors had failed in their duty or proved unreliable during the last few years that they were the contractors ?
- (f) If it is a fact that the rates allowed to the new contractors are higher than the rates Mr. Salebbhai had tendered ?
- (g) If they are prepared to take any action in the matter ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The Government of India have no information on the subject, but are inquiring. I will let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

REORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

437. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** (a) Is it a fact that in 1923 the Departments of Public Works and Revenue and Agriculture were abolished and amalgamated with the Departments of Industries and Labour and Education, Health and Lands, respectively ?

(b) Is it a fact that while the Department of Education, Health and Lands, which comprises the old Revenue and Agriculture and Education Departments, has one united Secretariat cadre, the Department of Industries and Labour has two separate cadres ?

(c) If so, do the Government propose to reorganise the Department of Industries and Labour so as to have one cadre for the whole Department including the Public Works Branch ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Not at present.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : When does the Honourable Member expect to effect this reorganisation ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Well, Sir, that assumes that reorganisation is needed.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Is the Honourable Member aware that amalgamation of the two wings of this Department will lead to economy by a reduction of the staff ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I am not aware of that fact.

ABOLITION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIMLA IMPERIAL CIRCLE.

438. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** (a) Is it a fact that the Superintending Engineer, Simla Imperial Circle, is an *ex-officio* Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, Public Works Branch ?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to alter this arrangement whereby the same officer performs the dual duties of Superintending

Engineer, Simla Imperial Circle, and Under Secretary to the Government of India ?

(c) Is it a fact that the work of the maintenance of the Imperial properties in Simla is entrusted to a Superintending Engineer and two Executive Engineers in the Imperial Simla Circle ?

(d) If so, are the Government prepared to consider the question of abolishing the appointment of Superintending Engineer, Simla Imperial Circle, and making over the administrative portion of the work now performed by this officer to the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India in addition to his own duties ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The Superintending Engineer, Simla Imperial Circle, is not an *ex officio* Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, Public Works Branch, but he is entrusted, in addition to his duties as Superintending Engineer, with certain of the work, mainly of a technical nature, which devolved upon the officer holding the appointment of Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department, prior to the abolition of that appointment.

(b) It is not proposed to alter this arrangement for the present.

(c) Yes.

(d) Not at present.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Who does the other work than technical in this case ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat his question ? I did not catch it.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : In reply to (a) I heard the Honourable Member say that it is only for certain technical questions that the Superintending Engineer is serving as Under Secretary. May I know who does the other branches of the work ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The question is not very intelligible. What are the other branches which the Honourable Member refers to ?

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Secretariat work.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : There are other officers in the Secretariat who deal with the secretarial work. When there was a technical Under Secretary in the Public Works Department he used to do the technical part of the work. As a measure of retrenchment that appointment was abolished and the Superintending Engineer was entrusted with that technical part of the work.

MOVE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR TO DELHI DURING THE WINTER 1925-26.

439. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare :** (a) Is it a fact that the late Public Works Department, now the Public Works Branch of the Department of Industries and Labour, remained in Simla continuously from 1911-1919 but moved down to Delhi for the winters of 1919-1920 to 1922-1923 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Public Works Branch was subsequently kept up in Simla for the winters of 1923-1924 and 1924-1925 ? If so, what was the reason ?

(c) Do the Government propose to take the Public Works Branch down to Delhi this winter ? If not, are the Government prepared to give their reasons ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent by the Public Works Branch during the winter of 1924-1925 on :

- (1) consumption of coal in the office rooms during office hours ;
- (2) grant of winter allowance to the staff under the Simla Allowance Code ;
- (3) cost of trunk telephone calls to and from Simla to Delhi and Delhi to Simla on office business ;
- (4) railway, tonga, cooly and postage charges for sending official files and papers to and from Simla ;
- (5) cost of travelling and detention allowances for visits of officers to Delhi ; and
- (6) the cost incurred in moving the Public Works Branch to Delhi on the last occasion ?

(e) Will the Government also state the strength of the ministerial cadre of the Public Works Branch and the number of men who availed themselves of leave during the period 1st November 1924 to 31st March 1925 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The decision was made in the public interests, experience having shown that not only could the work of the Branch be carried out efficiently at Simla during the winter but that the arrangement resulted in a substantial saving to Government *vide* figures in the answer to (d).

(c) No. The reason is given in the answer to (b).

(d) The amount spent by the Public Works Branch during the winter of 1924-25 on the various items mentioned was as follows :

	Rs.
(1) Consumption of coal	1,584
(2) Winter allowance paid to the staff ..	4,672
(3) Cost of trunk telephone calls	402
(4) Railway, tonga, coolie and postage charges on transit of official papers.	867
(5) Cost of travelling and detention allowance for visits of officers and establishment to Delhi.	1,406
Total ..	8,931

- (6) The last move to Delhi was made when what is now the Public Works Branch was a separate Department of the Government of India, i.e., before the retrenchments made on the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee were brought into effect. The estimated cost of transporting the Public Works Branch at its present reduced strength to Delhi is Rs. 24,600.

(e) The strength of the ministerial cadre of the Public Works Branch is :

Superintendents	..	..	..	3
Assistants	..	..	..	14
Clerks and stenographers	..	..	..	25
				<hr/>
				42
				<hr/>

The total number of men who availed themselves of leave, other than casual leave, during the period 1st November 1924 to 31st March 1925 was 12, the average number absent at one time being 6.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Does the Honourable Member mean that the stay of the branch here is more economical than its move to Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Certainly. From the figures that I have given the stay of the branch in Simla is more economical than its move to Delhi.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : And the officers can conveniently go in the winter to Delhi while keeping the staff up here ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : As a matter of fact, they do not, unless they are summoned for a special purpose to Delhi.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

440. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to question No. 102 (c) at the meeting of the Council of State held on the 16th February, 1925, that "the matter is now under the consideration of Government", regarding "the alleged corruption in the Bengal Council", will the Government please state :

(a) If they have considered the matter ?

(b) If so, what action do Government intend to take ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The House has already given leave to the introduction of a Bill dealing with this question.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

441. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to question No. 92 (b) at the meeting of the Council of State held on the 24th February, 1925, regarding the separation of judicial and executive functions in the United Provinces that "these as well as the opinions of the Government of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Madras are under the consideration of the Government of India, but no decision has yet been arrived at", will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) If they have considered the matter now ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao's question on the 26th August.

Lala Duni Chand : How many more generations will it take to come to a decision ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have told the Honourable Member that this matter has been under consideration for more than eighty years and decisions have been frequently arrived at.

LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

442. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to question No. 103 at the meeting of the Council of State held on the 24th February, 1925, regarding the land revenue settlement in the United Provinces that "the recommendations of the 'United Provinces' Government in regard to the subject matter of the Report are still under consideration by the Government of India", will the Government please state :

(a) If they have arrived at any decision now ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Government of India generally approve of the recommendations made by the Local Government who have been informed accordingly.

DIRECTOR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, RAILWAY BOARD.

443. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** Will the Government please state :

(a) If the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Railway Board, is going on leave ?

(b) If so, whether an officer from the East Indian Railway is going to be selected to officiate for him ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a) and (b). The Director, Mechanical Engineering, Railway Board, has already gone on leave and the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is officiating for him.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES IN THE I. C. S. EXAMINATION HELD IN INDIA.

444. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Will the Government please state the total number as well as the numbers, province by province, of candidates who have come out successful in the I. C. S. examination held in India, since its establishment in this country ?

(b) Will they also be pleased to state if Anglo-Indians have competed for the same ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) Anglo-Indians are eligible for admission to the examination, but the Government of India are not in possession of information which enables them to say how many Anglo-Indians have actually competed.

Statement showing the number of candidates from each province successful at the Indian Civil Service examination held in India.

Province.	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES SUCCESSFUL IN				Total.
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	
Madras	3	2	2(a)	3	10
Bombay	1	..	..	..	1
Bengal	2	4	1	1	8
United Provinces	1	3(b)	2(b)	..	6
Punjab .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1
Burma .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Bihar and Orissa	1	..	..	..	1
Central Provinces	1	..	..	..	1
Assam .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	9	9	5	5	28

(a) Includes one born in Mysore State.

(b) Includes one born in Gwalior State.

PROVINCES WITHOUT DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERSHIPS, UNIVERSITIES OR HIGH COURTS.

445. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Will the Government please state :

- The Provinces and Local Administrations in which the posts of Divisional Commissioners do not exist ?
- The Provinces and Local Administrations in which Universities have not been established ?
- The Provinces and Local Administrations in which High Courts have not been established ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) There are no Divisional Commissioners in the Madras Presidency or any of the local administrations.

(b) There are no Universities in the province of Assam or the following local administrations, namely, the North-West Frontier Province, British Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and the Andamans.

(c) There are no chartered High Courts in the Central Provinces, the North-West Frontier Province, British Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg or the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Assam and Delhi have not High Courts of their own but are under the jurisdiction of the Calcutta and Lahore High Courts, respectively.

GRIEVANCES OF THE SHED STAFF AT KHANEWAL AGAINST MR. SHEPPARD, SHED FOREMAN.

446. *Lala Duni Chand : (a) Is it true that the railway authorities took no notice of the grievances of the Shed Staff at Khanewal against

Mr. Sheppard, Shed Foreman, Khanewal, which eventually led to the strike there ?

(b) Is it true that Mr. M. A. Khan, General Secretary, North Western Railway Union with 5 other Union workers was arrested at Khanewal on 11th April, 1925, without warrant and cause on the verbal orders of Mr. Alum, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and detained in the lock-up for six hours ?

(c) Is it also true that a number of telegrams and resolutions protesting against this action were sent to the Inspector General of Police and the Punjab Government ?

(d) If the above facts are true will the Government take any action in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to replies to questions Nos. 383 and 384 by Mr. Abdul Haye.

(c) Government have no information on the subject.

(d) Does not arise.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it true that this fellow, M. A. Khan, has been troublesome for some years and therefore he needed to be corrected even at the expense of law ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I did not quite catch the Honourable Member, but I may say that the Railway authorities had nothing whatever to do with the arrest of Mr. M. A. Khan.

APPOINTMENT OF A CONCILIATION BOARD IN CONNECTION WITH THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY STRIKE.

447. ***Lala Duni Chand :** Is it true that a demand for the appointment of a Conciliation Board was made by the entire Press, both Vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular, recognised public bodies, the North Western Railway Union (recognized), the All-India Railwaymen Union's Federation, the All-India Trade Union Congress and the North Western Railway Union; and if so why was such a demand not accepted ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the Government of India communiqué issued on the 17th June.

APPOINTMENT OF INCOMPETENT MEN ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY DURING THE STRIKE.

448. ***Lala Duni Chand :** Is it a fact that retired, dismissed, medically unfit and incompetent men were engaged to work during the strike period to the danger of the travelling public and that consequently several accidents took place resulting in loss of human life and smaller injuries, and if so, will the Government take any action against the officers responsible for accidents ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Mr. Abdul Haye's question No. 382.

EVICION FROM RAILWAY QUARTERS OF STRIKERS DURING THE RECENT STRIKE ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

449. ***Lala Duni Chand** : (a) Is it a fact that the railway staff on strike was forcibly evicted from their quarters at Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Khanewal, Samasatta, Bahawalnagar, Lala Musa and other strike centres contrary to law while rent was being paid for those quarters ?

(b) Is it also true that the strikers with their wives and children were forced to lie without any shelter on the sandy ground at Khanewal. Kundian and Lala Musa in the hottest part of the year, while most of the quarters vacated by them remained unoccupied throughout the strike ?

(c) Is it also true that the strikers at Khanewal were forcibly removed from the shelter of the trees along the road and did any deaths consequently take place at Khanewal ?

(d) If the above facts are true will the Government be pleased to state whether the eviction of the strikers was justified, in view of the Government of India Resolution No. 571-E., dated 12th July, 1922 which clearly states that no break of service occurs during the strike even for the purposes of gratuity ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) In all cases eviction where necessary was carried out strictly in accordance with the law.

(b) Government have no information. Strikers evicted were given not less than three days' notice.

It is not the case that most of the quarters vacated remained unoccupied throughout the strike.

(c) The discharged employees and other unauthorised people were not permitted to remain on railway premises. Government have no information in regard to the allegations made in the latter part of the question.

(d) Evictions were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Indian Railways Act, Section 138 and were justified.

BREAKING OPEN OF QUARTERS OF STRIKERS AT LAHORE, KARACHI, ETC.

450. ***Lala Duni Chand** : Is it a fact that the locked doors of strikers' quarters were broken open at Lahore, Karachi and other places in the absence of the occupants and were any precautions taken to safeguard their property ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The answer is in the affirmative, but instructions were issued that in cases where it was necessary to force open any locked doors the orders of the Magistrate should be first taken and inventories of articles made by the police. The effects were either taken over by the police or handed over to the Railway for safe custody.

LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY DURING THE RECENT STRIKE.

451. ***Lala Duni Chand** : (a) How many boilers were burnt, how many engines disabled and rendered useless during the period of strike ?

(b) How much loss did the North-Western Railway sustain in revenue during the period of the strike as compared with the corresponding period of last year ?

(c) How much loss was sustained on account of the machinery having been rendered useless during the strike period ?

(d) How much money was spent by the Railway on daily allowances given to the staff to keep them from going on strike ?

(e) How many railway employees were relieved from duty and given special leave, free passes and allowances to break the strike ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) No boilers were burnt or engines rendered useless.

(b) From the 28th March to 27th June 1925 the earnings were Rs. 4,06,30,889 as compared with Rs. 4,56,63,790 for the same period last year, but it cannot be said this loss was due solely to the strike as the decline in traffic and consequent fall in revenue have continued since the subsidence of the unrest.

(c) No loss was sustained.

(d) No allowances were given for the purpose mentioned by the Honourable Member. In some stations a small ration allowance was given to the operating staff when difficulty was experienced by loyal men in getting home for their food owing to intimidation. The amount is not known.

(e) None.

REINSTATEMENT OF STRIKERS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

452. ***Lala Duni Chand :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a complete list showing the names, designations, period of service and the place of employment of the strikers who have not so far been taken back to work ?

(b) Why is it that they have not been taken back ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) It is regretted that no such list is available.

(b) It was not possible to take back all the strikers as many places had been filled. Strikers seeking re-employment have been re-engaged in unfilled vacancies.

REOPENING OF CERTAIN ROADS MARKED "PRIVATE" DURING THE RECENT STRIKE ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

453. ***Lala Duni Chand :** (a) Are Government aware that certain public roads were marked "Private" during the strike and did this action cause great inconvenience not only to the strikers but also to the public ?

(b) Is it proposed to open these roads again to the public as before ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) No public roads were marked "Private". Some private roads belonging to the Railway Administration were so marked.

As far as Government are aware no inconvenience was caused to the public.

(b) These private roads are now open to the same extent to the public as before the strike.

THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY UNION.

454. ***Lala Duni Chand** : (a) Is there any recognised Railway Union in existence and if so who are its executive officers and what is the number of its paying members ?

(b) Was any amount paid by the railway authorities to any persons including Mr. Thorpe to start any Union against the North-Western Railway Association ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) A recognised Railway Union exists. The General Secretary is Mr. H. Thorpe and the only other office bearer whose name is known to Government is Pandit Ram Autar. The number of its paying members is not known.

(b) A loan of Rs. 500 was given by the Railway Administration in 1920 to defray the initial expenses of forming a North Western Railway Union. The North Western Railway Association was at that time absorbed by the North Western Railway Union with the concurrence of its members.

INDIAN DELEGATES TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

455. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the selection of delegates for the Council of the League of Nations is by any particular qualifications ? If so, what are those ? Is the enjoyment of public confidence one of the qualifications ?

(b) What amount of the Indian taxpayers' money is spent annually upon Indian delegates to the League of Nations' meetings ?

Mr. L. Graham : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 244 put by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 31st August 1925.

CONCESSION PASSAGES TO OFFICERS OF THE SUPERIOR SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

456. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai** : (a) Will the Government state how many officials of the Indian services took advantage of the new rules of absence recommended by the Lee Commission and how much money of the Indian tax-payer has been spent over those officers on leave and over the travelling expenses of their wives and children and at what rate of exchange ?

(b) Why do the Government pay passage money to these officers and their wives and children according to the rate of the P. & O. Navigation Company and why not according to the rate of other companies that charge less than the P. & O. rates ?

(c) Is it a fact that even if the wives and children of these officers or they themselves travel by cheaper companies the Government still pay them according to the higher rates ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) The Lee Commission recommended no change in the leave rules. I presume therefore

that the Honourable Member's question refers to the passage rules. The officers entitled to benefit by the rules are clearly laid down in the rules and no useful purpose would be served in collecting at a cost of much time and labour information in regard to the individuals who have in the present year availed themselves of these benefits.

(b) The officer is free to choose the steamship company by which he will travel. Government pays to the company concerned the cost of the passage at the rates charged by the company provided the cost does not exceed that of a first class B fare between Bombay and London by the P. and O.

(c) The amount originally credited to each officer, each wife and each child is based on the cost of a certain number of first class B passages between Bombay and London by the P. and O. The balance, after each passage has been paid for in the manner just explained, remains at the credit of the officer, wife or child as the case may be for future use.

SETTLEMENT OF MOPLAHS IN THE ANDAMANS.

457. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai** : Do the Government propose to close the Andamans as a penal settlement or as a colony for the Moplahs ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement made by me on the 31st August 1925 on this subject in reply to questions Nos. 266 to 271.

APPOINTMENT OF A ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE GRIEVANCES OF THE PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

458. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai** : (a) Do the Government intend to recommend a Royal Commission on the lines of the Lee Commission to investigate the grievances of the Provincial Services of India and of those officials who have not the good fortune of being domiciled out of Asia ?

(b) Are the Government aware that the rise in the price of the necessities of life and in the standard of living, etc., affects those officers who are domiciled in Asia and have to keep in view two standards—Eastern and Western—twice as much as those domiciled out of Asia, and are the Government prepared to ameliorate their condition ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative.

† 459.*

† 460.*

† 461.*

† 462.*

† 463.*

† 464.*

† 465.*

† Answered on the 26th August, 1925.

‡ Answered on the 25th August, 1925.

NON-INCLUSION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MAHARASHTRA ON THE SKEEN COMMITTEE.

466. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) The reasons why no representative of the Maharashtra was nominated on the committee to inquire into the possibility and desirability of an Indian Sandhurst ?
- (b) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling, universally shared, of resentment, dissatisfaction, and disappointment at this omission on the part of Government ? And were there any protests on this point ?
- (c) Is it the intention of Government to stop the recruitment of Maharashtrians, for the posts of commissioned officers ?
- (d) Are Government aware that the Maharashtra aristocracy and landed gentry have a keen desire to serve in the Army as commissioned officers ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a)—(d). The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that a Mahratta representative has since been appointed to the Skeen Committee in the person of Captain B. S. Daffe, and in these circumstances I presume he does not wish for a reply to the remaining parts of the question.

It may also interest the House to know that the Government of India have further appointed Captain Thakur Zorawar Singh, Military Cross, to be a member of the Skeen Committee as a representative of the Indian States.

PROTECTION OF INDIAN INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

467. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : Will Government be pleased to state what steps were taken by Government to safeguard the rights and interests of the Indians in South Africa, at the time of the two recent Bills, before the South African Legislature affecting the Indian interests ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Bill to amend the Mines and Works Act and the more recent Bill relating to Asiatics. As regards the former I would invite his attention to my reply to Mr. Yakub's question No. 88. For the latter the Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to Mr. K. K. Chanda's question No. 234.

ABSORPTION OF GOLD DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

468. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik** :- Will Government be pleased to state what is the amount of gold absorbed in the country during each of the last three years ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The amount of gold absorbed by the public in India during the last three years, taking production *plus* imports *less* exports, is as follows :

			Rs.
1922-23	..	..	43,89 lakhs.
1923-24	..	..	31,74 lakhs to which should be added £2 millions worth of gold sold to the public by the Government of India out of the stock in the Paper Currency Reserve.
1924-25	..	..	76,24 lakhs.

Mr. B. Das : Is it a fact that the amount of gold absorbed by the people of India per head of the population is only a moiety as compared with that of European countries ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I think the facts are exactly the opposite, but I must have notice.

EXEMPTION FROM LUGGAGE CHARGES OF BEDDING AND ARTICLES OF FOOD OF THIRD AND INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS.

469. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** Will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to exempt the bedding and articles of food of third and intermediate class passengers on the railways ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : There has been no change in the position stated in the reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 2052 of the 16th September 1924.

Sardar V. N. Mutalik : Do Government intend to take any steps at all ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The suggestion of the Honourable Member has been conveyed to the Indian Railway Conference Association, but we have not yet received a reply.

† 470.*

GRIEVANCES OF THE CURRENCY ASSOCIATION, MADRAS.

471. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya :** (1) (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Currency Association, Madras, has submitted a memorandum of their grievances supported by a detailed statement of facts and figures, to the Honourable the Finance Member to the Government of India ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the same ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether as a result of the order of the Government of India sanctioning revision of pay in June 1924, the following anomalies have arisen, namely, that clerks appointed after May 1915, that is, clerks who had put in 10 years' service on 1st June 1924, were alone benefitted to a certain extent, while clerks appointed before June 1925, that is clerks who had put in more than 10 years' service and who had reached the maximum grade of Rs. 80 under the old scale, were not benefitted to any extent ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the preferential treatment accorded to the clerks of the Note Verification Department of the Accountant General's Office as compared with the clerks of the Treasurer's Branch of the Currency Office in the matter of relief and advantages offered to them in their respective scales, viz., Rs. 40—5—90 for Quantity Checkers and Rs. 80—5—130 to Quality Checkers as against the scales of Rs. 40—5—90—4—130 to the clerks of the Currency Office ?

- (b) Whether the Government will be pleased to remove the inequalities in the matter of scales of pay above referred to, at an early date ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (1) (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Association has been informed through the Controller of the Currency that Government are unable to accede to their requests.

(2) In the revision of 1924 each clerk was started on the new scale at the stage next above the substantive pay he was drawing at the time. As a result, some clerks benefitted more than others, but all obtained some immediate benefit and a considerable increase in their future prospects.

(3) The nature of the work performed by clerks in the Currency Offices and the Accounts Offices is different, and the Government are not prepared to bring the scales of pay in the Currency Offices to the same level as those in the Accounts Offices.

APPLICATION OF C. S. SITARAM IYER OF COONJEEVARAM TO FILE A SUIT FOR DAMAGES AGAINST THE SWISS CONSUL GENERAL AT BOMBAY.

472. *Mr. M. K. Acharya : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of India passed any order No. 28 (Foreign and Political Department), dated the 17th September 1924 on the application of C. S. Sitarama Iyer of Conjeevaram requesting the permission of the Government under section 86 of the Code of Civil Procedure to file a suit for damages against the Swiss Consul General at Bombay ;
- (b) whether the Government replied to C. S. Sitarama Iyer with reference to the said application that no sanction of the Government is required for filing a suit under section 86 of the Code of Civil Procedure ;
- (c) whether any memorial was received from C. S. Sitarama Iyer dated the 15th October 1924 addressed to the Secretary of State for India, praying for a revision of the order of the Government stated above ; and
- (d) whether the Government will be pleased to place the connected papers on the table of this House ?

Sir Denys Bray : (a), (b) and (c). In substance the facts are as stated.

(d) Government do not consider that any public interest would thereby be served. Mr. Iyer wished to bring a suit against the Swiss Consul General and was informed quite simply that he was entitled to do so.

DEPRESSION IN THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY.

473. *Mr. M. K. Acharya : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the serious crisis threatening the cotton mill industry in India ?

(b) whether it is a fact that the millowners in Bombay have been forced to reduce the wages of their employees by 11 per cent. ?

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt any measures calculated to help this industry to tide over the crisis ?

(d) what relief measures, if any, do the Government propose to adopt ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) Yes.

(b) It is reported that the millowners in Bombay propose to reduce wages by 11½ per cent. with effect from September first.

(c) and (d). The Honourable Member's attention is directed to the reply given by His Excellency the Viceroy to the deputation of the millowners a report of which has appeared in the Press.

ALLOWANCES OF OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES AT THE GENEVA INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

474. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami :** (a) Will Government please state the rate of allowance paid to official and non-official representatives respectively at (i) the Geneva International Labour Conference, (ii) the Geneva League of Nations meetings ?

(b) What were the amounts actually paid, and under what items, to each of the official and non-official delegates to (i) the International Labour Conference in 1924 and 1925, and (ii) the League of Nations in 1924 ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) (i). A copy of the rules governing the allowances of non-officials is laid on the table. The same rules apply to officials except that they receive in addition deputation pay under the regulations in force.

(a) (ii). The rates allowed depend on *ad hoc* orders passed on each occasion.

(b) (i). A statement is laid on the table.

(b) (ii). Details are not available. Such payments are usually made by the Secretary of State.

Rules governing allowances of non-officials deputed to International Labour Conferences.

1. Non-officials deputed to International Labour Conferences as delegates or advisers will receive the following concessions in every case :

A.—The cost of first class travel from their residence to the place of meeting of the Conference and back by the shortest route, including :

(a) actual first class railway fares from the place of residence to the port of embarkation, and from the port of disembarkation to the Conference and back ;

(b) free passages at sea (which must be booked through Government) at first class " B " P. and O. rates or their equivalent ;

(c) an allowance of Rs. 150 for each voyage from India to Europe or Europe to India. This allowance is in lieu of the payment of actual expenses necessarily incurred on freight of luggage, luggage registration charges, conveyances and essential expenses on the voyage.

Provided that :

(i) all expenses of the outward journey will be borne by the representative if he commences the outward journey more than two months before the opening of the Conference ;

- (ii) all expenses of the return journey will be borne by the representative if he does not complete the return journey within two months of the closing of the Conference ; and
- (iii) the class of passage granted may be varied when passages of the class indicated are not available.

B.—Subsistence allowance while in Europe, at rates to be fixed by the Secretary of State, for

- (a) the days spent by the representative at the Conference ;
- (b) such days before and after the Conference as had necessarily to be spent in Europe in order to enable the delegate to attend the Conference.

2. In addition, the Government of India can allow, in necessitous cases an outfit allowance not exceeding Rs. 500 to meet actual expenses necessarily incurred by representatives in the purchase of clothing which they would not normally require but for the Conference.

3. Where a representative wishes to go by any other route than the shortest, the Government of India may, subject to provisos (i) and (ii) to rule 1, permit him to draw the amount to which he would have been entitled had he travelled by the shortest route.

4. Payments will only be made on bills duly presented by the representative and supported, in the case of outfit allowances, by tradesmen's receipts and in other cases by vouchers or where that is not practicable, by a statement signed by the representative certifying that the expenses were actually incurred.

The allowances actually paid to the officials and non-officials deputed to the sixth International Labour Conference held in 1924 were :

Sir A. C. Chatterjee, (Government Delegate) :

	£	s.	d.
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance	92	4	4
<i>Sir L. J. Kershaw (Government Delegate) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance ..	98	8	6
<i>Sir Alexander Murray (Employer's Delegate) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance	74	6	8
<i>Lieut.-Colonel F. H. G. Hutchinson (Adviser to Government Delegates) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance	80	18	7
<i>Mr. Joseph Baptista (Workers' Delegate) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance ..	115	2	0
Cost of return passage	143	0	0
Outfit allowance Rs. 1,000			
Voyage expenses Rs. 100			
Total .. Rs. 1,100	258	2	0

The allowances paid to the delegates and advisers who attended the 7th International Labour Conference held in 1925 are :

	£	s.	d.
<i>Sir A. C. Chatterjee (Government Delegate) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance ..	67	19	7
<i>Sir L. J. Kershaw (Government Delegate) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance ..	74	12	6
<i>Mr. E. N. Gilchrist (Adviser to Government Delegates) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance ..	83	0	9
<i>Sir Thomas Smith (Employers' Delegate) :</i>			
Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance ..	48	13	9
Cost of single passage	54	0	0
Voyage expenses	10	0	0
Total ..	112	13	9

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Workers' Delegate) and Mr. Chaman Lal (Adviser to the Workers' Delegate) have not yet submitted their claims. The following expenditure has so far been incurred on their account :

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Workers' Delegate) :

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cost of first class return passage	1,923	6	0
Advance (adjustable against his travelling expenses, subsistence allowance and outfit allowance claims for which not yet received)	2,000	0	0
Total ..	3,923	6	0

Mr. Chaman Lal (Adviser to the Workers' Delegate) :

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cost of first class return passage	1,452	10	0
Advance received in India	1,000	0	0
Advance received in Europe £70			
Total £70	2,452	10	0

The advance is adjustable against travelling expenses and subsistence allowance, claims for which have not yet been received.

INDIAN SOLDIERS IN CHINA.

475. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami :** How many Indian soldiers are there in China ? Are there any there belonging to the Indian Army and paid by India ? Were any Indian soldiers sent recently in connexion with the present disturbances in China ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply which I have already given to question No. 105 asked by another Honourable Member, Mr. Bhubanananda Das.

PAY OF THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS CLERKS.

476. ***Lala Hans Raj :** Will the Government be pleased to state if any decision has as yet been arrived at as to the points raised on the questions put up by Sardar Bahadur Captain Hira Singh at the meeting of this Assembly on the 18th February 1924, regarding the pay of Indian Army Service Corps clerks ?

Mr. E. Burdon : A decision on the points raised by Sardar Bahadur Captain Hira Singh was issued in Army Department letter No. A.-28198/1 (A.G.-10), dated the 1st December 1924, which was published as an Annexure to India Army Order No. 1045 of 1924 for the information of the clerks of the Indian Army Service Corps. A copy of this India Army Order will be furnished to the Honourable Member separately.

PAY OF THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS CLERKS.

477. ***Lala Hans Raj :** (a) Are the Government aware that the delay which has already taken place in the disposal of the case regarding the promised betterment of the pay and prospects of Indian Army Service Corps clerks before issue of A. I. (I.) 863 of 1923 and the scheme sanctioned therein after full 4 years' deliberation have caused much discontent and hardships to the clerks ?

(b) If the answer is in affirmative, do the Government propose to give a further sympathetic consideration to the matter as already promised, with

a view to such amendments being made in the scheme at an early date as will ensure a marked increase in the pay and prospects of the senior clerks over the previous scheme and afford a better field for improvement and bettering their position by affording an opportunity to Upper Division Clerks to reach the maximum rate of pay of the appointment before they retire ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) No. Since the publication of the India Army Order to which I have just referred in reply to the previous question, representations have been received from only 3 clerks of the Indian Army Service Corps and their cases are being dealt with.

(b) This question does not arise, but I may mention that a further proposal for improving the prospects of the senior clerks of the Indian Army Service Corps is under consideration.

GRIEVANCES OF THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS CLERKS.

478. ***Lala Hans Raj :** (1) Are the Government aware that no consideration is paid to or no provision is made for :

- (a) housing of the clerks of Indian Army Service Corps on transfer which are too often and to distant parts of the country ;
- (b) the care of their families and education of their children when they are transferred from one Province to another or are on field service ;
- (c) meeting the extra expense incurred by such transfers, etc., when proceeding on field service by keeping two houses in the former case and breaking up their houses in both cases—beyond allowing them field service *batta* when on field service only to supplement their ration and clothing ?

(2) Can the Government say why such indifferent treatment has been and is being meted out to these clerks while other members of the same Corps have been more generously and liberally treated as would appear from a comparison of pay and multifarious allowances of B. Os. and B. O. Rs. of the Corps before and after the Great War ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (1). (a) Clerks of the Indian Army Service Corps receive consolidated rates of pay from which they are required to pay their own house rent.

(b) Indian Army Service Corps clerks are governed by the Civil Service Regulations, like all other civilian clerks, and as my Honourable friend must be aware there is no provision made in these Regulations for the management of the domestic affairs of any Government servant when absent from his family.

(c) When on field service, clerks receive rations, tentage, clothing, and extra pay up to 50 per cent. *batta*, and also occasional officiating promotions ; and Government are not prepared to admit that any further remuneration would be justified. As regards transfers, I would refer to the reply that I have just given to part (b) of this question.

(2) The terms of service and the emoluments in this as in other Government services depend mainly on supply and demand. The liabilities, including service and separation, are fully known to all entrants and, judging by the applications to join the Corps, do not seem to make the service unpopular.

PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

479. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) With reference to clause (d) of the Resolution regarding provincial contributions, adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the motion of the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett, on the 21st March last, will Government be pleased to lay on the table any correspondence that may have passed between them and the Provincial Governments on the subject ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing the extent to which the recommendation contained in the said clause, that the amounts released or given may be devoted mainly for expenditure in the Transferred Departments, has been or is proposed to be given effect to by the different Provincial Governments ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) A copy of the Resolution as adopted by the Assembly was 'forwarded' by the Government of India to all Provincial Governments. No other correspondence has passed between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments on the subject.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Mr. Venkata-patiraju's question No. 130.

PAYMENT FOR WAGONS BUILT OUTSIDE INDIA.

480. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Report of the Indian Standard Wagon Company for the year ending 31st March 1925 ?

(b) Is it correct as stated therein on page 4 that for wagons ordered abroad, payment is made to the manufacturers some months before they are ready for running, while payment to the Indian manufacturer is only made against completed wagons delivered ready for running ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to explain why there is this discrimination in favour of the foreign manufacturer ?

(d) Are they prepared to issue the necessary instructions, so that hereafter payment for wagons built outside India shall also be made only when they are delivered in this country completed and ready for running ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a) Yes.

(b) All contracts for wagons ordered abroad are based on delivery f. o. b. foreign port, as the manufacturers do not erect the wagons in India, this work being done in the workshops of the Railways concerned. Payments for such wagons are, therefore, made when the finished materials for the wagons, properly packed, have been delivered f. o. b., i.e., when the Director General of Stores takes delivery of them.

(c) No discrimination in favour of the foreign manufacturers is involved, as they are not responsible for delivering the completed wagons ready for running in India and, therefore, cannot be expected to wait for payment till the wagons are ready for use in India. When the costs of imported wagons are compared with the costs of similar articles from firms in India, interest on the foreign costs, to cover the period that must elapse between the making of payments abroad and the placing of the wagons in use in India, as well as the cost of erection, painting, etc., in railway workshops in India are added to the costs of the imported wagons.

(d) For reasons already explained, it is not possible to delay payments to firms abroad until the wagons are delivered in this country completed and ready for running.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Does the Honourable Member suggest that it is impossible to prevent this discrimination ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : I say there is no discrimination, Sir.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Then how do you account for the statement that you make payments in the case of the foreign manufacturers much earlier than in the case of the manufacturers in India ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : In both cases we make payments only on delivery.

NAME AND QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICER APPOINTED *vice* RAI SAHEB HUKAM CHAND, DEPUTY ASSISTANT CONTROLLER OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS, RETIRED.

481. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to the Gazette of India No. 31, dated Simla, the 1st August, 1925, Part I, page 701 under the heading "Finance Department (Military)" Notification No. 225-Accts., dated Simla, the 30th July, 1925, will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) The name and qualifications of the officer who has been appointed in place of Rai Saheb Hukam Chand, Deputy Assistant Controller of Military Accounts ?

(b) The qualifications of Rai Sahib Hukam Chand ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) No permanent promotion to the grade of Deputy Assistant Controller of Military Accounts in place of Rai Sahib Hukam Chand, retired, has yet been made.

(b) Rai Sahib Hukam Chand was a qualified Accountant of the Military Accounts Department before his promotion to the grade of Deputy Assistant Controller of Military Accounts.

PROSPECTS FOR INDIAN SETTLERS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

482. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to the Government reply that "the deputation of an officer is now under consideration" in reply to question No. 138 in the meeting of the Council of State held on the 16th March 1925, regarding the "Prospects for Indian Settlers in British Guiana" will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) If they have considered the matter ?

(b) If so, the name of the officer so deputed ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) Yes.

(b) I hope to be able to make an announcement on the subject shortly.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : When may we expect it ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : Before the end of the month, I hope.

OPIMUM CONSUMPTION.

483. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to the statement laid on the table in reply to question No. 131 in the meeting of

the Council of State held on the 4th March 1925, regarding "Opium Consumption", will the Government be pleased to state if there are any special reasons :

- (a) for the largest consumption of opium in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam ?
- (b) for the almost steady decrease of the consumption of opium from the figures 12,068 in 1914-15 to the figures 7,406 in 1923-24 as shown in the total ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (a) The relatively high total consumption in Bengal is solely due to the fact that that province is the most densely populated of all the provinces in India. The consumption per head of the population is less than in any other province except the United Provinces and possibly, Bihar and Orissa. As regards Assam, the physical conditions of the province and the traditional habits and customs of the people are chiefly responsible for the comparatively high rate of consumption. In regard to this part of the question and also to part (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to what was stated by me in the course of the speech delivered by me in this House on the 13th March last in connection with the discussion on the Opium Demand.

REPEAL OF THE COTTON EXCISE DUTY.

484. ***Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report in the Press in which the Chairman of the Bombay Millowners' Association is said to have stated that as a result of the discussion which the Committee of the Association had with Mr. Chadwick the impression left on the Committee was that the Government of India had no intention of repealing the excise duty until they could find enough finance to reduce the import duty on yarn and cloth as well ?

(b) Is the above statement a correct interpretation of the intention of Government ? If not, will Government be pleased to state their real intention about the matter ?

(c) In view of the crisis in the mill industry do Government propose to take any action ? If so, what ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) Yes. Mr. Chadwick never made any suggestion which could bear that interpretation. The report is unfounded.

(b) No. Government will remove the cotton excise duty as soon as financial considerations permit.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is directed to the reply given by His Excellency the Viceroy to the deputation of the millowners, a report of which has appeared in the Press.

Mr. B. Das : Is it the intention of the Government to devote the surplus of the bounty on Indian steel to the relief of the cotton excise duty ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I do not think that that question arises, but if it does arise, I think it is for me to answer. There is no surplus, as compared with this year's budget estimates, from the receipts from steel.

FAILURE TO REWARD C. V. RANGASWAMI IYER, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT FOR MERITORIOUS WAR SERVICES.

485. ***Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty :** (a) Is it a fact that C. V. Rangaswami Iyer, an employee of the Postal Department, did distinguished service in Mesopotamia during the War, for which his name was brought to notice by the Commander-in-Chief of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force in his despatch of 27th February 1919, published in the Supplement to the London Gazette, dated 5th June 1919, No. 31368 ?

(b) Is it a fact that men who rendered such field service during the War were given special promotion or some reward ?

(c) Is it a fact that the above mentioned C. V. Rangaswami Iyer was not given any promotion or reward for his meritorious service and the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs declined to do anything in the matter ? If so, will Government be pleased to state why he was treated in this manner ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Mr. Iyer was mentioned in the despatch quoted by the Honourable Member.

(b) A certain number of men were given special promotion on account of meritorious field service but this method of reward was abandoned in May 1920.

(c) I am asking the Director-General to call for the necessary papers, and the case will be further examined. But the Honourable Member must not deduce from this undertaking that I have as yet formed any opinion as to the possibility or desirability of doing anything for Mr. Iyer.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE LEVEL CROSSING AT AKOLA ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

486. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the Resolution moved by Rao Sahib R. V. Mahajani, in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on 21st November 1922 in the matter of the construction of a bridge over the level crossing at Akola station on the Bhusaval-Nagpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the reply given by the Honourable Sir B. P. Standen, on behalf of the Government ?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reply given by the Honourable Sir B. P. Standen to a question on the same point by Mr. Y. M. Kale in the Central Provinces Legislative Council, at its meeting held on 5th March 1925 stating that the Local Government has been pressing the interests of Akola and so far has obtained a large measure of success ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state in clear terms what concession the Local Government succeeded largely in obtaining from the Railway Board in this matter ?

(d) Will the Railway Board be pleased to publish the correspondence that took place between the Government of the Central Provinces and the Railway Board as well as the Great Indian Peninsula Railway since 1922 to this date ?

(e) Are the Railway Board prepared immediately to issue instruction to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Agent to take up the question of the construction of a bridge overground or underground in accordance with the advice of their Engineering Expert along with the scheme of the remodelling of the Akola station yard for which provision to the extent of 380 thousand rupees has already been made in the Railway Budget for 1925-26 ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : An agreement has been reached on the subject. It has been decided that an overbridge is to be built at the existing level crossing near Akola, and the cost is to be divided as follows :

- (i) The Railway to pay for the bridge proper, i.e., abutments, piers, girders, etc.
- (ii) The local authority to pay for the land required for the approaches and for the approaches themselves, and to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the entire road when complete. This method of allocating the cost is in accordance with the general principles that have been followed in deciding similar cases elsewhere.

The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has been instructed to take steps to put the work in hand as soon as possible after the necessary funds have been allotted.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE LEVEL CROSSING AT AMRAOTI STATION.

487. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Are the Government aware that the level crossing at the Amraoti station on the Badnera-Amraoti branch line causes considerable detention and serious inconvenience to the passenger and goods traffic along the road running in front of the railway station from the Amraoti town to the civil station ?

(b) Do the Government propose to construct a bridge over the level crossing and remove a long standing grievance of the people living at and going to Amraoti, for business ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a) and (b). The Government are not aware of the existence of the undue detention and inconvenience referred to. The policy of the Government is to leave to the discretion of Railway Administrations such matters as the provision of overbridges where the road traffic requires them. The question, therefore, is one to be referred to the Agent of the Railway concerned through the Local Advisory Committee.

CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN RAILWAY LINES IN BERAR.

488. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Will the Railway Board be pleased to state if they have in view the projection of the following lines in Berar in the near future ?

Dhamangaon to Yeotmal (broad-gauge).

Darwha (Motibagh) to Pusad

Yeotmal to Wun

} Narrow-gauge C. P. Railway ?

(b) If so, when do the Government propose making a start and within what period will the works be completed ?

(c) If the answer be in the negative with regard to any or all of the above-mentioned projects, will the Government be pleased to disclose the reasons for abandoning the same ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a), (b) and (c). The Government have not definitely abandoned these projects. The two last named were surveyed in 1913. The Railway Board has asked the Agent to examine the more promising projects and a special officer has been appointed for the purpose.

NON-ISSUE OF SECOND CLASS TICKETS ON THE ELLICHPUR-YEOTMAL LINE OF THE C. P. RAILWAY.

489. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to inquire whether for some time in the past second class carriages are being attached to trains running on the Ellichpur-Yeotmal line of the C. P. Railway and still no second class tickets are being issued to passengers intending to travel by the second class ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to explain the reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) and (b). Government have no information. A copy of the question and answer will, however, be forwarded to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

CONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORMS AND PROVISION OF WAITING ROOMS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE ELLICHPUR-YEOTMAL LINE OF THE C. P. RAILWAY.

490. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** Do the Government propose to make the following conveniences on the Ellichpur-Yeotmal line of the C. P. Railway in the interest of the travelling public :

- (i) Construction of platforms at Yeotmal, Darwha, Karanja, Banosa and Ellichpur ;
- (ii) Provision of waiting rooms for first and second class passengers at Yeotmal and Karanja stations ; and
- (iii) Facilities for drinking water at all the stations on the line ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : Railway Administrations have discretion to provide such facilities where traffic offering justifies such provision. A copy of the question and the answer will be sent to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, for such action as he considers to be necessary.

PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE ELLICHPUR-YEOTMAL LINE.

491. ***Mr. M. S. Aney :** Will the Government be pleased to publish the following information in regard to the Ellichpur-Yeotmal line ?

- (a) The gross-earnings from passenger traffic and goods traffic separately,
- (b) Working expenses,

- (c) Number of passengers travelling and the total tonnage of goods carried every year on the line,
- (d) Annual average of travelling miles per passenger on the line,
- (e) And the average annual income derived per mile for every ton of goods carried on the line,
- (f) Annual cost of coal-consumption,
- (g) Cost of renewals and repairs of rolling stock, and
- (h) Cost incurred for staff on the line :
 - (i) drawing monthly salary of Rs. 1,000 and upwards,
 - (ii) of Rs. 500 to 1,000,
 - (iii) of Rs. 250 to 500, and
 - (iv) the same drawing a monthly salary of less than Rs. 250 ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : All the information available about the Ellichpur-Yeotmal line will be found in the History of Indian Railways constructed and in progress corrected up to 31st March 1924, a copy of which is available in the Members' Library.

INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO PASSENGERS ON ACCOUNT OF CHANGING TRAINS AT MURTIJAPUR STATION.

492. ***Mr. M. E. Aney :** (a) Are the Government aware that serious inconvenience is caused to the passengers on account of transportation from one train to another at Murtijapur Station ?

(b) Are the Government prepared to consider the necessity of joining the Murtijapur-Ellichpur section with the Murtijapur-Yeotmal section of the C. P. Railway by constructing a bridge ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply already given to his question on a somewhat similar subject.

NUMBER OF STRIKERS DISMISSED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

493. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Will the Government please state what is the number of railway employees and workers who went on strike during the last general strike ?

(b) How many out of these were allowed to return to duty and what is the number of those whose services were dispensed with ?

(c) Out of those who were dismissed how many have been re-instated ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) The number of North Western Railway strikers was 22,000.

(b) Out of these 14,000 have returned to duty and the balance were struck off the rolls.

(c) As none were dismissed, the question of reinstatement does not arise.

EVICION FROM RAILWAY QUARTERS OF STRIKERS DURING THE RECENT STRIKE ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

494. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Is it a fact that the railway staff on strike was forcibly evicted from their quarters at Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Khanewal, Samasatta, Bahawalnagar, Lala Musa and other strike centres, while rent was being paid for those quarters ?

(b) Is it a fact that the strikers with their wives and children had to lie unsheltered over the sandy plain at Khanewal, Kundian and Lala Musa in the hottest part of the year, while most of the quarters vacated by them remained unoccupied throughout the strike ?

(c) Is it a fact that the strikers at Khanewal were forcibly removed from the shelter of the trees along the road with a view to torture them into surrender and that owing to these tortures certain deaths took place at Khanewal ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Lala Duni Chand's question No. 449.

ARRESTS OF STRIKERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

495. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the number of strikers who were arrested and how many of them were found guilty and convicted ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : Government have no information.

BREAKING OPEN OF QUARTERS OF STRIKERS AT RAWALPINDI, LAHORE, KARACHI, ETC.

496. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** How many locked doors of the strikers' quarters were broken open at Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and other places in the absence of the occupants ? Were any precautions taken to safeguard the property ? Was it taken possession of by the police or other railway authorities and were any lists of such property prepared ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Lala Duni Chand's question No. 450.

LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY DURING THE RECENT STRIKE.

497. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** How much loss did the North Western Railway sustain in revenue during the period of strike as compared with the corresponding period last year ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Lala Duni Chand's question No. 451, part (b).

ALLOWANCES GIVEN TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO PREVENT THEM FROM GOING ON STRIKE.

498. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** Has any money, and if so, how much, been spent by the Railway on daily allowances given as temptations to the staff to keep them from going on strike, and under what head was that money sanctioned in the Budget by this House ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Lala Duni Chand's question No. 451, part (d). Any money spent on this account would be charged to working expenses.

REINSTATEMENT OF STRIKERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

499. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) How many railway employees were relieved from duty and given special leave, free passes and allowances to break the recent strike on the North Western Railway ? What are their names and designations ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a complete list showing names, designations, period of service and place of employment of the strikers who have not so far been taken back to work ?

(c) For what particular reasons have they not been taken back, and do not the authorities intend to take them back, even in preference to new and incompetent hands ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to question No. 451, part (e).

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to question No. 452, part (a).

(c) The railway have not been able to re-employ a certain number of men on account of their posts having been filled by competent men during their absence on strike.

RIVAL UNIONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

500. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Is it a fact that there are at present so to speak two separate organisations known by the name of North Western Railway Union—one the old union started in 1920 or 1921 and which is at present led by Messrs. Hall, Miller and Khan and the second the newly started union of which the office bearers are Messrs. Thorpe and Ram Autar ?

(b) Is it a fact that the old union was recognised by the Railway Department and the Railway Board several years back and the union was permitted to represent and plead for those branches of the Railway service of which more than 50 per cent. employees and workers were brought on the register of the union as its members ?

(c) Are the Government aware that the old union has an elaborate organisation with branches in all districts and that it possesses a Central Delegate Committee consisting of 70 members elected by the seven divisions, a working committee and an executive ?

(d) Are the Government aware that the new union on the other hand has no such organisation or branches ?

(e) Are the Government aware that the old union has more than 45,000 railway workers as its members ?

(f) Will the Government please state the total number of the members of the new union ? Is it a fact that their number is below 200 ?

(g) Are the Government aware that the income from subscription from the railway employees alone of the old union ranges between Rs. 4,000 and

Rs. 5,000 per mensem and that besides this the union is helped with subscriptions and donations by the public ?

(h) Will the Government please state the monthly income of the new union ?

RIVAL UNIONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

501. ***Mr. Abdul Haye** : (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Department and the Railway Board have refused recognition to the old North Western Railway Union and have instead accorded it to the new body ?

(b) Before according recognition to the new union did the Government or the Railway Department or Railway Board make any inquiries as to when and by whom the so-called office bearers and executive officers of the union were elected ? If so, what was the result of the inquiry ?

(c) Is there any truth in the allegation that the new organisation has been put up by certain railway officials of the North Western Railway to discredit the old union and counteract its activities ?

(d) Was any amount paid by the railway authorities to any one including one Mr. Thorpe to organise and start this new union ?

(e) (i). Are the Government prepared to say that the new union is more representative in its character than the old one ?

(ii) If not, will the Government please state for what reasons they accorded recognition to the new union as against the old union ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I propose to answer Questions Nos. 500 and 501 together. The Government decline to be drawn into a discussion of the points raised by the Honourable Member. The facts, so far as Government are concerned with them, are as follows : The Railway Administration recognised the North Western Railway Union in 1921 and in order to assist it to establish itself collected the union subscriptions for one year through the pay bills. Subsequently internal friction arose among the office bearers of the union and these dissensions culminated in the events of January last when one party is said forcibly to have seized the union office. The Bank in which the funds of the union were deposited is reported to have refused to hand over those funds to either party until the question which party is entitled to operate on those funds has been settled by a court of law and there, so far as the Government are aware, the matter rests.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS TRADE REPRESENTATIVES IN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CENTRES OF THE WORLD.

502. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** : Have Government considered the strong demand of the Indian commercial community for the appointment of Indians as our trade representatives in the important commercial centres of the world to look after the interests of Indian trade and commerce ? What steps have they taken in this behalf ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to part (a) of the reply given by me to Mr. Das's question No. 103, on the same subject.

PROSCRIPTION OF CERTAIN BOOKS BY LALA LAJPAT RAI.

503. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the dates on which Lala Lajpatrai's "Wealth of India" and "Young India" were proscribed and the reasons for proscribing them? Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of withdrawing the orders passed by the Government of India in respect of these two books?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, before taking action to proscribe a book or periodical the Government consult any official or officials and to state the official designation of the official or officials on whose advice action is taken?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Advisory Committee attached to the Home Department has ever been asked for its opinion and if so, to state on how many occasions such advice was either sought or given? Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of placing the whole list of the books and periodicals proscribed at present before the Advisory Committee or any other non-official body to be specially appointed by the Government for the purpose and to obtain its opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of withdrawing or continuing the present prohibition?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any periodical review at definite intervals of the orders passed in respect of such books and periodicals is undertaken? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the officer who performs these functions? Are the Government prepared to reconsider the whole policy of proscribing books and periodicals?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : "Young India" was proscribed by most Local Governments under section 12 of the Press Act (I of 1910) at different dates in 1917 and 1918; and different editions of it were also notified under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act (VIII of 1878) in 1916 and 1917. The reasons stated for proscription were that it contained matter of the nature described in clauses (a), (c) and (e) of sub-section 1 of section 4 of the Press Act. The Government of India are not at present prepared to withdraw the notifications under the Sea Customs Act.

I have not been able to find any record of the proscription of any book called "The Wealth of India".

(b) Orders of proscription are issued by Local Governments in the exercise of powers conferred on them by section 99A of the Criminal Procedure Code and I am unable to say what procedure Local Governments follow prior to the issue of such orders.

(c) The answer is in the negative. Inasmuch as orders of proscription are passed by Local Governments, I could not consent to consult the Advisory Committee or any other non-official body in regard to the desirability of withdrawing or continuing such orders.

(d) I have no information as to whether Local Governments review at definite intervals the orders of proscription passed by them. The procedure in regard to the proscription of books and periodicals was revised as recently as 1922 and Government do not consider any further revision either desirable or necessary at present.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that the book " Young India " was proscribed by the Local Government of the Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have no information on the matter. I cannot trace any order of proscription against the book called " The Wealth of India."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : I am asking about the other book. Who issued the orders ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : It was proscribed by most Local Governments.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : Are the Government going to wait till somebody commits an offence by getting a copy of " Young India " and then to find out whether the proscription shall continue or not ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Not at all. It is still in force.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Do not the Government consider that in a matter of this kind the Central Government will be the best authority to deal with the question ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : No ; I think on the whole the Local Governments are the best authority.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Suppose two Local Governments disagree. For example, if the Madras Government do not wish to proscribe a book while the Bengal Government want to proscribe it, will not the Central Government be in a better position to decide ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : It might well be that the standard of education in Madras is so high compared to that in Bengal that the Madras Government might not think it necessary to take action which the Bengal Government might consider essential.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India will consider the question whether a book that has been proscribed has been properly proscribed or not ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I assume the question of proscription is fully considered by the Local Governments.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : I am asking whether, when a Local Government proscribes a book, the Government of India will see whether it is right or wrong.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I should be very unwilling to consider the question of reviewing the order of Local Governments, but undoubtedly the Government of India might and need take action when necessary.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will the Government be pleased to reproduce the offending passages of the book for the information of the Members of this House ? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Certainly not. It is certainly not desirable to reproduce the passages.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Are we to understand that the Government of India are not consulted by the Local Governments in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : No, Sir. I have no reason to suppose they are bound to consult us before taking action under section 99-A of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : May I know whether the Government of India have any policy in regard to this matter and whether they have given any directions in regard to proscription of books to Local Governments ? Are there any general or special orders on the subject ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : There are no general orders, Sir, except that objectionable literature should be proscribed.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : We were told, Sir, that the procedure in regard to proscribing periodicals was revised in 1922. May I know, Sir, whether the Government will now consider the advisability of exercising some control over this reckless use of the powers of proscription by Local Governments ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : There has been no reckless use of the powers and therefore the question does not arise.

THE VIZAGAPATAM AND COCHIN HARBOUR SCHEMES.

504. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to my starred question No. 210 asked in the Assembly on the 26th January, 1925, regarding the Vizagapatam and Cochin Harbour Schemes, will Government please state :

(a) If they have received the replies of the Secretary of State for India regarding the Vizagapatam Harbour Scheme and of the Madras Government regarding the Cochin Harbour Scheme, respectively ?

(b) If so, will they please lay copies of them on the table ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) The Secretary of State has sanctioned the construction of the Vizagapatam Harbour and necessary steps for the construction of the harbour are being taken. The Madras Government are satisfied that the experiment in cutting a channel across the bar at Cochin has been successful and the next stage of the Cochin Harbour Scheme has been sanctioned by the Government of India.

(b) The Government do not propose to do so.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE IN PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

505. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 298 asked in the Assembly on the 27th January, 1925, regarding "Qualifications for the Municipal Franchise in Port Louis, Mauritius", will the Government please state :

(a) If replies have been received ?

(b) If so, will they please lay copies of them on the table ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) and (b). The officer whom the Government of India deputed to Mauritius last December reported that no such resolution has been passed and that Indian vernaculars are recognised equally with French or English for those claiming to be enrolled as electors.

REPORT OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

506. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 301 (a) asked in the Assembly on the 27th January, 1925, regarding " Report of the Fiji Deputation ", will the Government please state if they are now in a position to publish the Report ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by me to Mr. B. Venkatapathiraju's question No. 119 and Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 298 on the same subject.

WAGES OF LABOURERS IN CEYLON TEA PLANTATIONS.

507. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 303 (a) asked in the Assembly on the 27th January, 1925, regarding " Wages of Labourers in Ceylon Tea Plantations ", will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) If they have made the inquiries ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the relevant portion of the statement laid by me on the table in reply to Mr. B. Venkatapathiraju's question No. 129.

COMPENSATION TO THE DEPENDANTS OF MURDERED POSTAL RUNNERS.

508. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 310 (b) asked in the Assembly on the 27th January, 1925, that " the second case is receiving my attention " regarding " Compensation to Dependants of 2 Murdered Postal Runners ", will the Government please state :

(a) If they have arrived at a decision in the second case ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : No. There has been some delay in completing the necessary formalities, and we are now awaiting the papers from the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs. I expect to get them very shortly.

PAY AND HILL ALLOWANCES OF POSTMEN SERVING IN THE NILGIRIS.

509. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (1) whether the new scales of pay introduced as a result of the recommendations of the Postal Committee, 1920, have adversely affected the postmen serving in the Nilgiris ;
- (2) whether it is a fact that postmen serving in the Nilgiris are not granted any hill allowance ; and
- (3) whether the Government propose to consider their claims in the matter of pay and hill allowance favourably and pass early orders ?

Mr. G. P. Roy : (1) Postmen serving at 4 post offices in the Nilgiris were adversely affected by the new scales of pay, but they were compensated by the grant of personal allowances.

(2) Yes.

(3) The question of granting compensatory allowances or special pay to all officials serving in the Nilgiris is under consideration.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE MEMORIALS OF THE SUBORDINATES OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES IN INDIA.

510. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the several memorials of the subordinates of Ordnance Factories in India with reference to their requests for :

- (1) giving one appointment in the gazetted ranks to clerks in each of the 8 Ordnance Factories ;
- (2) the appointment of a chief clerk in each factory ;
- (3) general revision of pay for all clerks in Ordnance Factories ;
- (4) grant of pensions to section clerks and admission of clerks to the I. O. D. provident fund ; and other minor grievances ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The memorials are still under the consideration of the Government of India, but so far as (1) is concerned, it has been decided that the status and duties of the clerks in question do not warrant the grant of gazetted rank. In this connexion, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 18th February 1924 to question No. 351.

With regard to (2), no such appointments have been created, nor is there any place for such an appointment in the organization of the Ordnance factories. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited in this connexion to the reply which was given on the 18th February 1924 to starred question No. 353.

The last two points, namely, (3) and (4) are at present under consideration, and a reply will be sent to the memorialists as soon as a decision has been reached.

PAY OF THE CLERKS OF THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

511. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (a) Are the Government aware that the recent revised rate of pay sanctioned to the clerks of the Indian Army Service Corps Department from the 1st September, 1923, have not given the relief intended in many cases ?

(b) Are the Government prepared to see that the revision is so worked as to allow the clerks concerned the benefit of the principle observed in fixing the initial rate of pay of clerks in other departments, so that the initial rates of pay of the Indian Army Service Corps clerks in the time-scale may not be less than the emoluments they were actually in receipt of at the time of the introduction of the time-scale ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given to-day to starred questions No. 476 and 477 asked by Lala Hans Raj.

(b) In the reorganisation of 1923, all the emoluments of the clerks of the Indian Army Service Corps (except officiating allowances) were taken into account in fixing the initial rates of pay of the clerks. Officiating allowances are not taken into account as they are of a purely temporary and fortuitous nature.

REORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES IN INDIA.

512. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers (including the despatches between the Government of India and the Secretary of State) connected with the orders passed by the Secretary of State on the reorganisation of the Medical Services in pursuance of the Lee recommendations ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will afford the House an opportunity to discuss the subject in the same manner as was done in regard to recommendations of the Lee Commission ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) Correspondence on the subject is still proceeding and Government regret their inability to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

(b) The House was given an opportunity last year to discuss the report generally. It is not proposed to afford special facilities for discussing the recommendations of the Commission in regard to particular services or departments.

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

513. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** Will the Government be pleased to state to what extent the Governor General's Executive Council was kept informed or was consulted in respect of the questions that formed the subject of conversations between His Excellency the Viceroy and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in England ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The conversations were confidential, and it is accordingly impossible for me to give the categorical information asked for.

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

514. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (1) whether they have not yet submitted their considered conclusions, provisionally or otherwise, to the Secretary of State for India on the Muddiman Report ; and
- (2) whether the Secretary of State has conveyed to the Government of India his provisional conclusions on the Muddiman Report for action or for further report ; and if so, whether the same will be placed before the Assembly in connection with the forthcoming discussions on the Muddiman Report ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have nothing more to add to the statement of His Excellency the Viceroy on the subject. Government are unable to place on the table the correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject.

PROPOSED VISIT OF SIR LAMING WORTHINGTON EVANS TO INDIA.

515. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the scope and character of the official visit paid by Sir Laming Worthington Evans to this country and whether it is connected with any outstanding questions subsisting between the War Office and the Government of India in respect of claims and counterclaims and whether there are any other questions of military policy which have necessitated the official visit ; and if so, what they are ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Indian revenues will be charged with any of the expenses of the said visit ?

Mr. E. Burdon :-(1) and (2). So far as the Government of India are aware, the visit was from the first intended to be a private one; and the Government of India have received no official information regarding it. It is understood, however, from a report contained in a recent Reuter's telegram that the visit has been cancelled.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN THE ELECTORAL RULES TO REMOVE THE DISQUALIFICATIONS IMPOSED ON PERSONS CONVICTED OF OFFENCES UNDER THE INDIAN PENAL CODE.

516. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers connected with the recent alterations made in the electoral rules imposing disqualifications on those convicted of offences under the Penal Code and in particular :

- (a) the proposals sent by the Government of India last year to the Secretary of State for being placed before the Joint Committee of Parliament in respect of the removal of the said disqualifications ;
- (b) the proceedings of the Joint Committee recommending the total removal of the said disqualifications ; and
- (c) the action taken by the Secretary of State and the Government of India on the said recommendations ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Copies of the proceedings of the Standing Joint Committee on Indian Affairs, which considered this question in June 1923 and in July 1924, are in the Library of this House, and Government consider that no useful purpose would be served by laying copies of the correspondence of the Government of India with the Secretary of State on the subject on the table. Except for the amendment by which the minimum period of a sentence of imprisonment which constitutes a disqualification under these rules was increased from six months to one year, which was recommended by the Reforms Inquiry Committee, the amendments recently made are identical with those recommended by the Government of India in 1923 and accepted by the Joint Select Committee in July 1924.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : May I ask the Honourable Member if the statement made in the Joint Select Committee's report is inaccurate ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I should like to have notice of that question, Sir.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : You will have it soon to-day.

INDIANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

517. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it not a fact that the " O'Donnell Circular " was issued at the end of May, 1922, by the Government, with the consent of the Secretary of State, to consult Local Governments, to devise what steps should be taken to secure an increased recruitment of Indians in the public services ?

(b) If so, have the Government received the replies of the Local Governments; and what action have the Government taken, or do they propose to take in the matter ?

(c) Are the Government prepared to lay on the table all correspondence on the subject between them, the Local Governments, and the Secretary of State ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The correspondence referred to by the Honourable Member was laid before the Lee Commission. The Government of India propose to take no further action in regard to the correspondence but have already taken action in regard to the recommendations of the Commission. I am not prepared to lay the correspondence on the table.

COLLISION AT DIGHA GHAT MAIN STATION ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

518. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that on or about the 2nd August, 1925, the Patna-Digha passenger train (East Indian Railway) collided with a goods train which was standing at the Digha railway station, as a result of which a number of passengers were injured ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to give the cause of the occurrence, the extent of the casualties, and the steps taken in the matter ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a) and (b). On 3rd August while 8 Down Digha Ghat passenger train was returning from the Ghat station to Digha Ghat main station, its driver entered the goods shed line against signals, resulting in a collision with seven loaded wagons standing there. Eight passengers were slightly injured, who declined medical attendance and continued their journey. The driver is being punished.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE ARMY CANTEN BOARD (INDIA).

519. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter signed " A British Soldier ", published in the *Statesman*, dated the 9th August 1925, regarding the Army Canteen Board, India ?

(b) Are the Government aware that the British soldier prefers the Indian contractor to the Army Canteen Board, as the former is cheaper ?

(c) Is it a fact as stated in the letter that " the contractor is under the sharp eye of the P. R. I. If his goods are second-hand, and the service slow, he is fined, and the remedy applied on the spot : if he does not come up to the scratch, he is soon replaced by some one who will. His prices are supervised by the P. R. I., who compares them with those of the bazar and if necessary, they are cut accordingly : cleanliness with our P. R. I. in charge leaves nothing to be desired. Complaints against the Army Canteen Board follow the usual red-tape system of explanations, regrets and promises—with a practical result of nothing " ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Government have seen the letter in question.

(b) Government are informed that the preference for the contractor is not universal.

(c) The President of the Institute Committees of the institutes under the management of the Army Canteen Board (India) is also the President of the Regimental Institute of the unit concerned and the method of supervision in both cases is, therefore, the same. Complaints against the working of the Army Canteen Board can be settled in consultation with the District Manager, who attends the institute meetings for this purpose, among others.

ORDERS PLACED ABROAD FOR THE SUPPLY OF RAILS.

520. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any orders are placed for supply of rails for railways, in foreign markets ?

(b) If so, the quantity and the cost of such orders ?

(c) The reasons why the orders were so placed in preference to Indian products ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : (a) Certain Company-worked Railways have, in the past, placed orders in foreign markets for the whole or a part of the requirements in respect of rails.

(b) Information regarding the quantity is not available but the cost of rails ordered by Indian Railways from abroad, during each year, will be found in an Appendix to Volume II of the Annual Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways.

(c) The only firm, that is manufacturing rails in India to the prescribed specification are Messrs. the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the full output of that Company, since its very inception, has always been taken during each year by Indian Railways and in fact the Company's works have not been able to comply in full with all orders placed with them by Railways in the past. All rails purchased from abroad have been in excess of the available supply of Indian rails.

NUMBER OF INDIANS HOLDING KING'S COMMISSIONS.

521. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** Will Government be pleased to state the names and the ranks of Indians, holding King's Commission, and serving in the Army, and the provinces they come from and their castes ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The information desired by the Honourable Member in the first part of this question is contained in the Indian Army List, to which I would invite his attention. As regards the particulars desired in the remaining parts of the question, these are not, I regret to say, readily available, and to furnish them would involve the expenditure of time and labour disproportionate to the result obtainable.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD BY COMMITTEES ATTACHED TO THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

522. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of meetings, held by each of the Committees, attached to the various Departments, during the last year and during the current year ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of meetings held by each of the Committees attached to the various Departments of the Government of India during 1924 and 1925.

Name of Department.	Name of Committee.	NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD IN	
		1924.	1925.
Home Department	Standing Advisory Committee ..	Nil	2
Industries and Labour	Ditto ..	2	1
Finance	Standing Finance Committee ..	17	16
Education, Health and Lands ..	Standing Emigration Committee	4	4
	Standing Advisory Committee ..	1	1
Commerce ..	Standing Advisory Committee ..	3	Nil.
Railway	Standing Finance Committee for Railways.	Nil	7
	Central Advisory Council for Railways.	2	3

REFUSAL TO COUNT TEMPORARY SERVICE RENDERED BY ABDUL KADIR, SORTER, AMBALA RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, TOWARDS HIS PAY IN THE TIME-SCALE.

523. ***Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan :** (a) Are the Government aware that Abdul Kadir, Sorter, Ambala R. S., was refused the benefit of his temporary service (from 1st January 1917 to 8th July 1919) being counted towards his pay in the time scale on the authority of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs' general letter No. AXI, dated 17th April 1923 ?

(b) Are the Government aware that the above-mentioned letter of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has been generally resented by those concerned ?

(c) Are the Government prepared to consider the question of rescinding this letter ?

Mr. G. P. Roy : (a) Yes, though the period is from the 1st January 1917 to the 30th April 1919 and not as stated in the question.

(b) and (c). The orders have caused some dissatisfaction, and I am considering whether they should be modified.

GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

524. ***Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the subordinate staff of the N. W. F. P. schools submitted memorials stating their grievances to the Chief Commissioner of their Province and to Sir Muhamad Shafi, the then Member for Education,

and even sent telegrams to the Frontier Committee and H. E. Lord Reading praying that their hardships may be alleviated and yet no step was taken to inquire into their grievances ?

GRIEVANCES OF SUBORDINATE TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

525. *Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan : (a) Has the attention of the Government ever been drawn to the agitation going on in the Punjab Vernacular Press on behalf of the subordinate teachers of the N. W. F. P. schools? Are the Government aware of an article entitled [in Vernacular not reproduced] " comparison of the Officers' Pony Allowance and Teachers' Pay ", published in the *Zamindar*, dated 31st January 1923, and another published in the *Milap*, of the 17th July 1924, under the heading [in Vernacular not reproduced] " By God, it is not Bolshevism but convulsions of hunger " ?

(b) Is it a fact that when an article entitled [in Vernacular not reproduced] was published in the *Niasat* of the 22nd or 23rd December, the Educational Department of the Province, inquired the name of the writer of that article but when the Editor wrote back refusing to disclose that name but volunteering to publish a contradiction if the facts stated were untrue, no answer was given ?

CLOSING OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

526. *Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan : (a) Is it a fact that 125 primary schools have been closed in the N. W. F. P. ?

(b) If the answer to the above is in affirmative, will the Government please state whether the closing down of those schools was due to the idea of retrenchment ?

(c) If the Educational Department is short of funds, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for giving so many thousands of rupees to the Police at the time of revision of pay ?

PAY OF VERNACULAR TEACHERS IN THE PUNJAB AND THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

527. *Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan : Will the Government lay on the table a statement showing the scale of pays of the vernacular teachers in (a) the Punjab, (b) N. W. F. P. and account for any difference therein ?

GRIEVANCES OF SUBORDINATE TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

528. *Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to launch an inquiry into the alleged grievances of the subordinate teachers of the N. W. F. P. schools and if they are found real to take steps to remove them ?

OFFICERS' POSTS IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

529. *Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan : (a) Is it a fact that the officers' staff in the N. W. F. P. Educational Department provided themselves with

10 senior posts (5 in the I. E. S. and 5 in the P. E. S.) ? Was it necessary to have so many posts in a small province of five districts ?

(b) Will the Government please state whether a Director of Public Instruction and an Inspector, Vernacular Education, both of the I. E. S. are essential for that province of 5 districts ? Cannot one member of the Imperial Service perform both these duties satisfactorily ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : Sir, with your permission I should like to answer questions Nos. 524 to 529. The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be supplied to him in due course.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

530. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state how many Universities have approached the Government with the request to make sufficient provision for compulsory military training in their respective Universities, and what steps have been taken by the Government in this direction ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 27th February 1925 to his own unstarred question No. 188 and also to the reply given in the Council of State on the 16th March 1925 to question No. 150. No University has approached the Government of India on the subject in the interval.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEGREES OF THE NAGPUR UNIVERSITY BY THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

531. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to equalise the standards of examinations and degrees of the various Indian Universities in view of the recent reply given by the Edinburgh University to Nagpur University with reference to the recognition of the latter's degrees ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Government of India have no authority to take the action referred to by the Honourable Member. I would, however, point out that the Inter-University Board, India, considered the question of standardization of University examinations at its first meeting held at Bombay in March last and recorded a resolution that any attempt to standardize such examinations was impractical.

INCLUSION OF COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS IN THE LIST OF OPTIONAL SUBJECTS FOR THE VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS HELD IN INDIA.

532. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take for the inclusion of commercial subject taught for the I. Com. degree in the list of optional subjects for the various competitive examinations held in India ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I understand that the Honourable Member is referring to the competitive examinations for the Indian Civil Service and for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service. In so far as the former is concerned, the matter is primarily one for the Secretary of State under section 97 (1) and (2) of the Government of India Act. In view of the fact that a Public Service Commission is to be established in India shortly and that one of its functions will be to

advise the Government of India on questions of this nature, I am not at present prepared to consider any changes in the syllabus for the Indian Civil Service examination.

As regards the other examination, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by Sir Basil Blackett to question No. 195 on the 27th August.

LEAVE ALLOWANCES AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA AND THE FINANCE MEMBER.

533. ***Seth Govind Das** : Will the Government be pleased to state what amount of money has been spent on leave allowances and travelling charges for the Governor General of India and the Finance Member of the Government of India ?

(b) Will this expenditure be recurring from year to year and to what extent is it votable ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) The leave allowances of His Excellency the Governor General amounted approximately to Rs. 24,000 and those of the Honourable the Finance Member approximately to Rs. 10,000. The travelling expenses of His Excellency amounted approximately to Rs. 40,000.

(b) The expenditure is non-recurring and in the case of leave allowances, non-votable.

Seth Govind Das : May I know, Sir, if particulars of the expenditure incurred for the Governor General's touring expenses will be supplied afterwards ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have already given on several occasions the particulars of the expenditure of His Excellency the Viceroy's visit.

SEGREGATION BILL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

534. ***Seth Govind Das** : Will the Government be pleased to state what action the Government have taken or propose to take with reference to the Class Areas Bill introduced in the South African Legislature as affecting the interests of Indians domiciled there ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's question No. 234 on the same subject.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIAN TRADERS IN TANGANYIKA.

535. ***Seth Govind Das** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action with reference to the grievances of Indian traders doing business in Tanganyika territory ? Do the Government propose to instruct the representatives of India at the League of Nations to represent this matter before the League ?

Mr. L. Graham : The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to starred questions Nos. 95 and 85 put by Mr. B. Das and Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, respectively, on the 26th August.

RESERVATION OF THE LOWLANDS IN KENYA FOR INDIANS.

536. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken with reference to the reservation of Kenya lowlands for Indians in view of the fact of their being unfit for human habitation according to Dr. Norman Leys ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : Government do not propose to depute an officer to inspect these areas. No other action was contemplated by them.

ABOLITION OF THE POLL-TAX IN FIJI.

537. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the poll-tax for Indians has been abolished in Fiji in view of the great hardship it has been causing to the domiciled Indians there, and if not, whether they have sanctioned any scheme of separation for Indians desiring to return home ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 23rd January 1925 to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's question No. 178 in which I stated that according to the information available registrations for purposes of the tax were proceeding smoothly. It is also understood that the number of Indians exempted from the tax last year was substantial and Government have no reason to anticipate that the policy of exempting those in whose case it will be a real hardship to levy the tax will not be pursued in the future. In the circumstances the question of providing repatriation facilities does not arise.

DEATH OF AN INDIAN GARDEN LABOURER IN CEYLON.

538. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or propose to take with reference to the murder of an Indian cooly in Ceylon by an English planter or resident of that Colony ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The Honourable Member probably refers to the death of Krishnan, an Indian garden labourer, in the employ of one Mr. W. Kenny at Attidiya in Ceylon. The deceased was not an Indian labourer assisted to emigrate to Ceylon ; Mr. Kenny is not a planter nor did the incident take place on an estate. A judicial inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the deceased was recently held under the orders of the Government of Ceylon and counsel was allowed to watch the proceedings on behalf of the deceased's relations and to cross-examine witnesses. The Court held that Krishnan committed suicide while insane. The Government of India do not consider that any action on their part is called for.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE, ETC.

539. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or propose to take regarding the recommendations of (a) the Racial Discrimination Committee, (b) the Civil Justice Committee, and (c) the Bar Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) I invite a reference by the Honourable Member to the Criminal Law Amendment Act XII of 1923.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Lala Duni Chand's unstarred question No. 66 on the 25th August 1925.

(c) I said yesterday that I hoped to bring in a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Bar Committee shortly.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

540. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or propose to take regarding the recommendations of the majority and minority of the Muddiman Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Das' question on the same subject.

APPOINTMENT OF A ROYAL COMMISSION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

541. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have recommended the appointment of a Royal Commission on rural development and whether the terms of reference of the Commission would be sufficiently wide to include the various aspects of agricultural development in India ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The answer is in the negative.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN ECONOMIC INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

542. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state when the Report of the Indian Economic Inquiry Committee will be published and whether they have decided to establish a new Imperial Department of Census and Statistics ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The report will be published at an early date. Obviously the Government have not yet had time to consider the recommendations of the Committee.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN TAXATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

543. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state when the report of the Indian Taxation Inquiry Committee will be published and what has been the amount of money spent on this Committee till now ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Committee hope to complete the report before the end of November. The total expenditure on the Committee to the end of July 1925, is Rs. 3,01,857.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SKEEN COMMITTEE.

544. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the terms of reference of the Skeen Committee include the question of admission of Indians into the Artillery and Flying Corps of the Indian Army ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I lay on the table a copy of the terms of reference of the Skeen Committee, from which it will be observed that they do not include the examination of the specific questions referred to by the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the detailed terms of reference of the Skeen Committee.

The terms of reference are as follows :

- (a) By what means it may be possible to improve upon the present supply of Indian candidates for the King's Commission both in regard to number and quality.
- (b) Whether it is desirable and practicable to establish a Military College in India to train Indians for the commissioned ranks of the Indian Army.
- (c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, how soon should the scheme be initiated and what steps should be taken to carry it out.
- (d) Whether if a military college is established in India, it should supersede or be supplemented by Sandhurst and Woolwich so far as the training of Indians for the commissioned ranks of the Indian Army is concerned.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not a fact that Indians are employed in the Artillery only as mule drivers ?

Mr. E. Burdon : No, Sir.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MILITARY COLLEGES IN INDIA.

545. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the desirability of opening a special military college in India to give instructions to Indians in the Artillery and the Flying Corps of the Army ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The Government of India have not considered the desirability of opening a military college specially for the two purposes indicated. But they have recently appointed a Committee to consider, among other things, the question of establishing a military college in India and the fourth of the terms of reference to the Committee is " Whether if a military college is established in India, it should supersede or be supplemented by Sandhurst and Woolwich so far as the training of Indians for the commissioned ranks of the Indian Army is concerned ".

Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state when the report of the Committee is likely to come before the public ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Sir, I have not the gift of prophecy.

NUMBER OF INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

546. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state how many Indian officers are serving in the Foreign and Political Department of the Government of India and whether they have considered the desirability of increasing this number ?

Sir Denys Bray : The total number of Indian officers actually borne on the Political Cadre is 9. In the ordinary course this number should steadily increase as it is proposed to continue for the present to recruit 2 annually, or about 30 *per cent.* of the normal recruitment, provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.

OPENING OF THE KAZIPET BELHARSHAH RAILWAY.

547. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state when the Kazipet Belharshah (Nagpur) line will be open to traffic thus connecting the Itarsi Nagpur line with Delhi and Madras ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The section from Kazipet to Ramgundam has already been opened and that between Ramgundam and Goliara will, it is expected, be opened in March next. Work between Goliara and Belharshah is in progress, but Government are at present unable to say when this section is likely to be complete.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE TARIFF BOARD REGARDING THE CEMENT INDUSTRY.

548. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state in detail the reasons that prompted them to reject the recommendation of the Tariff Board regarding the cement industry ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Government have nothing to add to their Resolution of 1st August last.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES CONSEQUENT ON THE TRANSFER OF THE EAST INDIAN AND GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAYS TO STATE MANAGEMENT.

549. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what administrative changes have been made on the transference of the East Indian Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula to State management and what savings have been effected by this amalgamation ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : In regard to the first part of his question, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 432 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan.

In regard to the latter part, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to his question in this House No. 174 put on the 27th February 1925 ; it is not possible to state in money value the savings which may be effected as a result of these changes.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN KARACHI OR BOMBAY AND LONDON.

550. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to connect Karachi or Bombay with London by an air service to carry passengers and mails and if so, what the estimated cost is likely to be to the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to the unstarred question No. 62 by Mr. S. C. Ghose.

†551.*

£

AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA SPEAKING TRACTS.

552. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the report of the Philip G. Duff Committee on the transfer of the Oriya tract of the Madras Presidency to the Province of Bihar and Orissa ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Das' question on the same subject.

REDISTRIBUTION OF THE PROVINCES ON A LINGUISTIC BASIS.

553. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to redistribute the provinces of India on linguistic lines ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Government have not under consideration any scheme for the general revision of the existing provincial boundaries.

FORMATION OF AN INTER UNIVERSITY BOARD.

554. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether an Inter-University Board as recommended by the Universities Conference has been formed : if so, where is its headquarters, what is the cost of the Board to the Government, how many Universities have joined it and what are the functions of the Board ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The permanent habitat of the Board will be selected at its next meeting ; its temporary headquarters are at Mysore. Government met the travelling expenses of its members for its first meeting at Bombay amounting to Rs. 3,930, no other grant has been made to the Board. Twelve Universities have up to the present joined the Board. As regards its functions, the Honourable Member is referred to the information supplied to him on the 27th February 1925 in answer to his question No. 187.

ALLEGED FRAUD ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

555. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that goods sent by wagons on the Bengal Nagpur Railway are generally shown several maunds less than their actual weight ? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to prevent such fraud ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The question is not understood. Railway freight is charged on the weight of the goods carried and it would not be to the interest of the Railway to understate the weight.

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

556. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that shortage of goods wagons on the Bengal Nagpur Railway has become almost a matter of everyday occurrence, and payment of compensation for such shortage is often delayed 8 or 9 months ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : So far as Government are aware the facts are not as suggested in the question.

WIDENING OF WATERWAYS ON THE B. D. RAILWAY.

557. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that the waterways between miles 55 and 56 on the B. D. Railway are insufficient for the passage of

water which causes village Sehara in the District of Burdwan to be submerged during the rains ? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have the waterways broadened ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : So far as can be traced the Government have had no complaints on the subject and no representations from the Local Government.

DELAY IN THE DELIVERY OF A V. P. PARCEL.

558. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether V. P. No. 192 for Rs. 226, sent from Bankura Lala Bazar to Behar Shariff on the 13th January 1925, was delivered on the 13th May 1925 ? Will the Government be pleased to inquire into the causes of such inordinate delay and take steps to prevent such delay in future ?

Mr. G. P. Roy : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, and the second part consequently does not arise.

DELAY IN THE PAYMENT OF A VALUE PAYABLE MONEY ORDER.

559. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Will the Government be pleased to state why although the V. P. No. 154 of 26th June 1925 for Rs. 260 from Bankura Lal Bazar to Khagole, Patna, was duly delivered at Khagole, the money has not as yet been received by the sender ?

Mr. G. P. Roy : The amount of the value-payable money order was paid to the sender on the 6th August 1925. The delay in payment was due partly to the fact that the original value-payable money order form was lost in transit and a duplicate had to be issued and partly also to the incorrect way in which the duplicate money order was prepared by the Khagaul post office. The latter point is being investigated.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF PARCELS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

560. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Will the Government be pleased to state why the consignors have not been paid compensation for loss of the following parcels on the Bengal Nagpur Railway :

- (1) Bankura to Purulia—P. W. Bill No. 35798/23 of 13th March 1925 ?
- (2) Bankura to Mozufferpur—P. W. Bill No. 0985/7 of 13th March 1925 ?

DELAY IN THE DELIVERY OF RAILWAY PARCELS.

561. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Will the Government be pleased to state why the following parcels have not as yet been delivered to the consignees :

- (1) Bankura to Dubrajpur, East Indian Railway.—P. W. Bill No. 1846 of 12th January 1925 ?
- (2) Khagaria to Bankura, Bengal Nagpur Railway.—P. W. Bill No. 1682 of 31st January 1925 ?
- (3) Bankura to Bonpas, East Indian Railway.—P. W. Bill No. 30 of 12th January 1925 ?

If these have been lost in transit, why no compensation has been paid as yet ?

ALLEGED FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH A RAILWAY PARCEL.

562. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that P. W. Bill No. 4769 of 5th May 1925, Bankura to Bhojudh, was delivered to a person, other than the consignee, who neither produced the railway receipt nor gave any indemnity bond ? Is it a fact that no compensation has been paid to the real consignee, nor have any steps been taken to prosecute the perpetrators of the fraud ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : I propose to reply to questions Nos. 560, 561 and 562 together.

Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Agents of the Railways concerned.

PREVENTION OF THE LOSS OF GOODS AND PARCELS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR AND THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

563. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that merchants sending goods and parcels by the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the East Indian Railway are often subjected to great loss by non-delivery, misdelivery and loss of goods, in spite of the Watch and Ward Department ? If so, will the Government be pleased to take steps to prevent the same ? Is it a fact that most of these cases are due to the negligence of the railway servants ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this Assembly on the 22nd January 1925 to question No. 23.

ISSUES OF TICKETS TO THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS.

564. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to " Bhagalpur notes " in the *Hindustani Times* of the 26th July 1925, about the grievances of the third class passengers in purchasing tickets ? Are the Government aware that the practice of issuing tickets only a few minutes before the departure of trains, entails great hardship upon passengers, specially those who have to book their luggage ? If so, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions, so that passengers may have enough time to book their luggage and avail themselves of the train without difficulty ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given in this Assembly on 25th August 1925 to a similar question asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

PURCHASE OF PAPER.

565. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that the Government has placed orders for paper from abroad instead of from Indian paper mills ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the same ?

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG LABOURERS HITHERTO EMPLOYED IN PAPER MILLS.

566. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that the withdrawal of orders for paper from Indian paper mills has caused the unemployment of Indian

labour hitherto employed in the Indian paper mills ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they propose to take steps to prevent such unemployment ?

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG LABOURERS HITHERTO EMPLOYED IN PAPER MILLS.

567. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a resolution of the Kankinara Labour Union adopted at a meeting held on the 27th June last, complaining about unemployment ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state, whether they propose to take any steps to redress the grievances of the employees of the Indian paper mills ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I propose with your permission, Sir, to answer questions Nos. 565, 566 and 567 together, and would refer the Honourable Member to the answer which I gave to Lala Duni Chand's question No. 182. As was there explained, there has been no withdrawal of orders for paper from the Indian paper mills ; in fact Government have ordered rather more paper from them this year than last year, and I cannot, therefore, admit that Government's action has been the cause of unemployment. Of course in their competition with each other some mills got larger orders than last year, and some smaller ; but taken as a whole the Indian paper mill industry are supplying a larger quantity of paper to Government this year.

SALE OF FOODSTUFFS ON THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

568. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Indian Daily Telegraph*, dated the 7th July 1925, protesting against the proposed discontinuance of providing a compartment for the sale of foodstuffs on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the statements contained in the article are correct ? If so, are the Government prepared to reconsider their decision ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given in the Assembly on 25th August 1925 to a similar question No. 163 asked by Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh.

SALARIES OF ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

569. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that the Indian guards on the East Indian Railway start on an initial salary of Rs. 45 and end with Rs. 100 per month, while Anglo-Indian guards start on Rs. 100 and end with Rs. 210 per month ? Is it a fact that both these classes have to pass the same examinations ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for such racial discrimination and do they propose to take steps for removal of such anomalies ?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the rest of the question steps are being taken to remove this distinction.

PROMOTION OF ANGLO-INDIAN GUARDS TO ASSISTANT YARD MASTERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

570. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Is it a fact that Anglo-Indian guards on the East Indian Railway who have only passed the train passing exami-

nation are promoted to be Assistant Yard Masters, while no Indians are so appointed although they have passed joint-hand examination (Railway training) in addition to the train passing examination? If so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons and do they propose to take steps to remove such anomalies?

Mr. G. G. Sim : Government have no information but will make inquiries.

INDIAN TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

571. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any Indian Traffic Inspectors on the East Indian Railway? If so, since when have the Indians been so appointed? If not, why not?

Mr. G. G. Sim : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Government have no information as regards the second part. The remainder of the question does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF MORE INDIAN TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

572. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** Will the Government be pleased to state how the Traffic Inspectors on Indian Railways are recruited? Are the Government prepared to take steps to appoint more Indian Traffic Inspectors on Indian Railways?

Mr. G. G. Sim : While due weight is given to seniority, promotion to the grade of Traffic Inspectors is based on careful selection. Government have already brought to the special notice of all Railway Administrations the Resolution on this subject moved by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das and adopted in the Council of State on the 28th February 1923.

RESOLUTION RE RE-TRANSFER OF SYLHET AND CACHAR TO BENGAL.

Mr. President : The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Mr. M. S. Aney on the 23rd January, 1925 :

12 NOON.

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to be pleased to take early steps to give effect to the Resolution which was passed by the Assam Legislative Council in July last recommending the re-transfer of Sylhet and Cachar to Bengal.”

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : Sir, with your permission I should like to make a statement in connection with this Resolution. During the last few days I have been in consultation with those Members from all parts of the House who are particularly interested in this subject, and I have informed them of the present state of the correspondence and of the question in so far as it rests with the Local Governments. These Members agree with me, and I think I am justified in stating to the House that we all consider further discussion at the present stage could only be sterile and lead to no result. I propose to circulate to all Honourable Members of the House to-day the correspondence which has so far taken place, and the suggestion I have to make to the House is that this Resolution now before the House should be withdrawn and that we should discuss the matter on a further Resolution next session, when we shall be in a position to deal with the matter in a more satisfactory way. I understand the Members

interested agree with this, and I put it forward as a suggestion, because, strictly speaking, I am not, I think, entitled to speak again on this Resolution.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative) : I was given to understand something else yesterday, but as those who are interested seem to be agreeable to the suggestion, I have no objection to accepting it, and I withdraw the Resolution.

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

RESOLUTION RE PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORT, MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF LIQUOR—*contd.*

Mr. President : The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Haji Wajihuddin on the 5th February, 1925 :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that legislation be undertaken prohibiting the import, manufacture, sale and use of all sorts of liquors in India and in the meantime he be pleased to direct the local administrations under his control and convey the opinion of this Assembly to all other Provincial Governments that they should take steps forthwith to grant to the local bodies within their jurisdiction the right to determine the number and location of liquor shops within their respective areas."

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, as a Mussalman, it is my bounden duty to give my hearty support to the motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend Haji Wajihuddin. But leaving aside religious sentiments, I am strongly of opinion that for the amelioration and betterment of the conditions of the people of this country it is highly desirable that the legislation indicated in the Resolution of my Honourable friend should be taken in hand as soon as possible. The evil of drinking has now been recognised by all the civilized nations of the world and sincere efforts are being made to remove this great evil. Temperance societies and temperance associations have been formed in nearly all the civilized countries of the world, and a very large number of public-spirited men and women have devoted their whole lives to this noble cause. I am aware that in America legislation has already been passed by which certain local bodies have been empowered to introduce measures prohibiting the sale of liquor within their jurisdiction, and in pursuance of these measures several local bodies in America have totally prohibited the sale of liquor in their jurisdictions or in their constituencies. Since the Resolution on the prohibition of liquor was moved by my Honourable friend Haji Wajihuddin Sahib in this House on the 5th February last, many communications in support of the measure, from Indians generally, have been received. According to my information, no less than 100 leading Indian vernacular papers have expressed full approval of the Resolution. Many associations in different parts of India have passed Resolutions strongly supporting the subject matter under discussion. A number of my Honourable friends in this House are aware that, during the last winter, when the Assembly meetings were held in Delhi the Reverend Herbert Anderson invited the Honourable Members of this House and leaders of India to a meeting to form a prohibition league for India, and decided to hold a general meeting next winter at the Imperial City, for which the necessary arrangements are being made, and I wish his efforts every success. Now, Sir, there is much that we may learn from American prohibition. In a remarkable article by Dr. Samuel McCune Lindsay on Prohibition perhaps the most remarkable sentence is this :

[Maulvi Muhammad Yakub.]

"Americans of all classes in increasing numbers perceived that quite irrespective of their personal habits or desires with respect to the consumption of alcohol, they could not secure the advantages of abstinence, or of moderate and perhaps harmless consumption, on the part of the weaker and more numerous members of any community unless they themselves were willing to forego the liberty of personal consumption, even though they belonged to the minority whose efficiency might not in any case be seriously impaired."

With such a noble impulse actuating the vast majority of the 110 millions in the United States, is it surprising that that great country was able to rise to the lofty height of self-denial involved in the passing of the prohibition amendment? If India desires to take her proper place among the nations, a similar moral impulse must actuate her people in the present day. And since "no man liveth unto himself", total abstinence becomes a personal responsibility, if only for the sake of personal example. American prohibition has a solemn lesson to teach the whole of the Indian nation in these days when India is laying the foundations of her future national greatness. The new Reforms, the movement against "untouchability", and many other Indian movements will all be unavailing unless India deals drastically with the drink menace which is so steadily growing on every hand. History shows the drink traffic to be a peculiar danger to all industrial communities, and with India's rapid industrial growth it is imperative that India's drink traffic should speedily be brought to an end. Note what India may learn from the United States of America. The conviction had grown steadily in the United States that social and industrial efficiency and national unity of purpose could not be had at any cheaper price than the cost or sacrifices involved, whatever they might be, in national prohibition, and this belief had almost reached the point where it could be translated into effective governmental action even before the war necessitated a supreme effort for such efficiency. How great a hindrance the liquor traffic in India already is to India's industrial efficiency is well illustrated by the remarkable publication of Mr. G. Findlay Shirras, Director of the Labour Office, Government of Bombay. In his "Report on an Inquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay" we have 3,076 detailed budgets of working-class people in Bombay City, 2,473 of these being for families and 603 for single men, collected between May 1921 and April 1922. The estimate of the investigators is that those families who drink spend at least from eight to ten per cent. of their income on alcoholic liquor. When we remember that according to the census of 1921, there are in Bombay City 3,125 single room tenements occupied by 2 or more families, out of which 1,955 are occupied by two families, 658 by three, 242 by four, 136 by five, 42 by six, 34 by seven and 58 by eight families or more, can we resist the conclusion of the *Servant of India*, the organ of the Servants of India Society when it concludes as follows :

"Little wonder that the millhand in the midst of this unimaginable overcrowding should try to find out the 'shortest way out of Bombay' by resorting to drink. We do not, however, expect a Government servant like Mr. Shirras to advocate total prohibition through legislation, but after all is said it is the only remedy. Liquor is mainly responsible for the poor efficiency, domestic misery, heavy indebtedness and, absenteeism of the worker, and tinkering with the problem will spell nothing but waste of time and energy."

One other figure may be given to show the imperative need of removing every factor menacing the living conditions of the people in cities like Bombay where the drink habit is seen at its worst. The Medical Officer

of Health for Bombay City states that the infant mortality of Bombay City during the decade ending with 1922 was no less than 475 per thousand, the highest in the world, the figure being as high as an average of 666 per thousand in 1921.

What the attitude of Europeans in India should be on this great matter affecting India's destinies has been indicated by one of the greatest of Englishmen in India. Dr. Palmer, the Bishop of Bombay, stated a few years ago in his written evidence before the Excise Commission appointed by the Bombay Government :

" If the situation was that the vast majority of responsible people were against the consumption of alcoholic liquors and that large numbers of irresponsible people abstained from them on account of custom or religion and that only a relatively small number of people consumed them.....that was a situation which did not exist in Europe and which provided all the conditions for a system of total prohibition."

That such a situation does exist in India is clear from the demand of almost all Hindus and Muhammadans, from the fact that practically every religion in India enjoins total abstinence, from the statement of a Poona *mali* (gardener) before the Bombay Excise Commission that 80 per cent. of his fellow *malis* would vote for the closing of all liquor shops had they the opportunity of voting on the question, and from the remarkable " goddess movement " in the Tapti Valley among the Kaliparaj tribes where the liquor customs temporarily came so near total extinction as to threaten the liquor receipts of nearly twenty lakhs of rupees in the Baroda State and where in British districts the officials have gone so far as to close the liquor shops in accordance with the clearly expressed desire of the people. Such an attitude on the part of British officials is eminently statesmanlike, for intimate conversation with educated Indians has convinced us that among the factors endangering the connection between India and Britain, the continuance of the drink traffic in the teeth of Indian sentiment is one of the most dangerous.

Sir, I know that the Government have not been unmindful in introducing measures of social reform in this country. Laws relating to the abolition of slavery, and the prohibition of infanticide and *sati* were passed in British India long ago, and only yesterday we discussed a Government Bill, passing certain portions of it—I hope the rest will also receive the full approval of this House—which aims at the protection of girls of tender age. Laws relating to gambling, the sale of cocaine and other similar measures have also been passed in India ; and it is really surprising that this, the greatest and noblest of social reforms, has hitherto escaped the attention of Government. I am aware that some half-hearted measures have been introduced in certain Provinces, but in my opinion they do not go to the root of the evil. Better late than never, and I hope that by accepting this Resolution the Government will give proof of their earnest desire in this direction. With these remarks, Sir, I heartily support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Haji Wajihuddin.

Mr. President : Before we proceed further, I should like to explain to the House the manner in which I propose to deal with the amendments now on the paper, three of which are principal amendments—one standing in the name of Colonel Crawford, the other in the name of Dr. Datta and a third in the name of Mr. Kelkar. As regards the amendment standing in the name of Colonel Crawford, it seems to me that it is a negative of the original proposition. The original proposition recommends that

[Mr. President.]

immediate steps be taken for total prohibition, whilst this amendment standing in the name of Colonel Crawford stands for no prohibition and the continuance of the present policy. Therefore it is a direct negative of the original proposition and is out of order.

With regard to Dr. Datta's amendment, it seems to me that it goes beyond the scope of the original Resolution inasmuch as it refers to other drugs besides liquor. If Dr. Datta is prepared to omit all references to drugs I am prepared to allow his amendment to be discussed.

Similarly with regard to Mr. Kelkar's amendment. It also refers to other drugs, and if Mr. Kelkar is prepared to omit all references to drugs, I am prepared to allow his amendment also to be discussed. I have received a modified amendment from Mr. Kelkar which does omit all references to drugs but at the same time it refers to other matters involving changes not merely of form but of substance and therefore I cannot allow that modified amendment to be moved. He should therefore omit all such references from the original amendment and move his amendment accordingly.

I will take the amendments of Dr. Datta and Mr. Kelkar in the modified form as suggested by me and allow the House to discuss the Resolution and the two amendments together and then put them in such order as I consider proper.

Dr. S. K. Datta (Nominated : Indian Christians) : Will you permit me, Sir, to make certain submissions regarding my amendment ?

Mr. President : For what purpose ?

Dr. S. K. Datta : Will you not allow me to present before you, Sir, certain considerations regarding why I introduced a reference to opium and other drugs, and explain that I consider that even in this form it is within the scope of the original Resolution ? But if you then choose to rule me out of order I am content.

Mr. President : I have already given my ruling. As the Honourable Member will understand, it may be very desirable that there should be prohibition in regard to opium and other drugs before prohibition comes with regard to liquor, but I have to act according to rules and I must disallow that part which refers to drugs. Will the Honourable Member move his amendment in the modified form ?

Dr. S. K. Datta : I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name but which will now read as follows :

" That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to accept as the policy of the Government the ultimate prohibition of production, manufacture, sale and import of intoxicating liquors save for medicinal and scientific purposes. It further recommends that as the first steps in carrying out this policy (a) that the import of spirituous liquors into India be more rigidly controlled, (b) that Provincial Governments be urged to undertake legislation whereby the control of the sale of spirituous liquors will be vested in Local Bodies, Licensing Boards elected on a popular franchise or be regulated by a system of local option wherever possible."

Sir, this morning I do not desire to argue the case for prohibition on the grounds of religion or even on the highest ethical grounds. Personally, I do not believe that we have a case on either religious grounds or the

highest ethical grounds, but my whole plea will be limited to certain medical and economic considerations. May I give an illustration of what I mean? I believe there is a State in India to-day where two things are prohibited on religious grounds, first alcohol and the second subjects of the State may not under the pain of compulsion change their religion. That has been done on the ground of religion but I have no desire this morning to argue my case from that point of view. Now, let me come to the question of the two grounds I have mentioned, namely, medical and economic grounds. In the first place, the use of alcohol as a beverage in small quantities results in the reduction of skill. In the second place, larger quantities are definitely injurious; insanity and criminality are the result. With regard to insanity, take the case of the State of New York for which I have certain figures. Out of a population of 100,000 persons in the State of New York in 1909 6.3 were admitted into asylums on the ground of insanity; in 1910, 6.4; in 1917, 6; in 1918 when the first results of prohibition began to appear, 3.5; in 1919, 2.6; and in 1920, 1.2. This, then, is one of the results I believe which were achieved. We cannot yet say with certainty, but figures point in the direction that there has been an increase in public health within the limits of that particular State.

Now, Sir, may I argue for a moment on the other ground which I have stated, namely, the economic grounds? I desire, if possible, this morning to place before the House certain figures relating to the revenue accruing to Government, in other words, the results of taxation of the Indian people through the instrumentality of both liquor and drugs. Unfortunately, Mr. President, I am not able in these figures to make a distinction between alcohol and drugs, and if you will permit me, I will give the results of these figures. In 1912-13 the total revenue accruing to the Government from excise, both central and provincial, was 12.32 lakhs which meant taxation per head of Re. 0-7-9 of the total population of India. In 1913-14 it was 13.30 lakhs, and the taxation per head was Re. 0-8-5. In 1918-19 the total of income from liquors and drugs was 17.25 lakhs representing taxation of Re. 0-10-11. In 1923-24 the total under alcohol and drugs was Re. 19.20 lakhs representing taxation per head of Re. 0-12-5. Indeed, the revenue from alcohol and drugs in India constituted one of the principal heads of revenue of the Government, both central and provincial. We take, for example, the total in 1923-24. Under the principal heads of revenue the Government of India obtained Rs. 74 crores and the Provincial Government Rs. 73 crores, altogether a total of Rs. 147 crores. In other words, between one-seventh and one-eighth of the total revenue of India came from these sources, namely, from alcohol and drugs. The amount was just under a half of the total receipts from Customs and more than a half of the total receipts from Land Revenue. It is against this indirect method of taxation whose incidence falls on the poor that I desire to base my argument to-day. We believe that a policy of restriction, a policy of prohibition will result in freeing an enormous amount of the population from taxation from which they get nothing in return. In the second place, although we are yet free from the power of liquor interests in this country, liquor interests in the United Kingdom and America have been one of the most harmful things in the life of these two countries. Over and over again reform has been blocked by the action of the liquor interests both in America and in England, and I desire that before these enormous liquor interests become established in this country we should bring them absolutely under control.

[Dr. S. K. Datta.]

Now, Sir, I come to the actual policy of prohibition. My advice to the country is to go slowly. Incidentally I may say that I desire to exempt from any personal discomfort the front Government Bench and shall include also the leaders of the major parties of this House. The struggle in America has been a very long and arduous one. Prohibition did not come in a day. May I be permitted to give the House the stages by which prohibition was established in America? From 1851 to 1869 steps were taken to bring about State prohibition, that is to say, single States were considering whether they should bring about prohibition within the limits of their individual States. Any effort in that direction was finally killed by the Civil War in the United States of America. Then again from 1886 to 1893 we have a second wave of State prohibition with the result that only six States declared for prohibition and three States as a matter of fact repealed the laws of prohibition within the limits of their own States. Then again between 1893 and 1906 there were renewed efforts towards prohibition. The American experience has taught us two things. In the first place it has taught us that you cannot have prohibition in one State without having prohibition in other States because the influence of one on the other is bound to be bad. In the second place prohibition has taught America that an international frontier itself may be a menace and may stultify the efforts of a nation towards prohibition. I have had to cross the Canadian-United States frontier and fortunately, or unfortunately if you like, the American Inspector of Customs was much too drunk to examine my baggage for the purpose of investigating whether I was carrying liquor. He had obtained it from the Canadian frontier. (Laughter.) Let us not laugh. The British people themselves have in fact brought about the downfall of prohibition in a country like China. There are to-day ships along the Atlantic coast of America waiting to smuggle liquor into the country. Between 1835 and 1839 the East India Company's ships were blockading the waters of the Canton river with their cargoes of opium in spite of the prohibition of the Chinese Government. There is a parallel in the experiences of the two countries, the experience that America is having to-day and the experience of China rather under a century ago. As I said before, it is this question of international frontiers which is bound to have some effect on the policy of prohibition adopted by any country. Now, Sir, other countries apart from America are working towards prohibition. The latest example is that of a country most dear to the people of the British Empire, namely, the Dominion of New Zealand. In 1923 when I visited New Zealand, they had just then completed an election or rather a referendum on the question. There were three issues before the people of New Zealand, the old system of license, State control and State management, or prohibition. As the result of years of work, what happened? The prohibitionists had the largest number of votes, though not large enough as compared with the total votes for State management on the one hand and the old license system on the other and prohibition did not go through yet it was a great victory for the prohibition sentiment. In Australia there are various licensing laws and in some of the new States of Western Australia the tendency is towards prohibition. It has been said that prohibition has been a failure in America, but I do not believe it myself. I have been in America and I cannot say that prohibition has been a failure. On the other hand I can say that the prohibition sentiment is growing, certainly in some of the

new countries like New Zealand and even in Australia. Now, Sir, if you will permit me this morning, I will make a reference to what I consider a very grave hampering condition in the original Resolution. You cannot have prohibition of alcoholic liquors in any country without first controlling the traffic in drugs. That is the immediate result. I regret that my friend Hajji Wajihuddin did not realise that when he placed his Resolution before this House. Every country that is working towards prohibition has, in the first place, stringently controlled the use of all drugs. Take the example of England for example. I have before me the report the Home Office Commissioner on the Framework Knitters of Leicester issued in 1845. It tells us about conditions prevailing among the industrial classes in Leicester at that time. The Commissioner informs us that the people are too poor "to indulge in church-going or alcohol." He continues as follows :

"Their publican is the druggist, where they buy opium for themselves, and Godfrey's cordial, a preparation from laudanum, for their children."

That was before England began to control her own liquor traffic. By the Pharmacy Act of 1858, the prohibition against the sale of opium for other than medical purposes was complete. This omission is a very grave one and I trust it will be rectified.

Now, Sir, there is another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of this House and that is the control of imported liquors into this country. The value of imported liquors in 1912 and 1913 with regard to ales and beer was 68 lakhs, in 1923-24, 78 lakhs, spirits 1 crore and 16 lakhs and in 1923-24, 2 crores and 9 lakhs. Wines came to 28 lakhs in 1913 and in 1923-24, 26 lakhs. Indeed when you come to calculate in gallons in 1914-15, wines and beers imported into this country amounted to 3½ million gallons, in 1923-24 2,840,000 gallons. There was a reduction under Leers and ale, wines also similarly declined from 2,74,000 gallons in 1914-15 to 2,25,000 gallons in 1923-24. On the other hand spirits showed a tendency not to decrease but to rise. In 1914-15, we imported 1,665,000 gallons of spirits. In 1923-24, 1,666,000 gallons of spirits.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Member, Central Board of Revenue) : May I ask where these statistics have been taken from ?

Mr. S. K. Datta : From "the Statistical Abstract" under the head of imports.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd : They are figures of imports ?

Mr. S. K. Datta : Yes. I believe the Government ought to investigate this question of the control of imports of spirit and see whether the imports of spirits into India should not be more strictly controlled. "Spirits" above all are one of the most dangerous forms of alcohol in this country. Opinion is gaining ground all over India in the direction of prohibition. There have been expressions of popular opinion during the last 30 years and they have never been so strong as to-day. The Excise Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay has accepted ultimate prohibition as their goal and the Government of Bombay have in their turn accepted the recommendations of the Excise Committee ; I trust that the Member for the Bombay Government in this House will remember that fact when he comes to vote on this question. The Calcutta Corporation and many Municipalities have also passed resolutions with regard to prohibition of liquor. Above all, we shall obtain no change of policy

[Dr. S. K. Datta.]

in this country until the control of the sale of liquor is vested in popular bodies and that is what I provide for in the last portion of my Resolution. Now, my position is this—that ultimate prohibition is the goal towards which we aim. We have to go slowly feeling every step as we go along that path. We must bring pressure to bear all along the line and furthermore we must insist that in local areas authority and power to control the sale of liquor should be vested in bodies elected on a popular franchise.

With these words I commend my Resolution as amended to this House.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, as I do not wish to make as many speeches as there are amendments, I will make one speech, and in that speech I will, in the first place, show exactly how my own amendment stands in relation to the original proposition and the amendment that has just now been proposed.

Mr. President : Will the Honourable Member begin by moving his amendment ?

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : According to the direction of the Chair, I have taken out the extraneous matter, and I will read the amendment :

“ That for the Original Resolution the following be substituted :

‘ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to accept as the ultimate policy of the Government the prohibition of production, manufacture, sale and import of intoxicating liquors save for medicinal and scientific purposes. It further recommends that as the first step in carrying out this policy the Provincial Governments be directed immediately (i) to inaugurate a policy of vesting the power of fixing, by a system of local option, the location and number of shops selling intoxicating liquors in either local self-governing bodies or licensing Boards specially constituted for the purpose and elected on a popular franchise, and (ii) to undertake necessary legislation in furtherance of that policy.’ ”

The defect, Sir, as I think, of the original proposition seems to me to be this, that it might suggest to the Assembly a peremptory time limit for introducing prohibition. But though I advocate prohibition, I cannot unfortunately expect that prohibition will come so soon. It is bound to take time even if the fundamental principle be now accepted. The Resolution also has this additional defect that it makes no mention of the medicinal needs of spirits, which must of course be provided for. As for Dr. Datta's amendment, it goes into details which may be disputed, and I do not want the proposition to be lost in disputation over details. Ten years perhaps may be a short time for the complete establishment of prohibition. He mentions legislation only in connection with drugs—of course that is out of court now—and leaves the import of foreign liquors to mere executive control. But Dr. Datta will see that I look at the matter almost from the same angle of vision as he himself does. Colonel Crawford's amendment has been declared to be out of order. But though I cannot criticize the amendment itself, I can, as part of my argument, criticize the mind which has been disclosed by that amendment. In fact the state of mind disclosed by his amendment is to me a message of despair. It practically negatives the fundamental principle which underlies the present question. He has put himself out of court with the rules of this Assembly, and I suppose he will put himself out of court also with the public outside. He seems to assume that prohibition is out of the question and that it ought not to come at any conceivable time, and he apparently thinks that all classes in India would take the same view of the

matter as he himself does. He assumes that the present control by Government over liquor, over the foreign liquor traffic, is efficient, and he only gives a certificate to that efficiency by blandly wishing a continuance of it. Now as for my own amendment, I would say this, that it follows the lines of least resistance. It does not fix any inexorable time limit. It makes provision for the medicinal needs of spirits. It does not suggest immediate central legislation. It takes account of the fact that Excise is a provincial subject and does not ask the Central Government to do things over the heads of the Provincial Governments. It raises, therefore, only two clear issues :

- (1) Whether Government are not prepared to accept prohibition as only an ultimate objective, which means a pretty distant objective. But even more challenging than that is the following issue :
- (2) Whether they are not prepared to allow the voters in this country to be the arbiters of their destiny in this simple question of drink.

Therefore I take what is in fact a middle course and what I think is only a reasonable view of the matter. I cannot accept the position, as Colonel Crawford insinuates, that there is to be no prohibition in India at any conceivable time or for any class of people. On the other hand, I do not fancy that the millennium will come merely by immediate legislation, or that all classes in India will submit to it with equal readiness. I would like to make it perfectly clear that the pivot of my hope is the reasoned and well considered judgment of the voter in India, and for him I claim nothing more in this simple matter than has already been conceded to him by Government themselves in matters of graver moment—I claim for him responsibility, that is to say, the full authority and freedom of decision and full liability to take the consequences. I wish also to make it clear that when I ask for freedom of decision for the voter, I do not ask it only for him who will veto and repudiate liquor, but also for him who will have the frankness and the boldness to ask for it. The positive in this matter is a necessary logical implication of the negative. For I know that there are certain classes of people even among Indians who may resent prohibition as an encroachment upon their rights and as a supercilious puritanical fad. And when I am prepared to make that allowance for the people of my own country, which was for centuries essentially anti-drink in practice as well as precept, I would certainly be prepared to make ample allowance for the class of people whom Colonel Crawford represents. Do I not know that the Europeans in India would, with a handful of exceptions, revolt against prohibition almost to a man ? Their traditions for centuries have been steeped and soaked in liquor. They regard drink as the heirloom of their ancestry and the cherished gift which they would leave to their posterity. (Laughter.) They have always clung to the worshipful trinity of the Bible, the Bottle and the Bayonet. They are true disciples of Omar Khayyam, the Persian poet, who sings :

“ Ah, ah the cup ! what boots it to repent,
How time is slipping underneath our feet,
Unborn to-morrow and dead yesterday,
Why fret about them, if to-day be sweet ? ”

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Whose religion is that ?

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : And whose sense of science, religion and philosophy has been thus finely expressed :

“ The grape that can with logic absolute
The two and seventy jarring sects confute,
The subtle alchemist that in a trice
Life's leaden metal into gold transmute.”

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Which religion does he belong to ?

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : A sect of Muhammadanism I suppose. But you are his disciples.

To the Englishman a half-filled cup is an insult to his guest and an empty wine cup is a disgraceful defection in his sense of hospitality. A temperance motto is a bolt on his escutcheon. He feels that to toast his Sovereign with anything less spirited than spirits is akin to high treason. And he may very well derive authority for his doctrine even from the Bible, for, as I have read the Bible myself, I do not think it supports prohibition. Drink was taken at the Last Supper of the Lord. It has been commended by St. Paul ; it has been used by Noah. It has been mentioned in the Psalms as a “ gift sent to gladden the heart of man ”. And therefore I take it that Europeans would “ not allow Pussyfoot Johnson to assume the role of a 20th century Moses, adding an eleventh commandment to the Decalogue ”. It would therefore be almost blasphemous for me to seek to induce, much more so to force, the European out of his earthly paradise. I am prepared to leave him severely alone, but only for the present. I would leave him to be stewed in his own juice if he likes. But may I not claim equal freedom, equal freedom.....

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Equal freedom for all.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : Of choice for the bulk of my own people who, I know, are averse to drink, and would like to keep not only their houses but their surroundings clear of what they regard as an abomination. Freedom is a two-edged sword. Like electricity, it has two polar points called “ yea ” and “ nay.” I may remind Colonel Crawford that the word temperance, as Colonel Crawford has used it in his amendment, is a charming but a misleading word. I do not think that the temperance movement even in Europe accepts the word temperance as meaning only the use of a moderate measure of drink. Temperance does not mean moderation, but teetotalism. (*Voices* : “ No ”.) I think even the ignorant Tommy of the British Army understands it, and there is therefore greater reason why an educated civilian should know it and understand it in that sense.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : He may misunderstand it. But that is not the meaning, I assure the Honourable Member.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : The intellect of the temperance men tells them that such a thing as a golden mean in the use of drink may be conceivable but their instinct advises them aright. Their prudence prefers prevention rather than cure. In America prohibition has not been suggested by moral faddists or by deductive ethics, but sheer practical experience and economic considerations. It is easy to magnify the

isolated instances of America's failure in her heroic struggle. But the heroic fight which she has put up so long deserves broad sympathy rather than lynxeyed criticism. The experience of America should only reinforce the instinct of India. Drink may not have been totally absent from India at any time, but whereas it is the rule in western countries, in India it is only the exception. Does that make no difference? The majority, by exercising the right of local option, would not be tyrannizing a minority, but only saving itself from the tyranny of that minority. Local option means freedom for the voiceless underdog. Prohibition may or may not come in future. But the immediate need is to allow people to say and enforce that drink may not remain in their area, wherever else it may be. Government, who have set up six million voters on their feet, and profess to trust them with responsible political government is surely estopped from saying that they are unfit to declare how many liquor shops there may be in their area and where these may be located. And things have indeed advanced farther than my friend Colonel Crawford would like to believe. The Bombay Government have already accepted the policy of prohibition as an ultimate objective. There can be no question about that. In a speech recently delivered at Sholapur the Governor of my province says this :

" With reference to your remarks on the subject of the drink evil, I would remind you that my Government have declared total prohibition to be the ultimate goal of their excise policy."

Practically, you will see, these are the very words which have been incorporated in this Resolution, and therefore the Government of India cannot now very well deny and repudiate what a Provincial Governor has said, for I believe, when he speaks, he speaks not only for his own province but practically for the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Certainly not for the Government of India.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar : The Governor goes on :

" Let me assure you, however, that we are at all times prepared to consider any well thought out scheme of local option framed on sound financial lines."

In this speech therefore, as you might have just noticed, the Governor of Bombay has put forward only the special plea of finance. But let provincial autonomy be granted and the provincial electors will take up the challenge. They will take care both of provincial finance and their own reputation as a non-drinking people. Real and good money will be provided, however, by prohibition rather than by the liquor trade and traffic. And here I will quote a very good and pertinent authority on this subject. Sir Arthur Newsholme, M.D., principal medical officer to the Local Government Board, in his book " The Ministry of Health " says :

" If this country were, like the United States to go dry, the money for housing the poor would be at once forthcoming, and short of this by reduction of our national drink bill by half, the housing difficulty would be solved. Can there be any doubt that the liquor trade paralyses the hand of the social reformer ? "

I warn therefore Colonel Crawford, and those whom he represents, that they must be prepared for prohibition some time or other if the progress of self-government continues. Local option is only like the gentle breeze that separates the chaff from the grain. But no quarter can be given, no half-way measures can be taken, when the real prohibition begins. Prohibition will then be not like a gentle breeze that

[Mr. N. C. Kelkar.]

separates chaff from the grain, but it will be like a whirl-wind which gathers all the leaves of the forest, dry as well as wet.

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal : European) : Sir, in rising to oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Haji Wajihuddin, I regret, Sir, that you ruled the amendment which I had on the paper out of order, because I feel that I myself, every Member in this House and every decent member of the public, be he Indian or European, have the same motive at heart. The last speaker Mr. Kelkar, I do not think, had very much ease to put in front of this House in favour of prohibition. So far as I can see the whole of his speech was taken up with a certain amount of abuse of myself. (Laughter.) With regard to the amendment moved by Dr. Datta, I feel that he has not really the courage of his conviction. He is procrastinating. If prohibition is the policy which is going to be right in the end, then, Sir, it is the policy which we should introduce to-day ; we should agree to it and find the ways and means. If, however, I can convince the House that it is the wrong policy to aim at, then I hold it is wrong not only to-day but wrong 10 years hence. I rather admire the Mover of the original Resolution. He has had the courage to state in quite a straight way that he favours prohibition. What is the object we have in view ? The extreme temperance man brings various charges. He says alcohol is a poison and it is largely responsible for crime. Now, Sir, I contend that this is an exaggeration of the true facts. We are all aware that alcohol taken immoderately is harmful, but at the same time we are equally aware that alcohol taken in moderation is certainly not harmful but in very many cases beneficial. With your permission, Sir, I will read to the House the opinion of some prominent medical men. I had expected the prohibitionists to have marshalled an array of medical opinion before the House. They have given some. Here is the opinion of those who are in favour of moderation. Lord Dawson of Penn, the famous specialist, speaking in the House of Lords on the 19th July 1923, says :

" I deny that alcohol, taken in moderation, is a narcotic. It adds to the pleasure, the exhilaration, the happiness and the gaiety of life. (Laughter.) It is also responsible for the toleration with which members of this House meet one another." (Laughter.)

Professor Ernest H. Starling of the University College, London, says as follows :

" The evidence has convinced me that in a civilized society such as ours the abolition of all alcoholic beverages from among our midst, even if carried out by universal consent, would be a mistake, and contrary to the permanent interest of the race. Alcohol is without doubt a food."

(An Honourable Member : " Not for the tropics ".)

A manifesto signed by 16 of the greatest authorities on medicine, chemistry, and dietetics appeared in the *Lancet* in 1907, the great medical Journal, which said that :

" Recognising that, in prescribing alcohol, the requirements of the individual must be the governing rule, we are convinced of the correctness of the opinion so long and generally held, that in disease alcohol is a rapid and trustworthy restorative. In many cases it may be truly described as life-preserving, owing to its power to sustain cardiac and nervous energy, while protecting the wasting nitrogenous tissue."

As an article of diet, we hold that the universal belief of civilised mankind that the moderate use of alcoholic beverages is, for adults, usually beneficial is amply justified."

Now, we have got down to our object. Our object really is, as I stated in my amendment, the elimination of the evils arising from the immoderate use of alcohol. Having got that as the object which we all desire to attain, and having also the object of building up a really temperate State, it is now for us to decide what is the correct policy which will enable us to attain our aim. My Honourable friends who have already spoken on this Resolution have said that that policy is prohibition. I submit, Sir, that prohibition is not only ineffective and sterile and will not enable us to attain our end, but that it introduces dangers of illicit traffic, poisonous drugs, contempt for the authority of the law, and tyranny of Government officials over the individual. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, Sir, the dangers are far greater than the evils arising from the use of alcohol. We are inclined, I think, to exaggerate the evils in this country that arise from alcohol. The moral character of India in this matter is such that it will compare well with any country in the world in this respect. Now, as regards prohibition, I will ask the House for a moment to listen to some figures which I will quote from American statistics. Dr. Datta gave us some figures relating to insanity in New York. I might add that I have here some statements regarding admissions to hospitals on account of alcoholic poisoning since the introduction of prohibition in America. The figures are given by Dr. Dana Hubbard, Director of the Bureau of Public Health Education Department, New York, and he refers to the Bellevue Hospital, and King's Country Hospital, New York. In the year 1918 when America was wet the number of admissions to these two hospitals totalled 1,758. In the year 1922, four years after the introduction of prohibition, the admissions to hospitals on account of alcohol amounted to 5,624. (Laughter.) That is why, Sir, I contend that prohibition does not enable us to progress on the road we want to go.

Now, I would like to compare the figures for conviction for drunkenness in America with the figures for conviction for drunkenness in England where we have a policy of control. I will take one out of a number of towns. I take in England Sheffield with a population of 511,668 and in America I take Pittsburgh with a population of 588,343. In Pittsburgh the number of convictions is 1 in 24; in Sheffield the number of convictions for drunkenness is 1 in 1,999.

Now, Sir, if there is any one in this House who still thinks that prohibition is the policy which is going to lead us to the goal which we all desire, may I read for his information the opinions of some Americans on this subject. The Revd. Ernest M. Mandeville, the new Secretary of the *American Churchman*, who professes to be a student of Prohibition on both sides of the Atlantic and who was in London last July, bluntly states that the enforcement of the prohibition law in the United States is a farce. Mr. Mc. Giverin, one of the official leaders of American Labour, told the delegates at the Trade Union Congress at South Port, on September 7th, 1922, that prohibition has been proved a failure. There had, he said, been a wholesale violation of the law, and homes had become breweries and distilleries. Boot-legging is one of the most profitable businesses in the United States. Prohibition has created a disrespect for all law. Sir A. Mauris Low, the Washington

[Col. J. D. Crawford.]

correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on the 21st April last, states :

" No one can take Prohibition in America seriously. It is a farcical thing. But its effects are not farcical ; they are serious and tragical. In consequence of Prohibition, not only is the law, criminal and moral, being rewritten, but the whole attitude of the American people in regard to both law and morality is in process of transformation. This is the serious and tragic side of Prohibition. It would be idle to pretend that anything that lowers the general standard of morality of a people can be for the advantage of the nation."

Now, Sir, I would like to let the House know what has happened in other countries which have tried Prohibition. Norway has abolished Prohibition. Sweden has tried partial Prohibition. Russia had Prohibition and repealed it. Finland is now organising to abolish the prohibition law. Holland discussed Prohibition by a State commission and considered Prohibition inadvisable. In Switzerland, on a referendum to the people, Prohibition was rejected. In British Columbia there was Prohibition ; it has since been repealed. Manitoba has dismissed prohibition. Quebec had Prohibition but has repealed it. Australia has turned down Prohibition this year. New Zealand has administered, as my friend Dr. Datta said, a smashing defeat to Prohibition. New Foundland has already gone wet. Scotland had two elections under the Local Option Act, one in 1920 and another in 1923 ; the licenses lost in 1920 were given back in 1923. England is against local option. At the Labour Conference held in Brighton in 1921 an attempt to have a motion carried in favour of local option was so strongly opposed that it had to be abandoned. It is worth while noting that in France and Germany, where Prohibition is unknown, there are practically no unemployed. In Germany, the number of the unemployed is 15,000 and in France it is 12,000. That, Sir, is the opinion of other countries as regards the practical policy of Prohibition. But I would like to read the remarks of Stefansson of Iceland when that country also repealed the prohibition law. Iceland was, I believe, the first country to repeal Prohibition. He was a member of the Athling and the foremost worker on behalf of Prohibition. He says :

" The hopes which induced people to vote for the beautiful idea have been so poorly fulfilled that the country has, since the Prohibition Law came into force, not flown with the milk and honey of law-abiding habits and good morals but with the whisky and brandy of the law breakers. The history of the Prohibition Law becomes sadder and sadder every year that passes.... That which was to promote the well-being and honour of the nation has come to be a shame and an injury to the nation."

I think I have said enough to show that the policy of Prohibition is not the one that is going to lead us on the path of progress. I urge that the correct policy that we should adopt is one of control. There is one argument often used in favour of Prohibition and that is economical. There are those who say, " Let us have Prohibition and we will improve the efficiency of our workers " ; but if there was any truth in that argument surely countries which are total abstainers by religion, and a community which is total abstainer by religion would show us by their efficiency that there was truth in that statement. I do not believe that either Turkey or my Muhammadan friends desire to claim any greater measure of efficiency, either morally, industrially or politically over those of us who are not so bound by religion. I would refer for one moment to the point of local option. Prohibition is local option

within the boundaries of a country, local option itself applies to narrower geographical boundaries. You don't alter the principle of the argument against Prohibition by altering the geographical boundaries.

Now, Sir, I would refer last to the very large ethical and moral principles which stand out, as my friend Dr. Datta says, against prohibition. I am convinced that Prohibition is ethically and morally unsound. It is an infringement on the rights of the individual. Man has developed from the individual to the family, from the family to the State, and not conversely. Thus man has made the State for the protection of the individual, so the individual comes before the State and the individual can exist without the State, although the State cannot exist without the individual. Therefore the State is made for the service of man. No Government has the moral right to interfere with the individual as to what he eats, drinks or how he serves his Creator. If, Sir, we have to render to God the things that are God's, and if by rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, we are deprived of the free exercise of moral conscience, how then can we render to God the things that are God's? What I mean is, if the State can rightly compel us to render to Caesar not only the things that are Caesar's but the things that are God's, then it has no right I say to do so. The commandments and precepts of all religions are not prohibitions. They permit the individual to transgress. They do not, like the advocates of Prohibition, compel a man to eat or to drink anything or nothing. They apply to the individual punishment if he transgresses the bounds of morality, but, Sir, they leave him free will to obey or disobey. They admit the right of freedom of the individual to choose between right and wrong without which there can be no temptation, no sin and consequently we cannot advance to our own salvation. Without temptation we cannot earn merit, and if we are unable to abuse we cannot earn virtue. If we admit the rightfulness of Prohibition, then there is no end to the interference of the State in our private affairs. If we admit that the State has the right to probe down to the very roots whence by personal indiscretion disorders sometimes spring, then the inevitable result must be an intolerable slavery. Those men who value man's most precious gift, the gift of freedom, are totally opposed to State teetotalling, even though they have a very lively horror and vigorous detestation of drunkenness. I believe that we shall progress towards a temperate State only by a policy of control. I have left out altogether the practical considerations of finance, because I said if Prohibition is right, have the courage of your conviction and find the ways and means to enforce it; but I hold that Prohibition is not only not right but brings with it greater danger to the State and its citizens from illicit traffic and contempt of authority, law and order. And lastly, and I am sure that most Members of this House will agree with me, it brings into your house the tyranny of the petty Government official and the police.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muham-madan Rural) : Sir, I am a total prohibitionist and will remain so to the end of my life; everyone who has read Aristotle's ethics will have been reminded of the question of free will when Col. Crawford was arguing about personal liberty; but I am sure that everyone will agree that that poor Greek philosopher would shudder in his grave to know that 2,200 years after his death there would arise a gallant officer who would murder his ideas of free will in support of so disreputable a

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

thing as drink. The excuse of personal liberty has been answered by abler men than myself. It will only suffice for me to quote *Ex-President Taft* of the United States of America in this connection and *Col. Crawford* will not contend that he is not an authority on this question inasmuch as he administered the United States of America when Prohibition was becoming an accomplished fact in that country. *Ex-President Taft*, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of America, says :

"Liberty guaranteed by the constitution is liberty regulated by law. The law which regulates liberty is that which is adopted upon the will of the majority for the general public benefit. In no community where there is any neighbourhood relation between one person or another or between one family and another can there be complete freedom of action. The cave man is really the only man that ever enjoyed that kind of liberty, and his liberty was subject to complete restraint by death from a stronger cave man with a larger and heavier club. Liberty regulated by law is that measure of freedom of action which can be accorded to each person without injury to the enjoyment of similar liberty by others or to the general welfare of all."

Professor Irving Fisher of Yale University on the same question of personal liberty says :

"It is untrue that Prohibition is a violation of a man's personal liberty any more than compulsory education, compulsory workmen's compensation, tenements laws or law in general. If liberty to be illiterate, to endanger workmen's lives, to build dark-room tenements, and to narcotize oneself be liberty in form, it is certainly not liberty in substance. Naturally, every law to promote human liberty must be, in form, restrictive. The test of actual experience shows that in Prohibition territory, the feeling that personal liberty is hampered tends to disappear, and in its place comes a very real sense of society being liberated from slavery to alcohol, and from the thrall of drunkenness, crime, vice, delinquency, disease, inefficiency, degeneracy, destitution and political corruption."

This is an authoritative statement of the good effects of prohibition in America. I do not know from where the quotations of Colonel Crawford came. I am half inclined to believe that they were from interested brewers or their advocates and friends, in the Press, or their paid supporters and touts. Here is further proof of what Prohibition has been able to achieve in America, which no brewer's friend can challenge, nor any independent man can doubt. Summing up the beneficial and wholesome effects of Prohibition in America.....

Colonel J. D. Crawford : Might I ask the Honourable Member what book it is he is reading from ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : I am reading from "The Case for Prohibition," by Ben H. Spence of Toronto, Canada, who quotes N. B. Wheeler, General Counsel, Anti-Saloon League of America.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : Touts for the other side.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : He is careful to say in the preface that these facts are unchallenged and can be quoted with confidence in any meeting, and certainly they can be quoted before Colonel Crawford. He says, as the result of prohibition in the United States of America there have been :

- (1) 873,000 lives saved ;
- (2) A decrease in the rate of preventible illness equivalent to 1,747,950 people continuously ill for one year ;
- (3) 2,000,000 fewer arrests for drunkenness in four years ;

- (4) 20,000 fewer persons committed to penal institutions in four years ;
- (5) elimination of drunkenness as a cause of poverty, releasing \$74,000,000 of charity funds for constructive work ;
- (6) wiping out 177,790 licensed saloons ;
- (7) over a billion dollars added to savings accounts ;
- (8) eleven billion dollars to new insurance policies ;
- (9) an increase of taxable wealth ;
- (10) lower industrial accidents by a quarter of a million annually ;
- (11) roads made safer for the 4,000,000 automobiles manufactured in one year.

Less accidents occurred during the last four years as the result of prohibition. Mr. Henry Ford, the owner of the Ford Automobile industry (Applause)—states that before reviving the liberty of drinking they should prohibit the use of all automobiles in America as otherwise, owing to drunkenness, people will be crushed under them. Such is his horror of drunkenness.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : Has the Honourable Member any idea why Mr. Henry Ford employs teetotallers ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Yes, Sir ; for profit. He not only employs only teetotallers, but he makes it a condition that even if there is a stink or smell of alcohol—(Laughter)—in the mouth of any of his employees, that man shall be dismissed without right of appeal.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : My information is that he does it because such labour is cheaper.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : What is the use of these pettifogging excuses ? Here is Henry Ford's own statement. My Honourable friend can find it at page 11 of this book on which the Motor Magnate's notice to his employees is quoted :

"From this date on, dismissal without opportunity of appeal will be the penalty imposed on any man found to have the odour of beer, wine or other liquor on his breath or to have intoxicants on his person or in his house." (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member : Does he go round and smell their mouths ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Does the Honourable Member want the Honourable Member for Commerce to do that on the Indian Railways ? (Laughter.)

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : The interruptions only show how disconcerted the defenders of liquor are becoming under these facts.

Sir, coming to our own country, let me assure this House, and particularly those gentlemen who are still doubtful about the intensity of public opinion in this country, that both Hindus and Muhammadans are by religion and tradition prevented from drinking, and it is one of the worst and most baneful effects of this foreign government that in a country where tradition, religion and sentiment have prevented liquor, it is possible to find 20 crores of revenue from it from all over the country, and the chief and the worst example is set by the greatest

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

in the land, by every Governor and high officer and every Member of the Executive Council who openly drinks and is not ashamed of it. (Laughter.) In the eyes of the people of this country, Sir, nothing is more disreputable than that people in high authority, people who are the rulers of men, should set such a deplorable example. And still some people here think it is a matter merely for joke. Sir, let me speak of my own district of Thana. You yourself, Sir, will remember when you were on the Local Board there, that the Government of Bombay, the Commissioner of the Northern Division and the Collector of Thana in their anxiety to protect liquor all came into collision with the Thana District Board, who passed a resolution for picketting. The Local Board was so convinced of the horrible condition of things in the Thana district as the result of drinking that it passed a resolution that its employees, who were school teachers, should furnish a picket on the liquor shops, but those in authority being wedded to drink prevented the enforcement of that resolution. Let the Honourable the Home Member and the Commerce Member and the Finance Member and others who dislike legislation in this matter enroll themselves as volunteers under Mahatma Gandhi when he next starts a picketting campaign, then they will set a royal example, and then it will be time for Colonel Crawford to talk of not interfering with liberty. First of all you do not allow legislation, and then you do not allow picketting. If you are really earnest in the matter of voluntary endeavour take up picketting liquor shops and the necessity for legislation will disappear. Sir, the other day I was reading a statement in a newspaper to the effect that a large number of people in America either became idiots, or went to jail or became indebted or went out of employment, or of women who were degraded as the result of drunkenness, and the number was 350,000 in a given year. 350,000 human beings in one year were either getting into debt or dying or getting into jail and women degrading themselves.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Is that all out of over a hundred million people who are getting into debt ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : I am tracing the direct effect of liquor on these 350,000 who went to wreck and ruin as the result of liquor. If they were made to lie prostrate in a line they would cover I think something like 350 miles.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal : European) : May I ask my Honourable friend if these deaths were not due to the poisonous effects of illicit distillation ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : I am coming to the question of illicit distillation. First of all, this is the direct effect of liquor. 350 miles of territory strewn with dead and dying or ruined people as a result of liquor, and that in America where the population was then over 8 crores. In India where the population is 32 crores the drink casualty list will cover the whole of India from one end to the other, from Bombay to Calcutta—nearly 1,400 miles covered by those who have been ruined as a result of drink. We shall be told that this has to be so as otherwise revenue will suffer and the administration cannot be carried on. If your administration can be carried on only by the degradation and death of humanity, particularly the degradation of women, then cursed be your administration ; let it go to the nether world from which it may,

never rise. If this is the only condition on which the British Government can carry on its administration, let it walk out from this country. Sir, one more striking proof of the evils of drink and I will come to the question of distillation. In Switzerland a census was taken of two sets of 10 families, one sober and one drunken, to find out the effect on children whose fathers were addicted to drink. In the one set there were 60 children in the other there were 57 ; and what do we find ? In the first set of 10 families, whose fathers did not drink or rather who were temperate, 5 children died in infancy, 2 were deformed, 2 weakened in mental development and 2 had St. Vitu's Dance ; the remaining 50 were normal. In the other set where the fathers were addicted to drink 25 children died in infancy, 6 were idiots, 5 were dwarfed, 5 epileptic, 5 deformed, 1 had St. Vitu's Dance, and the rest, only 10, were normal. That shows that deformed and diseased children are more common in families where there is drunkenness than in families from which drunkenness is absent or where the parents are temperate.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of illicit distillation. This is one of the red herrings drawn across the path by those who cannot oppose prohibition on merits. They say if you prohibit liquor illicit distillation will become very common. Sir, the danger is imaginary to a large extent. It is only a question of educating public opinion and to some extent a question of your police going more after criminals of that type than after "criminals" of a political character. If the police knew their duty they would set an example in this matter, but most of them have themselves no objection to drink ; otherwise illicit distillation is a crime which could be found out by any police of moderate efficiency. It is going on because your police themselves are mostly addicted to drink ; they want the drink traffic to continue under the excuse that illicit distillation will otherwise increase.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Has the Honourable Member any authority for saying broadly that the police in India are addicted to drink ? He has asserted it three times and that is why I ask ?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : It is so patent, what is the use of challenging it ? To-morrow you will ask if the sun is shining. Your police are corrupt and they are certainly in favour of the liquor revenue and they want to make out a case for the drink traffic to go on. That is the reason why they shut their eyes to illicit distillation while complaining loudly of it. I have a wide knowledge of the havoc that drink has worked in my district. I have observed the life of poor workers, industrial and agricultural, with wives and children. The poor children wait for their father to come home in the evening, they wait for the head of the family to come home bringing sweets for the children and clothes for the mother. But what happens ? The man comes home, his face flushed, his mouth stinking, his tongue filthy and he has spent everything in his pocket at the toddy shop next door. When he comes home, instead of bringing joy to his children, talking with them, sitting with them in the family circle and making home life a delight for everybody, he kicks his wife and beats the children. That is the result of your alcohol policy. Strange and original are the ways in which the victim of drink is drawn into its net. As in Bombay and elsewhere when His Excellency the Governor is in the Government House there is a flag flying over it, similarly wherever there is a toddy shop a flag flies

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

over it. As soon as you see the flag over Government House you know that the Governor is in. In the same way, if the flag is flying over a shop, you know that toddy is available. There are no advertisements and no papers but the flag is flying, "Come one, come all! Drink!" In my district the evil unfortunately has taken deep root; in one of the *talukas* there is more revenue derived by Government from liquor than from land. This is the result of your policy.

My Honourable friend Colonel Crawford asks for medical opinion and scientific opinion. I thought there was no question now that the majority of medical and scientific men go on the ground that alcohol is a poison. (*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett*: "No, no.") Here is what Dr. Henry Smith-Williams says:

"I am bound to believe on the evidence that if you take alcohol habitually in any quantity whatever it is to some extent a menace to you."

There is no mention of moderation. (*The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett*: "Who is Dr. Henry Smith-Williams?") Well, he is somebody; a medical and scientific man, quoted by the Ontario Prohibition Union. I am sure he is at least as well known in Canada as the Honourable the Finance Member is in this country. What does it matter that this poor scientist might not be earning Rs. 6,000 a month. He may be a humbler individual but he is certainly serving humanity as well as the Finance Member.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member bring his remarks to a close; his time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I find, Sir, that these constant interruptions prolong my speech; but if you will let me.....

Mr. President: Order, order! Your time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: May I bring my observations to a close, Sir, by quoting this scientific authority? He says:

"I am bound to believe in the light of what science has revealed: (1) that you are tangibly threatening the physical structures of your stomach, your liver, your kidneys, your heart, your blood vessels, your nerves, your brain; (2) that you are unequivocally decreasing your capacity for work in any field, be it physical, intellectual or artistic; (3) that you are in some measure lowering the grade of your mind, dulling your higher aesthetic sense, and taking the finer edge off your morals; (4) that you are distinctly lessening your chances of maintaining health and attaining longevity; and that you may be entailing upon your descendants yet unborn a bond of incalculable misery.

"Such, I am bound to believe, is the probable cost of your moderate indulgence in alcoholic beverages. Part of that cost you must pay in person; the balance will be the heritage of future generations. As a mere business proposition: Is your glass of beer, your bottle of wine, your highball, or your cocktail worth such a price?"

"No" should be the unanimous answer in this House, and I am sure this House will carry the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Haji Wajihuddin unanimously.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: I move that the question be put.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Five Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement to the House in regard to the course of business. The House has asked me for more time for non-official Bills and I said I would consider that. I have looked at the list of Government business for to-morrow and it seems to me that if the Government business is approached by the House in the spirit in which I hope it will be approached, it will not take very long. I am therefore willing to put down the business remaining over from the last Bill day on to to-morrow's list subject to two conditions, (1) that we do not sit beyond five o'clock and (2) that no further new motions are made or Bills introduced. The reason is that my Honourable colleagues will not have sufficient notice of these motions. I trust that this will meet with the approval of the House.

RESOLUTION *RE* PROHIBITION OF IMPORT, MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF LIQUOR—*contd.*

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber, Indian Commerce) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Kelkar. Before I put before the House in very few words the main reasons why I am persuaded, by conviction, to support this amendment I would like to take the House back to the arguments which were advanced yesterday by the Honourable the Home Member in considering the last Bill which the House left unfinished. Sir, it was admitted both from the Government Benches and also from representatives of orthodox Hindus in this House that it was a sheer humanitarian measure that girls of 13 or 14 should not be allowed to become wives. Diplomacy however dictated it to the Home Member that the Government would not suggest anything more than the age being raised to 13.

This, Sir, is the great consideration which Government exercise when they discover the sentiments of Hindus based on religious tenets, even though an amending Bill be a humanitarian measure. Rightly or wrongly, my friend opposite there said that according to his reading of the Shastras, religion had nothing to do in this connection of tolerating girls of 12 being wives and mothers. This, however, Sir, is the consideration which the Government paid yesterday to the religious sentiments of Hindus in one connection.

The Resolution before the House to-day is a Resolution where the religious dictates and the religious tenets and sentiments both of the Hindus and the Muhammadans are unanimous. Few are the occasions when these two religions dictate something so similar and I submit that the Resolution which the House discusses leaves not the slightest scope for Government to exercise that ultra-conservatism for the policy followed till now and that the great solicitude which the Honourable the Home Member claimed to exercise yesterday for orthodox Hindu sentiment was doubly due to the Hindu and Muslim of India on this question of excise to-day. I feel therefore that the amendment of my Honourable friend from Poona is one which should receive very strong support at the hands of Government.

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

It has been said, Sir, by my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford that drink in moderation is a necessity. I have not yet heard anybody here say that India has not till now had enough and that the drink traffic should be allowed to increase still further.* Many thanks for this small mercy. All are now agreed that the drink traffic if it should not be completely prohibited should certainly not be allowed to increase. My Honourable and gallant friend Colonel Crawford quoted several medical opinions on that score and my Honourable friend from Bombay Mr. Jamnadas Mehta quoted others. I do not know which were the weightier. (*Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta* : "Mine.") I do not propose to enter the realm of the opinions of these medical experts but I cannot help feeling this—that if drink is good in moderation and is extremely harmful when it is overdone there certainly ought to be some sort of school or institution started by Government where they can teach people, who want to drink, up to what point they must go and at what point it is injurious to them. The only school which can be said to be most effective is spread of education and I put it to the Government Benches whether they feel justified, in view of the low percentage of education amongst the masses in India, in putting at the very doors of the masses in India drink *à galore*. What is it that we find—not that shops are located at places which are inaccessible, not that shops are located at places where people may have to walk a few miles in order to get a drink, but that shops are located—and during the last 30 years the policy of the various Governments has been to locate shops—in such a manner that people not only can get at their drinks most easily but I could quote one or two instances where people were almost induced and tempted to drink. I do not, Sir, wish to make an allegation that this was done with any set sinister purpose ; but, the fact of the location of the shops during the last 30 or 40 years certainly gives great support to the charge made by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, although he made it a bit too strongly, that the policy of Government has been to keep one eye on the increase of revenue that may be got in by this excise policy of theirs, and it is, Sir, that policy of theirs that this House wishes very strongly to deprecate and which the House asks Government to abandon from now onwards.

My Honourable friend Colonel Crawford, I think, made a very reasoned speech. His logic as far as I was able to follow it was absolutely perfect. My only difference of opinion with him is that the arguments that he employed are well fitted for a western country and that they are absolutely unsuitable to the East. In the East the climatic conditions, religious tenets, the purse of the people, if you like to consider that too and what is most important to my mind to-day, the very low standard of education—all these taken together make it the duty of the Government to see that the temptation to drink is put outside the easy reach of the poorest of the poor and certainly is made prohibitive as far as prices are concerned.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Why do you exclude the Europeans in this country ?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : My Honourable friend asked a question. There will be time enough, when Government accept the policy which this Resolution seeks, to consider that comparatively small point. The Europeans and those amongst the Hindus and Muhammadans who wish to indulge in drink and minorities like the Parsis and the Jews, surely, Sir, none from these small numbers can dare to get up and say,

that for the sake that they may get at what is legitimately a part of their drink the policy adopted by the Government should be such that the poorest, the most illiterate and ignorant masses should be exposed to any temptation to drink.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : May I ask a question, Sir ? How can Government prevent the masses getting their drink when God places it at their doors ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask what the English people do in America ?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : My Honourable friend Colonel Crawford has asked what Government are to do when drink is placed at the door of the people by God ? May I ask my gallant friend, because poison is placed at the door of men, he would get up in this House and say that Government should allow the poison to be sold freely ? Surely my gallant friend has rather overshot the mark.

Now, Sir, I wish to state to the House one very striking incident which I myself was a witness to. I happen to be connected with a rather important place of pilgrimage in Guzerat and I happen to have to go there three or four times a year almost at regular intervals. My connection with that temple goes back to about 13 years. About 6 years back I was thunder-struck and taken aback when during one of my visits to that place of pilgrimage I found that a grog shop had been located within ten minutes' walk from the main temple. At least 10 lakhs of Hindus pay their homage there year in and year out. The population of that place consists mostly of Hindus. There is a small fraction of Muhammadans, but they are very devoted Muhammadans, they are pucca Muhammadans, who as far as my reports went never cared for drink and shunned it as much as they shunned poison. I inquired of the people, and asked the temple authorities, why this shop was allowed to be located on this new spot. The reply given to me was that it was the order of the Collector that the shop should be located there, and that the man who let the rooms got thrice the rent that he got from the previous tenants. Needless to say that it did not take me less than six months to get the shop removed from there despite the most earnest request of the majority of the inhabitants of that small place. But, Sir, if this is the policy, is it not right that every Hindu, every Muhammadan, and I dare say even my gallant friend Colonel Crawford will join with me and should protest against this policy which seeks to place liquor not only right at our door but brings it to a man so that he may be tempted to go in for it. This, Sir, is a policy that we wish absolutely to kill.

A good deal, Sir, has been made of the question of the finances concerned in this matter. I do not overlook the fact that in considering the question either of a substantial reduction or of the total prohibition which my Honourable friend from Poona wants as the ultimate goal, the question of finances unfortunately looms very large and cannot be overlooked. But I do not think it lies to the credit of the Government of India, Sir, that they should have to plead that amongst the important sources of revenue for their administration in this country is this one of liquor excise money which may safely be called "tainted money". (*A Voice* : "The wages of sin.") Sir, the steady increase in the revenue got from liquor excise should have opened the eyes of the British administrators in this country, not when that revenue has reached 20 crores but when that revenue approached very nearly a crore. The idea with which this revenue was devised at the start may have been, and I dare say must have been, of the best. The administrators then must have said "let us put a

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

handicap on this so that it cannot increase the consumption of liquor": but steadily to have gone on allowing it to increase, until it reached 20 crores or anywhere near it—I take the figure mentioned by an Honourable Member here—is showing to my mind great disrespect not only to the religious tenets of the people but great disregard for the true economic welfare of the people. Sir, it is a misfortune that when our expenditure increases in various directions, we have to fall back upon receipts from tainted sources such as this. This year the Bombay Council was called upon to consider a Bill put before them by Government to take a share of the receipts from the totalisator on the race course. If the race course and betting on the race course were things which could be considered to be in the interests of the masses, one might have been able to understand this. The various cases of ruin of people who are attracted to the race course are notorious, and I really wonder, Sir, if the Government of India and those responsible for the good name of British administration in this country would not deplore the day which might come when they would be driven to this pass that some matter of fact administrator might say, "Let us register brothels and public houses and let us take a share out of their earnings to carry on our administration". The thing, Sir, has gone beyond a practical joke; and to say to-day that we will not or that we cannot deal with this problem of liquor because of the financial aspect of it is to my mind, Sir, most humiliating for the Government.

I shall, Sir, now say a word about what I consider to be the remedy. The remedy is not one which can be laid down categorically and which can be achieved within a year or two or five or ten years. This House would be failing in its responsibility to the masses which it seeks to represent if it did not say that its ultimate goal and aim is total prohibition. We all realize that it is not a thing which is going to be attained within five, ten or twenty years, but with the real co-operation of the Government, with due and correct attention given by the Government to the religious tenets of the people, with full consideration, honest consideration, given by Government to the responsibility which the Government incur by exposing the masses to the temptation of drink, when the masses have not had the education to understand that moderation in drink alone may save them from the worst effects of drink—and I here give full benefit of the doubt to Colonel Crawford that moderation in drink is as good as teetotalism. Until the masses are trained to that and are able to perceive that for themselves by means of education, until this useful precaution is available, I have no hesitation in saying that the Government of India are incurring the very greatest risk of the charge that they play a very important part in degrading the masses, even though it may be quite unintentionally and even if at the moment the financial aspect may be most important.

Have not the Government of India solved many financial questions of this magnitude, which at first looked prohibitive? Have not they solved many questions of this and a graver nature? May I suggest to my Honourable friend what is the amount of the revenue that the Government of India are a party to having sacrificed for India for the sake of the Chinese? (*A Voice* "£6 millions.") Why did you do that? Because of pressure from Europe. How dare you get up to-day and tell us that you can not take any steps in this direction where the children

of the soil are concerned, where the religions of the two largest communities concerned dictate that we shall not drink? I therefore feel that undue stress should not be laid on the financial aspect. If there is a will, there is sure to be a feasible way in this connection, and I hope that the Government of India's reply to-day will be one which will show that they perceive the evil, that they are prepared to respect the sentiment of the two communities and that they are prepared to lay down a very wise and far-seeing policy. Sir, I support the amendment.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, this subject falls within the province of the Finance Member because it has, as the last speaker has pointed out, an important financial bearing. But I desire to say at the outset that I refuse to approach the problem for a moment from the point of view of finance mainly or with any considerable bias in favour of revenue from an excise duty (Hear, hear.) This subject lends itself, as the House will have observed, to a certain amount of levity. I am very anxious that I should be successful myself in avoiding any tendency to levity in my dealing with the subject to-day. It is a subject which has given me, I may say, quite a considerable amount of sincere intellectual pleasure in the course of the time that I have been in India, for this is not the first time that I have been prepared to speak on the subject, though it is the first time that I have actually been called upon to do so. The number of by-paths into which one can be led in considering the subject of the use and abuse of alcohol is really quite entertaining. I have been induced to read quite a considerable amount of literature relating to early Indian habits and customs and the Vedas and epics of Indian history for references to the use of alcohol. I have been induced to become acquainted not with the taste but with the literature of the wine of Shiraz. I have also been led into by-paths of medical science and have read quite a large number of opinions on both sides of the question from eminent medical authorities. I have had to study—though it is a subject with which I had already some personal acquaintance—the history and results of prohibition of alcoholic liquor in the United States of America and that I assure you is not the least entertaining portion of the study.

Now, the Government have not put down, as the House will observe, any amendment to this Resolution. I should have been willing to support, though not with entire conviction, the amendment in the name of Colonel Crawford if that amendment had been moved. I do not think that it is entirely a negative amendment, though of course I accept the ruling that it is substantially a negative and therefore not in order. But the reason why I should not have supported it with entire conviction is precisely the reason with which it has been ruled out to-day, that it is too much of a negative. Let the House consider where we are. I believe that there is absolute unanimity in every part of this House on the main proposition that every effort should be made by the Government of India to combat any abuse of alcoholic liquor, that their policy should be directed to securing that India should remain free, as she has happily been on the whole free, from any of those habits of intemperate use of alcoholic liquor which have in the past been a noticeable feature in the life of some of the Western countries. We are all agreed as to that part of the subject we are discussing to-day. Where we are not agreed is as to the ultimate goal. On behalf of the Government I regret that it is quite impossible for me to accept anything in the nature of a commitment by the Govern-

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

ment to a statement that the ultimate goal of policy should be prohibition. I am rather in agreement with Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' representation of the picture. He said that for the next 20 years prohibition should not be regarded as a practical policy for adoption. He went on to say that when the masses of India were sufficiently educated, then they might be reasonably allowed to exercise their own discretion in the moderate use of alcohol. If that is really what he meant, his ultimate goal is not prohibition, it is only his penultimate goal.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : In order that there may be no misunderstanding, may I say, Sir, that my ultimate goal is prohibition. What I said was that, even admitting the arguments of the other side, until the masses were better able to judge for themselves regarding moderate drink the Government could not justifiably follow their present policy. The Honourable Member is turning it round.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Government have no desire to shirk responsibility in this matter.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas : I am very glad to hear that.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Their policy is a policy of temperance in the strict sense of the word temperance. I often observe, and the House will have observed to-day, that it is the extreme advocates of prohibition who are most intemperate in their speech. We had an example from Bombay to-day. The policy of the Government is and has been one of promoting temperance. It is objected that in the course of pursuance of that policy the Government are in enjoyment on behalf of the tax-payer of a very considerable revenue. Let me take the revenue point first in order to clear it out of the way. It is perfectly true that the receipts, including provincial receipts, from excise and from customs on alcoholic liquor have increased very considerably in recent years. But that is precisely because the policy of the Government has been one of maximum revenue and minimum consumption. I shall endeavour to show to the House that that policy has been a really successful one. Some statistics have been quoted to-day, but I am afraid I shall have to weary the House with some more. Now, one of the difficulties in regard to the statistics of consumption of alcohol is that there has been for the last half a century a continuous transfer from what is known as the outstill system to the system of Government distilleries ; instill system is really the only other word that I can use, and there is not the least doubt that under old outstill system, though it was a system which was very useful in securing control at a time when means of communication were not as great as they are to-day, there is not the least doubt that under that system there were considerable lacunae in the figures of consumption of alcoholic liquor. There was more country spirit produced and consumed than the figures showed because the control was less perfect. Since the transfer to the distillery system, the figures of consumption are very much nearer the actual facts and one would naturally expect that merely by inclusion in those statistics of a certain amount of consumption which was previously excluded there would be visible an increase in consumption. Now in the year 1883-84 the percentage of the total population of areas served by outstills was 53 per cent. It had been reduced by 1903-04 to 35 per cent. ; by 1912-13 to 7.49 per cent. and is now only 2.74 per cent.

The number of shops per 100,000 of the population has fallen between 1883-84 and 1903-04 by 30 per cent. and to-day the number of shops per 100,000 of the population has been reduced to 6.77 as against a figure of 15 in 1903-04 and something over 20 in the year 1883-84. Now, let me come to the consumption. I am speaking of country spirit for the moment. The consumption of country spirit in 1883-84 was nearly 5 gallons per hundred of the population. In 1903 it was just over 4 gallons. It was the same in 1912. In 1924 it was 2.68 gallons. It has been almost exactly halved in the last 40 years. This consumption of 2.68 gallons per hundred of the population compares with the figure of 15.33 gallons in Ceylon, 30 gallons in England and Wales and 58 gallons in Scotland. The average consumption has fallen by 36 per cent. in the last 12 years. The actual consumption in total figures in 1921 was 10,215,212 proof gallons. In 1923-24 it was 6,626,875 proof gallons. That is much less than two-thirds and approaches nearly one-half of the figure of 12 years before. Dr. Datta fell into an error, I think, in giving the figures of imports of spirits, as those spirits include perfumed and denatured spirits. The figures of consumption or clearances of spirits are rather different.

Dr. S. K. Datta : Why are they shown under liquors ? Are perfumed spirits liquors ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : That explanation will be given afterwards. The figures of the clearances of spirits are as follows :

	Proof gallons.		
In 1912-13	1,161,320
In 1923-24	894,000

Wines 102,488 reduced to 67,601 in 1923-24. Total, including ale and cider, 1,738,385 in 1912 and 1,246,232 in 1923, a reduction of about 28 per cent. in the period. These, of course, are proof gallons. I maintain, therefore, that the statistics show that the policy of the Government has been very distinctly effective in securing a very remarkable reduction in the total quantity of alcoholic liquors either imported or country-made consumed in India. The fact that revenue has gone up is not, I think, really germane. It is only a proof of the success of our policy, which, I believe, is the only effective policy that you can pursue of attempting to get the maximum revenue from the minimum of consumption. The difficulty about increasing the revenue, which Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas suggested might be a resort of some hard pressed Finance Member in the near future, is, first of all, that so far as our experience goes, generally speaking, the duties are already so high that there is considerable danger of illicit production, that to put them higher might very possibly actually decrease our total receipts from the revenue from alcohol and at the same time would almost certainly increase the total consumption in India owing to the inevitable increase in illicit distillation. One Honourable Member who comes from the Thana district tried in advance to parry the argument about illicit distillation. From what I have heard of the Thana district he ought, if he knows his constituency, to know a good deal about illicit distillation, because I am told that it is one of the parts of the Bombay Presidency where the difficulties caused by illicit distillation are very seriously felt. I do not think, therefore, that he ought to come here and say that the argument about illicit distillation is one which can be brushed aside. It is a very serious and difficult one.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

Now, I have given the House some of the results of the policy of the Government of India in the last generation. I submit that those results are striking and that they are a complete answer to attacks on the policy of the Government if they take the term that the Government are engaged in encouraging the use of consumption of alcoholic liquors for purposes of their own, whether those purposes be financial or whether other charges, not made to-day, are brought against the Government in that connection. I maintain that the policy has been very really effective.

Now, I must come to the two amendments which are under discussion to-day. I should, however, perhaps begin with the original Resolution. With the exception of the first speaker no one has to-day, I think, supported the original Resolution wholeheartedly. I submit to this House that, however much we may desire to prevent altogether the use of alcohol for other than scientific and medical purposes, a policy of complete prohibition is entirely out of the question in present circumstances in India. I do not think that really needs proof. The policy of the immediate introduction of prohibition is unthinkable and I do ask this House, taking a practical view of the question, not to commit itself to the original Resolution and to realise that in doing so it would be making a completely impracticable suggestion. I do not want to enter into controversial questions as to the extent to which the use of alcohol is prohibited by the religious tenets of various peoples. I cannot, however, resist quoting one of the results of my researches into Indian history. I am told that the Code of Manu did prohibit the use of alcoholic liquor by Brahmins. And in order to make the punishment fit the crime one of the punishments is that a Brahmin who drinks alcoholic liquor is to commit suicide by drinking molten lead. But this was his statement on the subject of alcohol generally :

"There is no turpitude in drinking wine, but a virtuous abstinence will reap its reward."

That represents the position of the Government in the matter to-day. It desires a virtuous abstinence and, as I have always been taught, there is no merit in abstaining when you are forced to do so. I believe that any attempt to have complete prohibition would not only be necessarily completely ineffective in India as it exists to-day but that it is contrary to the highest principles of ethics. Several American speakers have been quoted on the subject to-day, some of them said to be great men, but I think the following quotation will be agreed to be from a very great man. It is as follows :

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes."

That, Sir, was the view of Abraham Lincoln. I therefore assume that it is not necessary for me to argue further the impracticability of the original Resolution. What I have said has some bearing on both the amendments. Both these amendments ask that the policy of the Government of India should be a complete prohibition of production, manufacture, sale and import of intoxicating liquors save for medicinal and scientific purposes.

Now what I have said will show that the Government hold that that policy is not one which ought to be adopted. I gather from the

speeches that have been made that none of those who support it really believe that it is a policy which can be put into practical effect within this generation or probably within the next. But why, I ask, then should we commit ourselves now to a policy of ultimate prohibition? Have we really studied the subject enough to be sure that ultimate prohibitions is desirable or necessary or will ultimately be practicable? This House is being asked to commit itself to a hypothetical statement as regards the policy to be pursued over the next half century.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally (Sind : Muhammadan Rural) : May I inquire from the Honourable Finance Member if the Bombay Government have not agreed to the report of the Committee appointed recently and have taken total prohibition as their goal? If so, is that policy different from that of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Government of India are not responsible for the policy of the Government of Bombay. I am speaking to-day of the policy of the Government of India.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I inquire if the policy of the Government of India is different from the policy of the Government of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I think that I shall require considerable notice of that question. The policy of the Government of India is the policy I am announcing to-day.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Is it not obvious that it is different?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : If it is obvious, it depends how quickly and accurately a man can reach a conclusion from a premise. I do not know that the Government of Bombay fixed a limit of one or two centuries as the date on which they hoped to achieve it. I am arguing to-day that this House should not commit itself to the statement that the ultimate goal of its policy will be complete prohibition without considering whether there is any real practical advantage in laying down such policy, or whether it has really examined fully the *pros* and *cons* of what will be desirable for another India—a self-governing India—fifty years hence. The objections to complete prohibition will remain as stated by Mr. Abraham Lincoln. There will also, I think, still be the objection that the policy of prohibition must lead, unless the circumstances are extraordinarily favourable, to a great many very undesirable results. We have had statements made about the effect on the public respect for law and order of prohibition in the United States. It so happens I have at the moment a regular correspondence in the United States and I may perhaps repeat a story from a recent letter. After chasing a very elusive and very successful bootlegger for a very considerable time, the Federal Agents caught him on the shores of the ocean in the early hours of one morning and they were very pleased with their capture. The bootlegger seemed to be quite amused and they said to him, "You don't seem to be worried about it. Wait till you get to the court." "That is what I am waiting for. I am bootlegger to the Sheriff and the Judge and will call them in evidence."

Now I do not want to get off into the amusing side of this subject but I have quoted that story because it does show the extraordinary

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

difficulty of a policy which involves disrespect for law among the class of citizens who normally are the upholders of law and order. It has become a very serious menace to the whole fabric of law and order in certain parts of the United States. It has led to corruption among the Federal Agents, a considerable amount of actual man-slaughter, and a general lowering of the standard of respect for law and order among the citizens. I do not want to prophesy to-day what the ultimate results of prohibition in the United States may be. Strong statements have been made on both sides. That the law has effectively dealt with the evil of the saloons is I think granted on all sides, but it has led to the use of some very bad liquor, to a great increase in illicit distillation, a great increase in smuggling, and a very great increase in the expenditure of the United States on preventive work, accompanied by a very large decrease in revenue. And if I may again refer to the authority I have just quoted, the cost of wines and spirits, at any rate in some parts of the Eastern States and in New York, is now very little more than it is in England because what goes to the revenue in England goes to the bootlegger in the United States, and the amount required to pay the bootlegger's profit is about the same as the amount required in England to pay the revenue.

Now it may be that the policy of prohibition will develop in a successful way in the United States over the course of the next ten years. It may be that in about that period it will be regretfully decided that the experiment has not been a success. It has been the experience of a good many countries which have introduced prohibition. They have tried it in all good faith with every desire to make it effective and with the ideal in mind of preventing the evils of intemperance, and they have deliberately rejected it and come back to a form of the policy which is the policy of the Government of India of maximum revenue, maximum control and minimum consumption. Let us assume that within the next ten or fifteen years that is the experience of the United States. Would it not be rather unwise of the Government of India at this moment to say that the ultimate goal is prohibition when a very big and very great experiment is in course of trial, and may quite within the grounds of probability be proved unsuccessful and have been given up long before the moment comes when anyone who has spoken on this subject in this House to-day believes that prohibition would be within measureable reach of enforcement in this country? I suggest, therefore, to the House that it would not be wise of the House to-day to commit itself to the statement that the policy should be to reach a goal of ultimate prohibition.

Within the time at my disposal I cannot deal at all fully with the details of the two amendments which are before us. I would point out that both of them involve a difficulty on which I do not desire to lay stress, but which has been mentioned by an interruption from the other benches, that it is not for the Government of India to give directions to the Provincial Governments as to what their action is to be in legislating in regard to a transferred subject. I am inclined to agree that if a policy of local option or prohibition is going to be attempted by Local Governments with any very great vigour, the Government of India will not be able merely to look on. One of the clear lessons of America's experiments in prohibition and in local

option is that local option and State prohibition and local prohibition involve even greater difficulties than complete prohibition. International boundaries were mentioned by one speaker. The House must not forget that there are boundaries all over India between British India and the Indian States, and it is a problem which at the moment would seem almost insoluble how, if prohibition were to be introduced legally in a given province, it could be enforced with so many international boundaries between that province and neighbouring Indian States or States included within the area of the province. Therefore I maintain that these detailed proposals, included in both these amendments, involve a recommendation to the Government to take action which either constitutionally is not within their province, or which needs to be very much more carefully considered before it is adopted as a practical proposition. Local option sounds attractive, but it is not a system which has been productive of great results. It has been found almost invariably to be a serious cause of disturbance to law and order, and I am told that experiments in local option in the Punjab have led to an increase of illicit distillation, which is causing the authorities very serious difficulties.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : It is due to repression.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Repression,—my whole objection to the policy of local option and prohibition is that it is the exercise of the functions of the State to repress in a sphere where the functions of the State ought not to be extended.

Let me go back to my original point. The whole of this House is anxious to-day, I am sure, to express the view that the strictest control should be maintained by the Government and should be recommended, or whatever the right word is, within the constitutional functions of the Government of India, to Provincial Governments, and that every possible step should be taken to counteract any tendency to the immoderate use of alcohol in India. I maintain that that is the policy which the Government are already pursuing, and it is the policy, of course which is spoken of as being continued in the third amendment which is not before the House. I do not know whether it is possible at this late stage for another amendment which would meet the general view to be adopted, which would involve a recommendation, as I see it, to the Government to be very strict and careful in the exercise of its control over the use of spiritual, I mean spirituous liquor. I used the word *spiritual* by mistake, but it has been, I think, the history of all the religions that have dealt with this subject that the spirituous generally beats the spiritual. (Laughter.) It would recommend to the Government that it should examine the subject and see that every possible step is taken to secure effective control. I say the steps that are already being taken, so far as the Government of India are concerned, are the best that I know of, but the Government would naturally be anxious in view of a Resolution of that sort from the House, to re-examine the whole position and see whether, within the area within which it is directly responsible, any further steps can be taken, and such a Resolution would involve a recommendation to the Provincial Governments generally, which is, I gather, one of the objects with which this Resolution has been moved to-day. The Government cannot support either the Resolution or any of the amendments, and owing to the withdrawal of the particular amendment referred to, we are in the

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

position, as things stand, of voting simply for the negative. That is a position which I quite understand the House desires to avoid, because we do desire to give positive proof of our anxiety to control the immoderate use of alcohol, but as things stand, the Government must necessarily oppose both the original Resolution and the amendments which are before the House ; and I trust the House will see that this is the only practicable and statesmanlike course that can be taken in this matter. We cannot commit ourselves to the impossible proposition of the immediate introduction of prohibition ; we should, I have submitted, be wiser not to commit ourselves to prohibition as the ultimate goal when it is very likely that that goal may have been disavowed by its chief exponents of the present day long before India is ready to arrive at that goal. I trust the House will take a practical view of the problem before it to-day and will not, simply because of its desire, which we all share on both sides of the House, to show its interest in the cause of temperance, take any intemperate step such as is suggested by those who are responsible for the motions to-day.

An Honourable Member : I move that the question may now be put.

Mr. President : The question is that the question be put.

The motion was adopted.

Haji Wajihuddin (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, from the speeches delivered to-day on the floor of this House I gather that the majority of my non-official friends are in favour of Mr. Kelkar's amendment. I therefore find no alternative but to accept it.

Dr. S. K. Datta : Sir, I beg for leave to withdraw my amendment.

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

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, in view of the short interval that has elapsed since I was last on my feet, I do not propose to inflict a concluding speech on this House at any length. I ask the House just once again to consider whether it would not be wiser of it to negative the original Resolution and withdraw the further amendment which now stands in Mr. Kelkar's name and thereby show that the unanimous view of this House is that all possible effective steps should be taken by the Government in co-operation with this House and should be recommended to the Provincial Governments with a view to the control of the drink evil.

Mr. President : The original question was :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that legislation be undertaken prohibiting the import, manufacture, sale and use of all sorts of liquors in India and in the meantime he be pleased to direct the local administrations under his control and convey the opinion of this Assembly to all other Provincial Governments that they should take steps forthwith to grant to the local bodies within their jurisdiction the right to determine the number and location of liquor shops within their respective areas."

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

" That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

' This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to accept as the ultimate policy of the Government the prohibition of production, manufacture, sale and import of intoxicating liquors save for medicinal and scientific purposes. It further recommends that as the first step in carrying out this policy the Provincial Governments be directed immediately (1) to inaugurate a policy

of vesting the power of fixing, by a system of local option, the location and number of shops selling intoxicating liquors in either local self-governing bodies or licensing Boards specially constituted for the purpose and elected on a popular franchise, and (ii) to undertake necessary legislation in furtherance of that policy."

The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The Assembly divided :

AYES—69.

Abdul Haye, Mr.
Abhyankar, Mr. M. V.
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.
Acharya, Mr. M. K.
Aiyangur, Mr. C. Duraiswami.
Aiyangur, Mr. K. Rama.
Alimuzzaman Chowdhry, Khan Bahadur.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Budi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.
Belvi, Mr. D. V.
Chanda, Mr. Kamini Kumar.
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Dr. S. K.
Duni Chand, Lala.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghose, Mr. S. C.
Ghulam Abbas, Sayyad.
Ghulam Bari, Khan Bahadur.
Goswami, Mr. T. C.
Govind Das, Seth.
Hans Raj, Lala.
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.
Ismail Khan, Mr.
Iyengur, Mr. A. Rangaswami.
Jajodia, Baboo Runglal.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr.
Kazim Ali, Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi
Muhammad.
Kelkar, Mr. N. C.
Lohokare, Dr. K. G.

Mahmood Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mr.
Majid Baksh, Syed.
Makan, Mr. M. E.
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.
Mehta, Mr. Jannadas M.
Misra, Pandit Shambhu Dayal.
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.
Narain Dass, Mr.
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.
Nehru, Pandit Motilal.
Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Phookun, Mr. Tarun Ram.
Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir.
Rajan Baksh Shah, Khan Bahadur
Makhdum Syed.
Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
Sadiq Hasan, Mr. S.
Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Shafee, Maulvi Mohammad.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Singh, Raja Raghunandan Prasad.
Sinha, Kumar Ganganand.
Syamacharan, Mr.
Tok Kyi, Maung.
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.
Vishindas, Mr. Harchandrai.
Wajihuddin, Haji.
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.
Yusuf Imam, Mr. M.

NOES—39.

Abdul Mumin, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Aiyer, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy.
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.
Ashworth, Mr. E. H.
Ayyar, Mr. C. V. Krishnaswami.
Bhore, Mr. J. W.
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.
Bray, Sir Denys.
Burdon, Mr. E.
Carey, Sir Willoughby.
Chalmers, Mr. T. A.
Chartres, Mr. C. B.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Coeke, Mr. H. G.
Crawford, Colonel J. D.
Dalal, Sardar B. A.
Fleming, Mr. E. G.
Gordon, Mr. E.
Gordon, Mr. R. G.
Graham, Mr. L.
Gurner, Mr. C. W.

Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur
Captain.
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.
Langley, Mr. A.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Macphail, Rev. Dr. E. M.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra
Nath.
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.
Needham, Colonel B. A.
Panduranga Rao, Mr. V.
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.
Roy, Mr. G. P.
Sim, Mr. G. G.
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
Sykes, Mr. E. F.
Vijayaraghavacharyar, Diwan Bahadur T.
Webb, Mr. M.

The motion was adopted.

The amended Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* FUTURE RECRUITMENTS TO THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, since the Honourable Member in whose name this Resolution stands is not in the House I will move the same with your kind permission. It runs as follows :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to take immediate steps to arrange that all further recruitments to the Indian Medical Service—India Army Medical Cadre—shall henceforth be only by an open competitive examination held simultaneously in England and India from the year 1926.”

Sir, to be able to follow this Resolution I beg to solicit the attention of the House to the Resolution and the amendment on the Lee Commission's recommendations. Though these recommendations concerned more the Civil Services, the Indian Medical Service having much to do with the military recruitment, a condition was included in the Resolution of the Honourable the Home Member in the following terms :

“ The employment in the provinces of an adequate military reserve, provision of adequate medical attendance for British officers in the Civil Services and their families, and further consideration of the conditions necessary to secure an adequate number of British medical recruits for the needs of the Army.”

These were the three things that were laid down in that Resolution. It was in this way that the question of recruitment of the military medical services came in and we have not yet heard anything about it as will be seen from the interpellations that I have put in this House only a couple of days ago. It was on the ground of the desire of the people and the profession that I wanted to move a Resolution to express the wishes of the House as well as of the medical profession in India as to the recruitment to this military medical service, and hence this Resolution.

The points decided by the Secretary of State so far on the recommendations of the Lee Commission are, firstly, that a superior Civil Medical Service shall be established in India. That is one point that has been settled. The second point is that for the convenience of the treatment of European officers and their families stationed in India separate provision shall be made. The third recommendation of the Lee Commission was to constitute a Royal Army Medical Corps, India, but the Secretary of State has announced that he would not agree to it and would agree to a continuance of the Indian Medical Service. But the other questions have yet been left open which depend more upon the methods of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service. Our object therefore is, firstly, to point out that the Resolution of the Honourable the Home Member in the terms “ an adequate number of British medical recruits ” possibly brings in an element which was not thought of in the Army Committee Report as well as in the Esher Committee Report. And now it is being distinctly seen that they want much more to care for British medical recruits and not for efficiency. My Resolution says that we want equal opportunities. We want the best of the doctors for the Army. We want the best and the most efficient doctors for the service of the country, while here the reservation from the Government is to secure an adequate number of British medical recruits for the needs of the Army. I may point out here that in the recommendations of the Medical Services Committee on page 36 it is distinctly stated :

“ We are unanimously of opinion that it is not advisable to attempt to fix a percentage of Indians to be admitted to the Indian Medical Corps. Our idea is to

form the Indian Medical Corps into a *corps d'élite* and while we should legitimately help Indians to appear at the London examination, we consider it of paramount importance that the best possible doctors should be attracted to the Corps."

The Army Medical Service Committee said in April 1919 that their goal was to secure the services of the best doctors which in this reservation is being tampered with.

Secondly, the purpose with which the Esher Committee had reported the necessity of laying down a certain ratio for Indians and the British is this—"for the medical attendance on European servants of Government and their families." That is one of the recommendations of the Esher Committee but the purpose which they put in for reservation of the military posts is a civil purpose not suited to the requirements of the Army. The question of such recruitment involves the question as to how many appointments in the Civil will be reserved for European military officers for a Civil purpose and, secondly, whether it should be a separate service for the treatment of European officers and their families or whether they should form a distinct part and parcel of the military medical service. If these posts are absolutely reserved for the European members of the military medical service it would mean that the whole reserve practically would be taken over by the Europeans and consequently Indians will have a large number of army posts closed to them than would be the result of an open competition. Our purpose therefore is not to lay down any ratio in one way or other so as to hinder the recruitment of the best possible doctors. If European officers and their families require doctors of their own race they may recruit them directly from England and set up a separate service for themselves if they chose. That should not be the cause for setting aside the best Indian medical men who want to enter the army service. That is our contention.

Sir, my object in moving this Resolution was twofold. Our past experience is such as to make us doubt the intentions of Government in respect of medical military recruitment and, secondly, the present process of recruitment, that is the process of selection, is one which we hold to be absolutely bad. That is why we claim an open competitive examination. Our experience in the past has been this. Up to 1900 very few Indians appeared at the competitive examinations. From 1900 to 1910, only a few appeared. From 1910 to 1914 the figures were 5, 3, 8, almost *nil* and 14. At this time I am sorry to mention that the Army Department of the Government of India feared that Indians were swamping the Indian Medical Service and consequently, as is reported in one of these reports in 1911, the Army Department of the Government of India represented to the Secretary of State and to the War Office that some remedy should be found by which the inclusion of Indians in the army cadre should be made most difficult. That was one of the inherent motives in those days. In 1914, recruitment by open competitive examination was absolutely stopped. The reason that was given in one of the answers to my interpellations was that it was not possible to attract a sufficient number of Europeans by open competitive examination and therefore the examination was stopped. May I ask whether there were not first class men who had obtained degrees in Indian medical colleges in this period and, if the Army Department cared to secure these best possible persons, they could have got the best possible doctors from any of these Indian colleges. But they thought otherwise and consequently they introduced only a temporary cadre to which Indians were admitted by selection, and I will deal later

[Dr. K. G. Lohokare.]

on with the process of selection. Their only anxiety was to secure British recruits and fearing that the ratio of Indians was increasing alarmingly they stopped in 1922 recruitment even by selection to the permanent cadre. From 1922 to 1925, only until a couple of months ago, they stopped recruitment of Indians and it was only after the numerous interpellations that I put in here, that 8 or 10 Indians have been given permanent commissions, just a couple of months ago. There is this distrust in the method of recruitment as to the best possible doctors being made available for the Army. I do not stand here to plead the cause of one race or the other. I have precedents to show that the rules for the R. A. M. C. lay down that the candidates shall be of pure European extraction, domiciled and born in England. We have before us these precedents. However we Indians are after all philosophic men. We leave it aside for the present but our claim is that if the Indian Army is to have the best doctors, we claim equal opportunities. Let Indians as well as European candidates appear at the same examination and let the best of them be selected. Why should there be a ratio for one colour or the other in securing these doctors. The I. M. S. service is meant for the Indian units of the Army. They are not meant for the British units. It is Indians who are to be treated there and for treating Indians, if Indians are debarred, I am sorry I cannot say anything further but absolute justice is on our side when we maintain that the best men should be recruited for this service. Sir, the treatment that these temporary commissioned officers have received even during the war is a sad tale. It has spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. I shall not refer to it to-day because I shall have then to import heat into the discussion. I have definite instances with me to show that the treatment they received on account of their colour was absolutely abominable. Sir, it might be maintained that an open competitive examination in this way, simultaneous, both in England and India, would be a very difficult matter. How is it to be held at one and the same time? Sir, if Government will entrust it to us, we shall find the way. We know that it is quite easy and very easy to settle. I can give you one of the ways for the present. Hold a theoretical examination first; let it be Part I. Send those who pass in Part I up to London or whatever place you have for holding a practical examination there. Your British candidates might prefer waiting for two months after the first part for a revision of their clinical subjects because of the delay which these Indian candidates would take to reach London. If the British candidates find it inconvenient to wait for these two months, you may have a Board constituted of the best Indian doctors as well as the best British doctors. Let that Board examine the candidates in England first. Indian candidates will then wait for two or three months for their practical after the theoretical. Let that Board come to India and examine these candidates with the same standard. If you cannot find this convenient, you may very easily devise some other means. Let us sit together and find a way. I am sure where there is a will there is a way, and we can, if you agree, hold a simultaneous examination in England and in India at the same time. If you still continue saying that there are no means to find a solution, I may say, Sir, that your purpose in avoiding simultaneous examinations and to ask our boys to go for the examination to London at a great deal of cost is to close the door to Indians. You know, Sir, the Indian colleges are practically conforming to the standard of the General

Medical Council. It was some four years before this, that it could have been maintained that some Indian colleges had no proper provision for clinics in the subjects of Gynæcology and Obstetrics. We know, Sir, that there was a discussion in this House in 1922 regarding the matter, and my Honourable friend opposite, a member of the same dignified profession, knows it too for himself that these standards have recently been so revised so as to give full opportunities of instruction in all these subjects to Indian candidates. They can now with the same standard hold their ground against the British college candidates. What objection is there, then, to admit these standards directly for the examination in India? If you have no other plea of inefficient education, if you have no other plea of inferior status, in profession, or if you have no other plea of inferior physique, I doubt, Sir, how you can refuse. If you yet refuse, we can only say that you want to refuse simply because you want to find a method of excluding Indians from this examination. Sir, what has been our experience of selection during so many years? It has been clearly exposed at the question hour—only a couple of days ago by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy. I leave that case to him. But our contention is that the method of selection shuts the door against our best possible candidates. So that in time to come, after 5 or 10 years you will make the plea, "Look here, your Indian doctors are inefficient officers." But whose mistake would it be? You would commit this mistake to-day through your own method of selection, and then make capital out of it to shut doors against us still further. Besides, you employ C. I. D. methods to inquire and satisfy yourselves about our men. You do not want men of the best possible type. You want something else. You want backdoor influence. How can you expect the best boys in this way to come in? This Selection Board of your own making and if you want some sort of men of a standard other than of professional qualifications who in the long run may prove of inferior grade in the professional work, is it our fault, Sir? Let us have a comparison, Sir, for the period between 1900 and 1914—the period when there was the competitive examination. You have had a few officers, say about 50. You have their record of services before you. You can definitely say here from the records of these officers with you if these Indian officers have proved incapable. These Indian officers were with you. They have served in the field in the Great War as well as in India in peace time in hospitals and in an administrative capacity. You can say definitely—I do want your opinion on the point—you can say definitely whether these officers have failed to earn your appreciation. If not, the competitive examination method has been an unqualified success. Your Selection Board will prove otherwise, Sir; and it is therefore that I say that the method of competitive examination is the only way of having the best officers for the service. You ought to care more for efficiency than for anything else. In professional matters it is really very undesirable to say that you want a man of a white or a yellow or a black complexion. It is really very undesirable to depend on such things for securing the best material. I submit, Sir, we have in the medical profession in India a sense of brotherhood; we have learnt not to think of colour or race. Even from the beginning in our medical colleges every boy who is admitted to that course learns not to care for these details but cares only for the professional dignity and for the standard. I leave it to the House to say, if the selection process of to-day has maintained this reputation of the profession.

[Dr. K. G. Lohokare.]

Moreover, the profession in India has given their views regarding the method of a simultaneous examination. The professional examination comes first, and the military training course afterwards. To make the position well understood I say, Sir, that the Indian profession has said "hold the professional examination first in India, declare the results and take the number you want for the next course wherever you want, if you cannot arrange for it here." The present process too is similar. The profession and the public have expressed their views in this matter last Session. I had given you here resolutions of almost all the important provincial Medical Associations in India, the Bombay Medical Association, the Madras Medical Association, the Calcutta Medical Association, and I had even given you in my speeches then the opinions recorded at some of the public meetings on the Lee Commission's Report. I may add here that the Army in India Committee in 1919 have recorded the same kind of popular opinion. It means Government are aware of this long-standing demand. Here it is in the Esher Committee Report :

"The Indian Medical Service, which should then be exclusively military, should be recruited by simultaneous competitive examinations or by separate competitive examinations in India."

Here are the opinions expressed in favour of simultaneous examination for recruiting the best doctors in the interests of the State and they have been represented to you, Sir, long ago. This report is published in 1919 and the expressions of public opinion came to this Committee a year before at least, i.e., seven years ago. You take it from me that this demand has been persistent for the last 25 years, and in spite of this public demand, if you do not want to attend to it, if you want only the colour qualification, and not efficient officers, if you yet want to spend money unnecessarily on persons for undeserved inducements the least I say is that the expenditure of State money is not being deservingly bestowed. You have been giving inducements in the form of gratuities for 5 years' service of £1,000 to persons with ordinary qualifications. On the other hand, you turn away our best men. They had held temporary commissions ; they applied and applied ten times, and you said, "We give you no hopes of a permanent commission." The poor boys resigned the service. Boys from Indian Universities who got their F. R. C. S. within 15 to 18 months had to go away because there were no hopes of their being made permanent, and Sir, during the same period third-class L. R. C. Ps. and L. R. C. Ss., who passed their examinations by compartments, got in. It is the expenditure of State money at least that you should have cared for, Sir.

Out of 56 European candidates from 1922-25 recruited by the Government of India, Army Department, they had only 1 F. R. C. S. and 3 M. Ds., while to the best Indian candidates, candidates who had come out in the first class, persons who had the best character even as reported by your C. I. D. methods, persons who were connected with Government servants, persons whom you would take as the most reliable type of persons, could not be given hopes of confirmation. You cared only for colour, the British recruit. You did not care for efficiency. I therefore make a just demand and lay it before this House ; it is not only a just demand of Indians but a right demand in the interests of the State and the Empire that our medical men must have the same unrestricted opportunities as all others of serving the country not only for ourselves but for the benefit and the interests of the Empire also.

Mr. E. Burdon (Army Secretary) : Sir, in my humble opinion, a very great deal of the speech of my Honourable friend has been distinctly irrelevant. He has adverted to a number of matters which I know he has closely at heart, but which unfortunately are not included in the terms of the Resolution which was to have been moved by another Honourable Member and has now been moved by my Honourable friend in that other gentleman's place. I do not propose to follow my Honourable friend into all his irrelevancies, if I may be permitted again to use that expression. My first object is to make a statement to the House of the position of Government in regard to the subject of the Resolution, and I thought it desirable that I should, with your permission, Sir, have an opportunity of speaking at as early a stage in the debate as possible. The attitude which Government must at present assume in regard to the subject we are discussing is of a nature which it is necessary to make clear at the outset. It would be disingenuous to do anything else. Further, by stating at once the position of the Government I hope to lead the discussion into a relevant channel which it might not otherwise follow and from which, if it is followed, the promoters of the debate and Government themselves may be enabled to derive the greatest possible profit in the shape of a clear elucidation of the issues which demand solution. The position of Government can be briefly stated and I think readily understood. In the first place, Sir, Government do not wish to oppose the Resolution of my Honourable friend if their opposition is to be construed as a final expression of their opinion in regard to the method of recruitment to be adopted for the Indian Medical Service as it is to be constituted in the future. On the other hand, it is impracticable, and I believe I shall be able to convince the House that it is impracticable, for Government to accept the Resolution at present. For neither the Government nor indeed the Honourable Members of this House possess the data on which alone a final conclusion could properly be based. I will explain at once what is in my mind in advancing this proposition. As Honourable Members are well aware, the Lee Commission formulated comprehensive proposals for the future constitution of the Medical Services of India. I need not repeat the details of these proposals since they are as familiar to the House as they are to myself. But it is important to note that these proposals, taken as a connected whole, raise issues new in character which cannot be decided summarily, merely in the light of Government's previous experience and previous consideration of similar matters. As will be known to those Honourable Members who have studied Lord Birkenhead's statement in the House of Lords of the 29th July, it has so far been decided by the Government of India and the Secretary of State to approve in general principle the constitution of provincial Medical Services. It has also been decided both by the Government of India and by the Secretary of State not to accept the recommendation of the Lee Commission that there should be a unified Military Medical Service in India. Under this recommendation the military side of the Indian Medical Service was to be absorbed in the Royal Army Medical Corps. This recommendation has not been accepted and the decision in this matter, as my Honourable friends will no doubt observe, is in absolute accord with the views which were expressed on the subject from the non-official benches in our debate of September last. The Indian Medical Service is to be retained essentially as a military service, and a war reserve is to continue to be maintained by lending officers to the civil administration. But the decisions have not proceeded further, and many questions still remain outstanding, the settlement of

[Mr. E. Burdon.]

which must in the nature of things precede a decision upon the method of recruitment to be adopted for the Military Medical Service as it will be constituted on the basis of the general principle to which I have alluded. We do not yet know what the strength of the war reserve will be. We do not know either the number, the status or the remuneration of appointments on the civil side of the administration, which officers of the Indian Medical Service will in future be eligible to fill, and, lastly, we do not know how the Service as a whole, including the war reserve, is to be composed ; that is to say, how many Indian officers and how many British officers there are to be. It is to contain a proportion of British officers. That is a settled fact which the Resolution itself recognises.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : The Resolution does not recognise any proportion.

Mr. E. Burdon : Now, I think the House will acknowledge that it would be a reversal of the natural order of procedure if either the Government or the House were to attempt to decide what the methods and avenues of recruitment for a service should be before the essential features of the service have themselves been determined. The first requisite is to know what career and prospects the service is likely to offer, and accordingly what type of recruit we are likely to be able to attract to it. We want the best, of course, but there still remains the question—will the conditions of service which are set up be likely to attract men with the highest professional qualifications : and when that question has been answered, then only is it convenient or practicable to consider the channel of recruitment best designed to suit the circumstances of the candidates whom we wish to attract. In particular, when it comes to a question of deciding upon a simultaneous examination in India and England, the composition of the service is one of the very first things we want to know, and in the present instance we do not yet know this with sufficient accuracy.

I wish to make it quite clear, if I have not done so already, that the Government have not at any time in the recent past pronounced against recruitment by simultaneous examination and they have no definite inclination to do so at the moment. As one of the alternative methods of recruitment, the question is bound to enter the mind of Government when the proper time comes, and to receive very careful consideration, consideration which I hope will be assisted and enlightened by the views expressed to-day by non-official Members who have studied the matter. But for the moment the Government can come to no conclusion ; they must maintain an open mind and reserve their judgment.

And now, Sir, I think it may be convenient to the House if I make a digression for the purpose of bringing before Honourable Members in a simple form certain especially relevant facts in the past history, both recent and remote, of the Indian Medical Service and in regard to the vicissitudes through which recruitment for that service has passed. The facts may be known to some Honourable Members who have studied the matter, but not, I feel sure, to all. For many years prior to 1915 admission to the Indian Medical Service was by open competitive examination held in England half-yearly. The examination was open to all British subjects, European and Indian. The last competitive examination was held in July 1915. In September 1914 the Secretary of State had suggested that,

as it was extremely unlikely that suitable candidates would be obtainable, no examination should be held until July 1915. In 1915 the Secretary of State decided that no open competitive examination would be held, after the one in July 1915, during the continuance of the War. Such recruitment as was necessary was to be made by nomination. The absence of candidates was due to the War. Large numbers of young medical practitioners and medical students joined His Majesty's forces in a professional or combatant capacity. There were other causes also and the influences which made it impracticable to hold a competitive examination during the War have continued to prevail after the War and up to the present day. These influences have indeed been further reinforced in the more recent past by a general sense of uncertainty as to what the future of the Indian Medical Service is to be. Between 1915 and 1919 all applications for permanent commissions under the system of nomination then in force were dealt with by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of a Selection Committee at the India Office. In 1919 a Selection Board was created in India consisting of the Director General of the Indian Medical Service, the Director of the Medical Service in India and two senior Indian officers of the Indian Medical Service. This Board scrutinised all the applications that are received from candidates in India, interviews candidates as may be necessary, and commissions are granted by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Selection Board submitted through the Government of India. European candidates are still dealt with by the Selection Board of the India Office. We have therefore arrived at a position in which, a system of simultaneous selection in England and India has been adopted. But it is admittedly a temporary and make-shift expedient to be pursued only while recruitment for the Indian Medical Service is, for reasons beyond our control, on an unstable basis, and I think I may safely say that both the Government of India and the Secretary of State have always had it in mind to revert, as soon as opportunity offered, to what is I believe generally acknowledged to be the more satisfactory avenue of a competitive examination. Before leaving this brief review, I should like to mention that under the system of nomination 133 permanent commissions have been granted to Europeans and 119 to Indians. In military employment at the present moment we have 195 British and 79 Indian regular officers. In addition, we have 149 temporary officers, of whom 146 are Indians. I think it will be admitted that India can find little to complain of in the very significant figures which I have given; and I must add that I repudiate, as strongly as I possibly can, the suggestion that any of the Indian officers or that the Indian officers as a class who were recruited under the system of nomination and are now serving under His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief have proved to be inefficient or unsatisfactory.

Now, Sir, my digression has in natural course brought me face to face with that part of my Honourable Member's proposition which breaks new ground, in so far as the Indian Medical Service is concerned, and which is really the most important part of his Resolution. I am referring to the contention that admission to the Indian Medical Service should be not merely by competitive examination, but by competitive examination held simultaneously in England and India. The proposition is not a new one in so far as the other public services of the Indian administration are concerned. The principle on which it is based is familiar to us all. It amounts to this that all qualified persons should have opportunities equalised according to their circumstances of entering the public service, and I do

[Mr. E. Burdon.]

not think that any one will wish to quarrel with the principle provided that in its application due care is taken to ensure that the tax-payer receives full value for his money. I must confess, however, speaking in the light of past experience, that I am not entirely satisfied that, because the principle of simultaneous examination has been found suitable in the case of other public services, it will be equally appropriate to the Indian Medical Service or will commend itself in the same degree to intending Indian candidates for the Indian Medical Service. To me, at any rate, it is significant that hitherto in the case of the Indian Medical Service public opinion and the opinion of Indian members of the Service have not laid great stress on the introduction of simultaneous examinations. I believe one reason of this to be that young Indians who have a leaning towards the medical profession and are ambitious have hitherto been glad and still are glad to go to England and acquire the professional qualifications given by the medical schools of the United Kingdom. I may perhaps have derived a wrong impression in regard to this matter, but I feel that I am right to some extent and that there must be something of substance in the point of view which I have advanced. And, if I am right, then a very important question arises, namely, whether the introduction of simultaneous examinations for the Indian Medical Service would really be in accordance with the wishes and the best interests of that type of Indian whom it is especially desirable to attract to the service. Then, Sir, I understand that, if simultaneous examinations were adopted, it would be a matter of some difficulty to ensure that in both tests the same standard of qualifications should be observed. This is a difficulty which is far from insuperable in the case of examinations such as the Indian Civil Service, where the test is confined to book work and knowledge of theory. In the case of an examination for the medical profession, the matter is different. There are necessarily difficulties of a mechanical character, especially in regard to the practical part of the examination, which might make it hardly possible to assert that the candidates in India and the candidates in England had been judged by precisely the same standard. But, if uniformity of standard cannot be attained or nearly attained, the objection would be a serious one. The existence of two standards or even the existence of a suspicion that one set of candidates had been admitted by a wider portal than that which was open to others would, at the least, prejudice the solidarity of the service and affect its credit. I feel sure the House will recognise that there must be one standard only, even though there are two examinations, and that that standard must be a very high one in the case of the Indian Medical Service. We may rest assured that this will be the view of high authority so long as officers of the Indian Medical Service continue to bear His Majesty's commissions. Actually, however, I am not quite sure what would be the details of the system of simultaneous examination which my Honourable friend would advocate, and the details are of great importance. For example, is it his view that no Indian should be allowed to appear for the examination held in England? If so, the result would presumably be to discourage Indians from going to England for a medical education, and I find it hard to believe that this would be good for the service and good for the country. On the other hand, difficulties would obviously arise if Indians were permitted to appear at both examinations. I do not, however, propose to examine these technical aspects of the matter at any greater length. I am not really competent to do so, whereas we have on

the Government Benches to-day an acknowledged expert in these matters in the person of Colonel Needham. If he is fortunate enough to gain hearing in the course of the debate, he will, I feel sure, be able to contribute to our understanding of these difficult questions of technical detail and perhaps to a solution of them.

Now, Sir, I do not want the House to think that I have been deliberately magnifying the obstacles which lie in the way of my friend's proposal. That is not my intention. But it would be idle to imagine that the change of policy advocated is a simple matter, and it is essential therefore to recognise the difficulties instead of ignoring them : in a word, to approach the subject from the practical standpoint. As I have explained to the House, Government are themselves not in a position at present to come to a conclusion on the subject : and my chief object in speaking has been to draw attention to those points on which fuller knowledge is required, in the hope that the further course of this debate may result in adding to our knowledge on these points and so assist Government's ultimate consideration of the matter.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) :

Sir, I was very glad to hear from the Honourable Mr. Burdon that he did not intend to oppose this Resolution. I am thankful to him for the very frank and full statement he has made upon this subject. I wish to make just a few remarks in support of the Resolution which has been moved. The Resolution is an extremely reasonable and modest one and does not cover any controversial ground. It does not go into the question of a unified medical service or a dual medical service. We have been informed that His Majesty's Government are opposed to the constitution of a unified medical service, and it follows that there will be a medical service for the Army and that the Indian Medical Service will continue to exist in some form or other. I do not wish to quarrel with that position. The only question that is sought to be raised is that so long as the Indian Medical Service continues to exist, Indians shall be admitted to competitive examinations held in India just in the same way as in the case of the Indian Civil Service. It does not go into the question of proportion or any racial or other question which may perhaps be considered controversial. I would therefore suggest that in arriving at a final conclusion upon the subject this Government will recommend a liberal percentage—I hope at least fifty per cent, for recruitment in India. My friend Mr. Burdon has dwelt upon the difficulties which are likely to be experienced in arriving at a unity of standard with regard to attainments. There may perhaps be certain difficulties to be encountered, but I am confident that those difficulties are not insuperable. The principle of simultaneous examinations, or rather of examinations both in India and in England, is not one of a novel character. It has already been applied to the Indian Civil Service, and expedients similar to those which have been adopted in the case of the Indian Civil Service can be applied for the purpose of solving the difficulties which have been brought to the notice of the House by Mr. Burdon. By all means prescribe as high a standard as you like, but let Indians have an opportunity of competing in India for the Indian Medical Service. It may perhaps be felt to be desirable that there should be some course of training required after the competitive examination in India. We have no objection to that proposal. Just as in the case of the Indian Civil Service Indians are sent to

[Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.]

England, let Indian recruits for the Indian Medical Service be sent to England for a period of one or two years as may be considered necessary by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, and let them be required to undergo a satisfactory course of training and examination. As regards the possible difficulty of arranging candidates in order of merit, the expedients adopted in the case of the Indian Civil Service can be adopted in this case also. I commend this Resolution, therefore, to the Government for acceptance.

Colonel R. A. Needham (Government of India : Nominated Official) :

Sir, I desire to take up two aspects of the Resolution which naturally falls into two parts. The first is reintroduction of competitive examinations and the second is the introduction of an entirely new feature, that of a simultaneous competitive examination in England and in India. The first part of the Resolution which deals with the reintroduction of competitive examinations has been dealt with by the Honourable Mr. Burdon. There is no reason to object in principle to the reintroduction of competition. In fact the position is this, that recruitment by competition is merely held in abeyance till we have settled conditions, and by settled conditions I would include settled conditions as to the Indian Medical Service. That service has suffered from a series of commissions and inquiries. For fifteen years statesmen, doctors, soldiers have sat on commissions and inquiries and no particular result has yet ensued. Till a month ago the existence of the Indian Medical Service as a separate entity was in doubt. How was it possible, therefore, that recruits, whether they came from England or India, should desire to join a service the future of which was in such grave jeopardy. Recruitment was impossible by competition in the ordinary way. I think Honourable Members will agree that that is not an overstatement of the position. We had perforce to fall back on nomination and that nomination is exercised with the greatest possible care. The papers of each candidate who applied for a permanent commission were scrutinised by a senior officer, two confidential reports were made on him, and the papers were then submitted to the Selection Board. Those who were selected on the paper reports were called to Delhi or Simla for a personal interview and were given a very fair trial. I have not heard comments as to the unfairness of the method of nomination, and I think it had its advantages because it was impossible to introduce any competition by examination if we were to consider the claims of temporary officers who were serving with the troops in the field.

Obviously we could not ask temporary officers to assemble in some centre of India and submit themselves to the ordeal of competitive examination in professional subjects after they had served three or four years with troops. So I think we should agree that selection by means of a competitive examination has been wisely postponed. (*Mr. B. Das*: "Very wisely.") And I think also it cannot be reintroduced till the future organisation of the Indian Medical Service is completed.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : How long is that going to take ?

Colonel R. A. Needham : The greatest stimulus that could be given to the Indian Medical Service would be the settlement of the future organisation, and I for one, speaking as a member of the Service, would welcome a speedy decision because at present we do not know where we are.

Now the second part of the Resolution is the more interesting one really to me because it introduces a new suggestion for simultaneous competitive examinations. That is quite a new feature so far as the admission to services which demand a practical examination is concerned. I know of no other instance where a practical examination has been held, of a competitive type, when there have been two sets of examiners. The recruitment for the Indian Medical Service by examination in London in pre-war days consisted not of one examination, but of two, and perhaps Honourable Members would like to hear exactly how it was organised. It was divided into two parts, a preliminary and a final examination. The preliminary examination was held in the subjects of medicine, surgery, gynaecology, pathology and so on, and was of the nature of the final M. B. examination which my Honourable colleagues in the profession will understand. After that examination there was a second or final examination which was held after a course of four months at the R. A. M. C. college in London, and at Aldershot to which the successful candidates in the preliminary examination were sent. The successful candidates in the preliminary examination underwent a training in hygiene, tropical medicine, internal economy, drill, equitation and so on. The total marks of the preliminary and the final examination were then added together and the seniority list thus determined. I have not gathered whether the Honourable the Mover quite understood that the examination for the Indian Medical Service was of such a complicated type. I am sure he will want, at all events, to retain the final examination, so his Resolution probably refers to the preliminary examination, and that he would hold simultaneously in England and in India.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Then you seem to have caught something of my meaning.

Colonel R. A. Needham : Let us then deal with the preliminary examination. That consists of a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part has been dealt with by the Honourable Mr. Burdon and offers no insuperable difficulty. A competitive paper examination could be arranged, but as regards the practical part of the examination, I think there are really serious difficulties. The difficulties are of a technical type which I should like to try and explain to the House. A candidate has to appear in all the subjects before his examiner and he examines patients and material and is given a *viva voce* examination on the clinical and practical aspects of a case. Now if you have two sets of examiners allocating marks.....

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : I never suggested that.

Colonel R. A. Needham : I am merely describing a typical examination, if held in England and in India. If you have two sets of examiners allocating marks after a *viva voce* examination, how can you determine what is the relative merit of the candidates in two batches when there is no link or standard of comparison? It is not a question of whether a candidate should pass or fail, that is comparatively quite a simple matter. It is a question whether one examiner in India gives a candidate, say, 60 marks, and whether another examiner in England gives him 55 or 65, and that is a difficulty which I for one am quite unable to solve. It makes a great deal of difference in the total marks when applied to many practical subjects. After all, if there are, say, 10 or 15 commissions and many candidates, a difference of five or ten or twenty marks determines whether

[Colonel R. A. Needham.]

a candidate should obtain a commission or not and also his seniority. I think therefore that every care should be taken in a matter of such profound importance in the examination of candidates. I cannot see myself how strict comparison is practicable as between examinees in India and England.

There is another point, Sir, and that is in discussing the matter with Indian I. M. S. officers, I find there is a definite view that they desire only one examination, or rather only one portal of entrance. They feel rather apprehensive that a separate examination in India may give rise to a feeling, however unjust, that the Indian and the European candidates are not being recruited exactly as on an equal footing.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru : Why not hold the examination wholly in India ?

Colonel R. A. Needham : I am quite prepared to answer the question of the Honourable Member. I would sooner see an examination, as a matter of fairness, held entirely at one centre, but whether it is in India or in England, that is a point for the Secretary of State or this House if it has the power to decide. I am pleading now for one examination. I was hardly dealing with the question whether it should be held in India or in England. Indian officers of the Indian Medical Service feel that it is desirable that there should be only one portal of entry for the reasons I have just stated. They feel too that an examination, if it is held in England, will encourage officers to go to England for medical training and to obtain medical qualifications in England, and they consider that that is desirable too because they find the experience and training of the greatest possible advantage to them when they are serving with their European brother officers in any part of the Empire. These are matters sometimes regarded as those of sentiment, but I personally do not regard them as such. I think they are of the greatest importance, for I assume they are part of that feeling of *esprit de corps* which we all so desire to foster, and which, if maintained, would certainly add to the traditions of the great Indian Medical Service as it has existed, and I hope will continue to exist in the future. Therefore, Sir, for these reasons I cannot see why this House should accept a Resolution which lays a specific date to the reintroduction of a competitive examination system. Settlement of the organisation of the I. M. S. should precede its introduction. Nor do I think it would be wise for the House, for the practical reasons I have given, to support a Resolution which introduces simultaneous competitive examinations in India and in England.

Dr. S. K. Datta (Nominated : Indian Christian) : Sir, I did not mean to intervene in this debate but after hearing the speeches made on the Government side I begin to wonder whether we do not very greatly misjudge the Government. You almost begin to feel that the Director General on the heights of Simla awaits the Indian candidate with outstretched arms desiring him to enter the Indian Medical Service. With your permission, Sir, may I go back even as Colonel Needham, on whose speech I think all of us would like to congratulate him, went back to the history of the Indian Medical Service. At the first examination of the Indian Medical Service held in 1855 the candidate who topped the list was an Indian, the late Surgeon Major Chuckerbatty, a man of very great and eminent attainments. In subsequent years a certain number of Indians did

enter that service and particularly between 1900-1913 in increasing numbers; and yet you begin to find since Lord Morley's despatch (in 1908 I believe it was) regarding the Indian Medical Service, people began to ask themselves in England: What is the meaning of this? Are there going to be radical changes in the personnel of the service? What with Lord Morley on the one hand, and on the other the rising popularity of the R. A. M. C. itself, the best men were it was alleged going into that Service rather than into the Indian Medical Service, with the result that in 1913 Colonel Crawford (*An Honourable Member*: "Our friend here?") I beg your pardon, this is not an anti-prohibition Resolution, Colonel Crawford, the historian of the Indian Medical Service, wrote after this manner:

"The native of India, specially if he has not had the advantage of some training in Europe, is often wanting in a sense of duty and is very subject to the tyranny of caste and to social influences. Few Englishmen realise how great these influences are and how difficult, one might say how impossible, it is for any Indian, official or non-official, to defy or thwart them."

This was written with regard to the future of the Indian Medical Service, in case there should be proposals to further Indianise that Service. He goes on to say:

"From the third point of view, that of the members of the other Government services, the new scheme looks worst of all. That the members of the European services prefer a doctor of their own class for themselves and still more for their wives and families cannot be gainsaid. The preference may be sentimental—no doubt to a certain extent it is so—but it exists. And it has some reason too apart from sentiment. For the native practitioner, however skilled, is often apt to lose his head at a critical moment rather than to rise to a sense of responsibility."

Well, Sir, then came 1915 and we are told that owing to the war recruitment by selection became the only avenue to the service. Since then we have had two Commissions, rather three, which have reported on the Indian Medical Service. First came the Verney Lovett Committee which cut the Gordian knot and said in effect "We shall have a unified Indian Medical Corps here in India to look after and give medical aid to both British and Indian arms of the Service." That was followed by the recommendations of the Esher Committee. There again was another proposal to unify the Army Medical Services in India. That was to be the way in which the problem would be solved. But that was not accepted, and the next was also not accepted. We then come to the Lee Commission, and again its recommendations as far as we are aware are not yet accepted. At least we do not know how far it was accepted. Now in these transactions the parties concerned are not merely the people of India, whom we represent in this House, the Government of India and the Secretary of State; there is yet another force at play, and that is the British Medical Association, the strongest trades union in the British Empire. It is the British Medical Association—if you read the medical papers published in England in which there are constant references to the Indian Medical Service, you will understand why the India Office to us here appears to be paralyzed—it is representations by the organized profession in England to the Secretary of State, their appeals to the public, and the political influences that are at work which leads to this impotence. Now, Sir, I merely ask a question: With these influences there to incapacitate the Government of India or whoever is responsible for a decision regarding the future of the Service, is it surprising that we believe there is at work a certain Machiavellian intent an intent to

[Dr. S. K. Datta.]

keep Indians out of the Service? I do not say that it is with this intent that the Government of India act. I would not impute to them any such motive. But ever since 1908 or say 1910 nobody seems to know what the future of the Indian Medical Service is going to be. At least Dr. Lohokare's Resolution has the merit of suggesting one method of entrance into that Service. I am not myself enamoured of a competitive examination in the sense of a simultaneous examination. I quite see the professional difficulties of obtaining a unity of standard, I do not see how it can be done. On the other hand, we want a way out of the present situation. Is it a fact, Sir, that in 1922 there was a despatch from the Secretary of State which virtually instructed the Government of India to hold up free competition until the European wastage in the Service had been completely made up, and as a result of that—at least such is the impression created in our minds, we may be suspicious people but we cannot help it—in 1922, 1923 and 1924 no Indian entered the Medical Service? We want to know what is to be the future of the Service, and I think Colonel Needham is with us there; he too desires to know what the future of the Service is to be. And I would urge on the Government to place before the Secretary of State the views of this House, to ask him to declare what the policy for the next ten years with regard to the Indian Medical Service is to be. That is what we want. Incidentally I might suggest that, instead of the simultaneous examination suggested by Dr. Lohokare, why should not we have one examination in England and six months later hold another examination here in India for another set of candidates and thus to change from London to India the venue of the examination. We would thus have one standard for a particular number of people who will appear at a particular examination. I throw out that suggestion because I am not enamoured of this scheme for a simultaneous examination. As I have said before, I have no desire to impute motives. If the Government will frankly say they do not know but they are doing their best to open the way in the Indian Medical Service to Indians of capacity and merit and they will bring before us some scheme by which that can be done, I feel sure we will examine it with all the care possible and we will support them in their efforts to obtain from the Secretary of State—shall I say, to wrench from the Secretary of State—some sort of understanding regarding the future of the Service.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City : Non-Muhamadan Urban) : Sir, I do not intend to make a speech. I only want to ask what are the difficulties in the way of the Secretary of State coming to a decision as to the policy to be pursued in regard to the Indian Medical Service and coming to a decision at an early date?

The second question I should like to ask is : Is there not a practical examination in subjects of science in the case of the Civil Service examination? How is it simultaneous examinations are held in England and in India? Are not the same practical difficulties felt in that connection? The third question I would like to ask my Honourable friend Colonel Needham is, supposing that he is entrusted with the task of solving the difficulties which he has mentioned to-day, will he not be in a position to solve them effectively if the House so desires or the Secretary of State so desires that he should solve them?

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : I move that the question be put.

Mr. President : The question is that the question be put.

The motion was adopted.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : I would not take up much of the time of the House because I wish to reply only to one or two points that have been made. We have been told by my Honourable friend that public opinion is not very keen on this point. I repudiate that suggestion. Last year at the time of the Lee Commission Resolution I gave a list of nearly 22 associations and 30 or 40 public meetings and I ask him to refer to the telegrams which the Government of India received regarding simultaneous examinations for military service recruitment. The second point that was mentioned was in regard to the difficulty of the same standard of examination being maintained. I believe that the examination can be split up into two parts. There is already the Preliminary which can be divided into theoretical and practical, two parts, and then you have the Final. As regards the Final, well, the boys may go to England if you spend for it for training in the second part which is not available in India. As regards the first part, the theoretical, my Honourable friend opposite belonging to the profession agrees with me that there is no difficulty about it and that the question papers can be sent down. As regards the second part, the practical, I have put forth a suggestion here that the same set of examiners from England may come here for the sake of the examination. If you do not choose to do it, here is another alternative of my Honourable friend, Dr. Datta. There may be two examinations every six months, one examination for one set of students in England and another for another set of students in India. That does not matter. You will then have the same examiners, the same standard and everything will be all right. I repudiate the suggestion if you take me to say that there should be two different standards. Our claim is for a competitive examination, and consequently—I say—we have never claimed different standards for recruitment. We do not want that. We want an open door with the same standard. We want an open competitive examination, and however you may arrange it our candidates will always be successful. We do not want that a certain proportion should be laid down for Indians. That is our complaint. You will say some element of Indians may be taken. My complaint is against that. We want an open door.

Mr. President : I would ask the Honourable Member to address the Chair. He has repeatedly been addressing the Treasury Benches.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Sir, our contention is that the words " British medical recruits " have been unfairly inserted in the Resolution on the Lee Commission's recommendations. We fear that under cover of those words anything may be done. That is our suspicion, that a percentage, say, 10 or 15 or some larger percentage, may be laid down, and there is a suggestion to the effect in the Army Organisation Committee's report and in other places that because Indians had so far been appearing in small numbers 5 or 10 per cent. might be reserved for them. I am afraid of such a reservation. That is the complaint that we make. We want the best doctors that the profession can produce. You may have any test you like. I am sure our Indian graduates will always come out successful however high the test may be. But my submission is that if you reserve only 10, 15 or 20 per cent. for Indians, and that is our complaint—if you reserve so much for Europeans and so much for Indians, the European candidate, though

[Dr. K. G. Lohokare.]

he may get a smaller number of marks than the Indian, will still be selected and not the Indian. That is our suspicion. If you want for the treatment of the British services in India and their families that sort of material our purse is open, you can have that concession but let us come to terms regarding the question on the basis of this concession. If you want that British officers should be treated by British doctors only, all right let it be granted. But why do you interfere with our other jobs, why do you place obstacles in the way of the just aspirations of Indians? Why do you create obstacles in the way of the best doctors for the Army as well as for the other services? That is the question I want to put to the Honourable Member.

Our next contention is that you should not make it prohibitively expensive for an Indian graduate to compete in the examinations. You cannot expect a middle class man to spend Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 to go to England, by borrowing it somewhere, putting his father and other relations in debt and then repaying it. That sort of disability should not, I submit, be imposed on the Indian candidate. It is for this reason that we want an examination in India. Again, it was hinted at in the debate that Indians ask for English qualifications and that therefore an Indian without English qualifications may not be allowed to appear at the competitive examination. I distinctly refuse to have any such condition, since the Indian Colleges follow the requisite British standard. Even though English education may be preferred by some, is it available to all, to the ordinary middle class man? Take the son of a middle class man getting even Rs. 200 or Rs. 250. He goes to the medical college and takes a first class. Would you shut him out because his father cannot afford to send him to England for that education? That is our complaint. You try to set aside the best material by this stratagem, by this device as it were. I have been in correspondence with all the Medical Associations in India. I have seen many eminent doctors in service as well as outside. I have seen leaders of the public as well as of the profession, and there is only one opinion, one conscientious opinion on this question, and there is no difference at all. And yet you say there is no public opinion! You look at the newspapers, you look at the telegrams that you have received, and still you are trying to set aside our best talent. That is our complaint. If you meet that complaint in a proper manner—in whatever way you decide—if it is not very objectionable—we may come to an agreement; but we say here that the difficulties that have been placed in our way make us point out a certain way by which the whole thing can be set right, and that is the gist of the Resolution which I hope this House will accept.

Mr. E. Burdon : Sir, I do not think the House will expect me to detain it by replying to the Honourable Mover in detail, and my own reason for not doing so must be that once more I find him to be distinctly irrelevant. He has talked about a great many things which are of great interest and were relevant in the discussion of the Lee Commission's report which took place in September 1924.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : These are the causes for this Resolution.

Mr. E. Burdon : But I submit that they are extraneous to the discussion in which we are at present engaged. My Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar asked certain questions.

As regards the first, I am not really in a position to state what particular difficulties the Secretary of State is finding in coming to a conclusion. As a matter of fact the whole matter is an extremely complicated one, and actually it has not been before the Secretary of State for any very great length of time. It is actively under his consideration at the present moment as I think my Honourable friend will have seen from the report of Lord Birkenhead's speech in the House of Lords. Lord Birkenhead himself said that the whole matter was being actively examined in his office. My Honourable friend's second question was whether there was not some practical examination, say, in Science conducted simultaneously in connection with admission to some of the other services. I understand that the answer is in the negative, that there is no simultaneous examination of a practical character in force in regard to the other services which would in any sense be comparable with the practical examination of the Indian Medical Service. As regards the question whether Col. Needham considers whether he could solve the difficulties if he were given a free hand to do so, well, Sir, I do not suppose Col. Needham would be prepared to answer that question even if he had another opportunity of speaking, and as he will have no other opportunity the question must remain unanswered. There is only one further matter to which I wish to refer and that is with regard to what my Honourable friend Dr. Datta has said. He expressed the hope that Government would communicate to the Secretary of State the views expressed by this House in regard to what all admit to be an exceedingly difficult and important matter. I can assure him that I shall take steps to bring to-day's debate prominently to the notice of the Secretary of State (*Dr. S. K. Datta* : "Are you sure he will reply" ?) That is another matter. Now, Sir, there is nothing of substance that I can add to this discussion. I must however reiterate the statement that I made in my opening speech, namely, the attitude of Government is that they do not wish to oppose this Resolution if their position is to be construed as a final expression of their views in regard to simultaneous examinations because that would not be a correct conclusion. On the other hand, they cannot accept the Resolution as it stands, and more particularly, as I think my Honourable friend Col. Needham emphasised, they cannot accept it because it seeks to tie us down to the year 1926 as the date on which the change of policy should be introduced. I therefore oppose the Resolution.

Mr. President : The question is :

"That the following Resolution be adopted :

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to take immediate steps to arrange that all further recruitments to the Indian Medical Service—India Army Medical Cadre—shall henceforth be only by an open competitive examination held simultaneously in England and India from the year 1926.'

The Assembly divided :

AYES—55.

Abdul Haye, Mr.
Abhyankur, Mr. M. V.
Acharya, Mr. M. K.
Ahmad Ali Khan, Mr.
Aiyangar, Mr. C. Duraiswami.
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.
Aiyer, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy.
Alimuzzaman Chowdhry, Khan Bahadur.

Aney, Mr. M. S.
Belvi, Mr. D. V.
Chanda, Mr. Kamini Kumar.
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.
Das, Mr. B.
Dutta, Dr. S. K.
Duni Chand, Jala.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.

Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Goswami, Mr. T. C.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Hans Raj, Lala.
 Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.
 Jajodia, Baboo Runglal.
 Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kartar Singh, Sardar.
 Kasturbhni Lalbhai, Mr.
 Kuzim Ali, Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi
 Muhammad.
 Kelkar, Mr. N. C.
 Lohokare, Dr. K. G.
 Majid Baksh, Syed.
 Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.
 Mehta, Mr. Jannadas M.
 Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.
 Mutalik, Sardar V. N.

Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.
 Nehru, Pandit Motilal.
 Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Phookun, Mr. Tarun Ram.
 Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir.
 Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.
 Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Sadiq Hasan, Mr. S.
 Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.
 Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Shafee, Maulvi Mohammad.
 Singh, Mr. Gnya Prasad.
 Sinha, Kumar Ganganand.
 Syamacharan, Mr.
 Tok Kyi, Muang.
 Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.
 Vishudas, Mr. Harchandrai.
 Yusuf Imam, Mr. M.

NOES—42.

Abdul Mumin, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
 Abul Kasem, Maulvi.
 Ajab Khan, Captain.
 Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.
 Ashworth, Mr. E. H.
 Ayyar, Mr. C. V. Krishnaswami.
 Bhoire, Mr. J. W.
 Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.
 Bray, Sir Denys.
 Burdon, Mr. E.
 Carey, Sir Willoughby.
 Chartres, Mr. C. B.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Cocke, Mr. H. G.
 Crawford, Colonel J. D.
 Dalal, Sardar B. A.
 Fleming, Mr. E. G.
 Gordon, Mr. E.
 Gordon, Mr. R. G.
 Graham, Mr. L.
 Gurner, Mr. C. W.

Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur
 Captain.
 Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.
 Langley, Mr. A.
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 Mnephail, Rev. Dr. E. M.
 Maguire, Mr. L. T.
 Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra
 Nath.
 Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.
 Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.
 Needham, Colonel R. A.
 Panduranga Rao, Mr. V.
 Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.
 Roy, Mr. G. P.
 Sim, Mr. G. G.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
 Sykes, Mr. E. F.
 Tonkinson, Mr. H.
 Vijayaraghavacharyar, Diwan Bahadur T.
 Webb, Mr. M.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE AMENDMENT OF THE RULES MADE FOR ELECTIONS TO THE INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES.

Mr. President : As the hour is late, I will allow Pandit Shamlal Nehru only to move his Resolution and he can make his speech at the next meeting.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru (Meerut Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the rules made under the Government of India Act, 1919, for elections to the Indian and Provincial Legislatures be so amended as to remove all the disqualifications which are at present imposed upon any person against whom a conviction by a criminal court involving a sentence of transportation or imprisonment for a period of more than one year is subsisting.”

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 3rd September, 1925.