## THE

# COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

Volume I, 1933

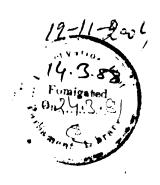
(16th February to 15th April, 1933)

## FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

# THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1933





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## COUNCIL OF STATE

## Monday, 6th March, 1933.

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

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CADETS IN THE INDIAN MILITABY ACADEMY DEHRA DUN.

- 120. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal Kalikar): Will Government be pleased to state:
- (a) The percentage of Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh candidates in the Indian Military Academy?
- (b) Is it a fact that the majority of the candidates in the Indian Military Academy are taken from the Punjab?
- (c) Are there any candidates from other provinces in India? If so, the names of the provinces?
- (d) Is it a fact that candidates are admitted to the Indian Military Academy on a communa! basis?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF: (a) The percentages of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh cadets now at the Academy are 20, 40 and 27, respectively. These figures include Indian Army cadets, but not those taken from the Indian State Forces.

- (b) The majority of the cadets, including three-fifths of those successful in the first competitive examination, happen to belong to the Punjab. If however the Honourable Member is insinuating that the results of the examination are in any way manipulated so as to secure a preponderance of cadets from the Punjab, I should like to disabuse him of that notion at once. The examination is conducted by the Public Service Commission and not by the Army and the results are accepted by the Army without question.
- (c) Six candidates from provinces other than the Punjab were successful in the first competitive examination and are now at the Academy. They belong to the United Provinces, North-West Frontier Province, Delhi, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur. In addition there are three Indian Army cadets from Burma, the United Provinces and Baluchistan.
  - (d) No, Sir

CONFERMENT OF KING'S COMMISSIONS ON VICEROV'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY AND AUXILIARY SERVICES.

12i. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Laia RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal Kalikar): In view of the intended Indianization of the indian Army and the Auxiliary Services, will Government be pleased to state if they are going to consider suitable officers holding

Viceroy's Commissions, who are above 25 years of age but below 40, for a direct King's Commission:

- (a) in the Indian Army Service Corps;
- (b) in other Auxiliary services;
- (c) as quartermasters of training battalions of Indian infantry, corps of sappers and miners, signal training centres and mountain artillery training centres?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The answer is in the negative.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS APPOINTED
CANTONMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

- 122. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal Kalikar): Will Government be pleased to state:
- (a) The percentage of Hindu, Muhammadan, Sikh and Christian Viceroy's Commissioned officers holding the appointment of cantonment executive officers both permanent and temporary?
- (b) Is it a fact that the percentage of Hindu officers is smaller than that of other communities? If so, the reasons for the same?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) and (b). The percentages are about 20, 26.6, 46.6 and 6.6, respectively. The selection of officers for this small cadre is made from the Army recruitment for which is not made on a communal basis.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: Will Government be pleased to state if any officer of the Indian Territorial Force has up till now been appointed to hold a Cantonment Executive Officer's appointment? If so, the number thereof?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I must ask for notice of that question, Sir.

King's Commissions for Officers holding the Viceroy's Commission.

- 123. THE HONOUBABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal Kalikar): (a) Is it a fact that certain Indian officers holding Viceroy's Commissions were given direct King's Commissions for their services in the war?
- (b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to adopt the same policy with regard to Indian officers of this class who possess the necessary qualification and experience?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) and (b). A number of senior Viceroy's Commissioned officers were granted King's Commissions just after the Great War for specially distinguished services rendered during that war. Government cannot regard this as a precedent.

now that Indians may obtain commission through the Indian Military Academy; and they do not agree that Viceroy's Commissioned officers have a just grievance on this account. It would not be in the interests of the Army to grant King's Commissions to such officers, other than those who qualify, as Indian Army cadets, at the Indian Military Academy. It would upset the whole scheme for officering the new Indian Army; and the officers themselves would have little or no prospect of promotion by reason of their age.

Non-selection of Cadets from Southern India for the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.

- 124. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal Kalikar): Will Government be pleased to state:
- (a) Is it a fact that in the last two selections and nominations for the Indian Military Academy, no cadet was selected from Southern India? If so, the reason for the same?
- (b) Were there any applicants from Southern India for csdetships ? If so, their names and the provinces of their residence?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Two candidates from South India were successful in the second competitive examination and will enter the Academy in March. One of them is a domiciled European and the other a Hindu from Coorg. No others secured the necessary marks in the open examination or were considered suitable for selection as Indian Army eadets.

(b) There were 22 applicants from Southern India for the July examination and 16 for the October examination. I am sending their names and provinces separately to the Honourable Member.

Scale of Pay and position of Officers passing out of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.

125. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: Will Government be pleased to state the scale of pay of officers coming out of the Indian Sandhurst at Dehra Dun? What will their position be with respect to officers coming from Sandhurst in matters of seniority and precedence?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Neither of the matters referred to has yet been finally settled, but I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué on the subject which was issued on July 8th, 1932, and also to the answer given in the Legislative Assembly on the 16th September, 1932, to starred question No. 308.

ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS TO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, DEHRA DUN.

126. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to remove the bar on members of the University Training Corps sitting for examination for admission to the Indian Sandhurst?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Honourable-Member appears to be under a misapprehension. There is no such bar.

Indians and Gurkhas holding the King's Commission.

127. THE HONOUFABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians holding King's Commissions and of Gurkhas holding King's Commissions? Is there any Gurkha King's Commissioned officer serving in any unit other than a Gurkha unit?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The number of serving Indian officers holding the King's Commission is 155.

There is only one Gurkha officer holding the King's Commission; he is at present on leave pending retirement.

#### GURKHA REGIMENTS.

128. THE HONOURABLE MB. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: Is it a fact that the Gurkha regiments are treated as non-Indian units? If so, why?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Gurkha regiments are part of the Indian Army, but have certain concessions, for instance, in regard to stations, for reasons of health. Otherwise, they are treated as Indian units.

Indian King's Commissioned Officers in Command of Regiments, etc.

- 129. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how long it will take for the seniormost of the Indian officers holding King's Commissions to take command of a regiment? Have any of them as yet been placed permanently in charge of a company or a squadron?
- (b) If so, what is the number of those holding permanent commands of a company or a squadron?
- (c) What is the number of Indians holding King's Commissions who are employed in staff or other extra regimental work?
- (d) Is it a fact that by the time these officers are qualified to command a company or a squadron they are shifted on to staff or other jobs?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) All that I can say is that at present an officer who is considered fit in all respects gets command of a unit after about 27 years' service in the case of cavalry and about 25 in that of infantry.

No Indian King's Commissioned officer is yet sufficiently senior to be permanently employed as a squadron or company commander.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There is no Indian King's Commissioned officer in permanent staff employ, but 13 such officers are employed extra-regimentally.

Important staff appointments are generally given to officers who have been through the Staff College and so far only one Indian officer has passed into that College.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

Resignation of their Commissions by Indian King's Commissioned Officers.

130. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA CHOSH MAULIK: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians holding King's Commissions who have resigned their commissions from the year the King's Commission was thrown open to the Indians up till now?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Twenty.

TOTAL STRENGTH AND CLASS COMPOSITION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

131. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYFNDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: Will Government be pleased to state the total strength of the Indian Army? What are its class compositions? What is the number of Hindus and the number of Muhammadans? What is the number of Muhammadans from the Punjab and from the Frontier?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The sanctioned strength of Indian officers and other ranks of the Indian Army, excluding reservists and members of the Indian Territorial Force, is 151,455.

The class composition of all units of the Indian Army is given in the Indian Army List, a copy of which is to be found in the Library.

47,368 Hindus, 22,828 Sikhs, 18,703 Gurkhas and 52,863 Muhammadans, including 41,720 from the Punjab and 6,847 from the North-West Frontier, were serving in the Indian Army on the 1st January, 1932. These figures are exclusive of reservists and officers and men of Miscellaneous Services and the Indian Territorial Force.

Adjutants and Instructional Staff of University Battalions of the Indian Territorial Force.

- 132. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the factors that govern the selection of the adjutant and the instructional staff of the University Battalions of the Indian Territorial Force?
- (b) Is it a fact that the nature of the work of the adjutant in such a battalion is quite different from that in the regular battalions?
- (c) Has it been represented to Government that in provinces which have not got much military traditions in the near past special care has to be taken to awaken an interest in soldiering in the hearts of the university students that some of these officers holding adjutants' posts in these battalions have not taken much trouble or shown any keenness to make the experiment a success and that in consequence thereof some of the units have considerably deteriorated?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Adjutants of University Training Corps are normally selected from the regular officers of

those Indian infantry regiments to which no units of the Indian Territorial Force are affiliated. They must have passed their final retention examination and be eligible for extra-regimental appointment. They are also required to show that they are capable of performing the duties of quartermaster and adjutant.

As regards the instructional staff, the Honourable Member is referred to paragraphs 12 and 13 of Appendix XII of the Regulations for the Indian Territorial Force.

- (b) No, Sir; there is no material difference.
- (c) The Government of India have received no such representation.

TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

- 133. THE HONOURABLE MB. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (a) Will Government be pleased to state who are responsible for the training of the men, non-commissioned officers and officers of the University Training Corps Units?
- (b) Is the adjutant and the regimental sergeant major in any way responsible for the training of the non-commissioned officers and the officers of the Territorial Force? If so, what steps, if any, have been taken in recent years in the 2nd Calcutta Battalion, University Training Corps, for the special training of the officers of this unit?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state if any instructional classes were taken by the adjutant or the permanent staff during the last three or four years for the training of the officers and, if so, how many?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) The Officer Commanding the unit assisted by his permanent staff.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Government of India have no information in regard to the second part or as regards part (c), but I will have enquiries made.

PROMOTION OF OFFICERS IN THE 2ND CALCUTTA BATTALION, UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, TO SENIOR GRADE COMMISSIONS.

- 134. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that under the Regulations for the Indian Territorial Force the officers of the University Training units are all to receive senior grade Commissions?
- (b) Is it a fact that in accordance with this provision the officers in most; of these units have long been promoted to senior grade officers?
- (c) Is it a fact that the same procedure has not yet been followed in the 2nd Calcutta Battalion, University Training Corps? If not, why not?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) The procedure is the same for the Calcutta University Training Corps, but no recommendations for senior grade commissions have yet been received at Army Headquarters in respect of this unit. I am ascertaining the reason further and will let the Honourable Member know in due course.

## OFFICEBING OF PROVINCIAL BATTALIONS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

- 135. THE HONOURABIE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Provincial Battalions are to be officered by the men of the same province? Has this practice been followed in the selection of the officers both senior grade and junior grade in all the Provincial Battalions?
- (b) Will Government be pleased to state if commissions have been granted to persons not domiciled in the province? If so, in what units?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) The general rule is that officers of provincial units should be chosen primarily from those classes, which supply the rank and file and as far as I am aware, this rule is being followed.

(b) It would be necessary to address units to get this information, and I do not think it would be of sufficient importance to justify the trouble and expense involved. But if the Honourable Member will give me any instances in which he has reason to believe that the general rule has not been observed, I will certainly look into them and let him know the result of my enquiries.

## Abolition of the Manual Training Centre and Boarding House of ter Government High School, Delhi.

- 136. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:
  (a) Will Government kindly state whether it is a fact that to effect retrenchment in 1931 it was proposed to do away with the Manual Training Centre and the Boarding House of the Government High School, Delhi?
- (b) Is it a fact that in September. 1931, the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, sanctioned the proposal to discontinue them and that the Government of India agreed to stop them permanently for good?
- (c) Is it a fact that during the past three or four years the average number of boarders in the Boarding House including the boarders of the Government Commercial Institute, Delhi, was between 10 and 15?
- (d) Is it a fact that after the Chief Commissioner had sanctioned the proposal all the employees of the Boarding House and the Manual Training Centre were informed that their services were to be terminated and that the boarders being away on account of vacation were informed by the head master that after the vacation they would not get any place in the Boarding House?
- (e) Is it a fact that in September, 1931, the present head master on resuming his post insisted upon the continuation of the Boarding House and offered to run the Boarding House on its fees without requiring any money from Government?
- (f) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, in October, 1931, sanctioned in writing the continuation of the Boarding House up to the end of March, 1932, on the following conditions:
  - (i) that Government will not be required to contribute anything to its maintenance;
  - (ii) that the Boarding House Superintendent would not be paid any allowance, and would continue to work in return for the accommodation provided to him free of any rent?

- (g) Is it a fact that no money for the Boarding House was included in the budget, as the Government of India had agreed to discontinue it altogether, and that the head master did not obtain any permission to continue the Boarding House from April, 1932, till late in August or September, and that the sanction of the Local Government to continue it from April, 1932, to March, 1933, was obtained in September or October, 1932?
- (h) Is it a fact that to swell the number of the boarders in order to show that the Boarding House is making progress, the sons of the Superintendent, Boarding House, and one or two relations of the Head Master, Government High School, Delhi, are nominally enrolled on the list of boarders though they actually live with their parents and guardians? Will Government kindly lay on the table a list of boarders showing the number, names of boarders, names of their parents or guardians, dates from which they are residing in the Boarding House, and whether they are the boarders of the Government High School or of the Commercial Institute, Delhi?
- (i) Do the rules require that rent for the Boarding House charged in the shape of fees should be credited in the Government Treasury, and is it a fact that since September, 1931, it has not been credited?
- (j) What arrangements have been made to supply a sweeper and a watchman for the boarders?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: (a) and (b). Yes, but the Government of India's approval was only provisional.

- (c) The average number of boarders in the Boarding House including the boarders of the Government Commercial Institute, Delhi, during the four years prior to September, 1931, ranged between 13 and 18.
  - (d) and (e). Yes.
  - (f) Yes, with the permission of the Local Administration.
- (g) Reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. With regard to the second part the sanction of the Local Administration for the continuance of the Boarding House was given in August, 1932.
- (h) No, the Honourable Member's information is incorrect, but surely the Honourable Member does not suggest that bona fide pupils be not admitted to the Boarding House merely because they happen to be related to any members of the school staff?

The sons of the Superintendent of the Boarding House and one relative of the Headmaster, being bona fide pupils have been admitted as boarders. They are subject to all rules and regulations and reside in the hostel.

The statement containing the required information is placed on the table of the House.

(i) and (j). The Honourable Member seems to be under some misapprehension. The Boarding House is run on co-operative lines.

As the Boarding House has, under orders of Government, to be run without any cost to public funds, the boys have to contribute the necessary expenditure. There is a part-time sweeper and a watchman is engaged for summer vacations only.

#### Government High School, Delhi.

No.	Name of boarder.	Name of his parent or guardian.	Date from which residing in the hostel.	Student of: (1) Government High School or (2) Govern- ment Commercial Institute.		
1	Raza ul Haq	K. S. Ikramuliah Khan.	17-7-30	(1)		
2	Jamil Ahmed	Gulam Abbas	1-12-39	(1)		
3	Chander Bhan	P. Sri Chand	2-0-31	(2)		
4	Sobha Ram	Harnarain Singh .	7-10-31	(1)		
5	Abdul Rashid	Abdul Majid	1-4-32	(1)		
6	Abdul Latif	Abdul Majid	1-4-32	(1)		
7	Ali Asghar	S. Niazuddin	21-4-32	(1)		
8	Khurshid Hasan .	B. Md. Jan	21-5-32	(1)		
0	Hari Chand	Rizaq Ram	11-4-32	(1)		
10	Ram Parshad	Durga Prasad .	1-6-32	(1)		
11	Abdul Hamid		1-6-32	(1)		
12	Bashir Ahmad .		1-6-32	(2)		
13	Gopi Chand		6-6-32	(2)		
14	Shaukat Ali		18-6-32	(1)		
15 16	Mujtaba Ali	S. Mubarak Ali .	17-6-32	(1)		
17	Shan Same	D M-1 T-1	1-7-32 1-7-32	(2)		
18	34-1-1-11	70 100	10-7-32	(2)		
19	Chin Dankad	Down Down 1	22-7-32	(2)		
20	D D 1	On 11	20-10-32	· (1)		
21	Puran Singh	Mukh Deo Singh	1-11-32	(2) (2)		
22	Banarsi Dasa	Behari Lall	1-11-32	(1)		
23	Gobind Sahai	P. Behari Lall	4-12-32	$\langle \hat{\mathbf{z}} \rangle$		
24	Mahadeo Parshad	Bhani Lal	5-12-32	$(\overline{1})$		

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, ETC., OF THE BOARDING HOUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, DELHI.

- 137. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:
  (a) Will Government kindly lay on the table of this House information showing the rate of monthly fee, the total income from fees for every month and the number of boarders in each month since September, 1931, and also the monthly expenditure showing the number, names and pay of each servant since September, 1931?
- (b) Has the Head Master, Government High School, Delhi, ever obtained any sanction for such expenses from the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, or does he obtain it every month? If so, will Government lay a copy or copies of the order of sanction on the table of the House? If not, did the Superintendent of Education ever object to this procedure of the Head Master? If not, why?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: (a) Regarding rate of monthly fees, the Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to (i) and (j) of his question No. 136.

A statement giving income and expenditure and the number of boarders from September, 1931, to January, 1933, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The Honourable Member seems to be under some misapprehension. In view of the Government orders the question of sanction does not arise, because the servant would not be a Government servant, but the boarders' employee like cooks and kahars in school boarding houses who are not paid by Government. For other petty requirements formerly met from contingencies and now from contributions of boys, the question of obtaining the sanction of the Superintendent of Education does not arise, since the head master has already been permitted to run the hostel without any expense to Government.

#### GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, DELHI.

#### Boarding House.

		Income and Expenditure.							Servente'	
Month and year.		Income.		No. of boarders.	Expenses.			names other than cooks and kahars and pay.		
•			were summ Gover	ree er am	va va ent	st and Sep ed togethe cation and c Treasury in	r before	to t 193	he	
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September, 1931 October, 1931	•	•	Credited 7	0	o 0	Governmen 11	t freasu	гу. 8	0	There are
November, 1931	•	•	ģ	ŏ	ŏ	15	9	A	ň	servants other
December, 1931	•	•	10	ŏ	ŏ	18	Ni	•	U	than cooks
January, 1932 .	•	•	īĭ	ŏ	ŏ	19	8	7	0	and kahars.
February, 1932			10	8:	Ŏ.	18		14	ŏ	
March, 1932 .		•	7	8	Ō	17	N	ī.	•	
April, 1932 .			7	8	0	13	11	4	0	
May, 1932 .			7	0	0	14	10		6	
June, 1932 .	•		13	0	0	21	3	8	0	
July, 1932 .	•	•	14	8	0	25	12	6.		1
August, 1932	•	•	25	0	0	23	16	0	9	
September, 1932	•	•	10.	^	^	15	10	0	0 6	İ
October, 1932 . November, 1932	•	•	12 15		0	18 23	4 14	7 2	0	}
December, 1932	•	•	16	ŏ	ŏ	25		10	0	
January, 1933 .	:	•	16	ŏ	ě	24 24	13	ŏ	ŏ	
Total	•	•	181	0	0		141	4	0	Balance 39 12 0

Note.—No regular servant has been employed for want of funds. Only during the summer vacation one man was temporarily engaged to look after the hostel at Rs. 100 per mensem and was paid from the fund contributed by the boys for the maintenance of the hostel.

Rate of monthly contribution is annea eight per boarder of the High School and Re. 1 per boarder of the Commercial Institute.

#### INTER-EMPIRE ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE.

- 138. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to Reuter's Press Communiqué from Ottawa, dated 14th January, published in the columns of the Times of India of 16th January, indicating the holding of a Conference in London to consider further details of economic co-operation within the Empire as provided in one of the concluding resolutions of the Ottawa Conference?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the details concerning the programme of the proposed Conference and the date on which it is proposed to be called?
- (c) Will Government be further pleased to state whether they intendesending a delegation from India to London to participate in that Conference?
- (d) If the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table information regarding the personnel of the delegation and any instructions issued to it or proposed to be issued relating to questions to be discussed in London?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: (a) The Government of India. have seen the press telegram referred to.

- (b) The Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa last year accepted as recommendation that a Committee should be set up consisting of not more than two representatives of each of the participating Governments to examine and report on the whole question of economic consultation with and cooperation between the several Governments of the British Commonwealth. This Committee has recently been set up and is reported to have held its first meeting in London on the 14th February last.
- (c) and (d). Sir Atul Chatterjee and Sir Padamji Ginwala have been nominated as India's representatives on the Committee and they are being assisted by Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, Indian Trade Commissioner in London. The Government of India have not considered it necessary to give any specific instructions to their representatives at this stage.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

#### RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: Will the Government be pleased to state the present position in regard to the release of political prisoners?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: Sir, I have nothing to add to the statement made both by the Honourable the Home Member in the Legislative Assembly and to that of the Secretary of State to which I referred in reply to the Honourable Rai Bahadur Mathura Prasad Mehrotra's question on Saturday. That statement concisely, summed up the policy of Government. Government have in no way changed their policy as there enunciated and I should like to make it clear that there is no foundation for the rumours suggesting the contrary that have recently been appearing in the press, of which a telegram reporting an article in the Sunday Times of London of yesterday may be taken as typical.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL.

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THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before we proceed with our work today I feel certain that the Honourable Members of this Council would like me to convey their congratulations to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his being raised to the exalted and eminent rank of Field Marshal. His Excellency richly deserves this honour having rendered unique and meritorious services not only at headquarters but in Palestine and in the He is not only an eminent soldier but a great strategist and a great organiser. His reputation both in England and in this country stands very high. He has been with us now nearly three years and I may say without hesitation that he has rendered valuable services to India also. You are all aware with what zeal and alacrity he has reduced the military expenditure by nearly 4 crores this year and if we compare the figures of this year's budget with those of 1931-32 and if you compare them with the estimates of next year's budget you will find a decrease of nearly 5 78 crores. It is a wonderful achievement of which any Commander-in-Chief may be justly proud. He has also taken a conspicuous part in the Indianization of the Army in India consistently with the opportunities which he had and with the resources at his disposal. The other day only we received the welcome news, when the Indian Marine Bill was before us, and he unhesitatingly promised the Council that in the Naval Service the Indian element will be predominant and also if the Reserve service is established there will be more Indians than British. We are all grateful to His Excellency for the sympathy which he has displayed towards the Indian cause. I will on behalf of you all and myself personally wish Your Excellency a long life and that you may be spared many years to enjoy this exalted office and render with credit still greater service to your King and to your country. (Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Sir, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind words which you have used in alluding to my promotion to Field Marshal and my Honourable colleagues for the cordial way in which they have received your statement. I think it could not fail to be a matter of extraordinary gratification to any soldier serving in India that the first official congratulation should come to him from an Indian Assembly in which he has the honour to sit himself, and in addition, I would like to say how much I feel that I owe my promotion to the magnificent condition in which your Indian Army is at the present moment. I cannot say how deeply I feel that that is the case and how proud I am to command an army which without doubt is the finest army which exists under one command at the present day. I thank you. (Applause.)

(The Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal Kalikar, in whose name stood the first Resolution\*, was not present when his name was called by the Honourable the President.)

<sup>\*&</sup>quot;This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to issue immediate instructions to all the Provincial Governments concerned to release Mahatma Gandhi and all political prisoners with a view to obtain their co-operation for the smooth working of the future reformed constitution."

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I do not propose to move this Resolution\* today as I have received an assurance from Government that I will be given time to move it in this session at a later stage on a day usually allotted for official business.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal: Muhammadan): Sir, in view of the clear and unequivocal statement made by Sir Harry Haig, Home Member, in the other House and also corroborated by my Honourable friend Mr. Hallett opposite regarding the situation of political prisoners and also because of the recent development, the object which prompted me——

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. If the Honourable Member is not moving the Resolution, he is not entitled to make a speech.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: One word, Sir.—prompted me to put this motion down. I, with your permission, Sir, beg to withdraw the Resolution.+

RESOLUTION RE REFERENCE OF IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT BILLS TO JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES OF BOTH CHAMBERS.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to direct the Government Members in charge of important Bills to move for reference of their Bills to joint select committees of the two Chambers."

Sir, in moving this Resolution, I have not got to make either a long speech or to give the practice and privileges of second Chambers in different parts of the world, because my task has been greatly lightened by the fact that I am not asking the Government to do something for which no precedent exists. With the Government of India, in the former days at least, precedent used to count for much, and in this case, my hands have been strengthened by the fact that the Government during the first days of the new reforms in 1921 referred five Bills to joint select committees of the two Chambers. It will perhaps come as a surprise to most of the Members that even the Indian Finance Bill of that year was referred to a joint committee of the two Houses. In the next year, six Bills were referred to joint select committees of the two Chambers. This practice would have continued and there would not have been anything for me to complain of or to bring forward this Resolution had not the Swarajists in the Assembly disturbed the equanimity of the Government. Even then, the Government continued to be firm. Even in the first Swarajist Assembly, every year Bills were referred to joint committees. Only in 1926

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to introduce legislation without delay empowering the Government of India to take prompt executive action, when necessary, to protect indigenous industries against import of goods from foreign countries, which on account of depreciated exchanges, bounties, subsidies, or other artificial circumstances, may be sold in India, at prices detrimental to indigenous industry."

<sup>† &</sup>quot;This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to release (1) Mr. Gandhi, (2) Maulana Mufti Kifayatullah, (3) Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and (4) other political prisoners of non-violence, who have not been convicted for terrorist activities in India."

#### ₹20.

#### [Mr. Hossain Imam.]

was a motion for reference to a joint committee withdrawn. It was not defeated by the Assemblywalas, but the Government thought it wise not to alienate the Assembly, and more as a matter of compromise they withdrew their motion for a joint committee and brought forward a motion for reference to a select committee of the Assembly only. But this was not taken by the Government as a precedent. They still persisted in this move of having joint select committees of the two Chambers, and in 1927, two Bills were referred to such committees. The last Bill to be referred was the Gold Standard and Reserve Bank of India Bill. When this Bill was moved in the Assembly, the only person who objected to it was Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. No one else got up to support his opposition. The result was that without a division the Government carried its motion. I should like, with your permission, to read a few words from the speech of Sir Basil Blackett to show what was the necessity of referring the Bill to a joint committee of the two Chambers. and how its non-use would deprive this House of a very valued privilege. I could not make this point with more emphasis than in the words of the former Finance Member of the Government of India. This is what he said :

"This House in no way infringes its own rights or gives away any of its own rights in regard to the examination of this Bill when it returns from the joint committee, fi it agrees to a joint committee. On the other hand, owing to the rule that a select committee cannot be appointed by one House if there has already been a select committee on that Bill in another House, a motion for a select committee in this House deprives the other Chamber of any power of examining this Bill in a Committee. The constitution intentionally gave special representation in the other place to representatives of commercial and industrial interests, and it is most desirable that when an opportunity arises of taking advantage of those who have special knowledge, it should be used. Government are unable to accept the suggestion of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta that they should withdraw this motion, and they very much trust that the House will see that in its own interest and in the interest of the country it is desirable that it should be referred to a committee fully representative of every one in the matter".

After making this exposition of the policy of the Government it seems strange that the Government should give up the practice. I can only account for this by the fact that the elder House did not assert itself and that the Government wanted to have a quiet time and rather than please a body of persons who did not care for anything, they must have thought what was the use of displeasing the other body who are very much active in guarding their own rights and interests. At the present moment equity does not prevail much. Although it may be said that the Great War refuted the idea of might being right, I still believe that to a very great extent people still follow the principle that was enunciated by the Germans that might is right. If this House had asserted its right, this practice would not have gone into disuse. I do not wish either to make the position of the Government difficult nor do I wish to place the Assembly in any way in the wrong. I have purposely said that important Bills should be referred to joint committees. The word "important" can be variously interpreted. I leave the choice to the Government although I do not say that I will accept that the Government's choice has been the right one. They might refer to us Bills of a technical character or Bills of a controversial nature. When it comes to specific Bills, then we can say whether the Government was right or wrong in its selection. At the moment I am ready to trust the Government, not because I think that they will be quite just to this House, but because I believe the adage that half a loaf is better than nothing. I could, Sir, have dilated on the fact that this practice exists in other parts of the world. Even in the British House of Commons important Bills are referred to joint committees of the two Houses.

The fact that in the early days of the Reforms the Government themselves utilised this provision in rule 42 of the Indian Rules of Business and referred a number of Bills to a joint committee of the two Houses is proof enough that no technical objection stands in the way. If the practice has fallen into disuse it is probably because this House has not insisted on its full rights and We felt this defect when the Press Bill was referred only to a committee of the Assembly, and when I brought in a motion here to refer the Bill to a select committee it was I think rejected here. The reason why I have brought this Resolution is that during the Ottawa Bill discussions there was a great feeling on all sides of this House that Bills of that nature should be referred to joint committees. At that time I had occasion to study the rules and regulations in the matter and I found that it was a very practicable proposition. But the hands of Government were fettered by the fact that there is a suspicion on the part of the other House that whenever the Council of State is brought in on a select committee the purpose is to strengthen the hands of Government. For that reason Government Members were unwilling to bring in motions for reference of Bills to joint select committees of the two Houses, and that position is likely to continue unless their hands are strengthened by a demand on behalf of this House which will prove that it is not the desire of the Government alone but of the non-official Members of this House also to be associated with the other House in framing important legislative measures. If we are not associated at that stage, we do not get an opportunity of making any useful contribution in the framing of Bills.

Sir, I am so confident that my Resolution will commend itself to the Government Benches that I do not wish to prolong the debate and with these words, Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, in supporting this Resolution, I beg to say that if this Honourable House is considered to be a revising Chamber and if it is to be taken seriously, then it is but meet that Government Members in charge of important Bills should move for reference of their Bills to joint select committees of the two Houses of the Central Legislature. It is said, Sir, the decisions of the other House come to us either for revision, ratification or rejection and Government come to us as if "to appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober ", then what and where is the harm to refer Government Bills to joint select committees of the two Chambers? In this respect, Sir, it is found that up to now the weighty opinion of this House has not been sought for, and in none of the select committees this House was ever represented. I do not understand why this House is being such slighted and ignored by Government. If there is any defect in the Standing Orders, I think this House has power enough to remedy that defect and if there is any defect in this respect in the Government of India Act, I hope the Governor General in Council may see that that defect may be done away with at their instance.

I will not take up much of your time, Sir, but I would like to point out that if this House is to be considered and treated as the prototype House of Lords, then the claim put forward by the Honourable the mover of this Resolution, which I hope will be endorsed and supported by the Honourable Members, should be accepted as there is precedence in the Mother of Parliaments when we found the composition of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to which was referred the Government of India Bill and which later became the now famous Act of 1919. There are other instances also, Sir, where important Bills were referred to select committees of the two Houses of Parliament. The coming Indian Reforms Bill will also be referred to the Joint Parliamentary

[Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee.]

Committee. I hope, Sir, following the precedence of such parliamentery convention, our Government will find their way to accept this Resolution.

With these few words, Sir, I would heartily support the Resolution of my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam which has been so ably moved by him and hope our legitimate grievance with regard to this matter will be removed by Government.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I have intervened early in the debate because I feel that the subject-matter of this Resolution is rather a delicate one. The Honourable mover wants something done not only by Government but by the other House also, and if there are many speeches made claiming this right there will undoubtedly be an issue between this House and the other. And when two individuals or two bodies begin to contest, the feelings generated are not always of the most amicable nature, and in this case the object which the Resolution has in view is thereby bound to be defeated, whatever the Government's wish in the matter may be. I therefore feel, Sir, that it is a subject on which it is not necessary really to say a great deal. I think it is obvious that Government would like to have public business done in the best way possible, and surely the co-operation of this House in Select Committees cannot in any way be prejudicial to the best way of disposing of legislative business so far as Government is concerned. And vet Government has got to do its duty and do it without giving cause for offence to other people and without creating situations in which bitterness is engendered. Government would very much like to have most of its Bills dealt with by a joint select committee, to save time if for nothing else. But we have to work under the Constitution. We, Sir, must not forget that we are a second Chamber, a revising Chamber, and all that flows from that eminent position of being a revising Chamber makes up our privileges and dignity and also puts limitations on the actual part we can take in moulding the legislation of the country. Within this limit I assure the House, Sir, that my colleagues who are in the other House will be very glad indeed to have the opportunity of moving for reference to a joint committee of both Houses where they can do it without prejudicing the chances of proceeding peacefully with legislation. I think this is all that this House can expect; it would be unwise to ask for more. "Never mind whether you get it or not, you must move and have it rejected". That is not wise. You, Sir, a short time ago said that one ought to act tactfully and one ought to adopt strategy. Would it be acting tactfully on the part of this House, in case there is not a very good chance of the Assembly agreeing to joint committees, to insist upon moving this proposition and having it rejected? It would be unwise. It would be as a matter of fact unfair to this House to bring up the matter of such a controversy with the Assembly over and over again and have it thrown out. Would it add in any way to our power or to our right? No. Therefore I trust the Honourable Member will be satisfied with the assurance that I have given him that it is but right that the Government should try and have a joint select committee as far as it sees it can peacefully be done and not press it if there is controversy There are complicated pieces of legislation, which have not got about it. anything burning about them, legislation, for instance, relating to the amendment of civil law, very important pieces of legislation like that, on which a joint committee could usefully be employed, and I believe in reference to a measure of this sort there will be no objection on the part of the other House. Similarly, there are matters of financial importance in which I may say, without

belittling the importance of the other House, the Members of this House possess much larger experience than the Members of the other House. That again would be a matter in which the other House, recognising the fact; will not be averse to having the assistance of the Members of this House. As I say, there are matters of legal, technical, importance, and matters about finance and similar other matters which could be reasonably placed in the category of legislation in which Government is sure to make tactful efforts in having a joint select committee. But the Resolution as it stands says that His Excellency the Governor General in Council should direct the Members in charge of important Bills to move for reference of their Bills to joint select committees of the two Chambers. That I am afraid I cannot possibly accept. A recommendation of this sort to the Governor General cannot possibly be accepted. I trust the assurances I have given—these are all that can possibly be given—will be found sufficient and that this delicate matter will not be discussed at any great length. I have no doubt that many Members of this House when they are expressing their opinions on the functions of the two Houses of Legislature, either in the provinces or in the centre, in the future constitution of India would themselves express the view that the Lower House should have more opportunities of moulding legislation than the Upper House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, do I understand the Honourable the Leader of the Honse to say that though he cannot agree to accept this Resolution in the form in which it is worded, that he is in sympathy with the subject-matter of it, that he will endeavour to use his best influence as a Member of the Government to see that the substance of the request is granted in as many cases as possible? I want him to make that clear.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIE FAZL-I-HUSAIN: I do not think I could make it clearer than I have done.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): May I ask the Honourable the Leader of the House whether he is prepared to do something to assist the House in regard to a suggestion made one day last week that Bills should be introduced in this House?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: There again in my own case I certainly shall try to do that provided thereby I do not prejudice the chances of the passage of the measure. If we try to introduce measures in this House, we are attacked by saying that "Government has got its revising Chamber, it has a larger proportion of nominated Members on that Chamber than in the other House, therefore Government in a, Machiavellian fashion puts important legislation before this House, and thereby a feeling of antagonism is created in the other House; you have got it passed by your favourite House. Now let us see what we can do to it." not for that, Government would indeed be very glad to do as individual Members. here suggest. If they themselves survey the whole problem closely, they will find that the inactivity of Covernment in this matter is based not on negligence or callousness or on not caring enough for this House, but on very substantial experience which has dictated a particular line of action. But within those limits I can assure you that not only I am but so far as I know my colleagues also are most anxious that the fullest possible use of the good offices of this House should be made and that they should be provided with as much work as we can give. Market State State of State St

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LAIA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, with your permission I should like to move an amendment which might appeal to the Honourable the Leader of the House. My amendment is that the words "endeavour to" be inserted before the word "move," so that whenever it is possible for the Government they might get the matter referred to a joint select committee. I hope this will be acceptable to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: If Honourable Members have any objection I cannot allow this amendment, because two days' clear notice is required to move any amendment to the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: I myself have serious objection to my Honourable friend endeavouring to bring in this "endeavour" which endeavour is bound to be the undoing of such endeavour as Government might in the future make for joint select committees. Therefore I would very strongly urge on the Honourable Leader of the Opposition not to endeavour to bring in this endeavour which is very likely to prejudice my endeavour.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I cannot allow the amendment as objection has been taken.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Sir, I had thought that perhaps I would meet with a most sympathetic reply from the Government, but my hopes have been shattered for even an endeavour could not be made to meet the situation. As I stated before, I purposely left the decision in the hands of the Government to select whatever Bills they like for reference to joint select committees. I knew the difficulties of the Government. Therefore I wanted to give a loophole which would act as a safety valve whenever they did not want to utilise this proposition. But I find that the militant tactics of the Assembly has frightened the Government and the easy manner in which this House takes every thing has assured them that no amount of insult that could be heaped on this House will ever be retaliated or thought ill of. The Government are very mindful, Sir, that the Assembly should not be alienated but is there any reference or solicitude that our feelings are not ruffled, when we have got no provision for making any improvement in Bills that are referred to us by the Assembly? If we are a revising Chamber, then the rules should be amended, as the Honourable Mr. Banerjee has said, if the Government cannot accept this Resolution of mine. Legislative Rules make it quite clear that when once a Bill has been referred to a Select Committee of the originating Chamber it cannot be referred to a Select Committee of this House. Then there are two ways open to the Government, either to accept this Resolution if they value this House, or to change the Legislative Rules which we cannot do by any means, so that this House too may function in the proper way in which it ought to function.

I have, Sir, nothing to add on the proposition of the quity of this Resolution of mine. If there is any desire on the part of the House not to accept it I would be guided by them but I personally think, Sir, that this is a fundamental right to which we must adhere. The point made that we want to dictate to the Legislative Assembly does not arise because I purposely said in my Resolution that the Government Member should move. I do not want the Government to force he Legislative Assembly to accept it. Whether they

accept it or they reject it, it will be a fight between non-officials and non-officials alone, and we can make it up or continue it as we like. The Government has no business to intervene in it.

As regards the point that it is premature and that we should be careful not to give the Federal Chamber any latitude or power, that will take care of itself. The new constitution is not coming for years. Federation is a thing which is still in the womb of the future and as far as I am able to judge it is not coming before 1936. And therefore the three years that still remain there is no good continuing the condition of things in which we are, unasked, unconsulted and unhonoured. I should like, Sir, as a last word to commend this Resolution to the House and to ask it to assert itself that we also are alive and wish for a place in the sun.

#### THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Resolution moved:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to direct the Government Members in charge of important Bills to move for reference of their Bills to joint select committees of the two Chambers,"

The question is:

"that this Resolution be adopted",

The Council divided.

#### AYES-17.

Banerjee, The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra. Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward. Buta Singh, The Honourable Sardar. Dutt, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra. Ghosh Maulik, The Honourable Mr. Satyendra Chandra. Mr. V. C. Gounder, The Honourable Vellingiri. Halim, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Hafiz Muhammad. Hossain Imam, The Honourable Mr.

Krishna. Mehrotra, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad. Mehta, The Honourable Mr. H. M. Miller, The Honourable Mr. E. Moti Chand, The Honourable Raja Sir. Naidu,  $\mathbf{The}$ Honourable Mr. Ranganayakalu. Natesan, The Honourable Mr. G. A. Raghunandan Prasad Singh. Honourable Raja. Ram Saran Das, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.

Jalan, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Radha

#### NOES-20.

Bartley, The Honourable Mr. J.
Choksy, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Dr.
Sir Nasarvanji.
Coburn, The Honourable Mr. M. R.
Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency the.
Cotterell, The Honourable Mr. C. B.
Devadoss, The Honourable Sir David.
Drake, The Honourable Mr. J. C. B.
Fazl-i-Husain, The Honourable Khan
Bahadur Mian Sir.
Ghosal, The Honourable Mr. Jyotsnanath.
Hafeez, The Honourable Khan Bahadur
Syed Abdul.

The motion was negatived.

Hallett, The Honourable Mr. M. G.
Johnson, The Honourable Mr. J. N. G.
Maqbul Husain, The Honourable Khan
Bahadur Sheikh.
Murphy, The Honourable Mr. P. W.
Noon, The Honourable Nawab
Mohammad Hayat Khan.
Russell, The Honourable Sir Guthrie.
Shillidy, The Honourable Mr. J. A.
Suhrawardy, The Honourable Mr. Mahmood.
Taylor, The Honourable Mr. J. B.
Watson, The Honourable Sir Charles,

-RESOLUTION RE INCREASE IN THE PRESENT NUMBER OF CADETS
- ANNUALLY ADMITTED TO THE NEW INDIAN MILITARY
ACADEMY, DEHRA DUN.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT
(Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to secure the increase of the present number of cadets annually admitted to the new Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, by at least 50 per cent. and to distribute the same equitably among the different University Training Corps units throughout India and the Prince of Wales Royal Military College, Dehra Dun."

Sir, I think I need not make a long speech over this Resolution, for I believe its merits will be easily admitted and appreciated. briefly stating my reasons in support of my Resolution, I would like to pay a tribute to the spirit of friendliness, which His Excellency the Commanderin-Chief in India recently showed to some of us in inviting us to witness the ceremony of the inauguration of the new Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. Speaking for myself, I must say that I was greatly impressed with all that I saw there in connection with the military education of the gentlemen cadets, who were fortunate enough to get admission to this Academy. But I must confess that my mind did not fail to observe the great disproportion that struck me between what was actually being done in this connection and what I honestly think is quite possible to be done in respect of enrolling a larger number of cadets to this Academy and quickening the pace of Indianization of military officers in India. I need hardly remind His Excellency about the great dissatisfaction which is felt in India about the overcautious and niggardly policy of Government in the matter of Indianization. Government are apparently not carrying out the recommendations made even by their own committees of officials, military experts. I would only mention the Shea Committee and would ask His Excellency what reasons could be adduced for disregarding the programme of Indianization of army officers within 30 years as suggested by that Committee. It was a programme of three stages, in even the first of which 81 cadets were to be annually admitted to an Indian Sandhurst. In the second stage the number was to go up to 182 and in the third stage it was to range between 88 and 106. It must further be remembered that these numbers did not include the cadets of the Indian States Forces, which was fixed at 30. It will be thus seen that the increase from 60 to 90, which I propose in my Resolution, is a very reasonable figure; and it may be said to be backed even by expert opinion. It was generally supposed that the new Military Academy would admit cadets enough to carry out this programme of Indianization; in fact, that there would be enrolment of cadets in Britain only when Indian resources would be exhausted. And if Government mean by the restriction of these admissions to only 60 in number, that that is the maximum measure of the capacity of India as a whole to furnish fit and qualified cadets every year, then I would have to protest against that insinuation with all the force at my command. But I would not and I need not enlarge upon this aspect of the question. I do assume that the present number of 60 could easily be increased by 50 per cent. as suggested in my Resolution; and I just make an attempt to offer a concrete proposal about the distribution of this extra 50 per cent. cadets. And in this connection I advert very naturally to the University Training Corps in India. I consider that the University

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Training Corps men are typical and representative of the great middle diss in India, upon whom must devolve the duty and the obligation of defending the motherland. They are educated and are susceptible to ideas of both honour and loyalty. It is they who will naturally form the second line of defence in any emergency. In other countries they form the bulk of the element out of which the second line of defence is possible; and I need not point out how the youth of India are showing their capacity at present in a number of ways for that spirit and that sense of sacrifice, which is required to make a good soldier and also that capacity of leadership which is required in an officer. The unlawful and reckless activities of the youth must of course be condemned, but it would be betraying bad judgment of men and worldly affairs to deny the proper meed of appreciation of their spirit of patriotism. In my view the class of people from which the University Training Corps men come, have in their hands the direction of the future of this country, and reasonable people would have to hold only Government responsible if they continue their present policy of suspicion and distrust of the educated class in India, and fail to harness their spirit in the proper channel of service to the country. I need not say much about the Prince of Wales Royal Military College, Dehra Dun, for which, in my opinion, must be reserved a portion of the increase of the 50 per cent. which I demand, to the present number of admissions to the Indian Sandhurst. The quality of education given in this institution and the quality of the cadets who receive that education would both justify the demand I have made for In conclusion, therefore, I would earnestly appeal to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to take into consideration the argument I have adduced in support of my Resolution, to take a more liberal view of the facts of the situation in India, and to secure from Government an immediate increase in the number of admissions to the Indian Sandhurst.

The institution has now happily come to stay and it rests with the authorities to make it adequately fruitful and successful as an instrument of a duly rapid programme of Indianization.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOUBABLE MB. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sardar Pandit, is so just and fair and has been so very ably moved that it requires no further explanation from me. His arguments and reasonings are as cogent as possible and the demand made by my friend is a very simple one. It is hoped that he will receive unanimous support from all the nonofficial Members of this Honourable House.

. o b . i l THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. President, I find that my Honourable friend, Sardar Shri Jagannath Maharaj Pandit, has placed before us a Resolution which, if accepted by the Government, would help in speed Indianization of the army. The number of King's Commissioned officers necessary to man the Indian Army is somewhat a decent figure, but with the slow process of entrance into the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun it will be a long time before it is possible to completely Indianize the Indian Army. The number of officers necessary every year due to retirements, pensions and discharges, is very great, and these vacancies are to be filled from officers from the Military Academy, Dehra Dun. At present the number of entrants to this Academy is limited, and unless we increase the number it would be impossible to Indianize the army within a short period. At a

## [Mr. Satyendra Chandra Ghosh Maulik.]

time when we hope to get a liberal set of reforms—may be, we shall get full Dominion Status—it is most meet and proper that India should have an Army of her own, mainly officered by the children of the soil. We should not always be looking forward to Great Britain to supply us with officers for the army. The sooner the army is Indianized the better for us. It would mean a substantial reduction of the army expenditure. At present the number of cadets taken is about 60, and unless the number of entrants is increased, I do not know how we can achieve the object of Indianizing soon. We are lucky enough now to have in our present Commander-in-Chief a gentleman who is quite sympathetic towards the scheme of Indianization of the army, and only a few minutes ago we heard from him the highest praise for the Indian Army. At another time he had stated that he was going to Indianize a whole division with the necessary ancillary services. It is a good augury, but what I would press is that the number of cadets taken from the Military Academy should be increased. There are about 11 University Training Corps units. and if cadets are taken from them it will be quite easy to fill up the additional vacancies. These University Training Corps boys have had some military training and by virtue of their education, social status and intelligence, I think they would prove to be useful cadets and would be quicker to pick up the technicalities than ordinary students of the Universities who have had no military training at all. I know, Sir, it will be argued that the military training imparted to University Training Corps boys is necessarily of a lower standard, but if that is so, then the University Training Corps boys are not to blame; it is the system of training imparted to them by the military authorities which is at fault. I venture to say that even if it be so it will not be quite impossible to get the number of extra cadets necessary to fill up the vacancies if this Resolution is accepted. I hope that the Resolution will have the fullest support which it deserves.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been so well moved by my friend, Shri Jagannath Maharaj Pandit. The request in the Resolution is a very modest one and I think His Excellency the Commander-in Chief will see his way to accept it, because this will lead to acceleration of Indianization in the army. The recruits selected from the University Training Corps will prove as good, if not better than, those otherwise recruited and it will give an impetus to the University Training Corps movement and encourage those who are now in the University Training Corps and have done well there. I hope this Resolution will be adopted by this House.

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB SIR MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Resolution of the Honourable Sardar Shri Jagannath Maharaj Pandit can be divided into two parts, namely, increase of the number of cadets admitted annually into the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun by at least 50 per cent.; and, secondly, the distribution of the same equitably amongst the different University Training Corps units throughout India and the Prince of Wales Royal Military College at Dehra Dun. With regard to the first part of the Resolution, I agree with him, as the intention is to accelerate the Indianization of the army. Sir, the Indianization of the Indian Army has been admitted as the established policy of the Government of India, and, since that is so, I think it best to complete the policy as quickly as possible.

With regard to the second part, I regret I do not see eye to eye with the Honourable mover of the Resolution, because the equal distribution of the number of cadets required between the different University Training Corps and the Prince of Wales Royal Military College, cannot be expected to produce better results than the present method of selection. The military authorities are the best judges of the qualifications required and the rules and regulations necessary to secure suitable candidates for the army. They are in the best position to know what candidates to select for admittance to the Royal Military Academy. It is therefore in the interests of efficiency that the selection of candidates should be left entirely to the military authorities, so that only men of the best calibre are admitted to the Academy. This would also enlarge the sphere of competition amongst the candidates and thus enable the best men to be secured. If selection is to be limited to a certain number from each University Training Corps and the Prince of Wales College, then candidates will have to compete within the narrow range of places allotted to their particular unit. In that way it is possible that deserving candidates in one unit might be deprived of their chance of admittance while men in another unit of ordinary ability and inferior calibre are admitted on the strength of the number reserved for their particular unit. To prevent the possibility of such irregularities, therefore, it would be better to leave the selection of candidates entirely in the hands of the military authorities, because then they can see what their requirements are and in the Selection Board they will be in a position to select the most efficient men for their purpose.

Therefore, Sir, as regards the first part, I say that if the facilities exist and the Indian Military Academy can find room for more cadets, then the number might be increased. But if facilities do not exist at present then some plan should be thought out to accelerate the rate of Indianization.

HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Shri Jagannath Maharaj Pandit. I am one, Sir, who believes that the solution of the Indian economic problem depends on the curtailment of army expenditure. Not only the Members sitting on these Benches, but many on those gave vent to their feelings on the subject during the discussion on the General Budget. There are two ways to curtail army expenditure. One is to reduce the strength of the army and the other is the rapid Indianization of the army which is proposed by my Honourable friend in his Resolution. If the former seems to be difficult at present—though we do not believe that then the latter is quite easy. It is a very modest demand and I hope His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will find no difficulty in accepting the Resolution. Sir, I also consider that this Resolution has been brought at an opportune time. If this Resolution is not accepted by the Government it will certainly strengthen the hands of those who are of opinion that the Reforms will be a mere sham and that so far as the army is concerned the people will have absolutely no hand in it, even on the question of rapid Indianization. On the other hand, if this Resolution is accepted, those who are prepared to work the Reforms and whose policy is responsive co-operation will have their hands strengthened and they will have to say to the public that the mentality of the Government is being changed, and we must try to extract as much from the Government as possible. Under these circumstances I would most emphatically urge upon Government that they may be pleased to accept this modest demand of the House.

THE HONOURABLE Mr. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bibar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, as most of my colleagues are aware, when the Indian Sandburst Committee was formed the Government went out of its way and fixed a quota for the number of officers to be admitted into the Indian Military Academy. At the time when this was done, there was a hue and cry in the country against that despotic action. No doubt our gallant colleague, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, has done a lot for Indianization and in his different statements in this House he has told us how far he has accelerated the pace of Indianization. I remember during the first year when I was in the Council he made a very important statement on the question of Indianization of the Indian Army. We are all thankful to him for what he has done, but we wish, Sir, that coupled with his victories in the fields of battle, he will also have his victories in the days of peace by accelerating the Indianization of the Indian Army. My interest in this Resolution is confined only to the question of further Indianization. Until Indianization is so increased as make it possible for all the officers of the Indian section of the army to be recruited from India, we will go on pressing the demand for more and more Indianization. In this connection, Sir, I wish to bring in the old question of hhe martial versus the non-martial classes which has been figuring for such a long time in the controversy among ourselves. The martial classes among us thank that the army should remain a monopoly of theirs, while the non-martial alasses want that they should also be allowed to shoulder the burden of the defence of the country. At the moment, Sir, particularly, as is well known to His Excellency, men of my class, I mean Saiyeds and others are agitating to get a share in the defence of the country. They have great complaints that the former procedure whereby the non-martial classes in the Punjab were being admitted to the army is not adopted and they are being excluded now. I do not insist on the form in which the Resolution has been moved. I simply wish His Excellency to give an assurance to the House that further Indianization is still in the air and that something will be done to accelerate the pace.

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER- IN-CHIEF: Sir, the first part of the Honourable mover's Resolution was quite plain to me and I think to the rest of the House. It represents what we heard from everybody who has spoken on this motion, a new demand for an increase in the pace of Indianization, and that I will endeavour to answer. But the second part of his Resolution I fail entirely to understand and I shall have to put my own construction upon it. I am afraid as regards the first part of the Resolution, the increase of the pace of Indianization, I cannot recommend that to the Government. The annual intake of young men to the Military College is governed solely by the number of Commissioned officers required for the present programme of Indianization. That programme was recommended aud agreed to by the Sandhurst Committee which I presided over. It was accepted by His Majesty's Government in England and it was accepted by the Indian Government here; and the present intake of 60 cadets, which was mentioned so often to-day—60 cadets a year, that is 30 by open competition and 30 by selection from the non-commissioned officers and Viceroy's Commissions of the Indian Army—is just sufficient to implement that policy, that is to say, the Indianization of a complete division of infantry, a complete cavalry brigade, and all the ancillary services. That policy, Sir, was not undertaken without the most careful thought on the part of everybody

concerned, both Governments and ourselves in the Military Department, and for reasons which I have very often given, I think the House must realise that we cannot alter it at a moment's notice. It is not the slightest use blinking the fact in this House or anywhere else that we who are responsible for the safety of India are taking some considerable risk in this matter. We have not got in India as we have in England a large supply of young men with long traditions of service in the army behind them-their fathers, their grand-fathers and others having served in the army—with traditions of leadership and public school experience. Many of the young Indians who are already in the army are doing very well indeed and showing the greatest promise, but it is really not possible, believe me, to say when an officer has only seven or eight years' service, as the oldest of them now have, that he will be definitely fit to train troops in peace time and lead them in war and above all to retain the full and entire confidence of the men he leads. It has often been said—and it has been said several times today again—that if we confine ourselves to Indianizing only one division and one cavalry brigade and proceed with that programme as slowly as we are doing Indianization will take an unconscionable time before it shows the results which I know most Honourable Members here wish for, in which I fully sympathise. But as I have said on more than one occasion in other places, this is not the case. I have repeatedly said that it is not now that you can tell whether the young Indian officers will be a success. It is when these young men have had six or seven years' more service and are commanding companies, squadrons and possibly batteries. That is the time in a military officer's career when we can tell whether he is any good or not. We cannot tell for certain when he has only seven years' service whether he is going to have the confidence of his men and be what we want him to be. But in another six or seven years is the time to accelerate Indianization, and I am perfectly certain that if these young men who are now serving in the army show when they have got 14 years' service that they are fit to assume the responsibility that I think most of them will be fit for, there will be no question but that Indianization will be very rapidly increased. But if we do it now and these young men do not come up to our expectation—I do not for a moment say that they are not going to, I am pretty sure they will—but if they do not come up to our expectation and we who are responsible for the safety of India had vastly increased the pace of Indianization as we are so often pressed to do, we should have destroyed the efficiency of the army in India; and whatever may be the speed of your political advance, it will be very many years before India can do without a thoroughly efficient army.

The Honourable Member's second proposition is very much more difficult to deal with, because, as I have said, I simply cannot understand him. I have heard him and I have also heard other speakers to the motion talking about selection, picking out men from the University Training Corps and giving them vacancies here and vacancies there. There is no question of any thing of that The Indian officers of the army are selected by examination with the exception of the Indian cadets who come from the actual serving army who are selected by me and my officers but after an examination and after undergoing a system of tests by a very rigid process of marking. His Resolution is worded as if I or the military authorities allotted vacancies to the Military Academy according to our own sweet will and he appears to think-and judging from the letters I get from all parts of India many other people also think—that I as Commander-in-Chief nominate for all these vacancies. I do nothing of the Everybody, whether he be from the South of India or the North of India, from the martial races or the non-martial races, has just the same chance of getting into the Indian Sandhurst as anybody else. He has to pass the

## [ His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.]

interview and record examination and the medical board after which he sits for his examination and if he passes among the first 15 he gets in, if he does not, he does not get in. If 12 pass, I have the privilege of nominating the remaining three but I have never yet exercised it and other things being equal I never do intend to exercise it. It goes to the next three in order of marks.

Now, Sir, I will not detain the House any longer but I will ask the Honourable mover if, in view of what I have said, that is to say, my full sympathy with his wish to increase Indianization, the impossibility of those who have the safety of India in our keeping of increasing it quicker than we are doing now and until such time as we are quite certain that these young officers have proved themselves fit. and in view of the fact, as I hope I have convinced him, that there is no favouritism whatever in the selection of candidates for Sandhurst and through that for the army, I hope he will see fit to withdraw his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT: Sir, I have heard the speech of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief with interest. The Government cannot do anything at present to give effect to the simple principle involved in my Resolution but it is a matter of great satisfaction that His Excellency has got every sympathy towards the principle of Indianization and I hope if not today His Excellency will see his way to do the best he can during the tenure of His Excellency's office in enhancing the cause of Indianization in the army.

With these words, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution be withdrawn?

(One or two Honourable Members objected.)

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Resolution moved:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to secure the increase of the present number of cadets annually admitted to the new Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, by at least 50 per cent. and to distribute the same equitably among the different University Training Corps units throughout India and the Prince of Wales Royal Military College, Dehra Dun."

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House): But does the House not wish the Resolution to be withdrawn?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: No, there is an objection taken by one or two Members. If an objection is taken, under the Standing Orders the President has to put the Resolution to the vote.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT: But, Sir, when I withdraw the Resolution?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: But withdrawal can only take place with the leave of the Council. If any individual Member objects to it leave cannot be granted and the President has to put the Resolution to the Council.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: On a point of order, Sir....

THE HONDURABLE THE PRESIDENT: You cannot raise a point of order at this stage.

The Council divided:

#### AYES-8.

Banerjee, The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra.
Dutt, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra.
Ghosh Maulik, The Honourable Mr. Satyendra Chandra.
Hossain Imam, The Honourable Mr.

Lala Mathura Prasad.

Moti Chand, The Honourable Raja Sir.

Naidu, The Honourable Mr. Y. Ranganayakalu.

Ram Saran Das, The Honourable Rai

Bahadur Lala.

Mehrotra, The Honourable Rai Bahadur

NOES-32.

Akbar Khan, The Honourable Major Nawab Sir Mahomed. Bartley, The Honourable Mr. J. Basu, The Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar. Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward. Charanjit Singh, The Honourable Raja. Choksy, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Dr. Sir Nasarvanji. Coburn, The Honourable Mr. M. R. Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency the. Cotterell, The Honourable Mr. C. B. Devadoss, The Honourable Sir David. Drake, The Honourable Mr. J. C. B. Fazl-i-Husain, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir. Ghosal, The Honourable Mr. Jyotsnanath. Hafeez, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul. Halim, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Hafiz Muhammad. Hallett, The Honourable Mr. M. G. Jalan, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Radha Krishna.

Johnson, The Honourable Mr. J. N. G. The Honourable Kameshwar Singh, Maharajadhiraja Sir, of Darbhanga. Maqbul Husain, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Sheikh. Honourable Nawab Mehr Shah, The Sahibzada Sir Sayad Mohamad. Mehta, The Honourable Mr. H. M. Miller, The Honourable Mr. E. Murphy, The Honourable Mr. P. W. Noon, The Honourable Nawab Malik Mohammad Hayat Khan. Padshah Sahib Bahadur, The Honourable Saiyed Mohamed. Raghunandan The Prasad Singh, Honourable Raja. Russell, The Honourable Sir Guthrie. Shillidy, The Honourable Mr. J. Suhrawardy, The Honourable Mr. Mahmood. Taylor, The Honourable Mr. J. B. Watson, The Honourable Sir Charles.

The motion was negatived.

(The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad, in whose name stood the next Resolution,\* was not present when his name was called by the Honourable the President.)

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 8th March, 1933.

<sup>\*</sup> This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to secure that this House is adequately represented in the delegation which is to be sent out from India to sit with the joint select committee of Parliament for examining the proposals for Indian constitutional reform.