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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

VOLUME II

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1921



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 30th September, 1921.

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

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : Sir, I lay on the table the statement promised in reply to a question by Lala Girdharilal Agarwala on the 26th September 1921 regarding the appointment of Indians to posts under the Government of India on salaries of Rs. 500 or above and Rs. 1,000 and upwards, during the régime of His Excellency the present Viceroy.

(a) (b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(d) The appointment of more Indians to posts under the Government of India depends on the progress made in the Indianization of the various services from which officers for these posts are selected, and until Indians employed in those services attain the requisite standing they cannot be appointed to high posts. Indian recruitment for these services is being largely extended as the Honourable Member will see from the statement laid on the table by the Honourable Sir William Vincent on the 15th September 1921, in connection with Mr. Joshi's question on the subject.

Statement showing (a) the number of Indians appointed to posts under the Government of India and paid for from Central Revenues on salaries of Rs. 500 or above and -Rs. 1,000 and upwards during the régime of His Excellency the present Viceroy, (b) the appointments and Departments in which no Indian has yet been appointed on Rs. 1,000 and above and (c) the percentage of Indian element on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.

Department.	Number of Indians who have been employed during the régime of His Excellency the present Viceroy, on posts carrying salaries of—		Departments and posts in which Indians have not yet been employed on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	Percentage of Indian element on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	REMARKS.
	Rs 500 or above.	Rs. 1,000 or above.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Legislative Department.	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>2</i>	1. Secretary 2. Joint Secretary 3. Solicitor 4. Assistant Solicitor 5. Controller, Local Clearing Office (Borrowing Debts.)	33%	
Railway Department (Railway Board.)	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	Agency, Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon, Signal and Coal Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.	1. Engineering Department of State Railways. } 20% 2. Superior Traffic Department, State Railways. } 25%	

Department.	Number of Indians who have been employed during the régime of His Excellency the present Viceroy, on posts carrying salaries of—		Departments and posts in which Indians have not yet been employed on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	Percentage of Indian element on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	REMARKS.
	Rs. 500 or above.	Rs. 1,000 or above.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
Department of Industries.	Nil	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chief Inspector of Explosives ... 2. Junior Inspectors of Explosives ... 3. Chief Inspector of Mines ... 4. Inspectors of Mines ... 5. Director, Geological Survey of India. 6. Superintendents, Geological Survey of India. 7. Printing and Stationery Department. 8. Patent Office ... 9. Metallurgical Inspectors ... 10. Superintendent of Local Manufactures and Government Test House. 11. Deputy Superintendent, Local Manufactures. 12. Chemists, Government Test House. 13. Superintendent, Government Acetone Factory. 14. Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries. 15. Controller (Labour Bureau) ... 	Under 1%	
Army Department (Headquarters staff only).	6	Nil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretary ... 2. Deputy Secretary ... 3. Establishment Officer ... 4. Assistant Secretaries ... 5. Registrar ... 6. Staff appointments in Army Headquarters offices. 	Nil.	
Public Works Department.	2	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Posts filled by members of the Indian Service of Engineers in (a) Government of India, Public Works Department Secretariat, (b) Minor Administrations financed from Central Revenues. (c) Simla Imperial Circle ... 2. Inspector General of Irrigation... 3. Assistant Inspector General of Irrigation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Postmasters General Deputy Postmasters General, Assistant Director General and Presidency Postmasters 2. Directors, Telegraph Engineering, Divisional Engineers, Telegraph and Engineering officers in the Traffic Branch. 	33% 40%
Foreign and Political Department.	3	5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medical Department ... 2. Imperial Service Troops ... 3. Frontier Militia and Levy Corps 4. Cantonment Magistrate's Department. 5. Education Department (Chiefs' College Service). 6. Police officers under the Foreign and Political Department. 	Under 1%	
Financial Adviser, Military Finance.	52	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deputy Financial Adviser, Military Finance. 2. Deputy Military Accountant General. 3. Senior and Junior Controller of Military Supply Accounts. 4. Military Accountants, 1st class 5. Deputy Controller of War Accounts, Ordnance Factories. 6. Military Deputy Auditor General. 	7%	

Department.	Number of Indians who have been employed during the régime of His Excellency the present Viceroy, on posts carrying salaries of—		Departments and posts in which Indians have not yet been employed on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	Percentage of Indian element on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	REMARKS.
	Rs. 500 or above	Rs. 1,000 or above.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.	Nil	Nil	1. Secretary 2. Under Secretary 3. Registrar	40 %	
	Nil	Nil	IMPERIAL BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, MUTTASAK. 1. Director and First Bacteriologist ... 2. Second Bacteriologist ... 3. Pathologist 4. Veterinary Officer 5. Third Bacteriologist	Nil	
	Nil	Nil	IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT. 1. Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India. 2. Imperial Economic Botanist ... 3. Imperial Agricultural Chemist ... 4. Imperial Agriculturist 5. Imperial Mycologist 6. Imperial Agricultural Bacteriologist. 7. Imperial Entomologist 8. Second Imperial Mycologist ... 9. Second Imperial Economic Botanist. 10. Assistant Bacteriologist 11. Supernumerary Agriculturist ... 12. Indigo Research Chemist 13. Protozoologist 14. Imperial Dairy Expert 15. Imperial Pathological Entomologist. 16. Assistant to the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India. 17. Imperial Cotton Specialist 18. Second Assistant Bacteriologist. 19. Supernumerary Entomologist ... 20. Indigo Research Botanist 21. Physiological Chemist 22. Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee.	83%	
	Nil	Nil	METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT. 1. Director General of Observatories 2. Director, Aerological Survey, Agra. 3. Director, Kodalkanal and Madras Observatory. 4. Assistant Director, Kodalkanal and Madras Observatory.	20%	
	Nil	Nil	FOREST DEPARTMENT. 1. Inspector General of Forests ... 2. Assistant Inspector General of Forests. 3. President, Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun 4. Forest Botanist	5%	

Department.	Number of Indians who have been employed during the régime of His Excellency the present Viceroy, on posts carrying salaries of—		Departments and posts in which Indians have not yet been employed on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	Percentage of Indian element on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	Remarks.
	Rs. 500 or above.	Rs. 1,000 or above.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
Department of Revenue and Agriculture—contd.	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<p>FOREST DEPARTMENT—(contd.)</p> <p>5. Forest Economist ...</p> <p>6. Assistant Forest Economist ...</p> <p>7. Officer in charge, Minor Forest Products.</p> <p>8. Officer in charge, Paper Pulp ...</p> <p>9. Officer in charge, Tans ...</p> <p>10. Officer in charge, Timber Seasoning.</p> <p>11. Officer in charge, Timber Testing.</p> <p>12. Silviculturist ...</p> <p>13. Forest Zoologist ...</p> <p>14. Systematic Entomologist ...</p> <p>15. Forest Chemist ...</p> <p>16. } Two Imperial Forest Service Instructors.</p> <p>17. } 18. Chief Forest Officer, Andamans 19. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Coorg.</p>	5%	
	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<p>SURVEY DEPARTMENT.</p> <p>1. Surveyor General of India ...</p> <p>2. Superintendents ...</p> <p>3. Deputy Superintendents including the Mathematical Adviser.</p> <p>4. Assistant Superintendents</p> <p>5. Officer in charge, Mathematical Instrument Office.</p> <p>6. Work Manager, Mathematical Instrument Office.</p> <p>7. Managers Photo-Litho Office ...</p> <p>8. Head Engraver Engineering Office.</p>	<i>Nil.</i>	
Department of Commerce.	<i>Nil.</i>	7	<p>1. Director General of Commercial Intelligence.</p> <p>2. Assistant Director General of Commercial Intelligence.</p> <p>3. Bengal Pilot Service ...</p> <p>4. Port Officers and Shipping Masters in the Major ports.</p>	8%	
Department of Education and Health.	5	...	<p>1. Secretary ...</p> <p>2. Census Commissioner ...</p> <p>3. Secretary to the Board of Examiners.</p> <p>4. Director General of Archaeology.</p> <p>5. Deputy Director General of Archaeology.</p> <p>6. Director of the Zoological Survey</p> <p>7. Director General, Indian Medical Service.</p>	In the Bacteriological Department the percentage is 15.8.	
	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<p>8. At any superior appointment on the Staff of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, viz., the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, Director of Medical Research, Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service, Assistant Director General, Indian Medical Service (Sanitary), Assistant Director General, Indian Medical Service (Stores), and Deputy Assistant Director General, Indian Medical Service.</p>	<i>Nil.</i>	

Department.	Number of Indians who have been employed during the regime of His Excellency the present the Viceroy, on posts carrying salaries of—		Departments and posts in which Indians have not yet been employed on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	Percentage of Indian element on salaries of Rs. 1,000 or above.	REMARKS.
	Rs. 500 or above.	Rs. 1,000 or above.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
Department of Education and Health —contd.			9. Director of Public Instruction, North-West Frontier Province. 10. Superintendent of Education, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara.	Nil. Nil.	
Finance Department	Nil.	4	11. Educational Commissioner with the Government of India. 1. Auditor General ... 2. Secretary and Deputy Secretary. 3. Controller of the Currency and Deputy Controller. 4. Mint Master and Deputy Mint Master. 5. Army Master.	Accountant Gene- 33% ral (Class II). General and Pub- 21% lic Works Lists (Class I).	
Home Department	5	Nil.	SECRETARIAT. 1. Member of the Executive Council 2. Secretary ... 3. Deputy Secretary ... 4. Additional Deputy Secretary ... 5. Director, Central Bureau of Information. 6. Inspector of Office Procedure ... 7. Under Secretary ... 8. Additional Under Secretary ... DELHI. 1. Chief Commissioner of Delhi ... 2. District and Sessions Judge, Delhi ... 3. Deputy Commissioner, Delhi ... 4. Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Municipal Committee, Delhi. 5. Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi. 6. Chief Medical Officer, Delhi ... 7. Health Officer, Imperial City ... OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE BUREAU. 1. Director, Intelligence Bureau .. 2. Deputy Director, Intelligence Bureau. 3. Two Deputy Inspectors General of Police. 4. Two Special Officers... 5. Government Examiner of Questioned Documents. COORG. 1. Commissioner of Coorg ... 2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Coorg. 3. Civil Surgeon, Coorg ... 4. Executive Engineer, Coorg ... 5. Assistant Superintendent of Police, Coorg. 6. Headmaster, Central High School, Coorg. ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS. 1. Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. 2. Deputy Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. 3. Assistant Commissioner ... 4. Senior Medical Officer ... 5. Chief Forest Officer ... 6. Engineer and Harbour Master... 7. Executive Commissariat Officer .. 8. Commandant, Military, Police...	Nil. Nil. Nil. 12½% Nil. Nil.	

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for in part (c) of Mr. Bhupatiraju Venkatapaturaju's Question No. 137 regarding the removal of racial distinctions.

Statement.

Railway Department.—The railway staff are paid at their market value, and there is no bar to qualified Indians filling the highest posts on railways and being treated in the matter of salary, Travelling Allowance and quarters in precisely the same way as qualified Europeans. As regards differentiation between European and Indian drivers and guards it may be explained that a large number of the Indian drivers are men of the mistri class and illiterate even in their own vernacular. They are, therefore, employed on work demanding less intelligence and at a lower rate of pay than the European, Anglo-Indian and Parsi drivers recruited for more responsible employment on mail and high speed passenger services. Indians, if qualified, are eligible for promotion to the highest of the three classes of guards.

Telegraph Department.—There are no racial distinctions, though it appears that Anglo-Indians recruited for local service before the 1st March 1913 were given house-rent allowance as one of the conditions of their recruitment: few such cases remain, and the removal of the privilege is under consideration.

Army Department.—King's Commissions in the Indian Army are now open to Indians who qualify by passing through Sandhurst. The question of admitting Indians into the Artillery and Engineer services in India, the Royal Air Force for service in India is under the consideration of His Majesty's Government. Proposals are also under consideration for admitting qualified Indian officers into the Ordnance, Supply and Transport and Veterinary Departments. There is no bar to the appointment of Indians to the Royal Indian Marine and proposals are under consideration for granting facilities for the requisite training in England of Indian candidates for commissions in the service.

Ecclesiastical Department.—There is no racial bar but non-Christians obviously could not be appointed to Chaplaincies.

Other Departments.—No racial distinction but a definite proportion of posts is reserved for Europeans recruited in England.

There is no evidence of such racial inequalities as the Honourable Member refers to. Overseas pay is granted in Departments where officers of European domicile are recruited. This is intended primarily to compensate such officers for the drawbacks of expatriation. Differences exist in some cases as to the quarters provided, because of differences in the style of living adopted by Europeans and Indians. Rent is ordinarily charged at a rate which will give a reasonable return on capital.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri : Question No. 645.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Sir, I am afraid that I have not got the answer to this question ready. As you know, Sir, there was some doubt as to whether this question should be allowed and it was only two days ago that I was informed that the question was going to be allowed in this form.

Mr. Chaudhuri informed me that he would not star it and would not ask for an oral answer. I have drafted the answer to the question but other departments are concerned and the answer is being scrutinised in the other departments. With your permission, Sir, I will lay the answer on the table as soon as it is ready.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri : Sir, Mr. Innes did mention to me two days ago that he would not be ready with oral answers to these questions; and, having regard to the checkered career that these questions have had during the last two months, I thought that it would be preferable to have some answer instead of none and I agreed to Mr. Innes placing the answers on the table.

MUNITIONS BOARD CASE.

646. **Mr. Manmohandas Ramji :** (a) Was the action of the Government in the Calcutta Munitions Board case taken on the sole responsibility of the Honourable Member for Commerce and Industries ?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to re-open the question and to begin again the prosecution which was withdrawn ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the statement published by the Government of India in their communiqué to the Press, dated the 28th August 1921. The Government of India do not propose to reopen the prosecution.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUESTION OF PERMITTING GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TO WEAR KHADDER CLOTHS.

105. **Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any objection on their part to Government Servants appearing in Khadder clothes during office hours ?

(b) Do the Government propose to issue instructions to heads of offices that appearing in Khadder clothes during office hours should not by itself be considered as not becoming a public servant and that such practice of wearing Khadder where it exists need not be discouraged ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Government do not object to their servants wearing clothes composed of any material, provided that the clothes worn do not definitely carry with them any political significance.

(b) Government do not consider it necessary to issue instructions of the nature suggested.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE MUNITIONS CASE.

106. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Was the Advocate General, Bengal, consulted by the Government of India regarding the withdrawal of the Munitions case against Karnani and Banerjee ?

(b) If so when, and what was his opinion ?

(c) If the Advocate General was not consulted who else was and what was his opinion ?

(d) Was the Advocate General asked by the Government of India to withdraw the case ?

(e) Did the Advocate General wire to the Government of India to let him know the reasons for which he should urge the withdrawal ?

(f) Did the Government of India send a telegram to the Advocate General detailing the reasons for withdrawal ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Advocate General did not commit himself to anything beyond what was stated in the telegram ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of telegrams, if any, passed between the Advocate General and the Government of India, before the withdrawal of the case?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : For the reply to this question, I must refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué issued on the 28th August 1921.

CHIEF CONTROLLER, SURPLUS STORES, AND THE MUNITIONS CASE.

107. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Chief Controller, Surplus Stores, was in Calcutta in June last when Sir Thomas Holland visited that place?

(b) If the Chief Controller was not in Calcutta was he consulted by Sir Thomas Holland, about this case by telegram or otherwise?

(c) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what was his opinion?

(d) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, why was he not consulted?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The Chief Controller (Surplus Stores) was not in Calcutta in June when Sir Thomas Holland visited that place. The Chief Controller, was not consulted by Sir Thomas Holland by telegram, nor at that stage of the case was there any necessity for such consultation.

COSTS OF THE MUNITIONS CASE.

108. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Who will bear the costs of withdrawing the Munitions Case against Karnani and Banerji?

(b) Was it a condition precedent that the accused would bear the costs in case of withdrawal?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : It was not made a condition, prior to the withdrawal of the case, that the accused should bear the cost of the prosecution. That cost, therefore, must fall on Government.

WITHDRAWAL OF MUNITIONS CASE.

109. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Have the Government of India received protests against the withdrawal of the Munitions Case, from different Chambers of Commerce and other bodies in India?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what replies, if any, have been given to such protests and lay the same on the table?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The Government have received protests from certain Chambers of Commerce and other bodies in India. Some of them are still under consideration. I lay on the table, however, a copy of the reply sent to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and would add that similar replies have been sent to most of the other Chambers and Associations which have addressed Government.

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND'S EXPLANATION RE THE KARNANI CASE.

110. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the explanation given by Sir Thomas Holland, together with all the papers bearing on the Karnani case?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The Government of India do not propose to publish Sir Thomas Holland's explanation, or to lay the papers referred to on the table.

PENSION TO SIR THOMAS HOLLAND.

111. **Mr. P. L. Misra :** Will Sir Thomas Holland be granted pension, if so, how much ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Sir Thomas Holland is in receipt of a pension as retired Director of the Geological Survey in India.

ALLEGED DESTRUCTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OF LALA JIWAN MALL
KAKKAR OF PESHAWAR.

112. **Dr. Nand Lal :** I. Will the Government kindly state whether or not it is a fact that :

- (a) From the beginning of May last the extensive private property, near gate Ramdas of one Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar of Peshawar is being pulled down, cut up, and changed out of all shape ?
- (b) The said Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar has previously obtained permission from Peshawar Municipality to build the mosque and that when he with previous consent of the Local Deputy Commissioner started building operations, his workmen were forcibly removed and has thus been prevented from building the mosque at his own expense as was his intention to do ?
- (c) Up to this time the authorities at Peshawar have refused to take any step for stopping this destruction of private property ?
- (d) The Frontier Province authorities have refused to intervene unless the said Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar consented to give up his rights of private property over the mosque and the other houses recently pulled down ; and that on his refusal to follow this advice, his civil and criminal cases pending in the ordinary courts of Law have by orders of the Local Deputy Commissioner been referred to the Jirga tribunal ?

II. If the facts are as stated above, will the Government be pleased to state as to

- (a) Why the authorities in the Frontier Province have been watching silently while the destruction of the private personal property of a private individual has been going on unchecked for months ?
- (b) Who is responsible for taking possession and destroying the private property of the aforesaid Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar ?

III. Is the Government aware that the case of Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar has filled the entire Hindu populations of Frontier Province with a number of misgivings ?

IV. Has His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India received a memorial from the said Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar, asking for justice ? If so, what action has been taken thereon ?

The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru : I. The facts of this case as ascertained from the Local Government are as follows :—

On Lala Jiwan Mall's land situated in a Muhammadan quarter of Peshawar there is a mosque built by his father. A portion of this mosque

having fallen into disrepair, Jiwan Mall proposed to erect upon it a new building, part of which was alleged by the Muhammadan population of the neighbourhood to be a latrine. Early in May, before these building operations were commenced, certain Muhammadans proceeded to the spot and themselves re-built the mosque, in order, so they alleged, to safeguard what they regarded as consecrated ground.

It is alleged, on the other side, that in this process of rebuilding certain encroachments have been made upon the house property of Jiwan Mall. How far these allegations on either side are founded upon fact, is a question now before the courts.

At the time of these events Lala Jiwan Mall was afforded Police protection, as much religious feeling had been aroused and the leaders of the Muhammadans were warned by the Deputy Commissioner to refrain from any further forcible action.

No civil suit has been withdrawn for reference to a *jirga* and no matter in dispute in such suit has been formally referred to a *jirga*. It appears that before proceeding further with the criminal cases under the Frontier Crimes Regulation, the Deputy Commissioner called for the file of the civil suit since it was impossible for him, without reference to the file, to determine what particular matters in dispute were excluded from the scope of the Regulation. The civil suit is still pending and can be resumed by the plaintiff at any time.

II. In view of the foregoing, (a) does not arise while (b) is subjudice.

III. The Government is informed that the case of Lala Jiwan Mall Kakkar has not created any misgivings among the Hindu population of the Frontier Province.

IV. Yes. In accordance with the Memorial rules the memorial has been returned to the memorialist, through the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, with the intimation that it cannot be entertained by the Government of India unless submitted through the local authority.

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM PAY OF CERTAIN INDIAN SERVICES.

113. **Bhai Man Singh :** (a) With reference to my Question No. 665, replied to on the 28th March during the last Session, will the Government be pleased to state the number and the names of the various Indian (superior and subordinate) services besides that of the Public Works Department and Railway Accounts, of which the minimum and the maximum pay remained the same since 1864?

(b) If there are very few, why does the Government not consider the question of granting to them such substantial increase as is required by the economical conditions of the country in those days?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (1) the number of the Public Works Department and the Railway Accountants in different grades who have considerably benefitted by the introduction of the new time scale and the extent to which they have so benefitted and also the number of those who have not benefitted at all?

(2) the reasons why this special system of keeping the same maximum and minimum pay with a changed time scale was adopted in the case of these Accountants and why the ordinary system of revising the whole commensurate with the rise in prices was not thought advisable in that case too ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state by way of illustration what actual advantage (after the deduction of the temporary war increase) under the new scale accountants of 5 and 20 years' standing have got ?

(e) With reference to the reply to my said Question No. 665 given by the Honourable the Finance Member to the effect that in the case of the Railway accountants a further modification has been made whereby those men who retain the title of accountant now start on a minimum pay of Rs. 150, will the Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the new scale of Rs. 150 applies to those men only who pass an examination equivalent to the old examination for promotion to accountant second grade with starting pay of Rs. 250 per mensem with the only difference that in the new examination candidates are not required to obtain 66 per cent. marks in one special subject but to obtain 50 per cent. marks only as in the other subjects ?

(f) Does it not practically amount to a decrease in the starting pay from Rs. 250 to Rs. 150 per mensem ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : The collection of this detailed information will necessitate the expenditure of very much time and trouble, and as the question of the adequacy of the pay in Accounts offices is now under consideration I would ask the Honourable Member to be satisfied with the assurance that the points raised by him in this question will be considered at the same time.

INCREASE GRANTED TO SUPERINTENDENTS AND ACCOUNTANTS OF THE INDIAN AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

114. **Bhai Man Singh :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the actual percentage of increase granted to Superintendents and accountants of the Indian Audit Department and to the officers of the same Department in the various grades and posts on account of high cost of living ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the increments, granted to the officers are in the shape of permanent addition to the pay whereas in the case of the accountants and Superintendents the increase is to be absorbed in the future increments and that the maximum of the grade is not to be exceeded ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why in the case of officers drawing over Rs. 200 per mensem an increase of 33 per cent. was considered necessary whereas to subordinates drawing over Rs. 200 an increase of Rs. 20 per cent. and to those drawing between Rs. 100 and 200 increase of Rs. 20 per cent. and to those drawing below Rs. 100 only Rs 30 per cent. with a further restriction that the war allowance was to be deducted, was considered sufficient ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if in any other Department (besides the Audit Department) a similar increase as permanent addition

to their pay has been granted to the officers drawing more than Rs. 200 on account of the high prices ?

(c) Do the Government propose to consider the desirability of revising this new system of increase with a view to mete out equal treatment to the officers, accountants, and superintendents of the Audit Department ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : (a) The annexed statement gives the information asked for.

(b) Answer to this part is in the affirmative. It may be pointed out that in the case of Superintendents and clerks the portion absorbable in future increments is only the excess given by the percentage additions over the pay calculated according to service.

(c) The increases sanctioned for the Indian Audit Department are at the rate of—

‡rd of pay—up to and including 7th year of service ;

‡th of pay, with a minimum of Rs. 200—from the 8th up to and including 15th year ;

‡th of pay, with a minimum of Rs 250 and maximum of Rs. 300—from the 16th to the end of the time-scale. The higher increase for the General List officers applies only to present incumbents and is justified on the ground that the officers of the Department must adopt a higher standard of living especially in the Presidency and other large towns in which they have to serve. Further the rates of pay were determined after due consideration of the revisions which had been granted to members of other services.

(d) The particular method adopted in the case of the officers of the Audit Department has not been followed in other services.

(e) The question of the adequacy of the pay in accounts offices is now under consideration.

Statement.

The classes which have been admitted to the scheme of percentage increases in accounts offices are :—

- (1) the clerical establishments (except record clerks) in the offices of the Civil Accountants General, including the office of the Comptroller, Assam ;
- (2) the clerical establishment relegated to the Lower Division in the offices of the Chief Auditors of the State Railways ;
- (3) the first and second grade and divisional accountants ;
- (4) the subordinate Accounts Service ; and
- (5) the Railway Subordinate Accounts Service.

The increases are at the following scale—

- (a) For those whose pay did not exceed Rs. 100, 30 per cent. increase.

(b) For those drawing pay from Rs. 101 to Rs. 200, 25 per cent. increase.

(c) For those drawing pay over Rs. 200, 20 per cent. increase.

Information as to the actual increases obtained in other classes is not readily available.

APPOINTMENTS HELD BY SIKHS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

115. **Bhai Man Singh** : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of permanent appointments of Superintendents, and stenographers and the number of such appointments held by the Sikhs in each of the several Departments of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given on the 10th September 1921 to the Question (No. 72) asked by Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu regarding the adequate representation of all Provinces on the staff of the Government of India Secretariat.

Statement showing the number of permanent appointments of Superintendents and Stenographers and the number of such appointments held by the Sikhs in each of the several Departments of the Government of India.

Department.	No. of Superintendents.	No. of Stenographers.	No. of appointments of Superintendents and Stenographers held by Sikhs.	REMARKS.
Home	6	5	Nil.	
Finance	6	6	1 officiating Superintendent	
Foreign and Political	9	5	Nil.	
Army	5	2	Nil.	
Public Works	4	5	Nil.	
Railway	7	5	Nil.	
Revenue and Agriculture	4	3	Nil.	
Legislative	3	2	Nil.	
Education	3	3	Nil.	
Commerce	5	5	Nil.	
Industries	6	6	Nil.	
Military Finance	5	6	Nil.	
Total	63	51	1	

DIRECT POSTAL TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LAKHIMPUR AND LUCKNOW.

116. **Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai** : Do the Government propose to arrange a direct postal telegraphic communication between Lakhimpur and Lucknow ?

Colonel Sir S. D'A. Crookshank : The number of telegrams booked at Lakhimpur for delivery in Lucknow is 5 and the number booked at Lucknow for delivery in Lakhimpur is 8 daily on an average. In view of the fact that the total traffic received at or sent from Lakhimpur in the course of a year averages only 37 messages a day and that Lakhimpur is over 80 miles distant from Lucknow, it would not be economical to erect an additional wire for direct telegraphic communication between the two places. There is already direct postal communication between the two places.

CIVIL CLERKS ON DEPUTATION TO THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

117. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : (a) Will the Finance Member please state if any civil clerks on deputation to the Military Accounts Department were recommended by Divisional Controllers for supernumerary promotions in their own Departments as reward for good work ? If so, how many ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider such recommendations ?

(c) Is Government aware that the Military Accountant General held out a promise (*vide* his letter No. 2461-G., dated the 25th July 1918) to the civil clerks on deputation that rewards in the shape of special promotion in their own Departments will be given to them for meritorious services during deputation ?

(d) Have any such rewards been given to any civil clerks ? If not, is it intended to carry out the promise ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : (a), (b), (c) and (d) The terms of the Military Accountant General's letter quoted by the Honourable Member are as follows :

' Civil clerks on deputation who have done and are doing good and loyal work with the Military Accounts Department will, on the termination of their services at the end of the war or later, if it is necessary to keep them on for a while, be recommended for special reward and this should give them superior claims in their own services.'

This does not amount to a promise that such clerks would receive rewards in the shape of special promotion in their own departments and it is obvious that the Military Accountant General was not in a position definitely to bind the heads of other departments to give special promotion to clerks recommended by officers of the Military Accounts Department. The Government of India do not know how many civil clerks were recommended for rewards as a result of the letter in question. Such recommendations are not reported to the Government of India, but are dealt with directly by the officers concerned.

MEMORIALS FROM CLERKS OF THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, SHILLONG.

118. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : Did Government receive any memorials from the clerks belonging to the Comptroller's Office, Shillong, regarding :

(a) Revision of pay under time scale ;

(b) Hill or local allowance ;

(c) Advance increments in fixing their pay under time scale ?

Do Government propose to expedite final orders thereon ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : Advance copies of the memorials have been received direct from the clerks but Government have not yet received the memorials submitted through the proper channel.

AVERAGE SALARY OF THE OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

119. **Mr. K. Ahmed :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the average salary of officers of the Indian Civil Service of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years' service on the 1st July 1921 and 1911 respectively ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

PAY OF THE IMPERIAL SERVICES.

120. **Mr. K. Ahmed :** Is there any comparative statement of the pay of the Imperial Services before and after the recent reorganisation of pay which the Government of India could be prepared to publish ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in reply to Question No. 227 by M. K. Reddi Garu. Copies of the statement will be published in the Legislative Assembly Debates and Government do not consider any further publication to be necessary.

POINT OF ORDER.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I have submitted a letter to you, Sir, asking for certain information on the Resolution which stood in the name of Rai Bahadur Majumdar and to ask a statement from you, Sir, as to how you accepted the statement made by the Honourable the Home Member yesterday, whether that was accepted in the form of an amendment from this House or whether it was accepted in the form of an assurance from the Government on the termination of yesterday's discussion.

Mr. President : The Resolution standing in the name of Rai Jadunath Majumdar Bahadur was duly amended, by the decision of the House, by the insertion of the words handed in at the table in the form of an amendment standing in the name of Government. Therefore the Resolution as finally passed was that which contained the assurance given by Government, and embodied in the amendment.

RESOLUTION RE: RECRUITMENT FOR ALL-INDIA SERVICES.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : Sir, I have been called upon to proceed with the Resolution* which I had the honour of moving yesterday and which had to be postponed on account of want of quorum. As I mentioned

* This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that having regard to the declaration of August 1917, he be pleased to arrange, that in future, the recruitment for all the All-India Services excepting those of a technical character shall be made, as far as possible, in India and also to take steps, to provide in India such educational facilities as would enable Indians to enter these technical services in larger numbers than is at present possible.

yesterday, Sir, when the Deputy President was in the Chair, the opportunity was given to me to move this Resolution yesterday by the Honourable the Home Member on a distinct understanding that if the discussion was not concluded on the 29th, he will not be able to spare the 30th for it on account of pressure of important work. Sir, I have also further to inform the House that the Honourable the Home Member has promised to give me the earliest official date in the Delhi Session and on that undertaking, Sir, I wish to withdraw the Resolution for the present.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Honourable Member has quoted me quite correctly except that I did not give a definite promise to take this matter up on the first official date in the Session. I undertake however to give a very early date—the earliest possible date,—to the Honourable Member for this Resolution.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : Perhaps, I made a mistake, Sir.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, I move :

‘That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, by providing for the issue by Courts in British India of commissions for the examination of witnesses to such Courts of Princes and Chiefs in India as are notified in this behalf, and for the execution by Courts in British India of commissions issued by such Courts, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.’

I must apologise to the House for the short notice they have received of this measure, and if there is any feeling whatever on this point, I am quite prepared to defer consideration of the Bill till the next Session. I realise that the Assembly have not had much time to consider it. My only object in making the present motion is to get what I believe to be a non-controversial Bill out of the way and save time for more important work during the next Session. If, however, there is any Member in this Assembly who feels that the Bill ought not to be considered to-day, I am quite prepared to ask the leave of the House to defer further discussion on it. The Bill was introduced in the Council of State on the 19th and passed without amendment or discussion on the 26th. It was laid on the table of this House on the 27th, and I believe that copies have been supplied to Honourable Members. I have also given due notice of my intention to make the present motion. The Bill is a simple one intended to fill a lacuna in the Code of Criminal Procedure. It will be seen that if a Court in British India wishes to secure the taking of the evidence of a witness residing in a Native State, it must at present send the Commission to the Political Agent, who, according to the Code, executes the Commission himself or delegates his powers and duties under the Commission to an officer subordinate to him and such officer must be a person whose powers are not less than those of a Magistrate of the first class in British India. The Bill proposes to provide that in such cases the Political Agent instead of executing the Commission himself or securing its execution in the manner I have described, may send the Commission to a Durbar Court and *vice versa*, the Durbar Court may send a Commission through the Political Agent for execution to a Court in British India. The whole arrangement is based on the system of reciprocity.

The Government of India will also have to notify the State Courts of any Prince or Chief in India to which the reciprocal arrangements will extend. Such action will, of course, be taken with due regard to the extent to which modern ideas of jurisprudence are followed in such Courts. I do not think that at this stage I need say anything more about the Bill. But, as I said before, if any Honourable Member wishes more time to consider it, the Government are quite prepared to accede to the request.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Sir, the Bill as introduced in this House leaves two things upon which I should like to ask the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to enlighten the House. The first is that if a commission is issued from British India to a Native State Court or to a British Officer in the Native State Court, what is to be the procedure for the examination of witnesses. Is a pleader or a legal practitioner entitled to practise in a British Court entitled as of right to examine, cross-examine, and re-examine if necessary such witnesses in the court of a Ruling Chief? Secondly, if a witness commits perjury in a Native State Court, is any provision made as to the trial and the punishment he should receive for committing this offence outside British India and *vice versa*? I must say at once that I have not examined this Bill because I found it placed on the table just now, and that is my sole excuse for questioning the Honourable the Home Member. If I had more time I should have considered it more carefully and perhaps these questions would have been obviated. But if the Honourable the Home Member has considered these questions and can satisfy this House, we do not wish to offer any impediment in the way of its being taken into consideration here and now.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, as to the first question of the Honourable Member, I think the matter would be decided according to the practice of the Court in which the evidence was recorded. I will confess that the second point has not perhaps been considered sufficiently. In the circumstances, as the Honourable Dr. Gour has raised these two important questions, I think it would be better to defer the consideration of this Bill with the consent of the Assembly until the next Session.

The consideration of the Bill was, with the consent of the Assembly, deferred.

RESOLUTION *RE*: RAILWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

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

'That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee, consisting of Members of the Indian Legislature, to consider the following matters arising from the Report of the Railway Committee, namely :

- (i) the separation of railway from general finance,
- (ii) the requirements of railways in regard to capital expenditure during the next ten years; and to make recommendations.'

I do not propose to say very much in support of this Resolution. The Assembly knows that on the 15th September last we published a summary of the Railway Committee's Report. The Report itself was published in London I understand on the 23rd September, and the Government of India have not

[Mr. C. A. Innes.]

yet received any copy of it. But the summary shows that the Report traverses the field of railway administration in India and makes many important and drastic recommendations.

In the absence of the Report it will be idle to comment on those recommendations, nor would it be relevant to do so. All I can promise is that as soon as the Report is received, we shall take up the examination of the different questions raised with the least possible delay and that we shall treat the recommendations of the Report with that respect which is due to the distinguished authors of that Report. But it is obvious from the summary, indeed we all knew of it before, that the improvement of the Indian railway system hinges upon the question of finance. Practically all business and commercial witnesses before the Commission, in their evidence, laid stress on that point and it is evident from the opening sentences of the summary that the Committee condemns our existing railway system as entirely inadequate to the needs of the country, and they ascribe this state of affairs primarily to the failure of Government to provide adequate funds both for capital works and for renewals. They find a solution for this state of affairs in the separation of railway from general finance. They suggest that the Railway Budget should be a self-contained budget and that the Railway Department, as reconstituted in accordance with their recommendations, should be responsible for the earning and expending of its own income and that after providing such net revenue as may be required to meet existing railway debt, they may be left free to regulate the disposal of the balance and to devote it to new capital purposes, to reserves or to the improvement in rates and services. It is also evident that a good part of the Report is devoted to the Capital requirements of railways and to the best method of raising that capital. Now the Government of India think that they should examine this question of railway finance without delay. I will not hazard any opinion on the suggestion that railway finance should be separated from general finance. That raises many difficult questions, but I am prepared to say that if we are to improve the existing railway system in India, as admittedly it needs improvement, we must drop all hand to mouth finance. We must try to work to a definite programme of capital expenditure spread over a series of years, unexpended grants of one year being carried on to the next. At any rate the Government of India would like to consider these two questions at once and they are anxious to be able to submit concrete proposals for the consideration of this Assembly in the next Budget Session, but the questions are very difficult and very important and that is the reason why we ask for the assistance of the Legislature. In this Assembly and in the other House there is ample material for a Committee which will give us valuable advice. Business and commercial interests are well represented, and there are many men who, though they may not have actual business experience, will bring to the consideration of the problems ripe experience and ripe knowledge of affairs. The Government of India feel that it would be of great value to them and to this House if they can have the assistance of a Committee of this kind in formulating their proposals. It will be understood that the Committee will be a purely Advisory Committee. Its report will be laid before this House, and the final decision will of course rest with this House. I commend this Resolution, Sir, to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. E. L. Price: Sir, I rise to support Mr. Innes' proposal. At the Budget meeting in Delhi last March to the best of my recollection more than one Member pointed out the defects of the present system of financing railways, and if the House did not take the matter up further at that time, it was solely due to the fact that the Railway Commission was then sitting.

In the meanwhile I know that the Karachi Chamber of Commerce already was proposing to put up to the Associated Chambers of Commerce, which is to meet I think in Bombay in January, proposals on these very lines, and I am perfectly certain that this proposal meets not only the requirements of the findings of the Railway Commission but also the requirements of the commercial community of India. It is impossible to let our railway policy drift as it has done, to let our railway policy drift as it has done particularly during all the years of the war. It is necessary to disintegrate railway finance from the budget finance of the Central Government, and I support this Resolution, with the sure knowledge that all commercial men who know the circumstances of railways at the present time will support it too.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Sir, I regret to oppose this motion. On your dictum, Sir, that whenever a Resolution is to be referred to a Committee, whenever a Bill or a Resolution is to be remitted to a Committee, then it means that the Assembly accepts the principle underlying it. Now the principle that is to be accepted by us without reading the full report—we have some extracts from the report published in the papers—is not at all, I will respectfully submit, one on which we should come to a conclusion without considering it in all its aspects. That Committee, Sir, reports.....

Mr. President: As the Honourable Member seems to be raising a point of order, I will relieve his mind at once by saying that the Resolution recommends the appointment of a Committee to consider certain subjects. No ruling of the Chair has yet laid down that such a Resolution commits the House to the principle in question. Indeed the Honourable Mr. Innes made it plain that the committal of the House to the principle would not arise till his substantive proposals are brought forward in Delhi. The ruling which the Honourable Member has in mind applied to the reference of a Bill to a Select Committee and has no bearing whatever on issues raised by Resolution.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Whatever be the ruling with reference to the interpretation, I respectfully urge that we should not pass this Resolution at this stage, because the Railway Committee recommends many other things. First of all they recommend the abolition of the Railway Board. They recommend Government to consider whether company management should not be put an end to, and whether all railways should not be brought under State management, etc. Such being the case, are we to be hurried on to pass such a Resolution as this about the separation of railway from general finance? Perhaps, Sir, many of us are aware that for a long time we have suffered losses on account of the railways. It is estimated that that loss comes to about £50 million or 75 crores. For 10 or 12 years we are making some profit, and we are making a large profit now, though on account of the exorbitant growth of working expenses, that profit has been dwindling from year to year. All the same, the present proposal is this. We have hitherto separate pages and heading for the railway income and expenditure distinct from the other items of the budget. The main principle involved now is that the income from the net profits of the railways should be earmarked for railway purposes mainly,

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju.]

and that is the chief crux of the suggestion. Are we to earmark any portion of our revenue for any particular purpose? Is this such a subject that we ought to do this, especially at a time when we had a deficit last year and anticipate a deficit next year? Should we apply the same principle to posts and telegraphs, because there is some profit (whatever be the amount) realised? Now therefore that question should be thoroughly examined and we must know what the Ackworth Committee Members said, whether there was any difference of opinion. That is what I propose we should do in this matter. Everybody is anxious that money should be spent, when necessary, on railways, for the construction of railways, or for the supply of wagons, or replacing other materials which are necessary for railway purposes. The second clause is what capital expenditure should be provided for the next ten years. This also depends upon our budget, whether we have to borrow, how much we can possibly raise for this purpose and whether it is possible at such a time, when we are not meeting our expenditure from our income, to chalk out expenditure for a period of ten years ahead. Is that a fair thing to be done? Are we in a position to commit ourselves either to one view or to the other view? Of course we can suggest a Committee and a Committee of both Houses might sit together and might consider. Why should we not wait and chalk out a policy at least in sending recommendations to the Governor General in Council. We might say what our view is; we might say that the present policy adopted by the Government is ruinous to the interests of the country and that they must withdraw the company system of management and place railways under State management; and we might recommend several other things. Unless we have a comprehensive view of the whole matter and, unless we can recommend a comprehensive scheme, what is useful and necessary in the interests of the country might not be taken up, and what, from the Indians' point of view is essential and absolutely necessary might be left out.

Therefore, I earnestly appeal to the Members of the Assembly that we should not hurriedly pass this Resolution while it may very well be discussed next Session.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: Sir, frankly, I do not understand Mr. Venkatapatiraju's attitude in this matter. He first of all based his opposition to this Resolution on grounds which you, Sir, found it necessary to set him right. Foiled in that attempt, he had to search for other grounds, and all I can say of the grounds which he at length found is that he could not have put them forward if he had carefully read the Resolution. He asks why we should now decide or commit ourselves to any course of action with regard to that important Report, a report which he points out deals with questions so important as the complete nationalisation of railways and with the abolition of the Railway Board. Sir, the reason why we desire to separate the two important questions which you will find in the Resolution was simply because they can be treated apart from those other larger questions to which he refers. Even if the Railway Board is abolished, even if every railway in the country is nationalised, the question of finance still remains an important, an urgent and an insistent question. But we do not ask the House to decide or even prejudge this question. We are often accused as a Government of not taking people into our confidence and, when an unfortunate Finance Member and an unfortunate Member in charge of railways between them seek to take Members of the Legislature into their counsel, and consult with them before settling on a policy, they

Mr. Raju says plaintively, 'Oh! you are deciding a policy in advance; why should you decide a policy in advance?' Sir, we are doing nothing of the kind. We are only taking counsel with those whom we think best qualified to advise us; subsequently, of course that advice will be at the disposal of the House.

As regards the second part of the Resolution, he says 'Is this now a time to lay down a definite programme of what we shall spend on railways in future?' Did he read really the Resolution? Does it say anything about the laying down of a programme of what we shall spend? It merely proposes 'to consider the requirements of railways in regard to capital expenditure during the next ten years.' All we propose to do is to ask public men who know the requirements of the public, and who know the requirements of commerce in regard to railways, to study with us this difficult and intricate problem.

He has asked us finally to lay down now a comprehensive policy which the House can discuss in order to make its recommendations to the Governor General in Council. I have tried to explain to the House that before we try to lay down a comprehensive policy we need to take counsel with others on the subject. Anything that we were to do now on the lines suggested by Mr. Raju would be entirely premature. Sir, I support the Resolution.

Mr. B. S. Kamat: Sir, I was rather surprised at the view which my friend, Mr. Venkatapatiraju, has taken with regard to this Resolution. I believe it was only during the last Session at Delhi that I moved a Resolution that every report of an important Commission like the Railway Committee should be placed before this House for consideration and the Members of this House should be taken into confidence by the Government. I believe that Resolution was accepted by this House. Therefore, now that Government is coming forward and laying the report of that important Commission before us and giving us an opportunity to discuss the details, it is with some surprise I see Mr. Raju's attitude. I do not think we shall be committing ourselves to any such policy as Mr. Venkatapatiraju apprehends. It will be for this Committee to go into the requirements of railway expenditure, and after the Committee reports, a further opportunity will be given to the whole of this House to consider whether that Committee's recommendations are sound or unsound. I believe that the proposition which has been brought forward by the Honourable Mr. Innes is a very sound and practical one, and we ought to welcome the opportunity which has been given to us to appoint a Committee of both the Houses.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Sir, I would ask the Honourable Member who has just been commenting upon this Resolution to consider two words which occur in this Resolution, and those are that 'that this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee consisting of Members of the Indian Legislature to consider the following matters arising from the report of the Railway Committee, etc.' Now Honourable Members will observe that this Committee is not pledged, as appears to have been understood by some Members, to the separation of railway from general finance, or to the requirements of railways in regard to capital expenditure. It is a purely deliberative Committee intended to examine, consider and report upon the necessity set out in the Resolution, and I do not see what objection there could be to the appointment of a Committee of the character contemplated in the Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE*: THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

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

'That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the contribution of 63 lakhs payable to the Governor General in Council by the Local Government of Bengal under rules 17 and 18 of the Devolution Rules framed under Section 45-A of the Government of India Act, be waived for a period of 3 years with effect from the year 1922-23.'

Sir, I must, in the first place, congratulate my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, on having arranged for the last act of this season's drama a debate which affects so intimately many Members of this House, and in which the outside public has taken so keen an interest. The matters which I have to deal with are, although of great public importance, of a somewhat technical nature, and I must therefore ask the indulgence of the House while I state a few preliminary facts which will bring it into touch with the past and recent history of the case.

Let me first remind the House that under the old system of finance as between the Imperial and Provincial Governments, settlements were made first of all, on a temporary, then on a quinquennial, and then on a quasi-permanent basis; the case of each province was taken up separately with little reference to the needs of other provinces, with the result that there was considerable diversity of treatment as between the various provinces. We allocated to each province a certain portion of the total revenues raised by it; certain heads of revenue were granted in whole, others in part, the intention being to allow the province to benefit by the improvements in its material conditions or its administration. Frequently the revenues allocated were supplemented by standing contributions; but the whole basic principle of these settlements was that the finances of India as a whole were under the control of the Government of India, and that we allocated from time to time to the provinces such sums as were required for their expenditure in accord with the standard of administration which had from time to time been reached by them. The reforms demanded a settlement with the provinces from an entirely different point of view. There was to be a complete separation between our finances and their finances. They were to have complete control both over the revenue and expenditure of the subjects which were handed over to them for administration; subjects for instance as land revenue, excise, judicial stamps and the like. Now, the complete surrender of these important sources of revenue to the provinces naturally left the Imperial Government in deficit; the corollary of this was, that the deficit had to be made up by contributions from the provinces. In other words, under the old system the provinces were beneficiaries of the Government of India; under the present system we are the pensioners of the provinces. Now, for the effects of this change of procedure as estimated in terms of figures: when the Montagu-Chelmsford Report was written it was believed that the deficit would amount to about Rs. 13½ crores, and it was thought that the provinces would have no difficulty in supplying us with contributions equal to this deficit; it was believed that the great increase in their provincial sources of revenue would provide them, as a whole, with a surplus which would enable them to undertake this obligation. But at a

conference held in Simla in 1919 doubt was cast on this position, and a further examination of the situation showed that whereas we were demanding contributions amounting to about 13 crores, on a normal estimate the surplus of revenue over expenditure in the hands of provinces would amount only to 11 crores. Not only so, but there were two provinces, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, which seemed likely to have to face an actual deficit.

Now, I come to the next stage, the stage corresponding to the appointment of an impartial Committee under Lord Meston, to adjust the financial relations with the provinces. There were two difficulties before this Committee. The first was of course to decide how provinces which had in the gross a surplus of revenue over expenditure of only 11 crores could pay contributions amounting on the whole to about 13 crores; the second difficulty was to decide how Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, which seemed to be likely to have to face a deficit, could carry on their administration at all. Well, we ourselves solved the first problem before the Committee actually began its work. It was at a time when we believed that the value of the rupee could be maintained at two shillings, and we hoped that this would leave us a surplus of revenue over expenditure in the central finances which would enable us to reduce our deficit to six crores. Well, Sir, if we were frustrated by fate in that anticipation, let it at least be remembered that it is the provinces which have received the benefit of our over-estimate, and it is the provinces which have been able, purely on that account, to finance themselves in the difficult times which they have had to encounter since 1920. As I say, we ourselves solved the first problem. As to the second problem, now to provide sufficient funds for Bengal and Bihar and Orissa to carry on their administration the Meston Committee proposed that instead of general stamps being retained as a central head, it should be allocated to the provinces. That would of course place additional resources in the hands of all Local Governments, and particularly benefit Bengal. We agreed. The net result was that our deficit was increased to 983 lakhs since we had lost the 'general stamp' head of revenue. It was this sum of 983 lakhs which the Meston Committee accepted as the basis of the demand which had to be made on the provinces; it was then their task to distribute this demand on some equitable basis between them. Now as the House is aware, this was not done on any ideal calculus of taxable capacity or the like. The contributions were assessed on what appeared to the Committee at the time, and what I still think in spite of all criticisms, is the only reasonable basis, namely, the increased spending power secured to the various provinces under the new allocation of finances. Let me summarise the results. The total increased spending power of the provinces was, as calculated by the Committee, 1,850 lakhs. Of this, as I have shown, it was proposed to take 983 lakhs by way of contributions, leaving a total increased spending power to the provinces of 867 lakhs. That recommendation was accepted with some minor modifications by the Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1920.

Now, Sir, that is the general history of the case; I have thought it necessary to offer it to the Members of this House in order that I may revive their memory of the previous stages of this somewhat complicated question. Now I come to Bengal. That province claimed on general grounds that it had not been provided with adequate resource. It claimed, for instance, that while the allocation of half the land revenue constituted in the case of other provinces an elastic and increasing figure, in the case of Bengal, owing to the peculiar

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circumstances of that province it was fixed and inelastic. It also claimed that we made insufficient allowance for the large sums which they collected on our behalf in customs, in jute export duty and in income-tax. They claimed, indeed, that no system of allocation was fair to them which did not take into consideration those large sums which they paid into the Imperial revenues as the result of collections of these important heads. Now, Sir, let me say at once that although that complaint existed, although the new dispensation provided that they should receive no credit on account of customs, income-tax or the jute export duty, I nevertheless do not here propose to go into that general question. If we do so, we shall be at once plunged into what may be an interminable discussion on highly controversial and disputable questions such as the taxable capacity of the provinces or ideal system of allocating heads of revenue as between the provinces and the Central Government. Not only are these questionous contentious in themselves, but the circumstances of the provinces are so diverse as to make agreement difficult if not impossible. The problem which I have to put before you is self-contained and is a definite one; for reasons which I shall subsequently explain, it is a problem which requires an early solution; no such solution would be possible if we were plunged into the welter of abstract discussions of that nature. I propose, therefore, to put all those considerations aside, and I shall simply take the problem as we find it and as we must meet it. Now Bengal, apart from those general claims, had also particular reasons for doubting the security of its position. When the Montagu-Chelmsford Committee reported, the assumed normal income of Bengal was 7½ crores and against an assumed normal expenditure of 6½ crores leaving a surplus of about 75 lakhs.

The Simla Conference of 1919 on its examination of the case admitted a normal income at 773 lakhs and assumed expenditure at 791 lakhs, making, instead of a surplus, a deficit of about 18 lakhs. Bengal indeed claimed that the deficit was much larger, and when the Meston Committee examined into the case they admitted a deficit, but thought that the case would be met by their proposal regarding the allocation of General Stamp Revenue. This would give Bengal an additional 110 lakhs, or after the deduction of the proposed contribution of 63 lakhs, a surplus of 47 lakhs. In summing up the case, however, they recognised that the path of Bengal in the future would not be an easy one. They said:

'Bengal has a low scale of expenditure and an inelastic revenue and will receive only a very moderate start in its new financial career.'

The Joint Parliamentary Committee when they examined the case were even more impressed with the difficulties of Bengal, and made a special recommendation on the subject of that province. I ask the House to note that they did not think it necessary to make any such recommendation on behalf of any other province. These are their exact words:

'The Committee desire to add their recognition of the peculiar financial difficulties of the Presidency of Bengal which they accordingly commend to the special consideration of the Government of India.'

Now I come to the final stage; the Meston Committee had assumed that Bengal would start with a working surplus; that was an essential condition of their recommendation as to its contribution; and our concern now is to see how the provision made has worked out in practice. I must premise that the figures which the Meston Committee and the Simla Conference took into consideration,

made adequate provision for the changes which were necessitated by the report of the Public Services Commission, made provision also for some of the expenditure which was required owing to the appointment of Ministers and the like under the Reforms, but that those bodies did not, and could not, then foresee the great increase in provincial expenditure which was necessitated by the revision of the pay of the ministerial and subordinate establishments in the provinces. This factor has of course worked with exceptional difficulty in the case of a Province whose revenues are, as has been said, inelastic. I have given the House the figures of assumed income and expenditure at the Simla Conference, namely, income 778 lakhs and expenditure 791 lakhs, and I have also shown you the Meston Committee expected, by the transfer of general stamps, that Bengal would have a surplus of 47 lakhs. Actually, however, the Budget of last year disclosed a deficit of no less than 212 lakhs. I am not concerned in the defence of the whole of the items which were entered on the expenditure side. We do not now deal very narrowly nor indeed control in any way the Budgets of the provinces, and if I had any criticism to offer it would in this case be the criticism of an outside critic. But even if some of the items in that Budget were undoubtedly abnormal, yet it is certain that in any case there must have been a considerable deficit. No fresh taxation was imposed, because the province had at the time large accumulated balances and the deficit was met from those balances.

We have however to consider now the problem for next year. The accumulated balances are practically exhausted and the province will start with a very small opening balance. We, on this occasion, have examined the case both narrowly and critically, and it appears certain that with every economy, Bengal must have a deficit of not less than 120 lakhs, even if we make no allowance for any extra expenditure on improvements in transferred subjects such as are desired by Ministers—improvements which we are told are necessary if the system of reforms is to be a success. Bengal would have that deficit even if it provided only the bare minimum expenditure required to carry on the ordinary administration of the province.

Here, Sir, my tale ends, and I now ask the House to address itself to the problem which that tale has revealed.

It is no secret here that the public in Bengal has protested very vigorously against a state of things which leaves the province on the inception of reforms with an immediate annual deficit of over a crore of rupees. It is no secret that the Ministers have protested against imposing taxation at the very outset in order to meet the bare requirements of the administration of their province. That taxation we are informed would be taken by the public as the first fruits of reform; and its imposition even if agreed to by the Council might react disastrously on the progress of reforms in the province. We have been told that the case would not stop with the demonstration of resentment by the public, but that very practical proof of such feelings might be given by the local Council and even by Ministers. I had better not be more precise; the House will take my meaning. Now once again, I am not going into the debatable questions which I have already referred. I am not going into the question for instance—and I hope nobody else will go into the question whether Bengal is, man for man or acre for acre, taxed more lightly or more heavily than other provinces. For my present purposes, and in view of the problem (a problem which is as much political as

[Mr. W. M. Hailey.]

Financial) which we and the House have to meet these considerations are entirely beside the point. Bengal has a demonstrable deficit in its annual working and the most careful criticism by our experts does not allow us to pretend that this deficit can be avoided. Bengal has behind it, in making claims for our assistance an argument which no other province can put forward—namely the specific recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Bengal now demands that we should implement that recommendation, nor is it for this Government or indeed, Sir, for this House, which owes its statutory existence to that Committee, to disregard the claim. And, finally, Bengal can point out that if we turn a deaf ear to the claim which she now makes upon us, there may be immediate political reactions which may extend far beyond the province itself.

Well, Sir, that is my case. What we now propose is in effect, to give Bengal a breathing space, by waiving her contribution for the next three years. I may point out that this is far less than the Bengal Government has asked for, less than her public, less than her newspapers, less than her Ministers have asked for. It will not even allow her to meet in full the deficit for next year. It will remain for Bengal to supplement by some form of taxation the measure of assistance which we propose to give. We believe ourselves that Bengal could, without imposing an undue burden on her public, raise the necessary resources by increasing, for instance, her taxes on general and judicial stamps.

And, now, Sir, may I add one personal word to the House. The House may very well imagine that its Finance Member does not stand up lightly before it to suggest the abandonment of an important receipt by central revenues. I need not perhaps assure the House that we should not ourselves have put forward such a proposition if we had not been convinced that it was absolutely necessary to do so. I see from some amendments which have been tabled that there are certain Members of this House that are not prepared to accept the Resolution which I have placed before them unless equal or perhaps even greater advantages can be secured to other provinces. That is an attitude which I must emphatically deprecate. It would be impossible, in the present circumstances, that central finance should make further large sacrifices of revenue. They would have to be implemented elsewhere. Difficult it may be to implement 63 lakhs; it would be impossible to implement 983 lakhs. Besides, as I have already pointed out, and I must again repeat, no other province has exactly the same case as Bengal.

No other province can point out that it is working under a demonstrable and unavoidable deficit.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas: Bombay.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: No. That, Sir, is a position I am prepared to maintain is at the present moment peculiar to Bengal. Further, no other province can point out that it has the definite recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in its favour. We must regard this problem, a pressing and an insistent problem, entirely on its own merits. I would remind Members of this House that they are Members of an Imperial Assembly, the custodians not of Provincial, but of Imperial finances. They were elected by their constituents as representatives not of Provincial but of all-India interests. When you come here, your hearts may remain in your

provinces ; but it is your task to lend you intellect, your political acumen, your sense of statesmanship to a larger cause, the national interests of India. I ask Members of this House to view this question not as provincial partisans, but as members of a jury assembled to try an important case between the general taxpayer and one particular province. I ask them to show all the mental detachment and the impartiality of such a jury, to clear their minds of all prejudices or prepossessions on the subject, and to direct themselves only to one end, namely, to find a solution for the difficulty in which Bengal now finds itself. It is a difficulty which in all truth is hard enough financially ; and any delay in its solution may prove to an actual political danger.

Mr. Piyari Lal Misra : May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member if there are accumulated balances to-day in Bengal, if so, how much ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : They had an accumulated balance at the beginning of the year of Rs. 41 lakhs. We are given to understand that considerable inroads were made on the balance during the course of the year. I cannot tell exactly how that balance will stand at the beginning of next year, but it will be very considerably below the sum of Rs. 41 lakhs.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether any remission has been made of the Bengal contribution for the year 1921-22 ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : My argument, based on that fact, will follow hereafter.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam : One question, Sir. Has any attempt been made by the Ministers in Bengal to cut down expenditure ?

Mr. President : Order, order. That is within the purview of the Local Government of Bengal and not of the Government of India.

Mr. B. S. Kamat : May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member why it is necessary for this House to commit itself to a period of three years in order to give breathing time to Bengal ? It is conceivable that their finances might improve in the second or the third year so that it would not be necessary then to waive this Rs. 63 lakhs. Perhaps it may be less, say, Rs. 40 lakhs or Rs. 30 lakhs. Why should this House commit itself for 3 years certain ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : My answer would be that it would be seen from the figures that I have given to the House that very considerable improvement indeed is necessary, and that it seems to me to be unlikely on any calculation that we can make that the Bengal finances will improve so rapidly that we should be able to confine our concession to one or even to two years.

Sir Frank Carter : Sir, I am very pleased to learn that the Government of India recognize that Bengal has been hardly treated under the report of Lord Meston's Committee on Financial Relations and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Honourable the Finance Member for putting our case so clearly and so generously. After this report was published in the early part of last year numerous protests were made against the proposed adjustment of Finances as between the Government of Bengal and the Government of India.

These protests were made not only by the Local Government but also by various Associations and public bodies, who laid their complaints before the Secretary of State as well as before the Government of India.

[Sir Frank Carter.]

During the last few months I have been absent from India but nothing has impressed me more (speaking of Bengal) since my return than the united voice with which the people of Bengal continue to speak regarding this question of financial adjustment.

I find Chambers of Commerce, and Associations representative of all sections of the community, Indian and European, submitting representations in which they all ask, that favourable recommendation should be given to proposals under discussion, for relieving the financial difficulties of that province.

Now, Sir, I ask *why* are all these leading public bodies so insistent in their desire for some revision of the terms of the Meston Report?

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce is quite frank in expressing its views on the point. In one of its latest telegrams the Chamber says '*Unless adequate relief be granted, fresh taxation for ordinary expenditure will be inevitable which will cause serious discontent, endangering the Reforms and strengthening the non-co-operation movement*'.

I believe, Sir, that the people of Bengal will be quite prepared to accept fresh taxation for any new schemes that may be put forward for the *public benefit* and I know that schemes for improving the *educational facilities* and for the better *sanitation and drainage* of the province are now under the consideration of the Ministers. *But* they naturally hesitate to place these schemes involving fresh taxation before the Legislative Council until the financial arrangements with the Central Government are *equitably adjusted*.

I repeat, Sir, that the Honourable Ministers in Bengal *are* preparing schemes for the welfare of the people they have been elected to represent, and that these schemes will involve large sums of money which must be forthcoming if the Ministers are to justify their existence in the new order of things.

But, I submit, Sir, there is a wide difference between taxing the people of Bengal for *new schemes for their welfare*—there is I say a wide difference between *that* and taxing the people to square a deficit which has been forced upon the province, *for no fault of their own*, but as the result of the Reforms, under an arrangement of which they have *never* approved and indeed against which they have never ceased to protest since the Meston Committee's Report was first published nearly eighteen months ago.

The Honourable the Finance Member has already explained what are Bengal's grounds of complaint against the Meston Report and I therefore will not take up the time of this House going into further detail—but I *do* feel that Bengal has legitimate cause for complaint and something ought to be done in order to give the Reforms there a fair chance of success.

After all, Sir, we must recognize that the adjustments as between the Local Governments and the Central Government are of an arbitrary nature. The Meston Committee *themselves* admitted frankly that it was '*inevitable that the initial contributions should be in some manner arbitrary*' (those are the exact words).

What I maintain, Sir, is that the division of sources of revenue, whereby Bengal receives practically no credit for the large collection made in Calcutta under the head of Income-tax and Customs Duties and Jute-tax, is a more

or less arbitrary arrangement that tells most adversely against the province. And *actual experience* shows us, I mean *actual figures* made up at the present time not the *pro forma* statements in which the Meston Committee's recommendations were based, but up to date figures show that unless something is done, Bengal falls into the very pit the Meston Committee intended to avoid.

Sir, on this House rests a great responsibility. By its vote to-day it will largely contribute to the making or marring of the Reforms in Bengal.

A favourable vote will mean encouragement to the Ministers to press forward with their schemes for the welfare of the people; it will give confidence to the Bengal Legislative Council and it will go far to make the people of Bengal more contented with the Reforms.

An adverse vote, Sir, I hesitate to imagine, what the effect of an adverse vote may be.

I refuse to believe that this House can be so *unsympathetic* or so *ungenerous* and I have the whole matter in the hands of Members with every confidence that they will do *justice* to a *righteous cause*.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: Sir, I am very thankful to the Government of India and to our Finance Member for the small mercies they have been kind enough to offer to us. This reminds me of my experience in a barber's shop while I was sojourning in Germany. I am very grateful to the Finance Member, but I must narrate my tale of woe to the Assembly here.

It is in great grief that I am narrating this sad experience of my early life. After I sat down in a German Shaving Saloon, the barber gave me a very rough shave, and while my chin was still smarting I hurriedly brought out a coin which was more valuable than half a crown. I did not know the language well enough, and when I wanted a change, the generous barber gave me back six pence for it, saluted me and pointed me to the door. There my legitimate due was 2 shillings, and his share was 6 pence, but I got only 6 pence for myself, and had to leave 2 shillings to the shaving establishment. Whatever I get now I welcome, for my Honourable friend, Mr. Spence, told us in this House the other day that when one gets a 2 anna piece for a tip, one ought not to grumble or throw it away, but it would be wise to put it in one's pocket, and go away. So I am prepared to do it, but all the same I must say a few words to explain our embarrassing financial position, I thank the Honourable the Finance Minister for having explained to this Assembly the peculiar difficulties of Bengal. Now I shall only remind the Honourable Members about the recommendations of the Meston Committee. They proceeded on the basis that there should be for every province a 'limiting consideration'. In making an adjustment between the Central and Provincial Governments they went upon the principle that there should be a 'limiting consideration,' which they explained in the following terms: 'That there is an obligation to leave each province with a reasonable working surplus.' Now, they further explained their policy with regard to the levying of contributions from the Provinces in the following terms:

'The limit we have imposed on ourselves is that in no case may the contribution be such as would force the province to new taxation *ad hoc*, which, to our mind, would be an unthinkable sequel to a purely administrative re-arrangement of abundant general resources.'

[Mr. J. Chaudhuri.]

So they proceeded on the basis that directly there was this Imperial and Provincial adjustment, and the provinces started on their own account after the reforms were introduced, no province should be required to impose new taxation. That was the principle followed. But what was the result? The result was that Bengal started not with any surplus but with a deficit of a crore and a half. I shall quote my figures from Lord Meston's report.

The Committee estimated that Bengal's budgetted income would be Rs. 8,57,00,000. Out of that they transferred to us Rs. 43½ lakhs of expenditure which the Government of India formerly used to meet from Imperial resources. Further, they levied on us an Imperial contribution of 63 lakhs. That being so, our estimated income being Rs. 8,57,00,000, and these two together coming up to nearly Rs. 1,70,000, our net budgetted income amounted to Rs. 7½ crores only.

Now, in 1920-21 our budgetted expenditure was 9 crores and 8 lakhs, so we started, unlike the other provinces, with a deficit of Rs. 1,50,00,000. Whatever other considerations there may be, I would appeal to this House to consider that we did not start level as the other provinces did, and that the deficit has stuck to us ever since.

Now, the Honourable the Finance Minister has referred to the fact that we are very large collectors of revenue on behalf of the Government of India. I would like to inform the Honourable Members how much revenue we collect for the Government of India and what we get for ourselves. We collect in Customs Rs. 12,81,00,000; we collect in Income-tax nearly seven crores of rupees. All this we hand over to the Government of India. Altogether, in 1921-22 we raised from all sources of revenue in Bengal more than 34 crores and out of that, under this new adjustment, how much did we keep for ourselves? We kept for ourselves only Rs. 9,84,95,000.

Now, let us see what revenue is raised in the other provinces and what they keep. Madras raises Rs. 21,42,42,000 odd and retains Rs. 13,22,89,000. Bombay raises Rs. 31,42,24,000 and keeps Rs. 13,90,35,000. The United Provinces raise Rs. 14,29,65,000 and retain Rs. 17,94,03,000. The Punjab raises Rs. 11,94,00,000 and retains Rs. 9,52,96,000. Thus it will be seen that we retain Rs. 9,84,00,000 out of 34 crores and the Punjab retains Rs. 9,52,00,000 out of 12. Of course, I have no grievance against the other provinces. We regard India, as a whole, our common motherland. If we are in distress, I come to my brother Members of this House and appeal to them to give us relief and to help us. So also, when they are in similar distress and would appeal to us for financial assistance, we would be the last persons to deny them consideration. (Hear, hear.) The other day the Honourable the Home Member said that a Resolution was passed in Madras recommending the separation of judicial and executive functions, and because of the financial difficulties they had to turn down the scheme. Now, I say that whenever other provinces want to carry out any projected reform which is essential for good government and if the Members come before the House and convince us that they have no funds to carry out such reference, we shall look to the interests of the provinces and not to the interests of the Central Exchequer. Our goal is provincial autonomy.

Provincial autonomy will mean absolutely nothing if the provinces do not progress under the Reforms scheme. If we are unable to carry out the

necessary measures of reform, educationally, industrially, and in our administration and sanitation, the Reform scheme will be absolutely useless. However, I shall assure this House that if it was necessary for us to finance ourselves for primary education, we should be only too glad to tax ourselves for that purpose. It is not for such purposes that we seek financial relief. I was explaining to you that we started with a deficit of a crore and a half and now out of the 2 crores and 10 lakhs deficit that we are faced with, only 67 lakhs have been budgetted for by the transferred Departments, that is, by the Ministers. The balance of it goes to meet the increased cost of general administration over which we have no control. As my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, explained, the deficit is due largely to the increase of salaries, of the ministerial, Provincial and the Imperial Services. Therefore this present predicament in which we find ourselves, has not been brought about by any hasty measures of our Ministers but by an inequitable adjustment. I do not say that it was purposely done but surely it was through inadvertence. Now that it is admitted on all hands, that injustice has been done to Bengal, is it just or fair that it should not be remedied? I submit that the waiving of the claim to the contribution of 63 lakhs by the Government of India would not solve our difficulties. We will still have to find a crore and a half to make the two ends meet.

Finally I would appeal to the House that when the Government has come forward to do us tardy justice and make us not an over-generous contribution, the House will not raise any opposition but consider the difficulty of our position calmly, coolly and sympathetically. I am quite confident that not a single voice of dissent will be heard in this House. With these words, I commend the Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju : Sir, in spite of the warning of the Honourable the Finance Member I am prepared to move my amendment and offer my own remarks on the observations made by the Honourable the Finance Member.

The amendment which I have to place for your consideration is that the following words be added to the Resolution :

'And further recommends that suitable help or similar concessions be given to Madras and other provinces where financial difficulties exist.'

First of all, Sir, I must make my position clear.

The Finance Member tells us that when we come to the Legislative Assembly we must forget from what place we have come. Then, why do you want so many representatives from so many provinces? Does Mr. Price forget that he represents the constituency of a Chamber of Commerce? Do other Members forget that they represent their constituencies? Why should we forget that we represent Madras or others that they represent their provinces? We represent our provinces; there is nothing wrong in our parochial patriotism, but it should not stand in the way of our national patriotism. I do agree that Bengal really deserves help. I congratulate the Government of India for offering some help to Bengal; and I would have been more glad if they once and for all abolish the contribution from Bengal. I would never stand in the way. But what I would suggest is that when necessity arises, when there are financial difficulties and when occasion arises and when other provinces also do equally suffer, I would then ask the Government of India to give suitable help to those provinces as they do on this occasion. The Judges of suitable help are themselves. Is there anything wrong in asking it? Is it parochial patriotism to ask that when you give help to Bengal you

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju.]

should also look to the other provinces whenever financial aid is wanted and render them such help? Of course the Honourable Member says on this occasion when we are showing our charity and lending or making a gift of a few lakhs of rupees, we should not compare the incidence of taxation either on land or per head of population, because the Honourable Member is perfectly aware and he cannot justify it if he entered into those things; he wants to avoid them; but I will not avoid them, not because I do want to stand in the way of Bengal getting something, but that I want the Government of India should see how other provinces are treated and whether they are not in need of financial help and whether they should not be given some help on this or on any future occasion. From the statistics of the Government of India published in the year 1919, you will find that Madras pays per head of the population Rs. 27, Bombay Rs. 15, Bengal Rs. 16, and the United Provinces Rs. 14. Is not Madras heavily taxed? I shall give the assessment with reference to the acreage. In Madras, they charge on the average Rs. 2-8-11 per acre, whereas in Bombay it is Rs. 1-5-7, in the United Provinces it is Rs. 1-12-2, in Oudh Rs. 1-15-7 and in Bihar and Orissa Rs. 1-2-6. Is not Madras heavily taxed even with reference to the assessment on land? Even with reference to the liquor which you sell in Madras how much do you charge there as compared with the others? Do they not give us an ever-increasing revenue, that excise, from which we get more than 5 crores? Now, from the reports which I have received, there is already a decrease of 25 per cent. in consumption. What would be the effect on Madras if we depend on the excise revenue? Most Members, even the official Members are anxious to put an end to that excise revenue. If 5 crores are gone, what is to be the position of Madras? Have they considered it? They have for the last two years been spending more than their revenue in Madras. I am pleading for Madras, not because I do not want, not to help Bengal or any other province, but because I want to plead for other provinces as well who might have similar grievances to be dealt with and who might require help. Because the Government of India are charitably disposed now, let us take this opportunity of bringing before them the grievances of our several provinces. How long can Madras rely upon this excise revenue? Thanks to Mr. Gandhi's activities, in course of time, I am sure the whole excise revenue will go. Are we in a position to impose further taxation? Madras has to pay new, not Rs. 63 lakhs as Bengal is paying, but Rs. 848 lakhs. We have to pay nearly Rs. 8½ crores, the highest amount that any province was asked to contribute. Should not some concession be shown to that Government, when there is a deficit? What is deficit? We are spending more than our revenue.

Even in the year 1919-20 we spent in Madras more than our revenue and we have spent much more than that in 1921, and the budget provided for next year has already exhausted all the resources at our disposal. Perhaps the Members of this House may not be aware that the Madras Government is very efficient in the administration. They will not ask for any concessions or doles at the hands of Imperial Government. They will screw every pie in fines and penalties from the people. The recoveries from fines and penalties in the Madras Presidency are more than in any other part of India, because we are efficient; they do not ask for a loan even from the Imperial Government; they will screw every pie in the shape of settlements in order to recoup themselves. And they have stinted their expenditure for a long time.

Now what have they done? When every province has increased the salaries of their officials, the Madras Government also have increased the salaries of their officials, and the net result is they are exceeding their income. Now, Sir, I ask, should not the Madras Government receive some excess in at your hands? I may add that even before this it was neglected, out of sight, out of mind, because it is far away from the throne, and that is the reason why we are regarded as the belighted presidency. When Bombay received 22 lakhs recurring grant for education for smaller population.—Bengal nearly 42 lakhs, proportionately a scanty sum was given to Madras. Even with reference to temporary grants, Madras always lags behind because either her representatives do not scramble or they have not got the trumpet voice of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee in order to extort something from the unwilling hands of the Honourable the Finance Member. But if we had a strong representative like Sir Surendra Nath from Madras, probably he would have appealed to him, and not in vain, to get something to relieve the present situation in Madras. Perhaps the Madras Government are busy with Moplah outbreaks, perhaps they have no time to run up to Simla and appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member for some aid. But he must see from the Madras budget figures, from the closing balance, from the incidence of taxation and from the every day declining revenue on which they have to build up their administration what their condition is. Is Madras able to spend any thing for development purposes, for which the Honourable Mr. Hailey pleaded now for Bengal? Where is the money for us for Education? We have none. In the matter of drainage, excepting one municipality, the Government of Madras was not able to help any other municipality. We have not started technical schools, and technical education is very backward in Madras. We cannot compare ourselves either with Bombay or Bengal even in the matter of education. Where are we to get money from? Now, am I wrong in asking the Government of India to show us some concession out of the compulsory contribution which you levy from Madras of 348 lakhs, and not 68 lakhs every year? Why not show us some concession taking the difficulties of Madras into consideration? I do not plead for Madras alone. I earnestly submit that whatever be the province, since the Government of India have established a good precedent, they must consider at leisure and try to help other provinces also if they are in difficulty, but please do not say, as was suggested by the Honourable Mr. Hailey, 'this is only a special concession given to Bengal; we are poor, we have to borrow money to meet our own demands, and therefore let the other provinces not expect any concessions.' Now I demur to such a thing.

When you find other provinces in similar difficulties you are bound to help, you cannot treat one province in one way and another province in another way when they are in similar difficulties. I do not say that you should not go to the help of those who are starving till you help the halfstarving. Do not say that I go thus far and no further. The Assembly must give what amount they think proper, to other provinces as well and we have no grievance against Bengal, but the Government should give a similar concession to other provinces similarly situated. We must do everything in our power to ensure prosperity to the country and it is not a mere question of patriotism, you must not do these things for the sake of a few people who agitate, nor for the sake of a few who speak loudly and ignore those who are modest or backward in their demands. If a mother wanted to give something to one daughter, the other daughters would naturally complain if they were not treated in the

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:]

same manner. You must look upon the provinces as sister provinces. Treat all provinces alike, help all provinces that suffer from financial difficulties. I therefore appeal to all Members to support the Resolution and the amendment and never hesitate to come to the aid of other provinces where similar difficulties exist.

Mr. President: Which amendment does the Honourable Member propose to move?

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: The amendment I read out just now, Sir.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member prefers that to the other? If so, he will not be able to move the other.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: I don't wish to move the other, Sir.

Mr. E. L. Price: May we hear what the amendment is, Sir?

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

* That the following words be added to the Resolution:

' And further recommends that suitable help or similar concessions be given to Madras and other provinces where financial difficulties exist.'

Mr. J. P. Cotelingam: Sir, the relative financial position of the provinces is not the question before the House, nor are the financial needs of Madras the subject for consideration now. I am confident that the House will not be so unsympathetic as to refuse the sum proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member, Bengal's financial embarrassment, as we have been told, was anticipated and a special recommendation was made on its behalf by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and I hope the House will gladly sanction the amount which the Honourable Mr. Hailey recommends for the immediate relief of Bengal, which stands in great need.

Mr. E. L. Price: Sir, I had not intended to speak in this debate, but
 340 P.M. Mr. Venkatapatiraju mentioned me by name and, as I understood him, he challenged me to stand up for the financial rights of the Presidency from which I come. Well, Sir, I am extremely sorry that Mr. Venkatapatiraju, going back on his Delhi record, has seen fit to introduce a strong strain of provincialism into this debate. Provincialism in this matter does not appeal to me. It is quite true I am the representative of European residents in the Bombay Presidency, but, when I am elected, I serve neither the Europeans nor Bombay. I maintain I serve all India. And, if I have not so borne myself, I much regret it, for certainly in that case I have failed in my duty. I do not think I have any right, on behalf of my constituency or the province in which it is situated, to bring to this House mere prejudices, either of my own community or of my own Presidency, when I am dealing with all-India matters.

Well, Sir, I must admit, on the other hand, that the provincialism unfortunately introduced by Mr. Venkatapatiraju on behalf of Madras was only what I should have expected from the provincialism introduced by Mr. J. Chaudhuri on behalf of Bengal, and my own feeling was that if Bengal has a set-back in this matter, Mr. Chaudhuri himself will be somewhat responsible.

Now, Sir, it is very unpleasant for this Assembly to have to appear to interfere in any provincial matter. We are an all-India Assembly. We want to mind our own business and let the provinces mind theirs. That is a point I have always insisted on. But, in the case of Bengal, when Bengal comes to us and asks us to release a large sum of money, well, naturally one seems to have an acquired right to look into the circumstances; and, of course, the circumstances are that owing to that wretched old permanent settlement, the land revenue system of Bengal is not expansive in the same way that the land revenue system of the other provinces for the most part is. The obvious thing is that Bengal will have to put her house in order, will have to look to other sources of revenue. The Honourable Member has mentioned stamps as being a provincial head. It looks to me as though it is absolutely necessary that Bengal raises her stamp duties by 25 or 50 per cent, and, though I support this assistance being given to Bengal in her dire need, as indeed I would support it being given to any other province if there were an equally dire need at the same time, I think this House can very well couple with it in this debate the straight warning that it is up to Bengal, as soon as she possibly can—it will probably take at least three years—to put her house in order and raise the revenue necessary to carry on her provincial government. Apart from that, Sir, Bengal's affairs are her own, and, if only she would conduct them without coming to us for help, I am the last person in the world to say anything about it. But, as she has come to us for help, I think it is quite within the province of this Assembly, while voting the remission of 63 lakhs for three years, to convey a very strong hint, as I hope Mr. Hailey will do, that this gift is final and that Bengal must put her own house in order. If her present system of taxation does not enable her to carry on her provincial government, the sooner she takes the necessary steps the better.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas: Sir, I support the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Finance Member, but I have to make a certain reservation in regard to the statement that he had made in support of his Resolution. If the Honourable Member had only moved the Resolution and, in support of that Resolution, if he had only stated his ground for allowing this release to Bengal, I should have had nothing to say, but, in view of the fact that the Honourable the Finance Member has also made some statement with regard to other provinces, I am constrained to rise and to challenge the statements made by the Honourable the Finance Member.

I have nothing to say with regard to the claim of Bengal. I entirely support the Resolution of the Honourable the Finance Member so far as the claim of Bengal is concerned. But I join issue with him when he says that while Bengal deserves special consideration, other provinces do not. I am not prepared to speak about the present position of the other provinces because no demand has come from the other provinces. But I make bold to say, Sir, that in spite of the statement made by the Honourable the Finance Member, if at a future date other provinces come to us with a demand for release or other help, the House reserves to itself the right to consider these demands on their own merits. Another point: The argument that the Meston Committee realised the difficulty with regard to Bengal or the Joint Committee also found difficulty in the case of Bengal will not weigh with us when we discuss the merits of these provinces when they come to us with their demands. Sir, I interjected one of the remarks made by the Honourable the Finance Member and said that Bombay also was not treated in a proper manner. As I have

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already said before, I am not pressing Bombay's claims because Bombay has made no demand just at the present moment. But, at the same time, I want to remind the Honourable the Finance Member and this House that Bengal alone was not dissatisfied with the award made by the Meston Committee, but Bombay also was dissatisfied and Bombay was unanimous in expressing its dissatisfaction, so much so that at the meeting that was convened by the Sheriff of Bombay to protest against this, the Honourable Mr. Froom of the Council of State and Mr. Gandhi spoke from the same platform. However, I mention this fact only to let the Honourable the Finance Member know that the arguments that he has advanced in support of the Resolution, especially the argument that Bengal's demand has been justified to a certain extent because its difficulties have been recognised by the Joint Committee and the Meston Committee do not weigh with us and that we reserve the right to ourselves of discussing the demands of the various provinces when they come to us on their own merits.

Lala Girdharilal Agarwala : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Finance Member. But I submit there were certain remarks made by him to which I take exception. For example, I come from the United Provinces. Our province has also been very badly treated in regard to the provincial contribution. A deputation was sent to His Excellency the Viceroy on behalf of the United Provinces Liberal Association in which stress was laid upon this point, and it was pressed that the financial arrangement should be revised and readjusted. Of course, we are not making any demand just at present, but I simply want to make it clear that my province is also doing very badly and we may have sooner or later to bring a similar Resolution.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say anything on behalf of my province. My province needs as much financial assistance as any other province; but I agree with my Honourable Colleague, Mr. Price, that this is not the time when we should introduce provincialisation. When at present we are in a position to give financial assistance to Bengal, we should ungrudgingly and without any further remarks and pressing the claims of our own provinces, whole-heartedly support the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Finance Member.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : I move that the question be now put.

Mr. C. W. Rhodes : I think by now we know pretty well the opinion of the House, and as I feel sure that the Resolution will be passed by this Assembly, I rise to thank it on behalf of Bengal for the very generous way in which they have dealt with this Resolution. The Honourable the Finance Member has dealt so thoroughly with the question that it is quite unnecessary for us, Members from Bengal, to supplement his statement. Like Mr. Price I thoroughly deprecate any provincialism, whether on my own side or on the other. (Hear, hear.) The contribution that the Honourable the Finance Minister has offered to waive, *viz.*, 63 lakhs, is not sufficient for us, but we shall have to make the best of it. We recognise that other provinces have their difficulties, but it is not a question of difficulty with us but of disaster. We shall do our best during the next three years, under an almost intolerable burden, hampered as we are with the permanent settlement, which after all is a matter for this House, and personally I wish the Assembly would take

it up. But the position is critical in Bengal, and will still be critical with this remission. In conclusion, I should like to repeat that if this Resolution is passed, as I feel sure it will be, we shall be very grateful to this House, and I think this Session will be closed under the happiest possible auspices with the feeling that one province is able to receive justice from the other provinces even at some disadvantage to themselves.

Mr. M. K. Reddi Garu : Sir, if it is true, that more things are wrought by prayer, rich Bengal has succeeded in that art : and in this connection I am reminded of the famous Biblical saying : ' He who hath much, to him more shall be given, and from him that hath little, even the little shall be taken.'

If the prosperous Bengal is to be given a generous treatment, I ask, Sir, what is to become of the poor and the ' benighted ' Madras. It is a fact known to this Government, that Madras had always pursued a very frugal and economical policy even at the sacrifice of the necessary developments, and thus placed, surplus, after surplus at the hands of this Government, I am referring to the days before this federal system of finance came into existence as the result of the inequitable award of Lord Meston. Is it a sin, Sir, to be economical, is it a sin to be frugal and thrifty ; if not, why this unjust treatment to Madras ? Why is she asked to contribute 85½ per cent. of the total deficit as compared with the standard rate of 17 per cent. Is it just, Sir, that the poor, voiceless Madras should be obliged to pay Rs. 348 lakhs, while Bombay and Bengal together, pay a *third* of what Madras pays. I ask again, is it really a sin, to be sober and economical ?

Sir, I should like to place another fact before you. When the Joint Select Committee of the House of Commons recommended that the provinces should get some share in the growth of the revenues from the taxation on incomes, did Madras profit thereby, while Bengal and Bombay, with their commercial capitals got the benefit of it. But, on the other hand, the benighted Madras had to pay Rs. 382 lakhs instead of Rs. 348 lakhs as mentioned in the Meston's award.

Sir, there is another and a more weighty reason why Madras should be given an *immediate* relief. As the result of the *anti-drink* movement and picketting, the Abkari sales in my Presidency has already gone down, and I can tell you with a certain amount of authority, that in the next Budget there is sure to be a deficit of more than a crore of rupees. Again, there is not a year in that Presidency which passes without a famine in one district or the other. Under these circumstances, how are we to meet the deficit that is staring us in the face. Further taxations it is impossible to think of, it will be ruinous to the interests of the poor ryots.

Sir, if the Government is not going to extend a generous and sympathetic hand—of course not in the sense it did in the case of the Resolution on the increase of pensions, but a sympathetic financial help, I am sure, the financial history of Persia, would repeat itself.

Sir, with the finances at this low ebb, what can the Ministers do ? What development, educational, or industrial, can you expect from them ? Let us rather have no such responsible government, with a state of things forcing the hands of the Ministers to fresh taxation. We must remember,

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our opponents, who are ever sitting on the fences and watching us, the moment we fail to advance the progress of the country, from industrial, educational, and from irrigation and sanitary points of view, will at once come down upon us and tell us, in plain language that these Reforms are but a camouflage and are meant to cheat the people and their agitators. I ask, is this a right feeling for this wise Government to foster?

Sir, I appeal to this Government and the Honourable Members of this House, to re-open the whole question of Lord Meston's award and thus to make the provinces to work the Reforms successfully and in *the true spirit* with which they were granted to us.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : Sir, I, for one, fail to see why this Resolution has been brought before this House. Under the Devolution
4 P. M. Rules, Rule 18, which has been referred to, says :

'That from the Financial year 1922-23 onwards a total contribution of 983 lakhs, or such smaller sum as may be determined by the Governor-General in Council, shall be paid to the Governor General in Council by the Local Governments mentioned in the preceding rule.'

It is for the Governor General in Council to decide. They have decided to take a smaller sum and the Resolution need not have been brought before this Assembly at all. I do not, therefore, see the necessity of asking this House to pass this Resolution specially in favour of Bengal, but as the Resolution has come up before us, I have no hesitation in stating that it has my fullest sympathy and support. But let this House and the Government also beware of the necessary implications of passing this Resolution and arriving at this decision. Devolution Rule 18 proceeds to say :

'When for any year the Governor General in Council determines as the total amount of the contribution a smaller sum than that payable for the preceding year, a reduction shall be made in the contributions of those Local Governments only, whose last previous annual contribution exceeds the proportion specified below of the smaller sum so determined as the total contribution.'

and then certain proportions are given. This is the revised rule, Rule 18, in substitution of the original rule framed by the Meston Committee, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee have this commentary on the meaning and significance of that new rule. They say :

'The acceptance of this latter proposal emphasises the intention that the contributions from the provinces to the Central Government should cease at the earliest possible moment. The Committee attach great importance to the fulfilment of this intention and they are convinced that the opposition which the proposals of the Financial Relations Committee have evoked would be much diminished if it becomes possible for the Government of India to take steps to ensure the abolition of the contributions within a reasonably short period. They trust that the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council will, in regulating their financial policy, make it their constant endeavour to render the Central Government independent of provincial assistance at the earliest possible date.'

That is the meaning and significance of this devolution rule, under which the Government of India have taken this action, which need not have come before this Assembly, as I have said, and which it was quite within their competence to take. Having taken that action, the necessary implication of that follows that they have to take care to see that they do not mulet any other Local Government into paying any higher contribution than that allowed by this rule. But, Sir, I should not have been surprised if a Resolution had simply been placed before us by the Honourable Mr. Hailey in view of the difficulties of Bengal. But his speech has

compelled me to make a few observations. He said that it is only in the case of Bengal that these difficulties have arisen, that Bengal alone stands in need of this relief, and that no other province stands in such need. Surely the Honourable the Finance Member must know that Bombay also is in the same boat with Bengal. We had a deficit of something like a crore and a half last year, which in Bombay we managed to tide over by drawing upon our reserve balance. Surely this state of things cannot go on long, without bringing the Bombay Government to the brink of bankruptcy. But if I am here, and so long as I am here, it will be my constant endeavour to see that the Central Government adjusts its resources in such a way that its normal expenditure is met from its own revenues without having anything to do with provincial contributions, which under the injunctions of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Government of India are bound as speedily as possible to do away with.

With these remarks, Sir, I support this Resolution, which need not, as I say, have been brought before this Assembly.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : Sir, Mr. Samarth has raised a technical point, to which I ought to give a definite answer. He asks, what is the need for putting forward this Resolution at all, since Rule 18 of the Devolution Rules provide that the Governor General may take as a total contribution less than the amount laid down. But as he will see from the Resolution, we propose an alteration in this rule. Now, Sir, I recognize that an alteration of the Devolution Rules can be made by the Governor General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council. But I put it to this House whether it would be proper on our part to suggest to the Secretary of State that he should sanction an important change in the Devolution Rules, a change involving our giving up a considerable amount of central revenue without first coming to this Assembly. I for my part, Government for its part, would have been unwilling that we should recommend a change of this importance without first seeking the assent of this House. I think, I can claim that the Assembly will appreciate our attitude in this respect. We shall have to ask for a change in Devolution Rule 18, because what we are proposing is, not to reduce the total contribution, in the manner contemplated by that rule, but simply to lay it down that Bengal shall, for a time, namely for three years, disappear from the list that is given in Devolution Rule 17.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : Does not the total contribution come to 963 lakhs, instead of 983 lakhs ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : No, Sir, I think the definite answer is that we simply propose that Bengal should be let off the contribution provided in Rule 17, other contributions not being affected thereby. That is the definite answer to Mr. Samarth.

Now, Sir, I do not know whether it is necessary that I should argue at length to the House the amendment that has been put before it by Mr. Samarth.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : Not by me.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I beg the Honourable Member's pardon—by Mr. Raju. For my part, I feel that no extended argument is necessary. He proposes that suitable help or similar concessions be given to

[Mr. W. M. Hatley.]

Madras and other provinces where financial difficulties exist. My proposition was a definite one, which I argued to the House on definite grounds, and which in itself implied an alteration of the Devolution Rules. Are we prepared now to approach the Secretary of State and ask him to lay on the table of the Houses of Parliament a vague amendment of the Devolution Rules such as would follow from the proposition he has put forward. It would be impracticable to do so. Other Members, not neglectful of the claims of their own provinces, have arisen in their places and assured us that should their provinces at any time be faced with difficulties such as those under which Bengal now labours, they will demand an equal concession for their own provinces. Sir, nothing can prevent their making such proposals. (Hear, hear.) I should deprecate them in the interests of mutual finance; but nothing that Government can do, could prevent their coming before this House and making by Resolution a proposal of this nature; and, if this House were to determine, in spite of the opposition which I should offer, to recommend to Government that a further alteration should be made in the Devolution Rules similar to that now proposed, it would have a perfect right to do so what then is the necessity for Mr. Raju's amendment? I, Sir, am not going to argue to-day as a partisan either for or against any province; I hope I did not argue to-day as a partisan on behalf of Bengal, for it was not my intention to do so. I am not going to enter into the figures which Mr. Raju gave on behalf of Madras because I consider that would be entirely inconsistent with the plea which I put forward to this House that we should treat the present case of Bengal as a self-contained problem, and in so doing take an entirely detached view of the situation. He is advancing the claims of Madras; I am not going to contest them. But when he said that I did not give the various figures of Bengal, taxation man for man or acre for acre, because I was afraid to do so, since I knew that they would tell against Bengal, he was not correct. The reason I gave was that it would lead to interminable discussions of an abstract and contentious nature; how interminable that discussion would be the House can easily judge when I tell them that if instead of quoting the figures for Madras as he quoted them, that is to say, revenue by acre and excise by gallons, he had quoted them per head of population, his results would be reversed. I hope that Mr. Raju will not question what I am saying, since I have here the printed statement from which he drew his inspiration and I can have no better ground than that. It was because I feared interminable discussion of that kind, abstract calculations of what the taxable capacity of each province should be, abstract considerations of what should be the proper basis of allocating central and provincial finance, it was purely on those grounds that I avoided the questions to which I have referred. Nor, Sir, can I suggest any answer as to why it is that Madras collects more fines or penalties than other provinces; I will not even suggest the implication that arises from that curious fact. But, if the House desires an interesting figure—I am here no partisan again—I will give it; that is that for practically every crore of rupees of contribution that we remit, Madras will get approximately 50 lakhs. That is certainly the case in the initial stages of our progress in remissions. Let Mr. Raju take some consolation from that fact. I do not believe that he can have considered how favourable the position was of his province under the guarantee given by us for the gradual remission of contributions when he placed his plea for consideration before the House.

Sir, I can only oppose this amendment because I believe that it is entirely unnecessary in itself ; because we could not ask the Secretary of State to lay on the table of the Houses of Parliament so vague an amendment to the Devolution Rules, and because, as I said before, it is perfectly possible for any private Member to raise the question by Resolution in regard to any province at any time he chooses to do so.

The amendment was negatived.

The Resolution was then adopted.

PROVISIONAL DATE OF RE-ASSEMBLING.

Mr. President : This House now stands adjourned to a date which will hereafter be announced. I may say, for the provisional information of the Members, that the date will probably be January the 10th.

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