

3rd March, 1924

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924



SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1924

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 3rd March, 1924.

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Clement Daniel Maggs Hindley, M.L.A. (Chief Commissioner of Railways).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LEVY OF TAXATION BY EXECUTIVE ACTION.

562. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be now pleased to give the reply promised to my Question No. 54 of the 5th February last as follows:

“ Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) What steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations made by the Joint Select Committee of Parliament in paragraph 11 of their Report in November, 1919, relating to the discontinuance of the system of levy of ‘ certain classes of taxation in India by executive action without, in some cases, any statutory limitation of the rates and in other cases, any adequate prescription by Statute of the method of assessment ’?
- (b) What are the classes of taxation besides land revenue which are now levied, imposed, enhanced or lowered by executive action or notification by the Central and by the Provincial Governments and whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken by these Governments to give effect to the Joint Parliamentary Committee’s recommendation that ‘ the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought more within the purview of the Legislature ’?
- (c) Whether they would lay on the table the instructions of the Secretary of State and the correspondence with the Provincial Governments and the India Office on the whole question?”

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) and (b). So far as the Central Government is concerned, no fresh taxation has been imposed since the advent of the reforms except by legislation. The recommendation in paragraph 11 of the Joint Select Committee’s Report is essentially a matter for the Provincial Legislative Councils. As regards land revenue, a Bill to embody in law the main principles by which land revenue is determined

has been introduced in the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces; in other provinces the matter is still under consideration.

(c) The Government have no papers to lay on the table.

TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

563. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) What according to the latest figures available for the current official year, are the total receipts, if possible under main heads, as also the total expenditure of the Government of India?
- (b) What further amounts under receipts and under expenditure are likely to be realised and incurred respectively, before the end of the current year?
- (c) What will be the excess or deficit likely to arise under both receipts and expenditure as compared with the Budget Estimates for the year?
- (d) What has been the receipt, up to the latest available date, under the enhanced head of "Salt"? How much is it in excess this year over the receipt from the same head upon the corresponding date last year?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Honourable Member will find all the information he requires in the Budget Statements which I presented to the Assembly on the 29th February.

IMPORT DUTY ON SPLINTS AND DUMMY MATCH BOXES.

564. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are the Government aware that certain foreign firms, manufacturing matches, import into India, ready made inside and outside boxes as well as splints in order to evade the import duty levied on the ready made matches?

(b) Do the Government propose to put the foreign splints and match boxes in the same category as ready made matches and levy thereon the same duty as on the ready made matches?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Honourable Member is referred to the provisions of the Finance Bill for 1924 introduced on March 1st.

CONVERSION OF THE NARAYANGANJ SUB-OFFICE INTO A HEAD POST OFFICE.

565. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** 1. Will the Government be pleased to intimate the name of the districts in India where more than one head post office is situated?

2. Will the Government be pleased to furnish the information on the following heads:

- (a) Why Narayanganj sub-office in the district of Dacca has been converted into a head post office?
- (b) The total cost incurred for the conversion?
- (c) The total cost incurred for the conversion at the Audit Office and in the shape of forms and stationery?
- (d) Was there any clamour from the public for the conversion?

3. Is it not a fact that Narayanganj head post office is still financed with postage stamps by the Dacca post office?

4. Do the Government propose to close one of the head offices in the Dacca district with a view to save a good deal of revenue?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: 1. Dacca, 24 Pargannas, Manbhum, Godavari, South Arcot, Tanjore, Ramnad and Dehra Dun.

2. (a) Owing to administrative necessity.

(b) and (c). The only information that can be readily given is that the fixed establishment charges of the Narayanganj office were increased by Rs. 184 a month.

(d) The conversion was desired by all classes of residents of Narayanganj and the local Chamber of Commerce.

3. Yes, because there is no Government sub-treasury at Narayanganj.

4. No.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES IN THE DACCA DISTRICT.

566. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table (1) the names of the districts where there are two Superintendents in one district, (2) the number of post offices and area of the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh, (3) the date from which two Superintendents of post offices have been appointed in the Dacca district, and (4) the number of offices to be inspected and area of the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of post offices of late Dacca Division, Mymensingh Division, present Dacca Division and Narayanganj Division?

(b) Do the Government propose to reduce the number of the Superintendents of post offices in the Dacca district to one with a view to curtail the expenses?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: (a) (1). There is only one such district, namely, the Dacca district.

(2) The Dacca district with an area of 2,728 square miles contains 278 post offices. The corresponding figures in the case of the Mymensingh district are 6,238 square miles and 246 post offices.

(3) 1st October, 1924.

(4)

	Number of offices to be inspected by Superintendent.	Area of jurisdiction.
Dacca Division as formerly constituted	23	2,728 square miles.
Mymensingh Division	21	6,238 " "
Narayanganj Division	13	984 " "
Dacca Division as at present constituted	9	1,749 " "

Formerly Superintendents had to inspect a large proportion of sub-offices plus 10 per cent. of the branch offices. Superintendents are now required to inspect sub-offices with two or more clerks, 5 per cent. of the remaining sub-offices and 5 per cent. of the branch offices. The inspection of post offices represents only a small portion of the total work of a Superintendent of Post Offices.

(b) I propose to consider the possibility of reconstituting the postal division of the Dacca and Mymensingh districts.

POSTING OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES TO THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

567. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** (a) Is it not a fact that Babu Brojendra Kumar Sen, B.A., Superintendent of Post Offices, Narayanganj Division, is appointed in his home district—his native village being situated within his division?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the "Labour," a monthly organ, in its issue of August, 1923, and do the Government propose to transfer him and other officials under similar circumstances from their home districts?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) I have no information.

(b) The attention of Government has been drawn to the article referred to. Government do not propose to take the action suggested.

MINIMUM DEMANDS OF THE SUBORDINATE POSTAL STAFF. *

568. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** Have the Government taken into consideration the irreducible minimum demands of the clerical and sorting staff and other members of the subordinate service formulated at the Delhi, Madras and Calcutta Conferences of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R. M. S. Union?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 26th February last to part (a) of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt's starred Question No. 518.

INCREASE OF RAILWAY FARES ON THE BHAIROB-TANGI SECTION OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

569. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** (a) Are the Government aware that the railway fares on the Bhairab-Tangi section of the Assam Bengal Railway have been increased to the great hardship of the passengers, especially of the 3rd class passengers? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons and lay on the table a statement of the fares showing successive increments, from time to time, since the opening of the line?

(b) Do the causes for such increment still exist?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Question No. 495 in this Assembly on the 25th February, 1924, by Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh.

INTER CLASS WAITING ROOM FOR FEMALES AT JINARDI.

570. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** (a) Is it a fact that inter class female passengers travelling from Jinardi station on the B. T. section of the A. B. Railway are greatly inconvenienced for want of an inter class waiting room? Is it a fact that the waiting room for third class female passengers at the said station is a very nominal one, only a small space within the third class male waiting room having been set apart with temporary mat walls?

(b) Is it a fact that the said station is not provided with any lavatory either for male or female passengers? Is it a fact that the said station has not got all the advantages of a 'B' class station to which status

it now belongs? Is it a fact that the said station yields better income than many other stations in that section and that its income has all along been on the increase?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Government have no information on the subject, but they will send a copy of the question and answer to the Agent. If there is any public demand for improved facilities at the station, no doubt the matter will be brought to the notice of the Agent by the Local Advisory Committee.

FEEDER ROAD FROM MADHOBDI HAT TO JINARDI RAILWAY STATION.

571. ***Khwaja Abdul Karim:** Is it a fact that considerable difficulty is now being felt by the traders in carrying their bales of hand-woven cloth from Madhobdi Hat to Jinardi Railway station—a distance of 7 miles, for want of a railway feeder road making conveyances by bullock carts easier and less costly? Is it a fact that on every Monday, Madhobdi Hat gives a supply of about 100 bales of cloth to be booked by Jinardi Railway station?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Government have no information on the subject. The provision of feeder roads to railway stations is a matter for the Local Boards and Local Governments concerned.

REVISION OF THE RULES *re* THE GRANT OF FREE RAILWAY PASSES.

572. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) With reference to the reply given to starred Question No. 56, will the Government be pleased to state whether the revision of the rules *re* grant of free railway passes will include the railway staff all over the State Railways other than the staff of the Railway Board?

(b) Have the Government come to any decision on the matter and, if so, will they be pleased to state the decision arrived at in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) No.

(b) The rules have been revised but have not yet been formally approved.

RESTRICTION OF THE NUMBER OF FREE RAILWAY PASSES AND P. T.O.'s.

573. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) Whether the proposed revision of rules *re* the grant of free railway passes include officers entitled to first class passes. Are the Government aware that men paying fares cannot travel owing to want of accommodation whereas the men with passes travel sometimes in reserved compartments. If so, do the Government propose to restrict the number of passes and P. T. O.'s over all Indian Railways?

(b) Do Government propose to fix a maximum pay beyond which no railway staff should be allowed free passes?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes, so far as Railway Board is concerned. Pass holders are precluded by the rules from taking preference over ticket-holders.

(b) No.

FREE RAILWAY PASSES AND P. T. O.'s GRANTED IN 1923.

574. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to inquire from the different Railway administrations as to the total number of persons who travelled under passes in the year 1923?

(b) The total number of persons who travelled under P. T. O.'s in 1923?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) and (b). The Government do not propose to call for this information which will entail a very considerable amount of labour.

FREE RAILWAY PASSES AND P. T. O.'s.

575. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state approximately the total cost of P. T. O.'s and passes issued over each of the E. B. Ry. and N.-W. Ry. in 1923? Is it a fact that a special staff is maintained by the E. I. Ry. for the issuing of passes and to prevent the transference of passes and P. T. O.'s. If so, will the Government be pleased to state the cost of maintaining this staff?

(b) Is it a fact that thumb impression experts are employed for detecting the misuse of passes?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to his previous question. The Government have no information, as details of this sort are left to Agents of Railways.

(b) Not so far as Government is aware.

UNORTHODOX AND ORTHODOX QUARTERS AT RAISINA.

576. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the plans of unorthodox quarters and orthodox quarters at Raisina were made by the same officers? If so, will they be pleased to state the reasons for such difference in their models for the two different types of quarters?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: Both types of quarters were designed by the Government Architects employed in the Public Works Department, Delhi. The reason for the difference in the models is the obvious one that the quarters were designed to suit the requirements of two different styles of living.

UNORTHODOX QUARTERS AT RAISINA.

577. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether before beginning the construction of the unorthodox types of quarters at Raisina, the opinion of the Indian staff were invited on the proposed plans?

(b) If so, will they be pleased to state the opinion received from them? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reason as to why such opinion was not taken?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: When the original designs for the orthodox quarters were being considered, Indians of every creed and caste were consulted, but it was not considered necessary to invite opinions in the case of quarters designed for men living in European style.

PENSIONS TO THE DEPENDANTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANT AND SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS KILLED IN THE WAR.

578. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons were killed and invalided in the last war?
- (b) if there are any cases of family or invalid pensions yet under consideration?
- (c) when were orders for pensions to minor children of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons issued, respectively?
- (d) if there are any cases in which the family pension recipient widow of officer killed is since dead before orders for pensions to minors were issued? If so, how many?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a), (b) and (d). The information desired by the Honourable Member is not readily available, and in order to obtain it, it would be necessary to undertake an extremely laborious and prolonged inquiry which it is considered would not be justifiable; but it will, I think, re-assure the Honourable Member to some extent if I explain that orders will shortly be issued making applicable to Assistant Surgeons the war warrants which sanctioned certain special rates of pension to members of His Majesty's forces killed or injured during the great war and that this will result in a review of all pension awards. Moreover, if the Honourable Member knows of any individual case in which pension has not been sanctioned and will give me particulars of it, I will see that it is promptly investigated. I may say that Government themselves have no information which would lead them to believe that the settlement of claims to pension under existing orders, of the classes to which the Honourable Member refers, is in arrears.

(c) Orders for the grant of pensions to the children of Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons were issued on the 8th January, 1924, in Army Instruction (India) No. 30 and these orders have retrospective effect so as to cover cases arising since the 4th August, 1914. Prior to the publication of these orders, all claims to family pension were governed by the rules in Army Regulations, India, Volume I (1915 edition) which laid down that a pension for the support of the family of a deceased officer was admissible only to the recognised heir who must be related to the deceased in one of the following degrees:

1st, Son, actual and legitimate; 2nd, Widow, lawfully married by a valid ceremony; 3rd, Daughter, actual and legitimate; 4th, Father; and lastly, the Mother.

Rules for the grant of pensions to the children of Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department are laid down in part II of the "Pay and Allowance Regulations for the Army in India", a copy of which is in the Library of this House. These rules have been in force since 1901.

DEPENDANTS OF INDIAN OFFICERS KILLED IN THE WAR.

579. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** (a) Will Government please state if they have collected information of the family and minors left behind by Indian Officers killed in the war?

(b) If the reply be in the negative, do Government propose to collect this information, and advise such claimants as have not yet received any relief to put in their claims?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) and (b). In the course of last year the Government of India decided to supplement the usual machinery for the settlement of claims to military pensions by appointing a number of carefully selected military officers to tour in the districts and villages from which recruits are generally obtained, and to investigate personally and on the spot all outstanding claims to military pensions and all grievances regarding pension matters. Special facilities were given by these officers to enable them to bring to a rapid conclusion all cases in which remedial action of one kind or another was required. They were authorised to communicate direct with the accounts and audit authorities, with Officers Commanding units, and, in case of necessity, with the Adjutant General in India, to whom also special instructions have been given to assist, by every means in their power, the rapid disposal of the cases brought to notice. The special investigation to which I refer has not yet been finally concluded, but I am able to inform the Honourable Member that it has already resulted in the satisfactory settlement of a large number of outstanding claims from all ranks of the Indian Army and their dependants. As regards the particular class of military personnel to which the Honourable Member refers, the widows and dependants of all Indian officers killed in the war are, so far as the Government of India are aware, in receipt of the pensions and allowances to which they are entitled, but if the Honourable Member knows of any individual case in which pension due has not been granted, and will give me particulars of it, I will see that it is investigated at once.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

580. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that all members of the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College are Europeans and that at the present moment there is not a single Indian member on that Body?

(b) Is it a fact that under the Memorandum of Association dated the 16th March, 1917, the members of the Governing Body are—The Director-General, Indian Medical Service, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, the Chief Engineer, Delhi, Deputy Accountant General, Central Revenues, Dr. K. Platt, M.D., a lady representative of the Dufferin Fund, a lady representing and elected by the All-India Association of Medical Women, the Deputy Secretary, Home Department (since altered to Secretary, Education Department), the Surgeon to His Excellency the Viceroy,—that is six officials and three ladies, all of whom are officials or at any rate officials of Funds controlled by Government?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) Yes.

(b) The constitution of the Governing Body has been changed since 1917 but the position as regards the number of officials is still substantially the same.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state why no Indian has so far been thought fit to be appointed to the Governing Body?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The members of the Governing Body are fixed under the rules which lay down that officers holding certain posts shall be *ex-officio* members. It so happens that at the present moment the officers holding these posts are all Europeans. This has not always been

the case and when Indians fill the posts in question they become thereby members of the Governing Body.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is there any rule debarring an Indian from being appointed to the Governing Body?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: Certainly not.

REPRESENTATION OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE ON THE GOVERNING
BODY OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

581. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Legislative Assembly does not vote 2 lakhs of rupees a year for the maintenance of the Lady Hardinge Medical College?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the annual budgeted expenditure is not about Rs. 2,80,000, out of which the Legislative Assembly votes 2 lakhs, about Rs. 80,000 being from Provincial contribution, the balance being from tuition fees and hospital income?

(c) What representation has the Legislative Assembly which substantially supports the College upon the Governing Body of the College?

(d) Is it a fact that 4 Members of the Legislative Assembly and 2 Members of the Council of State are elected to the Court of the University of Delhi, to which the Government contribute only a small sum of Rs. 65,000?

(e) If so, what reason is there for making the government of the Lady Hardinge College independent of the Central Legislature?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) A sum of 2 lakhs has been voted by the Legislative Assembly annually since 1920-21.

(b) The expenditure for the year 1923-24 is budgeted at Rs. 2,81,000. Provincial Governments for the current year have agreed to contribute Rs. 26,000. The balance is made up partly of the items mentioned and partly by gifts and interest on invested funds.

(c) The Legislative Assembly is not directly represented on the Governing Body.

(d) Yes.

(e) There is little analogy between the Court of the Delhi University and the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge College, but the suggestion made by the Honourable Member will be considered.

EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE IN THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

582. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College passed a Resolution to the effect that as there was extravagant expenditure in the College, the late Principal of King Edward College, Lahore, should be requested to examine the administration and expenditure of the College with a view to retrenchment and improvement?

(b) If so, was the recommendation of the Governing Body carried out, and if not, why not? If so, with what result?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) and (b). The Government of India are informed that Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland, Professor of Medicine, King Edward Medical College, Lahore, was invited by the Governing Body last

September to inspect the college, investigate the internal arrangements, and to ascertain whether it was being run as economically as was compatible with efficiency. He was unable to accept the invitation of the Governing Body. The Governing Body have now invited Lieutenant-Colonel Megaw, Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, to undertake the inquiry and his reply accepting the invitation has just been received.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS RAISED FROM EUROPEANS AND INDIANS FOR THE LADY
HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.**

583. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the total cost of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and hospital buildings and how much of it was collected from Indian Princes and people, and how much from Europeans?

(b) Is it not a fact that 40 to 50 lakhs of rupees were collected solely from Indians and that the College hospital has been built from money so raised?

(c) What is the balance of money out of such subscriptions and contributions on hand for further capital expenditure?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) Government understand that the cost of the College and Hospital buildings up to April 1923 was Rs. 28,31,719—0—6: the cost of equipment was Rs. 9,48,850—0—0 at the same date. Information is not available regarding the amount collected from the Indian people and Princes and Europeans, respectively, but the major portion was subscribed by Indian Princes and gentlemen.

(b) The total subscriptions to date amount to Rs. 29,78,924—0—0. The College and Hospital have been built from the funds subscribed.

(c) There is no balance available for further capital expenditure.

Mr. K. Ahmed: May I know why information regarding the donations collected, whether from Indians or otherwise, is not available?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: An inquiry was made from the Governing Body on the subject and the reply received has been given to the House.

Mr. O. Duraiswami Aiyangar: May I know if the accounts of this College are audited by a Government Auditor?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The accounts are certainly audited. There is an independent audit. The college is a private institution with an independent audit. I am answering a question shortly about this.

Mr. O. Duraiswami Aiyangar: In view of the fact that the Assembly votes two lakhs of rupees every year, will Government be pleased to call for audit reports every year and place them on the table of this House?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The accounts are audited every year. I am giving an answer in reply to a subsequent question regarding the audit reports.

Mr. K. Ahmed: As regards the collections, are there not counterfoils of receipts given to the donors?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The facts are within my knowledge; they are that money was collected in reply to an appeal issued

when Lord Hardinge was Viceroy. The sums received were paid to Lord Hardinge and handed over *en bloc* by him to the Managing Committee when it was subsequently created. The details of the collections, if they are with any one, will be with Lord Hardinge and not with the Managing Committee.

LOSS ON INVESTMENTS MADE BY THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

584. **Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** How much money has the Lady Hardinge Medical College lost upon its investments in Government paper and war bonds, who is responsible for this loss and what steps have been taken to recoup it from persons found responsible?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The Government of India are informed that the total loss on such investments is Rs. 3,66,942—9—2. The loss is said to be due to depreciation in the value of the Government Securities in which the money was invested.

RECRUITMENT OF THE STAFF OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

626. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that no rules have yet been framed for the recruitment of the Indian senior and junior staff, though the Lady Hardinge Medical College has been in existence for seven years?

(b) Is it not a fact that the auditor has objected to the absence of such rules?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why no rules have been framed and why the College and hospital staff have not been strengthened by the employment of cheaper Indian staff?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) to (c). The rules for the senior and junior staff, which apply equally to Europeans and Indians, were framed in 1919. This being so, part (b) and the earlier part of part (c) of the question do not arise. Government are informed that the Governing Body are anxious to employ Indians whenever qualified persons can be obtained, and are now advertising two posts in India in the hope that it will be possible to fill them up with recruits obtained locally.

AUDIT REPORTS AND AUDIT OBJECTIONS RELATING TO THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

586. **Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the audit reports and audit objections relating to the Lady Hardinge Medical College for the last two years, showing how the objections have been disposed of and the objections still pending to be disposed of?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The audit and inspection note relating to the Lady Hardinge Medical College for the year ending 30th September, 1922, together with papers showing the action taken on it will be shown to the Honourable Member if he will call at the office of the Honorary Secretary of the Governing Body. The audit report for the year ending 30th September, 1923, has not yet been received by the Governing Body.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether there is any objection to laying these audit reports on the table of this House?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The difficulty is that papers laid on the table have to be printed. The audit reports are lengthy and uninteresting and are hardly worth printing. The report under discussion can be placed in the Library, if that will suit the Honourable Member. Anybody who wants to see it can certainly do so.

EXPENDITURE POWER OF THE PRINCIPAL, LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

587. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Is it a fact that the Principal of the Lady Hardinge Medical College enjoys unlimited power of expenditure on non-recurring contingencies, though there is a limit of Rs. 2,000 to such power enjoyed by the President of the Governing Body?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: No. The Principal has authority to incur expenditure on non-recurring contingencies only within the limits of the budget sanctioned by the Governing Body and subject to her power of reappropriation between the sub-heads of each of the main heads into which the budget is divided. The President's power of sanctioning such expenditure is limited to Rs. 500.

SUPPLY OF OPIUM TO HONG KONG AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

588. ***Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha:** (a) Have the Government of India any commitments with the Government of Hong Kong with regard to the annual purchase of opium by the latter? If so, what are they and for how many years? Are the Government of India assured by certificates given by the Government of Hong Kong that such opium is used for legitimate purposes?

(b) Can the Government of India provide an estimate of the quantity of opium that would normally be required by the population of Hong Kong for strictly medicinal purposes? Have Government ever made any inquiry from the Government of Hong Kong with regard to the quantity of opium that would be required in that country for strictly medicinal purposes? If not, do Government propose to make such inquiry?

(c) Can the Government of India define or describe what is meant by "legitimate purposes" for which they contended in the League of Nations at Geneva as a substitute for the words "medicinal and scientific"? What other kinds of consumption, besides "medicinal and scientific", do the Government of India consider as "legitimate"? Can Government give any idea of the quantity of opium used in India for strictly medicinal and scientific purposes?

(d) How many chests of opium have been supplied to the Government of the Straits Settlements during the last five years? Will the Government give separate figures for each year? Has any contract been made with regard to the future supply of opium to the Straits Settlements?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The agreement for the direct supply of Indian opium to the Government of Hong Kong was renewed for a further period of five years with effect from the 1st January, 1921. The principal terms of the agreement are:

- (1) The Government of Hong Kong agrees to take the whole, or substantially the whole, of its requirements from India.
- (2) Price Rs. 4,000 per chest.

- (3) The Government of Hong Kong is under no obligation to take a minimum quantity of raw opium, and is required to give 6 months' notice of any increase or decrease, with reasons for any variation in the quantity taken. It can terminate the agreement by giving two years' notice.

The responsibility for the proper use of opium rests with the importing country.

(b) No. The Government of India do not propose to make any such inquiry from the Government of Hong Kong.

(c) As a concise reply to the Honourable Member's question I ask leave to read out the relevant portion of the report submitted to the Assembly of the League of Nations by the 5th Committee. The Indian Delegate referred to was the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri:

"The Indian Delegate has informed the Committee that the number of properly equipped hospitals and dispensaries in India is inadequate to the needs of the population, which over vast areas is without medical assistance. In order to cope with the diseases with which some of these regions are constantly infected, the population has cultivated the opium poppy from time immemorial, and habitually takes opium in small doses as a prophylactic or an effective remedy. It is this use of opium which cannot be styled purely medical i.e., that which is prescribed by a physician, that the Committee has in mind in using the term 'legitimate'."

The Committee recommended in consequence that the word "legitimate" should be substituted for "medicinal and scientific," and, as the Honourable Member is no doubt aware; this recommendation was adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations.

No figures are available for the quantity of opium used in India for strictly medicinal and scientific purposes.

(d) The quantity of Indian opium supplied to the Government of the Straits Settlements during the last five years was as follows:

1919	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,155 chests,
1920	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3, 01 "
1921	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3, 00 "
1922	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,800 "
1923	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2, 00 "

The agreement for the direct supply of Indian opium to the Government of the Straits Settlements has been renewed for a further period of five years with effect from the 1st January, 1925.

BRITISH GUIANA COLONIZATION SCHEME.

589. *Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: (a) Are Government aware that the East Indian Association of British Guiana has withdrawn its support from Sir Joseph Nunon's colonization scheme, and has refused to send a Hindu and a Mahomedan delegate to India to support it?

(b) Are Government in possession of any information on this subject? What are the reasons for the East Indian Association's withdrawing its support? Do Government propose to issue a special communiqué containing authoritative facts? Has the attention of Government been drawn to a special cable on this subject published in the "Leader," dated 16th February, 1924?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) and (b). The Government of India have seen the statement referred to by the Honourable Member. They have also seen a cable from the Governor of British Guiana in which he states that

the Association have asked him to telegraph that they have never stopped the departure of their delegates. They have also been informed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India that the two delegates left England for India on February 29th, taking with them a Memorandum of the present attitude of the British Guiana East India Association in which the Association declares its full adhesion to the scheme which was accepted by the Indian Legislative Council in 1920. The Government of India propose to lay the matter before the Standing Emigration Committee of the Indian Legislature.

THE KENYA IMMIGRATION BILL.

590. ***Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha:** (a) Have the Government of India definite documentary assurance giving a definite statement that the Kenya Immigration Bill will not come up before the Kenya Legislative Council until its terms have been discussed by the Colonial Committee from India proposed by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru?

(b) If such definite statement has not yet been made by the Colonial Office, can the Government of India obtain such statement in order to satisfy the anxiety of this Assembly?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me on the 28th February to questions on the same subject.

RAILWAY STRIKES.

591. ***Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha:** (a) Can the Government inform me whether any railway strike between the years 1918 and 1922, has been declared illegal by the Government of India? If so, what strike, and on what railway and in which years? What was the reason for declaring such strikes illegal in each case?

(b) Has any railway gratuity been subject to forfeiture on account of any part taken in any strike during that period?

(c) Why was Abdul Kasim in the Controller of Stores Department, O. and R. Railway, Lucknow, refused gratuity after 18 years' service and dismissed with only a month's pay?

(d) Are Government aware that in the strike on the O. and R. Railway in 1922, Mr. Andrews obtained from the Agent the terms of "no victimisation"?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) No legislation under which a strike could be declared illegal has yet been passed in India. The question of the legality or otherwise of any strike has not, therefore, arisen.

(b) Before July, 1922, the rule was that participation in a strike *ipso facto* cancelled previous service for purposes of gratuity. The rule was amended and is now to the effect that participation in strike other than a strike declared to be illegal under law does not constitute a break in service for the purposes of gratuity.

The revised rule is applied to all employes in service on or after the 12th July, 1922. No such employe has, as far as Government is aware, forfeited the gratuity merely because he participated in a strike prior to July, 1922.

Employés who had ceased service before the 12th July, 1922, were dealt with under the old rules.

(c) The information is not available. The power of deciding whether an employé's service satisfies the conditions of the rules lies primarily with the head of his Department and the Agent of the Railway and Government do not propose to question the case or call for particulars.

(d) Government are not aware that there has been any "victimisation."

Mr. Ohaman Lal: Will the Honourable Member take steps to discover the information on this subject under head (c) and inform the House?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: No. If the man has any grievance it is always open to him to appeal.

Mr. Ohaman Lal: Is the Honourable Member aware that a great deal of hardship has been caused to workers on the N. W. Railway because of the forfeiture of their gratuities?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: No.

Mr. Ohaman Lal: Is the Honourable Member prepared to restore to the workers on the N. W. Railway the gratuities which they forfeited?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: We are not prepared to make the order retrospective.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Do Government in the exercise of their supervision propose to revise the decision arrived at by the local authorities forfeiting the security?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: As I said, Sir, people have a right of appeal to the Railway Board.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Are Government aware that the gentleman whose name is referred to in part (c) has appealed to Government?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am not aware of it.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

592. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Indians have been appointed to the Political Department of the Government of India since March 1921, when the then Law Member assured the Assembly that the Government had decided to throw open the Political Department to Indians?

(b) How many vacancies have since occurred and by persons of what nationality have they been filled up?

(c) What is the total number of Europeans and Indians respectively employed in the superior cadre of the Political Department of the Government of India on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem or upwards?

Mr. E. B. Howell: (a) The number of Indians appointed to the Political Department during the last 3 years is 7.

(b) There have been 29 vacancies during the same period of which 7 were filled by Indians and the rest by Europeans. The selections amongst Indians for 1924 have yet to be made.

(c) The number of officers in the Political Department on a salary of Rs. 1,000 or above is 116, of whom 5 are Indians and the rest Europeans.

INTEREST ON THE CASH BALANCES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

593. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount and the average rate of interest realised on the cash balances of the Secretary of State for India between 1st April, 1923 and the latest subsequent date for which figures are available?

(b) Is it a fact that there were occasions during the aforesaid period when the Secretary of State had more funds in his hands than he could safely invest? If the answer be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to mention the amount remaining so uninvested during each month of the aforesaid period?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The interest realised by the Secretary of State between 1st April and 31st December, 1923, from investments out of his Treasury balances amounted to £268,000. These investments were made in British treasury bills the yield of which has varied from 2 to 3½ per cent. during the above period.

(b) A statement is laid on the table showing the uninvested balance in the hands of the Secretary of State at the end of each month from April to December, 1923. It will be observed that the uninvested amount has averaged about £1 million except at the beginning of July when, owing to a sharp rise in the rate of yield of treasury bills, the delay in investment resulted in an advantage to revenue.

Statement showing the uninvested Treasury balances in the hands of the Secretary of State.

At the end of—		£
April	1923	889,000
May	"	859,000
June	"	5,017,000
July	"	921,000
August	"	805,000
September	"	1,591,000
October	"	980,000
November	"	862,000
December	"	1,090,000

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES, MILEAGE OF RAILWAYS AND MILEAGE OF TELEGRAPH LINES.

594. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state as on the 31st December, 1923:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. the number of post and telegraph offices | } for the whole of India |
| 2. the total mileage of Railways | |
| 3. the total mileage of telegraph lines | |

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: 1. Post Offices, 19,442; Telegraph Offices, 9,016;

2. The Honourable Member is referred to the Administration Report for Railways for 1922-23 where the information will be found. There is a copy in the Library.

3. Over head wire 3,54,078 miles; Cable 3,181 miles.

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON RAILWAYS.

595. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) With reference to the Local Advisory Committees on the various Railways mentioned in the speech of the Honourable Sir Charles Innes in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th February, 1924, will Government be pleased to state:

- (1) the number of Advisory Committees already formed and the manner in which they are constituted?
- (2) the specific matters on which the advice of the said Committees is being asked?

(b) Do Government propose to publish, preferably twice a year, reports of the work done by the said Advisory Committees together with their own review of the said reports?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) (1). Local Advisory Committees have been formed at the headquarters of all the principal railways with the exception of the Bombay Baroda and Central India, Great Indian Peninsula, and Bengal Nagpur Railways on which they are in course of formation. The Bengal and North Western Railway has in addition formed a Committee at Muzzaffarpur and the North Western Railway another at Karachi. These are consultative bodies composed of members representing public, commercial and other interests concerned.

(2) The specific matters generally dealt with by these committees are:

- (a) alterations in time tables and passenger services;
- (b) alterations of rates and fares and changes of goods classifications;
- (c) proposals in regard to new projects and extensions;
- (d) proposals in regard to new rolling stock; and
- (e) any matters affecting the general public interest and convenience.

(b) In view of the fact that summaries of the proceedings of the Advisory Committees are communicated to the press, Government do not consider it necessary to publish half-yearly reports of the work done by these Committees together with their own review of the reports but a summary of their work will be included in future in the Annual Administration Report.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: How are the public to know that any Advisory Committee has been established so far as the B. N. W. Railway is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: As far as I know, Sir, there have been several notices in the press of the work done by these Committees. If the Honourable Member does not read the papers, I am afraid I cannot help him.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I am referring to those illiterate people who do not read English newspapers.

EXPENDITURE ON THE WAZIRISTAN CAMPAIGN.

596. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state the amount actually spent on the Waziristan campaign from the 1st April, 1923, up to the latest date for which the figures are available?

Mr. E. Burdon: The extra military expenditure incurred on the account of the occupation of Waziristan, including expenditure on works and roads, amounts to Rs. 1,85,00,192 for the period 1st April, 1923, to the 30th November, 1923. This is the latest date up to which figures are available. The figure does not include the normal charges which would have been incurred for the service of the Army apart from the special measures in Waziristan.

The political expenditure that has been incurred from the 1st April, 1923, up to the 31st January, 1924, amounts to Rs. 39,51,063.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Are Government aware that this Waziristan campaign has been going on now for five years?

Mr. E. Burdon: Yes, Sir, of course we are aware of it.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Then instead of calling it a campaign, will you not call it the Waziristan war?

Mr. E. Burdon: No, Sir, very much the contrary.

MOPLAH AND OTHER PRISONERS IN THE ANDAMANS.

597. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Moplahs and other prisoners in the Andamans on the 31st December, 1923?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: There were 1,190 Moplah and 7,856 other prisoners in the Andamans on the 31st December, 1923.

DIFFICULTIES OF SMALL COLLIERIES IN THE MATTER OF WAGON SUPPLY.

598. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letters published under the headings "Small Colliery owners" and "difficulties of small collieries" in the "A. B. Patrika" in its issue of the 14th February?

(b) Is it a fact that the present system of wagon supply by rakes and half rakes is mostly availed of by only the bigger collieries?

(c) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to come to the rescue of the small collieries in the matter of wagon supply?

(d) Are the Government aware that as a result of the continuance of the present system of wagon supply most of the small collieries will have to be closed?

(e) Do Government propose to take steps to change the present system of wagon supply?

(f) Are the Government aware that the bigger collieries are mostly owned by Europeans and the smaller ones by Indians? If so, are the Government aware that the closing down of Indian collieries is giving a widespread feeling of racial bias?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Question No. 411 asked by Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar in this Assembly on the 25th February.

(f) No.

TENDERS FOR LOCOMOTIVES.

599. ***Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy:** (a) Is it a fact that British and Scotch firms have been assured that an order for the supply of 60 powerful locomotive engines will be placed with them?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the tenders for the supply of those engines were or have been called for from different firms of different countries?

(c) If not will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why such an assurance has been given to British and Scotch firms in advance of the calling for tenders?

(d) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state whether tenders received from the Scotch firms are lower than that of the German firms with whom an order for the supply of 5 locomotive engines has been placed?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) No.

(b) It is expected that tenders will be received from most of the leading manufacturers in the world.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Tenders were to be received in Delhi and London on the 26th February. The information asked for will be furnished when available.

RESOLUTION RE THE SEPARATION OF RAILWAY FINANCE FROM GENERAL FINANCE.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I desire to make a preliminary remark. It has been represented to me by many of my friends opposite that there is a general feeling in the House that before the House is asked to commit itself to the proposals in my Resolution it should be allowed to refer those proposals to a Committee of the House. Sir, the Government have nothing to conceal in these matters and they would welcome any such exploration. The only stipulation I must make is that, as the time is getting short, the Committee must meet rapidly. If therefore, Sir, there is any general feeling on the part of the House that this Committee should be appointed I should like to say that the Government have no objection at all; and if that is so, Sir, I think it would be better that, instead of this House proceeding to a debate on this Resolution, the consideration of the Resolution should be postponed till later on in the week. I understand that the Honourable the Leader of the House can provide a day on Saturday. That being so, Sir, I shall then with your permission content myself merely with formally moving my Resolution. But Sir, if this proposal is not accepted by the House and if the main Resolution does come on for discussion, I hope at a later stage of the debate that you will allow me to explain the Resolution. That being so I will content myself with formally moving the Resolution which stands in my name.

Mr. President: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to relieve the general Budget from the violent fluctuations caused by the incorporation therein of the railway estimates and to enable the railways to carry out a continuous railway policy based on the necessity of making a definite return over a period of years to the State on the capital expended on railways:

- (1) The railway finances shall be separated from the general finances of the country and the general revenues shall receive a definite annual contribution from railways which shall be the first charge on railway earnings.
- (2) The contribution shall be a sum to five-sixths of 1 per cent. on the capital at charge of the railways (excluding capital contributed by Companies and Indian States and capital expenditure on strategic railways) at the end of the penultimate financial year *plus* one-fifth of any surplus profits remaining after payment of this fixed return, subject to the condition that if in any year railway revenues are insufficient to provide the percentage of five-sixths of 1 per cent. on the capital at charge, surplus profits in the next or subsequent years will not be deemed to have accrued for purposes of division until such deficiency has been made good.

From the contribution so fixed will be deducted the loss in working, and the interest on capital expenditure on strategic lines.

- (3) Any surplus profits that exist after payment of these charges shall be available for the railway administration to be utilised in

- (a) forming reserves for

- (i) equalising dividends, that is to say, for securing the payment of the percentage contribution to the general revenues in lean years,

- (ii) depreciation,

- (iii) writing down and writing off capital,

- (b) the improvement of services rendered to the public,

- (c) the reduction of rates.

- (4) The railway administration shall be entitled, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Government of India, to borrow temporarily from capital or from the reserves for the purpose of meeting expenditure for which there is no provision or insufficient provision in the revenue budget subject to the obligation to make repayment of such borrowings out of the revenue budgets of subsequent years.

- (5) In accordance with present practice the figures of gross receipts and expenditure of railways will be included in the Budget Statement. The proposed expenditure will, as at present, be placed before the Legislative Assembly in the form of a demand for grants and on a separate day or days among the days allotted for the discussion of the demands for grants the Member in charge of Railways will make a general statement on railway accounts and working. Any reductions in the demand for grants for railways resulting from the vote of the Legislative Assembly will not enure to general revenues, i.e., will not have the effect of increasing the fixed contribution for the year.

- (6) The Railway Department will place the estimates of railway expenditure before the Central Advisory Council on some date prior to the date for the discussion of the demand for grants for railways.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the matters involved in this Resolution are of great importance, and, as Honourable Members will notice from the amendments tabled to-day on the agenda, many Members have given thought to the subject and have come forward with constructive proposals of a somewhat different kind from those made by Government. It is only right that those proposals should be examined by a large Committee of the House. I may mention, Sir, that as a member of the Central Advisory Board I had the opportunity of examining the proposals. Certain difficulties were mentioned there and we thought it best that the matter should be examined further by a Committee. So also the Finance Committee,

when the proposals were brought before them, came to an independent conclusion that the matter should be examined by a Committee of the House. Therefore, Sir, I propose:

"That the discussion of the Resolution be postponed till Saturday, March the 8th, in order that the proposals may be examined by a Committee of this House consisting of the following Members:

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju,

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas,

Mr. M. A. Jinnah,

Mr. N. M. Joshi,

Sir Campbell Rhodes,

Mr. K. C. Neogy,

Mr. Darcy Lindsay,

Mr. S. C. Ghose,

Dr. H. S. Gour,

Dr. L. K. Hyder,

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya,

Khan Sahib Ghulam Bari,

Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi,

Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar,

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett,

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes,

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley, and

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal."

My own name was also on this list, but I have not moved it as I am leaving the station soon.

Mr. President: The original Resolution I have just read; since which an amendment has been moved:

"That the discussion of the Resolution be postponed till Saturday, March the 8th, in order that the proposals may be examined by a Committee of this House consisting of the following Members:

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju,

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas,

Mr. M. A. Jinnah,

Mr. N. M. Joshi,

Sir Campbell Rhodes,

Mr. K. C. Neogy,

Mr. Darcy Lindsay,

Mr. S. C. Ghose,

Dr. H. S. Gour,

Dr. L. K. Hyder,

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

Khan Sahib Ghulam Bari,

Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi,

Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar,

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett,

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes,

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley, and

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal."

Dr. H. S. Gour: I would just like to propose, with the permission of the House, that the name of Mr. W. S. J. Willson be added to the Committee.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the name of Mr. W. S. J. Willson be added to the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the discussion of the Resolution be postponed till Saturday, March the 8th, and that the proposals be referred to that Committee."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 5th March, 1924.