

14th March, 1921

THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

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FIRST SESSION  
OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1921



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, 14th March, 1921.*

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock. The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

## MEMBERS SWORN :

Rai Tara Prasanna Mukerjea Bahadur, M.L.A. ; Munshi Abdul Rahman, M.L.A.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### FOREIGN COAL AT THE PORT OF BOMBAY.

451. **Mr. N. C. Sircar:** (a) Is the Government aware that arrangement is being made for the import and use of foreign coal at the Port of Bombay ?

(b) Will the Government be prepared to remove the restriction on shipment of coal to foreign ports earlier than 31st March 1922 ?

(c) Will the Government state if licences for shipment of coal are granted to persons or firms other than colliery owners and recognised Colliery Managing Agents in supersession of the recommendations made by the Conference which sat in Calcutta on 10th June 1920 ?

(d) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state how many such licences were issued to persons and firms other than colliery owners and recognised Colliery Managing Agents ?

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Government do not propose to retain the restrictions on the export of coal to foreign ports any longer than is absolutely necessary.

(c) Licences for export are issued by the Collector of Customs, Calcutta. The Government understand that in issuing licences he does not interfere in any way with the placing of contracts for coal. Thus licences for the export of bunker coal to Bombay are issued to the bunkering firms at Bombay and these firms place their contracts at their discretion.

(d) The Government have no information.

### IMPORT AND EXPORT OF GOODS ACT.

452. **Mr. N. C. Sircar:** (a) Did the Government, before introducing the Bill further extending the duration of the Import and Export of Goods Act, 1916, up to 31st March 1922, take an estimate of stocks of rice and paddy in India, and of the estimated consumption of the country, and, if so, what are the estimated figures of stock and consumption ?

(b) Do the Government intend to remove the restriction on export of rice to foreign ports at an earlier date than after 31st March 1922, if they find at the end of September next a bumper crop ?

**Mr. J. Hullah :** (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Government have decided on no definite date for the removal of restrictions on export of rice. They intend, as they have previously announced, to remove the restrictions as soon as circumstances permit.

#### LISTED POSTS IN VARIOUS PROVINCES.

453. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur :** (a) With regard to the statement furnished showing the number of 'listed' posts in the various provinces in reply to Question No. 37 asked by Mr. Ali Buksh Muhammed Hussain on the 15th February 1921, will the Government state the reasons why, of all provinces, Assam has been denied the favour of any such posts?

(b) Has the Assam Government made any proposals for creation of 'listed' posts in that province?

(c) Will the Government of India inquire and let this Assembly know the reasons why the Assam Government has not promoted any Member of its Provincial Service permanently yet to a single superior post in that province?

(d) Is the Government aware that there is a great dissatisfaction among members of the Assam Provincial Service (*vide* evidence given by members of the Service before the Public Services Commission) owing to the neglect of the Assam Government to throw open any superior posts permanently to the deserving members of that Service?

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell :** Although no post is shown against Assam in the statement referred to in part (a) of the question, there is in fact one post of District and Sessions Judge which is listed as open to members of the Provincial Service in Assam. This post, however, as well as the two other posts of District and Sessions Judge, is borne for purposes of recruitment on the cadre of the Bengal Presidency and is, therefore, included in the twelve listed posts shown against Bengal. The Assam Government has also intimated that it is prepared to allow at present three superior posts to be held by officers of the Provincial Civil Service, and it is open to the Local Government to make appointments from the Provincial Civil Service to these posts.

As regards the other points I would refer the Honourable Member to the Local Government.

#### CIVIL AND MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

454. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur :** Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the comparative qualifications of Civil and Military Assistant Surgeons?

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell :** The qualifications held by Military Assistant Surgeons at present are as follows :-

1. Holding diploma granted after examination held by the Director General, Indian Medical Service . . . . .	658
2. Licentiate, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bombay . . . . .	20
3. Licentiate, State Medical Faculty, Bengal . . . . .	2
4. Licentiate, Board of Examiners, Madras . . . . .	35
5. Holding qualifications registrable in England . . . . .	11

The examination of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, ceased to be held except as a special war measure when the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916 (Act No. VII of 1916) became operative.

Civil Assistant Surgeons are usually graduates or licentiates in medicine of the Medical Colleges in Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Lahore and Lucknow or Members of the Provincial Medical Faculties. A certain number of appointments as Civil Assistant Surgeons are reserved for selected Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

CIVIL AND MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

455. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur:** (a) Is it true that during the war, the Military Assistant Surgeons were as a rule employed only as Assistant Surgeons (Warrant Officers), whereas Civil Assistant Surgeons had always been granted commissioned rank in the Indian Medical Service?

(b) Was the above differential treatment due to inferiority of qualifications of Military Assistant Surgeons as a class?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** (a) Temporary commissioned rank in the Indian Medical Service during the war was open to all, including Military and Civil Assistant Surgeons, who possessed medical qualifications registrable in the United Kingdom. In 1917, temporary commissions were granted to private practitioners, Civil and Military Assistant Surgeons holding the diploma of Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery of the Madras University, the Membership of the State Medical Faculty of Bengal and the Membership of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bombay. Officers so recruited were employed East of Suez, and were ineligible for permanent commissions unless they acquired registrable qualifications. Military Assistant Surgeons who did not possess these qualifications were employed as Assistant Surgeons. Assistant Surgeons, I may point out, are graded not only as Warrant Officers, but also as Lieutenants, Captains and Majors, according to their standing and length of service.

(b) This part of the question does not arise.

MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN ASSAM.

456. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur:** (a) Is it true that in the Province of Assam, the Military Assistant Surgeons have a cadre of 7 against 32 for the Civil Assistant Surgeons, and that the former have three permanent Civil Surgeoncies reserved for them, while the Civil Assistant Surgeons have got only one such appointment open to them, and that one also jointly with the Military Assistant Surgeons (*vide* Chief Commissioner's Resolution, dated the 29th November 1920).

(b) Is the Government of India aware that the above Resolution of the Chief Commissioner has caused great dissatisfaction among the Civil Assistant Surgeons of Assam? (*vide* the *Times of Assam*, dated the 1st January 1921, and subsequent issues).

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell:** (a) The figures given by the Honourable Member are apparently not quite accurate. There appear to be 9 appointments in Assam reserved for Military Assistant Surgeons and 32 for Civil Assistant Surgeons. Three appointments of Civil Surgeons are reserved for Military Assistant

Surgeons and one appointment for Civil Assistant Surgeons. The statement in the Resolution of the Chief Commissioner does not mean that the one appointment of Civil Surgeon reserved for Civil Assistant Surgeons may be held by a Military Assistant Surgeon. The Resolution was merely a Resolution announcing the increased rates of pay sanctioned for Civil Assistant Surgeons and for Civil Assistant Surgeons holding charge of Civil Surgeoncies. A selection grade has been established for the latter class of officers and for Military Assistant Surgeons jointly. The one appointment in this grade may be held either by a Military Assistant Surgeon or by a Civil Assistant Surgeon, but if held by a Military Assistant Surgeon this would not reduce the number of Civil Surgeoncies actually held by Civil Assistant Surgeons.

(b) The Government of India have not seen the issues of the newspaper referred to and they have no information on the subject.

#### CIVIL AND MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

457. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur:** (a) Is it true, as alleged in the *Times of Assam*, that the Public Services Commission recommended that regarding promotion to Civil Surgeoncies, the proportion between the Military and Civil Assistant Surgeons should be one to two?

(b) Has there been any departure from the above principle? If so, will the Government of India obtain an explanation from the Government of Assam of its reasons for such departure?

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell:** The recommendation of the Public Services Commission was that after satisfying existing vested interests no more than one-third of the superior appointments not reserved for officers of the Indian Medical Service should be allotted to promoted Military Assistant Surgeons. The reservation at present of three appointments of Civil Surgeons for promoted Military Assistant Surgeons is thus not inconsistent with this recommendation. Moreover, the Civil Surgeoncies in Assam, now held by Military Assistant Surgeons, include those of the Lushai Hills, the Garo Hills and the Sadiya Frontier Tract and it is doubtful whether these appointments would be much sought after by Civil Assistant Surgeons. As I have already stated, however, in the reply to the previous question, the orders of the Chief Commissioner were merely orders applying the increased rates of pay to the existing cadre of Civil Assistant Surgeons. They did not take into account the reorganization of the Medical Services which may be expected in the near future. As regards this point, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Question No. 197 asked by Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar at the meeting of this Assembly on the 19th February 1921, from which he will see that the matter is now one within the discretion of the Local Government.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CITIZENS OF CUTTACK.

458. **Babu Braja Sundar Das:** (a) Are the Government aware that the citizens of Cuttack, in a public meeting, held by the second week of January

last, entrusted a message, purporting as follows, to the Ministers of Bihar and Orissa to convey it to the Provincial and Imperial Governments :

' That this meeting of the citizens of Cuttack beg to entrust this message to the Ministers of the Province, that the fire of discontent which is fast spreading and for which the Government are primarily responsible will not abate, until, and unless the local and general grievances of the people are speedily removed.'

(b) With reference to the pronouncement that ' non-co-operation takes hold of grievances where they may exist. It behoves us so far as in us lies to remedy these grievances ' made by His Excellency the Viceroy at a farewell dinner at the Calcutta Club, will the Government be pleased to state what steps are they going to take :

(i) to ascertain the most immediate and long-standing grievances of the people in general and of people in particular advancing racial, communal, linguistic and territorial grievances ?

(ii) to remedy those grievances immediately where they have been proved real to the satisfaction of the Government and where they have been admitted as wrongs done to a people by pure accident ?

(iii) and to indicate clearly and in unequivocal terms the reasons where the grievances fail to commend themselves to the sympathetic consideration of the Government ?

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell:** (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the debate on 5th March in this House on Mr. Muhamamad Yamin Khan's Resolution, and to the reply given to the question asked by Mr. Lindsay on the 7th March.

#### RACE, CASTE AND CREED IN CENSUS OPERATIONS.

459. **Babu Braja Sundar Das:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the principle and the procedure in conformity with which the race, caste and creed of an individual is recorded in the census operations ?

(b) Are they recorded (i) as dictated by the individual ? or (ii) as decided by the officer in charge of the records ?

(c) What is the authority or the standard of judgment referred to in case of a conflict between individuals and the officer in charge of the census records ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Oriyas in the district of Midnapore as recorded in the Census of 1901 and 1911, respectively ?

(e) How can the Government account for the vast decrease of Oriya population in the district of Midnapore in 1911 ?

(f) Do the Government propose in the border districts of provinces or presidencies inhabited by two distinct races to direct the officers in charge of the census operations to (i) record the school of Hindu Law that governs the individual with regard to his succession, and (ii) to classify Hindus in general in each province according to the school of Hindu Law that governs their succession ?

**Mr. H. Sharp:** (a), (b) and (c). The general principle is that the enumerator should record the religion and race or caste as returned by the person enumerated, provided that the answer given is sufficiently precise to afford the information required and is not, so far as the enumerator knows, incorrect. Certain instructions are issued by the Provincial Census Superintendents to the enumerators with a view to avoiding doubtful or ambiguous returns and to obtain the full information required in the Schedule. If the return made is unintelligible or obviously incorrect, the enumerator would endeavour to obtain the correct information by inquiry or refer the matter to his Supervisor for decision. Applications are sometimes made to the Census Commissioner or Provincial Superintendents asking that instructions should be issued for the entry of a certain caste or group under a particular designation. The decision to admit any such designation in the Census Schedule, where it is returned, lies with the Provincial Superintendent subject to the orders of his Local Government. The subsequent classification of the groups for the purposes of Census Tables is determined by the Provincial Superintendent subject to the orders of the Census Commissioner.

(d) and (e). By Ooryas the Honourable Member presumably refers to persons speaking the Oorya language. The number in the Midnapore district in 1901 was 270,495 and in 1911 it was 181,801. The reasons for the decrease are given in paragraph 733 of the Census Report for Bengal for 1911. The language spoken in this district is a mixture of Oorya and Bengali. It is sometimes described as one and sometimes as the other, and the returns of the last three Censuses show that the dialect is being more and more usually described as Bengali and replaced by the Bengali language.

(f) As the Census is to be taken on the 18th of March it is too late to issue instructions of the kind suggested even if the information contemplated fell within the scope of a Census.

#### INCOME-TAX COLLECTIONS.

460. **Mr. M. K. Reddiyar:** Will the Government be pleased to give the amount collected in the form of income tax on incomes derived from private markets in:

- (a) the District of Malabar;
- (b) in the Presidency of Madras?

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I do not think, Sir, that accurate statistics exist anywhere which would enable us to supply the information asked for.

**Mr. K. Muppil Nayar:** Arising from that answer, Sir, will Government be pleased to ask for the information?

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I would suggest, Sir, that the question be asked in the Madras Council to which it pertains.

#### CATTLE BREEDING AND DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

461. **Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal:** (a) What steps have been taken by the Government regarding the scheme for the investigation of cattle

breeding and of the dairying industry in India, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, India, in 1916 and sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India?

(b) Has any organisation as contemplated by the aforesaid scheme been formed undertaking breeding operations designed to improve the milking qualities of Indian cattle and inaugurating systematic education in dairying by opening dairy schools, and, if so, with what results?

**Mr. J. Hullah:** The scheme for cattle breeding and dairying in India recommended by the Board of Agriculture, 1916, was with certain modifications in detail, sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1919. In outline the scheme provides for an organisation which, working on the material furnished by the military dairy farms, will undertake breeding operations designed to improve the milking qualities of Indian cattle and will at the same time inaugurate systematic education in dairying by opening dairy schools: one of its principal objects is the encouragement of local effort. The scheme involves the appointment of an Imperial Dairy Expert, a Physiological Chemist to deal with feeding problems and a Second Assistant Bacteriologist at Muktesar for immunizing the stock from disease. An experienced officer of the Military Farms Department was engaged as Dairy Expert in 1920 and his services have been in great demand for the preparation of dairy schemes for public bodies and private enterprise. Unfortunately he has had to proceed on sick leave and his work is now practically in abeyance. A Bacteriologist has also been appointed and is expected to arrive in India very shortly. An experienced Chemist from the Indian Agricultural Service has been selected for appointment as Physiological Chemist and it is proposed to allow him to take over charge of the post at an early date. For the present the Government of India have decided to proceed with that part of the scheme which relates to cattle breeding and the conduct of research work, and to defer the starting of dairy schools until a future date. The Local Governments and Administrations were, however, consulted on the proposal to open dairy schools at certain Military Dairy Farms and with regard to the nomination by them of students to undergo training in these schools. Their replies have been received and are under consideration.

The Government of India have also approved a scheme framed by the Government of Madras for conducting experiments in cattle breeding and feeding at Bangalore.

#### TROPICAL POSSESSIONS OF THE ENEMY.

462. **Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava:** With reference to the reply given by the Government to Question No. 11 asked at the meeting of the Indian Legislative Council held on 30th January 1920, that no decision had by that time been reached in regard to the suggestion that the tropical possessions of the enemy should be handed over to India for colonisation on the ground that they were conquered mainly by Indian troops, will the Government be pleased to state for the information of this Assembly if any decision has by this time been reached, and, if so, what that decision is?

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** The Mandates relating to Tanganyika and Mesopotamia do not give any special rights to India. Under these Mandates equal opportunities are secured to all members of the League.

## REDUCTION OF RAILWAY FARES.

463. **Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava:** (a) Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of reducing the railway fares as soon as possible?

(b) Are the Government in a position to state when the system of return tickets and other concessions will be reverted to by the railways?

**Colonel W. D. Waghorn:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on 15th February 1921 to a similar question asked by Mr. Bhupatiraju Venkatapatiraju Garu.

(b) It is not possible at present to say by what time railways will be able to resume the issue of return tickets and other concessions.

## WAITING SHEDS FOR 3RD CLASS LADY PASSENGERS.

464. **Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava:** With reference to the reply given by the Government to Question No. 20 asked at the meeting of the Indian Legislative Council held on 20th February 1920, that they understood that screened off accommodation in waiting sheds for 3rd class lady passengers was provided in some cases and that the Government would bring the point to the notice of the railway companies, will the Government be pleased to state what efforts have been made in the year 1920 to provide such accommodation and in how many places such accommodation has been actually provided during that year and what further arrangements are in contemplation to secure that accommodation?

**Colonel W. D. Waghorn:** As was promised in the reply to which the Honourable Member refers, this matter was brought to the notice of the railways last year. Government is not in possession of the detailed information asked for by the Honourable Member: as the matter is one which is within the competence of Railways to deal with themselves, the matter will again be brought to their notice so that it is not lost sight of.

## INTERMEDIATE CLASS ACCOMMODATION IN RAILWAYS.

465. **Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava:** With reference to the reply given by the Government to Question No. 19 asked at the meeting of the Indian Legislative Council held on 18th February 1920, that the Railway Board had suggested to the few important railways which do not provide intermediate class accommodation that the question of its provision should receive careful consideration, will the Government be pleased to state if intermediate class accommodation has now been provided in all railways? If not, do the Government propose to ask such railways as do not provide it at present to provide the same as early as possible?

**Colonel W. D. Waghorn:** Intermediate class accommodation has not yet been provided on all railways.

I would remind the Honourable Member that railways are still suffering from shortage of stock and until such time as additional vehicles can be obtained, the difficulty in providing accommodation in all classes must continue. The matter has not been lost sight of and the railways will again be asked to give it full consideration as new stock is received.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable the President:** I have to announce that the following Members of the Assembly are hereby appointed to serve on the House Committee :

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.  
 Sir Jamssetjee Jeejeebhoy.  
 Chaudhuri Shahab-ud-Din.  
 Baba Ujjagar Singh Bedi.  
 Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala, and  
 Mr. Darcy Lindsay.

The first meeting of the House Committee will be summoned by the Secretary of the Assembly and thereafter the business of the Committee will be in its own hands.

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 THE BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.—*contd.*
SECOND STAGE—*contd.**Expenditure from Revenue—contd.*

**Mr. J. Hullah:** Sir, I move :

‘ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1922 for ‘ Agriculture’.  
 Agriculture.

## GAZETTED STAFF AT PUSA.

**Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal:** Sir, the motion which stands in my name is :

‘ That the lump provision for gazetted staff at Pusa (page 152) be omitted.’

Honourable Members will find that this is a new item and that for ‘ this lump provision for gazetted staff at Pusa ’, two amounts, one of Rs. 40,000 and the other of Rs. 18,820, have been provided and there is no explanation whatever in respect of the latter ; my motion relating, as it does, to one of the items only and that even for the smaller amount, is very modest. The remaining amount of Rs. 40,000 may be so managed as to meet all the necessary requirements under this head. We are not only badly in want of money but we also sadly stand in need of sufficient funds for initiating important agricultural and industrial schemes which are very essential for the improvement of the economic condition of the country—the safest and surest means of making labour sufficiently cheap and efficient by reducing the cost of living and strengthening the hands for striking a fatal blow at the very root of the causes of several strikes that are seriously threatening in certain important quarters. The report on the progress of agriculture in India for 1918-19 (page 133) says : ‘ that the scheme for the investigation of cattle-breeding and of the dairying industry in India, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture in India, 1916 (the initial cost of which is estimated at Rs. 2,22,000 and the net recurring expenditure at

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Rs. 1,68,446 per annum) has recently been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India,—in outline the scheme provides for an organization which working over the material provided by the Military Dairy Farms will undertake breeding operations designed to improve the milking qualities of Indian cattle and will at the same time inaugurate systematic education in dairying by opening dairying schools. The whole question including animal nutrition problem will now receive due attention from an Imperial point of view—the scheme has as its object the encouragement of local efforts in this direction. Although a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 was provided for cattle breeding and dairying in India in 1920-21, I find, to my greatest regret, and I trust Honourable Members will join me in expressing this regret, that not a single pice has been provided for this most important scheme of agricultural improvement. We are to provide for three possible evils in the country, (1) War, (2) Famine, and (3) Pestilence, and without making adequate provisions for cattle breeding and dairying in India, it is next to impossible permanently to remove to any appreciable extent the last two evils and I may venture to add even the first inasmuch as the majority of the Indian Army consists of Indian soldiers who can be locally recruited in sufficiently large numbers in time of emergency without any prohibitive cost and whose utility has been proved, beyond doubt, in the last world wide war by the bravery of those gallant Indian soldiers who, at present, adorn the Indian Army but strong and brave men like whom cannot be continued to be supplied in sufficient numbers, if India will be left to become weaker and weaker by famine and pestilence which are sucking the very life blood of the masses and classes from which these soldiers are recruited.

After the dawn of Swaraj, the Government, in its own interests, should not follow the policy of that cultivator who cares a good deal for fencing his holding, for good ploughs and for good bullocks but not so much for good manure, and good seed nor for crop and cattle diseases with the inevitable result of bad outturn leading to heavy deficit and the land becoming, in course of time, incapable of producing anything whatever.

All the projects for the development of agriculture and industry are so many seeds for the growth of a strong nation—so essential for the recruitment of efficient men in sufficient numbers for the military as well civil purposes without which it is impossible to maintain an efficient administration. In fact it is at least as difficult to carry on the administration even at its present level of efficiency with our credit impaired as with the vitality of our people weakened from within. A wise poet has long ago seriously warned us that 'A bold peasantry if once destroyed has never been and can never be supplied'. With these few words I move this amendment and hope that Honourable Members will support me wholeheartedly.

**Mr. J. Hullah :** Sir, I was under the impression that under the compromise which was reached on the first day of the discussion of the demands, these lump provisions would be left for consideration by the Finance Committee, but since this motion has been brought, I will give the House some details in anticipation of the submission of the scheme to that Committee. The lump provision is made up of three items, all for expenditure at Pusa. Firstly, the revision of the pay of our Class II Agricultural service; secondly,

a provision for three new appointments in that service; and thirdly, for a revision of the pay of the Electrical Engineer.

The men who fill these Class II appointments are altogether 8 in number. There are two Assistants in the chemical section, one in the Antomological section, one in the Bacteriological section, one in the mycological section, two in the general Agricultural and cattle breeding section, and one in the Indigo section. They are picked men with qualifications equal or somewhat superior to those which are required for admission to the provincial agricultural service. Now, the Public Services Commission investigated the conditions of service not only of the Imperial but also of the provincial services, but they did not look into the conditions of pay of these Class II men at Pusa who are, as I have said, if anything, somewhat superior in their qualifications to the average member of the provincial service, and it is hardly fair, we think, that these men should be left out in the cold when the pay of nearly everybody else has been revised and somewhat increased on account of the cost of living. We, therefore, submitted to the Secretary of State a scheme to pay them at a rate slightly superior to that paid to the members of the provincial agricultural service, and he has sanctioned that scheme. In future, the rate of pay will be Rs. 250 a month during the period of probation, and thereafter the men will rise gradually from Rs. 300 to Rs. 800 in their 27th year of service. That accounts for about Rs. 9,000 of the total provision of Rs. 18,000 and odd which appears in the Budget.

Then, as I have said, we wish to add three new appointments of the same kind, and here I have to inform the Assembly that we propose to make Pusa a first class agricultural educational institution. The Public Services Commission recommended that the Imperial Agricultural Service should be almost wholly indianised, and we are doing our level best to get Indians into that service. We have, as a matter of fact, during the last 14 months obtained 7 men, but it is very difficult indeed, owing to the absence of facilities in India at present, to obtain a first class scientific agricultural education. Practically, if an Indian wishes to enter the Imperial Service, he must go either to the United Kingdom or to America to get the necessary qualifications, and we, with the approval of the Secretary of State, intend to provide those qualifications at Pusa. This will necessitate some increase of the Imperial staff at Pusa, and provision to a certain extent has been made in the Budget by putting in a sum of Rs. 40,000 to which the Honourable Member has alluded in his speech. But it will also mean that the new Imperial men and the existing Imperial men will have to work not only, as at present, on research, but will also have to perform teaching functions, and in order to give them time to do so, they will need assistants for their research. They have, as I have explained, already 8 Assistants, and we propose to give them three more. We propose to give the Botanist one assistant; there will be an assistant for a biological chemist who will be recruited and there will also be an assistant for the physiological chemist, for whom we have provided in the Budget, and who is required in connection with our cattle breeding scheme. That accounts approximately for another Rs. 9,000 out of Rs. 18,000 and odd.

Thirdly, we have revised the pay of the Electrical Engineer. His pay at present is Rs. 300 rising to Rs. 500. We have put him on the same scale of pay as the Class II men at Pusa, that is to say, he will rise to Rs. 800. The

[Mr. J. Hullah.]

cost of that change next year will be Rs. 720. I have now accounted for a sum of Rs. 18,720, and I hope the Assembly will pass the provision that we have made.

I do not propose to enter into a general discussion of the progress that we ought to be making in agriculture, as the Honourable Member who brought the motion was inclined to do; but I will say, with reference to his remarks on cattle-breeding, and in supplement of what I said in reply to a question this morning that we wished to make provision for a dairy farm this year at Lucknow, the cost of which would have been about Rs. 1½ lakhs, but unfortunately this provision was crowded out on account of financial considerations.

**The Honourable the President:** The question is, that the reduction\* be made.

The motion was negatived.

#### AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY PERIODICALS AND JOURNALS.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Sir, the motion that stands in my name is :

'That the provision of Rs. 40,000 for the publication of Agricultural and Veterinary periodicals and journals be reduced to Rs. 25,000.'

In moving this, I beg to point out, that a very small provision has been made for the purchase of Agricultural and Veterinary journals and periodicals, that is to say, only Rs. 3,000 have been provided, which appears to me to be extremely disproportionate. I feel that no research work could be adequately done without books and periodicals. I therefore propose, because I have not the power to propose an increase in any item, that the amount which is intended to be spent upon the publication of periodicals of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments be reduced from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 25,000. My object is, that the sum which is to be devoted to the purchase of books be increased.

**Mr. J. Hullah:** Sir, I fully appreciate the importance of a proper supply of books and periodicals, but I hope that after hearing what I have to say, the Honourable Member will be convinced that the matter of publishing the results of our own efforts is at least as important, and even more important. The increase in the provision which we have made this year for publication, is due to two causes. Firstly, the largely enhanced cost of printing and paper, and secondly, the rise in the number of our publications. The publications concerned are the Agricultural Journal of India, the Scientific Memoirs which we publish, our bulletins, the Pusa Report, our Annual Review of Operations, our Annual Report on Muktesar, the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture, and the proceedings of the Sectional Conferences on which are held from time to time on Entomology, Mycology, Agricultural Chemistry, Veterinary Science, and so forth. In addition, there are a certain number of miscellaneous publications.

Now, the two most expensive of our publications are the *Agricultural Journal of India* and our *Scientific Memoirs*. These are very well got up and we have them printed by a private firm, the illustrations of which there are a good

\* Vide page 989 of these Debates.

many being entrusted to another private firm, and we have been informed that since 1912 the rates for printing have gone up from Rs. 5-12-0 a page for an issue of 2,000 copies to Rs. 14-2-0. In addition, out of this grant has to be supplied the cost of postage of the publications to those persons, Societies, libraries, Governments and so forth who are on the free list. I may also mention that the *Agricultural Journal of India*, which was formerly published quarterly, is now published every two months. I am myself inclined to think that the provision that we have made will be insufficient, especially as we have laid down the condition that if the Agricultural Adviser wishes to employ any additional staff in the matter of publishing these periodicals he will have to find the cost of that staff out of the grant that we have made.

Now, if we reduce this provision, two courses are open to us. Firstly, we must reduce the quality of the paper that we use and the general appearance of our best periodicals, or, secondly, we must curtail the free list and the distribution list for sale. Not many days ago, the House showed marked approval, I think, of the efforts of Government to secure greater publicity for its actions and its measures. I take it, that that approval was not confined only to political matters, but also extends to our efforts to let the public know what we are doing in what I may call our scientific and development departments; and one thing that the Publicity Branch has told us is, that if we want the public to read our effusions we must make them readable, and that we must reform not only their substance but also their appearance. They must be well got up and generally attractive to the public. I think that in the Agricultural Department we have fairly satisfied that requirement. Our *Memoirs*, of which I have a copy here, are printed on excellent glazed paper: the printing is excellent, and they are full of very good illustrations. I hope the House will not require us to introduce any deterioration in the appearance and quality of such publications as we issue.

Secondly, I think it is equally undesirable to cut down our distribution list, whether that is the free list of scientific libraries, institutions, universities, Local Governments, and so forth, or whether it is the list for sale to the public. We should like to see our publications on every bookstall, and we should like to see people buying them. Further, to cut down your distribution list will not effect much economy, because, as everybody knows, the cost of a publication lies mainly in the initial operation of setting it up and printing it, and any increase in the number of copies issued results in a comparatively small increase of cost. I hope the House will allow this provision to stand.

**Mr. R. A. Spence:** Sir, the Honourable Member, in replying, has not given us the assurance which was asked for, namely, that a little more money might be spent on the purchase of these books and periodicals which are so necessary. The Member who moved this reduction did not mean to attack the money spent on publishing periodicals, which are badly wanted, but he did ask for an assurance that a little more money should be spent on the books and periodicals required for the use of the Agricultural Department. That is what I think several of us in this House would like to have an assurance on.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** Sir, I would like to point out that there is another small sum in the Budget Estimate for this purpose under a detailed head, amounting to Rs. 1,250, which brings the total up to Rs. 4,250. But as certain Members of the House consider this to be inadequate, we

[Mr. W. M. Hailey.]  
 certainly shall,—if the House will leave in our hands any reserve at all at the end of the day and will not deprive us of any provision made under that head—we certainly shall increase the provision for the purchase of books and publications.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Sir, I beg to withdraw my motion.\*

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

#### PROVISION FOR GRANTS TO TEA.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Sir, I also move :

'That the provision that is made for grants to tea be omitted',

and my reasons for moving this motion are, that in the first place, I have not been able to understand why these grants are made, and, in the second place, if these grants are intended to be in the nature of bounties, there are other industries which are more worthy of these grants, for instance, the cultivation of long staple cotton in Sind. I take it that the industry of tea is fairly well advanced. If it is, there is absolutely no reason why, in the interests of the Empire, the cultivation of cotton which is needed all the world over, cotton like the American Triumph or the Egyptian Metaffiffi or Abasi, varieties which have been tried with considerable success in Sind, should not be encouraged.

**Mr. J. Hullah:** Sir, this is a long standing provision. The grant of Rs. 15,000 to the Indian Tea Association was renewed for a period of 5 years in 1916. That period comes to an end at the end of this month, and a similar grant has provisionally been put into the Budget for next year. The Government of India have not yet considered whether the grant shall be given and they will investigate what work has been done and what amounts of expenditure on scientific research in connection with the tea industry was contributed by the tea industry itself. When the grant was renewed 5 years ago, we were informed that the contribution of the industry had risen from 50 per cent. to 65½ per cent. of the whole, and I do not think that the present moment, when we all know that the tea industry is in an exceedingly bad way, is a very opportune one for negating this grant without consideration. But, as I have said, the Government of India, before renewing the grant, will investigate the manner in which it has been spent in the past and the need that exists for its renewal. They are also prepared to place the matter before the Finance Committee before passing definite orders for the renewal of the grant.

The motion was negatived.

#### SECOND IMPERIAL ECONOMIC BOTANIST.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Sir, I next move :

'That the provision for the post of Second Imperial Economic Botanist be omitted.'

**Mr. J. Hullah:** May I rise to a point of order? That provision was not included in the demand and it is, in fact non-votable. I am certainly prepared to explain, if the Honourable Member so desires, what this provision is

\* Vide page 992 of these Debates.

required for, but since it appears that it cannot be put to the vote I think I should be wasting time which might otherwise be employed on demands that are votable.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani :** Sir, even if it is non-votable, perhaps I may be allowed to give my reasons for this motion. I may suggest improvements which may find favour with the whole House.

**The Honourable the President :** Since it is a non-votable item, the Honourable Member's motion for reduction has found its way on the paper\* by mistake. The same applies to the next motion.

#### ENTERTAINMENT OF VISITORS.

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar :** Sir, I should like a piece of information. May I have an explanation as to the entry on page 152 regarding entertainment of visitors?

**Mr. J. Hullah :** That is a provision for the entertainment of visitors at the biennial meeting of the Board of Agriculture which will be held in the course of the next financial year at Pusa.

**The Honourable the President :** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,50,000 may be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the expenses which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922, in respect of 'Agriculture'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. J. Hullah :** I move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,87,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the expenses which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'.'

#### VETERINARY DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

**Mr. K. G. Bagde :** Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name and which runs as follows :

'That the provision of Rs. 11,290 for 'Veterinary Deputy Superintendents' (at page 161) be reduced by Rs. 8,000.'

The reason for my proposal will be clear to Honourable Members of this House if they will refer to page 161. There is one post of Veterinary Deputy Superintendent and in the item in question you will find that the minimum and maximum of the pay of this post are given as Rs. 250 and Rs. 350, respectively. Now making the calculation at the higher rate, we arrive at the figure of Rs. 4,200 per annum. According to my own method I have calculated at the rate of Rs. 274 and a few annas a month and arrived at the figure Rs. 3,290. Deduct that from the provision and you get the balance of Rs. 8,000 and that balance we can conveniently save without any detrimental effect to the working of this Department. With these remarks, I request this House to accept my proposal.

**Mr. J. Hullah :** Although only one Deputy Superintendent is shown as employed next year, the amount includes provision for a Deputy Superintendent employed in the inoculation of cattle at the military dairy farms. Since the Budget was first prepared, it has been decided to transfer this work to the Army Veterinary Department and provision has been made in the military estimates. The provision under discussion is therefore too large. The one Deputy Superintendent is on pay of Rs. 300, which will rise to Rs. 310 in July and the amount required for his salary will be Rs. 3,680. The difference is Rs. 7,610 and I agree to a reduction of the provision by Rs. 7,610 if that will meet the Honourable Member.

**The Honourable the President :** The question is :

'That in the amendment the figures 7,610 be substituted for 8,000'.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable the President :** The question is, that the reduction be made.

The motion was adopted.

#### FRESH CHARGES.

**Mr. K. G. Bagde :** The next proposal that stands in my name reads thus :

'That the provision of Rs. 26,500 for 'fresh charge' (page 163) be reduced by Rs. 20,000.'

Sir, this is a very bad year from the financial point of view, and all the Honourable Members here are agreed on this point. So it is our duty to effect as much reduction as possible. We are faced with a staggering deficit of over 18 crores of rupees. I admit, that it must be our duty to see, that in effecting any reduction, we do not reduce the efficiency of the administration. Now, the item to which I refer will show that Rs. 26,500 are proposed to be spent on 'fresh charge.' It forms one of the parts of the whole item of Rs. 38,000. In that item we also find there is a provision of Rs. 8,000 for purchase of 'medicines' and a provision of Rs. 3,500 for 'miscellaneous.' Now, when there is this provision, I do not see the reason why an additional expense of Rs. 26,500 should be undertaken, when we know that the year in question is financially very bad. I, therefore, propose that this reduction should be made and I request the Assembly to support the proposal that I am making.

**Mr. J. Hullah :** I admit, Sir, that this item 'fresh charge' is rather vague and gives the Assembly no idea of the manner in which it is proposed to spend the money. If Honourable Members will look a little further up the page, they will see in black italics '*One Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Baluchistan*,' and that is a new provision. The fresh charge is in connection with that appointment. At present a single Superintendent is in charge of the enormous area of Sind, Baluchistan, and Rajputana, and we, therefore, propose to give Baluchistan a separate Superintendent. He will need an office, clerks, provision of contingencies, and travelling allowance, and, therefore, a lump provision has been asked for of Rs. 20,500 for these purposes. Rupees 6,000 remain over and represent another lump provision for the revision of the pay of the subordinate veterinary staff in Baluchistan. At present the staff is very small and, by reason of the lack of superintendence, not very efficient. These lump provisions will be included in those which will go before the Finance Committee.

**Mr. K. G. Bagde :** I withdraw my proposal, Sir, as the question is going to be included among the lump proposals that are to be referred to the Finance Committee.

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

**The Honourable the President :** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,79,390 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the 'Civil Veterinary Services'.'

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Industries'.'

MANAGER, ACETONE FACTORY, NASIK.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani :** Sir, I propose :

'That the provision made for the appointment of a Manager in the Acetone Factory Nasik, be omitted.'

And my reasons are that the duties to be performed by this Manager could easily be done by the Superintendent, who draws a large salary of Rs. 1,250. If we do away with the appointment of a Manager, we shall be better able to provide for the chemists that are required to work in the factory. We find that these poor chemists draw very small monthly salaries. The clerks of the Dairy Expert in the Dairy which is to be started at Lucknow are to get as much as Rs. 150 to 250 a month. In this new Factory that is proposed to be started at Nasik, even a Superintendent will draw about Rs. 200 a month. Surely, if a Superintendent or a clerk can draw salaries, such as I have mentioned, Chemists should be deemed entitled to better salaries. Chemists, I suppose, will be the men whose work will be chiefly required in the factory and it is but reasonable that their salaries should be improved.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** Might I, Sir, ask the Honourable Member for Industries to make one point clear. It appears that this industry is being started afresh. If that is so, why do the columns about revised estimates show certain figures—Rs. 4,75,000? Does it mean that this was budgeted for in the previous year but that the factory could not materialize and so there was no expenditure?

**Mr. R. A. Spence :** Coming from Bombay, Sir, I too should like to ask if the Honourable Member in charge of this Department could give us some information about this big factory—Acetone Factory at Nasik, which was started for war purposes—as to whether it is going to be continued solely for providing the military with the necessary acetone or whether it is going to be used for the commercial benefit of India as well.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I will try to deal first, Sir, with the subject of the motion and afterwards with the accessory questions which have been introduced. The Honourable Member

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who moves this motion suggests that the work of the Manager might well be done by the Superintendent, and that the money so saved by deleting the Manager might be devoted to an improvement in the pay of the Chemists. He told us that the pay of the Chemists was only Rs. 125 and, therefore, less than that of the senior clerks. I am afraid, that he has not told us the whole story about the Chemists, because there are three Chemists, the lowest on Rs. 125, the next on Rs. 200 and the third on Rs. 250. If this House had the power to raise the grants as well as to cut them down, I should have had no hesitation whatever in proposing an increase in the pay of these young Chemists. They are as a matter of fact very junior Chemists who are largely in course of training, and it would not be fair to them or to the factory to utilise them instead of the officer referred to here as the Manager. The name 'Manager' has a slightly different meaning in the Acetone Factory from the meaning adopted in most ordinary factories. The Manager here is a highly specialised Bacteriologist. The whole process adopted at the factory is a purely bacteriological one. Instead of having machinery at work we have very low forms of organisms, and these organisms require a great deal of controlling, much more than either machinery or ordinary workmen. They can only be controlled by a real expert of a very highly specialised nature. The process adopted there is the transformation of the starch in any grain into acetone with butyl alcohol and certain gaseous by-products. Now, the ferment is an extremely delicate one and on the slightest misunderstanding goes in for non-co-operation. Sometimes this takes a passive form as regards the main ferment when it refuses to produce acetone at all. But there are hosts of other low forms of life that are not so intelligent and that are not under the control of the main ferment, and they, when anything goes wrong with the works, take to non-co-operation in a violent form. They give rise then to a large quantity of very useless products mostly in the gaseous form. For the sterilization that is adopted there, to give one an idea of how delicate the process is, ordinary boiling is not of the slightest use, and the sterilization has to be undertaken at a very high temperature under high steam pressure. The question arises then as to when the sterilization is really complete, and that is the business of the Manager. He is the man to examine the bacteriological products in order to be quite sure that the factory is going to turn out its best. Our specialists at Nasik have been most unusually successful. I have watched the process during the past 2 or 3 years with the very greatest care. We had endless trouble to start with, but during the last year there has been a very great deal of improvement due very largely indeed to this Manager who is referred to, and I may say also the Superintendent, who happens to be a similar specialist. The result is that now, I think, we are turning out from the broken rice which is unfit for ordinary human food a higher percentage of acetone than any results I have seen so far reported from Home. Each of these officers is a specialist in his own way. The Superintendent is a Chemist. The Manager is a Bacteriologist. The other officer is an Engineer. He is in charge of the works and looks after the machinery. Neither could conveniently replace the other, except possibly at the present time the Superintendent, who happens to be a Bacteriologist as well as the Chemist, could possibly take the place of the Manager. The Manager could at short notice take charge of the whole work. But they must all be there because the process is a continuous one. If you take the Manager away from his work to sign receipts or to attend to any of the other thousand little

matters that the Superintendent has to attend to in the matter of administration, the whole process would simply deteriorate, and we should lose large sums of money. Now the Superintendent wants leave very badly this year. So far, I have refused to accept his application, because we are considering the whole policy of the future of the factory. And that leads one to the point which has been raised by Mr. Price, and I think Mr. Vishindas also. The factory was started as a war measure at a time when we were in want of acetone in order to carry on the manufacture of cordite. The whole of our acetone has had to be imported from abroad, and during the war we felt the danger of this on account of the number of instances in which our consignments were sunk by submarines. We also felt that in a matter of this sort India ought to be self-contained. Now comes the question whether the factory shall work on full scale or whether it should work on part scale or whether it should be reduced to practically nothing. There are roughly about three lines that we might take. We might, for instance, maintain the factory at one-third scale as we are doing now, which is sufficient to meet our demands for acetone for the manufacture of cordite under peace conditions. We could then expand it almost instantaneously to 300 tons a year to meet the full requirements of our cordite factory under war conditions. On this small scale, we are working now at a distinct loss. We should probably work according to present prices at a slight profit if we turned out our full amount of 300 tons. But we would still be losing all the by-products, and it is in consequence of the by-products that we are now making very careful and serious inquiries as to the possibility of utilising the factory under peace conditions for industrial purposes, keeping it at the same time as a war insurance. The Superintendent, as I have said, has applied for leave, and I hope to arrange for his leave some time this year, not merely to give him some well-deserved rest, but in order that he may make inquiries in England as to how we can dispose of these by-products. We are making twice as much butyl alcohol as we are making acetone. The acetone we can use. The butyl alcohol we can only use in very small quantities. Indeed, in order to use these by-products—especially the main by-product butyl alcohol—we should either have to start new industries here like varnishes and paint making—varnishes especially—or dispose of it for sale to Europe. Well, that is one proposal; that is to say, that we keep the factory going in the hope that we can turn it to industrial account and at the same time look upon it as a war insurance.

Another proposal is, that we merely keep the ferment alive in the laboratory and then use the factory for ordinary spirit manufacture, reforming it afterwards in war time. This proposal would necessitate the importation of acetone for our cordite factory from abroad, and we think that if we can use the by-products, it is desirable that we should make our own acetone here. Another possible disadvantage to that proposal is, that if we merely keep the ferment alive, our plant in full scale would get out of order. Sterilization after the plant has been used for anything else is almost impossible; it would be just as well to scrap the plant altogether and get a completely new equipment. A third proposal is, that we scrap the whole plant in the hope that there will be no more war, or if there is a war, that cordite will no longer be used as a propellant, or that acetone is no longer necessary as its solvent. Well, I think, that will be running grave risks.

We are, therefore, now in a state of uncertainty as to what line we shall take. The first two proposals that I have discussed are the two that are most

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worth considering, and I think the first one especially, if we find some way by which we can use the by-products—keep the factory as a war insurance and make it also a centre of minor industries. In the circumstances for the time being at any rate, the manager is absolutely essential. He could act for the Superintendent, the Superintendent could act for him, but neither of them can do both jobs together without serious harm to the factory. So, I hope my friend will accept that explanation as sufficient.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** My question has not been answered yet. I asked, is this factory to be started for the first time now, and if so, why should it appear in the figures of revised estimate? That was my question.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** I can give the Honourable Member information on that point. The expenditure appeared under Military Expenditure in the previous year, and not in the Civil Estimates.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani :** I understand that the Manager has to be a specialised bacteriologist, and that being so, I would withdraw my motion. It has been said by the Honourable Member that it will be difficult for him to find money, I suppose, for increasing the salary of the last Chemist, and if I am right in understanding him, I might draw the attention of the House to a lump sum provision of Rs. 53,000. If some portion of this provision is diverted to the salaries of the Chemist, I think my object which is considered reasonable by the Honourable Member will have been served, and I shall be prepared to withdraw my motion in an unqualified manner.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** If you would allow me to suggest, Sir, if the next Member on the List, that is, Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal, would withdraw his amendment, I would deal with this lump sum, and do it now.

The amendment of Mr. S. C. Shahani was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal :** Sir, the amendment, which I am going to move, is :

'That the lump provision of Rs. 53,750 for revision (page 164) be omitted'.

In the face of the assurances given on behalf of the Government, in respect of other similar motions, I would not have moved this amendment at all, but I do so simply to bring to the notice of the Government some suggestions as to how this money can be well spent if the Finance Committee think fit to curtail this item. The difficulty is, that in this House, the School of Swaraj, we have been allowed, at present, to deal with subtraction and division only, but not with addition and multiplication. Under the rules we cannot add any new item or increase the amount provided under any particular head; all the same, we are justified in making suggestions to mould the future policy of the Government.

Honourable Members will find that although a sum of Rs. 1,21,000 was provided for Industrial Development in 1920-21, not a pice has been provided this year for this important purpose. Perhaps, it has been left to the Provincial Governments to solve the industrial problems of salvation of the

country. The initiation of any new important scheme should come from the Central Government for the encouragement of the local efforts. All that I have said about the motion under the head 'Agriculture' applies, with stronger reasons and greater force, to this subject also.

I am glad to find that the Government recognises drug manufacture as an important industry inasmuch as the sum of Rs. 6,000 has been provided under head 'Industry' for grant to Drug Manufacture Committee. It will not be, therefore, out of place here to mention that the resuscitation of the indigenous system of medicine undoubtedly means also the resuscitation of an important industry of this country, the store house of innumerable marvellous medicinal plants and herbs which can be locally supplied very cheaply and even without cost in a fresh condition, to the poor Indians in every part of India. The attitude of the Government of India towards the development of the indigenous system of medicine has always been sympathetic, and the Honourable Sir William Vincent was pleased to state the other day in the Council of State that the facilities for medical treatment are very inadequate at present.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** I rise to a point of order. I do not think that the grant for drug manufacture appearing at page 165 applies to indigenous medicine, as the Honourable Member seems to think.

**The Honourable the President :** That is a matter of opinion, not a point of order.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** May I explain, Sir? I made that point of order because in that case these remarks would be irrelevant.

**The Honourable the President :** If the Honourable Member desires to divert the money to any other purpose, he is perfectly entitled to make the suggestion.

**Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal :** The Honourable Sir William Vincent has been pleased to state the other day in the Council of State that the facilities for medical treatment in this country are very inadequate at present and that we should do all we can to increase them, that theoretical objections to any system of medicine should not prevail where it is proved by practical experience that many suffering people of this country have received benefit from them, and these indigenous systems are, in practice, of the greatest value, particularly in cases of chronic diseases and that a high official of Government has stated that he has known as many cures effected by the practitioners of indigenous system as by allopathic doctors. Having regard to these facts, it is not too much to expect that something practical should be done for the development of this important industry which will not only enable the Government, with the joint benefits of the European and Indian systems, to carry out a successful campaign against the epidemics, but in course of time, will also be a source of substantial revenue.

In fact, many schemes can be suggested which will provide multifarious benefits. I will mention here only one or two: (1) No less an authority than the late lamented Vaidya Shastri Shanker Daji Pade of revered memory has advised in his book that if that peculiar plant 'sunflower' called 'Suryamukhi' in vernacular, the flower of which always faces the sun—be abundantly grown in India in all homestead lands and gardens, it will have a very great effect in annihilating epidemics and will, at the same time, supply

[Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal.]

seeds which will yield nutritious and commercial oil. (2) The excise revenue, which is at present threatened by the non-drink propaganda, can be easily safeguarded by introducing the system of granting on a large scale licenses for distillation of Ayurvedic *Sura* which can be used for preserving good health, which was the original object of all wines.

With these few words, I move this amendment and I hope Honourable Members will support it.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland:** I think, Sir, it would be possible to explain this in a few words and so save the time of the Finance Committee which will try to unravel all these lump provisions. This particular lump is due to a misprint. It started from my office in the form of Rs. 2,750 for the revision of the junior establishments, but I cannot remember whether it included the chemists or not just now, and Rs. 51,000 for labour, that is to say, including the drivers in the factory, the fitters, the greasers, the carpenters and the plumbers and all the unskilled labour. Those two items appeared in the original manuscript from my office, but they have come back in the form of a lump provision of Rs. 53,750. Some one has added together Rs. 51,000 and Rs. 2,750, so that the lump provision here, that is Rs. 2,750 is a very small one, due to the fact that the rates have been revised for the subordinates and I hope that the House will not consider that that was extravagant. We started out with the attempt to provide Rs. 60,790, but Mr. Hailey was very active that day with his blue pencil and he cut us down to Rs. 51,000 for labour and Rs. 2,750 for the revision of the establishment and I should like to say, although that will come more appropriately probably in the next motion, that we have actually reduced the cost of the establishment. I should also like to say now, possibly to anticipate a certain amount of discussion, that the acetone and butyl which we got from the factory last year was estimated to be of the value of 3 lakhs and we have estimated for this year a value of 4 lakhs. As I told you, we are working on a reduced scale, *i.e.*, one-third of the total capacity of the factory.

The motion \* was negatived.

#### EXPENDITURE ON ACETONE FACTORY.

**Sardar Gulab Singh:** Honourable Sir, I submit my motion of amendment, namely :

\* To reduce the demand No. 33 on page 164 by Rs. 1,73,000\*.

It means that there should be no increase over the figure budgetted for the current year, which is Rs. 5,24,000. In the preceding year, 1919-20, the demand was only Rs. 22,683. The present Budget is admittedly a gloomy one, showing a deficit of 19 crores, which cannot be met otherwise than by increased taxation, which under the present circumstances does not seem advisable for several reasons which the Honourable the Finance Member himself has rightly alluded to in his exhaustive Budget speech. Besides, the country is full of unrest and discontent and we should not provide any excuse or chance which will foment them. Consequently the experiment under consideration should be put off for the present year. The expenditure and the increase seem due to the acetone factory and I do not think it is such expenditure

\*Vide page 1000 of these Debates.

that it cannot be put off for one year and must necessarily be incurred in the ensuing year. If there is great demand for it, private enterprise should be encouraged to meet the same. Besides, Sir, some reduction in the expenditure of schools might be effected by way of introducing the study of the necessary subjects as special subjects, with scholarships to attract students to learn them. In case the Honourable the Industries Member assures me of his proposal already made to do away with the factory I will withdraw my amendment. For these reasons I move my amendment which will, I hope, kindly be considered and accepted by the Honourable House.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I am not quite certain whether the Honourable Member has moved his motion or withdrawn it. He said that as I made a suggestion that the acetone factory might be done away with altogether.

**Sardar Gulab Singh :** If you assure me about that, Sir, I will withdraw.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I cannot give the assurance.

**Sardar Gulab Singh :** Then I will not withdraw.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I have already explained very clearly that the future of the acetone factory is under consideration. I have given three suggested proposals. One of them was to abolish the factory and I think there is not the slightest doubt that we should be very unwise indeed to do so. The other two proposals, as I explained before, consist of reducing the factory to the very lowest level, that is to say, using it as a spirit factory whilst keeping the ferment alive in the laboratory. The other one was our suggested idea of using the factory for industrial development by making use of the by-products. It is quite impossible under the present condition of our investigation, and it would be unwise in the interests of the country either from the military or from the industrial point of view, to promise to close down the factory. There is one other point that ought to be considered too. The factory looks very large, constituting a very large item in this detailed bill—Rs. 6,43,000. But one has to remember that there is a receipt side to the factory as well as an expenditure side. As I said just now we estimate for the coming year alone a credit figure from butyl valued at 4 lakhs of rupees. We turn out twice as much butyl alcohol as we do acetone and the price of butyl alcohol, I believe, is as high as that of acetone. If we had a local market for our butyl alcohol, we could make the factory a paying concern now, a source of revenue instead of a source of expenditure, and when that does occur we might hear something of what the Honourable Member suggested by way of private enterprise. Under present conditions I do not think that there is any encouragement in the factory for private enterprise by way of acetone manufacture, even if we could hand over this very special and semi-secret process. We have, as I said already, done our best to keep down the expenses. During the past year the cost of stores have gone up, coal especially. We have also made provision for steel drums to carry the acetone, a provision that was not made last year and that is why the total for last year was below our total this year. I think there is no doubt that last year our budgetting was not as generous as it ought to have been. The fact was that at that time we had very little experience, but if the Members of the House or the Finance Committee wish to have the details, I can give them exactly; we want 125 tons of rice at 160 rupees a ton every month and that will cost Rs. 2,45,000. We want 425 tons of coal every month at Rs. 17 a ton, which we have put

[ Sir Thomas Holland ]

down at Rs. 86,700, and I can bore the House with the rest of the details if you wish to have them. But what we have done in the matter of establishment, which is the important thing, is that we have cut it down. We have reduced out salary bill by Rs. 14,520 and we have reduced the pay of the ministerial and menial establishment, not by cutting down their pay, but by reducing the establishment, by Rs. 32,650. We have, therefore, saved very nearly half a lakh on salaries and wages, and that is due to the better organisation being introduced by the Superintendent and the Manager. I think that I ought to take this opportunity of saying how greatly I appreciate the work which has been done by both of these officers. The Superintendent has completely re-organized the system at the factory ; he is untiring in his love of detail ; he provides us with full accounts of every operation in the factory ; the operations are worked out on the most approved scientific lines and every result, both scientific and financial, is put before us in very full monthly reports, so that we are able to follow his activities. I am myself perfectly satisfied that every attempt is being made to reduce the expenses until we can decide definitely as to the future of the factory. I think, that under the circumstances, I am justified in advising this House not to cut down this grant for the Acetone Factory, which, I understand, is my Honourable friend's desire, for the purpose of getting money to spend in other ways. It is desirable that we should get as much money as we can to spend in other ways, but we must not cut down the acetone industry which is in working order. If we stop that, we shall lose more money than we shall save. There are some things that we must stop and we have stopped, and the Budget this year would have been four or five times its size but for Mr. Hailey. This year, I wanted to start a large number of new things in connection with industrial development and could not, simply because we have, all of us, tried to observe one rule, that is, to start no new buildings in this year if we can possibly avoid them. I wanted a School of Mines built ; I wanted a tanning Research Institute built at Calcutta, and several institutions of real importance to the country in the long run. But we have really and honestly attempted to postpone these for one year in the hope that we can find a better year in the next.

**Dr. Nand Lal :** Sir, after having heard the explanation from the Honourable the Official Member, I must say, that I am against this amendment. We want industrial development in our country and this provision, which is made in furtherance of that cause, seems to be indispensably necessary. With these few words, I oppose this amendment.

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar :** Sir, if I make a few remarks, I make them, I confess, in utter ignorance of the subject as to the acetone factory. One remark made by the Honourable Industries Member tempts me to put the question, whether in this factory Indians are freely admitted and whether they will have a chance of learning the secret processes as other people have. The second question which I wish to ask is whether this industry which is being used entirely for war purposes, can also be utilised for developing in other directions. These are the two doubts which I feel and I should be glad of an explanation from the Honourable Member. In a Government factory unless this acetone goes to the War Office, I do not understand what the secrecy is about. In any event Indians must be entitled to learn the work.

**Mr. J. Chaudhuri:** With regard to the manufacture of acetone, I presume it is for the purposes of the manufacture of munitions. So I do not quite follow why it should come under the Civil Budget. It might be transferred and put under the Military Budget and, gradually, this industry might be made over to the Military Department.

Another matter with regard to which I want fuller information is the School of Mines and Geology. Some months ago I read of a proposal by the Government of India to found a School of Mines and Geology at Dhanbad. I find here a provision for appointment of a Principal on a salary of Rs. 24,000 per annum and a lump provision for other charges to the extent of Rs. 26,000. This does not give us sufficient information as to whether the School of Mines and Geology is going to be equipped quite properly. Such a school is a great want in India and especially in the mining districts of Jharia. So, I am not for any curtailment of the general expenditure under this head, but I would suggest to the Honourable Member in charge that the money should be devoted to this and other useful purposes for the promotion of industries in this country.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland:** I understand, Sir, that I may be allowed to give the information that has been asked for by the Honourable Members; otherwise, presumably, the questions themselves would have been out of order.

Mr. Rangachariar wants to know if Indians will be admitted to the factory and if the process can be kept secret. At present we have three Europeans in the factory, one Superintendent, one Manager and one Engineer. I have myself a hope, and, when I say 'a hope' I do not mean a vague hope, but a sure and certain hope, that this factory can be run entirely by Indians, and in the near future. One reason for expressing the hope in that way is this, that there is not an officer there now of the three who is not anxious to be relieved for more profitable work elsewhere; and also because bacteriology is developing in India, and we hope, therefore, to be able to find specialists who will undertake this process and work it. It is not that we want very high general training so much as ordinary general training together with a special experience of this particular ferment and its peculiarities. So that we ought to be able to introduce young Indians and teach them the process which is now being adopted there.

With regard to its secrecy, the process is patented and, therefore, a great deal of the detail connected with it has already been published. But, I suppose, everybody knows that a specification of a patent is intended generally to conceal the real nature of the process described. There are little matters connected with every patent process that are not described in its specification, and in some of the cases they could not be described.

The peculiar nature of this ferment is a matter that has been worked out in our own factories. The process is really now in some points different from the process described in the original patent, because we have had to accommodate ourselves to the peculiar food that is needed for this ferment. We tried various kinds of grain and we got the best results from rice. If we could obtain the purest form of rice it would make the process much easier, but we had to consider the question of economy. We found out from experiment that we get slightly less acetone from broken rice, but the difference in the cost is so great that we have now, I think, reached the most economical equation possible. I hope that will satisfy my Honourable friend on that point.

Mr. Chaudhuri cannot understand why the Acetone Factory is not under the Military Budget. I presume from that, that he wants the factory to be non-votable; but we ourselves consider, that besides supplying a product to the Military Department in the form of acetone which we make them pay for, as otherwise they would have to buy it from Europe, we may hope to turn the factory to industrial account. If, as the result of our investigations, I find that we cannot use this factory economically for industrial purposes, and that it is merely a war instrument, then I shall hand over the pup to the Military Department.

With regard to the School of Mines, I will give the information that Mr. Chaudhuri has asked for. We hoped to commence building this year, but that project, like a good many others, was knocked on the head because the Finance Department would not allow us to undertake new works. We have, however, used the small sum of money for the acquisition of the necessary land, because the price of land has been going up so rapidly that we thought it would pay us to acquire it at the present rates. That is included in the lump provision for other charges. Then, with regard to the Principal, before we discovered that the Budget would be such that all new works would have to be stopped, we had asked the Secretary of State to engage a Principal, and on the very day when I asked with regard to the state of the Budget, in the hope that I might be able to stop at the last moment the appointment of a Principal, we received a telegram to say that he was appointed and would arrive about the middle of March. The Principal, therefore, has to be paid for, but he will not be wasted. The Principal will be utilised in the first instance to help the Geological Survey and the Mines Department and at the same time he himself will be acquiring the necessary knowledge of the country which will make him, I hope, a better Principal when actual work begins. We have put down for him a small sum, Rs. 600, for rooms we have to engage for him to carry on his office work, and we have allowed a small amount of travelling allowance—Rs. 1,400 only; and then, of the other part of the lump sum of Rs. 26,000, Rs. 14,000 is put down for the Governing Body. The Governing Body has not yet been formally appointed. We have the consent of a large number of very influential gentlemen who have agreed to serve on the Governing Body, and it is our intention that they, in conjunction with the Principal, should work out the whole curriculum and organisation of the school. But if the Governing Body is not appointed this year, Rs. 12,000 out of the Rs. 26,000 will be saved. That would have been the cost of their travelling allowance. I hope these details are sufficiently satisfactory to Mr. Chaudhuri and not boring to the other Honourable Members.

**Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur:** Sir, will the Honourable Member give us some information in regard to the position of the Drug Manufacture Committee, where it is sitting and what it is going to do?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland:** May I suggest, Sir, that the ordinary rules should be observed for asking questions; otherwise, we shall never get through the Budget?

**The Honourable the President:** The question is:

\*That the demand under head 'Industries' (No. 33) be reduced by Rs. 1,78,000'.

The motion was negatived.

**The Honourable the President:** The question is:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Industries'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** Sir, I beg to move:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'Aviation'.'

Aviation.

#### AERODROME AT ALLAHABAD.

**Rai Sahib Lakhshmi Narayan Lal:** Sir, my motion is to the effect:

'That the lump provision of Rs. 30,000 for an aerodrome at Allahabad (page 166) be omitted.'

I admit, that this is an important item. By moving this Resolution I simply want to bring to the notice of the Government my suggestion that they should consider the advisability of approaching the Imperial Government to take a hand in getting us out of our present financial troubles, in a very bad year, caused by the war, and to graciously provide, from Imperial funds, at least this lump provision of Rs. 30,000 for an aerodrome factory at Allahabad, as it has been kind enough to make a gift of 100 aeroplanes to India. In any case this provision is impracticable in such a year as this, and I move to omit it.

**Mr. Eardley Norton:** May I ask, Sir, if the item under discussion is purely for Civil Aviation or does it include Military Aviation?

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** Civil Aviation.

**Dr. Nand Lal:** To my mind, Sir, there seems to be no necessity for this provision. None has been shown, so far as this printed book called 'Demands for Grants' is concerned. Why is it required for Allahabad only? To my mind, it seems to be an additional expense for military purposes. And if it is required for Allahabad, then why not for other places? Since other places have not been referred to, and no special need or necessity has been given here, the natural deduction is that this provision has got no justification at all. Considering the condition in which we are at present—a condition which amounts to financial embarrassment—we should not spend money lavishly like this. Therefore, with these few words, I submit that this amendment, which is before the House, speaks for itself and I hope the whole Assembly will accept it.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** I had hoped, Sir, that I should be able to place before this Assembly a really good Budget for civil aviation, instead of asking for the miserable sum of Rs. 55,000. I had hoped that the Government of India would be able to go in for a forward policy in the development of civil aviation. Every civilised country in the whole world recognises that it is essential to assist the development of a form of locomotion which in the near future may revolutionise transport. There are numerous air services converging on Paris; there are air mail services radiating throughout the United States of America; there are three air mail services between London and

[Mr. C. A. Innes.]

the Continent; and the Air Board hoped that India would also be able to play its part in the development of this great service, and proposed, after most careful consideration throughout the whole of last year, that we should begin by laying out an air route between Rangoon and Bombay. I may mention for the information of this House that we had already a tender for an air mail service along that route, and that tender proceeded on the basis that the air mail would leave Rangoon at 6 O'clock one morning and arrive at Bombay at 9 O'clock next morning, that is to say, the service which now takes by steamer and train 4 or 5 days would take, by aerial mail, 27 hours. The Government of India have provisionally approved of this policy, but they have decided that we must wait for more propitious times before carrying the policy into effect. That is the reason why we have made no demand upon the House for anything except the bare essential minimum. I think I shall save the time of the House if I anticipate the remaining two motions which are to be moved later on, and explain in detail each of the items in this Budget. We have provided for a Chief Inspector. The reason for that is, that under the International Air Convention to which India is a party, under the Indian Air-Craft Act and under the rules which we have framed under that Act, the Government of India must make arrangements for the registry of air-craft, for certifying air-craft as air-worthy, and for licensing pilots. For these purposes we must have an air-craft Inspector; and if we have an air-craft Inspector, we must make provision to allow him to tour over India in order to carry out his duties. We must also arrange for the periodical medical examination of pilots. This medical examination is a very specialised and difficult examination. I have here a book which shows the syllabus of the examination prescribed by the Air Ministry at Home; and if we wish to carry out our obligations and to follow the principles laid down in the International Air Convention, we must also adopt the same medical examination in India. That medical examination requires special apparatus, and we have made provision for buying that apparatus. I am quite sure Honourable Members will not want the Government to incur the responsibility of not examining properly people who take air-craft up into the air.

Then, we have provided a sum for the storage and disposal of 100 gift aeroplanes which were presented to us by the Home Government two years ago. We have got rid of fifty machines already; but fifty more remain and they are valuable machines; and as long as we have them we must make provision for looking after them, seeing that they are kept properly and so on.

Finally, I come to this lump provision for an aerodrome at Allahabad. I can explain it in a very few words. As I have said, we have decided to take no action as regards the aerial mail service between Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay for the present. But we think it necessary that we should have at least one civil aerodrome between Delhi and Calcutta. Up to the present we have had the use of the military aerodrome there; it is a very small aerodrome, just by the Fort; but the Royal Air Force do not require it, and it has been returned to the military grass farm to which it belongs, so that it is no longer available for civil aviation. Therefore we have taken in hand the preparation of a new aerodrome, close to Allahabad. I hope that the work will be finished and paid for before the end of the year. But we have made as a matter of precaution, provision up to Rs. 30,000 in the next year's Budget because the work

may not be finished and bills may remain outstanding at the end of this year. The Rs. 30,000 will be merely savings from this year's estimate, and I think that the House must allow the provision to stand because if bills do remain outstanding we must pay them. As I have explained, the work is nearly finished; we merely make provision for sums which may or may not come in course of payment next year. With these words, Sir, I oppose the amendment.

**Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally:** Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw his motion after this explanation?

**Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal:** Sir, I withdraw this motion.

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

**The Honourable the President:** Does Mr. Shahani wish to move his motion\* after the explanation that has been given?

**Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Sir, I have merely to say that my own object was to point out that this was a very small sum which was being devoted to civil aviation. I wanted to inquire whether it was for military purposes. My inquiry has been answered, so that I feel disposed to withdraw my motion.

The amendment\* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** Sir, I have listened carefully to the statement made by the Honourable Member on behalf of the Government. The reason why I had given notice of my motion† was that I was very curious to know as to whether any schemes for the development of the science of aviation could be planned, which would enable a poor man like myself to travel all over India, with this very small help of Rs. 50,000 that the Government of India is going to invest in the equipment of its aerodromes and the air-mail services. I had hoped that in the new era which is likely to dawn upon us the Government would take up the matter in right earnest. We have been told that the Rangoon to Bombay service has been contracted or tendered for. I am very glad to hear it; but I may inform the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of Government that I have been hearing this for the last five years, and I have no doubt from the very interesting information which has been supplied to us by the Press that aviation in India was going to provide a very speedy means of going about from place to place, that we, who have been suffering intolerable inconvenience when we have to come to Delhi, felt that perhaps in the very near future all we had to do was to press a button and we should all be in Delhi at the same time. I hope that the advance which the science of aviation has made will not be lost sight of here, and that the Government of India will be keenly alive to the necessity of adopting the advances which the European countries have made and see that this country keeps pace with those countries. With these words, I also withdraw my amendment.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** May I just correct one mistake which was made by Dr. Gour, Sir? He said that I said that an aviation service between Rangoon and Bombay had been contracted for. I did not make that statement. I said

\* That the provision of Rs. 55,000 be omitted.

† 'That the provision of Rs. 55,000 (page 166) be omitted.'

[Mr. C. A. Innes.]

that we had a tender for a mail service, we were not able to accept it because, as I explained to the House, we have decided not to go on with the preparation of the flying route for the present in view of our financial circumstances.

Dr. Gour's amendment\* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**The Honourable the President :** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922, for 'Aviation'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. C. A. Innes :** Sir, I beg to move :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 for 'Commercial Intelligence'.'

**Sardar Gulab Singh :** I move, Sir :

'That the demand under head 'Commercial Intelligence' be reduced by Rs. 1,53,000.'

I presume that the Government has not constituted this department to carry on any commerce on their own part, but it is simply intended to give information to the people at large. The only information that we get is obtained in the paper called Commercial Intelligence which gives all the statistics. For this purpose I think only certain offices and officers are required at important trade centres like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and such places, and I think for this purpose the amount already incurred under this head is sufficient, and there should be no increase in it.

**Mr. C. A. Innes :** I must confess, Sir, that I was not able to understand clearly the reasons why this reduction has been moved. There has been practically no increase in the demand for Commercial Intelligence or the Statistical Department except in regard to the two lump provisions for reorganization, and as the House knows, we have already arrived at an understanding that these provisions will not be expended until the Standing Finance Committee has had an opportunity of examining the reasons why we wish to spend the money. I think at any rate all the business men in this House will agree with me as to the utility of the work done by our Commercial Intelligence and Statistical Departments. In fact, the statistics which are supplied to us by the Department of Statistics are, I venture to think, essential not only for the Government of India and for the provincial Governments but also for the commercial community. The Commercial Intelligence Department besides being the eyes and ears of the Government of India in commercial matters exists in the interests of Indian trade. There are numerous Indian firms which have both the capital and the organization for business with firms abroad, and it is one of the functions of the Commercial Intelligence Department to bring such firms to the notice of foreign merchants with particulars of their credit and of their special lines of business. By this means Indian resources and business organizations are becoming better and better known. The influence of the department has extended considerably during the last few years. It is in close touch with the

\* That the provision of Rs. 55,000 be omitted.

Chambers of Commerce and trade officials abroad and they who co-operate with this Department in disseminating information of Indian trade possibilities. In India the department is becoming more widely known every year, and it is trusted by Indian firms of all classes. The number of trade inquiries handled by the department is exactly three times what it was five years ago. India's manufactures are assisted by the department which exhibits their goods in the Commercial Museum at Calcutta. The number of exhibits in this museum has increased rapidly and now amounts to over 7,000. Sample sales are also effected through the agency of the Museum. Finally, the department has organized in Calcutta in conjunction with the Department of Statistics a commercial library, which is free to the public and which is becoming increasingly popular. I do not think that I need say more, and I oppose the motion.

**Sardar Gulab Singh:** Sir, I simply wanted to know about the lump-provisions of Rs. 74,000 and Rs. 58,000. I am satisfied with the explanation given by the Honourable Mr. Innes, and so I withdraw my motion.

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

**The Honourable the President:** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. H. Sharp:** Sir, I beg to move :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 for the 'Census'.'

Census.

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** Sir, I beg to move :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 for 'Emigration'.'

Emigration.

**Sardar Gulab Singh:** Sir, I beg to submit—

'That the demand under head 'Emigration' be reduced by Rs. 54,000.'

First of all, in the accounts given in the book on page 171 the figure is shown for external and internal emigration. If internal emigration means emigration from one district to another or from one province to another, then these charges may be made over to the Local Governments. Besides this, I find that the expenses already incurred under this head are sufficient, and I, therefore, submit, there should be no increase made this year under this head.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** Sir, I understand that the Honourable Member proposes a reduction of the grant by Rs. 54,000, because the cost of these small departments has gone up this year. This emigration Budget is a Budget which comes up from the various Local Governments and it is intended to make provision for the small establishments which are maintained in the provinces partly for external emigration, that is to say, partly for Protectors and their establishments, and partly also for the internal emigration, which consists almost entirely of emigration of labour to Assam Tea Estates. I can

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explain quite easily the increase which has occurred this year. It is due almost entirely to an increase of Rs. 40,000 in the provision made by the Government of Bengal for their internal emigration, and that Rs. 40,000 is the provision which it is proposed to make for a floating hospital which has been recommended at Goalundo on one of the main transit routes to Assam. The Local Governments concerned make provision for medical attendance of the labour which uses the routes, and in 1919 they held a conference at which the Governments of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam were represented. This conference made a very strong recommendation that a floating hospital should be provided at Goalundo to replace the present temporary hospitals there. The Bengal Government made this provision last year, but could not spend the grant. So they have again made the same provision in this year's Budget. This accounts for the increase over the revised estimate last year, and in these circumstances I hope the Honourable Member will withdraw his motion.

**Sardar Gulab Singh:** I withdraw my amendment, Sir.

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

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** Sir, I beg to move :

\* That the item of Rs. 42,500 against Office expenses and Miscellaneous, on page 171, be reduced by Rs. 40,000.\*

I had two reasons for giving notice of this motion. One was that the difference between the amount of office expenses for 1920-1921 and the amount entered for next year, namely, Rs. 40,000, was so large that it *prima facie* called for an explanation. That explanation has, I believe, been given by Mr. Innes in the answer he just now gave to the Honourable Sardar Gulab Singh.

I had another reason for giving notice of this motion, and it is this. In many of the countries to which Indian labour emigrates there is very considerable dissatisfaction as to the relations between the employers and the labourers. Very often we hear complaints as regards the treatment of labour by the employers. How far those complaints are well-founded or ill-founded is a matter into which it is not now pertinent to inquire; but one remedy which seems to me to be called for and which will go a great way towards the removal of these complaints is the appointment of Indian officers with a knowledge of the languages spoken by the coolies to be stationed in various places in these countries. Take, for instance, the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements or the island of Ceylon. In all these places, there are complaints made every now and then as regards the condition of the labourers and as regards their treatment. If we had some Indian officer there who knew the ways and customs of the Indian coolies, who could speak to them in their own language and make a representation on their behalf to the local authorities, he would be of very great advantage to the labourers and to the Indian Government. It is for the purpose of drawing attention to the necessity for some action on these lines that I am making this suggestion. We really have to form a service something like a consular service, a sort of Indian consular service, which will be able to protect the interests of labour and

which, perhaps, may have its functions extended to the protection of Indian trade interests as well.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** As Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer said, I have already explained this increase. It is due to provision being made for a floating hospital at Goalundo.

As regards the other point which Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has raised, I must ask him to be patient for just three days more: On the 17th of this month, the Honourable Sir George Barnes, whose interest in this question of emigration I think, this House will recognise, proposes to introduce an Emigration Bill, and I think that when that Bill has been introduced, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer will find that the point which he has brought to notice has been fully considered and that we have made provision for it.

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** I withdraw my motion.

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

**The Honourable the President:** The question is:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Emigration'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. C. A. Innes:** Sir, I beg to move:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,79,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922, for Registrars of 'Joint Stock Companies'.'

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** Sir, I beg to move:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'.'

#### IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** I move, Sir:

'That the provision of Rs. 72,000 for charges in connection with the 'Imperial Library' be omitted.'

You will find, Sir, at page 177 of this Blue Book, that a charge of Rs. 72,000 is made for the upkeep of the Imperial Library. Now, as I take it, this Imperial Library is a library situated in Calcutta. The old Imperial Library which was situated in the Metcalfe Hall was reconstituted under the orders of the Government of India and, if I mistake not, there was an Act of the Indian Legislature legalising and providing for its upkeep. The headquarters of the Government of India was then at Calcutta and it was natural that the Imperial Library should be at the capital of the Empire. But, as we all know, the capital of the Indian Empire is now at Delhi, but I

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

find that the Imperial Library still continues to exist in Calcutta and the Imperial Government continues to bear the charge of its maintenance and upkeep. I venture to submit, that when the Government of India moved to Delhi, the Imperial Library, if it was to maintain its imperial character, should also have been transferred to the city of the Central Government, and if this was not done, the Imperial Library in Calcutta should have been transferred to the Provincial Government.

I do not see how far and for what reason the Imperial revenues are chargeable with the upkeep of what has now become a purely local library. From the last report to hand of this Imperial Library, from the 1st April 1916 to the 31st March 1919, I find that the only connection which people outside Calcutta might conceivably have with this Imperial Library, is conveyed in this clause—books borrowed by the general public in 1909, 1910 and 1911,—958 books. Books borrowed by the general public during 1918-1919,—3,653 books. Now this does not really give us any idea as to whether these borrowers came from Bengal or from the rest of India; and as to how far people outside Calcutta and Bengal profit by the use of this library. If they do not, then I submit, it is a purely provincial charge and should not be debited to the Imperial Government. I await a statement from Government as to what connection this library has between the Government of India and the general public outside Bengal.

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer :** Sir, I desire some information on a point on which I feel some doubt. It is in regard to the tour charges of the Librarian of the India Office. I wish to know whether, under the recent arrangements, this charge should not be borne by the English Exchequer. It is not part of the Agency work in England which is carried on by the High Commissioner for India.

**Mr. H. Sharp :** Sir, when I first saw this motion I was much shocked. I was pained to think that my Honourable and learned friend should put forward such a motion, and that such a motion should emanate from a part of India to which I am myself deeply devoted, which has given this Assembly so eminent a Member as Dr. Gour, and which has provided eminent Members to the Legislature of India at various times, as, for instance, some of those Members who sat in the old Imperial Legislative Council whom some of us remember. But I was greatly relieved when I found that my Honourable friend's sole intention was to relieve the Government of India of expenditure on a library situated in Calcutta, I trust, with the intention of subsequently bringing before this House, at some future date, a Resolution, that it should put down a good round sum for making a good library in Delhi. I am afraid I cannot give any promises as to what will be done in Delhi, but to speak for myself, I have a strong hope that Delhi will be provided with a good library at no distant date.

The Honourable Member spoke of the old Imperial Library in Metcalfe Hall. It is a matter of detail, but the old Imperial Library was, as a matter of fact, kept in the Secretariat of the old Treasury Buildings in Calcutta and was amalgamated in 1900 with the Metcalfe Hall Library, which, I think, was properly called the Calcutta Public Library, and the library of the Agricultural Society. The Honourable Member also mentioned an Act of

the Legislature. This all took place long ago and I cannot remember very well, but if I remember aright, that Act was intended merely to meet a technical difficulty and to make the rights of possession unassailable.

I do not know what the Members who are representative of Bengal will say to Dr. Gour after this meeting with reference to his attempt to deprive the *urbs prima in Indis* of this splendid library which was put together in 1900.

**Mr. R. A. Spence:** You mentioned Bombay, Sir, just then.

**Mr. H. Sharp:** I bow to my Honourable friend's patriotic feelings and anticipated that my remarks might not pass without a protest.

It was intended in 1900 to make a library in Calcutta for that city—I am not sure how I should now describe it—which should take the place of the British Museum Library and the Bodleian. To what extent the library is used by persons actually outside Calcutta, I cannot say, but it is used; and a few years ago I had the honour to preside over a conference of Librarians from every part of India, in which we hammered out a scheme of reciprocity between the big libraries of India, amongst which this library was to take the foremost place. That scheme was placed before Local Governments and some Local Governments are taking action under it. I can say from my own experience, however, that officers in Delhi and Simla do frequently utilise books from that library when we want to get out references. The library is very extensively used in Calcutta itself and I do not envy my Honourable friend the time he will have when he meets his Bengal friends after this meeting.

I will not take up the time of this House further; but I should like to say that if Dr. Gour will look at Schedule I, Part II of the Devolution Rules, under section 45-A. of the Government of India Act, he will see that libraries are a Provincial Subject but that the Imperial Library is excluded. It is, therefore, under those rules, which have been approved by the Joint Parliamentary Commission, that we have to keep that library up, and we cannot get out of it.

There was one other little point raised by my friend, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, about the tour charges in India of the Librarian of the India Office. Dr. Thomas, the Librarian, who is a profound Sanskrit scholar, is at present touring in India. He is going round the whole of India looking into libraries and giving help and advice wherever that is possible, and I can assure the Assembly that he is taking his duties very seriously and I have had a great deal of conversation with him on the matter. I understand that this small sum of Rs. 2,500 is put down to meet the charges of his railway travelling in India itself.

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** Is it an act of hospitality?

**Mr. H. Sharp:** Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer calls it an act of hospitality. I should call it an act of ordinary justice,—as this gentleman has been sent out by the India Office to explore our libraries, to see how interaction is possible between the India Office Library and the libraries here, also to see what we are doing, not by way of a spy but by way of helper and coadjutor. He has been definitely sent out by the India Office and I think it is the duty of the Government of India to pay for his travelling while he is here. I hope my Honourable friend is satisfied.

**The Honourable the President :** Does the Honourable Member wish to press his motion ?

**Dr. H. S. Gour :** I do, Sir.

**Mr. J. Chaudhuri :** Sir, I am very much surprised and not less pained that my learned and cultured friend, Dr. Gour, should bring such a motion before this Assembly at all. I do not say this, because I am a Bengali. In Calcutta, of course, we can claim that we are above any parochial patriotism. It is the only cosmopolitan town in India. It is the second city in the Empire, of which I am proud and everyone in India should be proud. And my friend, Dr. Gour, knows this, for, even in the profession to which he and I belong, we do not observe any distinction between members of our profession from one part of the country and another. For instance, when barristers from Calcutta go to Allahabad or the Central Provinces or Bombay, or want to join, the other High Courts, there is always a great deal of difficulty and they are not admitted as a matter of course. But in Calcutta, it is different.

**The Honourable the President :** Order, order. There is nothing about barristers in this demand.

**Mr. J. Chaudhuri :** I am saying this in connection with the cosmopolitan character of our city.

When Dr. Gour himself went there, he was welcomed and made a member of the Bar. Anybody who goes there for the purpose of culture and education is welcome to us. That a man of his culture and education should bring forward a motion like this before the House, gives me a great shock. He might one day say, that the Calcutta Museum might be pulled down and its relics distributed all over the other provinces. And with regard to his proposal, that the contents of the Metcalfe Hall Library should be brought and located in Raisina, which is now a desert, I am afraid, I cannot endorse that view at all. Everyone in this House is aware that all of us are very much concerned about the expenditure that is being lavished over this new Capital. That is a question with which we may have to deal hereafter. But, if we want to locate a library which has been in existence at Calcutta, for nearly a century, in Raisina, we shall have to go into a very large capital expenditure which I say might very profitably be spent in the collection of books and bringing this library up to date. I know, as a matter of fact, it is not a law library, but it is a library which, though valuable, is not quite up to date, in other branches of learning and there is a great necessity for expenditure for bringing this library up to date. Now, as I have said, in Calcutta, we who are the children of the soil occupy only a small portion of the big city. The whole of the southern portion and the whole of the north-western portion is populated by men from all parts of the world and India too : the Central Provinces, from Bombay, from the Punjab, Madras and other parts of India. The population of Calcutta is half Bengali and half Indian. Many go there for business and men of culture go there for research and learning. They are always welcome and whenever they go there for the purpose of research, they consult this library, so this library should not be considered as a provincial library but as a national library which has been collected by the labours of many savants extending over the better part of the last century. It should be considered as one of our national assets and I think that the whole House will agree with me that the Calcutta Museum, the Metcalfe Imperial Library, the Calcutta Botanical Gardens, and even, as my friend here says, the Zoological Gardens . . . .

**Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy:** Sir, I beg to move that the question be now put.

**Mr. J. Chaudhuri:** These are national assets and Indians or Europeans from every part of the country, or, it may be, from every part of the world, are welcome and these are things that have made Calcutta the seat of culture and we do not want to keep any of these to ourselves as our provincial property. I hope educated Indians from every part of the country will show more zeal in availing themselves of the advantages of the Calcutta possessions in all these respects. With these words I oppose Dr. Gour's motion and I strongly support this item in the Budget and I am confident that every Member of the House will support me, including my friend, Dr. Gour, from whom I am very proud to say that I have had very valuable support in other important matters. I hope, Dr. Gour will withdraw his opposition and support this grant.

**Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha:** Sir, the highly emotional speech of Mr. Chaudhuri, for which I submit there was no occasion, requires a few observations from me. Mr. Chaudhuri said that Dr. Gour's motion had given him a great shock. I confess, Sir, that his own speech has given me a greater shock. The proposition is a very simple one. Nobody wants to pull down the Metcalfe Hall Imperial Library, the Calcutta Museum, the Zoological Gardens, the Botanical Gardens, or for the matter of that anything else in Calcutta. The whole question is one as to whether the Imperial Library should be debited to imperial funds or to provincial funds, and, therefore, all that amount of rhetorical discourse is certainly neither here nor there. I think Dr. Gour has made out a very good case for not providing the cost from the Imperial Exchequer. When Calcutta was the capital of India, it was very fair and appropriate to pay from the imperial funds. Now, Sir, Calcutta is the capital of Bengal, and I do not see why a library located there should be paid for from the funds of the whole of India. Therefore, to come from the emotional to the practical side of the question, I think the House should support Dr. Gour in his motion that it should be a charge on provincial revenues.

Mr. Sharp made one remark. He said the Joint Committee of the two Houses have exempted this Library from the operation of discussions here in this Council.

**Mr. H. Sharp:** I said that the Imperial Library is excluded from Part II. It is, therefore, a Central subject.

**Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha:** If that be so, I do not see the use of discussing this matter at all. If we are not, however, precluded from discussing this matter, then, I submit, that Dr. Gour's motion should certainly be adopted by the House.

**Babu K. C. Neogy:** Sir, if I intervene in this debate, it is not for the purpose of making a long speech. I desire to point out that it is not quite open to the Government now either to dismantle the Library or to remove the books here. I beg to refer, Sir, to the speech that was delivered by Lord Curzon in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 10th January 1902 when the Imperial Library (Indentures Validation) Bill was introduced. Lord

[Babu K. C. Neogy.]

Carzon made it quite clear that the library was a present from his Government to Calcutta. This is what His Excellency said :

'My object in carrying out the scheme, which has taken shape in this Bill, has been to present Calcutta with a public library worthy of the name.'

I very much doubt if it is at all competent for us to take away that present from Calcutta this day.

Then, Sir, the Imperial Library having been made a Central subject, all that we can do is either to maintain it there or to cut short its supplies, as suggested by Dr. Gour. That is to say, you cannot make it a provincial charge. Either you can maintain it as it is or dismantle it at any time. These are the alternatives before us. I am reminded, Sir, that another alternative is to make it a charge on Provincial funds. But I beg to remind the House that in the financial arrangements that were adjusted between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments, this item was not taken into consideration as a provincial obligation. So that, if it is placed at all on provincial shoulders, then we would have to expect sufficient grants-in-aid being made from the Central Government. Otherwise, Sir, it will be something like the white elephant which in olden days it was the practice with the Burman Kings to present people whom they wanted to punish. Sir, if it was a present to Calcutta initially, I think it is the bounden duty of the Central Government to find the recurring charges.

**Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas :** Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this motion of my Honourable friend, Dr. Gour, but it seems to me that my Honourable friends from Calcutta themselves seem to be doubtful about their claim to possess the library, for the reason that they have been putting words in the mouth of my friend, Dr. Gour, words which he never spoke, and they seem to put forward a justification for the library being located in Calcutta. But the main question that is before us is this. Even if the library is to be located at Calcutta, are we going to bear the expenses for its upkeep? My friend, Mr. Neogy, said that it was a present by the Government of India to Calcutta. Calcutta is welcome to the present. But Calcutta certainly cannot look forward to have its expenses paid by the whole of India because it was a present. I say, Sir, that Dr. Gour is perfectly justified in bringing in this motion, and I hope the House will support it.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** May I put to the House, Sir, the practical question at issue and explain more fully the effect of the Rule referred to by Mr. Sharp? In the Devolution Rules, this library is entered as a 'Central Subject'; that is to say, that the control of the library must remain with the Central Government as the House knows, our financial arrangements under the reform scheme form a corollary of the administrative arrangements. That is to say, we have endeavoured everywhere so to arrange that where the control remains with the Central Government, the financing should also remain with that Government. I need not dilate on the obvious reason for this; it constitutes a clear cut division which places financial and administrative responsibility in the same hands. Now, Sir, it is perfectly within the competence of this House to refuse to pass the grant which is before us. I am not going to argue as to the suitability or otherwise of so doing, but merely wish to point out the effect on the library. If the House refuses this grant, then the House at the same time has no power, and we as the Government of India have no power to compel the Bengal Government to meet the

expenditure, since the subject is a Central one. That is to say, for the coming year there will, unless the Bengal Council comes to the rescue, out of mere kindness, be no funds for the upkeep of the Imperial Library. That, I am sure, is a result which the House and everybody else would deplore. If it is the wish of this House to raise the question whether the Imperial Library should become a Provincial instead of an Imperial subject, I would suggest that the proper way to effect its wish is by a Resolution suggesting to the Governor General in Council that he should recommend to the Secretary of State that the Devolution Rules be altered in this particular respect. If the House shows a unanimous desire that the Devolution Rule which I have referred to should be altered makes a recommendation of that nature to the Governor General, it would then be our duty to send it to the Secretary of State in order that it might be laid before Parliament for the necessary change in the Devolution Rules. Until this is done, I think the House will agree that where the administrative control is, there also should be the responsibility for financial provision. That is to say, as long as we have control of the Imperial Library, as we have by the Rule sanctioned by Parliament, so long should we pay for it. But, in any case, Sir, we should avoid any course of action which would mean that for the coming year no funds would be available for the Library.

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** Sir, there are two questions for consideration before the House on this motion. One is, whether this is a legitimate charge upon the Central Government or not. Upon that we have the explanation given by the Honourable Mr. Sharp that according to the Statute it is made a charge upon the Central Government. The other question is, where this Library should be located. A desire has been expressed to transfer the library to the Capital of the Government, *i.e.*, Delhi. But in this connection I should like to make one observation for the consideration of the House. There is no use in locating the library in a place where it cannot be of the greatest possible use to which it can be put. One principle to be borne in mind in the location of a large library like the Imperial Library at Calcutta is where is it likely to be made the best use of? I do not think that any of us can contend that Delhi has become the intellectual capital of India. It is at best an artificial capital, a political capital, and I am afraid it will be a century before it can become the intellectual capital of India. Calcutta has been a large centre of learning—the largest centre of learning, if I may say so, and it is also a city which has perhaps the largest population in India. It is the home of learning, more so than any other Presidency town in India. Here I may tell you that Madras at any rate is entirely free from provincial jealousy in a matter of this kind. Supposing that we are to remove the contents of the Imperial Library from Calcutta, I am afraid there will be a fratricidal war between the provinces as to where exactly it should be transferred. I have already explained to you that Delhi is a very unsuitable place to which to transfer such a large and valuable library. You may ask that it should be transferred to Madras or Bombay or to Allahabad or to Lahore.

But there is sure to be internecine war between us. It is therefore best that we leave the Library in Calcutta itself, let us say, by way of right of primogeniture or on some such ground of claim. I would, therefore, appeal to the House to leave the Imperial Library alone in the city where it is, and where it can be applied to the best advantage and for the benefit of the largest number.

**Mr. J. K. N. Kabraji :** Sir, I rise to a point of order. It seems to me that the motion, *as it stands*, cannot be put before the House as the amount of Rs. 72,000 proposed to be omitted includes a non-votable item of Rs. 13,910, and, therefore, the motion, as it stands, cannot be put.

**Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur :** If this Library is to be located at Nagpur, I should be the last person to vote for the motion. It is a matter of great regret to me that a doctor learned in the law should be so jealous of the City of Calcutta which has given culture to the whole of Northern India. Nagpur was affiliated to the Calcutta University and all its graduates are graduates of the Calcutta University. So also the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa. My learned friend, Mr. S. Sinha, was only till a few days ago an alumnus of the Calcutta University, and that he should prove so ungrateful within a few years of the removal of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi, very much pains me. Sir, Calcutta is not only a city of Bengalees. It is a city of Marwaris, of Punjabees, it is a city of Bombay people. I wish Mr. Dwarkadas, our friend from Bombay, would only come and see how many Bombay people, Guzeratis, Marwaris, are there—all at the cost of Bengal. I do not envy them. We welcome everybody, European and Indian, Punjabi or Madrassi or Bombay men. The fact that in this House, of all men, Dr. Gour, a doctor of learning, should propose the removal of the Library from Calcutta or a withdrawal of the grant to it, staggers me, and it only shows that though he is a doctor of learning, his heart is small.

**Dr. H. S. Gour :** Sir, may I reply? I shall very briefly now reply to the various speeches that have been delivered on this very small question. Taking up my learned friend, Mr. Majumdar, first he appealed to the House not to forget the obligation under which the rest of India lay to Calcutta. I should be the last man to do so. He calls upon the House not to be ungrateful to that City. The question is not one of gratitude, but one of convenience and bare justice. Are we entitled to divert the Imperial revenues for the upkeep of a local library as it has now become? The Honourable Mr. Chaudhuri said that this is a Library which belongs to the City of Calcutta where all sorts of communities have their abode and make a living. That again is beside the mark. As I said in answer to Mr. Majumdar, the question is not what sort of population inhabits Calcutta, but the only question is that this library which was intended to be an Imperial Library has ceased to be so by reason of the shifting of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi, and, therefore, the maintenance grant for this library can no longer be made an Imperial charge. That is the short question with which this House is confronted. Another speaker remarked that I was for the removal of the books from Calcutta to Delhi. Again, another speaker travestying my speech said that I was for the division of these books in the Imperial Library to the different centres in India. Sir, if you will read my Resolution, I have studiously avoided saying anything at all about the books. All I have said is, that this should not be an Imperial charge. Bengal is rich enough to maintain a library of that magnitude in Calcutta and I believe that my friends from Bengal would not deprive us of this small sum saved, which will be necessary for the purpose of installing a library in this Imperial city. I ask my learned friends to vote with me and not against me, because they now come to Delhi for the purpose of discharging their duties to this Assembly, and it is essential that we must have a library in the capital of India, and it is not

possible unless we economise our funds, and the only source of economy that occurs to me is to saddle the people of Bengal with the upkeep of a library which belongs to them and is situated in the capital of Bengal.

Then, Sir, it has been said by the Honourable Messrs. Sharp and Hailey, that the Imperial Library is a Central subject. It is, but the fact of its being a Central subject, does not necessarily imply, I venture to think, that this Assembly should maintain it. If it was a Central subject, the Government of India could have arranged with the Government of Bengal for its upkeep by suggesting to the Government of Bengal the allocation of funds necessary for that purpose. I, therefore, submit that the mere fact that it is a Central subject does not carry with it, by necessary implication, a charge of Rs. 72,000 which should be borne by the Imperial revenues for the upkeep of that library. My learned friends referred to the Zoological Museum and the Indian Museum and the rest of them. What we are concerned with here is one fixed charge of Rs. 72,000 for the upkeep of what is now indubitably a local library in Calcutta, and the sole question before the House is whether the rest of India should pay for the maintenance of a library for which the whole of India receives no return, and I, therefore, call upon this Assembly to vote in favour of my amendment.

I wish to say one more word in response to what has fallen from the Honourable Mr. Hailey. He says that if it is the sense of this House that there should be a change in the Devolution Rules transferring this from the Central to the provincial subject, then a communication with the Secretary of State is possible. If the Honourable Mr. Hailey will assure this House that he will communicate with the Secretary of State and make this library a provincial subject, in that case I shall be able to withdraw this amendment this year, but unless I get some assurance, a definite assurance from the Government that this charge will not continue next year, I am afraid, I must press my amendment.

The motion :

'That the provision of Rs. 72,000 for charges in connection with the Imperial Library be omitted'

was negatived.

**The Honourable the President:** Before adjourning for Lunch, I will draw the attention of this Assembly to the fact that discussions which we shall have under Demand No. 43 relating to Simla had better be concentrated on one important amendment. As the amendments have been put down, there would be successive Members raising the same subject. I, therefore, propose that the main debate be taken on the amendment No. 23 in the name of Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, who proposes to omit the provision for the Council Chamber at Simla of Rs. 5,64,500. That is the most substantial of all the amendments and it is on that that I propose to allow a general debate on the Simla question. The debate on the other amendments will be restricted to the exact questions they raise.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock. The Deputy President was in the Chair.

**The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru :** Sir, with your permission I wish to move before the House a formal Resolution which speaks for itself. It is this :

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that Mr. A. D. Pickford be appointed to be a Member of the Committee already appointed to consider the Report of the Esher Committee in place of Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert who, by reason of sickness, is unable to perform his duties.'

We have held two sittings of the Committee but, unfortunately, Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert has not been able to attend on account of his sickness, and we have therefore come to the House itself to sanction the substitution of Mr. Pickford, who, I understand, is willing to serve on the Committee, for Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert.

The Resolution was accepted.

#### ASSISTANT METALLURGICAL INSPECTORS.

**Mr. Piyari Lal Misra :** Sir, I beg to move :

'That the provision of Rs. 21,900 at page 181 be reduced by Rs. 12,000.'

If we turn to page 181, Miscellaneous Department, we notice that this Department is a new one altogether and the staff is also a new one. Item No. 2 contains two Assistant Metallurgical Inspectors. From this item I wish to take away one Inspector, because this is, after all, a new Department, and we should like to see how it works. There is no necessity to have two Assistant Inspectors and my demand is that Rs. 12,000 be deducted therefrom.

**Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally :** May I ask to what demand this relates ?

**The Deputy President :** Demand No. 39. It is not printed there.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I am sorry, Sir, that I was not here in time to hear the details of the motion that was made, but I take it for granted that it is in accordance with the notice that was given that one Assistant Metallurgical Inspector should be reduced leaving a junior officer of the value of Rs. 825 a month.

Well, I should like to explain to the House that one Metallurgical Inspecting Staff is still below what is absolutely necessary for safety. The Inspectors are now faced with an increase in work due to an increase in the total output, especially of the Tata Iron and Steel Works which are being enlarged very greatly indeed; they are putting up new blast furnaces and with blast furnaces new steel works. The work therefore is increased by the total quantity of material that requires inspection. The work is increased further more by the increased variety of materials to be inspected. This month we shall have to inspect steel plates as well as steel bars and angles, and the work has also increased by the fact that now the works are spread over a very much greater area, so that the ground to be covered by the Inspectors in their visits to the works is very much greater than before. We are unable at present to obtain Indian Inspectors for this work, because we have no provision in the country for metallurgical training. We train chemists and various other scientific workers, but we have no metallurgical institution so far. That is

one of the proposals made by the Industrial Commission and a proposal which we hope to take up as soon as the financial situation will permit us to do so.

Now, these officers who inspect the steel are responsible for the strength of structural steel as well as the reliability of steel rails used on our railways. It would obviously be very dangerous indeed to allow any inspection of this kind to be reduced intensively, for the Inspectors have to inspect by samples. It is impossible for them to inspect every rail or every beam, but they must take a certain number of rails or beams out of each lot. If they reduce the number of beams or rails actually inspected the risk is consequently and proportionately increased. In addition to the work of actual inspection according to the British standard specifications the Inspectors ought now to be undertaking research work in order to modify the specifications to suit Indian conditions. So far it has been utterly impossible for them to spare time to undertake any form of research work of this sort. We are accordingly carrying on blindly with the British standard classifications. That may be or may not be an economy. It is almost certain though that it will be desirable to modify the specifications to suit Indian conditions and for this purpose the inspecting officers ought to be qualified by their training and ought to be allowed a sufficiency of time to undertake work of this nature. We have already arranged for a slight extension of the buildings so as to introduce some more plant, the plant necessary to do their testing work. At present we have no testing machine that will deal with steel of heavy standards and the result is that our Inspectors have been up till now dependent on the hospitality of the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

We think that with the extension of the works and the demands made on the apparatus used by the Company itself we ought to be independent and we propose, therefore, to provide Rs. 35,000 of which Rs. 30,000 will be due to the extension of the office and laboratory buildings, and Rs. 5,000 for freight and erection charges of certain machinery now expected out from home. I have inspected these offices frequently and I have not the slightest doubt myself that the Inspectors are now overworked and are just reaching the stage when they are forced to reduce the number of inspections made. Consequently, they are reaching the danger line. I ought also to explain that in addition to the work of the Government Departments and railways, they undertake the inspection of structural steel for private firms that buy from the Tata Iron and Steel Company. For this work a scale of fees is charged and credited to Government. A portion of the fees, limited to Rs. 500 a month in the case of the senior officers, is credited to the officers who do the work; but the Government gets the main share of the income and last year our income from fees alone was just about two lakhs. So you see, the Metallurgical Inspector is a paying enterprise even from the point of view of pure cash, apart altogether from the fact that he is an essential insurance against the possibility of our having failures in structural steel and railways. I hope, therefore, the House will understand that it is impossible at present to reduce the staff. On the other hand, it may be necessary in the very near future to ask permission to increase it.

**Mr. Pyari Lal Misra:** Sir, in view of the remarks made by the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland, I wish to withdraw my motion.

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

**The Deputy President:** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments.'

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,90,000 be granted to the Governor General Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st of March 1922 in respect of 'Currency.'

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the 'Mint.'

(The Honourable the President here resumed the Chair.)

**Mr. E. L. Price:** Sir, I want to ask what is the position of the Bombay Mint. I understand that under a provision made after Government, as an emergency measure, had coined some gold mohurs—now no longer in circulation—the Bombay Mint was made a branch of the Royal Mint for the purpose of coining sovereigns. I want to know if the Bombay Mint is still open to the coining of sovereigns from gold produced in India and gold imported into India, or, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** Sir, I may explain the exact state of the case. We agreed in the Legislative Council this time last year to re-open that section of the Bombay Mint which was devoted to the coining of sovereigns. We have been in correspondence with the Royal Mint, and they are prepared to take charge again of that section of the Mint which coins sovereigns and to send out the necessary establishment to supervise the work. We have, as the Honourable Member no doubt knows, a large stock of sovereigns at present; but we are making arrangements to re-open the mint, as I have said, as soon as it is required to coin fresh sovereigns here.

**The Honourable the President:** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the 'Mint'.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,23,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Exchange.'

**Mr. E. L. Price:** Sir, before we pass this vote, I think we ought to have some information as to what would be the effect on the Budget if exchange failed to rise above the present basis of 1s. 3d.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** Sir, I think on a question of this nature, it would have been more suitable if the Honourable Member had given formal notice; if necessary, we could have had a general discussion on the subject. I do not understand, however, that he desires to reduce this demand for grant in

any way, but merely means to ask for information. If our exchange transactions are not effected at an average of 1s. 8d. there will be extra expenditure over that provided in this demand. That is the only answer I can give the Honourable Member at present. In the course of my Budget speech I said that we were not making real forecast, but for accounts purposes we were putting the figure at 1s. 8d. The effect of putting it at 1s. 8d. is shown in the present demand for grant; and if in the course of the year we do not realise that 1s. 8d., there will be an excess.

**Mr. E. L. Price :** An excess, Sir? I did not quite catch the last words of the Honourable Member.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** An excess over the sum now provided.

**Mr. E. L. Price :** Of what sort?

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** The amount of the excess will depend entirely on the rate realised.

**The Honourable the President :** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,28,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Exchange'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank :** I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,50,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'Civil Works'.

Civil Works.

#### PROVISION OF RS. 3,00,000 FOR THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.

**Dr. H. S. Gour :** Sir, the amendment that I have the honour to move, runs thus :

'That the provision of Rs. 3,00,000 for the Viceregal Estate be omitted.'

This item appears at page 201, of the Demand Book.

You will find, Sir, at page 201, a sum of Rs. 3,98,000 is demanded for the maintenance and repairs to the existing Viceregal Lodge. Members of this Assembly have been promised a full dress debate on the question, if I understood the Honourable Sir William Vincent aright, firstly on the question of the annual exodus to Simla and the desirability of the Assembly holding its sessions there, and secondly on the desirability of holding its sessions in Delhi or elsewhere. Connected with that question is the other question about the expenditure which is being incurred from year to year upon the establishment of the Imperial capital in this city. I understand that ever since the decision of the Government of India to move from Calcutta to Delhi a sum of 5 crores of rupees or thereabouts has been expended upon the construction of the new capital, and if I understand aright, a sum of Rs. 8 or 10 crores still remains unspent on the construction of this capital. Now, I venture to submit that if the capital is to be transferred from this end of the town to the other end, namely, the Raisina town, I fail to understand why large sums of money should be annually required and spent for the amelioration of the present Viceregal Lodge. If the intention of the Government of India is to make this place a permanent home of the Government of India, I can understand

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

it but if *pari passu* with the expenditure upon New Delhi a large sum of money, is being spent here—and presently a vote of this House will be required for one crore of rupees for the construction of the new capital at the other end of the town,—I do not feel justified in casting my vote for incurring so large an expenditure. It may be, Sir, that after this Assembly has been given a chance to discuss the question first of the exodus of the Government of India and of this Assembly to Simla, and secondly about holding the sessions in Delhi, it may come to the conclusion that it approves neither of Simla nor of Delhi and it may be that this Assembly decides that a new site must be found for the establishment of the capital in this country. In that case all the money that we will vote in this year of stringency will have been lost. I therefore submit that the first thing that we have to decide is whether we should go annually to Simla, or rather the Government of India should go annually to Simla, and whether this Assembly should hold its sessions there; and secondly if it does go to Simla whether we are satisfied with Delhi, and thirdly, even if they are satisfied with Delhi, whether we should build at this end of Delhi or at the other end. Unless we are prepared to decide upon these questions, it is impossible, I submit, for this Assembly, to vote continuously from year to year large sums of money for the maintenance and upkeep of the Viceregal Lodge here. I therefore submit that before the whole question is decided, we should not vote this large sum of money for the purpose for which it is required.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank:** Sir, under the ruling of the Chair, we were asked to confine our attention specifically to the particular motions which were submitted. In this case the motion is the reduction of a provision of Rs. 3,00,000 for the Viceregal Estate; I am, therefore, debarred from speaking on the general principle of the location of the Government of India. But I would point out to my able and out-spoken friend, Dr. Gour, that this provision of Rs. 3,98,000 under Viceregal Estates is not for Viceregal Lodge at Delhi alone. It includes Viceregal Lodge at Simla, the Viceregal Estates at Mashobra, Viceregal Lodge in Delhi, certain estates at Dehra Dun and the Imperial estate of Belvedere in Calcutta. The amount herein referred to, Rs. 3,00,000, is, as can be seen by a glance at page 201, very nearly the whole amount of the Budget provision. Now, that Budget provision is this year by no means excessive.

Following on the general principle of reducing our expenditure to the utmost possible, as we were enjoined to do by the Finance Department, the expenditure in this year compares very favourably indeed with that of previous years, and for the information of the House I will just give you an idea what this expenditure has been since the year 1913-14 when the Government of India came to Delhi:

	Rs.
In 1913-14 it amounted to . . . . .	3,96,136
In 1914-15 " " " " . . . . .	8,78,614
In 1915-16 " " " " . . . . .	3,04,202
In 1916-17 " " " " . . . . .	3,08,112
In 1917-18 " " " " . . . . .	3,58,078
In 1918-19 on account of special expenditure in Delhi, it amounted to . . . . .	4,95,026
In 1919-20, owing to works done at Belvedere and elsewhere, the expenditure was . . . . .	5,26,519
	and
In 1920-21, it amounted to . . . . .	4,20,000

It will therefore be seen that the demands made for the ensuing year are distinctly moderate and I think that in the circumstances, since we are asked to record the opinion of the House on this substantial question, it will be agreed that the expenditure may be passed.

**The Honourable the President:** The question is, that that reduction\* be made.

The motion was negatived.

#### MOTOR BUS SERVICE.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** Sir, the next motion I beg to move is to the following effect:

'That the provision of Rs. 2,55,000 for Motor Bus Service for the conveyance of Government of India Establishment be omitted.'

My reasons for this motion are these: In the first place, I submit, there is no reason whatever why the Government of India establishment should stay 6 or 7 miles away from the place of its business.

In the second place, I submit, that if sites cannot be found for the Government of India establishment, at this end of the city, then the Government should have constructed, first the Secretariat building on the other side and then should have moved the clerks from Calcutta to here.

My third reason is, that it would be cheaper if there was a train or tram service between Raisina and the Secretariat. It will certainly not cost as much as Rs. 2,55,000. I venture to submit, therefore, that the sum of Rs. 2,55,000 for the clerks and the subordinate establishment of the Government of India is excessive. I would ask the Honourable Member who speaks on behalf of Government to disclose to this House the number of people who are carried daily to and from Raisina, and we shall then be in a position to know what the charge is per head per day, and I submit that the large sum of Rs. 2,55,000 should be disallowed.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank:** Sir, we are not concerned, in this specific motion, with the policy of the move of the Government of India to Delhi. But in connection therewith, I would like to assure the Honourable Member that as regards constructing the Secretariat first, the proposition is, so to speak, an impracticable one, and that the position at present is, that with 1 crore of rupees annual expenditure on the New Capital, it will take not less than 7 years to complete the new Secretariat buildings at Raisina.

I would like to explain to the Honourable Member who put forward this motion, that he seems to be rather out in his figures. If he refers to page 202 he will find against Motor Bus Service a sum of Rs. 80,000, and under that item he will find a lump sum provision for *pro rata* charge of the establishment in Delhi of Rs. 1,75,000 making a total of Rs. 2,55,000. This is the amount he refers to in his motion. I may perhaps explain that the second item of Rs. 1,75,000 has nothing whatever to do with the bus service. It is the share of the Engineering establishment of the Delhi Province which is charged to that particular head—Civil Works. That is to say we are only concerned here with a sum total of Rs. 80,000, and I may mention that this amount is to cover the cost of bringing in and taking back from Raisina daily, some

\* *Vide* page 1025 of these Debates.

[ Sir Sydney Crookshank. ]

711 clerks at the rate of 12 annas per head per day. This is the contract which we have drawn up with the new Delhi Motor Bus Service and I can assure this House, that this contract is an extremely favourable one. The Company have recently represented to us that their actual cost is Rs. 1-1-0 per clerk per diem and it will be for consideration whether the rate of 12 annas per day should not be raised to that amount, or, at any rate, to something near it.

When the Honourable Member referred to a cheaper form of transportation in the shape of tramways in and out from Raisina, I should like to point out to him, although I have not gone into the figures, that the initial cost of laying down the heavy tram track, of purchasing trams and erecting poles and wiring and providing all the paraphernalia in connection with this form of transportation would have been a very heavy charge indeed and moreover we are very limited in our supply of electric power out at Raisina.

Well, therefore, as a practical engineering proposition, the course that was taken, namely, to make out a contract with the Motor Bus Service, was the most economical in the circumstances. I understand, that although there were considerable complaints about the service last year, it has been working very satisfactorily this year and also that a large number of residents out at Raisina, that is to say, the families, servants, the senior officers and the public, all use this bus service which is of the greatest utility. Incidentally, it would not have been possible to provide quarters either for the officers or for the clerks or for the menials in Delhi itself. There are not enough bungalows and Government quarters and in the case of the private bungalows, such as there are, the leases of which are now falling in the landlords are demanding impossible rates for their renewal. In the circumstances, I think the House will see that inasmuch as the clerks have got to come in and out somehow and it would not be at all desirable or suitable to give them travelling allowances in lieu of the bus service because there would then be severe difficulties with the *tonga* and *ticca gharrie* services and so run up the prices, this is the best arrangement that could have been made in the interests of the clerks themselves and I would ask the House to pass the amount which has been allowed, namely, Rs. 80,000.

**Mir Asad Ali Khan Bahadur** : May I ask ' what is the income derived by these buses because these buses are not supplied free to them. The passengers are charged for at 12 annas or 8 annas per head. I should like to know the income derived from these buses.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank** : I think I explained that the rate per clerk is 12 annas for each day's journey in and out and the bus company, far from deriving an income out of it, are said to be running it at a loss. The clerks who utilise these buses are those who are in receipt of Rs. 500 per mensem or less.

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar** : Will the Honourable Member permit me to ask a question? I did not quite catch him. This lump sum of Rs. 1,75,000—I could not quite catch what the Honourable Member's explanation was.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank** : The statement I made there, Sir, was that there is only one engineering establishment in the Delhi province under Mr. Keeling, Chief Engineer, and that this establishment carries out all works,

whether they are for the new capital which is under Head 51 or for provincial civil works which is under Head 45. It also carries out work in Dehra Dun and in the notified area and further undertakes the Military Works work out at New Cantonments. That explains the debit transfer of Rs. 1,75,000 from the capital Head 51 to this provincial Head 45.

**Khan Bahadur Zahir-ud-Din Ahmed:** Sir, I am not at one with my friend, the Honourable Member from the Central Provinces, in this motion. He and some other Honourable friends of mine withdrew their motions for the curtailment of expenses under the Head 'Flying.' If those could be withdrawn, this should be withdrawn as well.

I question whether flying in the air or movements on the earth are the more natural to mankind. One supporting an unnatural thing should not hesitate to support the natural one. I watched all my Honourable friends who supported flying minutely and I found no parts of their bodies were suited to flying. Still they ask for flying. I am for the Motor Bus Service and not for aeroplane flying, on the ground that I do not like to fly, my father did not fly, nor my grandfather. Hence why should I want to fly? I ask those friends of mine who voted for grants for flying to vote for the motor bus at once and reject the amendment. One could with justice have been refused but not this one. In my opinion, if the motor bus service is refused, the Government will ask for an aeroplane service which I am afraid will be more costly. Hence without any further debate I ask my Honourable friends, M. L. A.'s from different parts of the country, to vote for the motor bus without delay.

**— Dr. H. S. Gour:** Sir, as regards the explanation made by the Honourable Member, it is perfectly true that the Motor Bus Service is shown in the demand to cost Rs. 80,000 and the rest of it is shown as 'Establishment at Delhi'. It has now been explained that this amount includes the entire engineering establishment at Delhi, including the establishment intended for the New Capital in Raisina.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank:** Sir, I rise to a point of order, or rather to a point of personal explanation. I did not state that this Rs. 1,75,000 was the whole cost of the whole of the Engineering establishment at Delhi. What I wished to convey to the House was that it was the *pro rata* proportion of the establishment charges debitable to civil works.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** If you turn, Sir, to page 361 of the book, you will find 'Engineering Establishment—one Chief Engineer . . . . .

**The Honourable the President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member must move his amendment in a different form if he wishes to have the freedom to discuss the Engineering establishment. He has been told that by an error on his part he has included the Engineering establishment to which he had no intention of referring. I ask him to confine himself strictly to the terms of his own motion.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** Now, Sir, as regards this Rs. 80,000, Sir Sydney Crookshank has pointed out that the completion of the New Delhi in Raisina will take about seven years, and the annual cost of the Motor Bus Service for 700 and odd clerks is Rs. 80,000 a year. Now, if you multiply Rs. 80,000 by 7, I think you will arrive at the neighbourhood of Rs. 6 lakhs. Now, I do

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ask whether it would not be cheaper for the Government to construct a temporary Secretariat in Raisina, including a hall for the accommodation of the Honourable Members of this Assembly and the Members of the Council of State. This would certainly cost much less than Rs. 5½ lakhs and place not only the clerks but also the Honourable Members of this Assembly under very great obligation. The clerks as well as ourselves suffer intolerable inconvenience in living at one end of the town and coming here six miles away for the purpose of business. I submit that it would be economical in the end if a temporary Secretariat were constructed somewhere in the proximity of the hostel there or the clerks' buildings, and the work of the Secretariat and the Legislative Assembly conducted there till the completion of the permanent buildings.

I, therefore, submit that this motion ought to be carried.

The motion\* was negatived.

#### LONGWOOD HOTEL, SIMLA.

**Dr. H. S. Gour :** The next amendment I beg to move, Sir, runs as follows :

'That the provision of Rs. 74,000 for the extension of Longwood Hotel, Simla, be omitted.'

This is another point upon which I should like to elicit the opinion of Government. From the information which I have been able to collect, I find that the Longwood Hotel is intended for the accommodation of Members of this Honourable House while the Legislative Assembly is in session in Simla, that it has been acquired for that purpose, and that it is being adapted for the purpose of accommodating Members of this Assembly. So far as my information goes, this Hotel is two or three miles away from the place where the Council Chamber is under construction. I submit, if this is the case, then the Government is perpetuating the same mistake which they have committed here of locating the Members a long distance away from their ordinary place of business. Here we can afford the service of a motor car, but in Simla we cannot. We are told that we might be able to get to our place of business on horses. I do not suppose that every one of us can afford or ride a horse. The result would be, that it involves walking three or four miles every morning and evening to our place of business. I beg to submit, that the expenditure of Rs. 74,000 for the extension of Longwood Hotel shall be deferred till this Assembly has had time to decide whether it is willing to move to Simla for the autumn session. Therefore, I submit, that we must, first of all, address ourselves to the question. Is this Assembly of opinion that its legislative business should be transacted at any part of the year on the cloudy heights of Simla, and if it is of opinion that it should not be so transacted, I submit, that this motion for reduction should be carried. I therefore submit, that this question again is interlinked with the main question whether this Assembly does or does not wish to go to Simla, and I would ask the Honourable Members to indicate their opinion as to whether they are prepared to go to Simla for the Simla session. If they are not, they will support me in this amendment.

\* That the provision of Rs. 2,55,000 for Motor Bus Service for the conveyance of Government of India establishment, be omitted.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank :** I understood from the ruling of the Chair that the principle as to whether the Government of India would go to Simla during the course of the next seven years while the new Secretariats are under construction, or would carry on in our present Chamber and surroundings, is a matter which will be discussed on the motion which is down in the agenda under No. 22.

As regards the specific motion put forward by my esteemed friend, Dr. Gour, I will just explain to him what the actual circumstances are in this case. We acquired late last summer the Longwood Hotel which stands on the Elysium at a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 miles at the utmost from Gorton Castle, that it to say, the locality of the new Council Chamber, at a cost of 5 lakhs of rupees, and I maintain, that we made a very good bargain of it. The alternative was to have bought the Grand Hotel at a cost of 20 lakhs. That was considered rather too ambitious. We are at the present moment providing additional accommodation at the Longwood Hotel at a cost of Rs. 1,74,000 and we are also building some quarters below the Cart Road for those who live in the orthodox style at a cost of Rs. 87,914. Against the acquisition of the Longwood Hotel there has been paid Rs. 5 lakhs. Against the other two items we have liabilities to the extent of about Rs. 1,32,000. The accommodation which will be provided eventually under the measures in contemplation for the provision of orthodox style quarters will be roughly 60 quarters for the Members of this Assembly and of the senators of the Council of State, if I may give the Members of the other House that nomenclature, and about 40 quarters for those living in the European style, total about 100. That of course is not anything like enough for the total number of Members of the two Houses, but inasmuch as there are a certain number of officials and certain others who prefer to go to hotels or make private arrangements, it is thought that a provision of 100 quarters would suffice. If this item of Rs. 74,000 is disallowed, not only shall we have to stop the work on the orthodox and some of the unorthodox quarters, but also incur heavy liabilities, and I may, for the information of the House, explain here that the difficulties of carrying out work in Simla are extremely great. Labour is very short. Materials have to be brought up from a distance and now that all these arrangements have been made and the work is progressing, I hope satisfactorily, it would be a thousand pities, I speak from my own personal point of view, to shut down work on the provision of these quarters. I, therefore, leave it to the House to judge the matter from the business point of view. Incidentally, I may add that the value of house property in Simla is rising by leaps and bounds every year and that these quarters will, if not required for use by the Members of these two Houses, really be a very valuable property which can be disposed of to advantage. It will thus be seen, that if we cut down this Rs. 74,000 not only do we throw a certain amount of difficulty but probably considerable inconvenience on the Members of the two Houses who have not got the means of making their own arrangements in Simla, and I may mention that in Simla it is often very difficult indeed to get accommodation in the hotels or elsewhere, and I think the House will agree that as a purely business proposition our measures in this respect are on sound lines. I would, therefore, prefer to leave to the House the question of rejecting this amendment.

**Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussainally :** I have one or two remarks to offer in connection with this question. I really think that the question of the exodus to Simla is a very important question which ought to be

[Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussainally.]

decided before this question is taken up and I therefore beg for a ruling from the Chair whether it would not be in order to defer the consideration of this question until that question is finally decided and my reason for asking for it is that if we now budget for this provision, we are practically committing ourselves to the course of going over to Simla for the next session, which I think ought not to be done.

I think several Members will find it difficult now to vote one way or the other until that question is thrashed out and decided. Therefore, I agree with my friend, Dr. Gour, in asking that this should be deferred until that larger question is decided.

The next fact that I would point out is, that the accommodation that is being provided for Members of the Assembly is, if anything, too small, because, if I understood the Honourable Member for the Public Work Department aright, the accommodation that is going to be provided there will be only for about 100 Members, whereas the total number of this Assembly is very much larger than that, so that there will be very keen competition for the accommodation there. If we decide the question of the exodus, against moving to Simla, even then, according to what we have just now heard, there will be no difficulty at all, because the hotel can easily be disposed of or utilised in another way at a considerable profit. That is for the Government to say, but we just now heard that it was a very good bargain, and, if this provision is not made, still a good price will be got for that property. All the same, Sir, I think that the question of the exodus is a very important one, which ought to be discussed before this provision is made.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** If you could allow this, Sir, and if you would allow it to be done, it would be suitable from the point of view of Government if the question arising out of motions Nos. 22 and 23 were decided before this question was proceeded with.

**The Honourable the President :** The motion to postpone consideration of the motion for reduction standing in the name of Dr. Gour is in order. Do I understand the Honourable gentleman has moved that motion ?

**Mr. Wali Mohammed Hussainally :** Yes, I would like to move the proposition that the consideration of this question might be put off.

**Dr. H. S. Gour :** If my consent is required, I freely accord it, that these Resolutions standing in my name might be deferred until the larger question about the exodus to Simla has been decided.

**The Honourable the President :** The original question was :

'That the provision of Rs. 74,000 for the extension of Longwood Hotel, Simla, be omitted.'

Since which it has been moved to postpone the consideration of this amendment as well as the following amendment No. 21\* until the amendment No. 22† has been considered and disposed of.

The motion to postpone consideration of this amendment was adopted.

\*No. 21—'That the sum of Rs. 1,12,000 provided for the quarters of the non-official Members of the Council (page 51) be omitted.'

†No. 22—'That the provision of the sum of Rs. 5,64,000 for building a Council Chamber for the Legislative Assembly in Simla (page 51) be omitted.'

## COUNCIL CHAMBER IN SIMLA.

**Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar:** Sir, the unpretentious Resolution which I have given notice is apparently attracting keen attention on the part of my friends in this House. Sir, there can be no doubt that outside this Assembly the voice of the people is almost unanimous against legislation in Simla. (Cries of 'Louder, Louder') I said that outside this House the opinion is practically unanimous that there should be no legislation from the heights of Simla (Cries of 'No, No.') I am aware that a section of this House is against it (Cries of 'We are all against, it.') I am glad to hear that. I know that there is a certain section of this House which apparently is of opinion that we must legislate only from Simla. I did not say that this House is of opinion unanimously; I particularly took care to say that outside this House opinion is unanimous that there should be no legislation from Simla (Cries of 'No, No.') That is what I began with and I adhere to that. Now, Sir, it will be seen how far this House reflects that opinion when we come to take votes upon this question. If you vote, that we should go to Simla and legislate, it may be that you will be able to influence public opinion later on, but I must warn you that you will be running counter to the strong stream of opinion which is flooding the country on this subject.

**The Honourable the President:** The Honourable Member had better put himself in order by moving the amendment which stands against his name.

**Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar:** Sir, I was overwhelmed by the number of interruptions that were made at starting and forgot to move my resolution. The motion which stands in my name runs thus:

'That the provision of the sum of Rs. 5,64,500 for building a Council Chamber for the Legislative Assembly in Simla be omitted.'

That is my motion. On the present occasion I mean to confine myself entirely to the undesirability of legislating from the heights of Simla. I am not going into the larger issue as to whether the exodus of the Executive Government to Simla should be encouraged or not. I want this House to concentrate its attention upon one particular point, and that is whether it is in the interests of the country, whether it is in the interests of this House, that we should legislate for the country from Simla. That is the point which I wish to submit to the consideration of the House.

4 P.M.

Sir, this question of the exodus to the hills is a very hardy annual. You will find, Sir, you are new to this country but you might have heard that in almost every provincial Council this question has been debated from time to time; at every session of every provincial Assembly this question of the exodus has been raised, and although the Government has been against it from time to time, I think the Government will admit, that they have not been able to kill this particular annual altogether; something has been sprouting up always and has been giving the Government trouble on this question. Now, Sir, the persistent agitation which has gone on in this country, though it has been denied by a section of this House, has borne excellent fruit. I refer to my own province of Madras. In Madras while I was in the Legislative Council 8 years ago, I took some part in an agitation against legislating from the clouds of Ootacamund. None the less for a long time there was no response from the Government; but the voice of the people of Madras was so insistent on this question that the Government has at last been obliged to yield, and the result is that the Government has now resolved that there shall be no legislation in Ootacamund. The Madras

[Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar.]

Government will move down to the plains whenever there is to be a session for legislation, and I think my friends on this side of the House will join with me in conveying our heartiest thanks to His Excellency Lord Willingdon for the exceedingly good example he has set in this matter. It is purely owing to his initiative that this legislation from the heights of Ootacamund has been given up, and I hope that the Members of this Government will imitate his example and resolve that there shall be no more legislation from Simla.

Now, Sir, I would ask the other side of the House one question, is there any instance of a civilised country having two Parliaments in two different places? Can you quote any instance in which there is one Parliament or one Parliament House where you debate for two months and another Parliament House for debating a little later?

I believe the answer will be in the negative. Now, Sir, I shall very shortly give you my reasons for bringing forward this Resolution. As a large number of Members are expected to speak on this question, I shall not detain the House very long. There are three reasons why legislation should not be attempted from Simla. The first is, it is very expensive. On the question of expense, the Budget before you speaks for itself. There is no doubt that considerable money has been spent and will be spent if legislation is to be undertaken from the heights of Simla. I asked for information as to how much has already been spent. In answer, this information has been given: 'With reference to your letter, dated the 4th instant, I write to say that the figures you require are approximately as follows: Temporary Council Chamber for the Legislative Assembly Rs. 3,85,000, Residential Accommodation for Members of the Reformed Councils Rs. 6,32,000.' So, already apparently a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been spent; but, as was pointed out by my friend on the other side, you will be able to dispose of it to profit—but that is not the point. If I understand the position aright, for a very long time it was tacitly understood—I believe it was one of the recognised unwritten traditions of Government that there should be no contentious legislation from the summer residence. I believe that was so. Now, those were days when there were no representatives of the people on the Council. It was at a time when the Government itself chose the Members of the Council. Still, because there was such a persistent opposition to legislate from the summer residence the Government of those days did not attempt to debate controversial matters from their summer residence. Then we come to the days when the Morley-Minto scheme came into force. One would have expected that when the Councils were enlarged and expanded and when the voice of the people was being more and more heard, there would be more yielding to the wishes of the people on this matter. On the other hand, I believe the example was set in Lord Minto's days of having contentious legislation from Simla. It was considered very exceptional, and the people allowed it to go on because it was represented at the time that if legislation was not attempted then the country would be in a state of revolution. What was done by Lord Minto was followed a little more in detail in Lord Hardings's days. Now, Sir, at present we are told that already a temporary Council Chamber for the Legislative Assembly has cost the Government Rs. 3,85,000; apparently when the Council Chamber is completely finished, it would cost something like Rs. 20 lakhs. Now, the desire to have legislation from Simla seems to me a measure which would not in the least have the approval of the people. Apparently the appetite grows on what it feeds. Not having any contentious measure at first, and then with passing a few measures from the heights of Simla, we are now asked to have a permanent location at Simla from which

legislation, whether contentious or non-contentious, is to be undertaken permanently. That seems to me to be a very grave state of affairs which requires explanation. Therefore, in order to avoid expense of this extraordinary kind, this Assembly should see that no legislative work is done in Simla.

Another reason for my motion, Sir, is this, that it is very inconvenient. I think it was Mr. Price if I remember aright who said the other day that there are no good roads in Simla and no conveyances except rickshaws; and if I understood him rightly, it is only Jupiter who is allowed the use of motor-cars and that all minor gods have to walk the earth as other mortals do. Why should we put ourselves to all this inconvenience for the purpose of having a Simla session? Therefore, on the question of convenience, there is no doubt, that we should not move to Simla for legislative sessions.

My third reason is this, that it is very undesirable that we should have a session in Simla. If I remember aright, a Parliamentary Committee in England said that a disaster in the recent European War near Turkey was due to the absence of the Government in Simla. Now, if that can be said of the Executive Council being in Simla, and if it is true that because of the absence of the Executive Council from the plains and their remaining in Simla, these mistakes had happened before, it is a greater reason why this Assembly should not be dragged to Simla. It is bad enough to take the Executive Council Members there; it would be worse if you ask the Legislative Assembly Members also to go there.

Therefore, Sir, for these three reasons, namely, it is expensive, it is inconvenient, and it is undesirable, I ask that the move to Simla in order to legislate from the heights of Simla should be given up. It may be said that Delhi being a very hot place and not possessing a good climate, you cannot expect to finish legislation here. To that, my answer is this,—and I make a tentative suggestion to the Members on the other side of the House and I hope they will accept it. You can legislate for six months in Delhi, that is to say, from October to April. You can sit here from October to the middle of December, adjourn for a month and assemble again from the 15th of January to the end of March, and it would give five months for this Assembly to legislate. That would be ample time for any legislative session. It may be asked, supposing there is a measure of emergency which requires the presence of the Assembly Members; supposing between April and October, it is desired to call the Members of the Assembly to deliberate upon a particular point, how will you provide for it. My answer is this. If there is such an urgency, you must come down to Delhi; the Members of the Government must come down to Delhi. We are not made of ice, we are not going to melt away by remaining here for a few days, we must come to Delhi and share the sufferings of the people for about a fortnight. For example, the Honourable the Finance Member has been spending, I think, almost all his time in the hot climate of Delhi. Now, if the Honourable Mr. Hailey could endure the heat of Delhi, could we not for about a fortnight or a week come down here, remain and legislate and share with the people the hot climate and their sufferings also? It will show our practical sympathy with them, and, therefore, the possibility of there being an emergency arising which will call together the Members of this Assembly does not in the least stand in the way of the suggestion I have made of having no session in Simla. The place, then, I am told, will be perfectly good, there will be no malaria, and it will not be sickly. Under those circumstances, I ask this Assembly to say that it is altogether unnecessary to have a session in Simla.

[Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar.]

Sir, I have practically done. I must point out that on this question of exodus to the hills all classes and communities are united. Europeans and Indians are all against legislation from Simla, and I may say that all shades of opinion are against it—Extremists, Nationalists and Moderates,—all of them are against legislation from Simla, and every newspaper, Indian or Anglo-Indian, has been writing against it. Now, under those circumstances, I ask you, the Members of this Assembly, are you going to go against the current of that opinion? If you do that, will you be regarded as truly representing the people of this country in this Assembly? By your vote this evening, you will tell the people outside whether you are truly representing them in this Assembly or not, and I would ask you to bear that in mind in giving your votes.

**Mr. B. A. Spence:** Sir, when I understood that this debate was coming up this afternoon, I thought it would probably be the Members of Government who would be having the nastiest time; but it seems to me, as an Ordinary Member of this Assembly, that there is a very unpleasant time before us if this motion is accepted. The Member who moved this motion, spoke about public opinion outside, and the view he gave of public opinion was challenged by various Members of this House. There is no doubt one view of public opinion which will not be challenged, and that view is that public opinion holds that the Members of the Legislative Assembly should work well and that they should cost the country as little money as possible. Now, I maintain, that if we have to stay at Delhi during the hot weather, we shall not work well, and I also maintain that if we do not go to Simla we shall cost the country a great deal more money than we do by going to Simla.

*Several Members:* How? How?

**Mr. B. A. Spence:** Well, you have got to bring the people down from Simla. If you are going to keep your clerks in Delhi the whole year through the hot weather, you have got to pay them more for staying here. You have made all arrangements for them in Simla, and if you are going to upset all those arrangements and bring them down to Delhi, it is going to cost you more.

Then, the Honourable Member, who moved this motion, suggested that we should meet in Delhi only in the cold weather. Well, does public opinion outside want every Member of this Assembly to be a man who does no work at all? I think that the majority rather like to have a Member of the Legislative Assembly who has got a job of work to do, and if you are going to have those sort of people here, you cannot have them staying in Council for six months in the year. Anyhow, you would lose me, and perhaps for that very effective reason, I oppose this motion very strongly.

**The Honourable Sir William Vincent:** Sir, I want to deal with one point raised at the earliest moment, namely, the suggestion that the Government promised a day for a full dress debate on this question. That was not my intention at all when I made my previous statement. What I did say was, that an amendment had been moved on a particular Resolution regarding continuous sittings and I thought it was unreasonable that this question should be discussed as a side issue. I then suggested that if any Member wanted to raise the question, he ought to raise it by way of a Resolution in the ordinary manner. I am not aware that I ever promised a date for any full dress debate of this question.

Turning to the merits as the Honourable Mover said, the question of the move to Simla of the Government does not arise really on this motion at all, which is merely a discussion whether this Assembly should sit here or in Simla during the rains or whenever it has to meet at any time other than in the cold season. The question is really one for this Assembly to settle for itself. Government is in no way anxious to bind the Members to—the Honourable Member said, I think, the other day—their chariot wheels. The attitude of Government is neutral in this matter. The Assembly will decide for itself where it wants to sit. If it wishes to sit in Simla, it can secure this by passing this demand. If it decides upon Delhi, then it can reduce the grant. It is purely a matter for their decision. But I think myself that Members would find it very inconvenient to sit here in the extreme hot weather as there will be no Chamber at Raisina, at any rate, for some years to come, and that coming in daily from Raisina during the hot weather or during the rains would be very irksome.

There is some support for this view in the attitude which has been taken up by Honourable Members other than official Members, who have had some experience of what the climate of this place is during the hot weather. But it is purely a matter for the Assembly to consider for itself. The suggestion that the Government should remain down here for 12 months is at present out of the question. It is not a feasible proposition because a great many of our officers now live under canvas—there are not sufficient houses for them, and it really would be quite impossible to get officers to serve in the Government of India if they had to live down here under present conditions throughout the hot weather. In my own Department, for instance, we have a Deputy Secretary now living under canvas and it is quite impossible for him to do so during the hot weather. There are many others in a similar position.

As to this particular building in Simla, the position is, I understand—and I hope my Honourable friend, Sir Sydney Crookshank, will correct me if I am wrong—that it is a temporary building for the accommodation of the Legislative Assembly. It has been begun and a good deal of money has been spent on it. The Council of State, it is proposed, should sit in the old Council Chamber which is close to Viceroyal Lodge. The building will have to be completed in any case now and it will be available either for sessions or for any Government purposes so long as the Government goes to Simla, or even for emergency meetings if this Assembly decides to sit ordinarily here, and on particular occasions only in cases of great emergency to sit at Simla.

Another point that appears to me to be of importance is the consensus of opinion of certain Members who come from the northern part of India, that Delhi is not a suitable meeting place in the hot weather, and I think, as I said before on a previous occasion, that this Assembly would be acting wisely if it accepts the proposal of a session at Simla for one year and waited until New Delhi is completed, until it knows what the possibilities of this place are, and what the climate in Delhi is like in the hot weather and rains, before definitely deciding to hold all its sessions down here. As I have already said, however, the Government is going to remain neutral on this question. My own information and experience of this place in the summer months is, that it is amazingly unhealthy and hot in certain seasons of the year. There is no question about that, and I defy my Honourable friend, the late Chief Commissioner of Delhi, who is a protagonist for the place, to deny this. The Honourable Mover has told us that there is no precedent for an Assembly

[Sir William Vincent.]

meeting at two places. I cannot think of any precedent either; but on the other hand, I cannot think of any precedent for such extremes of climate as you get in a place like Delhi. I want the Assembly to consider the question from the point of view of their own personal convenience and from the point of view of what is best for the expeditious and efficient conduct of public business. I myself fear that Honourable Members will find it much more convenient to transact their business in Simla during the hot weather season. But if they think they can do it equally well or better down here, then the Government will in no sense oppose the motion.

The Honourable Member said, that it used to be the practice in Simla only to deal with non-contentious legislation. That is so, but the practice was altered some years ago, I think, when I was the Secretary in the Department. I believe it originated at a time when communication with Simla was very difficult.

Now, conditions are entirely different. There is a comfortable railway and large numbers of Indians come from time to time up to Simla for their health, and the place is perfectly accessible and accommodation is also available. I may say I am told that even at that time, my friend, Dr. Sapru, tells me that Mr. Gokhale objected to this restriction—to contentious business not being transacted at Simla and he said it was inconvenient and unfair to the Council.

If, however, it is decided that the Assembly should meet here, I do not think it would be impossible,—one objection was raised on that score—to bring down the clerks in the hot weather. It would cause, of course, a great deal of inconvenience to them, but I imagine we could arrange temporary camp offices down here. But the real question—I want to put it again—which this Assembly has to consider is its own convenience and what is most advantageous for the conduct of public business. Whether they think they will be able to do work better here in these surroundings, having regard to climatic conditions and the fact that they will have to come in from Raisina daily, or whether it would not be better for them to allow this building in Simla to be completed, using it for the time being, and later, when New Delhi is completed, decide for themselves as to whether all the session of the Assembly should be held here or not.

**Dr. Nand Lal :** Sir, the Honourable Mover has given us three grounds on which he bases the strength of his amendment. (1) That we cannot have good legislation on the hills of Simla; (2) that it is very expensive; and (3) that it is very inconvenient. Let us examine all these grounds and see whether they can stand or not. My submission before this House is, that none of these grounds is tenable. Taking his ground No. 1, when I go to the Statute Book in India I can find that a larger amount of work was done in Simla. I am speaking subject to correction, but the little I know of the large amount of good work done in the past, on the hills of Simla, convinces me that my learned friend's argument that we could not have good legislation or a greater amount of legislation has no leg to stand upon.

— **Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar :** I never said that you cannot have a large amount of work done in the hills. You are imagining some words that I never uttered.

**Dr. Nand Lal :** If I rightly followed my learned friend, he said, that we cannot have good legislation in the hills of Simla.

**Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar :** No.

**Dr. Nand Lal :** Then my learned friend meant to say, that you could have good legislation on the hills of Simla. It must be one of these—it cannot be both. If he admits that, then his own admission goes against his amendment.

Well, I spoke subject to correction. I am glad to see that my learned friend now comes out with his admission that we can have good legislation on the hills of Simla ; then, of course it goes against him. It comes to this, that if what he meant to say was that we cannot have good legislation on the heights of Simla, then my learned friend, I submit, is not correct. Whether the legislation is good or bad depends on one's brain. Naturally the question arises whether one can work better under better conditions and in good weather or under bad conditions and in bad weather. Now, clearly my friend cannot contradict this proposition that the weather at Simla is decidedly better than that at Delhi or at any other place in the plains. He cannot refute this argument. Then, so far as this argument is concerned, it stands determined once for all and I say it is unanswerable that the weather at Simla is decidedly better than that at Delhi, or at any other place in the plains. If so, then we can work better there, the output of work will naturally be greater and larger. Now, let us examine the other aspect. If the output of work is greater and we can work there more effectively and with greater intelligence, then this is economical. This pays the country.

What we really want is efficient and good work. If our work at Simla will be decidedly better, as I am trying to prove, then it will certainly prove useful to the country, and it is thus not expensive at all. My learned friend while discussing this ground made allusion to some precedent. This may be so far as the Madras province is concerned, but I am sorry to say that this precedent will not appeal to other provinces. My learned friend says, 'Is there any place where there are two sessions and where the Legislative Bodies move from one place to another?' I would ask my learned friend, if I am permitted by the Chair, to ask, 'Can you cite any country where there are two extremes?' We have got the severest winter and the severest summer. Does my learned friend really mean to say that we may be forced to work at Delhi in summer and die. I think the constituencies whom we represent would not like this idea. The longer we live, as servants of our country, the better it will be, and there will be a greater amount of work done. If we are troubled and inconvenienced by the scorching heat, we will come here no doubt, but I am afraid, some of us will feel sleepy and some will feel tired. I may say, it is a wrong idea to suggest that we can advantageously hold our meetings here in Delhi or at any other place on the plains in summer. Thus, it comes to this, that if the summer session of this Assembly were held at Simla, that will benefit the country economically, it will pay the country so far as our length of service is concerned, and it will pay the country also so far as intelligent work is concerned.

Now, coming to the second ground, *viz.*, the question of expenses. A few minutes back we were discussing the sum of money which is spent on the conveyance from Raisina to this place, and one of my Honourable friends moved an amendment that this expense was unnecessary. After all it was found that it was not unnecessary. Taking the argument of my learned friend, if the summer session is held here in Delhi, the aforesaid expense will recur. Then, how can my learned friend say, that it is very expensive to hold the summer

[Dr. Nand Lal.]

session at Simla, taking into account this very item which was before this Honourable House only a few minutes back? Therefore, on this score also, *viz.*, so far as the question of expense is concerned, my learned friend's amendment has got no force whatsoever.

Then, the third argument, which my learned friend advanced with the greatest possible force, was the question of inconvenience. And what is his so-called inconvenience? It is this, that there is no motor bus, no motor car, in Simla. I may be allowed to point out to my learned friend that if he stays at Simla, it is necessary for him to have a little walk. If he has stayed at Simla, I think he will corroborate me and will have no hesitation in accepting my argument. Our stay at Simla will necessitate our having little walks. And if we have got to walk for a mile, shall we become sick? It will give strength. It will be exercise. A human being cannot live without having some exercise. Does my learned friend seriously mean to say that we should take no exercise at all, that we may work from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. and have no exercise, that we should be put in a motor car, come to the Secretariat, and then be put again in the motor car and carried back to our residence?

I think my learned friend's argument that the whole country is in support of the amendment does not seem to me to have much force. Our country would like that we should work hard, that we should come prepared to work conscientiously, that we may take exercise so that our brains may be in good order and we may work intelligently. My learned friend must bear in mind that we are not so much averse to taking exercise as he is. We are in favour of it. So, on this ground also my learned friend's argument has got no force at all.

Another argument of my learned friend was, that we should have two sittings here in Delhi, one from October right up to the end of November, if I followed him rightly, and then from first January right up to the end of March, that is to say, there should be no summer session at all. I cannot say what he is contemplating, but if I may be allowed to place the right grammatical construction on his argument, then it comes to this, that there will be no summer session, *viz.*, there will be only one session, the summer session being eliminated. Supposing some emergency requires the convening of this Assembly, what will then happen? Fresh summonses will have to be issued. It cannot be disputed that it is necessary that there should be a summer session also, and the history of legislation tells us that there have been summer sessions; one session during winter and the other during summer. So, on this ground also my learned friend's argument cannot hold water.

Then, my learned friend says, that the country has been, as a matter of fact, saying 'you, legislators, can not hear us because you are far away.' I cannot understand the drift of this argument. If we, when in Simla, cannot hear our people, can we hear them when in Delhi? Is there anything special about Delhi? Newspapers fully convey all ideas to us. Don't we read newspapers when in Simla? Newspapers convey to us the ideas and sentiments and opinions of the people there also. Does my learned friend seriously mean to say that when we go to Simla we cease to read newspapers, or that no newspapers will be sent to Simla? Does he mean to say, that newspapers are only meant for Delhi and other places in the plains? If he admits this proposition, that the postal authorities are quite competent to send newspapers to Simla as well, then, I am afraid, there is similarly no force in my learned friend's argument.

We hear our people at Simla as well as we hear them here in Delhi. There is telegraphic communication, there is telephonic communication, and none of these communications is cut off from Simla. If my learned friend knows more than I do in this direction, then perhaps I may feel constrained to give in, but I am afraid I cannot admit it, because I belong to the Punjab, and I am nearer Simla than he is, and I can tell him that his proposition has got no force. Had I realised any kind of force in any of the arguments which have been set up by him, I would have been very glad to agree with him and accept his proposition. But I feel bound to say that there is no force in any of the arguments. Therefore, I respectfully differ from him and I hope that the House will agree with me and reject this amendment which I very strongly oppose.

**The Honourable Mr. B. N. Sarma:** Sir, the substantial question before the House is as to whether they should accord their sanction to the expenditure suggested under these three items. Its determination is to a certain extent dependent upon a solution of the problem raised by the Honourable Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, namely, as to whether it is desirable, generally desirable that there should be no legislation, especially of an important character, undertaken in the hills.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent has already indicated to you the attitude of the Government in this respect, that they are entirely in your hands, so far at any rate as the present year is concerned and so far as the present Government is concerned, and that it rests with you as to whether you would have your session during the current year here or in Simla, and speaking as the Member in charge of the Public Works Department, I may say, that to a certain extent the burdens of my departmental officers will be lightened if they had less work to do, but I would like to place before the House certain considerations which should be borne in mind in coming to a conclusion on this subject and I would ask the Members to see whether in the interests of the reformed Government, in the interests of preserving in their hands the powers conferred upon them, it is not desirable that they should have legislative Chambers provided both here as well as in Simla, so that without any difficulty, without any inconvenience, without any undue prolongation of time or delay, they may be able to meet when an emergency arises, when the Viceroy thinks fit to convoke a session or is requested to do so by a large number of Members. We must set aside from our minds the contingency of our being able to discover a place to which the Capital may be removed and located all through the year. Assuming for a moment that that would be the solution ultimately arrived at by this House and by this Government, I would still put it to the House that it will take several years, it may be 5, 7 or 10 years, before you build a Capital of that description. Taking it therefore that Delhi will be the Capital or will be one of two Capitals, because even assuming that you are going to have only one Capital and that in Delhi, it will take about 5 to 6 years before you build the New Capital here, the question is reduced to a simple point. Is the Legislature going to deprive itself of the opportunities which it would otherwise have of holding the session at any time the Governor General may be willing or feels it necessary to hold a session, because it thinks that ordinarily legislation should not be undertaken at Simla or that a few lakhs of rupees may have to be expended on the Council Chambers and in providing accommodation for Members? Well, Sir, I need not expatiate upon the changes during the next few months, because I think Honourable Members will themselves have realised this aspect of the problem. A new Viceroy will be coming

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

who may be desirous of making your acquaintance and discussing important problems and therefore of convoking the Assembly in the customary manner or during the first few months of his arrival here, and it would be rendering it very difficult for him to have a session if you insist upon no provision being made in Simla. Or it may be that some emergency may arise which may necessitate the holding of a meeting in Simla and by your cutting down this grant you will be permanently depriving yourself, not only this year but generally of holding the session in Simla. And all for what? For an expenditure of about 6 lakhs of rupees on the central buildings for a Council Chamber and a lakh or two on accommodation for Honourable Members. Nearly four lakhs of rupees have already been spent on the building of a Council Chamber. I may incidentally remark that the buildings are going to be so designed as to be suitable for other purposes in case the Legislature should decide upon having no session at any time in Simla. I give that as a piece of information, but, proceeding, I say, you have already spent four lakhs of rupees. Sir Sydney Crookshank has already told you what a wasteful expenditure of money it would be suddenly to pull up and stop work in the middle, and that is exactly what you would be doing if you were to postpone a decision or if you were to deprive the Public Works Department of the grant for which they ask during the current year. Well, then, if you make this grant, you will have an opportunity of deciding later on, if you wish it, not to hold a meeting at any time in Simla. If you so decide, then this money will have been utilised in the construction of buildings which the Government of India feel necessary for other purposes. Therefore, there will not be any waste of money on this account, whereas, on the other hand, there will be wasteful expenditure if the grant be not made, four lakhs of rupees being thrown away for nothing.

Then, take the case of accommodation for Honourable Members. It has been said that it would be very inconvenient and very expensive to go to Simla. Well, I have had some experience as a non-official Member of the Legislative Council for many years. Since 1906, I have been connected with work in the Councils and for four or five years here, and, speaking for myself, I found no very great difficulty in transacting business on the heights of the Nilgiris in Ootacamund or of the Himalayas at Simla. I found myself perhaps fitter for work in Ootacamund and in Simla than in Madras and in Delhi. But, apart from the question of personal equation, I can assure Honourable Members, that they will be truly democratic in Simla. There, everyone has either to walk or go about in a rickshaw if he cannot ride, and neither is so expensive as a ride in a motor car. So you will lead both a democratic as well as a less expensive life in Simla so far as the question of locomotion goes. You will be better fitted for work and, as far as I could see, during the last four years that I was a Member of the Imperial Legislative Council, I found a good deal of contentious work actually transacted without much objection on the part of the country. There is no doubt great truth in the contention that we should avoid legislation in the hills when legislation can be transacted in the plains, but that remark does not apply so much to Delhi and Simla as it might to Calcutta and Simla or as it might to Bombay and Mahabaleshwar or to Madras and Ootacamund, because in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, you have public opinion, whereas there is not much in the hill stations. You can consult experts in various branches and take their advice. But it seemed to me that it was the same whether I was in Simla

or in Delhi so far as the seeking of outside help was concerned ; it made no difference so far as the intellectual atmosphere or the commercial atmosphere surrounding you was concerned. If it was khaki there, it was khaki here ; there is less dust there, more dust here. But I think from the general point of view I found no great help and I think Honourable Members also will feel that there is no very great intellectual help either in Simla or in Delhi and it will continue to be the same for some time to come.

Coming to the question of the expensiveness and the inconvenience, I do not think there is much difference between Delhi and Simla even when the question of travelling thence from the remote corners of India is concerned, because, coming from Madras, I always felt that it was the same whether I got down from the train at Delhi at 12 O'clock at night and broke my sleep or went on and got out the next day at Simla. It did not make much difference from the business point of view and if non-official Members spend a few rupees more in travelling expenses, there would be a saving in respect of the Government officials coming down here. So on the question of expenditure I do not think much can be said one way or the other. From the point of view of the convenience of Members, there is not much difference in point of time whether they come to Delhi or Simla. There is a difference of a few hours I quite grant, but then you can far more efficiently transact business there than here. I place my case far more strongly, however, on the first two grounds. First, that this House should not deprive itself of its opportunity of doing good, of discharging its responsibilities at a moment's notice and of having a meeting convened whenever there may be necessity. Of that opportunity it would deprive itself if it cuts down this grant. The other ground to which I ask your consideration is, that you have already spent four lakhs which would be wasted, and with regard to the additional sum it is not much compared to what has already been spent. Therefore, both on the grounds of economy and the convenience of Members, and because both places are the same from the point of view of intellectual environment I think you ought to vote for the grant which has been asked for.

**The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru:** Sir, the advocates of Simla have spoken with enthusiasm of Simla, and so I believe have the advocates of Delhi of Delhi. I do not propose to take any side in regard to this matter, But there are just one or two considerations which I shall place before the House.

In the first place, the issue which has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar is, as he himself very frankly pointed out, a very narrow one. He did not say that he was raising the general issue as to the exodus to Simla, but he said, if I understood him correctly, that the real issue before us was as to whether there should be legislation in Simla. That is the only issue before the House and it is with regard to that issue that the House is invited to give its verdict. As I have said already, I do not wish to speak in the spirit of a partisan, but there is one important consideration which I will beg the House to remember. It is not really for the Government to fix any place according to the rules. The power of convening a session of the Legislative Assembly is given by rule 3 to the Governor General as distinguished from the Governor General in Council. The Governor General by notification appoints the date and place for a session of the Assembly. Now, as the House is aware, the new Viceroy will be here within a fortnight or so, and so far as I have been able to ascertain the views of my Honourable Colleagues in the

[Dr. T. B. Sapru.]

Government we propose to place the result of the discussion in this House before the new Viceroy; and for the time being, so far as the Members of the Executive Government are concerned, they are not going to vote in regard to this matter. Others are at liberty to vote as they like. We shall examine the result of the debate very carefully and put the whole matter before His Excellency the Viceroy. It is really for you to assign the grant or to refuse it as you think fit. So far as we are concerned, we are not taking any sides as regards this particular matter. There is only one more fact to which I shall refer just now in order to remove some misapprehension in regard to this building which is going on in Simla. It may be the impression of some Members of this House that this building was started in Simla without reference to the predecessor of this House, namely, the Legislative Council. I am told that Sir Claude Hill convened a meeting of some Members of the Legislative Council and put the matter before them; excepting one gentleman, the rest of them were agreed that there should be a Legislative Chamber there, and this gentleman who first disagreed subsequently changed his opinion; and as has been pointed out by Sir Sydney Crookshank at an earlier stage of the debate to-day, the building has been going on there for the last one year and a considerable sum of money has been spent. That is really the position so far as the Members of the Government are concerned. Their position has been explained by Sir William Vincent with whose remarks I associate myself. The matter, so far as the grant is concerned, is entirely in your hands. As Sir William Vincent reminds me, there is only one thing more, that I should point out to you, and it is the temporary character of this building, which is not very much suited for the hot weather; but so far as the general issue which has been raised by my friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, is concerned, we shall await with interest the result of this debate.

**Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi:** Sir, I am sorry I am unable to see any force in the arguments advanced by the Honourable Mover of this Resolution.

Firstly, that a considerable number of us present in this Hall—at least most of us who come from the northern part of the country—usually go up to the hills during the summer to save ourselves from the extreme heat of the plains. Those of my Colleagues who have experienced the heat in the plains of the Punjab will, I am sure, agree with me that an exodus to the hills is not a luxury, but it is absolutely necessary for the preservation of health. When, therefore, ordinarily we go up to the hills in the summer, I think it highly undesirable to force us to come to a particularly hot place like Delhi at that season of the year to transact the business of the Assembly. I am sure, this course will tell upon the efficiency of its working.

Secondly, I cannot imagine any person keeping himself quite calm and composed, sitting within the four walls of a room, in the company of so many persons as we all are here during the months of June, July and August.

Thirdly, if the sessions of the Assembly are held in Delhi in the summer, it will necessarily mean the detention of the whole of the Secretariat. If not, it will mean the coming down of the Honourable Members and the Secretaries to Delhi from Simla. This will mean their absence from their ordinary duties for a very long time which is very undesirable. Again, I cannot for a moment feel justified in thinking that while we ourselves like to go up to the hills, we

should persist on the Englishmen who come from much more cool countries staying in Delhi in the summer. Apart from the loss of efficiency which will result in the long absence of the Secretaries from their headquarters, I do not understand how the heavy expenditure on account of the travelling allowances of these officers and their staff will be met in these days of financial stringency.

Without, therefore, making further attempts to discuss the demerits of this Resolution, I strongly oppose it.

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Sir, it is with a sense of trepidation that I rise to support the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, not that I am not fond of cool heights. I myself resort to hill climates during the summer vacation in the High Court. But, Sir, I look upon my position here not as Rangachari, but as representing the millions of population of the country. Sir, it was asked, are we to die in Delhi? Do the two lakhs of people living in Delhi die every year and get resurrected every other year? Did my father and grandfather seek the heights of Simla or Ootacamund to transact their work? Did the kings of old transact their business in the plains or in the cool heights of Simla, Ootacamund, or Darjeeling as the case may be? Sir, I did not realise till now, I did not realise till I heard the discussion in this hall, that our politicians were not sincere. Sir, ever since I began to take lessons in politics, I have heard of this exodus. In fact, the very first lesson that I learnt was with reference to the sins committed by this white bureaucracy administering the country from the heights of Simla. I did not know there would be brown bureaucrats also. Sir, the question is not one of money. The question is one of moral influence. My Honourable friend, Dr. Nand Lal, asked us, are we not in touch with newspapers? Now, if my Honourable friend is going to take lessons from newspapers and not from actual human life, I am afraid, he will not be performing his task in the way in which he is expected to do. Are not courts sitting in the summer? Does not my Honourable friend, being tempted with fees, appear before magistrates who toil in the plains in the middle of the hot summer?

Now, Sir, I was surprised that my Honourable friend, my leader, Mr. Sarma from Madras, had the courage to stand up here in this House and defend this flight to Simla? I learnt my lessons at his feet. As the President of the Mahajan Sabha, I am sure, he drafted telegram after telegram abusing, and vilifying, this wicked bureaucracy for always flying to the hills. I was but a humble student learning my lessons as Secretary to him. If Sir T. Madhav Rao who condemned this exodus at a famous public meeting in Madras in 1887, if the Rev. Dr. Miller who is the revered Principal of the Christian College, deprecated the exodus, and again if gentlemen of eminence at various places have entered their most emphatic protests against the exodus what has happened since that we should now encourage it? Is Simla big enough to contain the population of India? Sir, you must deal with the people, do the work of the people, and do their work feeling as they do; is it merely because we all belong to the upper classes, whom fortune has favoured, because we can afford to go and live there, that we should go and do administrative and legislative work from these cool heights? As I said, any place in the plains where our brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, live and toil all the year round ought to suit us. Is it unfit for your habitation? Then flee from India, if you think that the plains of India are not a fit place for doing our work. I am ashamed to hear, Sir, that any part of India is not fit for work during the summer.

[Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar.]

Were we born in the cool places? I was born, Sir, at a place where the temperature rises up to 110 degrees sometimes. I think, Sir, that we must bring some sense of responsibility to bear in deciding the very grave issue which has been raised to-day. As the Honourable Members for Government have remarked to-day, the responsibility for the decision to-day rests with us, Indians. We have to go to our brothers and sisters to-morrow as soon as the session is over. Remember, it is not merely our own concern, it is a concern which will affect the future.

Now, Sir, looking forward to the future, I expect not only rich men to come here to this Assembly; I expect poor men also to take their humble part in sharing the administration of the country. I look to the day—it may be 5 years, it may be 10 or 15 years hence—when the masses will also send their representatives here. How do we expect them to afford to go and legislate in the cool heights of the Himalayas? Surely that is giving a tall order. It is bad enough that the Executive Government go there. But that question is not yet. When we force their hands, when we say we will hold our legislative sessions here, then I daresay we will be bringing indirect pressure upon the Executive Government also to change their methods, to diminish their months of stay in the cool heights. Sir, I have before me merchant princes who dwell in Bombay, who dwell in Calcutta; I have before me eminent professional people, like Mr. Norton, who do not hesitate to come down to the plains when a tempting fee is offered. The pleaders of the High Court do their work in Bombay and in Calcutta in May and June. Is Delhi, the seat of so many Emperors, so bad as it is represented? I am rather surprised that people from the Punjab should rise to oppose this motion. What would have been your plight if you had been in Simla when the Punjab was shedding its tears? Would you have been in the heights of Simla when all these transactions took place? Would you have been in a position to know merely from newspapers what was happening in Amritsar and other places? Is that the conception of our duty here as legislators to whom, as my Honourable friend put it, not only is legislation entrusted, but we are here to guide the Executive in the administration of government. If you had been in the cool heights of Simla when all these happenings took place, would you have been able to influence matters? Even in the plains, as you were, you were not able to do anything; in the hills you would have been in a much worse position. But, Sir, the question is not of money; it is not a question of putting up one building or several buildings that you have begun. Once for all we should determine in this Assembly that we are of the people, we are working for the people and we will stay with them and do our work for them, guided by them and controlled by them. Otherwise, when you are in the cool heights, you won't get first hand information; you will have to depend on newspapers for knowledge. And which newspaper will you take? The *Leader* or the *Independent*; the *Times* or the *Bombay Chronicle*; would you take the *Hindu* or *New India*; the *Lengalee* or the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*? All this is mere specious argument and special pleading which we are all accustomed to as lawyers. As deliberative and responsible people assembled here, let us not adopt these devices, but let us put the question to our conscience and to our hearts and ask ourselves are we really voicing the feelings of the people when we say we shall go to the heights of Simla and legislate and carry on administration there. There can be but one answer given if we put the question plainly and fairly to them. Therefore, Sir, let us forget ourselves; let us not

forget that we are mortal ; let us remember that we will disappear from this Assembly in another year or two. The decision you come to will be taken hold of afterwards.

As my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarma, said, the new Viceroy will be here soon ; and I say, Sir, and I say it with all the emphasis at my command, that we should have no doubt on the question as to whether this Assembly will go to Simla. I say that we should not go to Simla for the purposes of carrying on the legislation of this country. Whatever the Executive Government may do, let us not set a bad example to them. Let us turn them from the bad example they have already followed. Let us not be written down as insincere, let not the public say that we promised to do one thing but have done another. Let not that be written against the Assembly, and, therefore, I earnestly appeal to the Members of this Assembly ; let us not be drawn away, let us face this important question squarely and fairly and above all, let us come to the right conclusion. One Honourable Member said that we could not do as good work in the plains. Surely that is not so. I have greater confidence in Mr. Spence and I would expect the same amount of work from him here as in Simla. The same thing applies to my Honourable friend, Dr. Nand Lal. I do not think he would fall asleep when appearing before Judges on the plains. As regards the clerks, I do not think that is a very difficult question because it can be quite easily managed.

It was suggested that we were going to work all the year round. If that is so, then I am afraid that Government work will not get on at all. Then someone suggested that we should wait for the views of the new Viceroy. By all means, but I think it would be better if he were to find this Assembly here. Delhi has been chosen as the Capital of this country, and surely there is no reason for going back on that decision. Already we have spent lakhs upon lakhs. That may be. But let us spend more, if need be, upon the new Secretariat and the new Council Chamber and the new houses. Make them comfortable and habitable and then you will have no reason to complain. I object to the policy of Government of spending 80 or 90 lakhs and keeping up a costly establishment. But I strongly urge upon the Government to spend more on New Delhi. It will really reduce the expenditure in the future and it will go to making the new buildings habitable. We have chosen Delhi, we have sunk lakhs in Delhi, now let us see that those lakhs have been sunk for the proper purpose for which they were provided. Why not set apart year by year, 10 lakhs, or 20 lakhs for that matter, for sinking fund, and interest and find more capital, let us then show that we can work down in the plains, down in Delhi, and do our work just as good as if we were in Simla.

If I have spoken feelingly on this matter, please forgive me, but I do think that there is a great issue at stake and that a very great responsibility rests upon this Assembly.

**Mr. Eardley Norton:** Sir, we have had from two opposite benches, two very oratorical representations of two converse cases, both stated with equal ability. One from my Honourable friend behind me who is a Hindu and who has been mistaken for a Muhammadan, and the other from my Honourable friend, Dr. Nand Lal who also is a Hindu but has not yet been mistaken for a Muhammadan. These gentlemen have pleaded their causes each with marked effect. For myself, on this point I feel absolutely neutral. For years I have been amongst those who have insisted with a loud voice that Government should not legislate from the clouds of Simla, that they should

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not sit there for 7 months in the year but should come down and do their work, as other men—quite as good and efficient do it—in the plains. I cannot for a moment accept the theory that better work can be done in the hills than on the plains. I have myself been in this country for 43 years, and I have spent nearly 40 years in the plains, where much good work is done in the hot weather.

There can be no doubt whatever, that whereas other High Courts adjourn for May and June, the Judges of the High Court in Calcutta sit continuously through the heat till August and do much of their best work during the hot weather, except of course when they are asleep.

I think the argument that we cannot do good work in the plains is an argument which is beside the fact. Some of the very best work in India is done in the plains. To turn for one moment from lawyers to merchants, we have representatives here from Karachi, and Bombay, and Calcutta, who are living examples of how men who work hard in the plains can in a comparatively short time roll up their millions. Therefore, I reject the suggestion that you cannot do good work in the plains. I am, however, torn, between two conflicting emotions, as represented by the two champions of Simla and Delhi. The two emotions are these. I should like personally very much to go to the hills, if only for the purpose of seeing there the pathetic and humorous picture of two learned legal doctors upon two little horses riding from Longwood Hotel to the Assembly Hall and possibly falling off in the journey more than once, arrayed in long grey coats and tall white hats. That is a picture which almost irresistibly draws me to Simla. Then, on the other hand, when I think of the other and more pathetic picture of possibly being called upon, although I wish him long life, prematurely to attend the funeral of Dr. Nand Lal in Delhi, I admit I am strongly tempted towards the plains.

It seems to me that the best and most honest course is to do what the lady in the Bible did—to declare to whatever majority happens to carry either side of this Resolution to-day, 'Thy God shall be my God, whether thou goest I will go.' I shall follow the majority with public satisfaction if with private regret, for I shall feel, that if I come here, it will not be in the heat—I do not for a moment apprehend that Government are going to bring us down in May and June for the purpose of our Legislative functions. We shall be brought down, I have no doubt, at a far more reasonable period of the year. If, however, I am taken to Simla, I shall feel that there is some pleasant life to be found there too, that, say what you will, the climate there is certainly more attractive than the climate here. But, after all, these are personal considerations for I think that as a matter of fact we can work just as well here as we can elsewhere and I do feel there is much force in what my friends, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar and Mr. Rangachariar have said on their plea for Delhi. It comes to me with a curious though not uneffective shock that the Honourable Mr. Sarma, who after having upheld one proposition for five and twenty years should now stand up and publicly retract his views because he has shifted from a Congress man to an official, thus acclimatising himself to that system of life which for so many long years while in opposition he has so strongly denounced. There is little more to be said about this. Is the voting upon his decision to determine the issue whether we are to go to Simla or to stay here? That issue appears to me

at present to be somewhat clouded and obscure. The Resolution merely says you shall not spend money upon building an Assembly Chamber at Simla. It makes no reference to our visit to Simla or to the alternative of legislating here. An Honourable Member in this House may quite logically vote that we should not spend money on the building in Simla and yet not commit himself to an official visit to Simla in the future. If the matter, as I understand, is going to be decided by the voting on this Resolution, the vote will determine the question as to whether or not we are to go to Simla. Well, I shall be very curious to watch the result of this debate; I shall be very curious to scan the lists when they come out, and see which way men who have given us their opinion for many years are going to vote; whether when the real temptation comes, of having a jaunt up to Simla at Government expense, they will turn their backs on their former utterances and adhere in rigid virtue to Delhi or whether they will in recollection of their long assertion of what they called their principles, do what Mr. Rangachariar asks them to do, and, throwing their own alleged conveniences aside, sacrifice all other considerations to the duty of enforcing the declared wishes of their constituents. For myself, I shall not vote.

**Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Sir, I do not wish to remain neutral. I deem it necessary for me to decide whether I should vote for Delhi or for Simla. There is no danger of my being torn between the two champions of these two causes in this House. And I shall feel least inclined to attend the funeral of Dr. Nand Lal here in Delhi or go to Simla to see the pathetic processions spoken of by my Honourable friend, Mr. Eardley Norton. It is a very grave question for me, and I have pondered it carefully enough. I am wholeheartedly for the principle involved in the proposal that has been put forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar. I only regret that he has not gone far enough and urged that it is necessary and absolutely necessary that the Government themselves should not migrate to Simla in order to do their administrative work there. The poor taxpayers are already being bled to death. I must record my protest against the migration of Government being encouraged in this House. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the people are unanimous that there should be no migration to the hills. The migration is costly and the people cannot stand the expense. There is another reason why we should not be far away from our chief place of action, namely, Delhi. We should be in touch with the people. Take, for instance what transpired at Amritsar. In the circumstances proximity to the Government in Delhi must have been coveted by the people of Amritsar. But, nevertheless, I would not play to the gallery as my Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar, has done. He seeks to make out that he alone is a true patriot. My feeling is, that he would be anything but a patriot who in the present circumstances advocates that the Assembly should not meet at Simla. Our Viceroy and our Government would be at Simla. It would cost the Government a great deal to come down to Delhi to organise meetings of the Indian Legislature. And, as my friend, the Honourable Mr. Sarma, has rightly pointed out, we should not deny ourselves the opportunities that may be afforded to us of coming in contact with the Viceroy and the Government for concerting necessary action for the good of the country which we have at heart and which we represent in this House. I am strongly of opinion that at any rate for this year we should go to Simla, and that, in so doing, I would not for a moment lose sight of the interests of the people. It has been very

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rightly said that there should be houses provided for the Members of the Assembly as also for Members of the Council of State both in Delhi and in Simla. So long as the Government keep at Simla, it is necessary that it should be possible for us, whenever called upon, to go there and meet for the transaction of business. My Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, has said that we should keep in Delhi and sit at a stretch for six months. That is, I think, a very unpractical proposal, and ought not to find favour with this Honourable House. You are certainly not going to confine this Assembly to those who have retired from business and have nothing else to do. Those who are actively engaged in the work of life should also be afforded an opportunity of representing their country, if the country should have confidence in them. One must be constructive, and must put forward a proposal which will meet the requirements of the situation. If you cannot do that, pray do not oppose the demands that have been made by the Government.

**Mr. Amjad Ali:** I move, Sir, that the question be now put.

**Mr. E. L. Price:** Sir, as the debate seems waxing warm, perhaps, the House will be glad to hear something of my well-known softness and moderation. I am not, Sir, afflicted with a Past in this matter. There is no *chela* that can rise up and rebuke me for what I said yesterday, and I do not know that I feel particularly inclined to take any decision now for to-morrow. But Dr. Sapru has actually put me in some difficulty. I understood him or Mr. Sarma to say that out of Rs. 5,64,000 required for building this Chamber, over four lakhs has been spent.

**The Honourable Mr. B. N. Sarma:** The total is ten lakhs. Nearly four lakhs have been spent and Rs. 5,64,000 will have to be spent.

**Mr. E. L. Price:** I could not follow that. There is then altogether a sum of ten lakhs being expended for building a Council Chamber in Simla. Nearly half the money has been already spent and we have got to decide now whether we vote the rest of the money and complete the building or whether we do not. But the difficulty that the Honourable Dr. Sapru has introduced into this question, to my mind, is first this, that he proposes that the Executive Members of Government shall stand aside. I do not know *why* they should exclude themselves from the division. They have every right to vote, and I think it is a most objectionable principle that any Member of this Assembly, whatever his position, should decline to exercise the vote that he is entitled to, on any consideration. Perhaps it is because he puts it to the House, as I understand him, that the vote on this subject will be submitted to His Excellency Lord Reading when he arrives, and the consequence of our vote may affect future arrangements. But the difficulty is, that the vote that we give on this question, in my opinion, has got nothing to do with the Simla question. You have simply started a building, you have spent four lakhs on it, and common-sense dictates that you should put up a roof over it. If you do not, what is going to happen to our four lakhs of rupees in brick or stone or whatever there is below? Are you going to sink four lakhs of money in order to make a picturesque ruin? So that, it seems to me from the point of view of Dr. Sapru's suggestion, I do not know how to vote. I want to vote. But when he tells me, that if I vote and complete the building which is nearly half done, my

vote will mean that it is put on record and shown to the Viceroy that I want to stay for ever at Simla, how can I vote? Dr. Sapru has put me in the greatest difficulty and I hope, that that difficulty will be removed for all Members.

**Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas :** I thought after the most eloquent speech of my friend, Mr. Rangachariar, there was no need for any one to speak, and that the motion on being put to vote would be accepted by a large majority of the House, I mean the motion of reduction which has been brought forward by my friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar. But it seems to me that there is still a little opposition, and I cannot understand the reason why. It seems to me, Sir, that Dr. Nand Lal, instead of looking upon himself as a part of the circumference of the country, looks upon himself as the centre of the circle and would so arrange things that everything should contribute to his comfort. I want to assure him that in this House in Delhi, even though we may be invited here in summer, we shall have the fans trying to keep the heat away from us. We shall have soft seats which certainly will make us less uncomfortable, and I do not know that there is anything in the argument that we shall be unable to work in summer if we are invited, and if the idea of going to Simla were dropped. I want Dr. Nand Lal to remember, that while we, who claim to be the representatives of the people, bring forward these small objections and say, that if we are not provided with proper comfort and if we are not taken to Simla, we shall be unable to work—while we are engaged in doing that, there are people in the country to-day who are prepared to do their work at a sacrifice in the worst of warm days.

I do not agree with their views, but I do say, Sir, that if the people decide to follow them and not follow us, it will be our own fault, it will be the fault of the objections that we bring forward here against sitting in summer in Delhi. I want to remind Dr. Nand Lal of what took place last year. There was a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee in Benares on the 30th of May. The attendance was full. In Benares we had no soft seats of this character. We had no fans to give us comfort. We had to sit there on bentwood chairs from 7 O'clock in the morning till about 11 O'clock at night and, Sir, there was not a single person who objected to that. Then again there was a meeting on the 1st of June in Allahabad . . . .

**Dr. Nand Lal :** With the permission of the Chair, may I ask my Honourable friend for how many days he attended that meeting?

**Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas :** I attended all the meetings. There was not a single day on which I was not present. These meetings went on for 5 or 6 days altogether. But I want to say this, Sir, in Allahabad there was a meeting not only of most of the members of the Congress Committee and of the Khilafat Committee but among those present was my Honourable friend, Dr. Sapru, who stands up to take a neutral attitude on the question but also confronts us with a difficulty which has been referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Price. Now, Sir, I ask those who are raising these frivolous objections against having our sittings in Delhi throughout the year, whether they are acting in the interests of their constituents, whether they are acting in the interests of their own countrymen, when they are allowing the masses of their countrymen to fall into the hands of those whose propaganda we are rightly objecting to but some of whom have got the spirit of self-sacrifice not to mind the discomforts of weather. I think we shall be ill doing our duty to our countrymen, and to our constituents if we allow these personal

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considerations of a very unimportant character to come in the way of performing our duty to those whom we represent here. It will not affect us whether we go to Simla or not. It will not affect us much but surely it is going to affect the country in many ways, as has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar and by my friend, Mr. Rangachariar. I do not intend to go into those objections again but I shall deal with the difficulty that has been placed before us by Dr. Sapru. He says, if you do not vote for the grant, then the money we have spent, about 4 lakhs, is wasted! I ask those who bring these objections, 'whose fault will it be if this money is wasted?' We are not responsible for your having spent the money. I am told that it was not the Imperial Legislative Council but a few Members of that Council who were informally consulted by Sir Claude Hill and every one of them agreed to that money being spent. Well, Sir, I shall come forward and say, that I am not even responsible and I am sure the Members of this House are not responsible for the sins of their predecessors or of a number of them.

**Mr. E. L. Price:** But we have taken over their obligations.

**Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas:** As a matter of fact, I would allow this 4 lakhs to be wasted rather than allow 10 lakhs to be wasted and set an example to those who are in the habit of spending the people's money uselessly and teach them a lesson not to trifle with the money that belongs to the people in the manner in which they have done before. I am sorry, Sir, that I have to speak out, but I do feel that on this question, where public opinion entirely supports the view that has been taken by my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, this House will have ill-deserved the trust that has been placed in us by our constituents if you go directly against the wishes of the people, if we flout their views and vote for going to Simla.

I share the surprise, Sir, that has been caused to my Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar, at the attitude that the Honourable Mr. Sarma has taken up on this question. I do not want to refer to it, but I do say that all the arguments that he has placed before us have, so far as I am concerned, proved absolutely unconvincing.

I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

**The Honourable Mr. B. N. Sarma:** May I offer a word of explanation, Sir? I never expressed an opinion as regards the holding of meetings of the Legislative Council in Simla *versus* Delhi at any time, and, with regard to Madras, I say, the conditions were different and the points in issue were different.

**Dr. Nand Lal:** May I ask, Sir, for special permission to give replies to each and every argument which has been brought forward.

**The Honourable the President:** Order, order.

**Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha:** Sir, it seems to me that the discussion is rather going off the rails. If Mr. Rangachariar, whose patriotism and eloquence I much admire, had only kept to the proposition before the Assembly, he might have been able to assist us far better than by the speech which he has made. The proposition is simply this. The Government have

commenced the building of a Council Chamber at Simla which is to cost 10 lakhs of rupees and they have spent, I understand, about 4½ lakhs of rupees. They now come before us and ask for sanction for the remaining 5½ lakhs. My friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, taking advantage of this, raises a debate upon the desirability of holding the session of the Assembly in Simla or in Delhi. For my part, Sir, I deprecate an effort being made of that character on a proposition in the Budget. It has been urged that the question is an important one; I concede, it is. Let this matter be discussed thoroughly in the Assembly by way of a Resolution of general public interest, and then, if the Assembly after full discussion voted upon it, I am sure, the Government would respect the wishes of the Assembly. But when the Government come forward and say: 'Here we are building a Chamber for you and we have spent half the money, grant us the other half for its completion,' to raise a debate in that particular form does not seem to me very commendable.

I will put it to my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, in this way. Supposing his proposition is accepted and the Assembly to-day decline to grant this money to the Government, what would be the effect of it? Is he prepared to maintain as a lawyer that constitutionally the Governor General would be debarred from summoning a session of the Assembly at Simla? If he contends that the Governor General will be debarred, then, surely, there is some force in his amendment, but, if the acceptance of the amendment will not debar Lord Reading from summoning a session of the Assembly at Simla, then, there is no point whatever in the amendment. Supposing we voted for this particular amendment and Lord Reading summoned a meeting of the Assembly at Simla in the old building or in some other building or even under a *shamiana*, will it lie in our mouth to contend that the Governor General cannot do that. Certainly not. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that legally, the amendment, even if accepted by this Assembly, will not really concede to us the reform that Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar desires, or in any way conclude the matter. That being so, the only proposition is whether we shall vote this grant to enable the building to be completed, or whether we shall leave it roofless. My own feeling is, that the building, having been commenced, should be completed. If afterwards we decide that we shall not go to Simla at all but shall always meet at Delhi or some other place, I am sure the Government will be able to apply the building to some other purpose. There is no sense, I submit, in insisting that a building, half completed, shall remain roofless, and, therefore, without raising any larger issues, I would ask the House to vote the grant asked for.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank:** Sir, perhaps it will assist the Members of this Honourable Assembly if I just give them a few plain facts in connection with this case. They are as follows:

The Government of India has a certain amount of accommodation up in Simla and a certain amount down at Delhi, but at neither place is it sufficient for the whole of the offices of the Government of India. Later on, say in 5 years' time, if we are given more funds annually to accelerate the construction of the new Capital, or in 7 years' time if we continue at the present rate of about one crore a year, we shall have accommodation for the Government of India in Delhi. For the present it is more or less obligatory for the Government to be divided between Delhi and Simla, and as regards this particular motion I would point out, that so far as the Government of India are concerned, the building is required, whether it is occupied for the summer

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session of this House or not. In other words, at the present moment, in order to find sufficient accommodation for the offices of the Government of India we have to hire houses, for which we pay a rental of about one lakh of rupees per annum. Now, this particular building, as the Honourable Mr. Sarma pointed out to you, has been so designed that if it is not put into use for the summer session of the Legislative Assembly it would then be used for offices and in that way it would save a very large recurring expenditure which is now wasted in hiring houses in Simla.

Another point for consideration in connection with the motion before the House is, that I gathered from certain expressions which were used at a previous debate on the opening day of the Budget discussion that the Members of the Council of State were by no means satisfied with their present quarters in Metcalfe House. That dissatisfaction applied to cold weather conditions. Now, Sir, I would ask the Members of this House to put themselves in the position of the Members of the Council of State who would have to sit in their present Chamber which, we will say, is wholly unsuitable, though through no fault of the Public Works Department, I may add—during the hot weather months. I have already been asked to furnish re-designs and estimates for the reconstruction of the Council Chamber at Metcalfe House. As far as I can make out, that alone is an item of about one lakh of rupees; so that, if it is decided to hold the coming hot weather session of the two Chambers here, we have to set about spending another lakh of rupees on the Council of State Chamber, and also we should require to spend a considerable sum of money to make the Members more comfortable out at Raisina. This, in the time at our disposal, is not a practical proposition. As I pointed out, if you take it from a practical P. W. D. point of view, it will take a matter of 7 years to get ourselves settled down at Delhi. When that has been accomplished, there is apparently no reason at all why the sessions should not be held altogether in Delhi.

But for the time being it seems to me a practical suggestion that the summer session should be held at any rate for one year at Simla during the summer months in order to give the Public Works Department time to rebuild the Metcalfe House Council Chamber and complete the programme for the construction of quarters for Honourable Members out at Raisina. If it is decided by this Assembly, that the sessions should then take place in Delhi, the Chamber for which I have asked for the remaining six lakhs in order to complete it, will then be of extremely great value to the Government of India for accommodating their offices. As it is, if we were to stop work on the building now during the coming rains, the whole of that four lakhs of rupees would be practically thrown away. We should in ordinary common-sense require to temporarily roof over the unfinished portions of the building in order to protect them from the weather and if that be the case, we might just as well put a roof on which we could make good use of.

**Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh:** Sir, after the very convincing speech of the Honourable Mr. Sarma, the question raised by these motions must have been considered to be finally settled. His remarks were so convincing, that as far as these demands are concerned, this Assembly should most decidedly vote in support of them although it has been very strongly urged by Mr. Jannadas Dwarkadas that the interest of the tax-payers require that we should refuse this grant and that we should teach a lesson to those who

have ill-spent the money. I beg leave to disagree with his view. I fail to understand how and in what way the tax-payer will be benefited if this grant were refused and how we will be able to teach any lesson to those who are responsible. No one alleges here for a moment that those who were responsible had no right to do what they did. There can be no doubt that they had a right to do it, and they have commenced the building. Now it is very obvious that it would be very unwise for this House to reject the demand for these buildings and give a chance to the world to say 'Here are the buildings standing without any roofs', and thus bring eternal disgrace upon this Assembly. As far as the question of Delhi and Simla is concerned, it was urged by the first speaker that there was no precedent in the whole world in favour of having two houses at two places. I am not quite convinced that precedents can be of very much use in a matter like this, which depends upon the circumstances, as has been rightly pointed out by Dr. Nand Lal. But even if precedents are required, I think we need not go far. It is a matter of common history that the Emperor Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb summered in Kashmir, not in Delhi, and similarly with the other Kings. So it is perfectly clear that from time immemorial, from the Mughal Emperors' time downwards, those Emperors could not do work in the scorching heat of Delhi.

I do not see how we are going to assist the tax-payers' interests by voting against Simla. In Simla as we all know crores and crores of rupees have been spent on various buildings, Viceregal Lodge, Secretariat and so forth. If Simla is abandoned this year or next year, as it is hinted, then that loss will be borne by the tax-payers, and those who vote against Simla will be held responsible for it. There is only one factor that determines the whole question. Nobody says, that in Delhi and even perhaps in warmer climates you will not be able to work or that it will be impossible to work; nobody says that. The question is, whether you cannot do your work better in Simla; that is the point. In Benares, my friend had the advantage of sitting by the Ganges river; and he had the advantage of the breezes that blow there; and perhaps it may be said that here we have the Jumna close to us. But I do not know how many of those gentlemen who are opposed to Simla have actually seen Simla, though I dare say, many of them have and the others have not. The point is not realised that the Simla climate is decidedly far better suited for doing a lot of work. It is for this reason and for this reason alone, that the Government of India long long ago decided in favour of Simla. It is perfectly true, that in the old days heavy expenses were incurred; but since the railway connection with Simla, those expenses have been reduced to reasonable dimensions, and nobody should grudge these things when we consider the amount of work that can be done there and the amount of energy that can be applied to this very important work.

Therefore, Sir, as it is very late I do not want to inflict a very long speech on this Assembly. I shall conclude by saying, that Simla is decidedly more convenient, more healthy and more fit for doing better work, and as has been rightly pointed out by our Deputy President, there is absolutely nothing to prevent His Excellency the Governor General summoning a meeting there. Then, it was said, that property in Simla is rising in value. We would not suffer. We would be spending money for the benefit of the tax-payer if we grant this demand. Whether we spend 4 lakhs or 10 lakhs, it is quite possible that after two or three years we might be able to regain

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20 lakhs. For these reasons, I earnestly beg the members of this Assembly very strongly to vote in favour of Simla.

**Mr. Eardley Norton:** I rise to a point of order, Sir. I wish to know if Government will tell us definitely whether they intend to treat this as a vote on our exodus or as a vote on the money grant.

**Chaudhuri Shahab-ud-Din:** With the permission of the Chair, I may say that one of the members was permitted to move a Resolution whether the exodus to Simla should be stopped or not. Therefore, that is the first point to be decided, and the question of grant comes afterwards.

**Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally:** Sir, the time is up and there are many members who wish to speak on the subject, and I think this is not a question that should be rushed through.

**The Honourable the President:** Order, order, I think the Honourable Member better wait until he hears the answer of Government to the question put by Mr. Eardley Norton.

**The Honourable Sir William Vincent:** Sir, from the speech of the Honourable Dr. Sapru I thought it was clear that the real point for decision was whether the Legislative Session this year was to be held here or in Simla.

**Mir Asad Ali Khan Bahadur:** There is a separate motion for it, and this motion relates merely to the grant for building a Chamber in Simla, and so it must be decided whether this motion applies to it or also to the exodus.

**The Honourable Sir William Vincent:** Mr. Eardley Norton asked me what the view of the Government was. I understood from Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar's speech that he wanted to ask for a reduction of this demand as an indirect method of raising the whole question.

**Mr. Eardley Norton:** I am not quite sure which way Government intend to treat the question. Their decision may affect our votes.

**The Honourable Sir William Vincent:** Having regard to what Dr. Sapru has said, I think Government should treat the vote as a decision on the main question.

**Dr. Gour:** Only the general question should be treated, and that for this year.

**The Honourable the President:** I may point out for the information of this House, as a matter of procedure, that the motion brought forward by Dr. Gour was deliberately postponed on that basis.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** Sir, it is rather unfair to the Assembly that the issues should have been mixed up, and the complaint made on this score is entirely justified, because so much pathos and eloquence has been thrown into the debate and so much sentiment has been expressed that anybody voting in favour of this motion will be branded as unpatriotic.

**The Honourable the President:** I put it to the Assembly that the matter can be met if the question of principle is decided by the Honourable Member merely putting a reduction of Rs. 500 instead of Rs. 5 lakhs. His question of principle will then be met and a separate vote can still be taken on the points put forward by Sir Sydney Crookshank.

**Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar:** Sir, I was just going to mention, before accepting the suggestion thrown out by you, that there is a good deal of misapprehension as regards this waste of money. What I said was that the Rs. 5,64,500 should not be spent upon this building as a Legislative Assembly Chamber. It has been pointed out by Sir Sydney Crookshank and by Sir William Vincent, that the building is so designed that it can be utilised for other purposes. Therefore, if we veto the grant of money for the purpose of making it an Assembly Chamber, it will still be open to the Honourable the Finance Member to come to us and ask for a supplementary grant that the building may be so constructed as to be useful for other purposes. Consequently, there will not be in the least any waste of money. I think that point has been missed by every member who has spoken. I hope that Mr. Price is satisfied on this point; because the building is such that it can be used for other purposes and the Government, which is now renting buildings at a cost of Rs. 1,00,000, could come to us and say they want to build it and to use it for another purpose. The question of waste of money would not then arise.

But, Sir, as you have pointed out, I am willing that the principle should be debated now and am willing to reduce the amount; but I believe it is hardly worth while doing that in view of what I have just explained to the House.

**The Honourable Mr. Shafi:** Sir, with reference to the explanation given by Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar, may I point out that if the motion which is now before the House is accepted, the item of Rs. 5 lakhs drops out of the Budget altogether, so that there will not be a single pie left in the Budget to erect this building whether as an Assembly Chamber or as an office.

**The Honourable the President:** I understand the Honourable Member from Madras is ready to accept my suggestion that the vote of the Assembly be taken on a small reduction put as a matter of principle, and that that vote to be taken by the Government as an indication of the will of the Assembly.

The question is that leave be given to the Honourable Member to withdraw the motion as originally put.

The motion was adopted.

The question I now have to put is :

'That the provision of Rs. 5,64,500 for building a Council Chamber for the Legislative Assembly in Simla be reduced by Rs. 100.'

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** I was saying, Sir, that the issue had been very much clouded by having matter brought into it which is not really germane. I specially take exception to Mr. Jamnadas' remarks that we had better waste these Rs. 4 lakhs than accept the principle that we should migrate to Simla. I do not agree with him there at all. There is this aspect of the question to be looked at. I want to make it clear that by these remarks I should not be understood to be favouring the migration to Simla; but still, in fairness, there are certain considerations which should be borne in mind. If

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our predecessors were consulted by Sir Claude Hill, I think it was absolutely necessary for them to give their opinion at that time, and Mr. Jamnadas is not justified in complaining that they sold us . . . . .

**Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas:** I never said that.

**Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** I was merely using a phrase, but what he said was 'let it be a lesson to somebody that such kind of waste should not be perpetrated'. I suppose that this particular aspect of the question has not been considered at all, that some provision had to be made in advance before we could find an opportunity of expressing our opinion on the subject. Now supposing that Government had not made any provision and this Assembly had come to the decision that we should continue the practice of migrating to Simla, what would have been the result? The result would have been that we should have given the Government a dressing down. We should have said—what is this? You have not looked ahead, you have not made enough provision for our stay in Simla, and the Government would then have been unable to give a satisfactory reply. They did not know that the Assembly were going to vote against Simla, and therefore I say that their action in the matter with regard to this part of the question was perfectly justified. Whatever our decision may be even if our ultimate decision is that we do not migrate to Simla, I say that the action of the Government in spending the money that has been spent in advance, after having consulted the authoritative bodies that existed before us, was perfectly right. That being so, I think that all those other considerations which have been brought forward, and all the pros and cons that have been discussed as regards Delhi *versus* Simla, do not arise.

I was hoping that after Sir William Vincent had proposed a very reasonable compromise, this Assembly would have been in a reasonable temper to accept that compromise without committing itself one way or the other to any decision; that in view of the fact that all this money has been spent already, we might at least accept the situation that this year we go to Simla and then afterwards, if the decision of the House is that the exodus should be knocked on the head, stay here. I myself think that that was a very good solution of the problem.

Now I think that it would have been more advantageous if a Resolution had been moved in this Assembly entirely dealing with this question as to whether it is desirable to migrate to Simla or not. As it is, the debate has already been diverted into a wrong channel and passions have been aroused, and appeals to patriotism have been made, and accusations have been launched like that by Mr. Rangachariar's that the Honourable Mr. Sarma had once belonged to the party which held one opinion, but now that he had become an official of Government, he held another. I think that sort of thing is quite unnecessary. And a good deal of this opinion has been created by the Press in large places like Bombay and Calcutta, and I am afraid that most of the opinions which have been expressed here in favour of remaining in Delhi have been influenced by the Press. This is a mistake, because I think we ought to have the courage of our own convictions—(cries of hear! hear!)—and we should not blindly be guided by laying too much stress upon what we see or read in the newspapers. We should not be afraid if we vote for migration to Simla of

what the Press will say, or whether they will give us a pouncing. This paper and that paper may come forward and say—'Oh! so and so suggested that such and such a thing should be done; but why worry about what the Press says? Have the courage of your own convictions. The merits of the question have not been properly discussed. Is it advantageous to the tax-payer or to the country?' That is the question.

The Honourable Mover started off by opening the debate and laying stress upon the question as to whether legislation should be carried on in the heights of Simla. The only opposite point he referred to—and several speakers have not even touched upon the question at all—was whether it would be of real advantage to the tax-payer, who, after all is the person who counts, and of real advantage to the country.

The only point that was made by Mr. Rangachariar was that when the Government were in the hills, they were not in touch with public opinion. Then Mr. Seshagiri Aiyer said that the Mesopotamia blunder would not perhaps have been perpetrated but for the migration of the Executive Government to Simla.

But that did not touch the issue at all because the question before us is not of the Executive Government having to go to Simla but the Legislative Assembly, and so far as the Legislative Assembly is concerned, it is not concerned with the Executive Government at all. So that argument is not relevant at all. Then it was also said that there is no newspaper in Simla. There is no 'Independent,' there is no 'Leader,' there is no 'Statesman.' What of that? Why cannot we have all these papers? Does anybody reasonably believe that we shall not be influenced by public opinion in Simla while we shall be influenced in Delhi? I cannot understand that argument at all. I complain, Sir, that on account of these false issues being raised, the whole debate has been diverted into wrong channels, and therefore we have not been able to give that cool, that calculating and unbiassed judgment to the question which it really deserves. The strongest speakers against Simla were Mr. Seshagiri Aiyer and Mr. Rangachariar. Mr. Rangachariar simply appealed to public opinion and appealed to the fact that by advocating the cause of Simla we would be surrendering our cause into the hands of the bureaucracy, but, beyond that vague complaint and protest, he did not go into the merits of the question to find out whether we would be serving the country or not. Of course, I do not deny that it will be possible to carry on the legislation of the Assembly in Delhi. Even Europeans have been living in the hottest parts of the country. That also is not the real issue. But for so many years business has been carried on in the hottest part of the year at Simla and other hill stations. Now, the real point is that you have to compare and decide which will be the better place to work in. There are two questions. One is the monetary question. Are we really causing a drain or overloading the tax-payer—the already burdened tax-payer—by this exodus to the hills or will the financial situation be exactly the same under both conditions? That is one question. The other question is, whether we will be serving the interests of efficiency by migrating to the hills. That is to say, what does not appear to you to be a direct and tangible gain will be an indirect gain in the long run. That was the point that was made by Dr. Nand Lal and some other gentlemen. I think it is quite obvious that if you work in a climate where you can work for a long time, where you can keep your head cool, then you will be turning out better work. Although the

[ Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas. ]

results will not appeal to you in a very visible form, but there will be indirect results in the long run. It is no argument to say that it is not impossible to work in the plains. Yes, it is possible to work in the plains, as it is possible to turn out bad work as against good work. That is also possible. Then, I submit, Sir, that for all these considerations it is in the interests of the tax-payer that we should legislate in the hills. The suggestion that was made that for five months at a stretch we can sit in Delhi, is one that has been, I think, very successfully refuted by Honourable Members, for you do not expect leisurely men to come here, but men of business who shall certainly devote part of their time to this business and the rest to their own. You will make the conditions very impracticable if you make people stay for six months at a stretch over legislation, and I think that will not be businesslike at all. That being so, if you have to do work for five or six months, then, I think, the work will be more efficiently done if you have some part of the work transacted at Simla. Then, another question that was raised was that means of transportation, means of locomotion at Simla were very faulty. That is not correct. As Dr. Nand Lal pointed out, you do not require the services of motor cars and other conveyances there and you can also easily get rickshaws if you are not inclined to walk. Somebody suggested that it was 6 or 7 miles to the Council Chamber, but I think he was corrected by some Government member who pointed out that it was only one or two miles. If you are not able to walk, there are rickshaws. So the question about conveyances is also laid at rest. Then another question is—it has been pointed out by the Government members that they acted rather in an economical spirit in having spent this money in advance because the value of property in Simla, as we all know, has been rising by leaps and bounds. It would be unwise not to take the opportunity of any sale of property that is taking place there, because, if you really require that property, later on you are not going to get it for the same price. You will have to pay afterwards twice or three times the price. Therefore, if you once acquire the property, then even if you come to the decision that the property is not going to be utilised for the purpose originally intended, you can very easily sell the property at very great profit. Sir, I have now spoken to the question of principle, because it was intended that this question of principle should also be debated. To sum up, I think that we are yielding to the particular weakness of surrendering our own judgment to that of newspapers. Otherwise I do not see much force in the argument against migration to the hills. We should have the courage of our convictions.

Now, as regards the merits of Simla and the heat in Delhi, I think that when people talk of Delhi heat being such that people cannot work without sleeping and dozing, I might tell you that Simla at that time of the hot weather is a paradise. If I were to say what Delhi would be like at that time, if I were to call it by its proper name, I would be guilty of unparliamentary language. There will be rain; there will be heat and you will have to come 7 or 8 miles to the Council from your homes—I think the best plan for the Government would be to give a dose of Delhi summer heat to the Members here, only one dose, and then they will at once come round to the view that we should all go to Simla next year and bring a Resolution to that effect.

**Bhai Man Singh :** I rise to a point of order, Sir. My point is whether we can discuss the principle of the Assembly going to Simla. If we are to discuss that point, I should like to draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that already this question was raised in a certain Resolution by Mr. Rangachariar or by Mr. Subramayam, I do not remember the name of the Honourable gentleman. This question was discussed at that time and after a certain understanding the Resolution was withdrawn. Under the rules, when a certain point has been discussed in the Assembly, I do not think we can reopen the question this Session, and therefore I do not think we are now justified in discussing the question of principle whether the Legislative Assembly should hold its summer Session at Delhi or at Simla. It was agreed that this point should be discussed next year when the members have had some experience of Simla and Delhi. So I do not think we can discuss the question now.

**The Honourable the President ;** Order, order. I think the discussion is quite in order.

**Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur :** Sir, I had no mind to speak at first. But after hearing my very judicious and learned friend Mr. Aiyar, and also my learned friend Mr. Rangachariar and Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas I am tempted to speak. The three gentlemen, who are all old, laid much stress on public opinion in this country that these learned gentlemen who have come here should spend all their time here in Delhi although the heat may be so intolerable that nobody will live at that time. My friend Mr. Aiyar has no experience of Delhi heat. He was telling me only the other day that if the Legislative Session continued in this manner, he did not think that he had made any bargain for one like that. Therefore, I say that if my friend who has no experience of Delhi comes here in the months of July or August, I think he will have to suffer a great deal. I have some experience of Delhi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and other places. I am not enamoured of Delhi or Simla. I would rather prefer my own village in the far interior of Bengal, and if I could, I would have a legislative house there. But the stars are against it, and Delhi is here, the Legislative Assembly is here, and for good or evil, the King has ordered that the Government should be at Delhi. At least for a generation we can never have the hope of removing this capital from Delhi. If I could, I would not remove it to Calcutta, but to Bombay, Madras, Nagpur, but never to Calcutta, for there will be difference of opinion. But, so far as Delhi is concerned, I mean the people of Delhi, they themselves are not very enamoured of it. Delhi is a very old city, and I had come here first in 1885, 1886, and again on the last Congress occasion, and I thought that Delhi had perhaps improved by the solicitude of the Imperial Government. But I must confess that Delhi is a place of malaria, I have had two attacks of malaria, and even now, I am with malaria. Therefore, I say that Delhi is not a place which I am enamoured of, nor am I enamoured of Simla.

Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar very soundly, and I have a great opinion for his sound judgment, says that the whole country is against it. Who will interpret the opinion of the country? There are certain newspapers who are against the Legislative Assembly itself. My friend, I should think, is a nominated member. Has he got the strength or the support of public opinion in his place to come to this House? Did not all the Madras papers, including the 'Hindu' and others denounce all those who offered themselves for election or

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who accepted nomination as traitors to the country? Therefore, I say that opinion outside the House should not be counted, but as Mr. Vishindas has said, we must have the courage of our conviction. Our friend, an eminent Judge of the High Court of Madras, did not deliver judgment looking to what the public would say, but he delivered judgment on the merits of each case. If we have to legislate here, we have to come to our decision upon the merits of each case, and not having regard to what the public opinion will say. There are some who say that the Members of the Legislative Assembly are really representative of the country, while there is a strong volume of opinion on the other hand, that the Members of the Legislative Assembly, whether elected, or non-elected or nominated, do not represent the country. Which is the public opinion? My friend Mr. Dwarkadas says that he wants to imitate the example of those who are outside the Council more than those inside. They live on four annas a day, travel third class and walk on foot. They do not drive in a motor car, no silk and chadar, no electric fans. That is the example of those outside the Council. I hope Mr. Dwarkadas will follow the example outside the House and live on four annas a day and travel third class. He wants the Legislative Assembly here in Delhi, but he wants the electric fans also. Do all these men outside the House have electric fans? My friend here pities at the sight of those who are not inside the House, but does he bear his own sight, because he wants all comforts and conveniences, ice-cream, electric fans and many other things in order to mitigate the heat of this place? Therefore, I say that this matter must not be decided on what the public opinion will say. I thought my Honourable friend Mr. Rangachariar was imitating Brutus in Julius Caesar. I cannot imitate either the judicial acumen of my friend Mr. Aiyar, or the incisive eloquence of Mr. Rangachariar, but I ask you to consider the question from a practical point of view. The matter has been taken up, already a building has been constructed.

I think my friend will agree with me that it will be far better for him to have brought this Resolution in a direct manner instead of, like a subtle and acute lawyer he is, of bringing it in an indirect manner and confounding the issue between this and the real point. We are perfectly at liberty to discuss this motion at any time. Let it be brought up in a regular manner. I am not for Simla or for Delhi. I am for my village home. What I say is let us keep an open mind on this matter and not adopt this Resolution, as I say, by a fluke.

**The Honourable the President:** The question is:

'That the provision of Rs. 5,64,500 for a Council Chamber at Simla be reduced by Rs. 100.'

AYES—21.

Ayer, Sir Sivaawamy.  
Ayyar, Mr. T. V. Seshagiri.  
Bajpai, Mr. S. P.  
Chaudhuri, Mr. J.  
Dwarkadas, Mr. J.  
Girdhardas, Mr. N.  
Gour, Dr. H. S.  
Iswar Saran, Mr.  
Jatkar, Mr. B. H. R.  
Jejeebhoy, Sir Jamestjee.  
Misra, Mr. Pyari Lal.

Mudaliar, Mr. Sambanda.  
Mukherjee, Babu J. N.  
Neogy, Babu Khitish Chandra.  
Norton, Mr. Eardley.  
Price, Mr. E. L.  
Rangachariar, Mr. Tiruvenkata.  
Rao, Mr. P. V. Srinivasa.  
Reddiyar, Mr. M. K.  
Samarth, Mr. N. M.  
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.

## NOES—67.

Abdulla, Mr. S. M.  
 Abdul Quadir, Maulvi.  
 Afaar-ul-Mulk Akram Hussain, Prince.  
 Agarwala, Lala G. L.  
 Ahmed, Mr. K.  
 Ahmed, Mr. Zahir-ud-din.  
 Amjad Ali, Mr.  
 Asjad-ul-lah, Maulvi Miyan.  
 Bagde, Mr. K. G.  
 Barua, Sujut Debi Charan.  
 Bhargava, Mr. J.  
 Bryant, Mr. J. F.  
 Cotelingam, Mr. J. P.  
 Crookshank, Sir Sydney.  
 Dalal, Sardar B. A.  
 Dentith, Mr. A. W.  
 Faiyaz Khan, Mr. Mahammad.  
 Fell, Sir Godfrey.  
 Gajjan Singh, Mr.  
 Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Mr. Chaudhuri.  
 Gidney, Lt.-Col. H. A. J.  
 Ginwala, Mr. P. P.  
 Gulab Singh, Sardar.  
 Ghulamilani, Sardar.  
 Habibullah, Mr. Mahomed.  
 Hajeebhoy, Mr. Mahomed.  
 Hullah, Mr. J.  
 Hussanally, Mr. W. M.  
 Hutchinson, Mr. H. N.  
 Ikramullah Khan, Mr. Mirza Md.  
 Innes, Mr. C. A.  
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.  
 Kabraji, Mr. J. K. N.  
 Keith, Mr. W. J.

Lakshmi Narayan Lal, Mr.  
 Latthe, Mr. A. B.  
 Mahmood Schampad, Mr.  
 Mahomed Hussain, Mr. A. B.  
 Majumdar, Mr. J. N.  
 Man Singh Bhai.  
 Maw, Mr. W. N.  
 McCarthy, Mr. Frank.  
 Mitter, Mr. D. K.  
 Muhammad Hussain, Mr. T.  
 Muhammad Ismail, Mr. S.  
 Nand Lal, Dr.  
 Nag, Mr. Girish Chandra.  
 Nayar, Mr. Kavalappera Muppil.  
 O'Donnell, Mr. S. P.  
 Pereival, Mr. P. E.  
 Pyari Lal, Mr.  
 Rahman, Munshi Abdul.  
 Ramji, Mr. M.  
 Renouf, Mr. W. C.  
 Sarfaraz Husain Khan, Mr.  
 Shah, Mr. Rajan Baksh.  
 Shahani, Mr. S. C.  
 Shahab-ud-Din, Mr. Chaudhri.  
 Singh, Mr. Baidyanath.  
 Sinha, Mr. S.  
 Sircar, Mr. N. C.  
 Sohan Lal Mr.  
 Spence, Mr. R. A.  
 Subzposh, Mr. S. M. Zahid Ali.  
 Ujagar Singh, Baba Bedi.  
 Vishindas, Mr. Harchandrai.  
 Waghorn, Colonel W. D.

The motion was negatived.

**The Honourable the President:** Do I understand that Dr. Gour wishes to continue the discussion on amendment No. 20 in the agenda?

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** No, Sir.

Amendment No. 20 :

'That the provision of Rs. 74,000 for the extension of Longwood Hotel, Simla, be omitted (page 207)'  
 was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Amendment No. 21 :

'That the sum of Rs. 1,12,000 provided for quarters for the non-official Members of the Council be omitted'  
 was also, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn; as also Nos. 22 and 23, respectively :

No. 22. 'That the provision of the sum of Rs. 5,64,500 for building a Council Chamber for the Legislative Assembly in Simla be omitted; and

No. 23. 'That the provision of Rs. 5,64,500 for a Council Chamber at Simla be omitted.'

**Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Iyer:** I withdraw the next motion standing in my name.\*

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

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** I withdraw my motion†, Sir.

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

**The Honourable the Resident:** The question is:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'Civil Works.'

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Tuesday, the 15th March 1921.

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\* 'That the provision for Rs. 59,000 for adding a second storey to the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Nagpur, be omitted.'

† 'That the demand under head Civil Works (No. 48) be reduced by 6 lakhs.'