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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
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(12th March to 25th March, 1931)

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1931



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1931
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Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 20th March, 1931.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF DELHI.

1023. *Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are aware that there is a Rural Development Federation at Sitaram Bazaar, Delhi, for the rural uplift of India;
- (b) if they have received any communications praying for Government support;
- (c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, what reply the Government gave them;
- (d) if a reply has been given, whether Government will be pleased to lay the same on the table; and
- (e) if no reply has been given, the reason why?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazi-i-Husain: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions 1023 and 1024 together. Government have received a copy of the memorial addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy by the Rural Development Federation on the 25th February, 1931. No action has been taken on it as it would obviously be premature to consider the question of according the Federation any recognition by Government until it has satisfied the Local Administration of its representative character, its status and its ability to carry out the ambitious programme outlined in its memorial.

In reply to parts (d) and (e) of question 1024, I would point out to the Honourable Member that the promotion of rural uplift work is primarily the responsibility of Local Governments and Administrations. The action they have taken on the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture on this subject has been stated in the Report on the progress made in giving effect to the Commission's recommendations generally, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF DELHI.

†1024. *Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that the Rural Development Federation at Sitaram Bazaar, Delhi, submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy on the 25th February, 1931;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1023.

- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government approved their plan of action;
- (c) what support Government propose to give to that movement;
- (d) whether Government are going to take into consideration the rural uplift work; and
- (e) what line of action they propose to take and when?

REGULATION OF THE PRICE OF FARM PRODUCTS.

1025. *Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian: (a) Are Government aware that there is fluctuation in the markets for all the home-farm products?

(b) Do Government propose to regulate the price?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Nian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Price fixing operations in other countries have completely failed to achieve their object and have only accentuated the present depression in the prices of agricultural commodities.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

1026. *Haji Ohaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Muslims and Christians fixed against the posts of 54 assistants in the Central Public Works Department, Delhi?

(b) What steps are being taken to satisfy adequately the claims of minority communities?

(c) Is it a fact that certain routine clerks have been treated as assistants, such as Messrs. Tej Kishan, Sahab Dial, etc., whereas those actually performing the duties of assistants for a number of years have been ignored?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the educational qualifications of the seven Superintendents and 54 assistants?

Mr. J. A. Shaliddy: (a) Of the total number of 56 assistants in the Central Public Works Department, 10 are Muslims and one an Indian Christian.

(b) In making new appointments, due consideration is given to the adequate representation of minority communities.

(c) The assistants mentioned have been classed as such by virtue of length of service, and rate of pay which they have earned by gradual promotion. The cases of those who are actually performing the duties of assistants have not been ignored. They too will rise to the same status if and when they have put in the same length of approved service.

(d) Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by supplying the information asked for.

PAY OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

1027. *Haji Ohaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for differentiation in fixing the pay of Messrs. Harbans Lal and Jang Bahadur (both being graduates) in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Is it a fact that certain under-graduates (Hindus) having no previous experience were appointed in the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, on Rs. 72 p.m., while certain Muslim graduates were appointed on Rs. 60 p.m.? If so, will they please state the reasons?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The reason is that the person first named was appointed to a purely temporary vacancy of a special nature, while the second man was appointed to the regular clerical establishment on the ordinary minimum rate of pay.

(b) Yes, but Muslims also have been appointed on the higher rate of pay.

CONTRACTS FOR WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE INAUGURATION OF NEW DELHI.

1028. *Haji Ohaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will Government please say whether it is a fact that:

- (i) no contract was given to any Muslim contractor in connection with the formal inauguration of New Delhi;
- (ii) that S. Bahadur Singh, Sub-Divisional Officer in charge, had recommended his own men for giving contracts in connection with the inauguration work; if so, what are the reasons?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (i) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) S. Bahadur Singh had nothing to do with the giving of the contracts. Tenders were called for and received by the Officer on Special Duty and disposed of by the Superintending Engineer.

RELATIVES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS INVOLVED IN A BOMB CASE.

1029. *Haji Ohaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will Government please say whether it is a fact that the nearest relatives of certain subordinates were involved in the New Delhi Bomb Case? If so, what steps have been taken to warn such Government servants?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I am ascertaining the facts and will let the Honourable Member know the results in due course.

CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1030. *Mr. N. N. Ankiesaria: (a) Is it a fact that some of the local activities of the Public Works Department relating to electricity, roads conservancy and health are being transferred and placed under the control of the New Delhi Municipal Committee? If so, from what date?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how it is going to deal with the present Government employees of these Departments under transfer to the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(c) Will their services be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Committee on foreign service conditions or will their services be dispensed with by Government and then be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Committee for re-employment?

(d) Are there any safeguards provided by the local Government at Delhi for the stability of the Municipal services in Delhi on the lines of those for Government servants?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fasil-i-Hussain: (a) Government decided to transfer certain services from the control of the Public Works Department to the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the services of a whole-time President of the Committee being available.

(b) and (c). The matter is at present under consideration.

(d) The Local Administration of Delhi has framed rules under section 240 (n) of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, regarding the dismissal of municipal employees and other matters. A copy of these has been placed in the Library of the House.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

1931. ***Mr. N. N. Anklesaria:** (a) Is it a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee lately considered at one of its meetings, with reference to section 45 of the Punjab Municipal Act, certain cases of municipal permanent employees, with a view to removing them from substantive appointments without any charge or finding but merely on the report of the Secretary?

(b) If so, are Government aware that this move on the part of the Committee or its Secretary has caused dissatisfaction in the services of the Municipality and panic among those Government employees whose services under the new scheme are going to be transferred to the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps the local Government, Delhi, propose to take to remove such dissatisfaction and misapprehensions on the part of the Municipal servants as well as on the part of those who will, under the new scheme, be transferred to the Municipality?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fasil-i-Hussain: (a) Government understand that the case of certain employees is under the consideration of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. The appointment, discharge and dismissal of officers and servants in the employment of the New Delhi Municipal Committee are governed by sections 38 to 45 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, which applies to Delhi. Government have no doubt that any action taken by the New Delhi Municipal Committee will be in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1932. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** (a) Will Government please inquire and state whether it is a fact that clause 2 of the service agreement of a Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway employee in the traffic department lays down that an employee's services may be terminated without notice on payment of one month's salary?

(b) Will Government please place on the table of the House a list of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway employees whose services were terminated under clause 2 of the agreement referred to in part (a) from January, 1929 to June, 1930, stating in each case (i) the name and

address of the employee, (ii) the designation and grade of pay of the employee, (iii) the date of termination of service, (iv) the total length of service, (v) the designation of the officer who ordered the termination of service, (vi) the reason for the termination of service, and (vii) whether the reason for the termination of service was or was not communicated to the employee?

(c) Is it a fact that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities have, in most cases, utilised the clause referred to in part (a) in terminating the services of employees who have put in many years' services?

(d) Is it a fact that in cases of *termination of services* under the clause under reference the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities have not communicated to the employees concerned the *specific reasons*?

(e) Is it a fact that whenever any employee has requested the said Railway authorities to inform him of the reason or cause of the termination of the service under clause 2 of the service agreement, the said Railway authorities have done nothing more than to repeat the said clause? If so, are Government aware that the said clause lays down powers of termination of services while the railway authorities have used it as a *reason* for the termination of services?

(f) Are Government prepared to instruct the said Railway Administration to reinstate those employees whose services have been terminated without assigning specific reasons for the termination of their services in the orders terminating their services?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government have not with them a copy of the service agreement of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway employees in the Traffic Department, but the condition that an employee's services may be terminated without notice on payment of one month's salary is common to the service agreements of subordinate railway employees.

(b) Government regret that they are not prepared to call for this information.

(c) Government have no information, but I am bringing this question to the notice of the Agent.

(d) and (e). Government have no information, but the service agreement of railway employees gives the administration the power to terminate the services of an employee with a month's notice or a month's pay in lieu without assigning specific reasons.

(f) No.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Are the conditions of service on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway the same as on other lines?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Generally speaking, I think that is so.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1088. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government please inquire and state whether it is a fact that in December, 1927, and May, 1928, Mr. R. D. Singh, a very junior ungraded Assistant Station Master, and Mr. Moolchand, a junior ticket collector, were respectively ordered to be

appointed to the Assistant Station Master's posts in the superior grade, by the Traffic Superintendent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, overlooking the rights of the ungraded, A grade, and B grade Assistant Station Masters? If so, will Government please inquire and communicate to the House the rules under which the Railway Administration appointed the said ticket collector and junior ungraded Station Master to the superior grade?

(b) Is it a fact that in accordance with the inter-branch change restrictions a ticket collector is not eligible for an Assistant Station Master's post? If so, why was the ticket collector referred to in part (a) appointed to the Assistant Station Master's post?

(c) Is it a fact that four Assistant Station Masters of Ajmer submitted a joint representation to the Traffic Superintendent, Ajmer, through the proper channel, remonstrating against their supersession by the junior ungraded Assistant Station Master and the ticket collector referred to in part (a)? If so, what steps did the railway authorities take on the representation?

(d) Is it a fact that the Traffic Superintendent, Ajmer, called Babu Munshi Ram, relieving Assistant Station Master, Ajmer, for an interview on the 25th August, 1928, to explain his position regarding the responsibility for the representation referred to in part (c) and transferred him to the Delhi District?

(e) Are Government aware that there was no cause for Babu Munshi Ram's transfer from Ajmer in the Bandikui District to Hissar in the Delhi District ordered on the 28th August, 1928, except that it was to put him to inconvenience by way of punishment for the representation referred to in part (c)? If so, will Government please state the circumstances under which the Railway Administration was justified in punishing him for representation of his rights to his superior officers through the proper channel?

(f) Is it a fact that subsequent to the representation referred to in part (c) the orders for the appointment of the ticket collector referred to in part (a) to superior grade Assistant Station Mastership had to be cancelled?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The question relates to servants of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company and Government are not in possession of the information asked for. I will have a copy of it sent to the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, who will, no doubt, take any action that may be required.

NAMES, PAY, ETC., OF CERTAIN CLERKS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1034. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** Will Government please inquire and place on the table of the House a statement showing (i) the name of each clerk in the S. T. section of the Loco. Head Office, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, (ii) the qualifications of each clerk, (iii) the date of appointment with his starting pay, (iv) the present pay drawn by him, (v) his grade and (vi) his annual increment?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 1084 and 1085 together. The clerks referred to are servants of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company and Government are not prepared to make the enquiry suggested. I will, however, have copies of the Honourable Member's questions sent to the Agent of the Railway.

ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE LOCO. HEAD OFFICE, BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

†1085. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government please inquire and state if it is a fact that the relations of Mr. Mahesh Dass, Head clerk in S. T. section of the Loco. Head Office, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, serving in the said Loco. Department as clerks have been given preference to other persons, in regard to their appointment, salary and increment? If so, why?

(b) Will Government please inquire and state if it is a fact that the relations of Mr. Bankey Behari Lall, the chief clerk of the Loco. Head Office, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, serving in the said Loco. Department as clerks, have been given preference to other persons in regard to their appointment, salary and increment? If so, why?

APPOINTMENTS IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY AT AJMER.

1086. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government please inquire and state if it is a fact that in the Carriage and Wagon Departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, the relations of the deceased servants of the said Railway Department have been continuously refused jobs there, while outsiders have been freely allowed to get chances of being appointed?

(b) Are Government aware that it is a rule that preferences in appointments should be given to the qualified relatives of the deceased servants of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway as against outsiders? If so, is this rule followed there or not? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Carriage-shop located at Ajmer, fitters and carpenters are given chances to act as permanent clerks in the said Department while the qualified heirs of the deceased servants of the said Railway are met with flat refusal to get any chance? If so, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have no information, but I will send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway for any action that he may consider to be necessary.

FITTERS AND CARPENTERS PROMOTED TO CLERKSHIPS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY AT AJMER.

1087. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government please inquire and place on the table of the House the list of fitters and carpenters promoted to clerkship during 1929 and 1930 in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Carriage-shop located at Ajmer with their names, education and qualifications separately?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are not prepared to make any enquiry, but I will have a copy of the Honourable Member's question sent to the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

NUMBER OF WORKMEN AND MUSTER CLERKS, ETC., AT THE CARRIAGE AND LOCO SHOPS AT AJMER.

1038. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** (a) Will Government please inquire and state (i) the total number of workmen employed at present in each of the Carriage and Loco. Shops, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway located at Ajmer and (ii) the number of ticket issuers, muster clerks, and time sheet checkers in each shop referred to above?

(b) Is it a fact that the total number of ticket issuers, muster clerks and time sheet checkers in the said carriage shop is far greater than that of the Loco. shop referred to above? If so, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have called for the information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

PAY OF CLERKS AT THE RAILWAY CARRIAGE SHOPS AT AJMER.

1039. ***Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali:** Will Government please inquire and state if it is a fact that the present Chief Clerk of the Carriage Shop, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, located at Ajmer has reduced the grade of shop clerks from Rs. 80 to Rs. 75? If so, was any previous notice cancelling the said grade given to the clerks concerned? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have no information; the matter is within the discretion of the Agent of the Company to whose notice I am bringing it.

DISCHARGE OF AGHA NOOR-BADSHA, A ZILADAR IN THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1040. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that:

- (i) Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. 87-1899 to 1404, dated the 29th July 1879, requires the Heads of Departments to frame proper charge sheets and obtain defence of the official accused of inefficiency and other charges; and

- (ii) similar orders are embodied in Government Servant's Conduct Rules?

(b) If the reply to the above question be in the affirmative, is it a fact that, in reply to question No. 960 asked on the 19th February, 1929, by Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan (regarding the removal, without enquiry, from the service of one Agha Noor-Badsha, a Ziladar in the Irrigation Department in the North-West Frontier Province), Sir B. N. Mitra informed the House that the charge sheet proceeding was unnecessary because there was a large number of unfavourable reports on his work?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, is it a fact that, in disposing of the memorial submitted by the above-mentioned Ziladar, the Department of Industries and Labour informed the Local Administration of the North-West Frontier Province that the procedure laid down in the Resolution mentioned in part (a), item (i), above was not followed in the Ziladar's case, and it should invariably be observed in future?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state how they reconcile the rulings mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above, and whether they propose to reconsider the memorial, in which charge sheet proceeding was not at all adopted?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) (i). Yes.

(ii) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government do not propose to disclose the nature of the communications that took place between them and the Local Administration.

(d) The first part does not arise. As regards the second part, Government do not propose to reconsider their orders.

ADMINISTRATION OF RELIGIOUS SHRINES IN THE PESHAWAR DISTRICT.

1041. *Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: (a) Are Government aware that:

(i) under the orders of the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, the possession of the lands belonging to the shrine of Mian Umar Sahib, situated in the Chamkani village in Peshawar District, was given last year to the Awqaf Committee of Peshawar recognised by Government and registered in 1925;

(ii) against the wishes of the office-bearing members and the people of the country, a separate committee has lately been formed at Peshawar to deal with the affairs of the estate of the shrines under the Presidentship of the Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar, guided by an Indian Assistant Commissioner who assumed the office of the Vice-President of the separate committee; and

(iii) as a result of Government interference in the affairs of the Awqaf Committee there is a general impression prevailing in the country that Government intend to take possession of all charitable endowment properties in the Province?

(b) If the replies to part (a), items (i) and (ii) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to inquire:

(i) in what special interest of Government officers of Government mentioned above have been permitted to interfere in their official capacity, in the internal affairs of the Society; and

(ii) why they should not be prevented from having anything to do with it in future?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: The Local Administration has been addressed and as soon as a reply is received the information will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1042. *Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: (a) Is it a fact that in the North-West Frontier Province the Civil Assistant Surgeons are as follows:

			on deputation 1
			acting as Civil Surgeon 1
Muslims 9			Frontier Muslims 4
			non-Frontier Muslims 2
			<hr/> 9
Hindus 10			
Sikhs 2			
Anglo-Indian 1			
			<hr/>
Total 22			

(b) Is it a fact that about eight qualified M. B. B. S., belonging to the North-West Frontier Province and to the majority community are serving at present in the Province as Sub-Assistant Surgeons?

(c) If the replies to the above questions be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the claims of the latter to promotion and have their number increased in the cadre when vacancies in the appointment of Assistant Surgeons occur in future?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes, except that the number of frontier and non-frontier Muslims is six and one, respectively.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, with due regard to considerations of seniority and efficiency and the claims of members of other communities.

CLERKS, POSTMEN, ETC., EMPLOYED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.

1043. *Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: (a) With reference to the reply given by Government to Question, No. 169 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 29th January, 1931, will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the total strength of clerical establishment, postmen and packers serving at present in the General Post office in Peshawar Cantonment; and
- (ii) the number of Muslims belonging to the Peshawar Revenue Division among them?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why persons, who do not belong to the Revenue Division, were employed against the order of the Director General of Post offices in India?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Enquiry is being made and the information will be furnished to the Honourable Member when received.

**ALLEGED RUNNING OF A PRIVATE PRESS AT SIMLA BY THE HEAD CLERK,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.**

1044. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Asim: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Government Servants' Conduct Rules prohibit a Government Servant from engaging in private trade or business without the sanction of Government?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Ram Sarup, the late Stationery Keeper of the Government of India Press, Simla, and the present Head Clerk of the Government of India Press, Aligarh, owns and runs a private press at Simla known as the Victoria Printing Press without the sanction of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Ram Sarup has, from time to time, purchased from the Government of India Press, Simla, printing materials for use in his own press?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Ram Sarup made the employees of the Government of India Press, Simla, work in the Victoria Press after office hours?

(e) If the replies to the above are in the affirmative, will Government please state what action they propose to take against Mr. Ram Sarup for breach of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes.

(b) to (e). Government have no information, but they are asking the Controller of Printing and Stationery to enquire into the allegations contained in parts (b) to (d) of the question.

MIS-STATEMENT OF FACTS BY CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATIONS.

1045. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Asim: (a) Is it a fact that in applying for admission to the examination of the Public Service Commission a mis-statement of facts entails dismissal from service?

(b) Is it a fact that Messrs. Afzal Hussain and Lachman Singh, late clerks in the M. G. S. Branch, were forced to resign their appointments or were dismissed from the service because they had mis-stated their educational qualifications in applying for admission to the examination of the Public Service Commission held in 1929?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Amar Nath Dhowan, clerk in the Adjutant General's Branch:

(i) secured admission to the Public Service Commission examination held in 1929 by mis-stating his educational qualifications,

(ii) passed the examination, and

(iii) now holds a permanent appointment in the Adjutant-General's Branch?

If so, will Government please say why Mr. Amar Nath Dhowan has been treated differently from Messrs. Lachman Singh and Afzal Hussain?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Candidates for the examination are required to sign a certificate to the effect that the statements made in the application form are true to the best of their knowledge and belief. If false statements are made by them, candidates who have been appointed would be liable to departmental action and to dismissal if the offence was considered to be sufficiently grave.

(b) Both clerks were holding temporary appointments in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch. As soon as it became known that they had made a false statement about their educational qualifications, one of them absented himself from office and tendered his resignation, and the services of the other were dispensed with.

(c) The case referred to by the Honourable Member is being investigated.

OFFICERS ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE RAILWAY BOARD'S OFFICE.

1046. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will Government be pleased to give a statement of officers on Special Duty in each Department including those connected with the Railway Board? Will Government be pleased to mention the purpose for which they are appointed? What are their salaries and what is the probable period of their appointment? What authority or authorities sanctioned such appointments? In case the Officer on Special Duty was already a Government servant, what was the salary of his permanent appointment?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: A statement giving the information asked for in respect of the Departments of the Government of India including the Railway Board, is being prepared and will be sent to the Honourable Member shortly.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN SECRETARY TO THE AGENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1047. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that the Agent of the East Indian Railway declined to have an Indian Secretary? Will Government be pleased to lay the correspondence on the table? Did the Member in charge of establishment write a note of dissent?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, the other parts therefore do not arise.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Am I to understand that the Agent did not refuse to take an Indian as Secretary?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes, Sir; that is what I said.

TRANSFER OF RAILWAY OFFICERS.

1048. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) How many officers of the East Indian Railway drawing a salary of Rs. 1,500 or more were transferred to other State Railways since April 1926? How many of them are still in service?

(b) How many officers drawing a salary of Rs. 1,500 or more were transferred from other Railways to the East Indian Railway during that period?

- Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) Five; of these four are still in service.
(b) Eight; of these one is on leave preparatory to retirement.

DACOITIES IN CLERKS' QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1049. ***Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Is it a fact that a dacoity has been committed on the 9th March, 1931, in the house of a Government of India servant residing in Edward's Square, New Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that the dacoits were armed with pistols and small fire-arms?

(c) Is it a fact that a similar dacoity took place a few weeks before in an unorthodox quarter in Market Road, New Delhi?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state the steps they have taken to prevent such occurrences from time to time in the Government of India headquarters?

(e) Are Government aware that these armed dacoities in the residences of Indian clerks are committed owing to the absence of small fire-arms in their houses?

(f) Is it a fact that licences for small arms are refused even to Government servants paying income-tax? If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to issue licences for small arms liberally on the recommendations of the heads of Departments under whom these Government servants work?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). No. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the reported assault on Messrs. L. K. and S. K. Mandal at 31, Edward Square, New Delhi, at about 10-30 P.M. on the 8th March, 1931. The alleged assailants, who were armed with a Webley and Scott air pistol and two small knives, were subsequently arrested.

(c) An attempt of a similar nature was made in the early hours of the 7th February last, at No. 2, Market Road. On that occasion 3 men entered the outer room of the house but, on an alarm being given, fled.

(d) Police patrols have been organised and these are working efficiently, considering the large area in which they have to operate.

(e) No.

(f) Licenses for revolvers and pistols are issued only in case of real necessity and are not dependent on payment of income-tax. The issue of licenses is within the discretion of the District Magistrate and it would not be advisable to issue any orders limiting that discretion.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it a fact that the police force in New Delhi has been considerably strengthened in recent years in view of the frequent recurrence of such incidents?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: Considerable increases have been made.

INCREASED RATES FOR PASSENGERS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

1050. *Mr. K. P. Thampan: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) whether it is a fact that the South Indian Railway has doubled, with effect from the 1st March, 1931, the minimum charges for passenger traffic for all classes;
- (ii) if so, whether there were any special reasons for such heavy increase, except the general trade depression;
- (iii) whether any other railway system has also adopted this course; if so, which railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (i) Yes. The Honourable Member no doubt realises that the alteration only affects the charge for a journey of not more than three miles, and does not mean, for a third class passenger, an extra charge of more than six pies for any journey up to three miles.

(ii) This is presumably one of the measures which the South Indian Railway Administration consider necessary to relieve the present financial position.

(iii) I am not aware of any other railway having similarly enhanced its minimum charge for passengers.

MILEAGE OF LINES IN A NEW DIVISION CREATED ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

1051. *Mr. K. P. Thampan: Will Government be pleased to state adverting to my question No. 552, dated the 17th February, 1931:

- (i) the total mileage of lines in the South Indian Railway under the Divisional Superintendent at Podanur in the year 1925, when the number of districts was reduced to three;
- (ii) the increase in the mileage under that district till the 1st of January when that district was bifurcated;
- (iii) the total mileage as at present arranged in each of the Podanur and Calicut Divisions;
- (iv) the average mileage in a district in the Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal Nagpur Railways; and
- (v) if the post of a new Traffic Superintendent has been created on account of the creation of this division; if so, who has been appointed for the post and what is his salary?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (i) to (iv) and latter portion of (v). I have called for information from the Agents, South Indian, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal Nagpur Railways and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

As regards the first portion of (v), two posts, one in the senior and the other in the junior scale, have been created in connection with the opening of the Traffic Division at Calicut.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: Are Government satisfied that there is a real need for creating a new division at Calicut?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: Is that by way of retrenchment in the Railway Department?

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1052. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that seniority of service is not observed in making promotions to the gazetted ranks of the Printing and Stationery Department?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Trousdell was recently appointed as Deputy Controller, Forms, Calcutta, in supersession of Mr. Golder and two other European Assistant Managers and Overseers of the Calcutta Press?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. T. E. Jones is considerably senior in service both to Mr. Trousdell and Mr. T. Carter, Acting Manager of Government Press, Delhi? If so, why was Mr. Jones not made permanent as Deputy Controller, Forms Store?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Jones has held the post of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Nagpur, on two occasions? If so, why have the claims of Mr. Jones for promotion been overlooked again and again by the Department of Industries and Labour and the Controller of Printing?

(e) Is it a fact that a vacancy of a gazetted Press Manager will shortly fall vacant? If so, do Government intend to take into consideration the cases of Mr. Golder and Mr. Jones in the order of seniority for filling the vacancy?

Mr. J. A. Shildy: (a) to (c). Seniority is taken into consideration in making promotions to gazetted posts, but it is not the sole factor determining those promotions. Mr. Trousdell was appointed to the post of Deputy Controller of Forms because, in the opinion of Government, he had the best claim to the post and was suited to fill it.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS MANAGERS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AND AS CONTROLLER OF FORMS.

1053. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to Indianise the posts of the Managers of the Government of India Presses, Central Publication Branch and the Deputy Controller of Forms?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why no Indian has yet been appointed to the gazetted posts, referred to in part (a) permanently?

(c) Is it a fact that Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra promised to appoint an Indian in 1930 or 1931?

Mr. J. A. Shildy: (a) The Government of India sanctioned a temporary scheme in 1926 under which one Indian scholar has been selected every year from among apprentices in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, for training in England in the Art of Printing and allied trades for a period of three years. The scholars on return are appointed to the non-gazetted technical posts of Overseers and Assistant Managers in the Government of India Presses with a view to promotion to the superior gazetted posts in due course. So far five State scholars have been sent

to England for training and two of them, after completing their course in England, have been appointed to the grade of Assistant Managers and Overseers in the Government of India Presses. Indians have been appointed to the post of the Manager, Central Publication Branch, in temporary vacancies.

(b) No Indians are as yet sufficiently senior in the Department for permanent appointment to the posts of Managers of the Government of India Presses and the Deputy Controller of Forms. As regards the managership of the Central Publication Branch, the post was created in March, 1924, when no Indian with the requisite experience was available. Since then no permanent vacancy has occurred in this post.

(c) I am not aware of any such promise.

OFFICE OF LEGAL ADVISER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1054. *Mr. B. N. Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway have got a Legal Adviser and several assistants of the same?

(b) If so, how many assistants are under him? ^{with}

(c) What is the pay of the Legal Adviser and his assistants?

(d) What is the expenditure for providing that department?

(e) Are there such legal advisers in any other State-managed or Company-managed Railways?

(f) If so, what is the expenditure in those railways under law charges?

(g) Have those railways, including the East Indian Railway, consulted the Law Officers of Government in making those appointments?

(h) If not, do Government propose to adopt the policy of the Local Government in fixing the scale of fees as regulated by the Legal Practitioners Act?

(i) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House the law charges of several State-managed and Company-managed railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The cadre of the East Indian Railway includes one superior post of a Vakil on a scale of pay of Rs. 550—50—1,000. This officer probably has a small office establishment, but Government have no detailed information.

(e) No other Railway has in its cadre a superior post of the same kind.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The present incumbent of the post of the Vakil, East Indian Railway, was appointed in 1906. Government are not aware whether the Law Officers of Government were consulted when the appointment was made, but it is most unlikely. The railway was then a Company-managed railway.

(h) Government do not contemplate a change in the existing arrangements.

(i) The amounts shown under law charges in the accounts of the State and Company-managed Railways for the year 1929-30 for which accounts have been compiled are as follows:

	Rs.
Assam Bengal Railway	11,670
Bengal and North-Western Railway	13,541
Bengal Nagpur Railway	71,339
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway	48,859
Burma Railways	11,807
Eastern Bengal Railway	53,646
East Indian Railway	1,59,020
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	57,930
Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway	11,834
North Western Railway	26,529
Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway	699
South Indian Railway	12,626

Mr. B. N. Misra: If other railways have not got such establishments, are there any particular reasons for this railway to have one?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: This is a very large railway and has sufficient legal work to employ a whole-time vakil. For example, the Honourable Member will remember that a few years ago it was the railway which had the largest number of claims against it, and they often mean that legal advice is wanted.

LEASE BY THE BENGAL-NAGPUR AND MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAYS OF CERTAIN COAL FIELDS.

1055: **Mr. B. N. Misra:** (a) Is it a fact that (i) the Madras and Southern Mahratta, and (ii) the Bengal Nagpur Railways have acquired sub-lease from the Talcher coal fields in the Talcher State, Orissa?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table:

- (i) the year or years when the sub-leases were executed;
- (ii) the expenses incurred separately by the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway in securing the sub-leases;
- (iii) the expenses incurred up to date by each railway in development of mines;
- (iv) the tonnage of coal raised, despatched or stacked up to date by each of these railway collieries?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) (i). 1927.

(ii) and (iv). The information is not available in the Railway Board's office, and I am obtaining it for the Honourable Member from the two railways.

(iii) Rs. 26,85,636 by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and Rs. 11,11,121 by the Bengal Nagpur Railway up to the end of June, 1930, the latest date to which audited figures are available.

CUSTOMS BARRIER AT VIRAMGAUM.

1056. *Mr. N. M. Dumasia: (a) Will Government be pleased to state in what year the customs barrier at Viramgaum was removed and for what reason?

(b) When was the customs barrier reimposed at Viramgaum?

(c) What is the amount of revenue collected at Viramgaum on goods imported into British India through the ports of Kathiawar since the re-imposition of customs?

(d) Is the revenue appropriated wholly by Government to their own use?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The line was abolished in 1917 in pursuance of the policy of the Government of India, which was and is that as few restrictions as possible should be imposed on trade between different parts of the Indian Empire.

(b) July 1927.

(c) The amount of duty collected up to the end of January 1931 is Rs. 2,67,27,000.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it a fact, Sir, that the re-imposition of the Customs cordon at Viramgaum was objected to by some of the maritime States in Kathiawar?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Yes, Sir; it is a fact.

Mr. N. M. Dumasia: Have the maritime States claimed a refund of the duty collected at Viramgaum in accordance with the treaty of 1917?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The maritime States have raised a good many claims, and there has been a great deal of controversy on the matter.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know on what grounds this objection was raised by the maritime States in Kathiawar?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The question is a complicated one. The claim of the maritime States is that a definite agreement was made in 1917 between the Government and themselves which would have permitted them to import very large quantities of goods on which the Government of India would have lost the whole of the import duty. The Government of India have no doubt as to the true facts of the position and have therefore had to resist the claim of the maritime States.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know if this re-imposition of the customs cordon is not at variance with the agreement entered into between the Government of India on the one hand and the maritime States on the other?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Our contention is, and it is a contention which we think we could establish, that it is not in violation of the agreement.

Mr. N. M. Dumasia: Is there any maritime State in Kathiawar which is treated as a British port and the goods entering into the British territory through that port are allowed to pass free of duty?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Yes, Sir, there is one State which has a special treaty which puts it in a better position than the other maritime States.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it the Bhavnagar State?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Yes, Sir.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: That means the whole duty goes to Bhavnagar State. Bhavnagar State is importing a lot of foreign goods and it is re-exporting those goods into Indian territories, and the Government of India have allowed all this duty to go to Bhavnagar State, and they themselves, I mean the Government of India, are not getting any benefit out of it?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: There exists a very ancient treaty between the Government of India and the Bhavnagar State which puts that particular State in a privileged position.

Mr. N. M. Dumasia: Is there any difference between the treaty with Bhavnagar State and the other maritime States?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: That, Sir, is exactly what I have been trying to explain.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know if goods imported through the other maritime State ports importing goods, excepting Bhavnagar, have to pay twice the Customs duty?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I do not know what my Honourable friend refers to, but if he talks about a double customs duty, as far as I know, there is no arrangement of that kind applying to any State.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are the Government of India aware that this customs cordon is regarded as a great nuisance by railway passengers?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I should think it quite possible, Sir; but we have had no representation to that effect.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the maritime ports in Kathiawar import large quantities of foreign goods and the Government of India is getting very little duty at Viramgaum? Have the Government of India got any figures showing the quantity of goods imported into Kathiawar ports or of the amount of duty collected at Viramgaum? Can Government place a statement on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: If my Honourable friend suggests that there are considerable leakages, that in fact the Government is not recovering all the duty which it ought to recover, I think he is incorrect. But we have no exact statistics of the trade figures at Kathiawar ports, and I think I can assure him that if there was any substantial leakage we should have discovered the fact. Personally, I am quite satisfied that there is no substantial leakage.

Mr. N. M. Dumasia: Have the terms offered to the maritime States in Kathiawar at the Abu Conference been withdrawn?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: My friend is referring to a very complicated controversy. It is impossible for me to explain the full details of that controversy in answer to supplementary questions, but I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government of India have throughout been acting in what they consider to be perfectly fair way, consistent with every arrangement and every agreement which has been entered into or which has ever been discussed, and that the Government of India have been actuated by one motive and one motive only, and that is, consistently with any obligations that they have undertaken, to protect the interests of the taxpayers of British India.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RATE OF NOTE EXAMINATION IN THE CALCUTTA CURRENCY OFFICE.

322. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that when the rate of note examination was temporarily raised from 2,500 to 2,700 pieces in the Calcutta Currency Office the then Controller of Currency (Mr. H. Denning) remarked in his letter No. CY. 2608/155/28, dated the 24th November, 1928, that the rate was not too high and that it was due to the accumulation of arrears?

(b) If so, what is the reason of increasing the rate within two months and then again to still higher figures on and on till the present high rates have been reached?

(c) Are Government aware that the note examiners are compelled by the local Currency Officer to maintain the present increased rates? If so, is it under orders of the local D. C. C.?

(d) Did Government obtain expert opinion on the point before the verbal orders of the D. C. C. are followed? If not, why not?

(e) What is the object of Government in making such an increase? Is there any other channel to effect the same than by increasing the work of one section of the office?

(f) Is it a fact that official representations against the increase in the rates were made by the employees, if so, what steps have so far been taken?

(g) Are Government aware that the employees have been forced, under threats of dismissal and stoppage of increments, to withdraw their representations? If so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

(h) Are Government aware that the local papers agitated against the hardships of the employees consequent on the increase in the rates?

(i) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken; if so, what? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Later on it was found, on closer examination of the conditions of the work, that by suitable administrative arrangements, the rate of work could easily be raised, and increased rates were, therefore, put into operation.

(c) The staff have to perform the work allotted to them and the Currency Officer is under the orders of his departmental superior, the Deputy Controller of the Currency.

(d) The Controller of the Currency is the Government's expert adviser in these matters, and he agreed with the opinion of the Deputy Controller of the Currency, who is in administrative charge of the office.

(e) The object is to give the men a full day's work.

(f) and (g). A representation was submitted by the men to the Treasurer. It contained certain statements which the signatories were asked to elucidate further. The representation was thereupon withdrawn, but not under any pressure or threats of dismissal or stoppage of increments, as alleged.

(h) and (i). Some letters were published in the papers. There was no real justification for the complaints and no action was, therefore, considered necessary.

RATE OF NOTE EXAMINATION IN THE CALCUTTA CURRENCY OFFICE.

323. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that when the rate of note examination was increased to 2,500 pieces per head, in the Calcutta Currency Office it was effected after practical tests had been made by an old officer (Mr. W. D. Woollum) who was an expert in the field having thorough experience of all the seven Currency Offices in India?

(b) If so, will Government please state whether similar experiments had been made before the rates had been raised to the present high figures? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that when the minimum rate was recommended to be 2,500 pieces per head by the Currency Expert, codified and applied to the Calcutta Currency Office, the rates obtaining in the other Currency were higher?

(d) Were there reasons for such distinction in rates in this province?

(e) If so, what are the reasons for adopting measures to level the rates now in all the Currency Offices?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether the various operations connected with the examination of notes as prescribed in the departmental code are being strictly followed in all the Currency Offices now and before; and if so, to what extent in each?

(g) Is it a fact (i) that the note examiners in Calcutta Currency Office used to finish their work by 5-30 P.M., when the rate was 2,500 pieces per head and (ii) that they had to finish their work by 4-30 P.M., when the rate was 3,000 and 3,500 pieces and (iii) that now they are expected to complete their work by 3-30 P.M., when the rates have been further increased to 3,500 and 4,000 pieces per head? If so, will Government please state how and why the time of note examination is being steadily shortened as the volume of work is being increased?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes; in 1914 when conditions were entirely different, both as regards the format of the notes, and the rules regarding claims.

(b) The rates were raised after due consideration.

(c) No; at the time in no office was the outturn higher than 2,500 pieces per man per diem.

(d) and (e). The question does not arise. These minimum rates have subsequently been considerably improved on in other offices, and there seems to be no reason why the Calcutta office should not also show an improvement.

(f) Government have no reason to think that the prescribed procedure of work is not observed in any of the offices.

(g) No records are available to furnish the information, but it is not a fact that the men are now forced to complete their work by 3-30 P.M. The men are allowed reasonable time to complete their work and for sometime past the men have been doing their work in time. The percentage of cut notes is now considerably lower than before, and it has, therefore, been possible to finish the examination more quickly.

GRIEVANCES OF DAILY-RATED WORKSHOP EMPLOYEES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

324. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Is it a fact that the President of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association submitted a memorial signed by some 1,564 Railway Workshops' employees to the Agent on the 13th January, 1931, praying that the grievances arising out of the daily rated wages be removed and that the Agent refused to remove any of the grievances?

(b) Are Government aware that the Bengal and North Western Railway pays wages for only 14 of the holidays including Sundays to the Workshops' daily rated employees?

(c) Are Government aware that the Railway do not admit the majority of the daily rated Workshops' employees receiving Rs. 15 or more per month to the provident fund benefits?

(d) Are Government aware that these daily rated employees do not get wages when they are on medical leave?

(e) If the conditions are as stated above, do Government propose to take any steps to remedy these grievances? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(b) Daily-rated employees in the workshops of the Bengal and North Western Railway are paid for the days actually worked by them, and in addition received pay for 14 holidays during the year on which the workshops are closed.

(c) The improvement of the position in respect of the admission of workmen to the provident fund is receiving close attention from the Bengal and North Western Railway Administration, and arrangements have been made to admit a certain number of men to the provident fund regularly, starting with those with longer service.

(d) Daily-rated employees are granted pay when on medical leave on account of injuries received on duty, but not otherwise.

(c) The Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, will be asked to consider the question of extending to employees in the Bengal and North Western Railway workshops certain privileges recently extended to employees in State Railway workshops.

GRIEVANCES OF BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

325 **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a meeting of the Bengal and North Western Railway employees held at Gorakhpur on the 12th August, 1930, as reported in column 5, page 6 of the daily *Leader* dated the 24th August, 1930, under the heading "Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's grievances"?

(b) Is it a fact that the grievances of the Bengal and North Western Railway employees contained in the resolutions passed in the meeting were communicated to the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, by the Secretary of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association and subsequently by the President?

(c) Is it a fact that no reply was given by the Agent nor have the grievances been redressed?

(d) Do Government propose to take any steps for redressing the said grievances?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). I am calling for certain information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

RECOGNITION OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

326. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Are Government aware of the following facts:

(i) that Mr. Shakir Ali (barrister), the then President of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association, had an interview with the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, on the 16th September, 1929 in connection with the recognition of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association;

(ii) that as a result of the said interview and, in order to secure its recognition by the aforesaid Agent, Maulana Azad Sobhani, Mr. Bindhyabashni Prasad Vermah (Advocate) and Dr. Biswa Nath Mukerji, (vice-President, Legal Adviser and General Secretary of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association respectively) were replaced by other gentlemen with Rai Sahib Mr. Madhusudan Das as President (in place of Mr. Shakir Ali who was elected as General Secretary);

(iii) that the newly elected President and General Secretary had an interview with the Agent who informed the President that he would be pleased to communicate with the President of the Association on any relevant matters which concerned the welfare of the staff generally;

(iv) that no circular letter has been sent to the staff of that Railway, regarding the non-applicability of the letter written in 1925, by the Agent to the Association (*vide* answer to unstarred question No. 353, part (b) (iii) asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th March, 1929, contained in the Railway Board's letter No. 15-L., dated 8th June, 1929 to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, M.L.A.);

(v) that the Agent has refused to circulate amongst the staff that he would be pleased to communicate with the President of the Association on relevant matters which concerned the welfare of the staff generally;

(vi) that the Agent has refused to supply the scales of the salaries and wages of his employees to the Association on the plea that they were not for general publication;

(vii) that one of the aims and objects of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association is to represent the grievances of its individual members;

(viii) that the Agent of the Bengal and North Western Railway has refused to entertain the individual cases of his employees represented by the Association?

(b) If reply to part (a), items (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to draw the attention of the Agent to the desirability of:

(i) giving notice to the staff of non-applicability of the letter written in 1925, forwarding a copy of the notice to the Association;

(ii) giving notice to the staff regarding communication with the Association;

(iii) supplying the Association with scales of salaries and wages of the employees; and

(iv) allowing the Association to represent individual cases?

(c) If answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Except in regard to the matter referred to in part (a) (iv) of the question, Government have no information. All the matters referred to in part (a) of the question are within the competence of the Agent to deal with and Government do not propose to interfere with his discretion; but a copy of the Honourable Member's question and answer will be sent to the Agent.

PAY OF "C" CLASS STATION MASTERS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

327. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that "C" class station masters on the Bengal and North Western Railway get a fixed salary of Rs. 50 a month and that this salary is never increased?

(b) If so, do Government propose to draw the attention of the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway to the desirability of fixing their salary on incremental basis? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have called for certain information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

POSITION OF MARKERS IN THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

328. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article by Mr. Ram Prasad, Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association, published at Madras, in the *Indian Railway Magazine* of January, 1930, under the heading "Position of the Markers in the Bengal and North Western Railway" at page 17?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they have inquired into the allegations made therein and if they propose to reconcile their reply to the question referred to in the said article; and

(ii) their reason, if reply to part (b) (i) be in the negative?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have not seen the article referred to.

ALLEGATIONS IN REGARD TO LABOUR ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

329. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter of the Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association, published in London, in the *Railway Review*, dated the 25th April, 1930, under the heading "The Bengal and North Western Railway" "Labour Condition in India" "Trade Union Appeal to Britain"?

(b) If reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether inquiries have been made into the allegations contained therein?

(c) If so, what are the conclusions arrived at?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

COMPLAINT BY THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

330. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter of Mr. Ram Prasad, Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association, published in the *Forward*, dated the 11th September, 1928, in column "Letters to the Editor" under the heading "Railway Board" "Attitude towards Railwaymen's Unions"?

(b) Is it a fact that Railway Board did not reply to the letters of the said Association? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway Board advised the said Association to refer to the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway the matters set forth in its letter to the Secretary, Railway Board, seeking interpretation of the phrase "proper authority" which occurred in the Standing Order issued by the Secretary of the Railway Board as modification to the "State Railway Provident Fund and Gratuity Rules"? If so, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) and (c). The general procedure followed by the Railway Board is not to correspond direct with Labour Unions of individual railways.

REFUSAL OF FACILITIES TO OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION TO INVESTIGATE MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

331. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that a copy of Government of India's letter No. L.-1769 (Department of Industries and Labour) to all Major Governments and Chief Commissioner, Delhi, was sent to the Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association for expressing the views of the Association on the recommendation adopted at the twelfth International Labour Conference, 1929 regarding prevention of industrial accidents?

(b) Is it a fact that the President of the said Association applied to the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway for permission for himself and for some other office-bearers of the Association to visit the workshops of that Railway in order to see if measures adopted therein to prevent accidents were adequate and the Agent did not comply with his request?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for permission not having been granted?

(d) Do Government propose to draw the attention of the Agent to the desirability of granting the permission in time? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government are informed that this is a fact.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, explains that permission was not granted to the President and office-bearers of the Association to visit the Workshops as the reply which had been sent by him to the Government of the United Provinces was considered by him to have covered the question completely.

(d) Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the Agent in this matter.

ISSUE OF RAILWAY PASSES TO EMPLOYEES OF CONTRACTORS IN BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

332. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that men employed by the contractor in the Bengal and North Western Railway Treasury are given by the Railway, Free Passes and P. T. Orders just as are ordinary railway servants?

(b) Is it a fact that men employed by contractors in the workshops of this Railway are not given the same privileges?

(c) If reply to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for this discrimination?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Information is being obtained from the Agent of the Bengal and North Western Railway regarding the points referred to by the Honourable Member and I will communicate later with him.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

333. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter which appeared in the daily *Leader*, Allahabad at page 7, under the heading "Education of Bengal and North Western Railway Employees' Children" over the signature of Mr. Ram Prasad, Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they have inquired into the allegations contained therein;

(ii) if they propose to take steps to increase the remuneration of the teachers employed in the "India Railway School" at Gorakhpur and to extend the provision for the education of the children of the Bengal and North Western Railway employees; and

(iii) the reason, if the reply to part (b) (i) and (ii) be in the negative?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ALLEGATIONS REGARDING RAILWAY POINTSMEN.

334. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter which appeared in the daily *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta, in column "Our Post Bag", dated February 20th, 1930, under the heading "Railway Accidents and Pointsmen" over the signature of Mr. Ram Prasad, Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether the allegations contained therein about the inadequate remuneration and about the overwork of railway pointsmen have been inquired into; and

(ii) the reason, if no inquiry has been held?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE BEZWADA RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTING OFFICE.

335. Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total plinth area of the Bezwada Railway Mail Service Sorting office?

(b) What is the total space occupied by the furniture in the office?

(c) Is it a fact that the office is a very busy one working throughout the day and night?

(d) Is it a fact that a large number of transit and forward bags are received in the office daily apart from the very heavy receipt of bags which the sorting office has to dispose of?

(e) Is it a fact that all kind of sorting work including Parcel Sorting is done in the limited space available in the sorting office?

(f) If the space is insufficient, do Government propose to provide adequate space early? If not, why not?

(g) Is it a fact that there is no separate enclosure for the sorting of insured articles?

(h) Is it not usual to provide separate enclosures for the disposal of valuable articles such as insured articles to protect the staff against any possible loss, and if so, do Government propose to provide the enclosure early? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Government have no information as to the exact conditions existing. A copy of the question has been sent to the Postmaster-General, Madras, for any action necessary.

STRENGTH OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VIZAGAPATAM POST OFFICE.

336. Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the strength of the establishment of the Vizagapatam Post Office?

(b) Is it a fact that no correspondence clerk has been sanctioned for the office although fifteen clerks are working in the office? If the reply is in the affirmative, do they propose to sanction one early? If not, why not?

(c) Do the units of work in the accounts branch of the office come to 2057 according to the latest calculation? If not, what is the number of units?

(d) If the work in the branch justifies the sanction of two accountants, while only one full time accountant has been sanctioned and the services of a clerk are lent for a few hours, are Government prepared to sanction two accounts clerks exclusively at an early date? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Government have no information. The points raised are within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Madras, to whom a copy of the question has been sent.

STRENGTH OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE VIZAGAPATAM POSTAL DIVISION.

337. Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to state the total strength of the clerical establishment in the Vizagapatam Postal Division and the Leave Reserve clerks due to be sanctioned for the division? If the number of Leave Reserve Clerks sanctioned for the division is less than what is due do Government propose to sanction the full strength early? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The matter will be considered by me on receipt of information which has been called for from the Postmaster-General, Madras.

SCARCITY OF WATER AT VIZAGAPATAM.

338. Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is scarcity of water at Vizagapatam especially during summer?

(b) Are Government aware that the Postal officials have to pay about Rs. 5 to get a minimum quantity of water?

(c) Has any representation been received from the staff praying for the sanction of water allowance and do Government propose to consider the request favourably? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a), (b) and (c). Government have no information. Postmasters-General are authorised to grant water allowance up to Rs. 5 a month to the staff in their jurisdiction in cases in which this is justified.

STRENGTH OF LEAVE RESERVE IN DIVISIONS IN THE MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

339. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to state the names of the divisions in the Madras Postal Circle where full strength of Leave Reserve Clerks has not been sanctioned consequent on the increase of establishment in the divisions and do Government propose to accord sanction to the full strength early? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Government have no information showing that the case is as stated. A copy of the question has been sent to the Postmaster-General, Madras, for such action as may be necessary.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF IN POST OFFICES IN THE MADRAS CIRCLE.

340. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the standard fixed for determining the strength of the staff in the accounts branch of each Head Post Office?

(b) What are the offices in the Madras Circle which require additional staff according to the above standard?

(c) If additional staff has not already been sanctioned, do Government propose to sanction the additional establishment early? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that there is only one accountant in Guntur Post Office although there is work for more than 2,000 units? If so, does it justify two accountants? If so, are they prepared to sanction the additional appointment early? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a), (b), (c) and (d). A copy of the Director-General's G. O. No. 3, dated the 17th June, 1930, prescribing the standard will be sent to the Honourable Member. Government do not consider it necessary to make any further enquiries.

RESTORATION OF AN APPOINTMENT REDUCED IN THE MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICE.

341. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about a year back an appointment in the gazetted rank of Rs. 850—650 was brought under reduction in the Madras General Post Office, and if so, why?

(b) Has not the work, responsibility and strength of establishment of Madras General Post Office increased many times since the time when the appointment was first created and if so, what is the reason for reducing the appointment?

(c) Was the appointment at Madras General Post Office reduced for raising the status of any other officer?

(d) Are Government prepared to restore the appointment early? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) to (c). The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. The post of an Assistant Postmaster in the gazetted grade of Rs. 850—30—650 in the Madras General Post Office was reduced to the non-gazetted grade of Rs. 250—20—350 for the reasons explained in paragraph 10 of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Standing Finance Committee on the 24th January, 1929.

(d) Government are not prepared to restore the post to the 850—650 grade until such a pay is justified.

RESTORATION OF A TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT AND STOPPAGE OF REDUCTIONS IN THE MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICE.

342. Mr. G. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about a year back an additional clerk was sanctioned as a temporary measure for the Accounts Branch of the Madras General Post Office, in view of the additional work involved by the transfer of the Madras General Post Office Sorting office from the control of the Superintendent, R. M. S., 'M' Division to the Presidency Postmaster, Madras?

(b) Is it a fact that the additional clerk has recently been withdrawn since the department did not justify it on the application of the present time-test?

(c) Is it a fact that it is proposed to further reduce the strength of the department by one more clerk?

(d) Is it a fact that the same time-test which is applied to the accounts work of a mofussil head office is made applicable to the Presidency offices at Madras, Calcutta and Bombay?

(e) Is it a fact that in addition to the work of the Accounts branch of a mofussil head office the Presidency office has to attend to the disposal of pension papers, leave and transfer orders, etc., which are done in mofussil by the administrative office and not by the Accounts branch and no time-allowance has been prescribed for this additional work?

(f) Was any representation received by Government from the Presidency Postmaster, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay, about the inadequacy of the present time-test in the Accounts branch?

(g) Do Government propose to provide adequate time-test for the Accounts Department of a Presidency Office early and pending sanction of the revised time-test restore the temporary appointment in Madras General Post Office, and stop further reduction of establishment in the department? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes.

(b) The appointment, which was sanctioned temporarily, was abolished as not justified by the present standard.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The standard is applicable to all head post offices.

(e), (f) and (g). The question of the suitability of the standard has been raised and the matter is under examination by the Director-General. Until this examination can be completed and a decision reached, the standard laid down cannot properly be ignored.

PROVISION IN THE BUDGET OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS.

343. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the time-test devised by Mr. Bewoor and agreed to by the late Babu Tarapada Mukerjee, the General Secretary of the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have agreed to make necessary provision in the Budget estimate of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for any increase in expenditure consequent on addition of establishment, which the application of the new test may necessitate?

(c) Have any proposals for additional appointment been received from any Circle and, if so, from what Circles and what is the additional allotment required by each Circle?

(d) Has any provision been made for this item in the Budget estimate of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1931-32? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have asked the Director-General not to overlook the necessity of providing in his budget proposals of the Posts and Telegraphs Department from time to time for any additional funds which may be required to cover the cost of such additions to the establishment as may be found necessary. But I would remind the Honourable Member that in the present financial stringency additional expenditure cannot be contemplated.

(c) No proposal has been received from any circle with reference to Mr. Bewoor's Report, nor has any additional allotment been applied for on this account.

(d) No special provision has been made in view not only of the extremely unsatisfactory financial position of the Department, but also of the actual and anticipated further fall in traffic resulting in savings which would enable the case to be substantially met without additional grants.

PROVISION OF A CLERK IN THE DWARAPUDI SUB-POST OFFICE.

344. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Dwarapudi sub-office in the Madras Presidency is a single-handed sub-office doing telegraph work?

(b) Is it a fact that there is justification for a clerk in the office excluding the Sub-Postmaster and, if so, do Government intend to sanction a clerk, and if so, when?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) and (b). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Madras, to whom a copy of the question has been sent.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL POSTAL ESTABLISHMENT IN MADRAS.

345. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that additional staff is justified in the case of a large number of post offices in Madras City including several departments of the Madras General Post Office as a result of the application of Mr. Bewoor's time-test? If so, what are the offices or departments which require additional establishment?

(b) Have any steps been taken to accord sanction for the additional establishment wherever found justified? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government prepared to sanction immediately additional establishment in the case of offices or departments such as Flower Bazaar, Park Town, Sowcarpet, Money Order Savings Bank, Inland Parcel? Are Government aware that the work there is very pressing and the staff very hard-worked? Is it a fact that there is justification for additional establishment there according to Mr. Bewoor's time-test? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a), (b) and (c). Government are not in a position to make any statement. They presume that the question of the appropriate establishment for offices or departments of offices under the control of the Postmaster-General, Madras, is receiving his attention, and a copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent to the Postmaster-General.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL POSTAL ESTABLISHMENT IN MADRAS.

346. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Bewoor at pages 184 and 185 of his Report on the revision of time-test of the Post Office has stated that the Money Order and Savings Bank Departments require additional establishment of supervisors and clerks;
- (b) if it is a fact that at page 189 of the said Report he has stated that he has seen the Savings Bank branch of Madras and considers that the supervisory staff is very inadequate and an increase in operative staff very necessary;
- (c) if the reply is in the affirmative, why has not the additional establishment been sanctioned till now; and
- (d) whether Government are prepared to sanction it without further delay; and if not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The facts are not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. On the pages of the Report cited, Mr. Bewoor furnished a statement, as an Appendix, showing the result of the application of the proposed time-test to certain post offices. In the case of the Money Order and Savings Bank Departments named therein this result worked out to more staff, supervisory and operative, than that sanctioned.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The question of revision of establishment can be decided only after completion of the scrutiny and survey required. It is necessary not only to compile the requisite statistics, but also to make a full and independent enquiry into the organisation and general conditions of work, as contemplated by the Report, and to see whether the cases of particular offices demand priority of treatment over those of other offices.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL POSTAL ESTABLISHMENT IN MADRAS.

347. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one clerk has been brought under reduction in the Registration Department of the Madras General Post Office and, if so, on what grounds was the reduction made?

(b) Was any reduction necessitated by the application of the old time-test?

(c) Is it a fact that an increase of establishment of 15 additional clerks is required for the department as per Mr. Bewoor's time-test and, if so, why was reduction made, where additional establishment is justified?

(d) Has the department directed the reduction of the present establishment to meet the alleged loss in the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and, if so, in how many places in the Madras circle has such reduction been made?

(e) Are Government aware that the reduction of the establishment as a form of retrenchment of expenditure to meet budget deficiencies causes severe hardship and risk to the staff?

(f) If answer to part (e) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to restore the establishment brought under reduction in the Registration Department of the Madras General Post Office and elsewhere? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) and (b). The post of one clerk has been kept vacant temporarily in consequence of a decrease of traffic.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The other part does not arise.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of the replies to (a), (b) and (d) above.

APPLICATION OF MR. BEWOOR'S TIME-TEST TO RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE OFFICES.

348. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Bewoor's time-test has not yet been made applicable to Railway Mail Service offices and sections and, if not, why not?

(b) When do Government propose applying the time-test to the Railway Mail Service?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) It is not a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

MEASURES FOR RELIEF OF POSTAL OFFICIALS WORKING ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

349. Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) With reference to the reply of Government to unstarred question No. 12 of Khan Bahadur Sarafaraz Hussain Khan in the Assembly on the 14th July 1930, will Government be pleased to state whether the Director-General has since introduced measures for relief of postal officials working on Sundays and Post Office holidays and, if so, what are the measures introduced?

(b) If not, do Government propose to direct the Director-General to issue early orders in the matter? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes. A copy of the orders issued will be sent to the Honourable Member separately.

(b) Does not arise.

INCREASE OF PAY IN POST OFFICES IN THE MADRAS CIRCLE.

350. Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the work and importance of the Kumbakonam and Tanjore post offices require them to be placed in the higher selection grades;
- (b) if so, why it has not been done and when it is proposed to be done; and
- (c) if there is any other selection grade post offices in the Madras Circle which should be placed in a higher selection grade or raised to the gazetted rank and, if so, what are they and when do Government propose raising the status of these offices; if not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a), (b) and (c). Government have no information. Such cases are decided on their merits on receipt of proposals from the Heads of the Circles concerned.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS TO THE PESHAWAR MUNICIPALITY.

351. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact, that two non-official Vice-Presidents are elected by the Peshawar Municipality every time that a newly empannelled Committee comes into existence;
- (b) whether it is a fact that one seat was meant for a Muhammadan and the other for a Hindu;
- (c) whether it is a fact that whenever Vice-Presidents were elected voting took place separately for each seat and the members elected one Hindu and one Muhammadan to the seats by separate ballot;
- (d) whether it is a fact that at the last occasion of electing Vice-Presidents it was found that the Revenue Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, had made some fresh rules for election, and they were applied;
- (e) whether it is a fact that according to those rules all the Hindu and Muhammadan candidates were made to stand together for the two seats and all the members were made to vote at one time for the two seats but with the restriction that each member shall only vote for one individual and not two; and
- (f) whether Government have taken any steps to abrogate these rules and restore to the two communities their separate seats of Vice-Presidents and also enable each member to exercise his right of vote regarding each seat separately thus filling the Muhammadan and Hindu seats separately by a majority?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a), (c) and (d). Yes.

(b) Yes, by tacit understanding.

(c) Yes, Mr. M. Ghulam Hassan and Rai Sahib Mehr Chand were elected.

(f) No. The new rules which were issued under the powers vested in the Local Administration by section 240 of the Punjab Municipal Act are based on the rules in force in the Punjab. They were published before being finally notified and no objections to them were received.

ADMISSION OF NON-AGRICULTURISTS TO AN AGRICULTURAL EXAMINATION.

352. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that:

- (a) according to standing orders in vogue in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province only the sons of agriculturists are allowed to sit in the agricultural examination;
- (b) certain non-Muslims who are not sons of agriculturists were allowed to appear in the agricultural examination lately held at Turnab Government Farm in Peshawar District; and
- (c) if replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the restrictions imposed by the standing orders were not followed by the local agricultural officer?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) There are no standing orders of the nature indicated in the North-West Frontier Province nor, so far as the Government of India are aware, in the Punjab, but sons of agriculturists if otherwise suitable are, as a matter of fact, given preference in respect of agricultural appointments.

(b) The Agricultural Officer, North-West Frontier Province, was recently requested by the Local Administration to forward his recommendations regarding the suitability of certain candidates for employment at the Agricultural Station, Tarnab. In order to test their capacity, he set papers and, on the basis of the answers to these, made certain recommendations, on which orders have yet to be passed. There was no regular examination, but merely an informal test.

(c) Does not arise.

NON-REDUCTION OF MUSLIM STAFF ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

353. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Will Government be pleased to state how they propose:

- (a) to treat the small percentage of newly appointed Muslims serving in subordinate services at present on the North Western Railway, when reduction of Railway establishment is made in the Department; and
- (b) to achieve practical result towards redressing the enormous communal inequalities existing in the Department at present if due consideration is not given towards the retention of the present comparatively insignificant number of qualified Muslims in the Department?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The Railway Board have issued instructions to the Agents of State-managed railways to take all practical measures to see that the necessity for reducing staff does not operate to the detriment of communities not at present adequately represented in railway services.

MUSLIM MEMBER NOMINATED TO THE PESHAWAR CANTONMENT BOARD.

354. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present Muslim member of the Peshawar Cantonment Board

(i) does not own land or house property except a small dwelling house in the bazaar;

(ii) does not carry on any business except teaching *Pashtu* and *Urdu*; and

(iii) does not belong to Peshawar District?

(b) If reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state on what special consideration he was nominated with reference to the requirements of section 14 proviso (b) of the Cantonments Act?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Government have no information.

(b) The nomination was made by the Local Administration, whose discretion Government do not propose to question.

APPOINTMENT OF A MUSLIM AS INSPECTOR OF POST OFFICES, PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.

355. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: (a) Are Government aware that the appointment of Inspector of Post Offices, Peshawar Cantonment, has been monopolized by the non-Muslims from time immemorial?

(b) If reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to replace the present non-Muslim incumbent by a Muslim?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier, to whom a copy of the question has been sent.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

RULES GOVERNING GRANTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, with reference to the supplementary question to starred question No. 244, asked by Lala Brij Kishore, on the 2nd February, 1931, I lay on the table a copy of the rules governing the grant of assistance to employees of State-managed Railways towards the education of their children.

Rules governing the grant of assistance from Railway funds to employees of State-managed Railways towards the Education of their Children.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

No. 4283-E.

Dated Simla, the 25th September 1930.

TO THE AGENTS, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY, AND BURMA RAILWAYS. *

Assistance to Railway employees from Railway funds towards the education of their children.

DEAR SIR,

* * * * *

3. With regard to the assistance to be given to railway employees towards the cost of the board and tuition fees of their children attending schools, the Government of India, in consultation with the Central Advisory Council for Railways, have decided that, pending the issue of their final policy, which will be decided after receipt and consideration of the report of the special officer referred to in paragraph 1 above, assistance shall be given immediately to all employees of State-managed Railways in accordance with the Rules a copy of which forms an Annexure to this letter. Attention is invited, in this connection, to the provision in the Rules whereby employees in service before the 1st February, 1929, are allowed to exercise the option of receiving assistance on the terms and conditions and on the scale previously applicable to them, or of accepting the new rules, the option once exercised being final.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. BLACKWOOD,
Secretary, Railway Board.

D.A.—Annexure.

ANNEXURE.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

Rules governing the grant of assistance from Railway funds to employees of State-managed Railways towards the education of their children.

1. These rules are applicable to all subordinate employees of State-managed Railways except those in inferior service.

2. Staff now in service and who joined service on State-managed Railways before the 1st February, 1929, shall be allowed the option of coming under the operation of these rules, or of receiving assistance on the

scales, terms and conditions to which they were eligible prior to the introduction of these rules. The option, which must be exercised before the 1st January, 1931, will, when once exercised, be treated as final.

NOTE.—Staff on leave or on deputation elsewhere than on State-managed Railways at the time of issue of these rules will be permitted to exercise their option within three months of their return to duty after such leave or deputation.

3. Assistance will be limited to those cases where an employee is compelled to send his child or children to a boarding school away from the station at which he is posted, owing to the absence of a school or schools of the requisite standard at the station at which he is posted.

NOTE 1.—An Indian school shall be held to be a school not of the "requisite standard" for European and Anglo-Indian children, and *vice versa*. Similarly, if a child is prevented by the tenets of his religious persuasion from attending a school run by a body of another persuasion, such school shall be held to be a school not of the "requisite standard" within the meaning of these rules.

NOTE 2.—If an employee is transferred from a station where there is no school of the "requisite standard" to a station where there is such a school, and was in receipt of assistance at the former station in respect of any child or children, he shall remain eligible to such assistance until the close of the scholastic year of the school in which his child or children were boarders at the time of his transfer, provided they continue for that period as boarders in that school.

NOTE 3.—If a child of a railway employee is denied admission to a school of the "requisite standard" at the station at which its parent is posted, because of there being no vacancy, or for any other reason, and the child is, therefore, compelled to attend a boarding school away from its parent's headquarters, the parent shall be entitled to assistance as if there were no school of the "requisite standard" at his station.

4. In addition to the limitation imposed under Rule 3, assistance will be limited to education for the period covered by the primary and middle standards, that is, up to and including the Middle School or Junior Cambridge classes.

5. Assistance will be admissible on the following scale:

(a) <i>Pay of employee.</i>	<i>Limit of assistance.</i>
Not exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem.	Half the fees for board and tuition.
Rs. 101 to Rs. 200 per mensem.	One-third of the fees for board and tuition.
Rs. 201 to Rs. 300 per mensem.	One-fourth of the fees for board and tuition.

(b) The assistance will be subject, in all cases, to an over-riding maximum of Rs. 15 per mensem per child, and to a maximum of Rs. 40 per mensem to any employee at any one time.

(c) Pay for this purpose will be substantive pay and will include allowances to the extent to which these are taken into account for Provident Fund Contributions.

(d) Assistance will be admissible to an employee whose child or children attend an Indian primary school, away from his station, if, owing to the absence of boarding arrangements at such school, he is compelled to board them at an institution unconnected with the school, or even with a private family. For the purpose of assessing the assistance admissible in such cases, the boarding charges shall be assumed to be the average of those obtaining in middle or secondary Indian schools in the same locality or district.

- (e) If an employee receives promotion which results in his passing from one category of assistance to another, the assistance admissible to him in the new category shall be regulated so that the total of his emoluments *plus* assistance shall not be less than the total of his emoluments *plus* assistance before promotion. Similarly if the promotion results in his passing into the non-entitled category he shall continue to receive assistance, provided other conditions remain unaltered, until his emoluments exceed the total of his emoluments *plus* assistance prior to his entry into the non-entitled category, and the amount of assistance will be limited to the difference between the said total in the entitled category, and his emoluments for the time being in the non-entitled category.

Example 1.—An employee on Rs. 198 per mensem has 2 children in school, the board and tuition charges for each of whom amount to Rs. 30 per mensem. He is entitled to assistance (at $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fees) amounting to Rs. 20 per mensem. He is promoted to Rs. 202 per mensem and would ordinarily be entitled (at $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fees) to Rs. 15 per mensem. As however he was previously in receipt of Rs. $(198+20=)$ 218 per mensem he is entitled to Rs. $(218-202=)$ 16 per mensem.

Example 2.—An employee on Rs. 295 per mensem has 3 children in respect of whom he receives assistance (at $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fees) amounting to Rs. 27 per mensem. He is promoted to Rs. 310 per mensem. He will continue to be eligible for assistance, in respect of those 3 children only, till his emoluments exceed Rs. $(295+27=)$ 322 per mensem, and to the extent of the difference between Rs. 322 and his emoluments for the time being.

6. These Rules are provisional and are liable to revision in the near future when certain questions connected with the policy governing the grant from Railway revenues of assistance to Railway employees for the education of their children, which are now under consideration, have been definitely decided by the Government of India. Employees receiving assistance under these rules will automatically come under the operation of the rules as revised, irrespective of whether the revised rules provide for assistance on a more liberal or on a more restricted scale.

7. All cases involving interpretation of any of these rules, where such interpretation is in doubt, shall be submitted for the orders of the Railway Board.

J. F. BLACKWOOD,
Secretary, Railway Board.

SIMLA,

Dated 25th September 1930.

TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

The Honourable Sir James Orerar (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 863 asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad regarding the treatment of political prisoners of the North-West Frontier Province.

The following information in answer to Questions Nos. 655 and 656 asked by Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon on the 23rd February, 1931, is laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly with reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble the Home Member to Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's Question No. 863 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th March.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon's Question No. 655.

(a) Mr. Ahmed Shah has never been put in solitary confinement.

(b) Khan Ali Gul Khan was admitted into the Gujrat Special Jail with symptoms pointing to slight tuberculosis at the apex of his left lung.

- (c) He was released from jail on the 16th February, 1931.
 (d) No.
 (e) This does not arise.
 (f) Both died from lobar pneumonia.
 (g) No. Hasham Gul was not beaten.
 (h) and (i). Do not arise
 (j) and (k). No.
 (l) Does not arise.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon's Question No. 656.

- (a) Khan Abdul Akbar Khan was provisionally classified as an A class prisoner but was finally placed in B class by the North West Frontier Province authorities.
 (b) and (c). No. The suggestion that Khadim Mohammad Akbar had been ill-treated in jail was made, but was found on inquiry to be entirely without foundation.
 (d) All Railway Administrations are required under standing orders to report every case in which it is found necessary to carry passengers in goods vehicles. No such report has been received in regard to the carrying of prisoners in railway wagons in the North West Frontier Province.
 (e) and (f). Do not arise.
 (g) Government are not prepared to take the action suggested by the Honourable Member.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Leader of the House): With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement as to the probable course of Government business in the week beginning Monday, March 23rd. Under your direction, Sir, the House will sit daily for the transaction of Government business. On Monday, the 23rd, the House will resume the detailed consideration of the Finance Bill. I do not know, Sir, when we may expect the conclusion of this Bill and all I can say now is that on the conclusion of this Bill, the remaining Government Bills, including the Wheat Protection Bill, which I am introducing today, will be taken up in the following order:

1. The Income-tax (Amendment) Bill (motion for reference to Select Committee);
2. The Factories Act (Amendment) Bill (motions for consideration and passing);
3. The Salt Industry Protection Bill (motions for consideration and passing);
4. The Wheat Protection Bill (motions for consideration and passing);
5. The Bill to amend the Reserve Forces Act, 1888, received from the Council of State (motions for consideration and passing).

The progress of these legislative measures will be interrupted slightly by:

1. Railway Supplementary Grants, which are put down for Monday, the 23rd;
2. General Supplementary Grants, which are put down for Wednesday, the 25th;

and also two elections, one to the Standing Finance Committee and the other to the Education, Health and Lands Department Standing Committee, both of which are to be held on Wednesday, the 25th.

On the conclusion of the legislative business, there will remain for disposal:

1. A Resolution to be moved by myself for increasing the payment, to the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, for rails to be ordered from that Company.

2. A Resolution in the name of Mr. Shillidy asking the House not to ratify the draft Convention of the International Labour Conference concerning the reduction of hours of work in certain kinds of employment.

3. A motion in my name proposing the appointment of a Committee to consider what should be done, when the opportunity occurs, to purchase the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

Lastly, Sir, the House is aware that earlier in the Session I undertook to find time for two non-official Resolutions, which were on the paper on the 12th February, in the names respectively of Mr. Rajaram Pandian and Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal. I propose to place those Resolutions on the paper below the Government business mentioned above.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIANS OVERSEAS EMIGRATION AND HAJ PILGRIMAGE.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, 3 non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects, other than 'Indians Overseas—Emigration' and 'Haj Pilgrimage', dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

Mr. President: I may inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands, the Assembly Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Monday, the 23rd March, while the election, if necessary, will take place in this Chamber on Wednesday, the 25th March, 1931. The election will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROADS.

Mr. President: Members will now proceed to elect six members to serve on the Standing Committee on Roads. There are 17 candidates whose

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names are printed on the ballot papers which will now be supplied to Honourable Members in the order in which I call them.

Lieut. Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan: I withdraw.

Mr. B. N. Misra: I withdraw.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur: I withdraw.

Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan: I withdraw.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: I also withdraw.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: I withdraw.

Mr. President: I will now read out the final list of names of Honourable Members who are still candidates:

Nawab Naharsingji Ishwarsingji.

Mr. N. R. Gunjal.

Mr. L. V. Heathcote.

Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian.

Rao Bahadur S. R. Pandit.

Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri.

Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi.

Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhuria.

Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah.

Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi.

(The Ballot was then taken.)

THE WHEAT (IMPORT DUTY) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to impose a temporary duty of customs on the importation of wheat.

The Bill is now in Honourable Member's hands, Mr. President, and I shall have an opportunity, when moving my next motion, to explain the provisions of the Bill at length, and I am very unwilling to take up any time of the House today when the House is anxious to get on with the Finance Bill. Sir, I move.

Mr. C. C. Biswas (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I oppose the motion. I should like to know, Sir, if the Honourable Sir George Rainy will make a statement now, or will wait till the next stage is reached.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Does the Honourable Member object to the introduction of the Bill, Sir?

Mr. C. C. Biswas: I object, Sir, to leave being given to introduce the Bill. I know it is not usual to oppose leave being given to the introduction of a Bill. But the circumstances today are unusual, and I make no apology for making this departure from the established practice. Sir, I do wish to record a protest against the way in which the House is being

treated by the Government in this matter. We are nearly at the fag end of the session: in a few days we are going to adjourn, and at almost the last moment, this Bill which is described as a piece of emergency legislation, is hurled at us. Either, Sir, it is the result of deliberation on the part of the Government, or it is not. If it is, I should like to ask my friends on the other side how long they have been deliberating over this matter; and if it took them weeks and months to come to any final decision, is it fair, Sir, that we on this side of the House should be given such a short time to make up our minds on such an important measure? Sir, we are being treated by my friends on the Treasury Benches as babies, not merely in this matter, but in other matters as well.

An Honourable Member: Also as untouchables.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: We are given toys to play with; and sometimes, if that does not suit them, we get the crack of the whip. Sir, I on my part refuse to be hustled in this way. I refuse to be hustled even in the interests of influential persons and persons who may have influential friends here. Sir, I should like to know from my friends in this House how many of them are likely to profit by this Bill personally.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): None, I think.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Sir, no inquiry has been made by this House

Mr. President: Order, order. I hope the Honourable Member does not wish to accuse Honourable Members in this House of having personally benefited financially in any way. If that is the aspersion which the Honourable Member wishes to make, I shall call him to order.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Sir, I have no desire to cast any aspersions on any Member of this House. What I was going to ask is, whether, if this Bill is passed, it will not have the effect of putting some money into the pockets of some of my Honourable friends which they would not otherwise have obtained. I am simply asking,—I am not making an aspersion.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member wishes to make such a charge, he ought to have the courage to make it boldly and directly, instead of implying it in an indirect way.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: There is at least one Honourable Member—I did not wish to say it—who has told me that if such a measure is introduced, it will benefit him financially.

Some Honourable Members: Name, name. You better name him.

Mr. President: I am sorry to be obliged to interfere in the debate. I do not see that that would matter in any way, to the prejudice or against the good faith of that Member. A man may be in business. We all are affected by the income-tax proposals. If there is any proposal for protection of any industry, it is perfectly natural that, as a result, some Members or some people would be benefited. There is nothing to take exception to in it. What I apprehended was that some Member might be accused of having taken advantage of the information that he may have got in the House and tried to make money by speculation. That would lay

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him open to condemnation, but unless the Honourable Member is prepared to substantiate any charge against any Honourable Member for having tried, through information obtained on the floor of this House, to benefit himself by speculating on that information, he ought not to make such an allegation. (Applause.)

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Sir, I will not pursue that matter now. There will be time enough for me to do so, and to place the evidence in my possession before you, but, Sir, what I was suggesting now was this,—that it is not fair to the House, without an adequate inquiry, without the materials being placed before us fully, without giving us an opportunity to investigate the facts and figures for ourselves, I say it is not fair in these circumstances to ask us to pass a measure of this kind.

An Honourable Member: But the House carried a cut motion in this connection the other day.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Sir, I am reminded that the House carried a cut motion the other day. Well, Sir, I never knew that my friends on the other side were so responsive, were so quick and eager to respond to a cut motion of that kind. I should welcome it if Honourable Members on the other side showed an equal alacrity to respond to other cuts in other matters. Sir, it is significant that the response comes so quickly and in such an adequate measure only in regard to wheat. Sir, I do not know if this was intended as a political gesture; but even as a political gesture, I desire to warn my friends that the risks they are taking are very great, and a political gesture might turn out to be a political danger. Sir, it seems Bengal has come in for evil days. Bengal must be hit in every matter.

12 Noon. Whether it is salt, whether it is galvanised iron or whether it is wheat, Bengal will have to pay. I venture to assert from such meagre information, as I have been able to gather, that there is absolutely no justification for a measure of this kind. I should like to know from my Honourable friend, Sir George Rainy, if he is satisfied that there is such a menace to the wheat industry in India that a measure of this kind is called for. Whether it is really intended for the benefit of the wheat growers in the Punjab, or whether it is intended for the Lyallpur speculators, that is the point on which I should like to have some information from my friends on the other side. What is this measure? Is it protection? Is it prohibition? What is it? Unless there is adequate evidence to show that the wheat market in India is really threatened by a serious invasion of foreign wheat, I do not think any case exists for such a Bill. I should like to know what is the quantity that is produced in India, and what is the quantity which is absorbed in India. If my information is correct, the average consumption is a little over 8½ million tons, and you have a surplus of something between one million and 1½ million tons. Whether my figures are correct or not, I do not know, but my complaint is that, without supplying these figures to the House, it is unfair to ask the House at the fag end of the session to agree or assent to such a measure. We know that recently, not during the current year, but in the preceding two years, in 1928-29 and 1929-30, there was a scarcity of wheat in India.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: On a point of order. I would invite your attention to Standing Order 37 which says:

"If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the President, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who moves and from the Member who opposes the motion, may without further debate put the question."

A good many of the arguments used by my Honourable friend are, I think, arguments not why the Bill should not be introduced, but why it should not be passed, a question which cannot be before the House at present. Also I suggest he is inclined to give a somewhat lenient interpretation to the word "brief".

Mr. O. C. Biswas: May I explain? That is just the reason why I had asked if the Honourable Sir George Rainy would give a brief explanatory statement when asking for leave, and in that case, I should have been spared a lot of what I said and what I am going to say.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member cannot say much more in view of the Standing Order to which attention has been drawn. I did not like to interrupt the Honourable Member, but the Honourable Member is fully aware that at this stage only a brief expression of views is permitted. I will ask the Honourable Member to reserve all he has to say to when the proper occasion arises in considering the Bill. The Honourable Member's protest is noted that he is against leave being granted. It will now be for the House to decide whether they will give leave or whether they will withhold it.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I should like to say in a single sentence that in all questions of imposition of duties, it is not common to give a very long notice before hand. It is usually desirable that changes should be made rapidly. Beyond that, I would reserve anything I have to say to some subsequent occasion, if the House should grant such subsequent occasion.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to the Honourable Sir George Rainy to introduce a Bill to impose a temporary duty of customs on the importation of wheat."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.—*contd.*

Mr. President: The House will resume further consideration of the Indian Finance Bill. Before the discussion proceeds, I should like once again to appeal to Honourable Members to be as brief as possible, as there are still several Members who wish to address the House.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I shall try to be as brief as possible.

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

Sir, at one time I thought that I would follow the principle of grievances before supplies and was going to remind this House that all the imposing architecture of this labyrinthine building as well as all the sanctimonious piety of the apologists of Government fail ignominiously to overshadow the lengthening lurid lights of Midnapur and Dacca. But on second thought, I have kept the incidents of Midnapur sacred in this pamphlet, which the time-servers of this moment think that they can stifle by law making powers. Sir, this is a Report named, "Law and Order in Midnapur 1930", which is the Report of an enquiry which was conducted by no less a man than the President of the Indian Association at Calcutta, I mean Mr. J. N. Basu, who is as honourable as any of our Round Table Conference wallahs like Mr. Mudaliar, Mr. Mody and Sir Cowasji Jehangir and others. Sir, we know and we have read from day to day harrowing tales of the atrocities to which this unfortunate district was subjected by the executive of the province and it became imperative on the public men of the province to have a non-official enquiry, for we know the results as well as the value of official enquiries in these matters which are nothing but a white-washing business. Sir, this Report has been published and it is said that it has also been proscribed. I hold a copy of this Report in my hand. Here I am free to hold it, but outside this House, probably the Government will snatch it away from my hand. This Report has a note on the first page to this effect:

"These reports are a commentary, and an eloquent commentary, coming as they do from men who, though responsible citizens, have been aloof from the Civil Disobedience Movement in Bengal."

I ask the Treasury Benches to mark these words :

"have been aloof from the Civil Disobedience movement in Bengal, apparently because they have still an unshaken faith in the ultimate justice of the British Raj."

Sir, these pages will show that burning, pillage and assault and detention have been simply useless in arresting the progress of the spirit of liberty in the people ready to suffer the worst for the most cherished spiritual possession that man can have and which God has given him. Sir, the Enquiry Committee consisted of men, like my Honourable friend Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. J. N. Basu and others, and in the concluding lines of their enquiry, in the most moderate language possible, they observe as follows :

"The incident at Chorepalia showed not only disregard for human life, a defiance of law and necessary legal requirements but also the incompetence and perverseness of those concerned. It was an incident that would have called for drastic action in any civilised country."

But up till now, though we cried ourselves hoarse in this House from the Simla Session, asking for an enquiry into the Midnapur affairs, the Government have kept silent. Not only that. When people wanted to co-operate with them by having a non-official enquiry and presented their Report, they treated the Report with contempt by proscribing the same and not allowing the same to see the light of day.

I feel that this is the occasion in which I have an opportunity of having to record some of the misdeeds of the executive in this land who are

in charge of the Government of this country. Sir, I draw up an indictment against them for their callous brutality, and barbarous acts the like of which is not heard in any other country except this unfortunate land of ours. Sir, this Report has been proscribed.

Mr. R. S. Sarma (Nominated Non-Official): How did the Honourable Member get hold of it and will he take it out of the House?

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: I will not yield to you; you hail from Madras.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member should address the Chair.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Sir, I will not yield to that gentleman from Madras who is making his fortune in my unfortunate province and has never been a friend of my province although unfortunately one of the oldest newspapers of my province has passed into his hands somehow or other.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: That is quite irrelevant.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Sir, I am not giving way to the Honourable Member, and what I say is that if the Government thought that anything that was contained in this book was not correct or contained untrue allegations, their first and foremost duty would be to prosecute the man who published it or the compilers of the Report. They have not done so and they do not dare do so, because they know that all the ugly incidents will come out before the public and therefore they want to suppress it.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Sir, on a point of order, I want to know whether, although speeches here are privileged, an Honourable Member can make use of a proscribed book.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: It can at best be forfeited to Government, and if the Government so like, I will make a present of it to them. Here I hold it in my hand and they can prosecute me for possessing it if the law goes so far as that.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Lay it on the table.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Sir, as desired by my friend Mr. Das I shall lay it on the table for the information of everybody concerned.

Mr. President: Order, order. A point of order has been raised which appears to me to be a rather difficult point to decide. It is a well-known legal maxim that you cannot do indirectly what you cannot do directly. And it seems to me that the Honourable Member is trying indirectly to get publication of proscribed literature by this means. On that point I should like to hear one or two Members of the legal profession. It appears to me that it is not permissible to do indirectly what cannot be done directly.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should hesitate to give an opinion offhand on a matter of such importance. I should like to consider it before I can offer any help to the Chair in this matter.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I feel that it is perfectly legitimate for any Member of this House to deal directly with a proscribed document and that is why we have the phrase "privilege of the House". Under the privilege of this House we have every right to make use of a document which comes into our possession, and if the Government were to challenge the Member concerned to make use of the document outside the House, it is for the Honourable Member if he so chooses to accept that challenge. But there is nothing whatever to prevent any Honourable Member of this House from using the privilege of this House in the public interest, especially when he is convinced that the proscription of that document is open to question (*An Honourable Member*: "Illegal") or, as my Honourable friend Mr. Mitra truly says, "illegal", as Members of his party feel on that matter. Sir, the Leader of my party has already said that, so far as the legal aspect is concerned, it may be a matter for consideration and we must bow to his legal wisdom. But so far as political responsibility in this House is concerned, I think it is open to everyone of us to make use of a public document which the Government have proscribed simply because they are clothed with an authority unknown to the executive in other parts of the world. A Government which is not responsible to the Legislature may be inclined to abuse its power and proscribe publications which might never have been proscribed in those parts of the world where responsible Government prevails. And in view of the fact that Government have been carrying on a campaign in this country which is for the time being suspended, namely, a campaign by ordinances and also by methods of proscription and such things, I think it is a legitimate, proper and constitutional duty for us to make use of documents like this which come into our possession.

Mr. President: Before I allow the discussion to proceed, I should like to point out to Mr. Ranga Iyer that, so far as the policy of Government is concerned, it is perfectly open to Honourable Members to criticise it as strongly as they like. But that is not the issue which is now before the House and on which I am consulting them. If the Honourable Member had got up, and very severely criticised the policy of Government in any department he would have been quite in order in doing so. But the question that has been raised now is this that when a document has been proscribed,—whether rightly or wrongly is not the issue before the House—is it permissible for any Member of the House who happens to get possession of that document to read it before the House so that it may go into the proceedings and become public property? That appears to me to be doing indirectly what could not be done directly and it is on that issue that I want the views of some legal Members. The issue is not whether the policy of Government in proscribing this or any other document is or is not open to criticism that any Honourable Member may wish to pass.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, I just looked up our rules of procedure and there are two rules, i.e., 56 and 57, bearing on this point. If you look at page 20 of the Manual, you will find that rule 56 runs thus:

"56. Subject to the rules and standing orders there is freedom of speech in the Assembly. No person shall be liable to any proceedings in any court by reason of his speech or vote in the Assembly, or by reason of anything contained in any official report of the proceedings of the Assembly."

The rule 57 runs as follows :

"57. (1) The matter of every speech shall be strictly relevant to the matter before the Assembly.

(2) A member while speaking shall not :

- (i) refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending;
- (ii) make a personal charge against a member;
- (iii) make use of offensive expressions regarding the conduct of the Indian or any local Legislature;
- (iv) reflect upon the conduct of His Majesty the King or the Governor General or any Governor, . . . etc., etc.
- (v) utter treasonable, seditious, or defamatory words; or
- (vi) use his right of speech for the purpose of wilfully and persistently obstructing the business of the Assembly."

I am afraid that this matter which my Honourable friend is referring to does not come within any of these prohibitory clauses. He is not uttering any treasonable or seditious words and he is not using his right of speech for the purpose of wilfully and persistently obstructing the business of the Assembly. Nor does it come under any of the other previous clauses. I do not see any other provision which will help us in this matter, and so the whole thing is, is it relevant to the matter before the Assembly? That is for you to decide, whether it is relevant to the matter before the Assembly. He has got entire freedom of speech which is controlled only by clause 57; and so long as there is no prohibition under the rules, it must of course be left to the individual judgment of each Honourable Member as to how he used that right. My present opinion is that the Honourable Member will be within his rights in referring to literature even though it is proscribed, whatever consequences he may take thereupon in another place.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: What I say now will obviate all difficulties. This book has not been proscribed in the province of Delhi or by the Government of India; it has been proscribed only by the Government of Bengal in Bengal and not in any other province. I may also point out that last time Mr. K. C. Neogy made use of those portions of the Report which were then published. I shall quote a very few extracts to bring before this House the happenings of that unfortunate district. (*An Honourable Member:* "Place it on the table.") Yes, I am ready to do so. . . .

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I shall give you an instance, if I may, which might probably help you to pass your ruling. In the Madras Legislative Council, once when the famous Bharati's songs were proscribed, one Honourable Member rose in his seat and sang some of the songs. Your difficulty and the point of order arises when my Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, begins to read extracts from the proscribed book, supposing he was clever enough to learn those portions by heart and repeat from memory, I would like to know how you could object and what would have been the position.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): As a matter of fact I may just inform you that when the Late Pandit Motilal Nehru quoted from a book which was proscribed—"India in Bondage"—and when Sir Darcy Lindsay objected, your predecessor, Mr. Patel, allowed him to speak on that very issue and allowed him to make the quotation.

Several Honourable Members: Law Member, please.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I find myself in a somewhat embarrassing position. But I wish to say this; had Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar not risen and said what he said, I should have risen and said what Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar has said. (Opposition Cheers.)

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Law Member): Sir, I must confess that I have not considered this point before; but hearing the debate here I have formed conclusion in my own mind. I think reference can be made to literature which is proscribed (Opposition cheers). Supposing an article is seditious and a man is being prosecuted for sedition in a court of law, you can quote that article for the purpose of showing that it is not seditious. Therefore, in the court proceedings the whole of that article may go in, although it may be eventually held to be seditious. You cannot prevent the publication of it in the court proceedings. Similarly, if in laying a charge against, say, the Home Department, an Honourable Member contends that the Home Department was not justified in proscribing a particular piece of literature, then he could quote that literature in the House for the purpose of indicting that Department. He may be right, he may be wrong; but you cannot prevent a Member from referring to it in support of his contention. The Home Department may be able to convince the House that it was perfectly within its rights to have proscribed it, but that cannot prevent a Member on the Opposition Benches from referring to it in support of the opposite contention. (*Opposition cries of "Hear, hear."*)

You quoted, Sir, a legal maxim that you may not do indirectly what you cannot do directly. At the same time, there is another legal principle, and that is this; that what is not directly evidence may be referred to for collateral purposes. I will give an instance. Supposing a will is propounded for probate in a court of law. Another party in contesting that will may refer to an earlier will, which was not properly attested, for the purpose of showing the intention of the testator. For that collateral purpose he can use that document though it would not be substantive evidence in the case. Similarly, I submit that the proscribed literature cannot form part of the proceedings of this House; but I will not go to the length of saying that because, it cannot form part of the proceedings of the House you cannot refer to it for the purpose of showing that the order of proscription was wrong.

Mr. President: I think it is clear now what the ruling should be. The Honourable the Law Member has clearly explained that it is open to Honourable Members, in support of any argument which they may wish to advance, to quote from proscribed literature, but they cannot read the whole of it with the intention of getting full publication in that way. I will for the present accept that view and allow the Honourable Member to continue his observations and to quote from the book he was reading.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: I gratefully acknowledge what has been said by my friend, Sir Brojendra Mitter, and in fact it seems that the instincts of a lawyer have not left him, in spite of his occupying the Treasury Benches there, and I wish the same spirit may pervade other Members too on the Treasury Benches and I hope the other Members will emulate

my Honourable friend over there; and I also thank my Honourable friend, Sir Lancelot Graham, for having come to the same view. In fact I have often found English officials to be fair and just.

Mr. President: Will you please go on with your observations?

An Honourable Member: What about Mr. Sarma?

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: I do not take notice of Sarmas who come and go as occasion arises. This Report contains incidents which, if I read them before Honourable Members, would make their blood boil. It is necessary for me to read one or two passages only from the book and not the whole of it to convince them of what I say. I am sure from the spirit in which Sir Lancelot Graham approached the question, they will make an enquiry into this matter. This is what the Report says:

"The members next visited the house close by, where they found a girl, about 18 years old, in advanced stage of pregnancy. Her name was Ambu. She was breathing with difficulty, her eyes were closed with tears trickling. She made her statement with some difficulty. She complained of her breast being twisted and of her being kicked on her hip." (*Cries of "Shame."*)

Here is the story of an unfortunate girl being assaulted in a most shameless manner. I appeal to the Members on the Treasury Benches over there to take steps because you know what has been the fate of Troy and the fate of Ceylon for having insulted the womanhood of a country. Beware of that. Ask your executive to beware. If they treat our women folk in the way in which it is alleged here, take it from me that your days are numbered and your fate is doomed. You will not be here for any length of time. So in your interests and also in the interests of ourselves, I trust you will make inquiries into this serious allegation.

Sir, I shall read only one other incident to show how people were killed by drowning, and that was in Chorepalia:

"The evidence showed as to what had taken place in front of the house of Kshirod Chandra Jana on the 8th September, 1930. The incidents as disclosed in the evidence were that some officials, including the circle officer and a police officer. . . ."

—here let me explain to the House, the Circle Officer is a class of officer who has been introduced in Bengal to form a link between the executive and the people and to demoralise them,—

" . . . had come to the village of Chorepalia on the 7th September, 1930, accompanied by several policemen. The villagers took their object to be to realise the chowkidari tax from them by violence. The policemen were quartered partly in the house of Brojo Panda and partly in the house of Kshirod Chandra Jana. In order to go to Kshirod Chandra Jana's house, the house of Brojo Panda had first to be passed to the left. A little beyond Brojo Panda's house was a tank to the right, skirting one side of the lane, and skirting the other side of the lane was the fence enclosing the compound of the house of Kshirod Chandra Jana and others. On the afternoon of the 8th September, 1930, a large number of villagers from the neighbourhood who had no weapons of any kind with them went towards Kshirod Chandra Jana's house to wait on deputation before the Circle Officer. When the crowd came up to Kshirod Chandra Jana's house the men in front with folded hands told the Circle Officer and the Police Officer (who had a deformed hand) that they were unable to pay the Chowkidari tax owing to their poverty and they asked that either the tax be remitted or that further time be allowed to them for payment."

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

Here the House must remember that this was done before the introduction of the no-tax campaign. Honourable Members know the extent of the distress prevailing in the country in this year in particular, and my Honourable friend the Finance Member has pointed out in no unmistakeable terms that, owing to trade depression, he is bringing the Finance Bill in in this form, and I know that his sympathy will be with us when I place before him the condition of the poor agriculturists and tell him that they cannot really pay the tax, and therefore they begged of this Circle Officer that either the tax should be remitted or that further time should be allowed to them for payment. Now, what was the crowd like? The Report says:

"The entire crowd was in a suppliant mood, while the parley between the spokesman in the crowd on the one hand and the Circle Officer and the President Panchayat and his people on the other was going on, some gave orders to the policemen who were armed with lathis and guns to charge the men in the crowd. The policemen at the house of Kshirod Chandra Jana charged the men of the deputation with lathis in their front while they were attacked in the rear by the policemen issuing out of Brojo Panda's house.

The men in the crowd who did not display any violence were hit with lathis by the policemen. Had the crowd any inclination towards violence, the result might have been different as the crowd was large enough to overpower the police force. The crowd wanted to go back, but as the policemen from Brojo Panda's house attacked them from the rear, about 200 men went into the tank with a view to escape. As regards the rest of the crowd, some were arrested and others ran away. The policemen went to the banks of the tank. The men in the water were struggling to get out. As they approached the tank they were hit with severe blows on the head by policemen with lathis or were pelted by the policemen with hard sods. The men were in such a helpless position that they could not possibly do any injury to the police. The conduct of the police in beating them severely with cudgels was uncalled for and unjustifiable."

The Report further says:

"Of the witnesses examined by the visiting members, sixteen bore marks of injury in different parts of their bodies. Some of them had their wounds on heads still raw. Three of the witnesses who had wounds on their heads took off their bandage to show their wounds to the inspecting members. The wounds so exposed were of a severe character. Some of the witnesses were still in a weak condition. Five dead bodies floated up in the tank next day. The evidence showed that three of them had their heads smashed, and one of them had the left forehead smashed. Of those killed the evidence showed that at least three had not been assessed for the chowkidari tax."

Sir, I beg to be excused for this lengthy quotation. As I began by saying, grievances must be redressed before you ask for supplies. I should also like to quote some of the incidents which took place at Dacca and Midnapore, but, Sir, Dacca and Midnapore will, I am sure, burrow deeply and eat into the foundations of all possible and impossible Governments. A Mahatmaj's blessings and employees' Garden Party are not a fitting sequel to the history of this unhappy land for the past twelve months. I frankly warn the Government on this occasion that Mahatmaj's goodness will not avail. The price of Midnapore and Dacca will have to be paid and I as a part, though an insignificant part of this Government, would like the price to be paid amicably. Mahatmaj may be silenced, and inquiry may be diplomatically avoided but the mills of Providence will grind on slowly but surely.

Sir, I have tried to avoid all those topics so that the peaceful atmosphere created by the truce may culminate in everlasting peace, but if I have made reference to them at all, it is with a view to bring to the notice of this House and of those who are responsible for the government of this country the exact picture so that they may give us relief.

Then, Sir, with reference to the Finance Bill, if I submit that our opposition to this measure has been only for constitutional reasons, I need not remind Government that good government is no substitute for self-government and the time of trusteeship is over, and it is now time to play the role of a friend, so that we may work side by side for many long and weary years to come for the mutual advantage of both, for the mutual advantage of each community, with peace and goodwill prevailing in the land.

Sir, there has been a truce, and I wish this truce may lead to everlasting peace in the land wherein both the Indians and Britishers could play their role well and for the good of the people. Sir, in this truce one thing is sadly lacking, and that is the release of detenus. Whether that was intentionally avoided or it escaped through oversight, I cannot say, but I submit that, in order to create a peaceful atmosphere, the first thing required is the release of the detenus. The other day in answer to a supplementary question of mine, the Honourable the Home Member was pleased to observe that the question did not come within the purview of the terms of settlement. I beg to remind the Government that it is not a question of quibbling as we do in law courts, but it is a question of fair and honest settlement between ourselves, I mean a heart to heart talk with Government, in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement. And if that is so, I beg to submit that, if they could accede to the prayers of the people about releasing those who are convicted of an offence, whether that offence was created under an ordinance or under the Indian Penal Code, they must also take into consideration the cases of those who are detained merely on suspicion and not because of any proved guilt of theirs.

I am very sorry that I have not been able to be as brief as I intended to. I shall pass over many things that I wanted to say and merely say this. I feel that the power of the purse given to this Assembly is rather an unreality. We are moving in an atmosphere of unreality because out of the sum of 135 crores we have power only with respect to Rs. 28 crores, for we cannot touch the military expenditure and the non-voted items. About military expenditure much has been said here and I won't take up the time of the House by reiterating those arguments. But I will say this much. The Brussels Conference pointed out that the military expenditure of no country should exceed one-fifth of its revenues, and in that view, the cost of our military expenditure ought to be less than Rs. 30 crores. Of course, when I am criticising military expenditure, the charge may be levelled against me that I have never set a squadron in the field and therefore I am not competent to speak about it, but I make bold to say from what I know of the Indian Army that half of it is maintained for Imperial purposes, and in all fairness England ought to bear half of its cost.

There is a deficit Budget and my Honourable friend, Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin, whom I miss here today, was pleased to say, cut your coat according to your cloth. I admit that such similes are not always

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

very good arguments, and my Honourable friend over there, Sir Hugh Cocke, said in reply, "If the cloth is not enough to cover the body, what will you do?". My Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Yakub immediately got up and said, "If you cannot have a coat, have a waistcoat". I would go further than that and say, "If you cannot have cloth to cover the whole body get only a *koupeen*, and be satisfied. I must congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member over there for announcing the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee and I hope that with the help of that Committee he will be able to get what he wants, and I wish him all godspeed because he has been very anxious to leave to his successor a sound financial position before he vacates his office. But I should like the Honourable the Finance Member to stay on for some time and start our new constitution because we know what admirable service he has rendered to this country. Though he has not always been able to drag the members of the Civil Service with him, still he has done what he could under the circumstances, and those who were in the Standing Finance Committee know his services, how he himself, without any suggestion from any of the members, was pleased to curtail many of the items of expenditure.

On a closer examination of the Budget, I have found that the Government know well how to take up the burden when challenged. In the main, the incidence of taxation proposed in the Finance Bill under consideration will not touch the politically agitated class. This homage paid, I gratefully acknowledge. The burden has been placed on the shoulders of those who will not work up an agitation. I may not understand why imported coal, vegetable ghee, tinned foodstuffs, galvanic wire and wire-nets, electric fans and batteries, imported railway materials, arms and ammunition, escaped the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member. But at the same time, not a pice of the non-votable Demand can be touched. Why? The Government of India never acknowledges that winter ever comes to them. Perhaps, they have so much accustomed themselves to the cold weather of Delhi and Simla and to the festivities, that without these they cannot have life. My curiosities must wait on another consideration.

For the past eight years, I have marked these fruitless debates. On each occasion the Treasury Benches amuse themselves on the groaning cries of the representatives of impoverished India. This year, too, there will be no difference. But, however much the Honourable the Finance Member may feel gratified that he has tided over the agitator's outcries, the final issue of this top-heavy administration still awaits solution. Even if, in this year of all round depression, the Government do not think of real retrenchment by curtailing the Imperialistic Demand of the Army, the veritable parallel of Nero fiddling while Rome is burning is again illustrated. I know hard words break no bones. But the callousness and Imperialism which has reduced one-sixth of the human race to this miserable condition must be recorded if I have to be true to my own people.

With these words, I oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill.

Mr. President: I propose now to adjourn the House till a quarter past two. When we meet again after lunch, the House will proceed with the further discussion of the Finance Bill. I know, that there is still a

large number of Honourable Members who wish to address the House. I am powerless to regulate the debate as I should like to, if Honourable Members, after the many appeals that I have made to them, still continue to speak at great length. If that is so, and if closure is applied, I shall not be responsible if all the Honourable Members who still desire to address the House are unable to do so. If even now the speeches are brief, many more Honourable Members will be able to participate in the debate. I hope that Honourable Members who have taken so much time in addressing the House will realise that it is they who are responsible for some of the Members not being able to partake in the debate on this important occasion. The House will now adjourn till 2-15.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): I take this opportunity to say a few words about the enhancement of taxation. Certainly I would have had no objection to the enhancement of taxation if this money had been taken out of the pockets of the rich people in order to help the poor and needy, if this money had been spent on old age pensions or a health insurance scheme, if this money had been spent in order to give employment to millions of starving Indians. But no such thing is done with this new taxation. Most of this money would be spent upon the extravagance of an extravagant Government and amongst the Departments, the holiest of the holies is the Military Department which nobody is allowed to touch. I need not speak at great length about the military extravagance because so many Members have already spoken about it, but let me confine myself to one thing and say this, that those people who have something to do with the commissariat have found the surest way to riches. Whoever comes in contact with the commissariat department becomes a rich man. Once you go over there you can get as much money as you like, on account of the carelessness of the Military Department. Sir, I am not one of those sickly sentimentalists who believe that there should be no army; I believe for the protection of the motherland; it is absolutely essential to have a very strong and well equipped army. Unless you have it, the result would be that the country would be invaded by foreign enemies and neither the masses nor the political leaders would be able to save the country from the foreign invaders. If you want to have a strong army, it means that it should be very well equipped. We have only recently seen how Amir Amanulla Khan lost his country to a brigand because he had not got his army in order. In the same way India was lost to the English at the battle of Plassy not on account of the superior valour of the English or the discipline of Clive or the treachery of Mir Jaffer, but only for one reason. That is, that Surajud Doulah's army was armed with bows and spears while the enemy was better equipped. My object in saying these things is this, that in order to defend your country, you must have a strong military force well equipped, but it does not mean that you should spend lavishly upon that Army.

[Shaikh Sadiq Hasan.]

Now, Sir, there is another problem about which I would like to say something and that is about the North West Frontier Province. I am not going to allude to the excesses committed over there during this year. A truce has been signed between Mahatma Gandhi and His Excellency the Viceroy, and I will be the last person to say anything which may create unpleasantness, but I have got every right to say a few words about the misgovernment in that unhappy land for the last 29 years. Most of the Members know that this province never existed till 1901, but it was only in 1901 that the evil genius of Lord Curzon conceived the forward policy, and five districts from the Punjab, the districts of Peshawar, Bannu, Kohat, etc., were separated. Before 1901 these districts were very well governed, like other districts of the Punjab. They were as advanced as any of the Western districts of the Punjab, but during these 29 years, on account of the forward policy of Lord Curzon, India has been squandering millions of rupees there to no good purpose, except that it has made this province the scapegoat of imperialism. I suppose, Members already know but let me repeat once again that in the Frontier Province there is very little education. Would you imagine that for a population of three millions the Government have not got one college, neither an arts college nor a technical college and that the Government have kept that province intentionally backward. They would not give education to the girls and there is not one Government high school for girls. During these 29 years while India has been slowly advancing in every direction, even elementary civic rights have been denied to the people in the Frontier Province. The people in the Frontier Province have got municipalities but they have not even got the electric system in these modern times. I would say it is impossible in this hotbed of tyranny for the Press to flourish. There is not one newspaper, although thousands of papers go there from the Punjab. There is not one daily paper over there, because as soon as you start a Press, it is confiscated by that benighted Government. Besides so much secrecy is kept over there about the affairs of the province. Last time when Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya wanted to go over to distribute some money to those who had suffered, despite his promise that he would not agitate and that he would not create any ill-feeling against the Government, he was not allowed to go. Such is the secrecy which is kept in that province, and what do the Government do? In order to create ill-feeling, against the Frontier Province the Government start all sorts of mischievous propaganda. Sometimes, in order to excite the English people in England, they say that the frontier people are Bolsheviks, and although men wear crimson dress and the women black, the Government call them red shirts. Now, Sir, the movement is led by the Khans who own property. Have you ever heard of Khans, who are the property owners, leading the communist movement? In the same way, the volunteers are called the servants of God, Khuda-i-Khidmatgars. We always know the Bolsheviks to be Godless people, but have you ever heard of the servants of God, being Bolsheviks? Then in order to create a false fear among the Hindus, the Government try to create mischief in this way. They say that these people have invited the trans-frontier people in order that they may gain sympathy for their repressive measures. Now, I am glad to say that these frontier people have cast their lot in with the Congress people. Surely, the people who identify themselves with the Congress movement

cannot be said to be identified with the Afghanistan Government. Sir, I may point out one thing. The Frontier Province has always been part and parcel of India. Peshawar was part and parcel of India when the Punjab was conquered by the English. One thousand years ago Peshawar was part and parcel of India when Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India. Further, 500 years ago in the early centuries of A. D. Peshawar was part and parcel of India when it was part of the Empire of the Kanishka. So the Frontier Province has always been part and parcel of India, and I would say that it should always be treated in the same way as the other provinces are. I am glad to say we have heard a great deal about the Frontier Crimes Regulation, the Frontier Murderous Outrages Act and such other barbarous laws. I need not detain the House by explaining what they are, because they have already been explained. I was glad to see that Mr. Acheson made the statement that they were going to have a committee to investigate into these laws. Personally, being a strong partisan of the Frontier Province, I should say that these regulations should be repealed. On the other hand, Government have considered it wise to appoint a committee which, besides the officials, as Government have promised, will contain an adequate number of non-official Members, and should have such non-official Members in whom the communities consisting both of Hindus and Muhammadans have got confidence—not such Members as those who, like oysters, go to the authorities in order to get jobs and make such committees stepping-stones for the higher honours. I hope, Sir, this point will be borne in mind by the Government when selecting the personnel of the Committee, and that they would have people in whom both Mussalmans and Hindus have got confidence. (Hear, hear.) Sir, what we really want is this. We want that the administration and the constitution and the laws of the country should be brought up to the same level as in the Punjab. I would like to make it clear that I am pleading for the five administered districts which were once part and parcel of the Punjab. I am not at the present moment saying anything about the tribal tracts, and I think my Hindu friends and others will certainly have no objection if these districts get the same rights and privileges as the other parts of India, because there is one thing which I would again like to say, that the frontier people have sacrificed a great deal, just as my friend, Sardar Sant Singh, contended about the Sikhs, that the Sikhs have fought in the armies of the British, in the same way these frontier people have been always serving in the Army; and if you give contentment to the frontier, naturally the people will become a barrier against any foreign invasion, and in this way most of the money which is spent unnecessarily on maintaining a very large army may be saved.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I was touched by some of the expressions which fell from the Front Opposition Bench yesterday, perhaps because I have not yet got fully accustomed to the change of atmosphere in this House which has come with the new Assembly. In a previous Assembly I was sometimes tempted to think that the impression produced on the ears of the Opposition Benches by the speeches from these Benches was something like what Milton describes in two famous lines:

"Their lean and flashy songs
Grate on their scrannel pipes of wretched straw."

[Sir George Rainy.]

But I am tempted to hope from what I heard yesterday that on the Opposition Benches they are as anxious to hear Members of the Government as if they were to listen to some new melody, or:

"That strange song I heard Apollo sing
When Ilion, like a mist, rose into towers." (Cheers.)

In any case, Mr. President, although I do not intend to speak at any length, I hope to be able to deal with two or three of the points which were specially noticed on the other side yesterday. There is one aspect of this annual debate on the second reading of the Finance Bill which does create certain difficulties for Members of the Government if they wish to intervene. Inevitably, the discussion takes such a wide range that there is hardly a subject within the whole sphere of administration which is not raised by one Member or another. Now if the Members of the Government are to reply to everything that is said on those generous and liberal lines, I am afraid it would not be a case of 5 or 6 days, but of 10 or 12 days which would be necessary for the second reading stage. In addition, I wonder if the House will forgive me if I say that I have sometimes listened to speeches made on this occasion in which perhaps the main object of the speaker was to deliver his speech whether there was any answer to it or not. (Laughter.) On the other hand, I should like to say this that, although I was unavoidably prevented from being present on two of the days and for part of the third day during this discussion, from what I have heard I have been impressed by a sense of reality, and by the fact that we are getting on this occasion much closer to actual business than perhaps we have been able to do in previous years. (Hear, hear.)

Now, Sir, I shall devote the main part of my speech to dealing with one particular point which was mentioned by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, yesterday, and I understand from the newspapers that it was dealt with much more fully by my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamal Muhammad Saib on an earlier occasion when I was absent—I mean the question about the possibility of an increase in the export duty on hides and skins. My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, did not—I am afraid I did not hear all that he said—but I think he did not go into the matter with great fulness. What I did hear created an impression in my mind that he was thinking of it from the point of view of import duties. Sir, I do not think that is an important aspect of the subject. As long ago as 1928 an application for protection in the ordinary sense was put in by one tannery in Calcutta, and as soon as it was announced that the Tariff Board would inquire into it, the application was withdrawn. Since then, the only occasion on which I recollect that the matter has been brought up was in connection with the importation of boots and shoes, shoes principally, from Japan, not made of leather at all, but I think with canvas uppers and rubber soles. Obviously, from the point of view of protection these facts raise the problem whether we are to use protective duties to compel people to wear shoes made of leather when they prefer to wear shoes made of other materials which are intrinsically cheaper. That I think would be a rather difficult proposition to support. But I only refer to that aspect of the case in passing, because what the industry, I have no doubt, is mainly interested in now is not

the import duty on leather, but the export duty on raw hides. I should like briefly just to recount the history of that question. In 1919 a 15 per cent. export duty on hides and skins was imposed, with a 10 per cent. rebate on exports to other parts of the Empire. That duty was definitely intended as a measure of protection, to try and help the tanneries which had come into existence, or been expanded during the war, and also, looking at it from the point of view of the Empire as a whole, to encourage the tanning industry in Empire countries, by making the raw materials relatively dear in other countries. But by 1923 Government were satisfied that, as a protective measure, the scheme had proved a failure. It had inflicted a certain amount of injury on the producers of hides and skins, but it had not proved a success as a protective measure to assist the tanning industry. In 1923, therefore, the duty was reduced to 5 per cent. all round. Then in the Finance Bill of 1927 Government proposed to abolish the 5 per cent. duty altogether. There was a very keen and interesting debate on which the question was fully examined—one of the speakers was my Honourable friend the Deputy President—and as a result of the division, the voting was a tie and the Chair gave its vote in favour of the maintenance of the *status quo*. It was perfectly clear from the debate that there was a clash of interests, on the one hand the interests of the producers of raw hides and skins and on the other hand the interests of the tanning industry.

The next step that was taken was to appoint the Hides Cess Committee to investigate the question whether, by the imposition of a comparatively small cess, the proceeds of which would be devoted both to improving the tanning methods and also the preparation of raw hides and skins, it would be possible to help the tanning industry as well as the producers of raw hides and skins. The Committee has submitted its Report, and as it is a matter in which we have to carry the Local Governments with us, we have referred it to the Local Governments, and I believe we have so far had replies only from three or four of them.

The peculiarity of the tanning industry, especially in Southern India—I am not speaking of Northern India where the conditions are different—is that the tanneries in Southern India are crying out for protection, but it is not the domestic market they are anxious about, but the export market. The difficulty they have in selling their products does not arise from conditions in India, but from conditions abroad. Now, it is always a very difficult matter to protect an industry in that position unless of course Government and the Legislature are prepared to do it in the form of direct financial assistance. But if that method is not in question, it is always an exceedingly difficult thing to devise effective means by which it can be done. In this case, what is asked for is a higher export duty on the raw materials in the hope that, as a result, the Indian tanneries will be able to buy their raw hides and skins cheaper than they do at present. One of the difficulties is that, unless the country has something approaching a monopoly of the raw material, it may very easily happen that, while the export duty may do some damage to the producers of the raw materials, it is not successful in assisting the manufacturers because the manufacturers in other countries resort to other sources of supply and develop these sources of supply, and in the end are no worse off as a result of the duty. That, to my mind, has always

[Sir George Rainy.]

been a very real difficulty in this case, particularly, as regards hides, for there are plenty of other places in the world from which hides can be obtained, the Argentine Republic, for one. There is also another objection against this proposal, that at a time like this, when prices have fallen very rapidly—I think the fall in the price of hides varies between 25 and 40 per cent., it is obvious that with a reduced demand, it would be easier for other countries, if they found that Indian hides had become more expensive, to resort to other sources of supply. Therefore, it is clear that Government would require to be very sure of its ground in this matter before it took action. But, apart from hides, there is the question of the skins, and I know my Honourable friend Mr. Jamal Muhammad attaches particular importance to that question. His contention, as I understand it, is that in respect of goat skins, India has got, not a complete monopoly, but something approaching a monopoly, and that other countries would not be able to find other sources of supply if the Indian source was made more expensive. That is a point, which is, at any rate, worth examination.

Then a further point is raised—when I say it was raised, I cannot testify from personal experience that it was raised in the debate, because I was not present when the question was discussed—about the American tariff, namely, that the American tariff had been so changed by the imposition of a ten per cent. duty on imported tanned skins that the Americans were in a position to give a higher price for raw skins. I think it is important to get clear exactly what the position is. For years past, America has been the main taker of India's raw goat skins, the proportion amounting to between 80 and 90 per cent. over a period of years. But it has never at any time taken more than 10 per cent. of the tanned skins that are exported from India. Tanned skins do not go to the United States of America, but to the extent of about 90 per cent. to the United Kingdom. Now, unless the manufacturers of the United States of America export to the United Kingdom, I do not see that the manufacturer in India is seriously damaged by the American tariff. It is only a very small part of his output which is sold directly to the United States of America, and I cannot see how in his main market he is seriously damaged by the American competition, unless America does in fact export to the United Kingdom. That is a point on which I have not yet got full information, but which I will have examined. I am afraid I have taken too much time on this question, I will briefly sum up what I have to say in this form: I see great difficulties in using an export duty as a means of protection, and so far as I have been able to read the lessons of what has actually occurred in the past, I do not at present see how these difficulties can be overcome, but I recognise that, as already pointed out, as regards goat skins in particular, there is a question, which deserves examination. I will see that it gets it, and I will see that full opportunity is given to the tanners of Southern India to represent all they may have to say on this subject. What the decision of Government may be, it is, of course, impossible now to forecast. Now, Sir, I will pass on to another point, which was taken by my Honourable friend Sir Cowasji Jehangir, namely, the failure of the official Members from the provinces to participate in our debates on this occasion. I intervened at one stage yesterday under the erroneous impression that the comparison

of these Members to logs was in some way due to their personal appearance (Laughter), but I gathered from what my Honourable friend said subsequently that it was the Treasury Bench which he wished to attack and not the Benches behind me, and certainly that is the true and right constitutional position. Now, Sir, when we are dealing with the Central Budget and when we are dealing with matters of Central administration, with the best will in the world to make the fullest use of the judgment and the eloquence of the Members behind me, it is not always very easy to arrange it, particularly when one does not know beforehand what subjects are going to be discussed. Let me take an example from yesterday. My Honourable friend, Mr. A. Das, told us a good deal about the difficulties that had occurred on the border between the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa, and in particular between the district of Ballia and the district of Saran owing to alluvion and diluvion. About 30 years ago I might have been described as an expert in that subject myself because I had just passed my departmental examination and the alluvion and diluvion regulations were part of my mental fodder at that time. I have not the least doubt that I have three or four experts on this question behind me, anyone of whom would be perfectly competent to deal with it. But if the debate on this second reading of the Bill is ever to close, I am afraid that, if I let my experts loose on questions of that kind, it would be difficult to say when the proceedings would be likely to close. It is a real difficulty felt by those of us who sit on the Treasury Bench, felt by those who sit behind me and, I have no doubt, felt in the Benches opposite, namely, that the official block sometimes creates rather difficult situations. Sometimes of course we can overcome it. The House listened to a very cogent and convincing speech from my Honourable friend Mr. Hezlett when the Railway Budget was before the House; and as far as I recollect, that is almost the first occasion on which a Provincial Member has spoken on the Railway Budget. On other occasions also we have listened in this House to admirable speeches from Members behind me. But it is difficult on the Finance Bill to arrange that they should take as large a part in the proceedings of the House as I should like, and as Honourable Members opposite have indicated that they would like.

Now, before I sit down, I should like to say just a word or two about what fell from my Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar. One of the points he raised was in connection with the Vizagapatam Harbour, and that came up in connection with the capital expenditure part of the Budget. He mentioned his belief that the cost of land had been excessive in certain cases and that one set of land acquisition officers had very different views as to the value of the land from other land acquisition officers. But supposing that is so,—and I have no doubt that my Honourable friend was speaking from information—but if that is so I do not see how the Government of India can take steps to prevent it, seeing that the only land acquisition machinery we have is that provided by the Provincial Governments, and seeing that the award of the Land Acquisition Collector is final and conclusive as against the Secretary of State and he cannot question it subsequently in any court. Then he said that a great deal more land had been acquired than was really necessary for the purposes of the port. I am glad he mentioned it; it is a matter I shall look into. But I think it would be true to say that more money has been lost in other cases by acquiring too little land, where there are prospects of development, than by acquiring too much. I am not sure

[Sir George Rainy.]

that that is a bad fault. I think it is the right side on which to err if you must err. Then he said that he was doubtful whether in the long run the harbour would pay its way. I know there are going to be certain difficulties at the outset,—it is not yet quite clear what the position will be—but there are going to be difficulties. For one thing the prospects of the manganese trade do not look nearly so promising now as they did six or seven years ago when the harbour was sanctioned. That is inevitable. You cannot foretell in advance changes in trade which have not even begun to be foreshadowed; but I have little doubt that in the long run the Vizagapatam Harbour will prove to be a perfectly sound proposition and of very great benefit to the particular part of India which the port will serve.

Now, Sir, I hoped to conclude my speech by the triumphant confutation of my Honourable friend in one of the examples which he drew from the Gazette of India. I cannot sufficiently admire his assiduity in perusing the pages of that somewhat arid publication. Perhaps like the Scotchman and the sheep's head he found it fine confused feeding. (Laughter.) With regard to his very first instance, I received a note yesterday evening from the Railway Department completely dissipating his apprehensions on the subject of extravagance. But in a misguided moment I showed it to the Honourable the Finance Member, and he was so pleased with it that he refused to give it back to me and insisted on having it for his own speech. It is for that reason, Sir, that I am unable, and I regret I am unable, to reply to that particular point in my Honourable friend's speech.

Mr. B. N. Misra (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am not going to speak about the pounds, shillings and pence or the rupees, annas and pies of the Budget. This year is said to be a memorable year and the first part of January saw the conclusion of the Round Table Conference, which is to be continued here again. Then, Sir, we had what is known as the Gandhi-Irwin agreement, and a truce was declared in the country. I think in this House also we should follow a similar procedure. It happens every year at the Budget and Finance Bill discussions that accusations are made from this side and something or other is said on the other side. I think this year it should take some other shape and a procedure should be settled which would be satisfactory to both sides. This side has been all along pressing for retrenchment or less expenditure and the other side has always said that they cannot do without this amount or this expenditure. Therefore I say that this year when the Viceroy is going with so much credit to himself, our Honourable Members should also try to share that credit before their retirement, and try to show this House that they have framed a satisfactory Budget. We have been always saying that the military expenditure is very heavy and that the expenditure on all sides of the civil administration has also become very heavy. They must try to retrench. They have promised a committee of retrenchment, but we have got experience of retrenchment committees, and it would not advance matters at all. I specially hope that this year the Honourable Members will try their best to follow the lead that has been given to them by His Excellency the Viceroy and show some exemplary retrenchment in civil and military expenditure and a reduction of taxation every year. Out of a total expenditure of 180 odd crores, we

spend about 52 crores on the military, or roughly 40 per cent. Are we living in times of war or in times of peace? Honourable Members may say that there were some troubles during this civil disobedience movement; but I would ask, had we those troubles all along for all these years? If in times of peace we are spending so much, what will happen if by some chance we have trouble with Afghanistan or Russia or some such country? I ask this question seriously. In that case what will our Military Budget go up to? Will the Government then mortgage or sell India in order to find money? What procedure will they then follow, if ordinarily in times of peace they spend as much as 52 crores on the military? I appeal to them seriously to consider what will be their Budget then. I implore them to consider this question seriously and to agree to some reasonable course before they come to the final stage of this Bill. I appeal to them to retrench at least to the extent of 5 or 10 crores, or something substantial. Retrenchment to the extent of a few lakhs here and there is not enough. If they retrench to the extent I have indicated, surely this House will agree with them and vote the necessary money. "

Coming now to my own constituency (Hear, hear), I wish to point out that the Government have promised so many committees of retrenchment, but they have mentioned nothing about a boundary commission for Orissa. Probably many Members do not know what Orissa is. Many people

3 P.M. identify Orissa with Jaganath. I wish to tell them that that is not the real Orissa which is called at present politically Orissa.

Orissa was probably known in Mahabharata times as Odradesh. Then we come to the time of Asoka when it was known as Kalinga: we then read of a battle fought at Yosali near Bhubaneswar. That part is Orissa. Then we come to Muhammadan times. I say from authenticated records and histories written by Henter, Toynbee, Sterling, Abdul Fazle. We read in the District Gazetteer, Puri, page 28 that in 1245 the Oriyas besieged Gour, the capital of Bengal and the siege was only raised on the arrival of reinforcements from Oudh. That shows that Orissa extended in those days from Gour in Bengal to the Godavari river roughly speaking. I am stating this from Government records at page 29 of the same. In 1435 we find that it extended from the Ganges to Pennar—as far as Udayagiri near Nellore. In 1457 the Oriya kings ravaged the territories of the Bahamani Sultan. In fact Orissa is a country that extends from the Hooghly to the Godavari. Later on, Honourable Members might have probably heard of the permanent settlement granted to the East India Company by the then Nawabs of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Chota Nagpur are mentioned in the grant. That was not the real Orissa. The Orissa mentioned there was Midnapore. In 1793 Orissa was not yet conquered by the British. She remained independent till about 1808, and was taken possession of piecemeal from Madras, Central Provinces and Bengal; and the present Orissa is a very vast country under four Governments. It is now partly in Madras, partly in the Central Provinces, partly in Bengal and partly in Bihar and Orissa. This is not a new question; it is as old as many of us—perhaps older than many of us. (Laughter.) I come now to the present times. In the time of Lord Curzon, there was a proposal to settle the boundaries and redistribute the province of Orissa. After that Mr. Montagu, the then Secretary of State, came, and the enquiries are embodied in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report; this subject finds a place in that Report. The recommendation to form a sub-province for Orissa was not given effect to. Later on the Government of India, which

[Mr. B. N. Misra.]

promised justice to Orissa's claim and which has recommended in para. 21 of their despatch that there should be a redistribution of Oriya speaking tracts or a separate province for Orissa, has not yet appointed a boundary commission though they have appointed so many other committees. The other day the Burman Members were complaining of the hot haste with which the question of the separation of Burma was being considered. We have been clamouring all these years and yet nothing has been done, though they have agreed to do justice to our claims. The question has been pressed by our Provincial Government and by the public in Bihar and Orissa and there were several meetings. Therefore I would appeal to the Honourable Members that they should appoint a boundary commission soon for the separation of Orissa.

I shall take only a few more minutes as regards this Military Budget. Probably it will be worthwhile mentioning it. Orissa is now much neglected, but Orissa had a typical and exemplary militia before and I think the whole of India has to learn something from the Orissa militia. History tells us—I am not saying this from my own imagination—that when Asoka conquered Kalinga, he encountered the fiercest opposition from the Oriyas. It is stated, Sir, that when King Emperor Asoka conquered Kalinga, so fierce was the resistance offered by the people that 1,50,000 men were taken captives, and over a lakh of people were slain and many times that number perished. When Akbar wanted to subdue the Afghans in Bengal,—I am speaking from their own records called the Abul-Fazal's Akbar Namah, Vol. II, page 395, even there he sought the aid of King Makunda Dev of Orissa to defeat the Afghan power that was then rising in Bengal. Orissa had a complete and perfect militia in those days. Sir, Orissa has got several ruling Princes or Chiefs. They were all very independent. I can say that the British only took possession of Orissa, and it was not conquered. Orissa retained its independence for a long time. But then the people of Orissa liked the British system of administration in those days better than the administration of the Mahratta rulers who were committing depredations or lootings, with the result that the people had no security of life or property nor had they any stable administration. In fact, the Pandas of Jaganath welcomed the advent of the British administration, but, that good system which prevailed in the old days of the predecessors of the present British rulers has considerably degenerated now, and it is doing the worst kind of harm that can be done to Orissa and every part of India.

Sir Hugh Cocke (Bombay: European): Who financed all their military activities?

Mr. B. N. Misra: Sir, in Orissa they had a different system of recruitment in those days to the Military Department. There were no paid officers; they were not mercenary officers. There were all Sardars or Dalpatis who controlled or commanded the army. My own great-grand-father was a Bahinipati commander in the army in those days. (Applause.) He was also at the same time the Rajguru or Purohit, but still he fought for his country. No doubt, they were given some lands or jagirs, and that was enough for them. I am merely explaining to the House how the British have wrongly and deliberately killed the martial spirit of the people

and have adopted the wrong system which obtains today. Speaking of the martial spirit of the people of Orissa, Mr. Toynbee at page 12 says this :

"It is clear that a body of local landed militia of this kind might have been made a tower of strength to the British Government had liberal and conciliatory measures been adopted from the first. But, by a fatal and short-sighted policy, Major Fleisher had been allowed to resume their service lands shortly after the confiscation of the Khurda estate. Nor was this all. * * They were subjected to grossest extortion and oppression * * "

The present Government have entirely killed the martial spirit of the people of my province. The reason is this. The Government want to keep their own people here; they want to dump into this country all classes of English people in the name of maintaining law and order; any Tom, Dick and Harry can find a place in the military here, because their own people must be fed. The present Government have killed the martial spirit of the people not only of Orissa but of all parts of India. Who fought at the siege of Arcot for the Government in those days? It was the Indians, it was the Moplas, and in fact wherever the British Government have succeeded in conquering any territory, it is all due to the people of this country. But in spite of all that, the Government decry the people of this country. They say that we Indians are not strong enough or fit enough to command a regiment, that we cannot carry a gun and so on. But it is a well known fact that the British soldier, man to man, cannot be an equal to his Indian brother in any respect, although the white soldier is paid much more than the poor Indian soldier. The English soldier cannot even stand in the sun, and still he is called a hero, whereas our men, however strong, however well disciplined, and however efficient they may be, are paid a poor compliment. Sir, it must be remembered that a British soldier costs us ten or even twenty times more than an Indian soldier, and all the money paid to the military people goes to England. But, Sir, though the Government have killed our martial spirit, still they have not succeeded in completely annihilating that spirit in us. We are a strong and brave race. There are still people alive in Orissa who can take up the defence of the country at any time. As my friend was saying the other day, India can defend herself if she is given complete control over the Army. In that case we shall not want a single English soldier to defend this country; we shall not pay a single pie to an English soldier. I can assure this House, Sir, that in five or ten years' time we will be able to prepare such a well organized and disciplined army for the defence of this country that it will surprise any nation in the world. Let the British Government array all their machine guns against us; let them hover their aeroplanes over us; we shall not be afraid in the least. Our people will be quite equal to the task. But they give the dog a bad name and hang it, and that is our fate, and that is what the Government have done.

Now, Sir, I shall say a few words about the Round Table Conference. Sir, British India had sent, in all, 52 members to the Round Table Conference, and if I take province by province, my province ought to get one-eighth of this number for representation at the Conference, but we did not get even three members, so that, Sir, Orissa has not been represented at all at the Conference. As the Conference will continue its deliberations in Simla, I hope the Government will see their way to meet the demand of Orissa in this respect. My province has peculiar difficulties.

[Mr. B. N. Misra.]

Sir, I appeal to the Government that they must select some members to represent my province at the next session of the Round Table Conference. (*An Honourable Member*: "Who is he to be?") The Honourable Mr. M. S. Das is well known to all Members of this House. He is still alive, but the Government did not think fit to select him to represent my province. There are many others like Sachidananda Sinha and Sir Ali Imam! On the other hand, they were pleased to send the young Maharaja of Darbhanga to the Round Table Conference, although on account of the age and lack of experience of public life, he is not fit to sit in any Provincial Council, District Board or Local Board even, not to speak of his fitness to sit in this Assembly or the Council of State; still such a man was selected.

An Honourable Member: I think the Honourable Member cannot cast any reflection on the Maharaja of Darbhanga.

Mr. B. N. Misra: I am not casting any aspersions on him. What I say is that by his age or experience he is quite unfit to represent my province. If we tell this to the Members of Government and complain about it, then the reply is ready. "Oh, it is the pleasure of His Majesty's Government to select the people." But, Sir, His Majesty's Government at Home does not know anything about the age or fitness of the young Maharaja of Darbhanga. They are not *sarbanya*, *panditas*, *Jogis* or *sadhus* to know by occult power. They select people based on the reports of the Indian Government. But what do the Government of India do here? They must hide their face in shame. They take care to select only such people who will merely say at the Conference what their masters here have asked them to say there. One does not know why the young Maharaja of Darbhanga was sent to the Round Table Conference; he is not under the electoral rules qualified to sit in any Council, still he was expected to draw up a constitution for this very Assembly or the Council of State or even a federal structure. The fact is that Government wanted a safe man, a man who would say ditto to everything that the Government said, and not a man who would call a spade a spade. Orissa, Sir, has got about thirty States, but no representation has been given to any of those States. I hope, Sir, at the next session of the Round Table Conference they will take some representatives from Orissa both from the Orissa States and also from British Orissa and thus satisfy the people of my province.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, for a long time I was in doubt whether we sitting on these Benches should take part in the debate or not. I was feeling that perhaps the nature of the debate was such that Members of Government were not called upon to enter upon a defence or to give detailed information on the points raised during the course of the debate. I felt that, as this debate commenced, Members were unburdening themselves of the subjects that they had got up either for the purpose of moving Resolutions or for promoting the cuts that they had sent in the matter of Demands in connection with various departments, and which cuts had not been reached, and it would not be possible for any Member of Government, during the course of this debate, really in a satisfactory manner to enter upon a controversy relating to those matters, and if we try to do so with any attempt to carry conviction to the House, we will have to take such

a long time that probably non-official Members would consider it an encroachment on their time. Yesterday, however, I noticed that a number of speakers from the Front Bench of the Opposition made a point that a number of Members had spoken, and spoken on a number of subjects, and yet the Members sitting on the Government Benches took no notice of them, did not care what was said, did not even care to reply. Well, I can assure the Honourable Members that it was not this reason that kept us silent during the last three or four days. On the other hand, it was really to afford them every opportunity of giving expression to their views and of making such criticisms as they felt they were called upon to make on the administration in the hope that the points made by them would be examined by us and by our Secretaries in the future to do what we could in the way of meeting them. As I said, yesterday's speeches brought vividly to my mind the necessity of establishing a contact between the Government Members and the Benches opposite. It is a pity that in the Central Government there has not been even some sort of that much abused thing called "diarchy". Had there been, some of us, at all events, would have had some friends in the House who would be in contact with us and who would not consider that by being in contact with us they ran the risk of perhaps losing caste with other Members. Even now, for the short period that exists between now and complete responsibility in the Legislature it would be a good thing if opportunities were afforded to establish that contact, however small the extent of that contact might be.

To mention only a few points, the Leader of the Opposition, with extreme and studied moderation, so far as I am concerned, appealed to me that I should not violate the great principle of the autonomy of the provinces. I am not at issue with him on that point at all. I am in entire accord with him. It should be the effort of those who sit on the Official Benches, as well as of those who sit on the opposite Benches, to remember that there are rights and responsibilities vesting in the local Legislatures and obligations vesting in the Local Governments which we should both bear in mind. The instance he quoted was of a Revenue Settlement Bill, which came up from the Madras Government to the Government of India, and the Government of India did not approve of it. The Honourable Member says, "Look here. Is that fair? Provincial autonomy,—is that the way in which you encourage it?". I at once without going into the merits of the case might, for the purposes of this debate, concede the point. But may I remind him how far it is fair in 1931 to bring up an instance of 1925 when the provincial autonomy principle according to him was not honoured by the Government? Am I right in saying that from 1925 to 1931 no such instance has occurred, and is that not to the credit of the Government of India, that they do not interfere with the autonomy of the provinces or the extent of such autonomy as vests in the local Legislatures? I may go a step further and remind him that only last year, when we had the Malabar Tenancy Act of 1930 coming up to the Government of India for interference, the Government of India refused to interfere, although, as the Honourable Member knows full well, representations made in support of interference were not altogether devoid of force and strength. That I think ought to convince him that, if anything, the Government of India are quite as jealous of the autonomy of the local Legislatures and of all Local Governments as he is.

[Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

His second point was with reference to failing to know the number of Indians in South America. I was puzzled about the distinction between my department being responsible for Indians overseas but not with reference to those in South America. I find that the subject is divided into two parts, Indians overseas limited to the British Empire and Colonies and Indians overseas outside the Empire. When we come to outside the Empire, the subject is in charge of the Foreign Department, because the department which deals with the subject is the one which deals with all foreign countries, and the countries with which I deal are not foreign in that sense. But, since I am on the subject of Indians overseas, I must take this opportunity of thanking the House and its Members for the keen interest that they have invariably evinced in the matter of Indians overseas. I am particularly obliged to them because that is a subject which, if I may say so, is more difficult and more delicate than any other subject with which we have to deal. It is a subject which requires a great deal of patience and perseverance. There is so little sanction behind our efforts, and therefore such a great deal depends upon attempts at persuasion, and you know how difficult it is to persuade when there is not much sanction behind your efforts.

I may from here get on to the other subject, and that is the subject of retrenchment. My Honourable friends opposite have tried to make out that, irrespective of the financial condition, the trade depression, agricultural depression and other troubles in the country, Members of Government go on their merry way piling up expenditure upon expenditure and thus making it more and more difficult for the present resources to be sufficient and for the present taxation to be enough to meet their demands. Well, I have got up this afternoon chiefly to assure the Honourable Members that this is not correct. As a matter of fact, the true position is just the opposite. I have sheets full of schemes, of plans, of proposals, not in their initial stages but completed, proposals considered and sanctioned, which I have had to give up because of the financial stringency. As early as June last, the Finance Department began to worry us with circular after circular, first stating, "Although the Budget was sanctioned, although you can incur expenditure within the limits of the Budget, still in view of the financial stringency, we call upon you to stay your hand, and even though within the sanctioned Budget, not to proceed with those schemes which have not yet been initiated, and in the case of schemes which you have initiated, see that, at the earliest stage possible where you can without loss of money stop them, you bring them to a stop". Sir, Member after Member has risen to ask what have I been doing. I see before me the Honourable Member from Ajmer-Merwara, Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, asking me—what about Ajmer-Merwara, why is there no money for primary education? What about sanitation, what about the enormous percentage of infant death? I realise that there is a great deal of force in what he said. I pass on to another Member who is not present today, who in emotional tones said yesterday—What about Delhi University? Ten years have passed. Still there is neither a teaching university nor a residential university nor a unitary university. I have to admit that he is right. There is no money. I have had with very great regret to give up scheme after scheme simply because there was no money.

I pass on to the Frontier Province. We have listened to a very impassioned appeal this afternoon. We have been asked, "What have you been doing? Why are there no schools, no colleges, no sanitary arrangements and so on?" The same thing goes on from Member to Member. We are expected to do all these things, and yet we are expected to do them all out of nothing. It cannot be done. I assure you, and through you the House, that there are here schemes actually ready to be carried out, only if we had the money, the amount which my department can spend on these schemes during the next year comes nearly to a crore of rupees.

Talking of research, we have been asked what we have been doing for agriculture. I listened with very very great interest to the excellent speech of Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar the other day about the troubles of the zamindars, the experiments which they make, the refusal of the Council of Agricultural Research to proceed with the investigation he wanted them to conduct. He has justification for that complaint and yet I cannot say that the Council of Agricultural Research is to blame for not having done what he wanted them to do. There is no money. The Honourable House knows perfectly well that for the time being wheat is almost lost as an export commodity. Very low prices prevail so far as cotton and jute are concerned; our efforts are directed to do what we can in the matter of sugar, and yet the Governing Body of the Council of Agricultural Research tell me that, with their limited resources, they are doing the best they can, and unless I can persuade the Finance Department to give them some grant during the year 1931-32, they will not be able to do what they wanted to do and what the country needs most at this time.

Now, Sir, I am taking a little time over this matter not with the object of making a display of the efforts that my department is making. I assure you that is not my object. My object is to assure you that there is not an economy which we could have made that we have not made. It was said that we should not only stay our hands so far as starting of new schemes is concerned, such as new hospitals and so on, but we should do something more—when there is a vacancy we should not fill it, when there are two vacancies occurring, if they can be combined we should do it. I assure you that if any Member is really anxious to see whether such economies are being effected, I have a list of such economies attempted by members of my Secretariat, and we will be very glad to show it. In the case of the Research Institute at Dehra Dun, there were appointments to be filled up and it was desirable to fill them up as early as possible in the interests of research, but keeping in mind the extreme need for economy we have held up these appointments. In the matter of forests, we are told that it is necessary to go ahead. We have to a certain extent stopped further recruitment here. Even the provinces, feeling the pinch of poverty, have told us that they are prepared to let our Indian forest service officers go to some other provinces, while they will carry on with provincial officers there, and that therefore we need not recruit. We have had to write to the Secretary of State accordingly. I think, Sir, Honourable Members will give me that amount of credit which I am always prepared to give to their statements based on their personal knowledge and I trust they will believe me when I say that there is no economy as such

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within the administration of these departments that can be made, which has been left unmade. It may be a matter of a few hundred rupees here or even a few thousands there.

I think the Honourable Mr. Rangachariar was right when he said frankly the other day that there is not much to be got out of economy under the civil administration. Whether there is in the Army or not, I cannot say from personal knowledge, but if the methods pursued there are the same as on the civil side, it is quite possible that the suspicions of the Honourable Members cannot be as well founded as they believe them to be. I do not commit myself. I will not say "No" because I do not know. What I wish to urge on this House is this. Is it right, is it fair for us to assume an attitude of what do we care for your vote? Is it right for you to suggest that we do not care for your vote, because there is a power behind which can undo your vote? I think the Honourable Member who spoke last made a very shrewd observation indeed when he said that the person who is responsible for restoring these grants is going away. Do you think he is anxious to resort to the power of restoring these grants? None of us sitting on these Benches would like to be in the position of asking him to do this, and I assure you that you have the strongest possible position that any party can have in a House and that is due to the peculiar position in which Government are placed. None of us, I assure you, would like to tender that advice. No one can feel proud of having tendered that advice. You know that perfectly well. What is the right course to adopt? You see we are practically in your hands. It is not that we do not care for your vote or that we do not care for your power, political or constitutional. You talk of 10 crores here, 6 crores there and so on. As a Member of Government, I know, and from what the Finance Member has told me, I can assure you that when we are talking like that, we are not really making a fruitful effort to get close enough to arrive at a satisfactory agreement. I assure you that there is all the willingness on our part that can possibly be on the part of any Government because of our peculiar position. I trust and I hope that you will not press us too far, but be ready and willing during the course of the next two or three days, to arrive at a really business-like arrangement. These are not my views alone, but they are the views of the Government as well. It is not that we simply want to appease you, we want also to satisfy the country outside this House. We are anxious that the country should feel that the Government are not out of touch with the country in the present extremely delicate economic condition, and it is in your hands to give that co-operation, to enable us to satisfy the country. I trust, Sir, when I have said that, I have done my duty. I know, a very large number of the Members of the House, who think about these matters, have no desire really to create a situation wherein Government are bound to feel that they have been put in an awkward situation. I have not the slightest doubt on that point; but I trust that now that we have scamped through all the debates of the last few days, we would adopt a business-like attitude on both sides, with the object of arriving at a satisfactory solution.

Mr. E. F. Sykes (Bombay: European): Sir, the position of the Finance Member is this; that while retrenchment is essential, the opportunities for effecting it are few. I may for his comfort say that the position is not

new. The House will forgive me if I read a short extract of what happened in 1920 at home:

"Mr. Asquith, commenting good-humouredly in November, 1920, on the exuberance and costliness of the new bureaucracy—Captain Guest, Mr. Lloyd George's Chief Whip, had recently declared that the Government's expenditure could not be reduced—noted that the Ministry of Health required six superintending charwomen and seven deputy superintendent charwomen, who, 'from their position of relative superiority', supervised the labour of 122 charwomen of a humbler grade." (Hear, hear.)

Well, Sir, there is perhaps hope for us. The Honourable the Finance Member may still find opportunities for reduction of expenditure.

I would like to impress on the House that their assistance to him in this matter would be of the greatest importance. I think that the Finance Member will agree that in this matter his enemies are those of his own household. The Finance Member, no doubt, tries to effect all possible economies with the help and encouragement of the Standing Finance Committee and also to restrict fresh expenditure, but he always has to struggle with the other Departments of Government. Sir, I am not suggesting that the other Departments are indifferent to economy or irresponsible, and I wish to make no reflection on the officers of Government. But I am sure that the Head of a Department would not be able to command the confidence of his Department if he was not of opinion that the work of that Department was as important as that of any other and therefore it should be the last to be retrenched. Now, Sir, I have noticed in this debate that Members seem to feel that information is extraordinarily difficult to obtain. One member said yesterday that the Army was a closed book to us. Well, Sir, I have a closed volume on my table which weighs about half a seer, which was supplied to me with the Budget papers. This gives immense detail of Army expenditure, setting forth for instance the number of trumpeters of a battery or drummers of a regiment and particulars of supplies and so forth, and similarly for all other Departments the Budget contains an immense mass of information; and I have noticed that in every Department you find officers both in the House and outside it who are ready to supply you with any further information you require; and before the Retrenchment Committee meets, I hope Members will make a point of satisfying themselves that they have the necessary information to enable them to make suggestions for particular retrenchments to that Committee. Now, Sir, let me take one example,—the Council of Agricultural Research—The Finance Member told us during the general discussion on the Budget that there was always a tendency for the official plant to grow. Everybody connected with any large organisation knows how that happens, and the restraint of the growing plant is, we all know, an extraordinarily difficult thing. The Finance Member told us a few lines further on that behind any retrenchment there may be the matter of policy, cutting down for instance our policy of providing money for agricultural research. I have not the least desire that money for agricultural research should be cut down. No doubt the success of agricultural research is one cause of our present difficulties, but neglect of it would complete our ruin. But under the name of Agricultural Research there are large sums spent in administration, which have nothing to do with research and might well be applied to it. If I may, I will go briefly into the history of this organisation. It is a child of the Agricultural Commission which recommended its constitution. Its constitution as proposed was unduly elaborate, but for our purpose it is only necessary to mention

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two points. First that with it should be associated an experienced administrator, and second that it should not maintain any research institution directly under its control, nor would it provide a staff of experts. When the Government of India issued its Resolution of 23rd May 1929, it made one modification: It did not consider it necessary to restrict the agency by which research should be carried out. The next step would normally have been to appoint a technical director of research, who would be appointed as possessing the requisite qualifications, and could then be provided with such administrative officials as were necessary. This however was a difficult matter. In research, agricultural or otherwise, the man is everything and the machine is nothing. Fortunately in the Government of India experienced administrators can be found in large numbers, and the search for them is not long or difficult. For this reason first of all a Secretary was appointed; later a Vice-President. Later some technical members were appointed. But first of all the administrative machine was got going. Now, Sir, experienced administrators in charge of any organisation must from their very nature find something to administer. But the provision made for research was very modest; ten lakhs were voted by this House as a capital sum, and five lakhs annually. As the only work of the organisation was to distribute the funds among the various bodies engaged in research the labour involved was not serious. The organisation had therefore to find other interests beside research. It is interesting to trace its development from what was intended to be purely a research organisation into a general administrative department. Among its various extensions are a locust bureau, European tours, the absorption of the sugar bureau and a vast number of Committees. No doubt these committees were adumbrated in the plans of the Agricultural Commission, but many who are likely to know doubt whether their work is of any great value.

If you refer to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of this year you will see that this organisation has thrown off any pretence of being a Research Department and has become an ordinary administrative department, as indeed from its nature it might be expected to be; but its expenditure is still shown as being connected with research. One cannot do better than quote its own words:

"The Australian and the British Councils devoted themselves presumably entirely to the conduct and encouragement of research whereas with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research that was only one, though the most important, of its duties. The Imperial Council in its capacity as adviser in agricultural matters (including veterinary and animal husbandry) of the Government of India and Provincial Governments did, but in a more comprehensive fashion, the work which the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India used to perform and its position *vis-a-vis* the provinces was, generally speaking, approximating to that of a central co-ordinating Department of Agriculture."

I think the House will agree that this is a good example of the manner in which these official plants grow. I have spared the House—in view of the state of the clock—a vast number of details which would reinforce the case; but I commend it to those gentlemen who are going to form the Retrenchment Committee and suggest that they further consider and make recommendations after studying the history of this organisation in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. This body was already spending 2½ lakhs in administration when it came up to the Standing

Finance Committee for more money. The proposal was sent back for further explanations, but in spite of protests the amount demanded was ultimately passed.

I think the Standing Finance Committee, at times, takes its responsibilities rather lightly. Its proceedings are circulated to the Members of the House, yet we never hear accusations of extravagance made against the Standing Finance Committee, yet there is no single article of new expenditure that has not received their assent.

Now, Sir, I will conclude by recommending that in this and similar cases,—there must be many more like the one I have come across—the Retrenchment Committee should investigate them and when they find a plant has grown into something that was not in the least attended, they should just see what they can do by way of pruning it to resemble its original ideal and ideal shape.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: I did not want to make a speech on the Finance Bill, but I only wanted to ask a question of the Honourable Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands in order that I might get more light on a matter which he referred to in his speech. I did not want to interrupt him in the midst of his speech. That was, Sir, why I rose before you called on the previous speaker. But now that he is absent from his seat, there is no use of putting that question.

Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): It is three rather four days that we have been throwing stones and missiles at the Treasury Benches and till this evening they remained rather unaffected. Either they are unable to reply to us, or they do not want to reply to us, or they did not care to reply to us. They do not seem to treat these as serious things, they rather treat them as a *tamasha*. Yesterday one or two Honourable Members threw bombs at them and they seem to have hit them and hurt them; for today I find they are in a way caring for us. Already some of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches have replied to our criticisms, and I hope others also will follow and give us some information and throw some light on matters which we want from them. Sir, I quite realise that as a man the Honourable Sir George Schuster is a kind hearted gentleman, he is a very sympathetic gentleman, but when he becomes Finance Member of the Government of India, he loses all his softness and becomes very hard-hearted, not only unsympathetic but even hard-hearted. In that matter, I only sympathise with him because he has to feed a very unsatiable glutton from our coffers. Every one of us knows that owing to trade depression, owing to economic depression, owing to the fall in prices, every one of us including Sir George Schuster has to reduce his own budget. But the only institution in the whole world which I find has not reduced its budget or which could not reduce its budget is the Government of India. Sir George Schuster, as the feeder of the Government of India, has to find money. In the circumstances, I sympathise with him. He has to find out money, he runs out for money, he wants to amass money, he wants money to feed the Civil Service, the Military Department, the Home Department and several other Departments of the Government of India, which will not admit of any reduction. It is said that our civil services cannot be reduced because it is the irreducible minimum. Our military expenditure cannot be touched and our Home charges are untouchable. That is the position in which we find ourselves today, and that is the

[Mr. Üppi Saheb Bahadur.]

position in which Sir George Schuster is placed today. Anyhow he has to feed all of them and it is his poor lot, it is his misfortune to meet these gluttonous demands. So he has to run here and there for money. It is unfortunate that he could not find the money in such a way as to least affect persons whom he wants to touch. He has resorted to the easiest steps, that is taxing the richest directly and poorest man indirectly. This policy is going to bring disaster. You know there is trade depression in the country and it has brought about a situation which requires strong measures to be taken to prevent a disaster. Unless prompt measures are taken, many rich men would become bankrupt and bankruptcy is staring in the faces of many rich merchants in the whole of India. Sir, at this juncture to increase the income-tax will be simply killing many of the merchants and ruining entirely many of the merchants. The increase in super-tax—I understand the minimum has been reduced from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 40,000—will bring about a situation which will entirely ruin many rich men and will make them poor. I understand that a man who gets more than Rs. 50,000 hereafter will have to pay Rs. 6,000 more than what he has been now paying under the super-tax. Now, Sir, instead of trying to kill our traders and trying to kill our business, the Honourable the Finance Member could have helped us in several ways. There is an industry which is crying for protection, that is the leather industry and that industry is crying for protection. It demands an increase in the export duty on raw hides and skins, but Government have so far shown a deaf ear to that cry. From the telegrams that we have received from the representatives of the leather and hides industry associations, we find that if the Government do not protect them immediately, the result will be that many of them will be ruined. And, Sir, we find that the Finance Member could have raised money by export taxation. The other day we heard from the Honourable Members, representing the Chambers of Commerce in Southern India, that the Finance Member could have raised a crore of rupees without any difficulty and at the same time given protection to this Indian industry. Now, Sir, one of the policies of the Government of India, they say, is to help the agriculturists. But they have really done nothing to help the Indian agriculturists. Personally I have to deal very closely with the Agriculture Department of the Madras Presidency. What I understood from the advice and recommendations of the Agriculture Department is this. They ask us to increase the fertility of the soil by putting different manures such as phosphates, potassium, nitrogen and such like. For phosphates they tell us we must use bone-meal. But we cannot get bone-meal because its price is so very high that it will not pay us to dress our soil with bone-meal in the existing circumstances. Bone-meal is exported to other countries and we cannot compete with the foreign merchants in this matter. If only Government had imposed a protective duty on bone-meal and other Indian manures which are exported from India in large quantities, it would have been a great help to indigenous cultivators. In this way the Finance Member could have helped us and he could also have filled his coffers and fed his insatiable Departments. But I find that neither the Finance Member nor the Government of India is bold enough to touch those sources of income which may affect their own relations or even the relations of England with other countries. They want to keep up their good trade relations with other foreign countries. England seems to want to keep up her good relations with other foreign countries at the expense of India

and her business. For the matter of that, the Government of India is not bold enough to protect our industries at the expense of the good relations of England with other foreign countries. Sir, self-preservation is the first rule of life and it is the duty of the Finance Member to protect us even at the expense of other foreign countries.

There is another thing which I should like to bring before the House and that concerns my own constituency. You know that it is now nearly ten years since a great calamity passed over the district of Malabar, known as the Malabar rebellion. The events of the rebellion are now a sealed book and forgotten. I do not want to rake up those sad incidents, but as a result of that unfortunate calamity, thousands of Moplahs are now undergoing imprisonment either in the Andamans or in jails. Rightly or wrongly they were imprisoned. I do not now wish to tire the House by narrating the way in which these people were tried and punished, and I do not in the least cast any aspersion on the judges or the courts that tried those cases. But they are there for ten years. They are people who might have committed crimes in abnormal times. I appeal to this Government to pardon them and send them home and ask them to be good boys in future. Justice tempered with mercy is always more effective than justice hardened by vindictiveness. At this juncture let me express my heart-felt gratitude to my Hindu brethren in Malabar for forgetting and forgiving the crimes that the Moplahs may have committed on them. As early as in 1924 a Resolution was moved in the Madras Legislative Council and all the members from Malabar, some of them who had suffered at the hands of rebels—I am glad one of them is here Mr. Thampan, who had suffered at their hands—appealed to the Madras Government to release them. He said that at least 75 per cent. of those who are in jail are really innocent, the real culprits being at large. The Home Member asked how he knew it, and he very curtly and tersely replied that they had bought off the police. My Honourable friend Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar also very strongly supported it and appealed to the Government to release these people. They are not habitual criminals but only people who perhaps committed crimes at an abnormal time when there was no law and no order and nothing in the country except chaos. So, I appeal now to this Government to move the Provincial Government to release these people, send them home and make them happy. At the same time I must condemn the policy of Government in trying to send their free women and children to the Andamans. The Andamans are a hell on earth. These are not my words but the Committee of Sir Alexander Cardew condemned the place in 1921 in terms more forcible. In one sentence they explicitly said that no woman should be sent to the Andamans even if she agrees and even if her relatives consent, it is such a bad place for women. But within two or three years after that report even the magic wand of the Government of India could not have brought about a better atmosphere in the Andamans so quickly. They sent the free Moplah women and children there and that also very stealthily. In this way about a thousand free Moplah women and children were taken to the Andamans. Even now I understand the scheme is there although they do not now send so many. These people who are governed by the civil laws in India and are free in India, become prisoners and slaves the moment they get into the Andamans and are governed by the Andamans Regulations. So, I say that in the interests of humanity at least the Government of India should give up that scheme. If they want

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to colonise the Andamans the Moplahs are there. The Moplahs are not afraid to go, not only to the Andamans but to any place in the world. My people are all over the world. If the Government of India want to colonise the Andamans, to recover the Andamans, let them throw them open for anybody and everybody. Let them advertise. As a matter of fact I may also go there and work there. I know how to work in forests and I do business in timber. But the Government do not allow that. At least from the humanitarian standpoint, I appeal to this Government to give up their present scheme and to throw the Andamans open for any enterprising Indian to go and settle and work the forests there.

Another point I want to mention is this; everybody is raising a cry—speaking of the Round Table Conference—for constituting his district or districts into a province. The one district in the whole of India which has got a different culture and a different language from the rest of India is Malabar. I raise my voice here to appeal that Malabar also should be set up as a separate province. Many small states, such as Cochin, where there is a Royal Family, have Legislative Council and a Dewan and an Executive Council and enjoy autonomy. Malabar is far bigger than Cochin. Again Coorg is a province by itself though it is far smaller than Malabar. I therefore raise my voice here to ask that Malabar also should be constituted as a separate province and I hope this matter will receive consideration at the next Round Table Conference. With these words, I close my speech.

Several Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President: It is in the hands of Honourable Members to decide whether they wish to close the debate now or whether they want to go on. I shall take their opinion by putting the question. The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I believe from remarks which have been made by many Honourable Members during the course of this debate that I have had at times at least their sympathy. I think perhaps I never deserved it more than just at the present moment when I have got up after five days' debate in an atmosphere which, without intending to put any criticism on the House, for which you Mr. President are responsible, is at least rather a stale atmosphere; and I have to get up and reply to a number of arguments advanced from every direction and covering practically the whole field of administration of the Government. Sir, I have been tempted to think at times that the Opposition were practising something in the nature of tactics of "attrition" in this respect just as the late war was a war of attrition. I myself am not in the least "attrited", if that is the right word, by the result of this five days' debate. But, I rather feel, looking round the Benches opposite, that Honourable Members are slightly wearied of what they have listened to and that is my real difficulty. I have to deal now seriously with a number of questions, and I fear that Honourable Members are rather wearied, but I have to choose between two courses, either respecting their immediate feelings and their immediate comfort or being accused of neglecting their arguments; and when I remember my feelings when I sat as a Member of a row on this Government Front Bench, when the Honourable the Leader of

the Opposition took us to task, and when I felt a sort of mixture between my feelings as a school boy as I remember them and my feelings as I anticipate them when the last trump sounds and I stand on the day of Judgment, when I remember those feelings, I am not going to risk the charge that I have not dealt fairly and fully with all the arguments that we have heard on the other side. Therefore, I must ask Honourable Members to bear with me while I go through a good deal of what has been said.

In the first place I have to express my appreciation of the tone of this debate. At times it has wandered over a large field, but even on those occasions I recognise that every Member speaking was speaking of a subject which he had very much at heart and was taking the opportunity, perhaps the only opportunity vouchsafed to him during the Session, of bringing forward those questions. At other times when we came down more closely to the Finance Bill, I must say that I recognised a desire to deal with the issues on their merits which, I think, from my own short experience in this House, has been peculiar to this year's debate; and I believe Honourable Members will agree with me, who remember at least the last two years' discussions on the Budget, that somehow or other there is now in the discussion on this question an atmosphere of reality which has not been present before. I think the constitutional changes which are coming have cast their shadow before them—or rather have cast their light before them; and have already influenced the tone of the discussions in this Assembly. I would thank all those who have been able to find it possible to say anything in commendation of the Budget, and I do not at all hesitate to thank my Honourable friend from Bombay for what he said on its behalf. It is not part of my duty to follow him into the field where he dealt with the Round Table Conference and the future constitution of India, though I would like to say one thing and that is this; that when he spoke for the value of the idea of unity in Government, then I think he was saying something with which every Member really sympathises, in the sense that any change which would lead to the break-up of the unity of India, which has been achieved during the last century, would be a tragedy.

Now, taking the various speeches which have been made, I should like to commence with that of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition. He asked me a question; he said—and I think he was really speaking from his heart—he asked what I would do if I were in his place. That question indicates a spirit which I myself heartily reciprocate, for I have often felt myself mentally asking him, what would he do if he were in mine? And I will try and answer his question as honestly as I can and I will be very frank and even very indiscreet in answering it. I think that if I were in his place, what I would do is this; I would try and find out what the Government really can do, and then I should concentrate all my efforts on forcing them to do something—something to achieve the following objects; something to show the public that the representatives of the public have asserted themselves; something which would really mean giving a concrete pledge that we the Government are in earnest, something perhaps, if that is possible, to relieve any features in the taxation proposals which are really unjust, and something at last—and here perhaps my friend will detect some indiscretion—something at last which will, if I may put it so, give a jolt to the machine of Government which will bring home to all who are working it that they are involved in a desperate

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economic crisis and make them feel that they have got to face realities. That, Sir, is the sort of thing which I should feel I ought to do if I filled the Honourable Member's role as the Leader of the Opposition, but I must emphasise again the point which I made at the outset that I would try to find out facts and not take my stand on any impossible claim. And, Sir, when my Honourable friend says that he proposes to vote for amendments which will rob the Government of six crores of revenue, then I say he is taking his stand on an impossible claim, and I would ask my friend to reconsider his position.

Sir, it has often been said in the course of this debate that the Government should take Members on the other side into their confidence. Well, I want to claim one thing, and that is, that in every word that I have said, I have taken Honourable Members into my confidence; I have kept nothing back. I have said nothing which did not tell, so far as I was able to tell it, the whole truth, and apart from going into details which cannot be covered in a Budget speech, I really have nothing more to say. But, Sir, I did take an occasion last week when discussing other questions to touch upon this idea of helping Honourable Members opposite to realise the truth of the situation, and here I want to refer to something which passed at that meeting and which, I regret to say, appears to have been communicated to the Press. I feel that my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition deserves an apology from somebody,—I do not know from whom—but as he has spoken to me on the subject, I feel that I should mention it. In the course of that discussion and as part of this general idea, I suggested to the leaders who were meeting me that they should come with me and talk over the Army position with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. For various reasons my friends thought at any rate that at that stage nothing would be gained by that course. Their reasons were, I am prepared to recognise, good reasons, but I venture to think that possibly that course might be reconsidered. I do not wish to say anything further at any length on that subject now, but if I might refer back to what I was impertinent enough to say to my Honourable friend opposite as to what I would do in his place if I were there, I would say that perhaps, if I had been in his place or if I were in his place now, I would follow up that course. The offer is still open, and possibly it may be fruitful to pursue it.

Then, Sir, my friend made another remark to which I must refer, and that is, he said he would like to know what is my honest opinion about this currency problem. Sir, I should be very glad of an opportunity to discuss this fully with my Honourable friend. There is very much to be said about it, more than can be said on any occasion that I have had for speaking publicly upon it, but I do hope that my Honourable friend does not suggest that what I have said publicly does not represent my own honest opinion. (Laughter.) Sir, I was not speaking in jest. I think this is one of the subjects which in my term of office here has caused me most anxiety and most concern, because unfortunately feeling about it has penetrated very deep, and I recognise that it has been a large factor in the situation, not merely in the economic situation but also in the political situation. I think there is no subject to which I have given more thought and which has caused me more sleepless nights, and the conviction at which I have arrived has not been arrived at easily or with a mind which was not open throughout to consider other possible alternatives. But

it is a conviction, it is an absolute, firm and deep conviction, and if my friend would like to know or discuss with me exactly how I arrived at it and now I disposed of the arguments against it,—I recognise there are arguments, very attractive temptations, held out for immediate advantage to certain classes—if my friend would like to know how the processes, the mental processes through which I have passed, I should be very pleased to spend a day with him on the subject. Sir, perhaps that is all I need say to my friend's remarks. They dealt with a good deal more, but on this particular occasion I think he will agree with me that he was attacking my colleagues rather than myself.

Then, Sir, we had a very interesting and a very full speech covering a wide field from my Honourable friend the Deputy President. He started by saying that I had not fully explored all the avenues of retrenchment. He gave us the actual figures of the Budget, and he said the total expenditure remains the same and that there is no retrenchment. Sir, I do not want to weary the House with figures, but when that sort of charge is made, I must say something in reply to it, and I venture to think that a further examination of the figures will convince my Honourable friend that every thing that I said was correct and that actually in civil expenditure there is a very substantial retrenchment shown. It is quite true that the gross expenditure remains about the same, in fact comparing the Budget figures for 1930-31 with the Budget figures for 1931-32, there is an increase of 78 lakhs. But then from that you have to deduct the Railways and the military charges, and that brings down the civil expenditure figure, including the Posts and Telegraphs, to 44 crores 45 lakhs for 1930-31, as compared with 44 crores 30 lakhs for 1931-32. That shows a reduction of 15. From that we have to take the Debt services, so that the civil expenditure, exclusive of the Debt services, which, I think, my friend will agree, represent expenditure which is not part of the field of expenditure which one has in mind when one is talking of retrenchment,—deducting the Debt services, the figures are for 1930-31 Budget 26 crores 63 lakhs and for 1931-32 Budget 25 crores 52 lakhs. That actually shows a net reduction of one crore and ten lakhs in the civil expenditure. There are various reasons why that figure does not exactly agree with the figure of 98 that I gave. There are certain adjustments which I have not taken into account, and I maintain that the figure which I gave as real retrenchment, of 98 in the civil expenditure, is a correct figure.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend dealt with the point—he quite admitted that we could not make any immediate reduction in pay, but he said the Budget is divided into two headings, pay and pensions, and purchase of stores, etc. He thought that under the latter heading it ought to be possible to make very substantial economies because of the fall in prices. But if he examines the figures of the civil expenditure, he will find that the amount available for stores and that kind of expenditure in the civil Budget is an extremely small amount, and I think he will recognise that actually on the civil Budget side there is not any room for big reduction owing to the fall in prices. It is true that under the heading of Civil Works, if wages go down and if costs of building go down, then we might have some reduction of expenditure there on that account. But so far, there is no sign of a substantial fall in building prices, and in fact,

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apart from the grain purchases for the Army, we as a Government cannot say that we have as yet got any direct benefit from the fall in prices. As regards the Army, I will come to that again because I want to deal with that rather more fully.

Then, my Honourable friend said that, although we cannot reduce salaries, or at any rate, there are difficulties about that which he admitted,—he said, at least reorganise the Departments, and you can replace highly paid by lower paid officials. My answer to that is you cannot do that quickly. I quite agree—and I shall say more on this—I quite agree that with an organised plan, with the force of public opinion behind you, with a carefully directed work by a retrenchment enquiry, I quite agree that, there may be room for reduction of that kind, but I would ask my Honourable friends opposite to appreciate that that is not the sort of thing that you can do as an emergency measure, and all that I can do at present in dealing with the present Budget must be regarded as emergency measures, and the designing of plans, well organised, well thought out plans, and all that sort of thing will be the function of the Retrenchment Committee.

Turning from the criticism of the Budget, I want to say something about what my Honourable friend said on three other subjects,—the Reserve Bank, our silver policy, and also contraction of currency. As regards the Reserve Bank, I think I may say that I agreed with practically everything that my Honourable friend said. I do not at the moment remember every word that he said,—I may have missed something perhaps—and he must not bring this up against me afterwards. (Laughter.) But in general I have no hesitation in saying that I agreed with practically everything that he said, and I entirely agree with him in his desire to see a Reserve Bank Bill put on the Statute-book as quickly as possible. (Hear, hear.) I want to point out to him, because we are trying, at any rate I am trying, to face realities now, I want to point out to him the practical difficulties with which we are faced at present. It is no use putting a Reserve Bank Bill on the Statute-book unless you are ready to start a Reserve Bank, and it is no use starting a Reserve Bank, particularly in difficult times like the present, unless you have got really adequate reserves. Remember this, whatever the disadvantages of Government control in this matter, we have throughout in the past had behind us the credit of the Secretary of State in London, the borrowing power of the Secretary of State in London. That has been a very substantial reserve behind any currency or gold reserves or sterling reserves that we may have had. And if we are to form a Reserve Bank and make it really independent, that bank has got *ex hypothesi*, from the very nature of the purpose in view to stand alone. Therefore, it must start with adequate reserves. Now, I venture to say that, as we stand at present, in the present economic disequilibrium with the violent oscillations that are going on now, and the uncertainties of the future, our reserves, as they stand now, are not equally adequate. I should not like to start a Reserve Bank unless we can get bigger reserves than we have at present.

How are we to get those? I think there are two ways: either we shall have to borrow abroad, increase our resources by raising some large loan abroad, or we must make an appeal—a national Government must make an appeal to the Indian nation to provide gold reserves. I believe that

that can be done, and I believe that that is what ought to be done in the interests of India. But I am sure my Honourable friend will recognise that we are not in a position now to make such an appeal; that that can really only be made by a national Government—a national Government making an appeal to a new national spirit which it is hoped will flourish under a new constitution. As regards the other alternative, the raising of funds by borrowing abroad, this is not really the moment to consider such a suggestion. I am sure it will be recognised that it would not be a very popular move in India. There has been sufficient criticism of our sterling borrowing already, and this is not a moment when we can go with great confidence to any foreign market and ask for a loan on the scale which would be necessary for this purpose. The political uncertainty alone is a factor which I think would deter one from making such an effort just now. I have mentioned these two considerations, because I think they afford real practical difficulties in the way of the situation. But in this world, and particularly in the financial world, conditions are apt to change very quickly, and at any moment some opportunity may arise. My Honourable friend himself referred to one possible opportunity, that we might, somehow or other as part of a general arrangement about silver, use that as an opportunity for strengthening our gold reserves. I can assure my Honourable friend that I shall be on the alert to seize any opportunity of that kind, that may come along, but for the present, I cannot honestly say that I see it as a strong probability. That, Sir, is all that I have to say about the Reserve Bank.

Then, I must say something about what the Honourable the Deputy President said about currency contraction. He referred to an argument which I had used in my Budget speech, in which I said that the contraction of our currency really represented a much smaller percentage than the fall in the wholesale price index number. I only put that argument forward as a sort of check on the situation. I quite recognise that the argument cannot be applied with exactitude. You cannot say that there has been a fall of 30 per cent. in the wholesale prices and therefore our currency should be reduced by 30 per cent. But when we find that the fall in wholesale prices had been something like 30 to 40 per cent. and the reduction of the value of your currency—I am speaking offhand, I do not remember the exact figures—had been something like 18 per cent., I think it was a sound argument to say that that at least makes out a quite *prima facie* case that the contraction of currency has not been excessive, and I still maintain that argument. There are many other ways in which the position can be tested, but that at least, I think, is one way of testing whether contraction has been excessive. Then my Honourable friend said if we have to do that in India, why should not that sort of thing happen in other countries, and then he quoted some figures, and I cannot for the life of me make out where he got them from or how they can support his arguments. I think he said that in the last year the note circulation in the United States had considerably increased.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If my Honourable friend does not mind my interrupting him, I got this information from a tabulated statement in one of the financial papers in India, which I will pass on to my Honourable friend. In making that comparison, I did not take only one year but the period from March 1926 to December 1930. In that period

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we have contracted by 20 per cent of the net volume of our currency, while the United States has increased the currency during that period by 4 per cent. and Japan by 19 per cent., while in England the contraction has been to the extent of one-half of one per cent.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am afraid I had not heard my Honourable friend exactly. I thought he was referring to the last year, but still even on his figures I venture to state that his argument really does not carry him where he wants it to carry him. Now, in the first place, as regards the United States, the figures which he is using refer only to the Federal Reserve Bank notes. But there are many other kinds of notes in circulation in the United States, of which we have no record at all. There are many other kinds of notes and also other coins in circulation and you cannot take the Federal Reserve note figures alone as indicating the whole picture. But there is something much more cogent than that which I want to say, and that is this, that if you make a comparison between countries like the United States and England and India, the real currency in England and to a great extent in the United States also is the cheque system, which is very highly developed. There is no parallel to that at all in India and therefore that alone makes the basis of comparison not a perfect one by any means. The real contraction and expansion in England certainly would take place in other ways. The note circulation is of comparatively minor importance. Now taking the Japan figures, as far as I can make out on the 3rd April, 1926, there were 1,208 million yen in circulation and on the 6th December, 1930, there were 1,111 million yen in circulation. Therefore there was a considerable drop in the currency in circulation. I do not know what date my Honourable friend took for his comparison. I would like to call his attention to this. The figures show that just at the turn of the year there is always a very remarkable expansion in the note circulation in Japan. If he looks at the figures for 1930 he will find that on 20th December, 1930, the note circulation was just over 1,100 million yen. On the 27th December it went up to 1,408 million yen. On the 3rd January it was 1,436 million yen and on the 10th January it had dropped to 1,117 million yen. Therefore it is quite clear that for window dressing purposes there seem to be certain operations carried out in Japan by the Japanese banks just at the turn of the year; and if my Honourable friend has happened to take those figures for his comparison I think that explains where the increase comes from. I do not want to pursue this matter in great detail now. There is no time. If we want to do that, we must have a full day's debate, but what I would say now is this. There are so many factors concerned, that unless one has the time to go into the whole position, it really is impossible to make comparisons. Perhaps I have been to some extent myself to blame for having used one particular line of argument in my Budget speech. Nevertheless I maintain that as a test of what we have done, that argument is a thoroughly good and valid one, because in India which is really a primitive country in this sense, the fluctuation in the volume of currency in circulation must bear some relation to the fluctuation in the index prices. I do not however suggest that that is the only factor, and if my Honourable friend

will give me a chance of talking this matter over fully with him, I am prepared to disclose a great number of other arguments with which I could support my case that the volume of currency contraction in this country in the last year has not been excessive. I will ask the House to take that on trust for the moment and will not pursue the matter further.

Now, as regards silver, I had meant to say something, but the time is short and as my Honourable friend was almost entirely on my side in the matter, I do not think I need deal with his argument. The only thing I have to say is that he has suggested we might do better if we conducted a more effective propaganda as to the value and the wisdom of Government's policy in this matter. I can only say that I wish that I had my Honourable friend sitting by my side to make my case out for me. I think he would be a most excellent advocate and propagandist.

Then, Sir, I must turn to another stalwart critic who has spoken on this Budget. I refer to my Honourable friend Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar. He selected a number of detailed cases for establishing the point that we were not effectively pursuing retrenchment in civil expenditure. Now, I have looked up all those cases and I think I can give him a very effective answer to every point that he made. In fact, he has in a sense presented me with rather an easy front for attack in this matter. But I do not want to make too much of it, because, although the matters to which he has called attention do not represent any new expenditure or any increase made recently, just at this time when we ought to be thinking about economy, I think that the nature of all these allowances to which he refers is one of the matters into which a proper retrenchment inquiry ought to go very thoroughly. Therefore I do not object at all to my Honourable friend having referred to these cases. I might give the facts on one or two points. Now, as regards the first point, referring to the rates of pay of officers in the Stores Department of the Burma Railways. The Government of India's notification of the 11th March, to which he referred, merely embodied in the form of statutory rules the existing rates of pay of officers of the Stores Department of the Burma Railways, rates which were in force when the Burma Railways were taken over by the State. It did not add a single rupee to the cost of the Stores Department. On the contrary, as a matter of fact, by confining personal pay, which would have been drawn by officers of this Department, by confining that personal pay to those officers only, who were in the service of the Company on the 1st of January, 1929, when the railway was taken over, there has actually been a saving of expenditure. The new officers coming in after the 1st January, 1929, will, instead of a personal pay, draw compensatory allowances at rates mentioned in the Gazette Notification, and this will actually mean a saving in leave allowances. Therefore, Sir, I do not think it is fair to point to that as an illustration of extravagance going on just at this time when we ought to be economising. Then, Sir, he referred to two other cases—one being that of the Deputy Port Officer, Pilotage, Calcutta. The facts about that are these. The post was sanctioned for three years on a temporary footing in 1927. It has now been made permanent with the concurrence of the Advisory Pilotage Committee with effect from the 1st

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of March, 1931. No increase in pay is involved. Provision has been made for the post under the heading A. (4) (1): Pay of Officers, Branch Master and Pilots, on page 224 of the book of Demands. The officer is only a senior pilot. The Notification had to be issued, as all sanctions given under rule 232 of the Classification Rules have to be given in the form of a rule published in the Gazette. The pay of the post is non-voted and is lumped with that of such other pilots whose pay is not subject to vote. So there again no increase of pay is involved but simply a notification made because the post had to be made permanent. The other case was that of the Director of Inspection, Indian Stores Department. There the notification was rendered necessary as the sanctioned pay of the post does not carry sterling overseas pay. Mr. Cardew, however, was in receipt of that pay in the Railway Department and sterling pay had to be continued to him on appointment to the Indian Stores Department. It was simply a case of an officer who was posted from one Government post to another who could not be deprived suddenly of his privileges. Sanction accordingly had to be notified under rule 232 of the Classification Rules. It may be mentioned (I take this from my note), that Mr. Cardew's predecessor in this post was also in receipt of a sterling overseas pay as a personal concession. So no increase of expenditure was involved in Mr. Cardew being allowed to retain the sterling overseas pay, not only owing to the fact that he himself had been in Government service before, but also because the officer whom he was replacing was in receipt of sterling overseas pay, though in his case it had been apparently given to him merely as a personal concession. So that really the notification in each case was a mere formality and no increase in expenditure was involved. Then there is another case which perhaps has had rather more substance in it, and I would like to explain the facts to the House as it has been mentioned. It is about the question of a notification or an order by the Secretary of State increasing the leave pay for Governors on leave. That as a matter of fact came up entirely in connection with the rather exceptional arrangements which were necessary when His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey and His Excellency Sir Charles Innes attended the Round Table Conference as delegates. When they attended the Round Table Conference as delegates, not on leave at all but on duty, the Secretary of State considered it unfair to treat their period of duty with the Round Table Conference as leave. Now the leave allowances for Governors are limited to Rs. 4,000; while as a matter of fact there were many other officials there who were drawing much higher deputation pay than these two Governors were, and a really very unfair anomaly existed. It was necessary to make an order to cover that anomaly, and because Governors are not allowed to go on deputation but only on leave, it was necessary to increase their leave pay, but I may note that the order is only being applied to the period during which those Governors were actually on duty at the Round Table Conference, and their leave, after the conclusion of the Conference has been and is being treated as ordinary leave on the old original leave salary of Rs. 4,000. Therefore this concession was a purely exceptional concession made to cover the period when those two Governors were attending the Round Table Conference on duty.

Then, Sir, there is another point about which a good many speakers have had something to say, and that is this. Comment has been made on the increase in non-voted expenditure. Now I think Honourable Members are aware of what the definition of non-voted expenditure is. That is to say, it is expenditure specified in section 67-A of the Government of India Act. It covers salaries and pensions payable to persons appointed before the 1st of April, 1924, by the Governor General in Council or by a Local Government to services or posts classified by rules under the Act as superior services or posts. Now the question of framing suitable rules as to the classification of posts as superior service posts has apparently been under consideration since 1925 in consultation with the Local Governments. The rules were ultimately made with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council on the 15th October, 1930, and this has resulted in the transfer from the voted to the non-voted category of the salaries and pensions of certain officers who were appointed before the 1st April, 1924, because the posts that they held have now been classified as superior service posts. There is nothing racial or communal about this; it merely applies to these posts,—as a matter of fact an honoured Indian representative of the Finance Department who sits behind me tells me that he happens to be one of these officers whose pay used to be voted but now from next year is going to be non-voted merely because he, before the date in 1924, had been holding one of those posts which are now classified as superior service posts.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudalliar: Is it a fact that this classification is still going on, and that a special officer, Mr. Gladding, is now going through this list again and further classifying these posts?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: If my Honourable friend will allow me to defer my answer to that question, I will give it to him. I cannot answer it off-hand, but what I want to say is this that the underlying purport of all this is that we have simply carried out, by a certain notification, a purely technical change, and I cannot imagine it will have any effect whatever on the future constitutional issues.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: May I ask whether the classification between voted and non-voted is governed by the test whether the appointment is made by the Secretary of State or not, and not by dividing posts into superior or otherwise? How can you do it by classifying posts as superior and otherwise? It is only a question of how a man was appointed, and it is not a question of anybody being classified as belonging to a particular class of post. It is all the Act.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: If my Honourable friend will look at the Government of India Act, he will find that both criteria apply—either appointment by the Secretary of State or holding a post in the superior services. I can assure him that the procedure is being correctly followed in the matter. Now, Sir, as regards the actual facts of the case, if Honourable Members will turn to Appendix VI of the Financial Secretary's Explanatory Memorandum, they will see that it shows that the percentage of voted expenditure to the total stood at 46 during the years 1928-29 to 1930-31 and has dropped by just one per cent. to 45 in 1931-32, so that there has actually been only a very slight decrease in the percentage of voted expenditure; and I do not think it can be argued that that has an

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appreciable effect on the Assembly's control over expenditure, which, I know, Honourable Members think is entirely unsatisfactory, whether it affects 45 per cent. or 46 per cent. of the voted expenditure.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable the Finance Member knows that in making these total calculations, items of a capital nature also are being taken into consideration, and not merely the service items.

Mr. H. Shankar Rau: That is the expenditure charged to revenue, which the Honourable the Finance Member was not referring to. Expenditure charged to capital varies widely from year to year. But even if that is included, the variation is only 2 per cent.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: The expenditure charged to capital is non-voted.

Mr. H. Shankar Rau: Some portion.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Only relating to services.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I would ask the Honourable Member not to pursue this question. I will try to analyse all the figures and give him an explanation as to why there has been this slight increase in the non-voted expenditure. If anybody desires to follow up the matter further, I shall be very pleased to furnish a full memorandum on the subject. The point I wanted to make was this, that there has been no conscious intent going on behind the scenes to shift officers from the voted to the non-voted category and that is, it has nothing whatever to do with racial questions or anything of the kind; it was merely certain tests which have been under consideration for a number of years and it is the late completion of a process which was started in 1925

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If my Honourable friend would forgive me, I was thinking of an expenditure like this. The interest charges on non-voted item in 1930-31 was Rs. 7,70,74,000 and non-voted item in 1931-32 is Rs. 6,58,42,000, a decrease of nearly one crore and 22 lakhs. If you take all this into consideration and take the total non-voted expenditure some years ago and the total non-voted expenditure now, your proportions between the two proportions would be a fallacious way of looking at the increase of non-voted expenditure.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am not quite sure what my Honourable friend's point is. Is it that there has really been a much greater effective change which is often off-set by a drop in matters like interest charges? I should like to have time to look into those points. These are the figures that have been supplied to me. But the facts remain, as I stated, that the reason for this change, this apparent increase in the non-voted expenditure, is simply the classification of certain posts as superior posts which has had to be carried out this year as part of the formal arrangements which were launched many years ago and which have taken some time to complete. It is simply an example of the Government machine working rather slowly but working surely along a course which was started a long time ago. But if my Honourable friend suggests that there is any sinister intent in it, I would like him to satisfy himself as to the facts.

Then dealing with these special cases, reference was made to an extra allowance given to the Secretary of the Central Board of Revenue. The Secretary is to be given Rs. 300 as overseas allowance. That is simply because the previous Secretary, who was not an I. C. S. officer, was replaced by an I. C. S. officer, whose rights included that overseas allowance of Rs. 300. Therefore, the point I want to make is that in all these cases, my Honourable friend has only detected the ordinary operation of these rules, and it is really not fair for him to suggest that they are indications of any lack of attention to detail or any lack of proper efforts to effect economy during the recent months. They are matters in which we have no discretion at all, and as I said at the beginning, if they indicate anything, they indicate that there are certain privileges and allowances which may possibly in themselves be undesirable, and which certainly can be a subject of enquiry by any Retrenchment Committee which is set up.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend also spoke about capital expenditure. My Honourable colleague, Sir George Rainy, has already dealt with that particular point, the particular point of the Vizagapatam harbour. There is only one thing I want to say about that because I want to bring his charge into relation with our policy and the policy for which I am responsible. That particular harbour scheme was of course started in 1925-26 long before I personally ever thought of coming to India. If my Honourable friend would take the trouble to go through the financial history of the last two years, he would find that even he could not condemn me for not laying a heavy hand on the restriction of capital expenditure. It is one task above all others—a most unpleasant task, because it has meant restricting the railway programme—it is the one task which unfortunately I have had to tackle as one of the major factors in my financial policy.

Then, I would turn to what was said by the Honourable the Leader 5 P.M. of the Independent Party. He referred very largely to Army expenditure and based his charge on the general arguments that the Army is much too large, that the dangers are exaggerated, that the addition of the Royal Air Force to the military forces has not been taken into account in the reduction of expenditure. I shall have something to say about that later on, and I do not want to dwell upon it now. He also made a general charge against the whole system of Government administration. He said, "It is an extravagant organisation, there is great duplication in the working of the machine; in a sense it makes work for itself and a large number of posts can be cut out". He spoke chiefly of his experience in the districts which, of course, is a matter for the Provincial Governments. But he referred also to what we can do in the Central Government, and indeed I do not think we can make any distinction now between economy in the Central Government and economy in the provinces. Of course we cannot make a direct attack on the problem of the provinces, but really the problem is essentially the same, because, as I see it, our task in the future must be to find more money for the provinces and it is the provinces which are going to get into the chief financial difficulty owing to the fall in the prices of agricultural commodities. Therefore, it is entirely relevant to talk about the provincial administration as well as the Central Government administration, and I think I must admit to a certain amount of agreement with what was said by my Honourable friend about the duplication of administration. We are probably all of us prepared to agree in our criticism of the system of heavy files, series of notes, first by one officer, then by four or five others and so on coming by slow

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degrees from bottom to top, and system which served as material for criticism by Lord Curzon in his trenchant notes, which though written some years ago, I personally am often tempted to quote as a result of my own experience. We are all agreed about that. But it is not quite easy to say, "change the system", because there are great dangers in scrapping ruthlessly or recklessly a system which works at present, and I do want to say this word of caution. But having said that, I put myself whole-heartedly on the side of Honourable Members opposite, and I say this is one of the lines of enquiry which a thorough retrenchment enquiry ought to follow up, and that, if I may say so, is one of the reasons why I have handled this whole retrenchment business as I have. I do not believe in sudden outside enquiry which a committee like the Incheape Committee carried out. It was very good at that time, coming after a period of war extravagance when there were big things to be cut away. But in the ordinary times when what you have got to deal with is the result of years of normal growth and when we have got to try and adjust our machine to a new economic condition and a new economic level, then I think we want something different. You do not want cuts which remove certain things which sooner or later will have to be replaced. What you want to do is somehow or other to simplify the whole machine and get it down to a lower scale of expenditure which will be permanent. We have seen in so many cases of the Incheape cuts that they held good for a time and then the things which had been cut away had to be replaced. We have seen—and this is one of the things which I have been suffering from in the last two years—a practical elimination of certain services for two or three years and then accumulated needs growing up and suddenly having to be met, with claims which cannot be disposed of. That is what we want to guard against. We want really now to effect real permanent economy, a real lowering of the permanent expenditure of Government; and it is going to be a very difficult task. It is a task which I think can only be carried out in the face of an emergency which gives driving force to the inquiry, and it can only be carried out with the force of public opinion behind it. Therefore I have hopes from a retrenchment committee launched in the circumstances that we are discussing now.

Sir, I have got rather far from any consecutive line of discussion on this subject in dealing with the particular remarks of various speakers. But if I might return to the main theme, I have been trying in the course of this debate to detect through all that has been said a voice of genuine public feeling, speaking through what Honourable Members have to say, sometimes in exaggerated terms and sometimes by reference only to particular matters. One has to distinguish what I think one may describe as genuine public feeling from the representation of particular interests, and I think every one will agree that one of the main notes that have been struck has been that, so far as the income-tax proposals are concerned, at least so far as they hit the lowest classes, they are too heavy. That is one note that I think I have heard. The other is that the representatives of the public must take the only action which is open to them, that is to say, some form of restriction of new taxation, to force Government to recognise the public feeling that, with the present reduced level of economic vitality, the country cannot bear the present level of expenditure. To such a message we on the Government Benches certainly could not turn deaf ears. But any response that we can make

must be limited not only by inexorable facts, but also by certain principles which in the interests of public credit must be respected. As to the facts, I have tried on various occasions to impress upon Honourable Members the limitations on what we can do immediately to cut down our provision for expenditure to the lowest limit, consistently with the public interest. As to the principles, there is only one that need be mentioned and that is that the expenditure of the year must be provided for by straightforward and sound methods. We cannot willingly leave any part of it uncovered to be met by an increase in our floating debt. Coming back again to the facts, I had intended tonight to do something more to reinforce what I have already said and to take the Members through certain instances of the way in which we have handled the various departments of the civil Government. But the time is late and I think I must cut out that portion of what I had intended to say. I want to say something about military expenditure, and in leaving the civil expenditure without further remark I am strengthened by two things: first, because my Honourable colleague Sir Fazl-i-Husain has already said something about it, and secondly, because, I believe, I have detected again a genuine feeling on the other side, a recognition that as regards immediate economy we cannot do very much in regard to the civil expenditure this year. Perhaps we may have an occasion to discuss that matter again.

Now, as regards army expenditure,—and here I come back to what was said by my Honourable friend Sir Abdur Rahim—what we have got to consider here is not what we should like to do, but what we can do in the immediate future for the purposes of the present Budget. And here I would ask Honourable Members to face realities with me. It is no use considering whether the Army in India is too large or whether His Majesty's Government ought to make a contribution for Imperial purposes, either a general contribution for Imperial purposes or at least a surrender of the capitation payments. It is no use considering these questions, because we cannot deal with them at present. As to the first question, the question whether the Army in India is too large, that is a question which is going to be discussed as a result of the Round Table Conference discussions, and we cannot anticipate those. On the other question, whether His Majesty's Government ought to make a contribution for Imperial purposes or surrender the capitation payments, both these are questions which His Majesty's Government have definitely agreed to submit to an independent tribunal, as I said the other day, and that method also will be pursued in its proper time. So really our practical concern is whether the Army or the Army expenditure as it stands at present can be reduced this year. To achieve this purpose there are two possible measures, a more business-like administration on the one hand or a slowing down of the re-equipment programme on the other. As regards the first more business-like administration, I believe myself, as I have already said, that the Army is run in a sound business-like way. But there again Honourable Members will have an opportunity of going into that matter, of testing how much room there is for improvement, as part of the retrenchment inquiry. As regards the second point, the question whether re-equipment can be slowed up this year, I return again to what I said at the beginning of my speech that is to my suggestion that Honourable Members, or some of them should meet His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and hear

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what he has got to say on this particular question. I cannot say more than that at present, but I think the time has come when if Honourable Members intend to criticise us or refuse to accept our proposals, it is fair for us to ask them to come and examine the actual facts with us which we will disclose with complete and absolute frankness to them. That is a genuine offer, and I trust Honourable Members will take advantage of it. Then, as regards the general Army expenditure, I do not wish to flog a very weary horse or an over-wearied Assembly with further discussion of Army expenditure. But there are certain things which I think it is important that Honourable Members should realise when they are considering this whole question in its wider aspect. I think one line of thought on their side has been that we are now facing, as regards agricultural commodities, a level of prices which is if anything rather lower than the pre-war level; and Honourable Members say, "Here is an Army Budget of 52½ crores whereas the last year before the war the Army budget was just under 32 crores." I think Honourable Members may feel that that represents more nearly what the country can afford today. I wonder how many have tried to compare pre-war Army expenditure and the pre-war Army, with the Army as it exists to-day, and to consider exactly how the increase in expenditure has come about. I would like to give Honourable Members a few of the salient facts about it. Actually, as far as Indian troops are concerned, the numbers are almost exactly the same; as far as British troops are concerned, in the last year before the war there were 76,000 British troops in India; there are now 60,000—therefore the total number of troops has been very much reduced. On the other hand there have been a number of increases in expenditure which are either unavoidable or part of the policy which the Army had to adopt. The increases of pay account for about 8½ crores; increases in pensions which include all the war pensions, account for about 3½ crores; and then one very big change, the giving up of the sildidar system in the Indian army, I am told, is costing the Army now 4½ crores as compared with before the war. There you have three items alone which have added 11½ crores to Army expenditure. Then on the top of that you have got the Air Force,—nearly 3 crores; and so on. I think these figures are interesting and I think Honourable Members, who want to study this question, would do well to make these comparisons and just see for themselves where the difficulties come in and realise that it is not a swollen army which has produced this expenditure—it is the result of a good many adjustments, partly adjustments in pay brought about by the war, economic changes, partly adjustments in the system which war experience proved to be necessary. Then I would also have liked to take Members through the whole of the Army Budget and the main headings of the Army Budget and let them see exactly what is the importance of those items of stores where we are supposed to be able to make substantial economies. But as a matter of fact I will not attempt to do that tonight. I would only say this: the total stores part of the Budget is something like 8½ crores, of which only a small portion—not much more than about a quarter—represents grain purchases, and as I have already said, it is only in respect of grain purchases that they have yet received the full benefit of the fall in prices

Sir Gowanji Jehangir: What about leather goods?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I am told—I have been into all these things very carefully—that they do not see any justification for putting down their estimates under those headings. But the whole question is being very carefully watched. If there is any economy we shall get the advantage of it, but I cannot provide in the Budget for anything less than the expenditure which on all the evidence before me is likely to be incurred. If my Honourable friend wants to go into that question, it is just one of the questions which should be followed up in more detailed discussion than is possible in this House.

Honourable Members, who I am sure are by now very wearied, may say to me that I have answered certain points, but they will say, "All that is very true, but the fact still remains that this is an appalling Budget and we cannot swallow it as it stands." I just want to ask them whether they honestly feel that this is such an appalling Budget: What has been its general effect on the country? Has the country been very shocked by the proposals that have been made? I just happened to have put into my hands as I was coming down a circular from a firm of brokers in Bombay who generally criticise all that I do most severely, and this is what they write in their circular of the 14th March:

"The budget announced on the 28th February was a good one. It had been dreaded for months, and this dread had retarded business and depressed securities. It was feared by many that the deficit would be unbridgeable. The estimated deficit proved to be in accordance with the most conservative expectations and has been bridged with facile ease, with the exception of that part covered by the transfer from Railway reserve. It has naturally met with severe criticism especially as far as expenditure is concerned; and although criticism on this and on other major heads is certainly justified, it must be considered on the whole a good budget as its appearance led to a general revival on the stock exchange, although that revival may have been assisted by the calling off of the civil disobedience campaign."

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Are you reading from Premchand Roychand's Report?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: No, I am not! (Laughter.) I will give the name—it is Messrs. Forbes and Lunds' Report, I think I may say that they are generally extremely critical of Government actions. I do not claim any great authority for such reports, but they must represent the general feeling of what the "man in the street" says in Bombay. My Honourable friend shakes his head; but he cannot get away from the fact that Government securities have improved since then and that the general feeling in Bombay has considerably improved. Securities have risen; exchange is strengthened; we have been able to purchase about a million pounds worth of gold within the last few days and so on. The position is undoubtedly far better than it was before the Budget was introduced, and although I fully recognise that the political settlement has had something to do with it, I cannot accept the charge that the Budget has upset people or done anything more than create an impression that while the situation is a serious one, it has been honestly met, and that the general effect of the Budget proposals is not going to kill the economic life of the country. That, Sir, is my contention.

We have also heard, and I sympathise with it to a very great extent, a great deal about the hardships of income-tax payers. Income-tax payers undoubtedly are going to be hard hit; but as I have said we are already in the midst of a very serious economic crisis; and if I have to give my sympathies to any class, it is not really to the income-tax paying class but to the agricultural producer. He is the man who really

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is hard hit and it is his case that we have got to consider; for that is really the essence of the problem in India. The question is what can we do? We cannot in the Central Government devise any means directly to help the agriculturist. But what we shall have to do—and I foresee this very clearly unless there is a substantial improvement in the course of the next year—we shall have to devise ways for some form of assistance to the agriculturist through the Provincial Governments. Well, if that is so, it may be that it is in the best interests of the country that income-tax charges should be increased for that purpose,—and that is a question which I would ask Honourable Members to put themselves when they are considering our proposals in greater detail,—they have got to look at India as a whole, they have got to recognise that we are in very difficult times, they have got to recognise that the fundamental basis of everything in the country is the agricultural producer; they have got to face the problem that if the present level of agricultural prices is to continue, there must be some drastic revision in the whole scale of expenditure, and then with that prospect in view they have got to decide what is the best course that the Government can take just in the present Budget. We are not attempting to deal with the whole problem fully; we cannot do that now, but we have got to do something to carry on while the major issues can be studied and discussed, and I would ask Honourable Members in all seriousness not to regard the immediate situation as the worst sort of thing which the country may have to face, but they should regard this as a preparatory step, a step which ought to be taken now, a step which will give us time to deal with what I call the major issues. As regards the major issues, the review of the scale of Government expenditure is certainly one, and I should like, just before I close, to say what we propose to do as regards the pursuit of this retrenchment inquiry. I have had the advantage recently of discussing the position with the leaders of parties, and I think we came to a fairly clear understanding on the subject and that there was no great difference of opinion between us. What we have to provide for is in the first place for keeping the representatives of the public in touch with what we propose to do, and in the second place for conducting the most effective form of inquiry into the various branches which have to be looked into. I think every one recognised that different forms of inquiry would be required for different parts of the field of expenditure. At the same time, expert knowledge would be required at many points. Honourable Members accepting that position wished somehow or other to keep in touch with what was being done, and I think they also wished that some of the Members should sit in various committees that may be appointed. In these circumstances, what we propose to do is as follows. We propose that there should be appointed a fairly large committee of the Assembly in the nature of a Select Committee, something perhaps analogous to the Salt Committee which was recently appointed,—and I think here I am representing what was the wish of the Honourable Members whom I consulted,—that the Committee should not be elected in the ordinary way by the single transferable vote, but that the Government should select the names in consultation with the leaders of parties, and that I should move a Resolution for the appointment of this Committee as soon as possible. Since I saw Honourable Members, it has been represented to

me that the Council of State would also like to be represented, and I feel sure that there would be no objection to that on the part of those Members of this House whom I have consulted. I would hope that we could have one full meeting before the end of this session at which the general plan could be discussed, but then I think that the most valuable way in which this matter could be pursued would be, that is, if this procedure is adopted, the most useful plan would be for the members of that Committee to meet us in Simla either just at the end of April or at the beginning of May. If we can have two or three weeks' interval we on the Government side can really get down to preparing plans, and we will be able to put before the members of the Committee a well thought-out plan and a well thought-out agenda, and I think then a really useful discussion can take place. In the meanwhile, the members of the Committee will have had time fully to study Mr. Jukes' Report on the review of expenditure, which is now complete, and which I hope to lay on the table of the House in the course of the next day or so. I think if that procedure is followed, it will really lead to the most efficient way of conducting this whole inquiry.

Sir, I am afraid that I have taken a great deal of the time of the House. I do not propose to conclude with any further appeal to Honourable Members' feelings. I have not tried to make a debating speech or anything of that kind. I have tried in the time at my disposal to put certain facts, certain real considerations, before Honourable Members. If I have not been as full as I should like to have been, I think they will recognise the fault is not entirely mine; it has been a question of limitation of time, and if, Sir, the rules of the House permitted me to make one speech each day on a subject of this kind, I should be able to give a much more satisfactory account of myself than I can speaking at this late hour at the end of five days.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, before we proceed further, I should like to make an appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member with reference to the note which he promised about voted and non-voted items.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: My friend wishes a note to be prepared. I will have that done at once and try and let the Honourable Member have it at any rate before next Monday.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary certain duties leviable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to vary the excise duty on motor spirit leviable under the Motor Spirit (Duties) Act, 1917, to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, to vary the excise duty on kerosene leviable under the Indian Finance Act, 1922, further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, and to vary the excise duty on silver leviable under the Silver (Excise Duty) Act, 1930, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 21st March, 1931.