

Wednesday, 18th August, 1926

THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME VIII

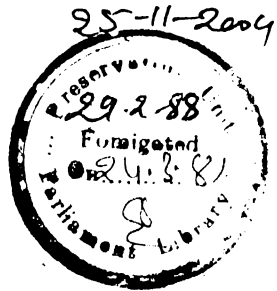
*(17th August 1926 to 31st August 1926)*

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SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1926



THE  
**COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**

(Official Report)

**VOLUME VIII**

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**SECOND SESSION**

OF THE

**SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1926.**



SIMLA  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1926

# Council of State.

## *President :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR HENRY MONCRIEFF SMITH, KT., C.I.E.

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, KT.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI, C.B.E.

THE HONOURABLE SIR S. R. M. ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. W. A. BELL.

## *Secretary :*

MR. L. GRAHAM, C.I.E., I.C.S.

## *Assistants of the Secretary :*

MR. W. T. M. WRIGHT, C.I.E., I.C.S.

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR-AT-LAW.

MR. K. G. HARPER, I.C.S.

## *Committee on Petitions :*

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.,  
*Chairman.*

THE HONOURABLE RAJA SIR RAMPAL SINGH, K.C.I.E.

THE HONOURABLE SIR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER, KT.

THE HONOURABLE SIR SANKARAN NAIR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARL.

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## COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Wednesday, the 18th August 1926.*

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

### MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Mr. Alexander Montague Stow, O.B.E. (Delhi : Nominated official) ; the Honourable Major-General Thomas Henry Symons, C.S.I., O.B.E., K. H. S., (Director-General, Indian Medical Service) ; the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali, C.B.E. (United Provinces East : Muhammadan) ; the Honourable Mr. Henry Tireman, C.I.E., (Madras : Nominated official) ; the Honourable Mr. Geoffrey Latham Corbett, C.I.E., (Commerce Secretary) ; the Honourable Mr. John Edwin Clapham Jukes, C.I.E., (Finance Secretary) ; the Honourable Sir Maneckji Byramji Dadabhoy, K.C.I.E., (Central Provinces : Nominated Non-official) ; the Honourable Mr. William Athelstan Gray, (Burma Chamber of Commerce) ; the Honourable Mr. Donald Weston, (Bihar and Orissa : Nominated official) ; the Honourable Mr. John William Smyth, (Bombay : Nominated official) ; and the Honourable Mr. Alexander Langley, C.I.E., (Punjab : Nominated official).

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### GROSS RECEIPTS OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

1. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will Government be pleased to state whether the gross receipts of the Indo-European Telegraph Department have increased in India from 1921-22 to 1925-26 but have decreased considerably in the same period in England ? If so, why ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : The gross receipts in India of the Indo-European Telegraph Department have shown considerable fluctuations during the five years referred to, but on the whole have not increased. The gross receipts in England increased from 1921-22 to 1923-24 but dropped heavily during the following two years. The drop in these receipts was due partly to the world-wide trade depression, and partly to the reopening in August 1923 of the line between Persia and Europe which had been interrupted throughout the war, and consequent realisation of receipts in India on account of telegrams sent to Europe "via Indo" instead of "via Eastern." It may be explained that receipts of this nature in India although taken into account in determining the share of the Indo-European Telegraph Department as a partner in the cis-Indian JOINT PURSE are not actually paid into the JOINT PURSE Account but are deducted from the share so determined in order to arrive at the balance payable in England. The receipts in India would thus normally have shown an increase during the last two years of the

period but for the counterbalancing effect of a heavy fall in traffic over the local systems in Persia and the Persian Gulf due to trade depression and to the withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

ESTIMATED LOSS OF RS 6·7 LAKHS FOR THE YEAR 1926-27 TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THE WORKING OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

2. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Is it a fact that the Indo-European Telegraph Company has declared a dividend and a bonus of 10 per cent. in their last balance sheet ? If so, how was it that there is an estimated loss of rupees 6·7 lakhs for the year 1926-27 to the Government of India in the working of the Indo-European Telegraph Department ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : The Indo-European Telegraph Company is a private concern and the Government of India have no information regarding the profits made by that Company. The Indo-European Telegraph Department besides controlling lines connecting the telegraph system in India with the Indo-European Telegraph Company's terminal at Teheran, control local systems in Persia, the Persian Gulf and Baluchistan. The latter are less remunerative than the former.

REMOVAL OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT TO INDIA.

3. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : (a) What action, if any, have the Government taken on the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee that the control of the Indo-European Telegraph Department should be transferred to the High Commissioner and the suggestion of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, a member of that Committee, that the headquarters of the Department should be removed to India ?

(b) If no action has been taken on these recommendations, will Government be pleased to state why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : (a) and (b) The Indian Retrenchment Committee did not recommend the transfer of control of the Indo-European Telegraph Department to the High Commissioner for India. The position as regards the future of the Indo-European Telegraph Department is as follows :—

Last year when the Government of India were considering proposals for improving the present system it was found that the information regarding the value of the assets, particularly those in Persia, and the terms on which they were held was incomplete. Arrangements were therefore made for the collection of the wanting information, and at the same time the Government of India asked that the general financial position of the Department should be investigated by the application to the accounts of the principles of commercialisation adopted in the case of the Postal and Telegraph Department. There has been a good deal of unavoidable delay in collecting the information required by the Government of India ; much of it had to be obtained in London. The complete information has only recently become available, and the Government of India are now considering the whole question afresh in the light of that information with a view to submitting their recommendations on the subject to the Secretary of State.

FUNCTIONS OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT, ETC.

4. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will Government be pleased to state what is the exact function of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, what is the work assigned to the Indo-European Telegraph Company and what is the method of distribution of profits, if any, and apportionment of losses, if any ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : The Honourable Member is referred to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Report of the Indian Retrenchment Committee under the head Indo-European Telegraph Department and to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Appropriation Report on the accounts of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year 1922-23 and to paragraph 42 of the similar report for the year 1924-25.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

5. THE HONOURABLE MR. MANMOHANDAS RAMJI : Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the agreement between them and the Indo-European Telegraph Company ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : There is no such agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PIECE WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

6. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state whether—

(a) any of the recommendations made by the Piece Workers' Committee, 1922, have been given effect to ; if so, how many and which ; and

(b) any recommendations made by the said Committee have not yet been given effect to ; if so, how many and which ?

(ii) In the case of recommendations not yet given effect to, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not giving effect to them ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : All the recommendations of the Piece Workers' Committee, 1922, have been given effect to with the following exceptions :—

(1) The distinction between permanent and temporary establishment has been abolished only so far as to give temporary hands who have rendered 25 years' continuous and approved service the same right to pensions as permanent hands. The complete abolition of the distinction would have made it extremely difficult to adjust the strength of the staff to the volume of work.

(2) The proposal to condone 16 days' absence each year with retrospective effect in calculating qualifying service for pension has not been accepted as it would have favoured those who had worked irregularly as against the regular workers.

(3) The provident fund for press employees has not yet been started, as the rules for the fund have not yet been finally approved.



EXPENDITURE ON NEW MACHINES IN THE GOVERNMENT PRESSES AT SIMLA, DELHI AND CALCUTTA.

7. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: (a) What was the expense incurred from 1922 to 1926 in the purchase and installation of new machines in the Government Presses at Simla, Delhi and Calcutta?

(b) Has this expenditure led to any economies and, if so, to what amount?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) Rs. 11,79,017.

(b) Yes. The expenditure in the three Presses in 1922-23 was approximately Rs. 28,50,000 and in 1924-25, the latest year for which figures are available, it was Rs. 21,00,000. The Honourable Member will understand that several factors contributed towards this very large saving, and it is not possible to say precisely how much of the saving was due to the installation of machinery. But that was certainly an important factor.

WORK DONE FOR THE GOVERNMENT PRESSES AT DELHI, SIMLA AND CALCUTTA BY PRIVATE COMPANIES BETWEEN 1922 AND 1926.

8. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: (a) Was any work, which the Government Presses at Delhi, Simla and Calcutta are capable of doing, given out on contract to private companies during the period between 1922 and 1926?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what was the amount paid to contractors during each of these years?

(c) Has the purchase of the machines mentioned in question No. 7 led to any reduction in the sums annually paid to contractors and, if so, what is the sum saved?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) The Government Presses are capable of doing all the work given to contractors in the sense that they have equipment of the proper type for this work; but they have not sufficient staff, accommodation or machinery to undertake all the printing work required by Government, and a certain portion therefore has to be given out on contract.

(b) The amount paid to contractors for printing work was as follows:—

In 1922-23	..	..	..	Rs. 5,64,241
In 1923-24	..	..	..	Rs. 2,58,868
In 1924-25	..	..	..	Rs. 2,48,886
In 1925-26	..	..	..	Rs. 4,67,868

(c) Yes. As the figures I have given will indicate, there has been a reduction in expenditure under the head "Payment to contractors". The machinery installed in the Presses mentioned by the Honourable Member was, however, purchased to effect not so much a reduction in the work given to contractors as economy in the normal work of these Presses.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE THAL CANAL LESSER PROJECT.

9. THE HONOURABLE NAWAB SAHIBZADA SAYAD MUHAMMAD MEHR SHAH: Will the Government be pleased to make a clear and definite statement with regard to the construction of the Thal Canal

- Lesser Project, which was submitted by the Punjab Government to the Government of India for sanction in November 1925 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : The main point for decision at present in connection with the Thal Canal Lesser Project is, whether, on the completion of the Sutlej Valley Project, there will be sufficient surplus water in the Indus to permit of the construction of the Thal Canal without adversely affecting the Sukkur Barrage Project as sanctioned. Before coming to a decision on the question whether it would be possible for them to recommend the construction of the Thal Project to the Secretary of State, the Government of India have suggested to the Governments of the Punjab and Bombay, the desirability of referring this point for the advice of a Board of Irrigation experts, and the matter is now under discussion with the Local Governments concerned.

#### THE THAL CANAL LESSER PROJECT.

10. THE HONOURABLE NAWAB SAHIBZADA SAYAD MUHAMMAD MEHR SHAH : (i) Did the Thal proprietors of Bhakar and Leiah Tahsils submit a memorial to the Government of India through the Local Government in April last with the prayer that the Government of India—

- (a) should sanction the Thal Canal Lesser Project without further delay ; or
- (b) in default of (a), should repeal the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Act, I of 1902 (Punjab) ?

(ii) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the action taken on the memorial ?

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

(ii).The matter is still under consideration.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM CONTAI ROAD STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY TO CONTAI IN THE MIDNAPUR DISTRICT.

11. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway Department be pleased to state whether any survey has been completed for a railway line from Contai Road Station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway to Contai in the district of Midnapore, Bengal ?

(b) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken by the Indian Government to open a railway line, at an early date, from Contai Road Station to Contai in the district of Midnapore ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : (a) Yes. A survey of this line was carried out in 1915-16.

(b) Orders have been issued recently for the revision of the engineering and traffic estimates of the line to bring them up to date. If they show that the expenditure will be remunerative the question of the construction will be reconsidered.

CONNECTION OF THE LOCAL TRAIN FROM MIDNAPUR TO KHARAGPUR WITH  
THE UP HOWRAH-PURI PASSENGER TRAINS AT KHARAGPUR.

12. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Is the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway Department aware that great hardship is experienced by the general public owing to the fact that no local train from Midnapur to Kharagpur connects with the Up Howrah-Puri Passenger trains at Kharagpur ?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway Department aware that the travelling public from Midnapore has to wait for about three hours at Kharagpur for the Up Puri Passenger ?

(c) Will he be pleased to state whether it is proposed to introduce more convenient timings ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : (a), (b) and (c) The Government are not aware of the inconvenience complained of, but they will take steps to bring the Honourable Member's suggestion to the notice of the Railway Administration.

NUMBER OF INDIANS ON MORE THAN RS. 300 A MONTH IN THE RAILWAY  
ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

13. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Will the Government be pleased to state how many Indians in the Railway Electrical Department are drawing more than Rs. 300 a month ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : There are at present 13 Indians including Anglo-Indians in the superior staff and three others are to be appointed shortly on probation. I regret that our returns which are printed in the appendices to the Administration Report do not show separately the Electrical Branch, and that the information required by the Honourable Member regarding subordinates is not available.

CONSTRUCTION OF SEPARATE CENTRAL RAILWAY STATIONS FOR PASSENGER  
AND GOODS TRAFFIC AT AGRA.

14. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to build in Agra separate central railway stations for passenger and goods traffic ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : The reply is in the negative.

ABOLITION OF THE ARMY CANTEN BOARD.

15. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Has the Army Canteen Board system resulted in loss ? If so, do the Government propose to abolish it ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The information desired by the Honourable Member is given in the report of the Committee which was appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Army Canteen Board, India. The report was published on the 8th May 1926, and a press communiqué was issued at the same time which explains the intention of the Government. No further decision has yet been arrived at.

EMIGRATION OF MOPLAH FAMILIES TO THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS.

16. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : How many Moplah families, if any, have emigrated to the Andaman Islands since the visit thereto of the Honourable the Home Member ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. CRERAR : None.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARS IN THE ROYAL INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE AT DEHRA DUN.

17. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : (a) What is the total number of scholars in the Sandhurst College at Dehra Dun ?

(b) How many were admitted last year ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) There are at present 76 cadets at the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun.

(b) 13 cadets were admitted to the College during 1925.

PROVISION OF A COMPOSITE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS CARRIAGE IN THE TRAINS BETWEEN AGRA AND LUCKNOW.

18. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Will the Government be pleased to draw the attention of the Railway Board to the need of a composite first and second class carriage in the trains running between Agra and Lucknow ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : Government understand that the proposal to introduce a through first and second class composite carriage between Lucknow and Agra *via* Cawnpore and *vice versa* is already under the consideration of the Agent, East Indian Railway.

REMOVAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SALT DEPARTMENT FROM AGRA TO DELHI.

19. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Is it in contemplation to remove the Salt Department office from Agra to Delhi ? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider its present central position and its nearness to Rajputana, before deciding to remove it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. E. C. JUKES : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I do not think Delhi is less central than Agra for the work of the Salt Department.

REMOVAL OF THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE FROM AGRA TO DELHI.

20. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Do the Government propose to remove the Central Telegraph Office from Agra to Delhi ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY : The answer is in the negative. I may say, however, that there is a proposal, which is under the consideration of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, to transfer into Delhi some of the circuits now working into Agra.

## PUBLICATION OF THE PADDISON COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

21. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Will the Government be pleased to publish the report of the Paddison Committee on South Africa ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : The matter is under consideration.

## PUBLICATION OF THE CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLOUR BAR BILL.

22. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Will the Government be pleased to publish the correspondence which took place between the South African Government and the Government of India, relating to the Colour Bar Bill passed by the South African Government ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : The result of the representations made by the Government of India to the Union Government on the Colour Bar Bill was announced in the Press Communiqué, dated the 4th June 1926. Government do not consider that it would be in the public interest at present to publish the correspondence referred to.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING SHIP IN INDIA.

23. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made with the scheme for the establishment of a training ship in India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : It is proposed to convert the R. I. M. S. "Dufferin" into a training ship and, with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, the Legislative Assembly is being asked to vote an additional grant to enable this work being taken in hand during the current financial year.

## LEVY OF A COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON SOUTH AFRICAN COAL.

24. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Have the Government considered the minority report of the Indian Tariff Board, regarding the levy of a countervailing duty of Rs. 1-8-0 per ton of South African coal ? If so, have they come to any decision on it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT : The Honourable Member is referred to the Resolution on Tariffs, dated the 17th July 1926, which was published in the Gazette of India of the same date. The decision announced in it was taken after careful consideration of the Minority Report.

## WELFARE OF INDIAN LABOURERS IN CEYLON.

25. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the grievances, if any, of the Indian labourers in Ceylon ? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to better their condition ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : The Government of India have for some time been in communication with the Government of Ceylon regarding certain matters affecting the welfare of Indian labourers in Ceylon, of which the introduction of a standard minimum wage is the most important, and hope to be in a position shortly to announce the result of these negotiations.

DATE OF THE ARRIVAL IN INDIA OF THE DEPUTATION FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

26. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI: When is the deputation from South Africa expected in this country?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: About the 18th September.

GRANT OF A SUBSIDY OR GUARANTEE TO THE IMPERIAL AIRWAYS, LIMITED.

27. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI: Do the Government propose to give any subsidy or guarantee to the Imperial Airways, Limited? If so, what?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The answer is in the negative.

REPEAL OF THE MADRAS PLANTERS LABOUR ACT.

28. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI: Do the Government intend to repeal the Madras Planters Labour Act and the penal enforcement of labour contracts?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The Madras Planters Labour Act is a provincial Act, and the question of its repeal is therefore one which is primarily the concern of the Local Government. As regards central legislation, the penal provisions of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act are no longer operative and the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act and sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code have been repealed.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO THE RETURNED EMIGRANTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA STRANDED IN CALCUTTA.

29. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI: Do the Government intend to do anything to help the returned emigrants from British Guiana, at present stranded at Calcutta?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: The Government of India have been informed that there are about 800 repatriates from the various Colonies including British Guiana who are living in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. There is said to be considerable discontent among them owing to the fact that they find conditions of work in this country harder and less remunerative than in the Colonies. They also, probably, find the social restraints of their class in India somewhat strange and not altogether agreeable. For these reasons they appear anxious to return to the Colonies. Government have no evidence, however, in support of the suggestion that there is any destitution among them, or among new repatriates generally. Almost all the returned emigrants now in Calcutta are said to have found employment in the docks and local mills and a few are earning rather good wages. The question of permitting such of these repatriates as can be assisted to return to the Colonies under section 2 (1) (b) (i) of the Indian Emigration Act (Act No. VII of 1922) is receiving consideration.

GRANT OF FREE PASSAGES TO EUROPE AND BACK TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

30. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI: Will the Government be pleased to extend travelling facilities in the shape of free passages to Europe

and back to all members of the Indian Medical Service, whether European or Indian ?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :** European members of the Indian Medical Service are already in receipt of passage concessions on the conditions promulgated in Army Instruction (India) No. 5-S. of 1925, a copy of which will be found in the Library. As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the grant of passage concessions generally depends on the domicile of the officer : but the question of providing Indian members of the Indian Medical Service with further facilities for proceeding to the United Kingdom on study leave is under consideration.

**CONSULTATION WITH THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE IN THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPUTATION.**

**31. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI :** Will the Government be pleased to take the Indian Legislature into confidence when selecting members for the South African deputation ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :** Government regret their inability to consult the Legislature regarding the selection of delegates, but the Honourable Member may rest assured that every endeavour will be made to choose men who are likely to command the confidence of both Houses and the country.

**STOPPAGE OF THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM IN INDIA.**

**32. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI :** What steps have been taken by the Government to put a stop to the cultivation of opium in India ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. E. C. JUKES :** Opium may only be cultivated in British India on behalf of Government, which controls the area cultivated each year. The area has recently been much reduced and will continue to be reduced in accordance with the diminishing requirements of Government.

**ISSUE BY GUARDS OF CERTIFICATES TO PASSENGERS TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS.**

**33. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the new rule introduced by the East Indian Railway by which guards are prohibited from issuing certificates to passengers travelling without tickets ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to cancel this rule ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT :** (a) Yes.

(b) No. In view of the large loss which Railways are known to incur by passengers entering trains without tickets, Government fully approve the action of the East Indian Railway Administration in withdrawing a privilege obviously liable to abuse.

**RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN LABOUR FOR BRAZIL.**

**34. THE HONOURABLE SAIYAD ALAY NABI :** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the article on Indian Labour for Brazil, published in "New India" of July 8th, 1926 ?

(b) Is there any representative of the Brazil Government in India to arrange for the importation of labourers from India for agricultural work in that country ?

(c) Do the Government view with sympathy the efforts of the Brazil Government to import labourers from India ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to say under what conditions and safeguards they are prepared to permit this recruitment ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON :** The attention of the Government of India has been called to the article referred to by the Honourable Member. They have not however received any official proposals on the subject, nor are they aware that a Brazilian emigration representative is in India.

As the Honourable Member is aware, under the terms of section 10 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, emigration from India for the purpose of unskilled work, which includes agriculture, can only be permitted to such countries and on such terms and conditions as may be approved by both Houses of the Indian Legislature.

#### STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY :** (Industries and Labour Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the information which was promised on the 10th February 1926, in reply to the Honourable Sir Dinshaw Wacha's question No. 42 regarding the abandonment of lands under cultivation by canal water owing to the accumulation of heavy alkaline deposits.

There are no alkaline deposits on lands under cultivation by canal water in Bengal, Burma, Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces, Baluchistan and Rajputana. The following table gives the necessary information in respect of the other provinces, viz., Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, the Punjab, and the North-West Frontier Province.

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of lands abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
			Acres.		
Madras ..	Guntur ..	Kistna Delta system.	62		The area abandoned on account of alkalinity is an infinitesimal fraction of the total irrigated area in the Presidency, and the stage of alkalinity resulting in the abandonment of land has not made itself manifest. The Madras ryot is acquainted with the means of checking alkalinity and the Agricultural Department has been taking measures to instruct him in the matter. The local Government consider that no special action is necessary.



Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of lands abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
Bombay (Deccan and Gujarat).	Ahmed-nagar.	Pravara canals	Acres. 4,934	14.5	<p>The local Government have investigated the question in detail. It is partly a matter of prevention and partly of reclamation. Prevention has proved here not to be difficult. From the beginning, irrigation is restricted to suitable depths of soil. Percolation from the canals is being greatly reduced by puddle trenches in the banks and by concrete or masonry lining in particularly porous strata. Reclamation has proved to be very difficult, however, owing to the character of the Deccan black soil. Successful attempts have been made by drainage which is the only practicable method known. But how far they can be economically applied over the 28,000 acres now out of cultivation is a matter of doubt. A great deal of money and effort has been expended in this matter, first by the Agricultural Department and later by a special Executive Engineer who has been investigating the problem for a number of years. Schemes for draining 3,000 acres of damaged lands have been sanctioned. Some of them have already been completed with satisfactory results, while others are in progress. Further estimates for draining all the easily reclaimable areas are under preparation.</p>
	Nasik and Ahmed-nagar.	Godavari canals	12,595		
	Poona	Nira Left Bank canal including Shetphal Tank.	8,249		
	Poona	Mutha canals including Matoba Tank.	2,090		
	Nasik	Kadwa canals	161		
	Nasik	Girna Left Bank canal.	100		
		Total	28,099		
Sind			Not determined.		<p>In Sind the areas out of cultivation are in patches, and have not been determined. The questions of prevention and reclamation coalesce, since in an alluvial tract, such as that in Sind, it is usually comparatively easy to wash out the alkaline salts from the soil to a depth where they can no longer do any damage or are likely to rise again to the surface by growing crops, which need a large amount of water. Rice is looked upon as a recuperating crop, and is so, provided the flooding which it requires does not raise the subsoil water above six feet from the surface. If there is any likelihood of this occurring, then drainage of the land is needed, so that any water above six feet deep can drain away. The difficulty in Sind is the provision of this drainage, and this is a matter which is being carefully investigated by the Government of Bombay.</p>

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of lands abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
			Acrea.		
U. P.			711	0.3	In addition to 711 acres already abandoned on account of the accumulation of alkaline deposits, 80 acres are also likely to be abandoned for similar reasons. Numerous experiments with regard to the treatment of <i>usar</i> land were attempted but without success.
Punjab	Ambala	Western Jumna canal.	250	18.8	It is not possible to give a precise indication of the future progress of damage from alkaline deposits but the matter is receiving the serious attention of Government.
	Gujranwala.	Upper & Lower Chenab canals.	9,562	2.6	
	Sheikhpura.	Do.	3,144	0.4	The following measures for the reclamation of alkali lands have already been taken, viz.:—  (i) Experiments on the reclamation of alkali lands were conducted at <i>Narowala</i> on the Lower Chenab canal in 1915 by the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, and they have proved successful. The method adopted was deep cultivation combined with surface flooding and lateral drainage and a very fine yield of wheat was obtained from land so treated. A full description of the <i>Narowala</i> Experiment is given in Appendix II of the Report of the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, 1915.  (ii) The <i>Bara Farm</i> experiments are described in the Report of the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, 1923.  (iii) The Chenab Colony experiments are recorded in the Punjab Revenue and Agriculture Department, printed proceedings for January 1913.  The measures which the Government of the Punjab propose to take for the future in areas threatened by alkaline deposits are as follows:—  (a) They will consider the advisability of confining irrigation to the kharif season.
	Jhang	Lower Chenab canal; Muzaffargarh Inundation canals; Lower Jhelum canal.	6,746	1.4	
	Shahpur.	Lower Jhelum canal; Upper Jhelum canal; Shahpur canals.	5,000	0.7	
	Gujrat	Upper & Lower Jhelum canals.	9,346	3.0	
	Sialkot	Upper Chenab canal.	8,276	178.1	
		Total	42,324	0.4	

Province.	District.	Canal.	Area of land abandoned.	Percentage of the abandoned area on the total irrigated area.	Remedial measures.
Punjab— contd.			Areas.		<p>(b) To free natural drainage lines from obstructions by notifying them as "Drainages" under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act of 1873.</p> <p>(c) To excavate and maintain by modern methods a scientific system of seepage drains and to deepen existing drains.</p> <p>(d) To encourage irrigation by pumps from wells.</p> <p>(e) To consider the reduction of the intensity of canal irrigation.</p> <p>(f) To conduct a large experiment on mole-drainage under the guidance of Mr. B. H. Wilsdon, Scientific Research Officer, Irrigation Branch.</p> <p>(g) To instal pumping plant where the country is too flat to allow of drainage by gravitation.</p> <p>(h) To continue scientific research on the subject of alkaline deposits and the allied subject of water-logging.</p>
N. W. F. P.	Peshawar Do.	Kabul River canal. Lower Swat canal.	410 8,470	1.01 5.63	<p>In the past, a certain number of artificial drains have been constructed and the natural <i>nalas</i> have been cleared. Starting with the year 1926-27, a regular programme of drain construction and <i>nala</i> clearance, has been laid down. Care is being taken to restrict supplies to those necessary to mature the crops. In the naturally well drained areas of the Government canals in the province, the cause of their being thrown out of cultivation is due, in a large degree, to the natural drainages having been interrupted by bunds or ploughing over for cultivation by the people themselves. Steps are being taken to notify as "drainages" all such <i>nalas</i> in the canal tracts as have not already been so notified, under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873.</p>

## MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

### PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I have a Message for the Council from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General. The message is in the form of the following Order :—

(The Message was received by the Members standing.)

*"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63-A of the Government of India Act, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State :—*

*In the first place, the Honourable Sir Phiroze Cursetji Sethna; in the second place, the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali; in the third place, the Honourable Sir S. R. M. Annamali Chettiyar; and lastly, the Honourable Mr. John William Anderson Bell."*

(Sd). IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General.

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### COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Under Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I am required at the commencement of the Session to constitute a Committee on Petitions consisting of a Chairman and four Members. The following Honourable Members have at my request kindly consented to preside over and serve on the Committee. I hereby accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, and as Members the Honourable Raja Sir Rampal Singh, the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair and the Honourable Mr. P. C. Desika Chari.

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS ON HONOURS CONFERRED ON THEM.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Before we proceed with the further business of the Session I should like to refer to some events which have happened since we last met. It is not only because it is according to precedent but because it also affords me great pleasure that I refer to the Honours List which appeared last month. It was a remarkable list and one in which I think I may safely say the Council of State has figured to an extent which it has never enjoyed in any previous list. It is hardly necessary for me to remind the Council that the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman was not only its President for four years, but he was actually the first Member of the first Council of State, and we are all ready, I am sure, to offer him our heartiest congratulations on the high honour which the distinction with which he has carried on his labours in another place has recently earned for him. (Applause.) We have also to congratulate the Honourable Sir John Perronet Thompson,—(Applause).—Political Secretary, on the Knight Commandership of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire so recently conferred on him. We tender our congratulations to two new Knights of the House, the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna and the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon, Jaffer, (Applause), and I would like also in this connection to mention the Knighthood which has been conferred on Sir Lalubhai Samaldas, who was until very recently a colleague of ours.

[The President.]

The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali, who deserted us for a short time but has come back to-day, has also gained an honour. We here, I think, feel some pride in the fact that he was selected for an important mission and that he helped to bring that mission to such a happy issue. (Applause.) He has also been selected for a high office though we regret in this connection that we shall be losing his services here after the end of this Session. I would mention also his colleague in the mission to South Africa who also has received an honour and who was with us for some considerable period in this Council. We congratulate also the Honourable Maulvi Abdul Karim on the title of Khan Bahadur which has been conferred on him.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, it gives me very great pleasure indeed to identify myself wholeheartedly with the motion which you, Sir, have made, offering to the various recipients of Honours who have appeared in the last Honours Gazette our hearty congratulations on their well-earned distinctions.

It is indeed a very happy augury for the future, I take it, that in every Honours List in the future our colleagues in this House may probably appear in large numbers. Into the merits of each of the recipients it is, I take it, unnecessary for me to enter, but whether officials or non-officials, the names that you have now mentioned to this House are names which command respect not only in official circles but in non-official circles as well. As regards the non-officials I may mention that they are well known figures in the life of India and I think they have well deserved the distinctions. Now, Sir, I cannot refrain from singling out one particular person on this occasion, for you have also very rightly added your own commendation to the valuable services rendered by him in connection with a mission which was fraught with the greatest difficulties. I refer to my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali. He was deputed to South Africa to help the cause of Indians in that Colony. That is a matter which comes within my portfolio, and I can assure him, on my behalf and on behalf of the Government of India as well, that his services in that direction deserve special mention. I therefore wholeheartedly identify myself with what you have said.

THE HONOURABLE SIR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER: (Bombay Presidency: Muhammadan): Sir, I find it extremely difficult to say how profoundly touched I feel by the very flattering words in which you, Sir, have referred to the honour recently conferred by His Majesty the King-Emperor on Members of this House hailing from Bombay. Surely, I am not vain enough to regard the honour as a matter for personal gratification and look upon it first as a gesture of recognition of the place this House occupies in the constitutional machinery of India, secondly, as a welcome tribute to the Bombay Presidency which I have the honour to represent here, for the contribution that Province has been making to the progress of this country, and, thirdly, as an indication of the apparent consciousness of the importance of the great community which has sent me to this House. Sir, I am sincerely grateful to you for the very kind and generous language in which you have offered me congratulations, and I only hope I shall prove worthy of the honour which has been done to me.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON:** (Political Secretary): I am very sensible, Sir, of the distinction you have added to the honour which His Majesty has conferred on me by your mention of it in this House. I am deeply grateful to my fellow members of this Council for their congratulations. I am convinced that they are sincere. I could wish they were deserved.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI:** (United Provinces, East Muhammadan): I beg to offer to you, Sir, and to the Leader of the House my deep sense of gratitude for the terms in which you, Sir, and the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah have spoken of the conferment of the honour on me by His Majesty the King-Emperor. I am deeply grateful to my Honourable colleagues for the manner in which they have responded to the references made. This is no occasion for making a speech, but I may just be allowed to refer to one small incident. I shall ever be proud of the six years during which I have been connected with this Chamber. I can say without betraying a secret that in 1923 I had the offer of unopposed return to the other place, but so strong is my attachment to this House that I refused to avail myself of that honour. I am deeply grateful to all my colleagues.

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ABDUL KARIM:** (East Bengal: Muhammadan): I beg to thank the Honourable President of this Honourable House for kindly making a reference to the distinction which His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to confer on me in recognition of my services not of course in this Council, as I am yet a junior Member of this Council, but in connection with my services as President of a District Council.

#### DEATH OF RAJA PRAMADA NATH ROY OF DIGHAPATIA,

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:**—Since the House last met, it has suffered a loss in the death of Raja Pramada Nath Roy of Dighapatia. The Honourable Raja was possibly not known to some Members here, as latterly ill-health prevented him from regular attendance at the meetings of the Council. I propose to the Council that I be authorised to convey to the relatives of the deceased Raja our deep sympathy with them in the loss they have sustained.

#### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

The Small Cause Courts (Attachment of Immoveable Property) Act, 1926.

The Government Trading Taxation Act, 1926.

The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Indian Lunacy (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Indian Naturalisation Act, 1926.

The Steel Industry (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Insolvency (Amendment) Act, 1926.

[The Secretary.]

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1926. ~  
 The Promissory Notes (Stamp) Act, 1926.  
 The Contempt of Courts Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Registration (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926,  
 The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Madras Civil Courts (Second Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Finance Act, 1926.  
 The Cotton Industry (Statistics) Act, 1926.  
 The Legal Practitioners (Fees) Act, 1926.  
 The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Delhi Joint Water Board Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1926.  
 The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926.

#### RESOLUTION RE PAY OF THE MINISTERIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MADRAS CUSTOM HOUSE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARI (Burma : General) :  
 I beg to move the Resolution which stands in my name and which runs as follows :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the ministerial establishment of the Madras Custom House may be granted the same scale of pay as is granted to the ministerial staff in the Bombay and Calcutta Custom Houses, or, in the alternative, that the ministerial staff in the Madras Custom House may be granted the same scale of pay as the ministerial staff of the Accountant General's Office, Madras, or other ministerial departments in Madras under the direct control of the Government of India.”

Sir, I hesitated a good deal before sending in a Resolution of this kind, because I thought that the time of the highest Council in the British Indian Empire ought not to be taken up very often with questions concerning the detailed working of the subordinate staff of the various departments, but I hope, by a short statement, to convince the House that the sad plight of the clerks of the Madras Custom House is grave enough to secure the sympathy and support of this House in their efforts to get a living wage. The proposition which I have brought forward for the consideration of this House is self-expressive, and it does not require very much elucidation. But I should like to point out at the outset before going into the details of the Resolution that the principles regulating the pay and prospects of the superior services have been set aside and a new set of principles and startling propositions have been laid down in fixing the scale of pay of the various ministerial establishments, and especially of this unfortunate class of clerks in the Madras Custom

House. The main principle which has been enunciated by the Public Services Commission as regards the pay and prospects of the services is this, that servants of Government should be given wages which would secure to them a living with such dignity and comfort as would keep them above all temptations and which would also keep them efficient throughout the period of their service. I believe, with some modifications and making allowance for the degree of comfort and for the degree of dignity which is required for the subordinate staff, this principle can very well be applied to the subordinate staff. In the words of Sir Thomas Holland, the crucial test of any service is whether the rates of pay and prospects are satisfactory, irrespective of the system that provided them. I shall crave the indulgence of the House to state the principles which have been enunciated, ofcourse not in any broad propositions, but as we find them here and there in G. O's. and in the reports dealing with the scale and revision of pay of this particular office. The main consideration which induced the Central Board of Revenue, I believe under the orders of the Finance Department, in dealing with the question of the scale of pay has been that the pay of these clerks ought to be regulated according to the conditions of labour and the conditions of recruitment in the particular province. Here I find it is too late in the day to lay down a proposition of this kind and to act upon the principle enunciated in this proposition, that wages ought to be regulated according to the conditions of labour. Now, Sir, what have you got in Madras? The system of education in Madras, as in several other places in India, has been such as to send out vast hordes of young men who are qualified only for the clerical profession. No doubt, recently attempts are being made to improve the system of education, but, as it is, we have to take note of the fact that the system of education which has been prevalent for decades and decades has been solely to train up numbers of young men for clerkships and make them bear the hardest burden in the various ministerial establishments. But having created such a situation, having created a field for recruitment, is it fair on the part of the departments concerned or on the part of the heads of a civilized Government to take advantage of the conditions of recruitment which they themselves have created in this particular province? Of all the provinces in India, Madras is a place where there are certain classes of people who do not have much to lean back upon excepting by eking out their livelihood as clerks, and this is the principle which I wish to attack, and which I say ought not to find acceptance in any civilized system of administration. With these remarks I shall proceed to the details of the proposition which I wish to place before the House for its acceptance.

The first portion of the Resolution says that the ministerial establishment of the Madras Custom House may be granted the same scale of pay as is granted to the ministerial staff in the Bombay and Calcutta Custom Houses. To any unprejudiced observer it will be self-evident that people doing the same sort of work and turning out the same quantity of work and of the same standard ought to be paid the same scale of pay. It does not require much of an explanation to make this proposition acceptable to the House. Here are the clerks of the Madras Custom House who have been recruited to work out the details of the Customs law and procedure in every day life in the Customs Department; so also in the Calcutta and Bombay Custom Houses the ministerial



[Mr. P. C. Desika Chari.]

establishment is made to do the same sort of work, and I fail to see why the scale of pay given to the Madras clerks who do the same class of work as those employed in the Bombay and Calcutta Custom Houses should be different, unless you are prepared to attach any weight to the principle on which the scale of pay is fixed. Is it not uncharitable to say that because people are available on a small scale of pay they should be paid only low salaries? Is it not as uncharitable as to say that the usurer is entitled to his usurious rate of interest because the debtor in his sad condition is obliged to accept a loan on those terms? Here, of course, we have to take note of the fact that the efficiency and the general educational qualification of the Madras Custom House clerk is not inferior to those employed in the sister offices in any other seaport town in the various parts of India. That is the first consideration that ought to weigh in fixing the scale of pay in the various Custom Houses.

My second reason for asking that the scale of pay for the Madras customs clerks may be fixed with reference to the scale of pay in the Bombay and Calcutta Custom Houses is this. There is a fallacy prevailing that the cost of living in Madras is cheaper. Madras City may be unostentatious; it may look simple enough, but to those who have lived in Madras, who have seen the conditions in Madras and other capital cities of India, I would say that Madras is as expensive as any other capital city of India. I have got facts and figures from the Supplement to the Gazette of India and I would refer to the statistics published on the 12th July 1924 in that Supplement to the Gazette of India as regards the price of commodities or important foodstuffs, namely, rice, ghee, salt and oil. I have taken out only the necessary figures and on a comparison I find that for ten maunds of every one of these articles the cost in Madras is Rs. 237.28, whereas in Bombay it is Rs. 233.68 for ten maunds of each of these articles. And then another necessary commodity is clothing. Of course the price of foreign imported cloth is practically the same in all places, with a little difference, and people in Calcutta and Bombay have got the further advantage of living in an area which produces cloth and where they can get some little reduction in the price of cloth. Perhaps the wholesale prices may be less, but the retail prices may be the same as in other Presidency-towns. If at all, in Bombay you can get clothing cheaper. You may say perhaps that rent is higher in Bombay, but while that may be true with reference to the conditions prior to 1912, after 1912, the history of assessments in Madras City will show that rents have more than trebled after 1912. Though the buildings and the tenements may look dark, gloomy, and perhaps uninhabitable, the rents charged for them are exorbitant and there is no Rent Restriction Act or any such thing operating in Madras. And then, even assuming there is any little difference, it is more than eaten up by heavy conveyance charges which even a poor clerk has to meet in going to his office. Everybody knows Madras is a city of dearth and distances and it is very expensive to have a conveyance of the meanest kind. (*The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali*: What about bicycles?) I will come to the question of bicycles whether these people can afford to have a bicycle or even a toy bicycle. I am much obliged to my friend who has put that question because I am in a position to state without fear of contradiction that the class of clerks for whom I am pleading can never dream of owning a cycle without running into debt which they can never hope

to repay. That is the condition of the clerks for whom I am pleading. I am pleading for a class of clerks who start on Rs. 40 now, and, according to the revised scale which has been sanctioned recently, it takes 30 years for them to reach the magnificent scale of Rs. 90, that is to get Rs. 3 a day. That is the sort of clerk for whom I am asking your sympathy and support. I certainly would not have come forward with a Resolution if these people were given a scale of pay which was enough to purchase a bicycle.

It is necessary for me to give some of the details of the scale of pay which is prevalent or was until very recently, and the revised scale of pay, as a result of the Government of India's policy, which has been granted to them recently. Under the scale of pay for this class at the time, before the revised scale was granted very recently which has not come into operation yet under the old scale, there were 136 clerks, of whom 125 were permanent and 11 were temporarily employed for postal appraising purposes. Altogether there were 136 clerks and all of them have been confirmed. Before the revision which has just been given to these people, out of 136 clerks, 80 were in the lowest grade, that is 40—40—1½—55—1—65. That is they have to remain for two years on Rs. 40 then go on step by step to increase their emoluments, if they please their superiors, to the magnificent figure of Rs. 55; and here Government think they have got too much when they have come to Rs. 55, and so they have reduced their increment to Re. 1 till they get to Rs. 65. That is, they take 22 years to reach Rs. 65 from Rs. 40. That is the state of affairs with 80 out of 136 clerks. Thirty clerks get from Rs. 65 to Rs. 85, 18 clerks get from Rs. 85 to Rs. 125, and there are besides 6 Deputy Superintendents and 3 Superintendents. Now, in answer to a question put by the Honourable Dr. Rao in the last Session of the Council of State, the Finance Secretary was pleased to say that the Government have decided on an improved scale of pay. Those are his very words. I naturally thought there would be some improvement in the scale. But, instead of that, what do I find? Instead of there being an improvement it was a retrograde scale. Because out of 136 clerks the revised scale places 109 clerks, as many as 80 per cent. of them, in the Rs. 40—2—80—1—90 grade, so that they take away the benefit which this class had under the old grade of having a larger percentage in the Rs. 65 to 85 grade and the Rs. 85 to Rs. 125 grade. All these have not been benefited. And even those people who are getting Rs. 4 increments are to get only Re. 1 per annum hereafter. And then, besides the 80 per cent. 13 per cent. of the clerks are placed in what is called the Selection Grade of Rs. 70—3—85—4—125. And then we have got the balance of 7 to 8 per cent. as Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents, with reference to whom there has been no revision at all. It will be clear that the revised scale, which was given and which the Finance Secretary characterised as an improved scale, is certainly a retrograde scale, taking away the benefits which these poor clerks had under the old scheme. What they had was taken away by the new scale and these clerks of the Custom House are the most obedient set of people and people who never think of saying anything contrary to the orders which are passed. Fortunately, they have Fundamental Rule 23 under which they can take shelter against the so-called revised scale. One and all of the clerks have said they would be better off under the old scale, and they have preferred to remain under the old scale. That is the condition of affairs.

[Mr. P. C. Desika Chari.]

The scale of pay given to the Bombay Custom House clerks is not very alluring. I will not call it a living wage but only

12 Noon.

a starvation wage, at least in the lower grades.

I hope that that scale of pay at least may be given to these Madras clerks.

The second alternative which I propose is this. A scale of pay has been sanctioned for various Departments in Madras like the Accountant-General's Office, the Post Office, the Postal Audit Office and the Currency Office. If the conditions peculiar to Madras are to be taken into account, then the conditions must be similar to those of the clerks doing work in the other offices under the control of the Government of India in Madras itself, so that, if the first proposition is not acceptable to Government, the second at least should be acceptable to them. In support of this I would say that the general qualifications required of entrants to the Madras Custom House office and the general qualifications of incumbents in these other offices are practically the same. I do not think it can be said that the work of the Madras Custom House is less onerous than the work turned out by the clerks of the various other Departments which I have mentioned in Madras itself, and which are under the direct control of the Government of India. Added to this there is this further fact that the work of the Custom House clerk is more exacting and requires a great deal of tact in dealing with the public and they have to work at great pressure to satisfy the daily needs of the merchant public. They must close their work almost every day. That is the sort of work they are called upon to do and at the very outset of their career these clerks of the Custom House are required to pass a very stiff test in Customs law and procedure and the various Commercial Acts connected with it, and they are expected to have at their fingers' ends the system of complicated tariffs so that they can safeguard the customs revenue. They are actually employed in responsible positions and I would say that the nature of the work turned out by the Custom House clerk is more onerous than that turned out in the other Departments, like the Post Office and the Accountant General's Office, because very often these clerks come in possession of very valuable documents like shipper's books and papers, bill of lading, invoices and other documents which require prompt attention. Very often these people have to collect dues and have to be acquainted with the general working of the various tariffs, the general appraising of the various articles to general and specific duties, the different valuations, the classifications under the various headings as regards commodities and various other things. Many of these clerks are required to collect dues like the light dues, penalties and other things which require a high degree of honesty and business capacity. In these circumstances, I think the Custom House clerk is entitled at least to as good treatment as the other clerks in the Accountant General's Office and the Post Office. This is as regards the nature of the work. I do not want to belittle the importance of the work turned out by the other offices, but it is enough for my purpose if I show that the work turned out in the Madras Custom House is not inferior to that turned out by the clerks of the other Departments in the corresponding grades. So I submit that I have made out a case for giving the clerks of the Madras Custom House a scale of pay which is if not a living wage at least a starvation wage. That is what I am asking for.

That is what has been given to the Bombay and Calcutta clerks. Is it too much for me to ask that these poor clerks of the Custom House, who have been driven at one time or other in their lives to eke out their livelihood in the Custom House of Madras, should be given the same treatment as is given to clerks in other offices? Is it their special misfortune that the nature of this Department, namely, its being a chief revenue earning Department, should be a stumbling block to their earning a pittance, a wage which I would call a starvation wage? I do not ask for them any of those comforts which would be justified to them if the principles enunciated by the Public Services Commission are applied to these clerks. I am only asking for a living wage for them. If no argument is necessary to ask for a living wage, if it is conceded that in sanctioning the scale of pay in Bombay and Calcutta something barely approaching a living wage has been given, is it too much for me to ask that these poor clerks of the Madras Custom House, bent under the weight of debts, depressed and care worn, illclad and miserable looking owing to their hopeless and pitiable condition, should be improved in the light of recommendations which have been made by officials on the spot, by successive Collectors? From 1914 onwards successive Collectors have recommended a grade of pay for these clerks. I suppose they knew the conditions elsewhere. I am only asking the Government of India to give effect to these recommendations. If the Honourable Member in charge of this Resolution on behalf of the Treasury Benches is inclined to think that I am exaggerating the case in any way, I would request him to take the Council of State into his confidence and read the description of the condition of the clerks contained in the representations made by the Collector and more especially the latest representation made by the Collector as regards the condition of these clerks and as regards the conditions under which he has to carry on the administration. With these words, Sir, I move this Resolution for your acceptance.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. E. C. JUKES (Finance Secretary): Sir, I regret that the Government are unable to accept this Resolution. As the Honourable Member has told us, the pay of the ministerial establishments of the Madras Custom House was revised last year. I am not sure that the Honourable Member has entirely done justice to that revision when he stated that it did not constitute an improvement. So far as the lower division of the staff are concerned, at any rate, I do not see how he can possibly deny that an increase of the increment from Rs. 1½ to Rs. 2 and the maximum from Rs. 65 to Rs. 90 is an improvement. I still say in the words of my predecessor that considerable improvement has been given. The Honourable Member suggested that at the time when this revision was decided upon a definite principle as regards the pay of these staffs was accepted by Government. He is quite right. In making their proposals for the revision of pay, which were actually the result of a most careful and detailed examination of the rates of pay in the Customs Houses all over India, the Central Board of Revenue did examine very carefully the question of the principle which should be followed in fixing the pay of staffs of this kind. The principle which was finally adopted, with the cordial approval of the Government, was approximately such as the Honourable Member has described. The Government held that the main consideration in matters of this kind must be the rates of pay given to similar grades of clerical labour by the Local Government within whose territories the staffs are serving.

[Mr. J. E. C. Jukes.]

I am afraid, Sir, that Government cannot agree to abandon this principle in favour of either of the principles suggested by the Honourable Mover. Government cannot consent either to give the same rates of pay to all establishments performing the same duties, in whatever part of India they may be serving, or to give the same rates of pay to all the establishments serving in one place, whatever the nature of their duties. In both cases, it will be noticed, the Honourable Member proposes to level up rather than level down. He would give to the Madras establishments either the highest rate of pay given to similar establishments in other parts of India or the highest rate of pay given to the establishments under the control of the Central Government in Madras itself. The adoption of either of these courses would be grossly unfair to the tax-payer and would occasion considerable embarrassment to the Local Governments. In spite, Sir, of what the Honourable Member has told us, I do not think that Members of this House generally will be prepared to admit that the cost of living in Madras is as great as the cost of living in Bombay and Calcutta. Government, at any rate, are not prepared to accept this, and I think it is quite plain from the rates of pay which the Madras Government give that they themselves will not be prepared to accept it. Provided that we do give a reasonable living wage, we must in justice to the tax-payer refuse to raise our rates above the level which will suffice to attract the class of candidates required. As a test of a minimum wage, common prudence dictates that we should accept the figures adopted by the Local Government, which is in a far better position than the Government of India, or even an inhabitant of Burma, to say what is the cost of living in its own headquarter town. As a test of attractiveness, we are entitled to rely upon our own experience and the experience of the Local Government, and we have had no difficulty in attracting suitable recruits on the rates actually fixed. Indeed, as the Honourable Member suggests, we have in actual practice been getting recruits of higher educational qualifications than we really require. But on one thing I must insist and that is that it would be the height of folly to enter upon a competition in this matter with the Local Government. If either Government attempted to outbid the other by fixing higher rates of pay, the results would be nothing but ruinous. It would simply result in raising the prices of labour of this kind against both the Governments concerned. The Honourable Member's second alternative principle was to give the same rates of pay to all central establishments in Madras irrespective of their duties. At least I understand that this was his intention. As a matter of fact we are really doing exactly what he asks us to do by his Resolution, seeing that the rates of pay of the Customs staff are practically identical with those of the income-tax and salt establishments which are, in the words of the Resolution, ministerial establishments under the direct control of the Government of India. We cannot, however, consent to fix the pay of the Customs establishment at the level which has been fixed for the office of the Accountant General. A far higher standard of education is required for that office, which actually performs very different duties. It shoulders far higher responsibility. It is the source of recruitment for the whole of the Assistant Accounts officers, which bear the same relation to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service as a Provincial Service bears to the all-India Services. Finally, it is the actual source from which no insignificant proportion of the Indian Audit and

Accounts Service is ultimately drawn. The two staffs therefore stand on an entirely different footing. It is for this reason that, while we pay the Customs establishments at rates which are based upon the rates given by the Local Government to the office of heads of provincial departments, we base the pay of the audit staff upon the standard adopted for the Provincial Secretariat. I do not propose, Sir, to take this Council through a detailed examination of the duties of the various other establishments in Madras with which the Honourable Mover has compared the duties of the Customs establishments. Any such examination would be entirely beside the question. Government have definitely decided, upon the advice of the Central Board of Revenue, that they do not require for their Customs establishments clerks of higher calibre than are employed in the offices of the heads of provincial departments. Even, therefore, if the Honourable Member could prove to the hilt, and I doubt whether he could, that the duties of the Customs establishments are precisely the same as the duties of the other establishments which he has mentioned, all that he would be doing would be to establish an invincible case for reducing the pay of the other offices; and I imagine that this is hardly his intention.

There is another point to which I desire to refer before resuming my seat and that is the fact mentioned by the Honourable Member that the establishment concerned has at present taken advantage of the very benevolent provision of Fundamental Rule 23 in order to refuse for the time being to accept the new rates of pay. The Honourable Member has suggested that they have refused entirely. That is indeed one of the options which is given by Fundamental Rule 23. That rule gives, however, another concession. It allows any officer the pay of whose post has been changed to defer the acceptance of the new scale. It very frequently happens, in a very large number of instances, that clerks will benefit very greatly by deferring the acceptance of the new scale until they have reached one or more higher increments on the existing scale. I suggest that it is just possible that there is one other reason why the clerks concerned have not up to now accepted the new scale. It seems to me not entirely impossible that they were aware of a Resolution on the subject coming on and they thought that it might strengthen the hands of their champion if they postponed accepting the new scale. In view of the Honourable Member's intimate acquaintance with a great deal of the correspondence which has taken place, it seems to me that this may be one additional reason for their action. I have nothing more to say. I oppose the Resolution.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan):** The Honourable Member who has just spoken on behalf of the Government has drawn attention to the recent revision of the scale of pay of these subordinates in Madras. He has also drawn our serious attention to the great embarrassment which such increase in the emoluments of the subordinates would cause to the Government concerned. But, Sir, I feel that, in spite of what he has said, he has not succeeded in making out a justification for the invidious distinction which exists in the emoluments of the Calcutta and Bombay Customs Offices on the one hand and the Madras Customs Offices on the other. Sir, far from establishing any such justification, he has, though not in as many words but in effect, conceded the contention of my Honourable friend Mr. Desika Chari.

[Saiyed Mohamed Padshah.]

My Honourable friend Mr. Desika Chari has proved that there is not much difference either in the nature of the work done or in the amount of efficiency shown by clerks employed in the Custom Houses in the different seaports town in India. Now, Sir, it does not stand to reason that people placed in charge of the same offices and engaged to do the same kind of duties should be given different scales of pay. Unless, therefore, there is really some difference either in the nature of the work performed or in the amount of efficiency shown by the clerks, we shall not be justified in making these invidious distinctions, whatever might be our difficulties, financial or otherwise. Sir, apart from all these inconveniences and hardship that this differentiation causes to the unfortunate staff employed in the Madras Custom House, the fact is patent enough that, so long as they are denied their due living wage, we will be running the risk of making the ministerial establishment in the Madras Custom House discontented, and it will also cause heart burning and jealousy, with the result that they will not be able to discharge their duties properly and satisfactorily. Therefore, Sir, I whole-heartedly support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Desika Chari.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I support and oppose the Resolution. I support the Resolution because the Honourable the Mover has said that the scale of pay in all the departments which he has mentioned should be made equal, and I think he is quite right there, because the higher salaries in some of the departments should be reduced and brought down to the level of salaries paid in Madras. Though Madras is in a different corner of the Indian continent and has a different nationality, there is one thing, and that is, that conditions all over the world are generally the same, and what I have seen is that the salaries of employees in some of the departments are increased to such a great extent that sometimes there is very little money left for more useful objects.

The reason why I oppose this Resolution is this, that every Province has got its own means, and I think everybody should cut his coat according to the length of his cloth and each province should have its own way to pay its staff according to local conditions. For this reason, I oppose this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARI : Sir, the Honourable Mr. Jukes was pleased to say that the Government of India, on the recommendations of the Central Board of Revenue, have been pleased to accord a magnificent revised scale of pay to the Madras Custom House clerks, and he wanted to impress upon this Council that they have begun in the lowest cadre at the rate of half a rupee extra for a year during the period of 20 years. But he has not touched upon the other aspect that the higher grades have been so amalgamated with the lowest that even the benefits of these people in the shape of 4 rupee increments after a certain stage have been taken away. That is one thing. But if the amalgamation of the two cadres had not been carried out, there would have been possibly some vacancies, and I believe there will be 4 vacancies a year in the upper scale, and some of these people can go up ; but all these privileges have been denied to them, and after all under the old cadre they could go up to at least Rs. 125. Now, only 13 per cent. of these appointments are reserved for the selection grade, where one can get Rs. 125 if he is

fortunate enough and if he lives for the full period of thirty years, which is highly problematical, taking into consideration the depressed state of this class of people and the conditions under which they live.

Then the Honourable Mr. Jukes said that he is not in favour of setting up a competition between the Local Government scale and the scale of these establishments in Madras, and he has been waxing eloquent about the importance of the work which the clerks in the Accountant General's Office have got to do. Is he or is he not aware of the nature of the work turned out by the Custom House clerks? I believe I have explained to the House in some detail the nature of the work which the clerks in the Madras Custom House have got to do. They have to do not only the work of auditing or that of an accountant, but they have also to do the work of a person who is fully acquainted with the details of tariffs and with the various details of commercial enactments like the Merchant Shipping Act and various other enactments. Does he for one moment mean to say that the clerks in the lowest cadre in the Accountant General's Office do much more onerous work than the clerks in the Madras Custom House? I think his statement cannot hold water in the light of the work which these people have got to do. Then again he has alluded to only one office. There is the Post Office. Are the clerks in the Post Office doing anything extraordinary? Are they doing the same class of work which can be said to stand comparison with the sort of work which is done by the clerks in the Custom House in Madras? Is it fair on the part of the Government to come forward and say, "Well, clerks of the Accountant General's Office do a different kind of work, and so the others are not entitled to the same scale of pay"? I am only submitting that if the cadre of these people is equal having regard to the nature of the work which these people are doing in the corresponding offices, the same scale of pay ought to prevail. If the local conditions are similar, then the scale of pay also should be identical, because all these people are living in Madras.

He said according to the information of the Government—I do not know what Government is meant, I do not know if it is not the Government which has published the statistics, which has published the statements of prices in the Supplement to the Government of India Gazette—I do not believe that, when my Honourable friend said the Government are not aware of the fact that Madras is as expensive as several of the important cities, the Government to which he referred is a different Government to the Government that published the Supplement to the Government of India Gazette and the figures which are given there. If my Honourable friend wants it—I do not think it is necessary for me to take up the time of the Council—I will only give the pages if necessary for my Honourable friend to look for the necessary information as regards the expensiveness of Madras as compared with Calcutta and Bombay with regard to the necessary commodities. Honourable Members will find the information in the Supplement to the Gazette of India of the 12th July to which I have already referred, and in the 1922-23 Supplements, statistics were also published to show that, in respect of these essential commodities, Madras is costlier than either Bombay or Calcutta. I challenge the Honourable Mr. Jukes to show that Madras is not costlier than any of those places in accordance with these figures.



[Mr. P. C. Desika Chari.]

I would refer to the Postal Committee's Report as regards the expensiveness of Madras when compared with other towns. You will find in the Postal Committee's Report that Madras is not less expensive than any important centres. And then the Honourable Mr. Jukes has been waxing eloquent as regards the unfairness to the Indian tax-payer. I believe I can say with some amount of confidence that I have also got some feeling for the Indian tax-payer because I am one of them. If I do not feel for others in the same way as the Honourable Mr. Jukes feels for the Indian tax-payer, whom he unburdens of some of his excess wealth, I say that there is nothing unfair in giving a living wage to the poorest class of clerks. No tax-payer would grudge him that. If only the tax-payer had the necessary voice the defects would have been rectified long long ago, the moment it had been brought forward. Here I can understand the stand which has been taken by the Honourable Mr. Jukes because he is conscious of the strength of the Treasury Benches of this Council. This reminds me of what some of my friends in the other House told me the other day in regard to this Resolution. They told me,—I do not know if it is necessary for me to go into details—that I need not expect much of a success. But I am confident that the Honourable Members of this House will belie a statement like that and will show that they are capable of doing justice, they are capable of feeling for the poorest class of persons who are asking for a starvation wage, if not a living wage; that is what I am asking you to consider.

Then the Local Government's scale was very much appreciated by the Honourable Mr. Jukes in the course of his reply. I will tell you what the Local Government scale means. The Local Government scale was fixed with reference to the report of what is called the Salaries Committee. A gentleman who has been trained in that school I believe is the Secretary of this Central Board of Revenue. This Salaries Committee fixed the pay of these poor clerks with reference to jail dietary and famine rations. I would request my Honourable friend, the Honourable Mr. Jukes, to have a look at the Salaries Committee's Report, from which he will find that the salaries of these Madras clerks have been fixed from the data taken from the famine rations, data taken from jail dietary. There may be after all some justification for the Local Government not to pay a living wage. Does one wrong and one precedent of a wrong make another wrong a right? I ask in all fairness is the Honourable Mr. Jukes prepared to defend the view that, if the Local Government's scale is fixed upon famine rations and jail dietary upon insufficient data, upon unfair standards, having regard to the wholesale prices of foodstuffs and of certain of the commodities which are beyond the reach of these poor clerks, if the Local Government's scale is based upon such a report of the Salaries Committee, the Government of India should follow suit in the case of the clerks who help to earn an ever increasing and ever productive revenue in a revenue-earning department? Then, there may be some justification for the Local Government of Madras in giving this impoverished scale. Having fared very badly under the Reforms they have worked the Reforms in the best spirit. They, like other provinces, have been allotted rigid and fixed sources of revenue, whereas the Government of India have ever increasing sources of revenue. Are they going to stand

a comparison, are they going to base their expenses on a scale which the Local Government in its poor condition of revenue has been obliged to adopt? Is it fair on the part of the Government of India to compare themselves with this poor Local Government of Madras with its restricted resources? And then I will come to my Honourable friend's remarks about the income-tax and salt establishments. Yes, there have been memorials sent up from these establishments. I would say there is this difference between the income-tax clerks and the salt office clerks, because they are only 15 or 20 in number in each of these establishments and these clerks have got very many opportunities of promotion in the various grades which are very liberally paid in the higher grades, whereas these poor Custom House clerks have been denied all chances of promotion. So things are different. If the Central Board of Revenue has been tardy in recognising the just demands of the income-tax and salt establishments, is it a reason for opposing the just demands of another establishment? I believe the income-tax and salt establishments are to get an improved scale of pay too and that will be coming in after the scale of pay is fixed for this unfortunate department.

Then, my Honourable friend has been saying a good deal about office correspondence and all that sort of thing. What is there in my speech to show that there is anything about office correspondence? There is a *Customs Chronicle* dealing with this Customs Department with the object of securing them a living wage and a system of easy employment. Has this Honourable gentleman ever looked into the pages of this publication, which is intended mainly if not solely for the perusal of Members like him? I suppose not; otherwise he would not have said that these people of the Madras Custom House have chosen to refuse the new scale because they knew their cause would be championed here by a person who hails from Burma.

Then, as regards the differential scale of pay in the different departments, my Honourable friend has not dealt with other departments like the Post Office and other offices where the nature of the work is not different and where it cannot be said to be more onerous than the work turned out in the Custom House. After all, I am sorry that the Honourable Mr. Jukes has not taken this Council into his confidence by reading out the Collector's latest representation.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I must point out to the Honourable Member that he has exhausted his time.

(The Honourable Mr. P. C. D. Chari then resumed his seat.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. E. C. JUKES: Sir, I will detain the House a few moments only and that because, and only because, the Honourable Member has put to me two or three specific questions. For the rest, as far as I could follow him, he employed only arguments which I have already met. The two questions which he asked me were these. First, whether I knew the nature of the work in the Custom House, Madras. I am happy to reply to him in the affirmative, and to repeat what I said before, that the work of these clerks does not in any way compare with the work of the Accountant General's Office. He also twitted me with having dealt with the Accountant General's Office only and not with the various other offices in Madras. I took the case of the Accountant General's Office because it was the office which the Honourable Member

[Mr. J. C. E. Jukes.]

himself mentioned in his Resolution. As regards the other offices, what I said before still holds, that even if their work is identical with that of the Custom House the only result of the Honourable Member's argument is that their pay should be reduced and not that the pay of the Custom House clerks should be raised.

The only other point on which I should like to add one or two words is as regards the expensiveness of living in Madras. As regards the cost of living in Madras I am quite prepared to accept the views of the Madras Government, and I am not prepared to accept the view of the Honourable Member, which merely amounts to this, that he is definitely accusing the Madras Government in this House of sweating their clerical labour. If an accusation of that kind is to be made at all, it should be made in the Madras Council and not in the Council of State.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The question is :

"That the following Resolution be adopted :

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the ministerial establishment of the Madras Custom House may be granted the same scale of pay as is granted to the ministerial staff in the Bombay and Calcutta Custom Houses or, in the alternative, that the ministerial staff in the Madras Custom House may be granted the same scale of pay as the ministerial staff of the Accountant General's Office, Madras, or other ministerial departments in Madras under the direct control of the Government of India'."

The motion was negatived.

## RESOLUTION *re* THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA.

THE HONOURABLE SIR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER (Bombay Presidency : Muhammadan) : Sir, the Resolution I propose to move reads as follows :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that an inquiry should be made into the development and the present position of the co-operative movement in India with a view to ascertain in what direction expansion and improvement are necessary."

Sir, let me begin by trying to remove from the minds of Honourable Members a possible misconception, if any such exists, as regards the object and the scope of my Resolution. At first sight it is likely to appear that this House is not a proper place for the discussion of the co-operative movement, which is the subject matter of the Resolution, inasmuch as it is a transferred subject and, as such, ought to be taken up in a local Legislature. As will be made clear in a few moments, I have not the least desire to trench upon the domain of Provincial Governments and Legislatures and wish to urge on the Central Government the desirability of undertaking an enquiry which it alone is competent to initiate and carry through usefully. In this connection I venture to express the opinion that, though we are all so jealous of such provincial autonomy as has been secured to the different parts of the country and are anxious to obtain more of it, this fact does not by any means absolve the Government of India from its obligation to perform functions of all-India importance, particularly of co-ordination. It is true that each Province has its own natural, social and economic peculiarities and must face its problems in a manner

best suited to its special conditions and requirements. An attempt to bring about centralization and uniformity or the adoption of a policy and measures which are calculated to produce such a result, would, it is obvious, be futile and mischievous. Though poverty and rural indebtedness are common to all parts of the country, and co-operation has, therefore, to face the same fundamental problem everywhere, it may be argued with apparent cogency that each Province cannot but pursue its own line of development in finding appropriate solutions for the difficulties with which it is confronted and the tasks which its special conditions impose. All the same, a little reflection will show that there is incalculable advantage to be gained from a comparative and a comprehensive review of the position which the co-operative movement has reached in the different Provinces so that the latter may learn, take warning and receive inspiration from one another and the movement as a whole may advance along correct lines of development. The co-operative movement started and thrived under the fostering care and supervision of the Government of India though its practical working was rightly left to the Provinces; and though these latter are now responsible for its progress, it would be too much to expect them each to set about the kind of investigation which can best be undertaken by the Central Government. Under the modified constitution which we now have in India there is always the risk of provincial isolation and narrowness, and the only corrective to this tendency will be for the Government of India to step in and render the necessary help.

That this principle is acceptable to Government themselves is clear from the fact that another provincial and transferred subject, namely, Agriculture, has been entrusted to a Royal Commission for investigation. Nothing can be more local and restricted in its nature and scope than agriculture, but the Government of India have always and systematically kept themselves in touch with the condition and development of that vital industry in all parts of the country without interfering with the responsibilities and the powers of the Provinces. The Agricultural Department of each Province is now carefully and patiently looking after the needs of its farmers and cultivators and doing everything possible to encourage improved methods and organization in that industry. Yet the tremendous importance of the basic industry to the well-being of the population has led Government to the conviction that a comprehensive enquiry is necessary to enable proper steps being taken to ensure the progress of agriculture in all parts of the country. I dare say that the relation of the co-operative movement to agriculture and the part it is playing in improving the lot of the cultivator, will be a subject that will be gone into by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. It should, however, be borne in mind that co-operation is no longer confined to agricultural credit, production and marketing and that the movement in India has now expanded itself into other paths such as non-agricultural industries, housing and consumption. The Royal Commission on Agriculture can, therefore, properly handle only one aspect of that great movement though I admit it is an important aspect. The point I want to make is that the co-operative movement is so intimately bound up with the lives and well-being of the mass of the people of India that it is a fit subject for the attention of the Central Government and for an inquiry at their hands. The proposed investigation may be entrusted to a small committee of experts and others who are in daily touch with the

[Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer.]

actual working of the movement so that they may find out the strong and the weak points and may make recommendations for the consideration and adoption of Provincial Governments.

It is not necessary, I feel assured, that I should go into the history of the co-operative movement or discuss the various questions which arise in connection with its present condition and immediate prospects. So many Members of this House are in daily contact with the rural population and its requirements, and they are aware how co-operation has been benefiting the agricultural population by providing the finance of their industry. It is now nearly twelve years since the Maclagan Committee made its enquiry and its report proved greatly helpful to all concerned. Much water has, however, flowed under the bridges since then and the time has surely come when we may once more take stock of the position that has been reached. We are now engaged in considering problems relating to banking and currency, agricultural development and the need of protection to indigenous industries and I feel the moment is opportune for discussing problems relating to co-operation. There is a good deal to learn from the experience of the different Provinces in the matter of the application of the principle of co-operation to the various aspects of the lives of agriculturists, craftsmen and the middle classes. To what extent has the economic condition of the people concerned been improved on account of the spread of co-operation? Is it desirable and practicable to establish a central co-operative bank for the whole country as has been proposed by some? How far has the evil of fragmentation of agricultural holdings been attacked and is capable of being remedied by co-operative effort? Is co-operative farming practicable and if it is, under what conditions? What are the difficulties in the way of our old handicrafts being assisted? How may the problem of the housing of the urban population be effectively solved with the help of the movement? These and other questions of a similar nature are demanding increasing attention with the growth of the movement and its success depends on their right solution. There are, besides, problems connected with the internal management and control of the movement, the loans, reserves and audit, and it is neither possible nor necessary for me to refer to them all here. Very useful information on these points is to be had from the reports annually published by provincial Registrars and some very instructive studies of the condition of the rural classes have been recently published. These are, however, calculated to stimulate rather than to satisfy the curiosity of those interested in the important subject. They cannot, besides, be a substitute for a comprehensive picture of the situation in the country as a whole, and cannot, therefore, satisfy the need of a thorough-going and connected investigation that will be helpful to all Provinces alike.

I hope, Sir, I have been able to make out a case in favour of an inquiry into the present state and the prospects of the co-operative movement in India and that my suggestion will meet with the approval of the House. With these words, I move the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I have listened very carefully to the speech of the Honourable Member from Poona which I confess has been very carefully prepared and well thought out, and I am sure also that those

non-officials in the country who are working in the interests of the co-operative movement will be grateful to him for the advocacy he has now given to the matter. While I cannot emulate the eloquence and the fervour of the Honourable Member opposite, I can assure him that I am actuated by no less interest in the growth, development and expansion of the co-operative movement in India. The question that I will now permit myself to ask will be whether the Government of India can accept this Resolution in the present form and whether they can take the initiative themselves. The Honourable Member has very frankly indeed told the House that this is a provincial transferred subject, meaning thereby that it is in charge of a Minister in each Province who is the chosen representative of the people who is responsible to the Legislature, who has got the power not merely for initiation but also for execution in respect of the policy which he wishes to enunciate; who has got the power to recruit and the power to control the staff employed in the department of co-operation. I shall merely follow the same line of argument which the Honourable Member has adopted, for he has anticipated, and very rightly too with his intimate knowledge of the Government of India Act and the various regulations passed thereunder, that he was treading on ground which he was not quite sure he was firm upon. When, therefore, we realise that this is an entirely provincial transferred subject, what should be the attitude of this House? The Joint Parliamentary Committee which examined the Government of India Bill laid down a very wholesome rule in regard to the relations which should exist between the Secretary of State in Council and the Governor General in Council and those who are in charge of transferred subjects. They lay it down as an axiom which I shall read for the information of the House:—

1 P.M.

“Over Transferred Subjects the control of the Governor General in Council and thus of the Secretary of State in Council should be restricted in future within the narrowest limits possible which will be defined by rules under sub-clause (3) of clause (1) of the Bill”, and in pursuance of it the Secretary of State in Council has made the rules. I shall not of course weary the House by reading the whole of them, but I will merely draw the attention of the House to the following significant portions which would give a clear indication as to how far the Secretary of State in Council could interfere with the administration of the transferred subjects in the provinces:

“The powers of superintendence, direction and control under the Act or otherwise shall, in relation to Transferred Subjects, be exercised only for the following purposes:

To safeguard the administration of Central subjects ”

—that does not arise in this case—

“to decide questions arising between two provinces in cases where the provinces concerned fail to arrive at an agreement ”

—that does not cover this—

“to safeguard Imperial interests ”

—that has no application—

“to determine the position of the Government of India in respect of questions arising between India and other parts of the British Empire ”

—that has no significance. Now, that being the clear and definite position of

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the Government of India *vis-a-vis* the Provincial Governments in the matter of the administration of transferred subjects, I ask whether this Council will be justified in accepting this Resolution. Indeed, my attention has been drawn to the fact that the Government of India have recently established a Commission for the purpose of investigating into Agriculture which likewise is a provincial transferred subject. But may I not ask in fairness whether the two stand on a similar footing? Do not the Government of India still continue to take their part, and a very large part indeed, in the activities connected with the agricultural development of India? Do they not maintain a large and costly establishment for the purpose of the conduct of research into the agricultural prospects of this country? Do they not control a large all-India service? Do they not maintain a number of institutions in India which are all central and whose object entirely is to cater to the needs and requirements of the agricultural population of this country? Am I saying too much when I say that for agriculture what is essentially needed is not merely provincial energy or provincial activity but something more than that? I take it that for the agricultural development of the country something like a co-ordination of effort is absolutely necessary. There is needed a spirit of co-operation between Province and Province, and above all, there is also needed a spirit of co-operation between the Provinces on the one hand and the Government of India on the other. Need I enumerate those cases in which the importance of a particular activity does not begin and end with a province? May I not remind the House of the fact that cotton, which is now such an important produce in India, would not have assumed the importance that it has done but for the help, the succour and the encouragement which the Government of India gave by the establishment of a Central Cotton Committee, by lending their own officers of experience to conduct the affairs of that Association, and by passing an Act authorising the levy of a cess for that purpose? Do we not know what part the Central Institute at Pusa is playing for the purpose of encouraging profitable varieties of wheat which yield large profits to the growers? Do we not know what interest the Government of India are taking to spread the better species of sugarcane throughout India, and have not the cultivators of sugarcane of late reaped a rich harvest as a result of it? There are numerous other activities of an all-India nature which the Government of India are bound to shoulder because of their responsibility in this matter, but co-operation from my standpoint stands on a different footing. There is no all-India question involved in it. There are undoubtedly local questions of importance which should be solved in the light of the experience of the local officers, and in the light of the difficulties which crop up in those localities, but the application of principles to the solution of particular questions cannot be all-India. Probably, the House is aware that in the Province from which my Honourable friend hails, they have recently established societies on a co-operative basis for the purpose of putting up fences round cultivable lands to protect them against the ravages of wild animals. There is another Province where this necessity does not seem to exist, but where the fragmentation of holdings has gone on a scale which is rather threatening the prosperity of the agriculturists, and there they have started societies on a co-operative basis for the

purpose of bringing about consolidation of holdings. There is yet another Province where I am told there are thrift societies so that the people who may be extravagant in their expenses on occasions of ceremonies and marriages, might be encouraged to exercise economy, and the object of these societies is thus to prevent extravagance on such occasions. I merely mention these instances to convince the House that the co-operative movement has its own peculiar difficulties, its own problems in each area, but it has no all-India aspect.

Then with regard to the necessity for an inquiry. I am afraid I cannot see eye to eye with my Honourable friend opposite. An inquiry by a Committee or Commission is called for only when there is a *prima facie* proof that all is not well in that particular department; there must be proof that the machinery is not moving properly, that all that was expected of it has not been achieved and that therefore an investigation into the administration of that particular department will be in the interest of that department. I am free to confess that, so far as the co-operative movement is concerned, the Provinces, I mean the Ministers and their officers and that noble band of non-officials who have whole-heartedly devoted themselves to the development of the co-operative movement, have, during the last few years, brought about results which stagger imagination. Perhaps my Honourable friend discards figures, but to one who interests himself in these figures no other conclusion is possible except that co-operation has made very satisfactory progress. I shall not weary the House by reading out all these statistics, but I will certainly begin with that year in which the Reforms began and when the responsibility for co-operation was handed over to the Ministers. I shall therefore give you figures for the last five years, beginning with the year of the Reforms, to convince you that all is well with the administration of this department. I will just convince my Honourable friend from Poona that his Presidency has done remarkably well during these five years. I will merely tell him how the figures of his own Province stand. In Bombay the number of co-operative banks in the year of the Reforms was only 14; they are now 21. The number of societies in the year of the Reforms was 2,571; they are now 4,126. The number of members in the year of the Reforms was 232,037; they are now 383,609. The capital of these societies in the year of the Reforms was Rs. 2,60,55,000, whereas to-day it is Rs. 7,11,67,000. This is the progress achieved in a brief period of five years in the Province from which my Honourable friend hails, and he still does not seem to be satisfied with what has been accomplished. Well, I shall certainly not weary this House by reading the figures relating to all the other Provinces. But I will certainly tell them how the position stands with regard to the whole of British India. As regards the whole of British India, during the year of the Reforms the number of co-operative banks was 360; it is to-day 475. The number of societies in the year of the Reforms was 37,264; to-day it is 62,894. The number of members in the year of the Reforms was 1,381,488, but to-day it is 2,394,724. And the capital of the societies in the year of the Reforms was Rs. 19,68,86,000; while to-day it is Rs. 44,53,07,000. May I not therefore congratulate the Provinces as a whole? May I not also congratulate the Ministers in charge? May I not justifiably congratulate the officers who have been working this department? May I not likewise congratulate those non-



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official gentlemen who have been giving their time, their energy, their brain towards the accomplishment of this object with the very satisfactory results which have been produced within the brief span of five years? If there is any need for an inquiry, I would ask each Province to search its own heart and ascertain for himself whether all that is expected of the co-operative movement within its own area has been accomplished or whether there are still any *laches* on the part of those who are working this department, and then decide for itself whether this is an opportune time for the conduct of an investigation. I shall certainly welcome any Province undertaking such an investigation. Indeed, only the other day the United Provinces installed a similar Committee of which my Honourable friend Mr. Misra was the Secretary, and they have issued a very valuable document in the shape of a report. If other Provinces feel the need for it, they are by all means welcome to do so. But what I would contend, and respectfully contend, is that this is not a question in which the Government of India could interfere—did I not say they have no right to interfere? They cannot take the initiative in the matter. They cannot compel the Provinces to do a thing which they have the right to do themselves. Is it therefore wise—will it serve any useful purpose therefore—if the Government of India should accept this Resolution? Will they be within their rights to do so; will they not be paying a very poor compliment to the Provinces, which, as the facts prove, have done their best in the interests of the co-operative movement within their respective areas, by telling them that we are absolutely dissatisfied with what they have done in the past, that we feel the machinery has not been working as well as we expect, and we therefore feel the need for the establishment of a Committee which will go into the whole question and find out what are the causes that retard this machinery and what should therefore be done to accelerate the pace and how best to cater to the interests of the co-operative movement in India? And, lastly, my Honourable friend has himself referred to the fact that in the terms of reference which we have made to the Agricultural Commission which will soon begin its operations, we have definitely referred this question of the co-operative movement for investigation. He brushed it away with a remark that it concerns the agriculturist only, and asked, what about the rest? But will my Honourable friend deny that the agriculturists constitute nearly 80 per cent. of the population of British India and that, therefore, when this Commission is going to solve the problem in regard to the prosperity of 80 per cent. of the people, can it be said that it is trifling work? Well, it is perfectly conceivable that, when this Royal Commission is making its investigation into the question, it may traverse the ground as much as it may like. It may make helpful discoveries; it may make very useful recommendations which may probably be of great advantage not merely to the Province concerned but even to the Government of India, to determine whether there is any need for proceeding further with investigations beyond what the Royal Commission had done. For all these reasons, Sir, I think the House will be well advised not to accept this Resolution because it is, in the first place, not within the rights of the Government of India and, in the second place, no case has been made out at this stage for any investigation into the working of the department which facts and figures show has done remarkably well and which is entitled to our congratulations.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, There can be no two agriculturists, who would not thank the Honourable Member for bringing up this Resolution. Being myself an agriculturist, I am very thankful to the Mover. Up to the time when this co-operative movement was started we thought that 80 per cent. of the population of the agriculturists was not considered by the administration that they were even living in this country. But, since this help has been afforded by the Government, we are thankful. At the same time, it came so late and the amount of money that was given was so small in the beginning that, though on paper it might be now shown that a great deal has been done, if you go and consider how many people there are in this country living on agriculture and compare the numbers put forward by the Leader of the House with the whole population of 36 crores of people, it is only then that you will be able to see how backward this movement is. My friend, the mover, when speaking of co-operation, I think meant co-operation in a higher sense also. He meant not only co-operative banks. He meant that these various provinces which are working separately should co-operate between themselves and see how things are going on. I think that was at the bottom of this Resolution that my friend has brought before this Council.

Then, Sir, even science tells us that nothing in this world is lost. So, I think this Resolution also, though some of those who are not zemindars may not vote in its favour, will serve its purpose. We are thankful to the Honourable Member in charge who has already said that he will write to the various Provinces and make inquiries. Up to an extent what the Mover of the Resolution has asked for has been met and, when the Agricultural Commission comes, it will be practically a commission of inquiry into the same subject, because, people, especially the agriculturists, cannot improve their lot when they have got no money. You might suggest to an agriculturist that such and such a plough is useful and that such and such a good breed of cattle is useful, but when he has got no money, what is he going to do about it ? We who are in rural areas see how things are happening around us. We see, Sir, that the lands of poor zemindars are mortgaged. There is no money in these co-operative banks, so that land producing, say, one thousand rupees may be mortgaged for only a small sum, and the owner has not got money to redeem the mortgage. Again, Sir, there are many requirements for which a zemindar wants money and the existing banks have not got sufficient funds to help him. We see things as they are. We do not see these papers and the statistics which are put forward to-day. These do not help us in the least when we want money and cannot get it. That is my contention.

It has been said that this does not concern the Central Government. I may say if Provincial Governments have not got money, they cannot very well use it. If all the money which is in England in sinking funds were brought here and put into these banks, that money would not be lost because Government are responsible and the money would come back with interest. At the same time, there will be more money here to go round. So, Sir, where there is a will, there is a way, and I think that if, like our friend, we go on knocking at the door, the chance is that it will some day open. When 80 per cent. of the people of India are the cause of the Empire being so

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termed it is an Imperial question. I think the House and the country and the world know that it was the zemindar class who came forward and fought in the World War, and were, I think, to a great extent a factor in winning the war. So I think it is an Empire question also that these people should be helped by the Central Government. I am glad, Sir, that the Resolution before us does not ask for a Committee but only asks for an inquiry so that people may not object that we are asking for so many Committees and that the Mover also has asked for another Committee. We in the Punjab have felt the need for money for the zemindars so much that we have only recently passed a law dealing with the relations between the agriculturists and money-lenders. I know of a particular case in which a man brought a scythe to cut his produce and afterwards, to pay that money, he had to sell all his land with the crops for which he bought the scythe. This law which has been passed there will no doubt bring some relief. Under the circumstances the money-lenders may not lend money sufficiently and it will be for the advantage of the Province in particular that there should be more money forthcoming from the Central revenues in the shape of these banks when they may be able to replace entirely the money-lender by these banks.

Then, Sir, there is an Arabic saying "Alqarz miqraz-ul-muhabbat" which means that the relations between the money-lender and the man who borrows generally cannot always remain cordial. We have seen troubles between the two communities in various places and it will be very much better from that point of view if, instead of borrowing from one particular community, we could borrow from our own banks. So, this question, though I cannot say it is of world-wide importance, is of greater Imperial importance than anything else. For these reasons, Sir, I will ask the House at any rate to support the underlying principle of the Resolution brought forward by my Honourable friend.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadian) :** Sir, the object of the Honourable Mover of the Resolution is a very noble one and I think it ought to have our general support. But in the face of the facts explained by the Honourable the Leader of the House I would suggest that the subject matter of this Resolution be referred to the Royal Commission on Agriculture, and for that purpose, Sir, in case I am permitted, I wish to move an amendment in the form

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Royal Commission on Agriculture be asked to inquire, etc."

or

"That this matter may be referred to the Royal Commission on Agriculture to inquire into the development and the present position of the co-operative movement with a view to ascertain in what direction expansion and improvement are necessary."

I think, Sir, that by that the noble object behind the Mover's Resolution will be served.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** I am afraid I am not quite able to follow the amendment proposed by the Honourable Member.

(The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das then handed in his amendment to the Honourable the President.)

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** The Honourable Member has simply handed me certain words. How does he propose to fit them in to the Resolution?

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** My amendment will run thus :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the question of an inquiry into the development and the present position of the co-operative movement in India with a view to ascertain in what direction expansion and improvement are necessary be referred to the Royal Commission on Agriculture."

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** The Honourable Member desires to move that?

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Yes, Sir.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I think the amendment amounts to a radical change in the scope of the Resolution. The bald inquiry which the Resolution asks for is a very different thing from a proposal to alter the terms of reference to a Royal Commission. I am afraid I cannot allow the Honourable Member to move that as an amendment to the substantive Resolution.

**THE HONOURABLE LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** In that case I might say that the subject matter of this Resolution may be referred to the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I have already said that the Honourable Member would not be in order in proposing it.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI** (United Provinces East: Muhammadan): Sir, I entirely agree with the Honourable Nawab Malik Sir Umar Hyat Khan that our thanks are due to the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer in having drawn the attention of the Council to an important question of this character. I should also say that I have very attentively listened to the lucid statement made by the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah to whom our hearts go out in deep sympathy in his sad bereavement which took place last month. Sir Muhammad has spoken under the shadow of a great domestic blow, but the fervour and the enthusiasm with which he has spoken are an earnest that whatever might be the magnitude of his domestic worries his devotion to duty will continue unabated. Sir, the marshalling of facts as made by the Honourable the Leader of the House leaves no room for doubt that, laudable as undoubtedly the object of the Mover of the Resolution is, there is hardly any scope, having regard to the improvement that has taken place in co-operation between the years 1919 and 1924, for an inquiry being instituted at this stage. That the Provinces are doing all they can, the subject being a transferred one, is borne out by the facts and figures adduced before this Council by the Honourable the Leader of the House. Then it seems there is a desire on the part of certain Members of this Council, again a very praiseworthy desire, that more attention should be paid to this subject than has been the case in the past. I do not claim that intimate knowledge of the subject which is possessed by the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer. It may be that more can possibly be done than has been done in the past, but we must remember that the subject matter had already been specifically referred to the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Sub-clause (c) of the terms of reference to the Royal Commission says that it will be the duty of the Royal Commission "to investigate in particular into the methods by which agricultural operations are financed and credit afforded to agriculturists."

[Saiyid Raza Ali.]

The words are surely wide enough to include expansion and improvement of co-operation. I think that, quite apart from the very convincing arguments brought forward by the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah, the reference of the subject matter to the Royal Commission has already taken the wind out of the sails of the Honourable Mover. My friendly advice to him under the circumstances would be to wait till the Royal Commission has had time to inquire into the whole thing and submit its report. When the report is published, the Honourable Mover will be in a position to find out whether the Royal Commission has given that attention and that care to this subject which he expected from it. If he thinks that the finding of the Royal Commission is disappointing, it would surely be open to him to bring forward this motion again and then undoubtedly he will find support in this Council, to the Members of which the subject is very near and dear. In the circumstances it is simply impossible to ask the Government of India to embark on a fresh investigation and to ask the Provinces to let the Government of India know in what directions expansion may be required. I therefore suggest to the Honourable Member that he should withdraw his Resolution to-day, and it will surely be open to him, if necessary, to bring forward the subject again after the publication of the Royal Commission's Report.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER :** I have listened with great attention to the speech of my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Habibullah. He has pointed out the good work that the Provinces have done in the past. I have never said a word that their work is unsatisfactory. I only asked if there was not room for further improvement and expansion. What has the co-operative movement done for labour? There is a great deal more that can be done for labour. Is there no great necessity of development of urban banking as most towns cannot be reached by joint stock banks? Have there been no failures in the different Provinces in the matter of co-operative stores and so on? I quite appreciate the difficulties in the way of my friend. I have no desire to place any obstacle in his path by pressing my Resolution any further if I can help it. May I ask the Honourable Member whether he can assure me that he will send the proceedings of this debate to the several Provinces with a direction to let the Government of India know whether they will agree to such an inquiry as is proposed in my Resolution. Is he prepared to do so?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :** Sir, I am able to give him the assurance that I will certainly communicate a copy of the proceedings of to-day to the various Provinces. He is asking me too much, or rather he is asking me to accept this Resolution in an indirect form when he asks me to inquire from the Local Governments whether they will agree to this inquiry. I regret I cannot do that.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR EBRAHIM HAROON JAFFER :** Under the circumstances I think my purpose is so far served. I accept the assurance of my Honourable friend on behalf of the Government, and, as suggested by the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali, I shall await the Report of the Agricultural Commission and, if need be, I shall bring forward this subject again. With these words, I would request leave to withdraw this Resolution.

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

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock, on Thursday, the 19th August 1926.