

8th March, 1922

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 8th March, 1922.

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

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the further information promised in reply to the unstarred question by Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal asked on the 19th January, 1922, regarding the Resolutions passed by the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly during the last two Sessions. As to non-official Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the last Simla Session, the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the statement published in the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 24th January, 1922, at page 1831, in reply to a similar question by Mr. M. K. Reddi.

In regard to part (b) of his question, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Debates of either Chamber of the Indian Legislature from which it will appear what was the attitude of Government towards a Resolution which has not been given effect to

As regards part (c) of the question, Government do not consider that the regular publication of such statements would fulfil any sufficiently useful purpose to justify the labour and expense involved. A Member of the Indian Legislature can always obtain information by means of a question as to the action taken on any Resolution adopted by the Council of State, or the Legislative Assembly in which he is interested. In important cases, Government also, as a general rule, announce the action they have taken or propose to take.

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Statement showing official Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the Simla Session, 1921, and action of Government taken thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	27th September, 1921	Honourable Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay.	Limitation of hours of work in fishing industry.	Department of Commerce.	Given effect to in full.
2			Establishment of National Seamen's Code.	Ditto	Ditto.
3			Unemployment insurance for seamen.	Ditto	Ditto.
4			Minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea.	Ditto	The Government of India have ratified the Draft Convention of the Genoa Conference. Steps are now being taken to make the provisions of the Convention effective.
5	Ditto	Ditto	Unemployment indemnity in case of loss or foundering of a ship.	Ditto	The Government of India have undertaken the inquiries referred to in the Resolution.
6			Facilities for finding employment for seamen.	Ditto	It has been decided to appoint a small Committee to undertake the suggested inquiries. The preliminary work of the Committee has already been commenced.

Statements showing non-official Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the Simla Session, 1921, and action of Government taken thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	5th September, 1921	Honourable Sir Manockji B. Dadabhey.	Address of Welcome to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.	Legislative Department	Necessary action was taken in the matter.
2	Ditto	Honourable Maharaja Sir Rameshwara Singh of Darbhanga.	Welcome to Lord Reading on his assumption of office.	Ditto.	Ditto.
3	17th September, 1921	Honourable Mr. P. C. Sethna.	Cecil Rhodes Scholarships	Department of Education and Health.	A copy of the Resolution was forwarded to the India Office on the 6th October, 1921, for the favourable consideration of the Secretary of State. Attention was also invited to the debate in the Council of State. The Secretary of State brought the Resolution to the notice of the Rhodes Trustees, who informed him that the scholarships originally allotted to Germany have long since been bestowed elsewhere and that there is no possibility in present circumstances of creating further scholarships. The Secretary of State has, however, desired the Trustees to place on record his very earnest hope that at any future creation of scholarships under the Cecil Rhodes Scholarships Settlement, the claims of India to participate in the award will receive their special consideration.
4	Ditto	Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha.	Stoppage of export of wheat	Revenue and Agriculture Department.	Full effect had already been given to the first portion of the Resolution, but no further action was considered possible with regard to the latter portion.

Statement showing non-official Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the Simla Session, 1921, and action of Government taken thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
5	22nd September, 1921.	Honourable Jogendra Singh. Sardar	Effect to be given to the Report of the Sugar Committee.	Department of Revenue and Agriculture.	The attention of Local Governments has been drawn to matters which are primarily their concern. Owing to financial stringency, the Central Government is unable at present to proceed with the scheme for a Research Institute and a Sugar Board. Local Governments are being asked for their views on the Committee's suggestion that research stations in the Provinces should be under the Central Government's control. Measures are being taken with a view to the establishment of a Sugar School and Factory on such a scale as financial considerations may permit. The views of the Central Government regarding the acquisition of land for Sugar Factories will be communicated very shortly to the Local Governments.
6	22nd-23rd September, 1921.	Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.	Equality of status for Indians in East Africa.	Ditto	The Resolution has been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State in connection with the East African controversy.
7	23rd September, 1921.	Honourable Dr. Ganganath Jha.	Uniform system of weights and measures.	Department of Commerce.	Given effect to in full, vide Resolution No. 9, dated the 3rd January, 1922, published in the Supplement to the <i>Gazette of India</i> of the 7th <i>idem</i> .

8	24th September, 1921	Honourable Mr. V. G. Kale.	Equality of status for Indians in South Africa.	Department of Revenue and Agriculture.	In a despatch to the Union Government communicating the views of the Government of India on the recommendations of the South Africa Asiatic Inquiry Committee's report reference has been made to this Resolution.
9	26th September, 1921	Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali.	Appointment of Indians to posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretary.	Home Department	<i>Army (and Marine) Department</i> has noted the recommendation.
10	Ditto	Honourable Mr. P. C. Sethur.	Administration of Aden by the Government of India.	Foreign and Political Department.	<i>Education Department</i> already has an Indian Deputy Secretary.
11	26th-29th September, 1921.	Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.	Purchase of Stores from England	Department of Industries.	<i>Foreign and Political Department.</i> —The Political Department has recently been thrown open to Indians and they will consequently now have opportunities to qualify for the posts in question. The recommendation has been noted.
12	28th September, 1921	Honourable Mr. G. S. Khaparde.	Abolition of piece system in Government presses.	Ditto	<i>Public Works Department.</i> —(Loss) Governments who supply officers for the posts in question, have been asked to take the action considered necessary.
					<i>N. B.</i> —There are no posts of Joint Secretary in the Army, Education and Health and Public Works Departments.
					The Resolution was transmitted to the Secretary of State.
					Instructions have been sent to the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom.
					A Committee has already been appointed to take evidence and to make recommendations for the consideration of Government. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Statement showing official Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Simta Session, 1921, and action of Government taken thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	26th September, 1921	Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes.	Limitation of hours of work in fishing industry.	Department of Commerce.	Given effect to in full.
2			Establishment of National Seamen's Code.	Ditto.	Ditto.
3			Unemployment insurance for seamen.	Ditto.	Ditto.
4			Minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea.	Ditto.	The Government of India have ratified the Draft Convention of the Genoa Conference. Steps are now being taken to make the provisions of the Convention effective.
5	Ditto	Ditto	Unemployment indemnity in case of loss or foundering of a ship.	Ditto.	The Government of India have undertaken the inquiries referred to in the Resolution.
6			Facilities for finding employment for seamen.	Ditto.	It has been decided to appoint a small Committee to undertake the suggested inquiries. The preliminary work of the Committee has already been commenced.
7	30th September, 1921	Ditto	Appointment of a Committee to consider the Railway Committee's Report.	Railway Department	Committee was appointed to consider the Financial recommendations of the Report and has submitted its conclusions.
8	Ditto	Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey.	Contribution by the Government of Bengal to the Governor General in Council.	Finance Department	Full effect has been given to the Resolution.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. President : I have to acquaint the Assembly that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to give his assent to the following measures :

- The Indian Emigration Act, 1922.
- The Delhi University Act, 1922.
- The Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1922.
- The Indian Limitation (Amendment) Act, 1922.
- The Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

THE INDIAN PORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes (Commerce and Industries Member):
Sir, I move :

‘ That the Bill to regulate the employment of child labour in ports in British India be taken into consideration.’

I explained the objects of this little Bill when I introduced it and I have nothing more to say at the present stage.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Labour Interests) : Sir, I am very glad that the Government of India have introduced this Bill, although I cannot help saying that they took nearly one year to draft a Bill of two sections since the Resolution was passed last year. As regards the Bill itself, I personally think that the Government of India need not have left the matter of the rules to the Local Governments. If they thought that the rules were necessary and they could not prohibit the employment of children by the statute itself, they could have themselves made the rules and made them applicable to the provinces. Still, they have chosen the course of leaving the matter to the Local Governments and I do not oppose that. But, as regards the Bill itself, I have got some doubts and I hope the Member in charge of the Bill will give a clear explanation on that point. If he thinks that the matter cannot be cleared up during the course of this discussion, I would suggest that he might postpone the consideration of this Bill for a day or two. We are not in such a great hurry about its passing. Sir, the portion which is not clear to me is this : in the Bill it is said ‘ upon the handling of goods other than goods which can be transported by hand.’ Does it mean that children can be employed in harbours to carry bags of either corn or cotton or any such things when the employment of children is to be prohibited in harbours ?

Mr. President : On a motion to take the Bill into consideration the Honourable Member must not deal with details of the clauses.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I do not know which is the right stage, because the next stage is that the Bill be passed.

Mr. President : The motion is that the Bill be taken into consideration as a whole. If the Honourable Member wishes to discuss the clauses, I shall put the clauses one by one.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : The Bill says that children may be employed in harbours for carrying goods by hand. I am not quite clear in my mind as to what it means. Personally I think the Convention prevents the employment of children in harbours, as it is also prohibited in factories. It does not mean that children should be allowed to go to harbours, but should not be employed to drive carts or trains or should not be employed on any such other mechanical means of transport. It means that children cannot be employed in the harbours. The clause about the exclusion of children, regarding the carriage of goods by hand, is brought in there in order that the children's employment should not be prevented in carrying small packages from shops to shops or shops to people's homes and such like. That clause of exclusion is not introduced in order to enable children to be in harbours or in railway trains to handle goods by hand. I believe there is great doubt about that section and I would appeal to Government to postpone the consideration of this section for at least a few days, till that section is made clear. If they allow the section to remain as it is, I believe Government will be hurrying a matter for which there is no hurry. The Bill was introduced here when, unfortunately, I was not present and, although I do not propose to say that I had no time at all to consider it, still the Bill came at a time when we were busy otherwise, and we had not sufficient time, at least I had not sufficient time, to give notice of an amendment.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Sir, I think that the Honourable Mr. Joshi would have treated me and the House with more consideration had he given formal notice of an amendment and allowed us to consider the point which he has raised. I myself, Sir, was not present at the Washington Conference, as was Mr. Joshi, but my friend, Mr. Chatterjee on my right was present there and the Bill has been drafted in consultation with the Industries Department in general and Mr. Chatterjee in particular. Now, Article VI of the Convention states that children under 12 years of age shall not be employed in the transport of passengers or goods or mails by rail or in the handling of goods in docks, quays and wharves, but excluding transport by hand. The wording is undoubtedly clumsy, but we are not responsible for the wording of any Convention which the worthy International Labour Organisation have passed. But I put it to the House, how are we to interpret a phrase like that? Surely the obvious natural interpretation is that the intention of this clause of the Convention was that children in the ports should not be engaged in any of the processes which require mechanical handling; that is to say, cranes, trains, mechanical apparatus for loading and unloading coal and the like. That is always the way in which we have interpreted this clause and it is quite a new suggestion to me that the intention of the Convention was that children should not be employed in any case at the ports. What is transport by hand? The only transport by hand which is done by children, as far as I know, at the only port in which I have actually seen it is that of children carrying coal in baskets. I said, Sir, we gave a pledge that we would carry out this Article of the Convention. We gave a pledge that we would

carry it out by legislation. I suggest that we pass this Bill as it stands and I shall be perfectly prepared to go, with Mr. Joshi, into the question whether any further extension of this provision of law is necessary. I think the House will agree with me that we could not pass an amendment of the kind suggested by Mr. Joshi without referring the question to Local Governments, because after all, though Ports are a Central Subject, Local Governments are in administrative charge of the ports and we must consult them. It seems to me that this is the obvious solution of the difficulty. No amendment has been proposed and the point has been brought up at the last minute. I suggest that this little Bill be passed in order that we may carry out our obligations to the League of Nations. Then, as I have said, I am quite prepared to go with Mr. Joshi, and, if necessary, consult Local Governments on the question whether we should prohibit the employment of children in favour of port labour which do not require mechanical aids.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, there is a point at issue here. I should like to know whether I can move the postponement of the consideration of this section till some later date. If so, I formally move:

'That the consideration of this section be postponed till some later date.'

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is quite in order in moving a motion of that kind. If he wishes to move the adjournment of the debate, I shall put the question:

'That this debate be now adjourned.'

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My reason is that I am not yet satisfied with the explanation given by the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill. If you allow children to carry goods in the harbour, I do not know where is the prohibition of the employment of children in the harbour. How will the children in any other way be employed there, except to carry goods from place to place? I, therefore, feel that this matter requires further consideration and the consideration of this section should be adjourned till some later date.

Mr. President: The question is:

'That this debate be now adjourned.'

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I support the motion for the adjournment of this debate. It seems to me the question deserves consideration at the hands of the Honourable Mr. Innes. The other alternative suggestion which the Honourable Mr. Innes has made is that this Bill should be passed now and that we could put our heads together and see later whether any amendments could be made, but this does not appear to me to be practicable, and, in view of the difficulty that has been pointed out by Mr. Joshi, I think it is but right that we should adjourn the consideration of this measure. No doubt, it is true that Mr. Joshi might have given notice of an amendment and it would have been a better course. But, as we all know, our hands are full now with the Finance Bill and other things, and, therefore, we may be forgiven for any remissness on our part.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, as this question is about to be put to the vote of this House, may I take the liberty of pointing out a few more defects in this section of the Indian Ports Act.

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

I understand the object of this Bill is to comply with the Conventions of the League of Nations to which

Mr. President : The Honourable Member must confine his remarks to the reasons why this debate should now be adjourned.

Dr. H. S. Gour : I am doing exactly that. As the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill has pointed out, the object of this Bill is to comply with the Conventions of the League of Nations at Washington, where it was proposed that children below 12 years of age should not be employed otherwise than for transport by hand, and the Honourable Mr. Innes pointed out that this Bill is drawn up in conformity with the Convention at Washington ; now I suggest to the Honourable Member to consider whether the object he has in view has been attained by the way in which this clause has been drafted, which says that ' children under the age of 12 years shall not be employed ' and so on, ' upon the handling of goods other than goods which can be transported by hand '. ' Goods which can be transported by hand ' describes the nature of the goods and a child under 12 years may handle such goods in any manner that he may be required to do. That is not the same thing as that he shall not be prohibited from transporting goods by hand. Consequently, this measure, if passed now, will defeat the purpose which the Washington Conference had in view, and I, therefore, suggest that the further consideration of this measure should now be postponed.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Sir, I am entirely in the hands of the House in this matter. As I explained when I introduced the Bill, it is not a very important Bill, and if the House prefers to have the debate adjourned, I have no objection at all.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I move for leave :

' To introduce a Bill to assimilate the law in British India relating to official secrets to the law in force in the United Kingdom.'

The Bill before the House is really, save in one respect, largely a consolidating measure. At present the law on this subject in India is in a state of some confusion. There is an English Act of 1911, which is in force in India also. There is an amending British Act of 1920 which is not in force in India, as I am informed. There are two Acts of the Indian Legislature which, of course, are in force here. The result of this confusion in the law has been to make the enactments on the Statute Book somewhat difficult to follow or to be understood by those who have to administer them. I ought to say that the Act of 1920—I think I did mention this fact—is not in force in India at present, but it will be admitted, I think, by those who have examined the subject that the changes now proposed by this Bill are not very important. In some cases it relaxes the severity of the present law. Sir, we do not propose to act with undue expedition or haste in dealing with the Bill, and I am afraid, even if this motion is passed, we may be reproached later for the same fault as that with which Mr. Joshi reproached the Honourable

Mr. Innes. It may take six months or a year to get it through the Assembly. All I ask at present is for leave to introduce the Bill in order to avoid the present confused state of the law and then I propose to circulate the Bill for opinions to all the Local Governments and others concerned.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE COTTON TRANSPORT BILL.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes (Commerce and Industries Member) : Sir, I move for leave :

‘ To introduce a Bill to provide for the restriction and control of the transport of cotton in certain circumstances.’

Perhaps the House will bear with me if I give them a short explanation, first of the reasons why we thought it necessary to introduce this Bill, and secondly of the main provisions of the Bill. As regards the reasons for the Bill, I would invite the attention of the House to paragraph 221 of the Indian Cotton Committee's Report. That Committee, which was a strong expert Committee, and which travelled all over India inquiring into the growing of cotton in India and into the cotton industry generally, devoted a good part of its Report to certain malpractices which go on in the trade. In paragraph 221, dealing with the mixing of different varieties of cotton, they wrote as follows :

‘ It is hardly an exaggeration to say that, with few exceptions, long staple cotton very seldom finds its way to the chief markets, especially to Bombay, in an unmixed state. Many districts which were formerly celebrated for their cotton have, in consequence, acquired a bad name both with Indian consumers and with exporters, and, as it is impossible to detect that cotton contains a small mixture of an inferior variety before it passes through the spinning machinery, even pure cotton from such districts is approached by buyers with distrust and the price offered for it is reduced accordingly.

‘ The evidence submitted to us showed that the import of short stapled cotton into tracts which grow long stapled cotton for the purposes of being mixed with the latter and passed off as the produce of the long staple tract is extensively carried on. A special inquiry on the point made in the Bombay Presidency in 1909 showed that, during three months of that year, the imports of short stapled cotton into the Broach tract amounted to five per cent. of the whole crop. The Broach tract is one in which the practice is specially common and there is no doubt that the deterioration in the reputation of Broach cotton in recent years is, to some extent, due to this cause. The cotton so imported comes mainly from Khandesh. Cotton from this tract is also largely imported into Berar for mixing purposes and some of it finds its way to the Kumpta-Dharwar tract to be mixed with *kumptas*. We had ocular evidence of this fact in the Hubli railway station yard where we found several wagons containing Khandesh cotton which our inquiries showed had been imported for mixing as it was not consigned to the local mill.’

The House may take it, Sir, that that picture is in no way over-drawn. For that paragraph of the Report is based on evidence submitted to the Committee by the most important Associations, Indian and European, connected with the cotton trade in Bombay. The Committee was so impressed with the magnitude of the evil and with the dangers to which it may lead that they went on to write :

‘ In this case also, we are of opinion that the only remedy lies in the total prohibition of the transport by rail of cotton, whether in the shape of loose *kapas* or lint in *docras* or in that of half pressed or full pressed bales, except to *bona fide* consumers, i.e., to spinning and weaving mills and to ports for disposal there or shipment outside India.’

[Mr. C. A. Innes.]

That is to say, Sir, the Indian Cotton Committee was so impressed with this evil that they were prepared to go to the length of recommending that a very large proportion of the huge cotton crop of India should not be allowed to travel anywhere by rail in India without some form of pass or licence. Now, Sir, Local Governments on the whole were in favour of that solution. But, when the Government of India came to examine it, they were greatly impressed with the very large measure of interference with a very important trade that that solution would entail. We decided, therefore, that it was necessary to proceed with caution, and we decided not to take any action on this recommendation of the Indian Cotton Committee until we had been able to obtain the advice of the Central Cotton Committee, that is, the Committee the formation of which was proposed in Chapter XIX of the Indian Cotton Committee's Report. That Committee was constituted last June. It consists of representatives of the cotton trade in all parts of India and also of cotton experts from all parts of India. At its first meeting it considered a letter from the Government of India in which we discussed the whole problem and asked for their advice. In the meantime, I should say, the Bombay Government had had it very forcibly impressed on them in Bombay that the deterioration of the very important Broach crop was proceeding so fast that urgent action was necessary to arrest that deterioration, and last year the Bombay Government asked us whether we would agree to a provincial Bill to protect the Surat Navsari area. At first we agreed, but when we saw the actual Bill which they proposed to introduce we found that the difficulties in the way of any Local Council legislating for a central subject like Railways were quite insuperable. But that Bill gave us the suggestion which has taken shape in the Bill which I am submitting to-day for the consideration of the House. We suggested to the Central Cotton Committee that possibly the solution of this evil might lie in the passing of an enabling Act, enabling Local Governments to schedule areas for protection—long staple areas or areas which for any reason they might think it necessary to protect. The Central Cotton Committee reported to us that on the whole they agreed that that was the right way of meeting a very real evil, and they also said that they attached more importance to this part of the Indian Committee's Report than to any other recommendation they had made. That shows the extent of the evil, an evil which is impairing the reputation of many of our best strains of cotton.

Now, Sir, I have tried to explain the reasons why we have thought it necessary to place this Bill before the House, and I propose to give a very brief explanation of the main provisions of the Bill. I will first direct the attention of the House to clause 2 (b) which defines 'cotton' as 'all unmanufactured cotton, including cotton either ginned or unginned, cotton waste and cotton seed.' This evil of mixing, Sir, takes various forms. Sometimes ginned cotton is imported from a short staple tract into a long staple tract. It is there mixed with the long staple cotton, pressed into bales, and then the whole bale is sold as long staple cotton. That, of course, is a form of fraud. But there is another even worse practice, and that is the practice of importing unginned cotton or *kapas* from a short staple area into a long staple area. That means that the seed tends to get mixed with the seed of the long staple crop and that leads to the deterioration of the strain in the tract, deterioration which it is extremely difficult to arrest. Another form of adulteration, which is fraud, pure and simple,

is to send cotton from a short staple tract, pressed and baled, to a long staple tract. It is booked to a railway station in the long staple tract, and, when it reaches that station, the outer covering is taken away, and the cotton is re-booked to the port or the mill. Since cotton derives its price from the station from which it is booked, the House will see that this is fraud, pure and simple. Another form is sending cotton waste to be mixed with cotton and sold as cotton. When I was Director of Industries in Madras in 1917, we actually received an application for railway priority certificate for the sweepings of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills. The man wanted to take that cotton waste up into the mufassil, mix it with cotton, and sell it as cotton. That shows how far the evil is prevalent.

The machinery we propose in this Bill is as follows. It is an enabling Bill. We propose to empower Local Governments to schedule particular areas for protection, but, as a further safeguard, we suggest that a notification of that kind should not be issued until it has been approved by the local Legislative Council. This Bill, to a certain extent, is an interference with trade, and we think that that is a useful safeguard. When an area has been scheduled, it will be necessary to allow a certain amount of cotton to come into that area under licence, because there may be spinning and weaving mills in that area. But, except under licence, no cotton may be transported by rail to the scheduled area. We have tried to keep the penalties under this Act as few as possible. Under clause 4, we empower a station master in the extraneous area to refuse to book cotton to a scheduled area. Clause 5 imposes a statutory obligation on the station master of the receiving station to refuse to deliver cotton improperly booked to the scheduled area and to return that cotton to the station of origin. It is also proposed to allow the Local Government, with the consent of its local Council, to make rules for the prevention of import of cotton into a protected area by road.

That, Sir, is the scheme of the Bill which I am placing before the House for consideration. I have no intention of trying to rush this legislation through this Session. The next motion will be, if the House agrees to the Bill being introduced, a motion for circulation to Local Governments, the idea being that these proposals, which are important proposals, should be thoroughly ventilated in order that we may have the best solution for what, I am quite sure, the House will agree with me, is a very real evil.

I move for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I now introduce the Bill.

THE HINDU CEREMONIAL EMOLUMENTS BILL.

Mr. A. B. Latthe (Bombay Southern Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I move :

‘That Mr. B. H. Jatkar and Mr. Pyari Lal Misra be nominated to serve on the Select Committee to consider and report on the Bill to amend the law relating to the emoluments claimable by Watandar Hindu priests (which has been introduced by me).’

As the House will remember, a Select Committee on this Bill was appointed at the last Simla Session and at that time it was these two gentlemen who raised a voice of opposition to the Bill. At the request of these gentlemen, it

[Mr. A. B. Latthe.]

has been considered necessary that they should be on the Select Committee to help us to improve the Bill as far as possible in the light of the suggestions that they may have to make. Therefore I move that their names be added to the Select Committee which has already been appointed.

Mr. President : Has the Honourable Member the assent of these two gentlemen ?

Mr. A. B. Latthe : It was at the request made by them to the Honourable the Home Member that I have included their names.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : An Honourable Member, Mr. Misra, wrote to me and I asked the Honourable Member (Mr. Latthe). I had no doubt that they would consent to be on the Select Committee.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 9th March, 1922.