

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 29th AUGUST, 1934.

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 29th August, 1934.

SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

His Excellency the Viceroy having arrived in procession with the Presidents of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly took his seat on the Dais at Eleven of the Clock.

His Excellency The Viceroy : Gentlemen, in greeting Honourable Members this morning after my short holiday, I need hardly tell you how delighted I am to be amongst you once again, to find you still engaged in your strenuous labours on behalf of India, and to take this opportunity of thanking you all for the assistance you have given to my Government during the past four years in passing into law the many very important measures that have been brought before you during the period of the life of this Parliament which will shortly be coming to a close.

In a message communicated to you on the 6th March, 1933, I announced my decision to extend the duration of the existing Assembly for such period as might seem expedient in the light of the conditions prevailing when the time came actually to effect the extension, and on the 22nd December, 1933, I announced an extension up to the 31st December, 1934. The question whether the duration of the Assembly should be further extended beyond that date required and received my anxious consideration, and I finally reached the conclusion, the propriety of which has, I am glad to believe, been very generally recognised, that in all the circumstances of the case no further extension should be granted.

I am sure that you would wish, and here I can speak with all sincerity on behalf of my Honourable Colleagues, that I should express to the two Presidents my grateful thanks for the fairness and judgment with which they have guided the discussions in both Chambers and have secured the trust and confidence of every Honourable Member.

It is my custom on this occasion to give a general survey of the work done during the past year and of the economic and political condition of our country at the present time, and further to tell you as far as I can the outlook for the future.

In the sphere of Foreign Affairs I am glad to state that India's relations with her neighbours continue to be uniformly satisfactory. On the frontier between Burma and China incidents occurred last spring threatening a disturbance of the peace among the partially administered tribes, which in that area separate

the Province of Burma from the Chinese Province of Yunnán. The international frontier in that area has never been demarcated and this circumstance coupled with the fact that there are no maps which have been accepted by both Governments as accurate, encouraged certain irresponsible persons to engage in hostile activities against the Burma Military Police, although the latter had scrupulously refrained from penetrating beyond the line claimed by the Chinese Government. That force effectively demonstrated their ability to deal with these marauders and no operations have been necessary during the last few weeks. Efforts are being made by His Majesty's Representative in China to establish, in agreement with the Chinese Government, certain principles upon which it will be possible to demarcate the international frontier and thus to find a solution for a long-standing disagreement. Events in Chinese Turkistan have caused my Government some anxiety, since as the result of a serious revolt against Chinese authority in Kashgar and the neighbourhood, security of life and property were for some time gravely endangered. I regret to say that some loss of life and property were caused to peaceful Indian traders in spite of the unremitting efforts of His Majesty's Consul-General to secure their protection. On one occasion His Majesty's Consulate at Kashgar was attacked by Tungán* rebels, and it was only the gallant defence offered by the British and Indian *personnel* which saved the Consulate from more than a few casualties. The Chinese Government have expressed their deep regret for this occurrence and have also officially acknowledged the correctness of the Consul-General's attitude of strict neutrality towards the various factions which have from time to time secured control over this area. The latest news received is much more reassuring in that the Chinese forces together with a Pacification Commissioner entrusted with the task of restoring law and order have now reached Kashgar and are engaged in re-establishing Chinese authority. Some embarrassment has also been caused by the influx of refugees from Russia and from Chinese Turkistan who were able to enter India *via* Gilgit before they could be intercepted. These persons were for the most part completely destitute and were frequently accompanied by women and children, whose re-expulsion across the inhospitable mountains of Central Asia was repugnant to humanitarian principles. It is however obvious that the comparative security of conditions in India might encourage this influx to a dangerous extent and steps are therefore being taken to check it at the frontier, and it is also hoped to arrange for the disposal of a number of the refugees already in India by despatching them to other parts of the world.

Our neighbourly relations with Afghanistan have not been threatened by any untoward incidents on the frontier in recent months, and it is hoped to secure increased trade between the two countries as the result of the recent visit of a Trade Delegation to Kabul in April last. This Delegation consisted of Mr. W. W. Nind as Leader and Lala Shri Ram, Merchant of Delhi, and Khan Bahadur Syed Maratib Ali of Lahore as Members, and was sent to Afghanistan to examine, in consultation with informed opinion in that country, the directions in which it might be possible to foster and expand the mutual trade between India and Afghanistan. The report submitted by this Delegation is still under

*Pronounced "Toonga(r)n".

consideration, but it is gratifying to observe the interest taken by Indian merchants and traders in the Commercial Exhibition which is now taking place in that city.

The North-West Frontier has remained uniformly peaceful during the last eight months except for the various unimportant disputes between sections of the tribes and a few small encounters between Government forces and hostile individuals, which have always been a feature of frontier administration. I need not say that cordial relations, as ever, continue to be maintained with our ancient Ally, the Kingdom of Nepal. As a fitting culmination of the long-standing friendship that we have enjoyed with that country, His Majesty the King Emperor has been pleased to raise the status of the British Envoy to that of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Nepalese Court, and also to receive a Minister of corresponding rank from the Kingdom of Nepal at the Court of St. James in London.

A great figure on the stage of Asia passed away with the death of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet on December 17th, 1933. The late Dalai Lama, the thirteenth of his line, had always remained on terms of amity with my Government and the Regent who has been appointed in his place pending the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama continues to act in the spirit of the Ruler of Tibet.

Lastly, I am glad to take this opportunity of acknowledging the keen and effective interest which Members of this Assembly have always taken in the welfare of Indian traders and settlers in foreign countries. There has been more than one case recently in which a foreign country has attempted to enforce, particularly in its colonies, what appeared to us to be unwarranted restrictions upon such Indian traders, who have by their enterprise and commercial ability contributed largely to the wealth and prosperity of the place concerned. My Government have in every case protested vigorously through His Majesty's Government against such proceedings and, if, as has happened in more than one case, their protests have been successful, this is very largely due to the hearty support they have received from Indian public opinion as represented by the Honourable Members of this House.

In connection with external commercial relations I would recall to your minds that when I last addressed you I mentioned the circumstances leading to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905 and the passing of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933. Applications for assistance under the Act were received from a number of small Indian Industries. These were carefully examined, but eventually Government decided that it would be undesirable to use the Act, since such a step would have prejudiced the negotiations for a commercial agreement with Japan which had then started. At the same time the needs of these industries were met, where necessary, in another manner. This was by the imposition of minimum specific duties on the articles concerned. The imposition of these duties was secured by *ad hoc* legislation,—the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1934,—and in fixing the level of these duties, which were applicable to the imports from all foreign countries, due consideration was given to the necessity of adequately safeguarding the Indian industry concerned, while avoiding, as far as possible, any increase in the *ad valorem* incidence of the duties on goods the competition from which did not constitute a danger to Indian industries. .

The question of the grant of substantive protection to the Cotton Textile Industry in India, which was the subject of a Tariff Board enquiry in 1932, came up for your consideration in the last Delhi Session. I need not refer to the details of the legislative measure with which you were then concerned except to point out that for the second time statutory effect has been given to a rapprochement between the representatives of an Indian and a British Industry. My Government and I attach the highest importance to the creation of closer ties between the industrialists in India and in the United Kingdom and, consonant with the interests of the country as a whole, we shall always be prepared to consider sympathetically any agreement intended to promote the mutual interests of the parties concerned.

In accordance with the undertaking given when the Ottawa Trade Agreement was under consideration, an exhaustive report of the first year's working of the scheme of mutual preferences has been prepared and is now in your hands. I understand that this report is now under consideration by Committees of both Houses of the Legislature, and I shall not, therefore, comment further upon it.

When the Indian Delegation led by Sir Atul Chatterjee was at Ottawa certain tentative approaches were made by representatives of other countries within the Commonwealth with a view to the conclusion of further trade agreements. The Irish Free State has followed up their preliminary proposals and formal negotiations between India and the Free State were initiated in May last. These negotiations, at which Sir B. N. Mitra and Sir George Rainy represented India, have not yet been concluded.

During the course of my address to you in August last year I made a brief reference to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905, and the negotiations for a fresh Commercial Agreement with Japan. As you are aware, these negotiations commenced in Simla on the 23rd September, 1933, and after lengthy discussions agreement was reached between the Indian and the Japanese Delegations in January, 1934. The agreement of views thus reached was embodied in a Convention and Protocol, the agreed drafts of which were initialled by the two delegations on the 19th April, 1934, and finally signed, on behalf of India and Japan, in London on the 12th July, 1934.

The Convention, and with it the Portocol, are to come into force immediately after the exchange of ratifications and will remain in force until the 31st March, 1937. The provisions in the Protocol relating to the restriction of the imports of cotton piece-goods from Japan have, however, been given effect to with effect from the 8th January, 1934, from which date the Government of India reduced the import duty on Japanese cotton piece-goods to the level of that provided for in the Agreement.

The Agreement, while ensuring the continuance of the long-established trade connections between the two countries on a basis satisfactory to both, safeguards also the legitimate interests of the Cotton Textile Industry in India and at the same time secures a stable market for a substantial portion of the exportable surplus of raw cotton produced in India. This, at a time of acute

agricultural distress, should prove invaluable to the cotton growers in India who have been so seriously affected by the world depression.

You will remember that in 1930 the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, sanctioned a scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in certain foreign countries with a view to promote the export trade of India with those countries. In addition to the existing appointment of Indian Trade Commissioner, London, the scheme provided for six appointments, one each at Hamburg, Milan, New York, Alexandria, Durban and Mombassa. The office at Hamburg was opened in March, 1931, and an officer for the Milan post was selected on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. Further progress with the scheme was held in abeyance on grounds of financial stringency, the officer selected for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan being retained in the Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Department for a period of training. Among plans for the encouragement of the economic development of the country my Government have, however, now decided to resume the programme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries. As a first step in that direction, it has been decided to open the office of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Italy as soon as possible, and with this object Mr. M. R. Ahuja, who was selected for the post in 1931, has been sent to London for a short period of training in the Trade Department of the High Commissioner's Office before taking charge of his new appointment in Italy. The question of the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners at other places will receive the early consideration of the Government of India.

Whilst still on the subject of affairs which involve contact with the outer world, there are two further matters of interest relating to Indians overseas to which I wish briefly to allude. I refer, in the first place, to the Report of the Colonisation Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of the Union of South Africa, which was published both in South Africa and in this country early in July. The Government have been closely studying the reactions of public opinion in this country to the recommendations of the Committee. They have also ascertained the views on the Report of the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature. They hope to be able, shortly, to address the Government of the Union of South Africa on this matter. In formulating their conclusions it will be their endeavour to serve the best interests of the Indian community in South Africa.

The second event, to which Honourable Members will expect some reference, is the situation which has arisen in Zanzibar as the result of recent legislation my Government had no previous intimation that such legislation was contemplated, and the time available between its introduction and enactment was inadequate for the effects of the various decrees on Indian interests in Zanzibar to be adequately studied and represented. Therefore, early this month, we deputed an officer to Zanzibar to make investigations. On receipt of his report the Government of India will consider what further action they should take Honourable Members may be satisfied that in this, as in other matters concerning the legitimate interests of Indian communities overseas, the Government of India will strive their utmost to uphold them.

I now wish to recall to your mind the part that the Legislature has played in the sphere of Labour in continuing to participate in the policy which I and

my Government have set before us of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour. In 1933 you passed an important measure which improved the benefits received by workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In the course of this session a still more important advance has been registered by the new Factories Bill, the most important feature of which was the reduction in the hours of work in factories which work throughout the year from 60 to 54. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the helpful attitude of those of you who represent employers' interests towards this great amelioration in the condition of workers in organised industries. On the Industries side this Session has to its credit the very serviceable Petroleum Bill. You have now left to the Executive Government the important task of framing suitable rules under these two Acts. The helpful and enlightened spirit which has inspired the Legislature in passing them will, I have no doubt, beneficially affect their detailed administration.

During the current Session you have passed a measure designed to secure conditions of greater safety for an important section of the manual workers of this country. I refer to the Indian Dock Labourers Bill which, when it becomes law, will give effect in British India to the International Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships. The Bill empowers the Government of India to make regulations for the safety of such workers and to provide, through a system of proper inspection, for the enforcement of those regulations in accordance with standards internationally accepted and embodied in the International Convention, thus filling a gap in India's Labour legislation caused by the non-existence of any regulations which could be said to provide adequately for the safety of dock workers while engaged in their admittedly hazardous occupation. The Act which has now been placed on the Statute Book is still another earnest of India's desire to conform to the highest standards in her treatment of Labour.

Our progress in matters connected with industries has not been confined to legislation. At the Sixth Industries Conference which met shortly before this Session began my Government's proposals for the creation of a Central Bureau from which industrialists, particularly those interested in developing small industries, will be able to obtain such information and expert assistance as my Government in co-operation with the Governments of the Provinces can place at their disposal met with the unanimous support of the delegates present. I hope to see this organisation come into being in the course of the next few months and, though it may seem that the beginning which is being made is a small one, I have great confidence that we are establishing an institution which will prove of real value in promoting the industrial development of this country. The Conference also made recommendations regarding the principles on which the grants my Government is making to assist the handloom-weaving and sericultural industries should be utilised. Those recommendations have been accepted in their entirety.

In the field of Civil Aviation there have recently been important developments. As our ground organisation has become inadequate, it has been decided to inaugurate a programme of development from loan funds. Accordingly we hope to equip the Karachi-Rangoon route and the Karachi-Madras route up to

modern standards within the next few years, and we are prepared also to organise on similar lines the Calcutta-Bombay and the Karachi-Lahore routes, if these should be opened up shortly,—as it is much to be hoped they will be. You have just passed an Act—the Indian Aircraft Act of 1934—which will enable the Civil Aviation Directorate to control and encourage effectively this expanding activity.

I am also glad to announce that we expect to see a similar development in broadcasting in the near future. My Government have decided to proceed as quickly as possible with the erection of a large transmitting station in Delhi, which will broadcast entertainment in Urdu and English. This, we hope, will prove to be only the first step towards the establishment of a complete system of broadcasting covering the whole of India, under which the Provinces will have the benefit of an expression of their own culture in their own literary languages, with a added element of English programme matter.

Both Chambers of the Legislature adopted a Resolution last Session which will prolong the life of the Road Development Account. I trust this step will be of material assistance to the Provinces in the development of their road systems.

I take this opportunity to refer to a matter which is of particular interest to the commercial public. It has been decided to undertake a revision of the existing company and insurance laws in India at an early date. The law relating to companies is that contained in the Indian Companies Act, 1913. This Act is based on the English Companies Act, 1908, which has since been revised and replaced by the Companies Act of 1929. Certain proposals for the amendment of the existing legislation in India have been brought to the notice of the Government of India from time to time by Local Governments, commercial bodies and individuals, but it has always been thought more desirable to avoid piecemeal legislation and to await a suitable opportunity when a thorough overhaul of the Act could be undertaken. The need for early revision of the law has been more keenly felt recently as a result of the growing industrialisation of India and in particular, as is already known to you, there has of late been much criticism of the managing agency system. In the sphere of insurance law also the need for revised legislation is fully established. The rapid development of insurance business in the country during the past few years, not only in respect of the number of new companies formed but also in respect of the forms of insurance activities other than life, *e.g.*, fire, marine, motor and employers' liability insurance, has created new circumstances in which the existing law has been found to be inadequate. The Government of India have, therefore, arrived at the conclusion that both company and insurance law should be revised as soon as possible, and as an initial step it has been decided to appoint Mr. S. C. Sen, Solicitor, as an officer on Special Duty in the Department of Commerce of the Government of India to make a preliminary examination of the various proposals for amendment received from time to time and to indicate broadly the lines on which revised legislation should be undertaken.

To turn to the wide field of Agriculture, which is still to the masses of India their main source of livelihood and is, therefore, one of the primary concerns of Government. Honourable Members must be aware that the Provincial Economic Conference, which my Government had convened last April, reviewed the

position of the agriculturist from the standpoint of rural credit as well as agricultural marketing and production. One of the conclusions reached by the Government of India after consideration of the proceedings of the Conference, was that all possible steps should be taken to ascertain how far agricultural production in India was being scientifically co-ordinated and whether any action was desirable or feasible to make such co-ordination more efficient and more effective. My Government accordingly convened, with the ready co-operation of Local Governments, which I take this opportunity to acknowledge, a Conference of Provincial Directors of Agriculture, Land Revenue officers and non-official representatives from the various Provinces last June. This Conference reviewed exhaustively the position of all the principal crops in India.

After a full consideration of all the relevant factors the Conference came to the satisfactory conclusion that crop planning in India had not proceeded on unscientific and haphazard lines, but had been well planned and had, on the whole, achieved its aim of helping the ryot to use his land to the best purpose. But in the prevailing welter of economic uncertainty the Conference, if I may say so, wisely held that machinery should be provided for the systematic and continuous study of problems relating to the cultivation of India's more important crops such as wheat and rice. To this end it recommended the establishment of appropriate *ad hoc* Committees. Honourable Members will doubtless be glad to know that this recommendation has been accepted by my Government. It is hoped that, by this means, periodical stock-taking of the position of our principal crops and of their prospects in the world's markets will be greatly facilitated. The value of continuous study and periodical review in this respect cannot be over-estimated. Adjustment of the agricultural activity of a country to changing conditions of demand is necessary for the prosperity of the agriculturist. Difficulties of such adjustment in a country of the size of India are evident. Adaptation to changing needs of the market will be impossible of accomplishment without the acquisition, and maintenance up-to-date, of all relevant information.

Another problem of even greater practical importance to the agriculturist is the marketing of his produce to the best advantage. This subject was also discussed in the Provincial Economic Conference, where there was general agreement that an intensive programme to develop marketing facilities for agricultural products offered the best immediate prospect of substantial results. The matter has been under close examination since the Economic Conference concluded. With the help of the Marketing Expert who recently joined the staff of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, a programme of work has been drawn up which, it is hoped, will very shortly be initiated. Experience gained elsewhere shows that the range of marketing activities must be wide. It must, for example, include the organisation of an efficient intelligence service in external markets regarding Indian products and the requirements of consumers both abroad and in this country. An efficient marketing organisation must also ensure the grading, sorting and bulking of the main staple products and the establishment and development of regulated markets. In India the first task is the undertaking of market surveys for the purpose of ascertaining the data on which future developments can be planned. The initial step, therefore, will be to obtain and set out in detail the

present system of marketing the more important commodities, such as wheat and rice, oilseeds, plantation and special crops, *e.g.*, tobacco and fruit as also dairy products, in which term I include livestock.

This survey will be carried out not only in each of the Provinces separately, but will also deal with inter-Provincial, inter-State and foreign trade so as to provide an all-India picture of existing conditions and a common basis for future progress. The report on each survey will set out, in precise technical details, definite suggestions regarding marketing organisation with a view to improving existing conditions in the interests of producers. The work connected with the execution of these surveys will be shared between the Central and Provincial marketing staffs, but it is the intention of my Government that, at least in the initial stages, the cost should be met from Central Revenues, so that the urgent task of ascertaining the data and formulating a co-ordinated plan of marketing organisation should not be delayed by reason of the inability of one or more Provinces to meet the cost of such investigations. The question as to how the cost of the various organisations and activities resulting from these surveys should be met will be one for future consideration on the basis of the benefits expected from the plans that may be adopted.

I should like also at this stage to make a brief reference to the financial position of our Railways. This, as you are aware, has not been all that could have been desired during the past two or three years, though in comparison with most other countries throughout the world we may be said to have escaped lightly. The situation this financial year shows much better prospects. Our earnings are better by over Rs. 1½ crores than they were for the same period of last year. In the nature of things we may expect set-backs, but I am optimistic enough to think that these, if any, will be temporary, and that the increased prosperity of our Railways is at least an indication of a general revival of trade and commerce throughout the country.

As you are no doubt aware, I had the privilege of performing the formal opening ceremony on the 19th December last of the Vizagapatam Harbour. The development of the harbour has been proceeding steadily and with the improved facilities which it is the constant aim of the Administration to provide, it will, it is hoped, be possible in the not very distant future to open the harbour to vessels of much larger dimensions than can be accommodated at present. There has already been a substantial increase both in the number of steamers calling and in the quantity of cargo handled at the port and as improved facilities become available, it will, it is confidently hoped, attract an ever-growing volume of traffic in the future. Vizagapatam Harbour supplies a long-felt need for a safe anchorage for ocean-going traffic on the East Coast of India between Calcutta and Madras and should assist greatly in the development of a hinterland, rich in natural resources, by providing for its produce a convenient outlet to the markets of the world.

On the two last occasions on which I have addressed you I have expressed the belief that the march of events would gradually carry the leaders of the civil disobedience movement further and further away from the sterile methods of negation and obstruction. A year ago I claimed that the events of the last few months had fully borne out that belief; civil disobedience at that time maintained a precarious existence and there were signs that the popular

judgment had already condemned it. During the whole of the last 12 months that feeling has grown and spread and finally in April last the author of this subversive movement, which was started in 1930 and renewed at the beginning of 1932, advised all Congressmen to suspend civil resistance for Swaraj as distinct from specific grievances. A little later this advice was confirmed by the Working Committee of Congress which, at the same time, adopted the constitutional policy, at one time regarded as wholly futile by many Congress leaders, of entering the Legislatures. I was myself away from India during the concluding stage of these events, but the policy announced by the Government of India on June 6th, 1934, had my full approval. That policy has been criticised in some quarters as half-hearted and ungenerous, but, as I said in my speech in this House in September, 1932, we should be failing in our duty if we did not ensure to the best of our ability, not merely that civil disobedience was brought to an end, but that there should be no chance of reviving it. Thus, though the ban on purely Congress organisations was removed, we could not take the risk of allowing freedom to those more revolutionary organisations which were distinct from Congress, though working at one time more or less in close association with its objects. Still less could we give up the special powers which had been found necessary for dealing with the movement and which had been given to Local Governments, by the Acts of this Legislature or of the Provincial Legislatures. The curtain has thus fallen, I hope finally, on the civil disobedience movement and one of the objects of the policy which I indicated in September 1932 has been achieved. That happy result I do not attribute so much to the action taken by Government as to the sturdy good sense of the mass of the people of India whose representatives you are and whose opinions you reflect. They recognise that true progress cannot be secured by carrying on an unmeaning and futile struggle with constitutional authority or by revolutionary methods. There is now I think throughout the country a general recognition of the truth that the right road to progress is not through coercion or mass action; and it is because of this that I have the confident hope that civil disobedience will not or cannot be revived. The problems before us, social, economic and political, are many, but a solution can be found to these difficult problems if all classes of political thought in the country devote themselves to the task in a spirit of friendly co-operation.

Once again I can chronicle a further improvement in the terrorist situation in Bengal, but incidents such as the dastardly attack on His Excellency Sir John Anderson show that the terrorist organisation, though on the whole greatly weakened, is still strong in some places, and that we are not free from the danger of isolated outrages whether they take the form of attacks on Government officers or of equally cowardly attacks on persons wholly unconnected with Government with the object of obtaining funds to keep the movement alive. But that attack on Sir John Anderson, providentially wholly unsuccessful, undoubtedly had the effect of rousing public opinion against terrorism as perhaps nothing else could have done and called forth from all sides condemnation of the cult of assassination. In fact the most satisfactory feature of the last few months has been that there are distinct signs that a definite stand against terrorism would be welcomed in many quarters where in the past it might have been regarded as anti-national. The Provincial Councils of Bengal and of

Assam have passed by large majorities the legislation which the Local Governments considered necessary for dealing with this evil, and you, gentlemen of the Central Legislature, have also accepted the legislation which we had to put before you to supplement the local Acts. But outside the Legislature also public opinion is strengthening, and I trust that the appeal recently issued by leaders of all shades of opinion in Bengal and the Conference which they are summoning will result in practical steps being taken to create a healthier atmosphere in Bengal and to prevent the youth of the Province from being contaminated with these dangerous ideas. In this they will, I know, receive all possible support from His Excellency Sir John Anderson and his Government, who recognise that legislation and police action will not by themselves eradicate this hideous evil; public opinion alone can do that, and I am glad to see that so many of those in a position to guide that opinion in Bengal have now realised their responsibilities and have come forward openly with constructive suggestions for the protection of the youth of their Province from the insidious approaches of the terrorists providing them with wider opportunities of useful service for their country.

Next year we shall be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the King Emperor, and I have received and accepted an invitation from His Majesty's Government to send certain official representatives from India to join in the celebrations in London.

My Government are now in communication with Local Governments and Rulers of Indian States as to the best and most fitting manner in which this auspicious occasion should be recognised in India. The King-Emperor has been pleased to intimate that it is His Majesty's desire that celebrations should be on a local basis and that His Majesty's subjects should, wherever practicable, have the opportunity of observing the occasion near their homes. It is His Majesty's express wish also that celebrations should be as simple as possible and that all undue expenditure should be avoided. I feel sure that, when the time comes, the Princes and people of India will loyally comply with His Majesty's wishes and at the same time join with their fellow-citizens throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of our beloved Sovereign's reign. (Applause.)

I think you may expect me to give you some account of the impressions I have brought back here, as a result of my two months' visit to England, and of the general atmosphere towards the Reforms Scheme which has been under consideration for some years and is now reaching its final stages.

It will, I am sure, be obvious to you all, knowing Parliamentary procedure as you do, that it would not be possible for me to forecast information as to what recommendations the Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament is likely to contain. Nor again can I set your minds at rest as to the date of publication of the Report, for no final decision had been reached on that point when I left. As you know the Committee has dispersed for the summer recess, but will re-assemble early in October in order to carry its work to completion before Parliament is prorogued.

During my short stay at Home I had many opportunities of meeting and having discussions with all sorts and conditions of people, with Members of

both Houses of Parliament, with those interested in trade and commerce and business in India, and with many others, both men and women, who for one reason or another were keenly interested in Indian affairs. The general impression I have brought back with me is that the feeling amongst my countrymen in England is full of goodwill and sympathy for the natural aspirations of Indians in regard to political advance. A deep sense of the responsibility was moreover evident on all sides in the general anxiety to obtain first-hand information from those of us who have had the most recent experience of the affairs and conditions in this country. I should like to add that I come back with feelings of the keenest appreciation, which I am sure will be shared by every Member of both our Legislative Chambers and by the public outside, of the untiring labours which the Members of the Joint Select Committee have freely and readily given during the past 15 months to secure a proper solution of the great problem of Indian Reform.

One assurance I can confidently give you. When the New Constitution Bill is passed into Law, you may rely on my efforts to ensure that no time will be lost in carrying into effect as expeditiously as possible the intentions of Parliament as expressed in the Act.

I have spoken of the responsibility of my countrymen at this present juncture, but we who live and work here and who have position and influence in the public life of this country have a great responsibility too. During the coming months it will be our duty to guide public opinion in the highest interests of all classes of our people. Let us put aside all racial feelings if such still exist, let us believe in each other's sincerity of purpose to continue working towards the fulfilment of our cherished hopes for the welfare and advancement of this country.

I would ask you to look around the world at the present time, and amid all the troubles, anxieties and possible dangers that we see in many countries and in diverse lands, we can proudly feel that within the territories of the British Empire conditions are both sound and stable, and that we are slowly and steadily recovering from the world depression which has so seriously affected us all.

For the greater part of my public life I have served the British Empire in its outward parts, and far the greatest number of years of that life have been spent in this country which I have always looked upon as my second Empire home. During that life I have become more and more convinced that it is by the influence and example of the friendship and close co-operation within our Empire that we shall more and more exercise an influence in securing peace and good-will in what is now a very distracted and unsettled world.

With this in my mind let my last word to Honourable Members at the close of this Parliament be a heartfelt prayer that as our two races by fate or destiny were brought together long years ago to work for the development and prosperity of India, so in the future, and particularly in the critical days that lie before us Providence should guide us still to secure the fulfilment of those political hopes and aspirations which many of us have striven for many years. (Loud and Prolonged Applause.)

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FLOODS IN BIHAR.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement in connection with the recent flood in the Patna Division in the Bihar Province ?

(b) What is the estimated loss of property and lives on account of this calamity ?

(c) What relief measures have been taken by the Central and the Provincial Governments in this connection ?

(d) Do Government propose to sanction an immediate grant for the relief of the distress caused by the flood in the Patna Division ?

(e) Do Government propose to sanction some grant from the Indian Peoples Famine Trust for the relief of the distress caused by the flood to the agriculturists ?

(f) Do Government propose to request the Local Government to remit some portion of their demands, like Revenue and Cess, to the distressed agriculturists ?

(g) What other relief measures do Government propose for the relief of the distressed people of the flood-affected areas ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I received yesterday morning a telegraphic report from the Government of Bihar and Orissa which I had intended to read to the House if so desired, but just this minute I have learnt that it has been published in today's papers as an official communiqué. So perhaps it is not necessary for me to read it.

In regard to the latter part of the Honourable Member's question, it is clearly not possible for the Local Government to say at this stage what relief measures are necessary or whether the Local Government will require any further assistance. The primary responsibility for initiating relief measures rests with them, and the Government of India have no doubt that they will take all suitable action.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that the Bihar Government's estimate about the earthquake was not proved to be correct in the end ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No, I am not aware of that.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Have Government seen the report of the Central Relief Committee and the telegram published by Babu Rajendra Prasad in connection with this flood ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I understand that it has been published in this morning's papers.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that in that communiqué issued by the Bihar Government they have mentioned that there is no loss of life estimated ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The actual words of the telegram were :

“ No loss of life yet reported, but damage to crops serious ”.

Mr. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that in the Central Relief Committee's communiqué which has been referred to, it is mentioned that actual loss of life has taken place in Bihar on account of this flood ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I cannot say I noticed that ; but I have no information except this telegram from the Bihar and Orissa Government.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware of the news published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 29th August that the damage from this flood is greater than that during the earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have not seen that.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to see these telegrams of the Central Relief Committee and the telegrams published in the *Hindustan Times* as well ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : If the Honourable Member's object is to make me admit that the Local Government's report is incorrect and that the Relief Committee's Report is correct, all I have to say is that I have no information beyond what I have placed at the disposal of the House.

Mr. B. Das : Will Government be pleased to state if the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund can be applied to the relief of the flood-stricken people in Bihar ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I think not : these floods have no direct connection with the earthquake, I think.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government kindly state the total amount of money sanctioned for meeting the situation arising out of this flood in South Bihar ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am not in a position to do that : the floods occurred only about two days ago, and I have no doubt that the estimate of the damage is not yet complete.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I was going to ask whether the Honourable Member is aware what amount of money has been sanctioned by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to cope with the situation arising out of this flood.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have no information of that yet.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Is it a fact that some amount has been given to some other Province also in connection with this flood from the Indian Peoples Famine Trust Fund ? If that is so, do Government propose to help Bihar as well from that Fund ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with that question ; at the time of the earthquake, as my Honourable friend is aware, the Indian Peoples Famine Trust Fund made a grant of eight lakhs of rupees to the Government of Bihar and Orissa. Recently

they have made a grant of one and a quarter lakhs of rupees to the Government of Assam : they have received no application yet from the Government of Bihar and Orissa for further assistance from the Fund in connection with these floods.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Do Government propose to consider it favourably if they receive any such request from the Local Government ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : That, Sir, is a hypothetical question.

EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS PUT UPON FOREIGN TRADE IN GERMANY.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Are Government aware of certain exchange restrictions that have been put upon foreign trade in Germany, resulting in serious disadvantage to Indian exporters ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Reichsbank has for some time taken complete control of all foreign currencies entering Germany, and that no payment can be made by the German importer for goods exported from India without permission of the German Government ?

(c) Is it a fact that the restrictions have been gradually tightened till recently when the German Government severely cut down foreign currencies permissible for payment for goods bought from foreign countries ?

(d) Is it a fact that as a result large amounts due to Indian firms of exporters cannot be realised ?

(e) Is it a fact that under the present restrictions, it is next to impossible to carry on India's export trade with Germany ?

(f) Is it a fact that trade pacts have been concluded between Germany and some other countries obviating the restrictive conditions of foreign trade ?

(g) Is it a fact that such a special trade pact or Exchange Agreement was recently concluded between Germany and Great Britain ?

(h) If so, was the case of India considered in that connexion by the British Government ?

(i) What are the terms of this Pact or Agreement ?

(j) What action has been or is proposed to be taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Government are aware that the German Government have found it necessary to impose restrictions on the supply of foreign exchange. They are not aware of the extent to which these restrictions have placed a handicap on India's export trade but on receipt of a representation a few days ago, the Indian Trade Commissioner, Hamburg, was asked by telegram for a full report on the situation. This report has not yet been received but I shall reply to the Honourable Member's questions as soon as the necessary information is available. The situation is receiving the careful attention of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Does the Honourable Member expect to give a reply to this House by the 31st ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I hope so. I understand that, within the last minute or two, a reply has come from the Trade Commissioner, Hamburg. If so, I shall, with the permission of the Chair, make a statement on Friday.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Not tomorrow ? I thought the Honourable Member has got the reply ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I should like to consider it before making a statement.

Mr. B. Das : While the Reuters gave out in the Press a statement about this Anglo-German exchange agreement, the Trade Commissioner for India never took the opportunity to acquaint the Government about such negotiations.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I do not know what the question is.

Mr. B. Das : How is it that the Trade Commissioner for India in Hamburg did not know of this foreign exchange negotiation between England and Germany, while the Reuters has given it out in the Press ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : Probably he did not at the time know its details.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : May I know whether it will be permissible to this side of the House to put questions to the Honourable Member when he makes the statement on Friday ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I will allow that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are Government aware of the fact that banks in Germany put a restriction that any money belonging to Indians cannot be used for any trade purposes at all and that Indians can only draw 200 marks per month while in Germany ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I have no information on that point.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : This is a fact and will the Honourable Member make enquiries ? It happened in my own case.

Mr. B. Das : Was it not the duty of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Hamburg to find out.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I think the Honourable Member can wait till the statement is made.

Mr. B. Das : I only wanted to know why he did not take any steps to acquaint the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I cannot say why he did not do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : It has been brought to the notice of the Chair that in the Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties as supplied to Honourable Members, in the printed form there has been a clerical omission, that is, in page 37, relating to Item No. 63 "All sorts of Iron and Steel and manufactures thereof not otherwise specified". Of course, there is no change in the

customs duty, but they forgot to print the actual duty in columns 3, 4 and 5. Therefore, the Chair has ordered that the clerical omission may be rectified. It will be a preferential revenue duty, the standard rate of duty is 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, and the United Kingdom rate is 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, which is the existing duty.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : This is the result of passing legislation in a hurry !

THE INDIAN NAVY (DISCIPLINE) BILL.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

I trust the House will forgive me if I do not say very much today about the actual Bill. The Bill itself deals almost entirely with discipline, which, however good it may be for all of us, is a distinctly irksome subject, and the important things about it are those which flow indirectly from it. These are twofold. If this Bill becomes law it will mean that the Royal Indian Marine will receive the added status of a Navy and the additional prestige which connection with the Royal Navy will give it, and in addition, there will become operative for the first time the amendments made in 1927 to the Government of India Act with regard to naval matters. I shall refer later to those amendments.

As regards the Bill itself, I think I need only say that in accordance with the wishes of this House the Select Committee found a way of getting over the limitations imposed upon the application of the Naval Discipline Act to Indian conditions by including the Act, with the necessary modifications and adaptations, as a Schedule to the Bill. This certainly meant a great deal of work for the draftsman, but, I think, Honourable Members will agree, that it has been well worth it, and they cannot now accuse me of having brought before this House an “unseamanlike” measure. (Laughter.)

I now pass on to the notes attached to the report of the Select Committee. Of the three points brought to notice there are two major constitutional points which will be settled independently of this Bill. As regards the third, the matter of expenditure, I wish to repeat the assurance which I gave to this House on an earlier occasion, that the passing of this Bill will not commit India to any greater expenditure than she incurs at present on her naval defence. The effect of the Bill will be indirectly to increase the status and efficiency of the service ; it will not increase its cost, nor indeed is there any intention of increasing the amount spent on the Indian Marine or the Indian Navy. When I last spoke, I dwelt at some length on this particular point in order to counter a series of arguments, which had been adduced during the previous debates on the Bill, that behind it lay a deep laid scheme of His Majesty's Government to force upon India a large sized Indian Navy. I hoped that I had satisfied Honourable Members that this idea was completely fallacious when I was promptly caught up and accused of a desire to stifle all possibility of India ever having a larger fleet than she has at present. Nothing was further from my mind than this ; for I realise

[Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby.]

this that in the days to come, India will, and must, demand a larger provision for her naval defence. But for the present it seems to me that the best thing that we can do is to consolidate the first step that has already been begun and provide an adequate force to carry out the limited objective of the local naval defence of India's ports and shipping. When the time comes that public opinion demands that a further advance should be made in this matter of naval defence, then I have no doubt that, if they can possibly find the money, the Government will not stand in the way of that demand.

Next, Sir, I wish to refer to one point with regard to the Indianisation of the service which I omitted to mention in my last speech. During the debate on this Bill in February last, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, made a suggestion that we should stop all British recruitment forthwith and, for such time as we still require to have a British element of junior officers in the service, we should obtain that element by secondment from the Royal Navy. We promptly took steps to find out whether, if this suggestion was accepted, it would be possible for us to obtain young officers from the Admiralty during the next few years. The answer we received was in the negative, the reason being that the initial training of the young officer of the Royal Navy covers such a long period, both on the executive and the engineering sides owing to courses and the like,—on the executive side I think it is a matter of eight years—that if the Admiralty were to loan to India officers of the seniority that we should require it would mean a definite interference with their early training. The result is that we are thrown back upon the system of recruitment that we have in force at the present time. In regard to the question of Indianisation in general, I may say that we have got our eye upon the question of increasing the proportion of one Indian to two British officers, but as I pointed out to the House the other day, although we have 14 officers and officers-designate in the service at present, there are only three actually serving with the squadron and that is a small number from which to draw conclusions as to whether our methods of recruitment and training are on the right lines.

I must, however, mention one thing which casts a somewhat different light on the arguments I brought forward in my last speech with regard to recruitment. I suggested then that we were not getting enough candidates for the Marine at our open competitive examination, but I am glad to be able to say that, possibly as the result of the publicity given to the previous debate on this Bill, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of candidates who have put in their names for the Indian Marine—I hope by then it will be the Indian Navy—at the examination next October.

I come now to the constitutional aspect of the Bill. As I said just now, if it is passed into law, it will mean that for the first time the amendments made to the Government of India Act in 1927 will become operative. The present constitutional position is that in time of war the Admiralty can take over the whole of the Indian Marine without consulting the Legislature, without consulting the Government of India, without consulting anybody; and it is nowhere laid down that, if they do so, they need pay for it. Under the revised section of the Government of India Act, which, as I say, will become operative if this Bill becomes law, the position will, to my mind, alter materially to the benefit of India, since for the first time it

will be definitely laid down that the Indian naval forces will be employed for the purposes of India alone. Let me read this new section :

“ Any naval forces and vessels which may from time to time be raised and provided by the Governor General in Council shall be employed for the purposes of the Government of India alone, except that if the Governor General declares that a state of emergency exists, which justifies such action, the Governor General in Council may place at the disposal of the Admiralty all or any of such forces and vessels.”

I know that this does not go far enough for most Honourable Members on the opposite side of the House, who indeed consider that, until this Legislature has complete control over all defence matters, there will be no real advance. These major constitutional questions will, however, be settled independently of this Bill, and as it seems to me, the position with regard to this Bill resolves itself into one of what answer this House will give to the following questions. Are they content that the naval forces of India should retain their present inferior status until such time as Defence ceases to be a reserved subject ? Or are they ready to seize this opportunity to gain for those forces the added status and prestige of a Navy ? This step has got to be taken sooner or later, and it seems to me that, having regard to the effect that it is bound to have on the status, the efficiency and the contentment of the service, it would be wise to take it now.

With regard to this matter of status there is one point that I wish to emphasize. Outside Indian waters the Royal Indian Marine has at present no status at all. When the ships of the service meet the ships of the Royal Navy or of the navies of the Dominions outside Indian waters, the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine take position behind all the others. We are proposing shortly as a measure of economy to send to England a party of officers and men of the Marine to bring out the new sloop ‘ India ’ which, as I dare say Honourable Members saw in the newspapers a few days ago, has just been launched there. When these officers and men pass out of Indian waters, they will, under present conditions, have no more status than the crew of a merchant ship. What is more, the men will actually be under no code of discipline ; for the present code of discipline which applies to the service runs only in Indian waters. The moment this Bill becomes law and the service receives the added status of a Navy, the objections of which I have just given an example will be removed and the Royal Indian Navy will be able to take its rightful position among the navies of the Empire. Sir, I move.

Mr. President : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official) : I congratulate my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, in the presentation of this Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee, but, in doing so, I desire to make a few observations which I trust he will kindly take into serious consideration. We know that the primary object of the Bill is to change the name of the “ Royal Indian Marine ” to the “ Royal Indian Navy ” and to give it Statutory effect so that added prestige may be given to the Navy. It was also very clearly pointed out by the Vice-Admiral, Royal Indian Marine, that by passing this Bill the Royal Indian Marine and its officers will get the same status as the rest of the Navy in the Empire. These objects are very laudable, and, I am sure, they will

[Sir Henry Gidney.]

have the entire support of this House, but along with that the Honourable Member stated that in this change of name no extra expenditure will be involved. In other words, this House need have no fear of being called upon to sanction or spend more money, other than the 65½ lakhs or thereabouts which is the present cost of the Royal Indian Marine excluding the £100,000 which India pays to England for her naval defence. Now, Sir, I view this statement with great concern. If it is the intention of this House to pass a Bill like this solely with the object of changing the name, I think we shall not have gone very far. This expenditure of 65½ lakhs is not a small amount and with £100,000, it comes to the neighbourhood of a crore of rupees.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The £100,000 is included in the 65½ lakhs.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : I stand corrected, but even this 65½ lakhs is no small amount. In this connection, the House would like to know what the Royal Indian Marine consists of at present. It consists of five sloops, two patrol boats and one Depot-ship.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar (Nominated Non-Official) : 65 lakhs is not a small amount. Do you know what it costs to make one small vessel ?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : I know very well that all these vessels put together cannot come anywhere near one
 3 P. M. British man-of-war, which costs from seven to eight million pounds. What I wanted to stress is/ this. Here are eight of these boats for which this House is asked to pay 65½ lakhs. Now the main duty of these eight boats is ostensibly to sweep mines. We have no mines today in Indian waters, we may have them some day. But let us look at the training of the Royal Indian Marine. The late Field Marshal Lord Rawlinson, in 1926, referring to the recommendation of the Incheape Committee that the trooping service of the Royal Indian Marine should be abolished, said that "the service should be constituted as a purely combatant naval service". In addition,—the Army Secretary will correct me if I am wrong—the Royal Indian Marine boats, in addition to sweeping mines, are trained in gunnery, musketry training, signalling, etc. Indeed it has become so proficient in these arts of naval warfare that His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, expressing his opinion in November, 1931, said this :

" If the present rate of development continues, and I feel confident it must, the Royal Indian Marine should prove an efficient adjunct to the forces under the command of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India and also be of great value to the defence of India from the naval point of view in the event of war."

My point is this. It would be well if the Army Secretary told this House how this fifty lakhs is expended. As for the staff of this Royal Indian Marine, I understand that out of a total strength of 1,010, there are 118 officers, which gives one officer in ten of the total personnel. Now, I submit that this excess of officer staff is a very top-heavy expenditure. Sir, I know, an adequate staff is necessary for many purposes, but a number of these officers of the Royal Indian Marine are employed by the Government of India in the Commerce Department and they get a big salary ; I do not think the House knows that they get more in allowances than their pay proper. I consider, Sir, that the cost of the officer staff of the Royal

Indian Marine is a very heavy one, and, I believe, if the Honourable Member devotes his mind to it, he will see that there is some force in what I am saying. There is not the faintest doubt that the large officer personnel of the Royal Indian Marine, compared with that of the Royal Navy, is extravagant and larger than any marine service in the world. I do think this House should seriously consider the beginning of the building of its very own Indian Navy and not depend on a mine sweeping Navy and on such assistance as is provided by the Admiralty for its naval defence. The same thing was said in the Sandhurst Committee, *viz.*, that we could not start our own air force. I submit we must make a beginning here today. You are going to change its name to a Navy, and if that Navy is to function as a Navy, its duties must not be confined to mine sweeping. As things stand today, the Army Secretary should see that the officer personnel is reduced, and it can be reduced, and this is the opinion of *ex-Royal Indian Marine* officers too. The next point I want to discuss is this. My Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, has today for the first time referred to Indianisation of the Royal Indian Marine. We know in the House, that the rank and file of the Royal Indian Marine are Indians, the Army Secretary stated that there are 118 officers, out of a total marine corps of about just over a thousand. The Army Secretary told us that today there are three Indian officers serving, and that there are eleven other Indian officers under training, which would give a total of fourteen out of a personnel of officers of 118. Let us compare the policy underlying this Indianization process with Indianization of the new Indian Air Force. Indianization of the Air Force is to be done by recruitment in India and for the beginning though it is said India has not got the Royal Air Force England will loan us officers. Here, in the Royal Indian Marine, which is to be called the Royal Indian Navy, there will be a continuation of recruitment in England to the extent of two to one at least. Now, is this real Indianization? In three years' time we will have fourteen Indians out of 118 officers: The Honourable Member stated that we have not enough candidates, that suitable candidates are not forthcoming. Sir, I cannot understand why the Army Secretary experiences any such difficulty; surely the Army Secretary realizes that there is, in existence today the training ship "Dufferin" whose cadets I think might be very usefully employed for the Royal Indian Marine. If the "Dufferin" is to be the nucleus of the India's Mercantile Marine, and if these cadets are today being used as apprentices in the pilot services and for the river survey of the Hooghly and Rangoon etc. I do think it forms an ideal recruiting centre for the Royal Indian Marine. I offer this suggestion, for the serious consideration of the Army Secretary. It may be that the training in the "Dufferin" is not the same as is required for the Royal Indian Marine, but surely our Royal Indian Marine duties should not be confined to sweeping mines! Now the other point to which I wanted to refer is the constitutional aspect of this Bill. We all know that it was mainly for this reason that the Bill was thrown out in the 1928-29 Legislative Assembly Session. I think the Army Secretary has now clarified the position and that we need not discuss this matter *in extenso*. But I come back again to the first point I raised. If the constitutional position underlying this Bill is such that in time of war—I suppose in the new Indian Constitution Act—Defence will be an entirely reserved subject. If this is so, the Indian Navy will come under His Excellency the Viceroy as being a reserved subject, and the Indian Legis-

[Sir Henry Gidney.]

lature will have no voice whatever over this Navy, because until Defence is taken away from the complete control of the Viceroy as a reserved subject, it is mere camouflage to think that this House will have any voice whatever in the control of the Indian Navy. Sir, I should like the Army Secretary to give his serious thought to the points I have brought forward. If the Army Secretary will realize that India is eager and willing to have her own Navy, again if the Army Secretary will realize that there are a number of young lads willing to make their careers in the Indian Navy, he will be doing a great service for India's new navy and he will then be really Indianizing the service, instead of this camouflage Indianization within three years of fourteen officers out of a total of 118 officers. I submit, Indianisation is not going forward at any appreciable pace worth speaking of ; it is almost at a stand still ; there have been some Indians taken on, but nothing in proportion to what India could supply if only Government would utilize such avenues of recruitment as are offered by the " Dufferin ". (Applause.)

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support this motion. In the beginning I must state that the attitude of the Honourable the Army Secretary was very conciliatory in the Select Committee and he has given strong proofs, if proofs were needed, of his interest in Indianisation both of the army and of the navy. In the army his interest in Indianization is very well known. He has taken very prominent part in two or three committees and his genuine desire to see the Indian officer to secure an equality with the British officer is also well-known. It is very unfortunate that in spite of his efforts and the efforts of the Government of India, the Home Government remained stubborn and yesterday we had a defeat only by a very few votes. For this Navy Bill the Select Committee had to do a great deal as has been explained by the Army Secretary, and now the Bill that is presented before this House is a self-contained and full measure and, therefore, I think, we ought to accept it. The position of the Royal Indian Marine with regard to its status is to be changed to that of the Royal Indian Navy and this change of name will give an additional status and importance to those officers who are now known as Royal Indian Marine Officers only.

As regards Indianization, I am not at all satisfied with the rate that is proposed, namely, one in three. I think that that rate will be accelerated very shortly and we shall soon see our Indians officering this Royal Indian Navy. In naval defence India has always been very backward and weak. Indian Princes of the former times, such as, the Mughals and the Mahrattas, did maintain a sort of a navy but that was not strong enough for the defence of India on the sea side, and that is very well borne out by the various settlements of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the French, that are to be found at various places on the coast of India. Sir, it was on account of the want of naval defence in this country that the British power settled itself on the soil of this land. But it will be a very long time before India can have an adequate navy of her own for her defence. Besides, as long as India is within the British Empire, there is no necessity of keeping a very big navy and that is one of the strongest reasons why India should desire to remain always within the British Empire. By living within the British Empire, her naval defence will be much cheapened and she will not have to pay very heavily for that defence. In other

words, although India is very weak in her naval defence, she is obliged to maintain a much bigger army than is needed for her own land defences. But that is a different question altogether and I need not refer to it. What I have to say is that Indians should also be taught to serve in the navy and to officer the ships and to handle them and a beginning has been made I hope that the pace of Indianization will be increased and more and more of our youngmen will take to sea and will be ready to bear the responsibility of defending the coasts of India.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, as a Member of the Select Committee, I should like to offer one or two observations. In the first place, I should like to congratulate my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, for the very conciliatory attitude which he took up in the Select Committee and for the readiness with which he supplied to us information which was not immediately available to us. Sir, this legislation has a chequered career. I need not go into the whole of its previous history, but I may only recapitulate that this Bill was introduced on the 21st February, 1928, and the motion for its reference to the Select Committee was made on that day. It was thrown out on that occasion. In February, 1926, His Excellency the Viceroy made an announcement in another place for the establishment of the Indian Navy, and in the subsequent year, that is, 1927, a Bill was passed in Parliament amending section 66 of the Government of India Act providing for the establishment of an Indian Navy. Later on, some departmental committees sat over this matter, and as a result of which a Bill was introduced last time. This Bill was circulated for public opinion and it was ultimately referred to a Select Committee which has produced this report. Now, Sir, I should like to mention very briefly two or three points in this connection. In the first place, I note that no extra expenditure will be involved in bringing this Navy into existence beyond the expenditure which we are already incurring for the Indian Marine. This point was made clear in the note which some of us added to the report of the Select Committee. We stated :

“ In signing this Report we wish to make it clear that we take at its face value the statement made on behalf of the Government that the sole principle underlying this Bill is a mere change of designation and status and would not commit the House to any additional expenditure upon the strengthening or equipment of the Indian Navy. We consider that our signatures to this Report should not be understood as our acquiescence in the unfortunate predicament of the Indian Legislature in having to find money for the defence of India upon which they can exercise no control.”

My Honourable friend, Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, has referred to the meagre provision for the supply of ships which will go to constitute this Indian Navy. Now, this is, I think, not the proper time or occasion for considering that question, because the constitutional question has yet to be solved and whatever sums of money may be needed in expanding this nucleus of an Indian Navy should be undertaken not at this time but when the constitutional position is clarified and when we can afford to spend additional sums of money for the expansion of the Indian Navy. The second point to which I would like to refer is that the passage of the Bill in this House would not in any way mean the perpetuation of any racial discrimination in practice. I am glad to note in this connection that in the report which we have submitted we have stated as follows :

“ To the new section 65 proposed by the Bill we have added a proviso that no racial discrimination shall take place in consequence of any modifications made

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

by the Governor General in Council in the practice and procedure of Courts martial."

In the original Bill there was something about the constitution of the courts martial to which some of us objected. This point has been made clear by inserting a provision which means that no racial discrimination would be allowed in that matter. I would have gone further and claimed that in the appointment of officers and in regard to their status and other privileges no racial discrimination would be allowed. I do not know whether my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, has made that position clear. If he has not done so, I should like to have an unequivocal expression of an announcement that this Bill will not in any way inflict any racial discrimination as against Indians. We do not want that there should be any question of what have been termed as inferiority complex or superiority complex.

Now, with regard to the third point, I mean the question of Indianization, I regret to notice that the pace of Indianisation is very slow. Sir, I feel that the question of Indianization, in the case of Government services in this country, should not arise at all because in India it should be assumed that Indianization should be the rule rather than the exception. It is only in exceptional cases that Englishmen or other people from other countries should be imported to assist in the administration of the country in regard to those matters for which Indians are not yet fitted. But as in every other country the nationals of the country are supposed to man entirely all the departments of the Government, so in this country we have to start with the assumption that Indianization would be the rule rather than the exception. But, unfortunately, limited as we are in our political status, we have got to make a demand for Indianisation. In other countries which are more fortunately situated, this question has no practical value or meaning. For instance, in Japan the question of employing Japanese in the administration of Japan would be an absurd proposition, because Japan enjoys a national form of Government, and there, from the very start, all the important and unimportant posts are occupied by the nationals of the country itself. Here unfortunately in this country we have to start with a handicap and I regret to say that the Government of India have been rather slow in forcing the pace of Indianisation, so that in course of time the Indians would come to occupy all positions of importance in every branch of the Indian administration. Now the ratio of Indianisation has been stated to be one to three, if I remember aright. This is an extremely meagre proportion.

An Honourable Member : It is one in three.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Even then I submit it is not a very satisfactory state of things. I should like the pace accelerated. We have got the training ship "Dufferin" in Bombay, and we have also got the mercantile marine. They will form, I hope, the nucleus of a regular and increasing supply of Indian officers, trained and equipped in course of time, to take the rightful place in the Indian Navy. There is just one other point that I should finally refer and that is that ordinarily, as has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, Colonel Lumby, this Indian Navy is to be used solely by the Government of India. But in cases of emergency it is open to His Majesty's Government to commandeer this Navy at the instance of the Governor General. I should have liked that this power

should have been vested in the Central Legislature, but, as has been pointed out, the constitutional position of India does not admit of any such modification being made in the situation at present. The defence of India under the new scheme will not be vested in the Central Legislature, and, consequently, the disposal of the Indian navy in times of emergency will not be vested in the Central Legislature, but it will vest in the executive government. Now, the difference between vesting the powers in the Central Legislature and the executive government varies with the constitutional position in different countries. In countries which enjoy self-government, for instance, there is close co-operation between the Legislature and the executive government. One supplements the other ; but in a country situated as we are there is an element of suspicion, if I may be permitted to speak so, without reserve, lurking in the minds of the representatives of the people with regard to the objectives of the executive government in some matters or other. It is in that view of the case that we look upon with some suspicion the power which is being sought to be vested in the Governor General in Council. But I hope in actual practice there will be no occasion for our suspicion to be realised, and that this Navy will start on its career and it will form the nucleus of a fighting force which will do credit to itself and shed lustre upon the British Empire. (Applause.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, my Honourable friend from Bihar started by congratulating the Army Secretary and ended by disclosing the "element of suspicion" which often-times haunts his ilk. Sir, I am just rising only to say one word. While the question of Indianisation, as pointed out by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, must always be borne in mind, we always look upon India as having a vulnerable sea-board. The last "conqueror", if I may use that word, came by the sea, and he proposes to stay the longest. (Laughter.) India, with its large sea-board, wants an Indian Navy and I look upon this Bill as laying the foundation of an Indian Navy. (Hear, hear.) When we were in England last time, we were invited by His Majesty's Government to visit Portsmouth and to see not only the submarines but also battle-ships. Then, as during the lunch which was given to us by the naval officers, one of the speakers observed, it was a great opportunity for India to be associated with the greatest sea-power in the world. (Hear, hear.) India with its large sea-board needs an Indian Navy and Indian youngmen must look forward to a naval career as the youngmen of England do. I am very glad that this Bill has been brought forward and from today it is a privilege for us to dream dreams and see the visions of the growth of a great Indian Navy for which no Indian Legislature will grudge the money required. (Applause.)

Mr. F. E. James (Madras : European) : Sir, I will not detain the House for more than a few minutes. I do wish to say that we, as a Group, desire to bid God-speed to this Bill and to the formation of the new Royal Indian Navy. Sir, I do not wish to touch on any controversial constitutional issue, but I would like to observe that few people, who have not had the opportunity of serving in one or other of the fighting forces of the Empire, realise what status means to the members of those forces. Although the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine may not have either the time or the patience to read this somewhat voluminous Bill, yet I am perfectly sure that when their attention

[Mr. F. F. James.]

is drawn to clause 3, sub-clause (2) (b) of the Bill, they will feel a thrill as they realise how greatly their status has changed. That sub-clause says :

“(2) In the application to the Indian Navy of the Naval Discipline Act as so set forth—

- (a) ‘the Indian Navy’ has the same meaning as in this Act, and
- (b) references to His Majesty’s Navy and His Majesty’s ships shall be deemed to include the forces and ships constituting the Indian Navy.”

Sir, that is a tremendous step, and in a land where status means so much and in a service where status stands for such dignity, I believe that this change will be greatly appreciated. And if there were nothing else in the Bill, I think I should be voicing the feelings of Members of the House when I say that to confer upon the Royal Indian Marine the status of a Royal Indian Navy is only a step taken by this House which is richly deserved by the magnificent services of the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine for a period of many years.

Sir, reference has been made to the necessity for as rapid an Indianisation as possible of the Royal Indian Navy. There is no one in this House who would deny that desirability and that necessity. Of course, in a fighting machine, efficiency is always the most important desideratum. Therefore, when we call for Indianisation, we are bound to qualify it with this—that we must temper the need for Indianisation with the necessity for the retention of the efficiency of the past days. I understand, Sir, that the proportion of Indians which will be trained, if suitable candidates are forthcoming, will, for the time being, be as one is to three. I also understand that if that proves to be successful that number or that proportion will be increased. One cannot help wondering what that proportion would have been today if the Indian Navy Discipline Bill had succeeded in passing this Legislature six or seven years ago.

Sir, there is only one other matter which I should like to refer to, and that is a matter which I referred to in my original speech on the motion to refer this Bill to a Select Committee. There has been a desire expressed in various parts of the House that India should have, so to speak, its own Bill. I may perhaps be permitted to congratulate the Army Secretary on the accommodation he has shown in agreeing to the opinion of the Select Committee that the English Statute should be reproduced *in extenso* with the necessary modifications to make it suitable to Indian conditions. That, Sir, in a sense completes the status which, as I have referred to just now, has been conferred upon the Royal Indian Marine. Sir, reference has been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, in an extremely sympathetic and suggestive speech, to the position of the Royal Indian Navy in times of war. I think my Honourable friend and I need not quarrel as to the precise position of the Governor General or of the Legislative Assembly at the time when an emergency is declared. One thing that we are both united in is, that we believe that in this Indian Navy which is to have the Sign Manual of His Majesty’s hand upon its status, we shall have a force that is not only loyal but that is also efficient, and that when the time of emergency comes it will contribute not a little, first of all to the defence of India’s coasts, and then if need be, to the defence of the great Empire of which we are all proud. I have no fear that the process of Indianisation, as

time goes on, will impair that efficiency or undermine that loyalty. I believe that in the days to come India will look back upon this Bill as a stepping stone, and perhaps one of the most important stepping stones, to the fulfilment of her great ambitions ; and that, if the time of stress ever comes, India will not find the Royal Indian Navy wanting.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Sir, I did not interfere so long in this debate, because, when the Bill was first introduced, I had given expression to my views in this matter, and there is not much to be said now. However, in this chorus of praise, which we have heard up till now, I am very sorry that I have to strike a discordant note. I for myself do not feel very enthusiastic and cannot offer any enthusiastic reception to the Bill before the House. Many Honourable Members are probably aware of the commotion that was created in this very House in the year 1928, and, after prolonged discussion, the Bill was rejected on certain grounds. Since the year 1928, in these last six years, I must confess that matters have undergone considerable change. Probably those who were on the floor of the House have been raised to another position, and there is a general change brought about in the outlook of Members in general. But to my mind the position remains the same and there is no material difference. At the same time, I must offer my congratulations to the Army Secretary. I have no hesitation in saying that he is a popular Army Member in this House (Applause), that he showed a spirit of great accommodation in the discussions in the Select Committee and he made many concessions. There was, when the Bill was introduced, an attack made by my esteemed friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, that the Bill was not self-contained. My Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, at that time took a sort of defiant attitude. (*Several Honourable Members* : " No, no.") Probably he thought it was an encroachment upon the power of legislation of His Majesty's Government. But when the matter was discussed in the Select Committee he found that there was nothing objectionable in reproducing many of those sections in this Act, and we find that the main ground of objection which was raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, has been removed to a great extent. Whether it was sentiment or otherwise it matters very little to me, but the Act as it is has been made very convenient and for purposes of reference everybody will be satisfied.

Sir, I have got to level a charge against the Members of this House in general. I am not finding fault with any particular Member, but ever since I have been here and even before that, I found that the question of the navy has not attracted the attention of Members of the House to that extent which the army questions attracted. I may make myself bold even to say that many Members of the House have no idea of what this Royal Indian Marine is and what this Royal Indian Navy is. I think many people were ignorant about these things and as to the distinction between the two at the time when this Bill was introduced. The measure before this House, as was observed in the year 1928, is a wrong way of doing probably a right thing. The Navy was brought into creation by an Act of Parliament ; and now this House is only called upon to decide about the change of name of the Royal Indian Marine. I think this is not the proper way of doing things. This House must have an opportunity of creating a navy of our own. This House must have an opportunity of granting the demand for expenses of our navy ; this House must have full control of regulating our navy and it is only then and then alone that this House can be really

[Mr. S. G. Jog.]

proud of having a navy of our own. Till then I consider that this is an insignificant beginning. This is a very meagre beginning, and, as I have said in my note, I would further submit that in the new Constitution, provision should be made for making the navy budget votable. Some of my friends probably would think that this is asking for the moon. It is nothing of the sort. The British angle of vision underwent a rapid change. When the British Government finds that we are capable of managing our own affairs efficiently, the British Government and the British people will at once concede these powers, and I look forward to the day when both the army budget and the navy budget will be discussed and passed by this House. This House is prepared to shoulder the responsibility of a combatant navy; this House will be proud to have an Indian navy of our own. Since we ask for responsibility of governing India, we fully realise the responsibility of taking the defence of India on our own shoulders. The questions about Indianisation and the other questions are to my mind of less significance as compared with this great and major issue which is the main thing. So far as the question of Indianisation is concerned, I make myself bold to charge the Army Authorities in India with having discouraged educated and energetic people from entering upon careers in the navy and army. They do things without giving proper publicity. I can give a challenge to the Army Member: let him tell me how many people he wants as officers in the army and navy and I undertake to bring all the men needed. But Government does these things in a very halting manner. They are bringing forth all these measures in a spirit of distrust still. That old policy of diffidence and distrust is still there. Howsoever the Army Member may say that they are giving all facilities and offering encouragement in all possible ways, I for one must say that all this is done in a halting way. That spirit of distrust is not yet free from their minds. They probably think still that if all these posts of officers are offered to Indians, what will happen? That it is just possible that these officers may turn round against them: I think it is this spirit which is still lurking in their minds and is keeping them away from a bold step of Indianisation. Let me give an assurance to the Army Secretary and to the British Government. Get rid of this suspicion; get rid of this distrust: we will be proud of being part of the Empire: the Empire will be proud of us; we are prepared to share all the responsibility; and let me assure the statesmen that it is trust which begets trust, it is confidence which begets confidence. I know this measure does not go far enough for my aspirations; but a beginning has to be made; and a beginning has been made: if this is allowed to grow in its proper spirit and in its proper proportions, a time will come when we will be proud of our own navy. This half-hearted report, or whatever we may call it, of the Select Committee may be taken into consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby: Sir, I should like to thank the House very much indeed for the sympathetic way in which Honourable Members have spoken of this Bill, particularly as only a short six years ago the House decided that they would not touch this very Bill with a pair of tongs. As regards the question of future expansion, what I said was merely that this Bill does not commit this House, or anybody else to spending any more money upon the expansion of the Indian Navy. But I also said that I had little doubt that Government would be only too glad to fall into line

with any suggestion backed by Indian public opinion to increase India's navy, provided always that the money was available. I meant merely to give the impression that Government do not intend to increase the cost of the navy unless they have public opinion behind them.

My Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, referred to the excessive size of the officer staff of the service. Some 25 per cent. of this staff is employed in Mercantile Marine appointments under Local Governments, as Nautical Surveyors and Principal Officers in the various Ports. These officers are borne on the cadre of the Royal Indian Marine, but they are not paid from the Royal Indian Marine budget. They perform a very necessary service to India, and there is nobody else in any other service as yet who can perform the various duties they perform. Ultimately, when the Indian mercantile marine has been placed on a more definite footing, thanks to the training of suitable officers in the Training Ship "Dufferin", these duties will undoubtedly be performed by officers of the mercantile marine. For the present, however, the Royal Indian Marine officers are filling a gap which could otherwise only be filled by importing officers from outside India.

As regards the question of Indianisation, it was definitely stated during the debate in 1928 that the ratio of one in three which had been accepted as the basis of Indianisation would mean only one Indian officer a year added to the staff of the Royal Indian Marine. In actual fact the first officer was taken on in 1928 and in six years we have got 14 officers and officers designate instead of the six that might have been expected (*Mr. S. C. Mitra* : "Very good"), and we are looking round for four more this year. So I really think that we have not done so badly. As I said earlier in the day we have to judge of the correctness of the steps that we are taking as regards recruitment and training, and we have not got very much on which to base our judgment at present. It must be remembered that the earlier training of these officers takes time, it takes five years to train an engineer officer. But I can assure the House that, when we have more out of the 14 officers actually serving with the fleet, we will consider very carefully whether we can increase the proportion above one in three. (Cheers.)

The impression was given by one speaker that we were not making use of the Training Ship "Dufferin" as a source from which to obtain officers for the Marine. Our trouble has been that we once gave a guarantee in this House that we would obtain our Indian officers for the service by open competitive examination. The open competitive examination failed us, and, comparatively recently, we had to start taking cadets from the Training Ship "Dufferin". I may say that the boys we have taken from that source have done extraordinarily well. (Hear, hear.) In October next, we are having another examination ; and at least one vacancy will be open to the cadets of the "Dufferin".

My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, referred to the question of racial discrimination. I do not think I need say very much on that subject. There is no racial discrimination in the service. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I myself said so.

Lieut. Colonel A. F. B. Lumby : I am just giving the guarantee he asked for. As regards the question of the Admiralty commandeering the

[Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby.]

ships of the Royal Indian Marine for purposes unconnected with the defence of India, I should like, if I may, to read an extract from the speech that I made in an earlier stage of this Bill on this very subject. What I said was :

“ In addition, as was announced to the House during the last debate on this Bill, it is the intention of the Government of India to consult the Legislature in future, so far as may be possible, whenever any question arises of leading the Indian Navy to His Majesty's Government for operations other than in the defence of India. I assure the House that this is a definite pledge and not merely a formula of words.” (Cheers.)

I should just like to refer to what was called “ my defiant attitude ”. The reason for “ my defiant attitude ” was that I understood that legally it would not be possible to reproduce the Act in any other form than that in which we originally put it before the House. What was described as my concession was the result of the legal advice that I received.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But was your attitude defiant ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Finally, Sir, I would say that if today is going to mark the first stage in the passing of this Bill by the Central Legislature and the first step in the final stage of the creation of an Indian Navy, I think that it will go down to posterity as a very important date in the history of India. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. G. H. Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) : Sir, I move :

“ That in the First Schedule to the Bill, in regulation (1) in clause 53 of the Naval Discipline Act, after the words and figures ‘ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898,’ the words ‘ save that such powers shall not be exercisable by the Local Government ;’ be inserted.”

Sir, the effect of regulation (1) as it stands would be to vest the powers to suspend, remit or commute sentences concurrently in the Governor General in Council and the Local Government. It is considered undesirable that powers of this nature should be exercised by Local Governments in respect of punishments inflicted on members of the Indian navy for offences committed in their capacity as such, and the effect of this amendment would be to render the powers of suspension, remission and commutation exercisable exclusively by the Governor General in Council. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
The question is :

“ That in the First Schedule to the Bill, in regulation (1) in clause 53 of the Naval Discipline Act, after the words and figures ‘ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898,’ the words ‘ save that such powers shall not be exercisable by the Local Government ; ’ be inserted.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
The question is :

“ That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. E. Lumby : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
Motion moved :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions :
Muhammadian Rural) : I just want to draw the attention of the House to one point which perhaps is hardly appropriate on a third reading stage. I had no opportunity to mention it during discussion in the second reading, and that is the difficulty of obtaining suitable Indian candidates. I know that there is some difficulty about this. In the first place, this naval career is not so well known to many parents as the military career is. Everybody knows about the military career, but in Upper India at least, people do not understand what a naval career means. They have never seen a ship nor have they seen a sea. The second point is that the number of recruits is so small, that people do not think it worth while to try for the job. One man or two men are recruited every year for the whole of India by open competitive examination, and when you have an examination for the whole of India to recruit one man, then everybody feels shy saying what is the use of trying for it. But if the number of recruits every year be six to ten, then you will find a large number of good candidates competing for these vacancies. But since the recruitment is so small, everybody shoves the responsibility on to the other like the story of the tank which was filled with water instead of with milk.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
What is the story ? (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : A king once ordered all his subjects to bring in one pitcher of milk and fill up the tank. Everybody thought that the others would bring in milk and so he brought a pitcher of water thinking that it would not be noticed by anybody. Everybody thought in the same manner with the result that the tank was filled with water and there was no trace of milk. (Laughter.)

4 P.M.

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

Similarly, when the recruitment is so small, nobody takes the examination seriously, and that is the reason why candidates are not forthcoming. The Honourable Member himself informed us that there is now a new avenue by means of which really good candidates could be obtained, and that is the "Dufferin". The training ship "Dufferin" is well known on account of the publicity that has been given to it, and really good cadets join that ship and the training given there is to my mind the second best,—the best being that given in the Prince of Wales Schools in Dehra Dun. The "Dufferin" gives very good training and I am sure that the cadets selected from that ship will prove to be as good as any you can select from any part of the British dominions. If you rely upon this new field of recruitment, I am sure Government will be able to get really good candidates; and it will be good advertisement for the "Dufferin" as well. If it is publicly known that the candidates have got another avenue for employment in the British Navy, then a better class of people and abler students will join the school. Even now we find really good candidates try to join. Competition is fairly strong. Out of about 200 candidates who sit in the competitive examination, the school can admit only 30 and all of them are really very good candidates. So they are selected after a very careful competition and they are kept under proper supervision. If "Dufferin" could afford and admit more candidates, this question of wanting in good candidates will vanish. Here we have got a certain number of men who know what a naval career is. They have been selected carefully from among the candidates in the whole of India and on this point I congratulate the Honourable the Commerce Member very strongly, because, under his supervision and direction, the school has made enormous progress. The career open to the candidates was very limited three years ago. A new department is opened this year, i.e., Marine Engineering, which is now assuming great importance. On account of this new career, larger number of good Indians contemplate joining the school. If the Army Department fall back upon "Dufferin" as a possible avenue, they will get very good candidates, as good candidates for the Navy as they can find anywhere in the British dominions.

Lient.-Colonel A. F. E. Lumby : I think that my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, was absent from the House.....

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I was present in the House. I ought to have raised this point before the speech of the Honourable Member, but I had no chance.

Lient.-Colonel A. F. E. Lumby : As a result probably of the publicity given to this Bill we have been able to obtain for the open examination in October a larger number of candidates than we have had before. I have already said that we are making use of the "Dufferin" as a channel of recruitment. Between the two channels, I hope that we shall get as many really first class candidates as we want for the Indian Navy which will, I feel sure, come into being very shortly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE AMENDING BILL.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to amend certain enactments be taken into consideration.”

There is nothing contentious about this Bill. It is a direct consequence of the passing of the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, in that it seeks to give to the members of the new Royal Indian Navy the same civil rights and liabilities as are already possessed by the personnel of His Majesty's Military and Air Forces. To attain this object, it is necessary to make formal amendments in a number of existing laws. The majority of the amendments consist in adding the word “ sailor ” between the words “ soldier ” and “ airman ”, in adding a reference to the Naval Discipline Act or that Act as modified by the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act beside the references to the Indian Army Act and other similar enactments, or in omitting references to the Royal Indian Marine. In one or two cases, the opportunity has been taken to provide for “ airmen ” also where they have been omitted before.

To take a typical example, the amendment to the Indian Oaths Act, which is, I think, at the top of page 2 of the Bill, merely seeks to enable an officer commanding a ship of the Royal Indian Navy to administer oaths and affirmations in the discharge of his duties in the same way as the Commanding Officer of any military or air force station can at present. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to amend certain enactments be taken into consideration.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhamnadan Rural) : I am going to support this motion simply because I was terrified by the show of books which the Honourable Member has placed on the table in one breath. I was just going to ask what those books were. In this connection I am reminded of a story. One man had a *Sil*, the piece of stone on which we usually grind spices. He wrapped it up in cloth and in a big assembly of learned men, where there was a controversy going on, he brought this particular piece of stone wrapped and presented it to those learned men who were terrified and asked him what book it was. He said the book was called *Sillatain*, the plural of *Sil*. I do not know exactly what these books relate to. Are they books or only *Sillatain* ? After seeing this terrifying array of books, there is no option for us but to support this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to amend certain enactments be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby ; Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shammukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1931-32.

STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I move :
 “ That an excess grant of Rs. 5,762 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Stamps ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,12,238 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ’.”

The motion was adopted.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 9,62,750 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,69,155 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue ’.”

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I ask a question ? I find there was no amount granted by the Assembly—grant was *nil*. Why is that so ? How then can it be an excess grant ? It is an additional grant, because, as it appears from this paper, there was no grant made.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, the explanation of that is contained on page 6 of the Report signed by the Honourable Member of the Public Accounts Committee for 1931-32, paragraph 15.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : This is the expenditure for the year 1931-32, which we sanctioned in February 1931. So, in February 1931, the scheme of retrenchment did not start ; practically, the Retrenchment Committee met later on in 1931. Therefore, we did not know, at the time we passed the Budget, whether there would be some retrenchment or not and whether some gratuities and other payments would be made or not.

After this retrenchment scheme was started, it was discovered that expenditure to a certain extent would have to be incurred on account of concessions to retrenched personnel. There was nothing in the original Budget ; it was incurred on account of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,69,155 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue ’.”

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 5,88,307 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DELHI.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,05,697 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Delhi ’.”

The motion was adopted.

EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO CAPITAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,42,779 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital ’.”

Mr. S. C. Mitra : May I ask why this excess expenditure for 1931-32 is coming up so late along with the other item for 1932-33 ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I understand—I have no personal knowledge—the reason was that the report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1931-32 was presented so late in the Session that there was no time to discuss it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Excess grants arise out of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : That was about the railway portion, but the civil part, Part I, of the Public Accounts Committee's Report, was presented during the last Simla Session, and there was no reason, so far as this part was concerned, apart from the railway portion, why it was not presented in the winter Session at Delhi.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am very inexperienced in these matters, but is it not a fact that the report of the Public Accounts Committee must be considered as a whole, and that until the railway portion is available, the report of the Committee as a whole is not available for discussion ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,42,779 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital ’.”

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,49,498 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Appropriation to Depreciation Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1932-33.

IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, ETC., CHARGED TO REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 52,133 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Irrigation, Navigation, etc., charged to Revenue ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,44,368 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ’.”

The motion was adopted.

SURVEY OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 60,402 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Survey of India ’.”

The motion was adopted.

AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 26,939 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Aviation ’.”

The motion was adopted.

EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 28,675 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Emigration—External ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 83,153 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Indian Stores Department ’.”

The motion was adopted.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,61,394 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 345 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments ’.”

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 12,00,228 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,207 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Andamans and Nicobar Islands ’.”

The motion was adopted.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 9,23,730 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Commuted value of Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INSPECTION.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,008 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Inspection ’.”

The motion was adopted.

AUDIT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 28,640 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Audit ’.”

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND—COMMERCIAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,15,627 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Appropriation to Depreciation Fund—Commercial ’.”

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION FROM DEPRECIATION FUND.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,63,47,635 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Appropriation from Depreciation Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair finds that there are just two more items on the Agenda, that is the discussion on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee and a further demand for supplementary grant relating, it appears, to the Pusa Institute. The Chair was told by the Leader of the House yesterday that Government would probably put down a motion relating to salt to be discussed by the House.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré (Leader of the House) : At the request of certain Honourable Members of the Opposition, Government would like to implement their promise to give them an opportunity of discussing the question of salt, and, if time is available for that purpose, I would suggest that the matter be taken up on Friday.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : We have got two more days, tomorrow and the day after. It is, therefore, for the House to decide how they would like to distribute the time available for discussion of these three items. Tomorrow, in the evening, there is a party by His Excellency the Viceroy, and, therefore, the Chair proposes to adjourn the House tomorrow four o'clock. If it is the intention of the Honourable Members that they should have more time to discuss, for instance, the motion relating to the Pusa Institute, the Chair has no objection to sit earlier tomorrow.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : We shall be able to finish tomorrow at four o'clock all of the items, except the Salt Resolution.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : In the two days we shall be able to dispose of all the items.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Then the House does not want to sit late today and take up these items. There are three items remaining on the Agenda, discussion on the report of the Public Accounts Committee, a further demand for supplementary grants and a motion relating to salt, and it is understood that all these items will be finished by not later than Friday afternoon.

Some Honourable Members : Yes, yes.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, may I ask your permission formally to move the motion relating to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, because I want to make a request to Honourable Members opposite who desire to raise points. I will not take up more than a few minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Yes.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32 and 1932-33, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration, and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the locomotive running shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway.”

Sir, as I said, I do not want to make a long speech in making this motion, because the main object of the motion is to let Honourable Members opposite make their observations on the reports. The only thing I wish to say in regard to the actual reports is, that the latter part of this motion is necessary in view of the decision of the Public Accounts Committee that the two items referred to should be treated as new service and as such the incurring of expenditure on them without the previous sanction of the House requires to be regularised. The request I shall make to Honourable Members opposite is this. I think it would be a convenience for which I, at any rate, should be grateful, and I am sure the representatives of other Government Departments would be grateful if Honourable Members who wish to raise points on the Public Accounts Committee report would give notice of their

[Sir James Grigg.]

intention to do so to the departments concerned in order that their representatives may be in their place and be prepared to deal with all the points raised. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32 and 1932-33, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration, and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the locomotive running shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I ask a question now without giving up my right of speaking tomorrow on this motion ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Yes.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : From what fund do Government propose to pay for the expenses of the alteration of the shed at Bhusawal and on the installation of this wireless set ? Is it from the depreciation fund or capital fund ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : May I take it that the Honourable Member is giving notice of his intention to ask the Financial Commissioner for Railways that question tomorrow ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Yes.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : I intend to speak on the Army Department, the Railway Department and the debt position of the Government of India and also on the abolition of the Indian Stores Department attached to the High Commissioner's Office in London. I do not know which gentleman of the Treasury Bench this question affects, whether it is the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce or the Leader of the House, but I hope they will settle it between themselves.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 30th August, 1934.