

Tuesday, 19th September, 1922

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES
(Official Report)

VOLUME III
PART. I

THIRD SESSION
OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE, 1922 "



SIMLA
SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
1922

TUESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1922 395-349

Member Sworn.

Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Bill.

Resolution *re* : Forest Research.

Resolution *re* : Milch and Agricultural Cattle.

3 Resolution *re* : Limitation on Hours of Work in Inland Navigation.

Resolution *re* : Trimmers and Stokers and Children employed at Sea.

Resolution *re* : Weekly Rest day in Commercial Establishments.

Government Business.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1922 351-400

Questions and Answers.

Statement laid on the Table.

Election of Members of Delhi University Court.

Session in November.

Resolution *re* : Political Prisoners.

Amendment of Standing Orders.

Election to Panels of Standing Committees.

Message from Legislative Assembly.

Government Business.

SATURDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1922 401-433

Questions and Answers.

Messages from Legislative Assembly regarding Indian Extradition (Amendment) Bill and Indian Museum (Amendment) Bill.

Indian Transfer of Ships Restriction (Repealing) Bill.

Panels of Standing Advisory Committees—

Home, Commerce and Industries, Revenue and Agriculture and Education and Health Departments.

Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Bill.

Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill.

Indian Mines Bill.

Nomination of Members of Joint Committee.

Court-fees (Amendment) Bill.

Parsi Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Bill.

Official Trustees and Administrator General's Acts (Amendment) Bill.

Message from Legislative Assembly regarding Joint Committee on Cotton Transport Bill.

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, the 19th September, 1922.

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

MEMBER SWORN.

* The Honourable Rai Bahadur Chaudhrī Lal Chand (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official).

POLICE (INCITEMENT TO DISAFFECTION) BILL.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Under Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill to provide a penalty for spreading disaffection among the police and for kindred offences, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 18th September 1922.

RESOLUTION *RE* FOREST RESEARCH.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Council will now resume the further consideration of the Resolution* moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA (Revenue and Agriculture Member) : Sir, if I rise at such an early stage of the debate, it is with the object of placing the position of the Government with reference to Forest education before the Council, so that discussion of the subject may be facilitated and the views of the Council may be ascertained clearly as to which scheme they would prefer for immediate adoption. The people of India are but slowly realising what a vast commercial and industrial asset they possess in the forests of this country, what great good, what noble work, has been done by the Forest Department in the past, and how essential it is that the administrative personnel at the head of the Department should be recruited and selected on safe and efficient lines, so that

* This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in view of the fact that India provides in the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun a highly efficient and up-to-date institution for instruction in Forestry and for Forest research, the present practice of recruiting a proportion of the probationers for the Indian Forest Service in Great Britain and training all probationers whether recruited in Great Britain or India, in the Universities of the United Kingdom, be abolished forthwith, and that all probationers for the service be recruited and trained in India and that every such probationer drafted into the service be given all facilities to add to his knowledge and experience by a tour to the Continent of Europe after at least three years of continuous and approved service."

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

there may be absolutely no danger as to the future efficient development of our Forest resources. It is a matter for congratulation that the intelligentsia are clearly grasping the vital issues and are realizing how necessary it is to develop the potential resources which lie at our feet, which have been so far but inadequately developed, and it is a happy augury that there is a keen desire manifested in all quarters that this problem of Forest education should be adequately handled. The Public Services Commission have made various recommendations. Honourable Members have gone through the report and it is unnecessary for me to go into detail or criticise any particular points of differences of detail that there may be as regards the views held and expressed either here or elsewhere. But it is clear from their recommendation that they desire the Government of India to place facilities at the disposal of the Indian public, so that efficient instruction may be given on up-to-date model lines in forestry and so as to facilitate recruitment for the higher branch of the administrative ranks of Indians competently trained for the purpose. The Industrial Commission, which sat a little later, struck a similar note. Their remark on this subject is as follows :

“ The national forest estate is of vast extent and value ; but a scrutiny of the output per square mile proves that its actual yield has hitherto lagged behind its possibilities, and is in most areas greatly in defect of what the natural increment must be.”

“ The chief needs of the Forest Department are, shortly, development of transport facilities, the exploitation of its forests on more commercial lines, and the extension of research and experimental work, which should, when necessary, be carried out on a larger scale, and under commercial conditions. All these differences point to the necessity for more staff.”

The Provincial Governments in charge of the various Administrations have not been slow to realize this, and it gave me very considerable pleasure, in 1920, when province after province sent up schemes for the development of its forest resources, and the increase of its staff, so that now the sanctioned strength stands at about 398, as against 213, when the Public Services Commission made its report ; and the provincial service also is of corresponding strength. So that here the Government of India and the Provincial Governments particularly, have been keenly desirous of giving effect to every one of the recommendations which are likely to develop our forest resources. I make these preliminary remarks with a view to convincing Honourable Members that they will have to approach this problem more from the point of view of what is necessary for improving the commercial and industrial resources of the country, i.e., treating it as a commercial concern, rather than from the aspect of providing more appointments for one class or another of the community.

The problem before the country is how to develop our resources. We do not hesitate to employ the best Britishers in finance, in commerce, or in any other branch of activity, if we have to take advantage of British talent for the development of our resources, and I was very glad to notice that the Honourable Mr. Sethna emphasized the need for the utilisation of the best British talent available for this purpose consistently with the process of Indianization, on as rapid a scale as may be possible. The Government of India do wish to follow the lines chalked out for them by the Public Services Commission, by the Industrial Commission, and by the express desire of the people at large. There is absolutely no difference between

them and the people in that respect. I may also state that there is no difference of opinion between the people, between the members of either Council and the Government as regards their appreciation of the need of development of the Forest Research Institute at Dehra. I am very glad, and I think the thanks of the Department are due to the members who have expressed their appreciation of the position of the Forest Research Institute at Dehra, and our earnest desire and hope is that this institution, which is even now one of the finest Research Institutes in the world, will occupy, and continue to occupy, that rank and will become more efficient than it is even at the present moment.

The Honourable Mr. Sethna has alluded already to the various measures which the Government contemplate, provided finances permit, to achieve this object, and there is nothing in the scheme which the Government of India have placed before you which is likely, in the slightest degree, to conflict with what all of us have at heart, namely, making the Research Institute the best equipped institute in the world, and to make our school here the best School of Tropical Forestry that the world can organise.

With regard to those two objects, namely, having the finest Research Institute, and placing the best educational facilities available anywhere before the Indian public, there is no difference whatsoever between the Government or the people, from whatsoever aspect they may view the question. And the proposals of the Government do not in the slightest degree retard that development, that progress, that we all desire. They do not in the slightest degree retard that progress, but, on the other hand, are likely to achieve this object more rapidly than possibly any other scheme that may be planned, or the scheme which is placed for the consideration of this Council.

There was some misapprehension in the minds of the public as to whether this college, this institution that we are going to provide at Dehra is going to be of an inferior kind, intended to give only training on an inadequate and inferior scale, and as to whether we are not looking forward to a central institution in the United Kingdom, to fill up the deficiencies and to give the highest training possible, so as to supplement the training here, because we do not contemplate to bring up the college here to the highest possible standard. That is the misapprehension which I propose, if possible, to correct. There is no such idea. There have been two schools of thought with regard to forest education : one school insists that although India has got a vast forest area, its forests have been developed on scientific lines for fifty years and more still, inasmuch as India has not yet succeeded and will not be able to succeed for another fifty years in producing the same type of forests that you meet with on the Continent, Sylviculture, the art of forest management, forms the basis of all forest training, and is absolutely essential to train a forester properly for his duties ; sylviculture cannot be as efficiently taught in India as it can be in the neighbourhood of continental forests. It is recognised that even the British forests will not furnish those models which we require, but the close proximity of the Continental forests to the United Kingdom, enables the students to carry on their investigations in the forests, and undergo their training in the forests, *pari passu* with the theoretical training given in Oxford, Cambridge or Edinburgh. They urge that such training is more desirable than any instruction in India, which may be the most per-

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

fect in theory, which may be one adapted to the forest conditions here, but which will still be lacking the basis on which forestry training ought to proceed, namely, with reference to the models, living models, which can be furnished only in Continental Europe. That is one school of thought. The other school of thought recognises the utility of such a training ; does not minimise its importance, but, at the same time, urges that great mistakes have been made in the past by men imbued with Western notions coming to India and having to unlearn possibly many of those lessons, and a training adapted to forest conditions here, coupled with a training on the Continent, would possibly meet the situation better than an exclusive training in England, supplemented by such practical knowledge as may be picked up after the officer enters on his duties. Well, it is very difficult to decide exactly on which side the balance of advantage lies.

But Government have recognised this that, if we pursue this reasoning to its logical conclusion, and accept the position of the first party, there could be no such thing as the institution of a high standard forestry school in India, because, we are told, that Indian forests will not be able to furnish us adequately with the models that are required for silvicultural training. Well, the people of India are not likely to accept it. The intelligentsia are impatient, and we think rightly impatient, that the highest possible training should be given in India itself, and the Government, therefore, have adopted a policy of furnishing, with reference to Indian conditions and Indian forests, the Indian community with the best facilities which a knowledge of forestry can afford, and the best training, consistently with these conditions, which a well-equipped institution in any part of the world can furnish. That is the proposal which the Government of India places before you. We have not accepted scheme No. 1 which wishes to perpetuate the existing state of things indefinitely until we can furnish forests of the type we have on the Continent. Nor, on the other hand, are we content with saying " Oh ! India can be self-sufficient and give us all the models that are possible." We recognise the difficulties presented by Indian conditions ; we recognise that the education that may be given here has to be supplemented by forest training abroad, especially on the Continent, and I do not think there is much difference between the Honourable Mr. Sethna and the Government in this respect. Only he thinks, following the Secretary of State, that this further training may be given at a later stage, after the officers have picked up some experience of actual forest working in India. Well, our expert advisers think that such a course is not desirable. In the first place, they lay very great stress upon the fact that, if possible, the training and the observation should go hand in hand ; but, inasmuch as the training and observation of the Continental models cannot go hand in hand, training and observation of Indian models under scientific management for 50 years should go hand in hand, and that this training should be supplemented before ideas get fossilised by a tour of the Continental forests, so that the best that India as well as Europe can afford may be given to these students. If experience should teach us that the Indian students or the recruits here should be sent abroad at even an earlier stage, so that the observation and training may go hand in hand, the Government of India may have to consider whether such facilities ought

not to be furnished sooner than even before the end of the three years' course. That is provided for, but that is a question of detail we need not go into now. If, on the other hand, experience should show us that it is unnecessary to send our students abroad before they pick up actual experience as foresters after they join the service, then it is quite possible that a different arrangement would be made with regard to further recruitment; but this we do provide for, namely, a training both on the Continent and in India, with reference to the forest conditions obtaining there as well as here. We provide facilities for observation at the earliest possible stage, and we provide also an opportunity for the future entrants to the forest service who have to work together and to carry on the administration jointly, to become acquainted with one another to develop an *esprit de corps*, a feeling of brotherliness and a spirit of camaraderie. In order to do all this, we provide that they should be brought together. The Honourable Mr. Sethna says his scheme provides that the British recruits should be sent out here so that many of these advantages may be gained. I shall come to that a little later, but, under our scheme, we have provided for a course in England, in order to provide for all these advantages, which are insisted on, and rightly insisted on, by those who are experienced in these matters. Then, where is the difference? I know that there is a difficulty felt by various Members of the Council as to whether there is not in this reference to a central institution in the United Kingdom some snare into which we may fall unwarily, as to whether, after all, when we have to concentrate upon a central institution in Europe, we are not likely in some degree to depreciate the value that we have to attach to our own institutions in India. It is a very legitimate fear, it is a very legitimate doubt that is entertained, and it is my duty to explain to the Council as to why we have made a reference in our Resolution to this Central institution. All Honourable Members will agree, I think, that, if possible, there should be a Central Research Institute for the whole Empire so as to bring the actual participants in the work, the best thinkers, the best actual foresters, together, so that they may exchange ideas and develop along lines which are conducive to the development of the Empire forest resources, as a whole. That is one of the objects which the Committee at Home had in view, and I am sure that we sympathise with it, provided we can participate in it without detriment to our own institutions. This Central Institute may or may not come into being; there is nothing known yet as to whether the various component parts of the Empire would join in making it a practical reality. But the object is two-fold, firstly, so far as India is concerned, to provide an institution where forest management and sylvicultural instruction with reference to Continental conditions may be imparted to our recruits before they are actually entertained in service. If what I have said as regards the two schools of thought is appreciated, there is no doubt whatsoever that the subject of forest management, the subject of sylviculture, can be developed at the present stage with greater practicable results in the United Kingdom, in the neighbourhood of Continental forests, than in India. So the Government of India at present is of opinion that there are subjects in which instruction under existing conditions in India can only be deficient whatever the Government may do towards developing the other branches.

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

We have conditions against us up to a certain point. We have to recognise our limitations ; no amount of expenditure of money will be able to meet those defects. Therefore, recognising those defects in our actual position, it is not wrong at all, at any rate I think it is altogether desirable, that the forest students who are trained in our colleges should have the benefit of instruction at a central institute so that those defects in training which we cannot but acknowledge may be overcome as far as possible. If Honourable Members will turn to page 31 of the papers they will find that many of the subjects for study at the central institution would not be suitable for Indian students at all or for the British students who are going to enter the Indian service. But there are some subjects which can be taught and taught efficiently only there, namely, advanced silviculture in relation to continental conditions and principles of forest management. I would lay particular stress on these two items, Nos. 2 and 4. Advanced Forest management can be taught only where you have the results of forest management for upwards of a century. For more than two centuries you have these continental forests developed, and if forest management can be taught by reference to models side by side when the instruction was being given, I think Honourable Members will accept the position that the instruction so imparted would be certainly better than if theory were divorced from practice. Advanced Silviculture in relation to British and continental conditions : Here also Honourable Members may say, what have Indian students or British students who have to serve in India to do with continental conditions ? The object is really to train them in the methods and in the processes upon which the whole science of forestry is based and with reference to which we shall have to make a start, adapting the knowledge so secured to Indian conditions. That is our hope. We have to take that, superimpose our knowledge thereupon, adapt them to our own conditions ; it is only to that extent and for that purpose that this training in silviculture with reference to continental conditions will be useful and no more. We hope under our scheme to provide for two methods of training, the British student who is trained in the British universities will have only a training in silviculture and other subjects suited to British and continental conditions and will have the frame work, the base work so arranged ; he will have to adjust that knowledge with reference to Indian conditions, as he has been doing during the last sixty years or more in India. On the other hand, you have the Indian student trained in India with reference to Indian forest conditions, which have been under scientific management for fifty years, but which are not yet so developed as to give us those results which only continental forests can give. Then he goes to the Continent and to England and he compares what he sees here with what he sees there ; he has the best technical knowledge that can be imparted there, and a combination of both these we consider would provide a better administrative staff and a better field staff than either of those trainings can furnish alone and by itself. That is the reason why we have alluded to a central institution and not with a view to minimise the importance of our own educational institutions or reduce them to an inefficient state in order that we may justify the central institution. After all what is asked for by this departmental committee with

reference to the central institution is that we should give £150 per student or a little more if necessary—it would not be very much more—so that for the 20 students whom we may have to send, the expenditure will not come to more than Rs. 45,000 or Rs. 50,000. Therefore from the expenditure point of view, India is not going to spend a very large sum of money upon this central institution if it should ever come into being. Honourable Members may ask “Supposing this central institution does not come into being owing to financial and other difficulties, what does the Government of India propose to do?” You cannot avoid six months’ training on the continent and to a certain extent they shall have to be in the United Kingdom during the intervals. We have at the present moment a Director of Forest Studies to co-ordinate the studies of these students and we cannot do without him under any circumstances whatsoever, and we will provide for this equipment of knowledge in forest management and silviculture to the extent possible in the United Kingdom, even if no central institute be established.

Then, Sir, the real point of difference between the Honourable Mr. Sethna and the Government is with regard to one item, namely, as to whether Britishers should not be compelled to come to India for training along with Indians, or whether they should be allowed to get their education at the British universities and be trained together with the Indian recruits from here at a central institution or at some college where this Director of Forest Studies or some other professors will supplement the instruction given here. That is the real point of difference.

There is one item of notable difference which has been hitherto overlooked both in the Assembly debates as well as in the public press outside, namely, that the Montagu Scheme contemplates the recruitment of Honours Graduates and training them for two years at Dehra Dun, whereas our scheme provides for the training of the best brains in India after the intermediate stage for three years and then sending them for a course of instruction abroad. It has been asked why should not the Britisher come here. Of course, there is not any very great objection to the best Honours Graduates from England coming here and taking a supplementary course of training, which is the course that we are going to provide for our own students. But I would like to put before the House some of our practical difficulties in the way of recruitment of Indians for the Forest Service

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I do not like to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I would point out to him that he has not yet moved his amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : I will take only a few minutes, Sir, with your permission. The difficulties which we have felt in the past are that Honours Graduates are not to be had from all the Universities. The courses of study are different in the different Universities, and we have not been able to get from Bombay, in particular, even a single Honours Graduate during the last three years though I have been trying to get recruits from there; so is the case with some other provinces. The courses of scientific study and standards differ to a large extent in the various universities; some universities produce 1st class

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

Graduates, others do not, with the result that under that scheme several provinces have had to be neglected, and we have not been able to get the best recruits.

Another difficulty that we have felt is this. The students after hard work and after attaining the age of 24 or 25 will not make efficient forest officers ready to take an interest in actual field work in the Forests if they are put on to learn a new job at the age of 22 or 23. So we do not get the best brains in India. That is the first difficulty. We cannot provide facilities for all the provinces ; that is another difficulty. The third difficulty is, we think, and rightly too, that if we recruit Indians who have passed the age of 22 or 23 after a hard course at the universities, it will be very difficult to get the right type of recruit specially required for the Forest Service, and furthermore, if we can get students who can take a lively interest in Forests as such, the product is likely to be of greater value to the Forest Department than the one who merely seeks a job when he fails to find one elsewhere. There are also various other reasons given in the papers circulated to Honourable Members which induced the departmental committee also to ask for a change of method and to give up the training of forest officers at a late stage and to train youths of the ages of 18 or 19. If you are going to train youths of 18 or 19 and put them through a three years' course, you will have to train British recruits also at the age of 18 or 19 and not at the age of 22 or 23 as the Secretary of State originally contemplated, and you would then deprive the Britisher of his university training and also home influences, and to bring him here at such an early age would be fraught with dangerous consequences to him and would be of no use to us, because after all we are asking for the British youth only on the ground that we want the best brains, the best university products of the British Universities if possible, and that object we shall fail to achieve. That is the reason why we have made an alteration in the age at which we shall have to recruit, and the scheme of the Secretary of State will not fit in at all with the new arrangements which we think are necessary if we are to equip our forest personnel properly with suitable Indians in the higher grades.

Now, Sir, on the question of cost I shall say a few words. We have already increased our expenditure at the Forest Institute from about 2 or 3 lakhs to 10. We shall not grudge more provided the finances permit. But even as it is, to give the training for Indians alone we shall have to find 13 lakhs of rupees *plus* 3 lakhs, or 16 lakhs capital expenditure ; whereas if the Honourable Mr. Sethna's scheme is to be considered, we shall require about 40 or 50 lakhs more, and we shall have to change the whole scheme, we shall have to provide for a separate institution for the provincial forest officers, a separate institution for training Imperial Forest officers, and furthermore, we cannot embark on this scheme at all for another 7 or 8 years.....

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Why not ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : In the first place, having regard to the existing financial conditions, I despair of being able to

induce the Assembly or, even if the Assembly is ready to agree, to induce the Government to furnish me with the requisite funds for the development of this Institute. We have already embarked upon a costly scheme of the Research Institute, and we are providing funds slowly, and to ask for another 50 lakhs.....

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : For how many years should we wait ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : It may be for over 5 years. Before the scheme is sanctioned, it will take a year or two because the people who have to pay Rs. 50,000 instead of Rs. 11,000 for the recruits are the Provincial Governments. We may pass a Resolution here, but we shall have to submit these schemes to the Provincial Governments, because it is not the Imperial Government which is going to incur the recurring expenditure. Madras has fought shy, Burma has said no, and I should not be surprised if the other Provincial Governments also say no, because almost every province said that they would embark on the less expensive and more efficient scheme, that is No. 3, which we have propounded.....

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Will the Honourable Member explain how the rise in the figure of Rs. 50,000 per recruit is arrived at ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : I must ask your indulgence, Sir, and also the indulgence of the House if I take a few more minutes because if I go into details it will naturally take a little more time.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I should be glad if the Honourable Member would bring his remarks to a conclusion. He has not yet moved his amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : If that will give me a little more breathing space I shall. The scheme that I wish to place before this Council is :—

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that recruitment to the Indian Forest Service be by selection, in England and India, of recruits who have already undergone a preliminary education in Forestry followed by training for one year in England and Europe of all recruits together at a Central Institution, as recommended by the Inter-departmental Committee on Imperial Forestry Education in their Report of February, 1921.”

Well, I was stating that the object which all Indians have at heart is likely to be delayed,—I won't say frustrated, much further than if they would accept this scheme which may be revised after experience has been gained. Assuming for a moment that we find after actual experience that the British youth will have to be brought here, that can be done ; assuming that after the institution is fully equipped we realise that there should be an institution only here and nowhere else, that can be modified, and there is nothing in our present arrangement which would preclude, barring the provision of a separate building for the training of these recruits, the modification of the scheme for training both Provincial and Imperial officers together.

With reference to the query that was just put to me, I said that our scheme is a less expensive scheme on the whole. I have worked

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

out the figures, and I find it is so. The scheme for the training of both British youths and Indians together would be more expensive for this reason. The British youth will have to be brought here and paid as if he were already entertained in service, and he will have to be paid his salary for three years before he is trained. As soon as you ask the Selection Board in England to select a candidate, and they do so the selected candidate will have to be paid his salary for three years when he is under training. Then again to bring him here and send him back for further training would also increase the cost enormously. At the same time, if you pay the British recruit from the very start, the Indian will say 'why is this discrimination against us', and so you will have to pay the Indian recruit also his salary practically before his training is begun or completed, with the result that you will have to provide for more money. The net result will be that you will have to spend Rs. 50,000 per pupil as against Rs. 8,100 and Rs. 17,559 for British and Indian youths under our scheme. After all, what is the object? The object can only be to get the Britisher trained along with Indians. The Government scheme will not prevent Indians from occupying all the posts in the Imperial Service if the Indians are found to be qualified, and if that is to be the policy of the Government of India and of the Secretary of State, because we provide for the highest education here, and if the percentage is to be increased from 40 to 60 or even 100, there is nothing to preclude the training of Indians for occupying all the places. Therefore in our scheme there is absolutely nothing inconsistent with the complete Indianization of the service should the Government of India consider it to be desirable in future. On the other hand, the bringing up of a Britisher here would delay matters very considerably, because we cannot start the institution for another 8 or 9 years. Reference will have to be made to Local Governments, and if they do not agree, we cannot incur this expenditure, and there the matter must rest.

Supposing they say 'yes' and the Secretary of State gives his assent; to secure this will take two or three years, and we shall want another five or six years for the provision of money and the Public Works Department to complete the buildings, with the net result that the object you have at heart of starting an institution at as early a date as possible would be delayed; and I would ask you not to quarrel with Government that they have not given effect to your wishes.....

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I really cannot allow the Honourable Member to go on longer as he has greatly exceeded his time limit.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: For these reasons, Sir, I would suggest that the House should accept the scheme put forward by the Government of India, and not the one placed before them by the Honourable Mr. Sethna.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Amendment moved:

'That for all the words following the words 'Governor General in Council' the following be substituted:

'That recruitment to the Indian Forest Service be by selection, in England and India, of recruits who have already undergone a preliminary education in Forestry

followed by training for one year in England and Europe of all recruits together at a Central Institution, as recommended by the Inter-departmental Committee on Imperial Forestry Education in their Report of February, 1921."

That amendment is in the nature of an alternative proposition, and both the original Resolution and the amendment now moved are open to discussion by the House.

The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH (Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I have had the advantage of having been on the Selection Board for the last two or three years in connection with the Forest Service. I have also enjoyed the benefit of conversations with Mr. Clutterbuck, who I think is one of the biggest men in our Services. All that the Honourable Mr. Sarma has just said has left me entirely unconvinced as to the utility of his scheme. The main point that Mr. Sarma has raised is that we cannot raise the money to start the institute at Dehra Dun. He has no faith in his own Government putting things through at once, but thinks the matter might be much delayed and proposes to have some kind of half-way arrangement. He has really not touched Mr. Sethna's Resolution. What he has said is the expression of his own feeling that we might delay matters, our own institution may be long in the coming. He recognises the need of an institution and fears that money may not be available. Looking at the matter from a financial point of view, one doubts whether it would be a saving to delay the matter. I think the whole thing hangs on the financial position. I for one think, Sir, that it would be a great thing to start the institution now and have it in full working order within the coming six or seven years at the latest. We have a fairly well-equipped institution even now. What we must do is to avoid delay. If we look at the file regarding these proposals, we see that the idea was started seven years ago, and we are still thinking about it. If matters are delayed like this, it may be that for another generation there will be no Forest training institution in India. The only objection, I think, and a valid objection to my mind, is the bringing of Britishers to India. This can be easily met by direct recruitment in England; and the officers trained in India might with advantage go to England to get the special knowledge required and the officers trained in England will spend with advantage a year at Dehra Dun, as proposed by the Honourable Mr. Sethna, after three years' service. Both the difficulties will not then arise. In the note, it has been explained that the best training that could be given was in the German forests, which are now closed to us. Then, one does not see the advantage of starting a central institution in England where there is no great forest. The academic training can be given here as well as anywhere else. As Mr. Sarma himself admitted, so far as academic training is concerned, our institution is fairly well-equipped. It is only for the study of "models" that it is thought necessary to send boys to England, and one year spent after a student has finished his training at Dehra ought to be enough.

Then, again, of course, Mr. Sarma rightly observed about the difficulty of getting suitable men for the Forest Service. I also noticed that the men who would really take joy in the Forest Department were very difficult to get. We could get men who had the necessary university degrees, but we could not get men who had the necessary

[Sardar Jogendra Singh.]

physique and the necessary equipment for the work. But that is not due to any other reason than this, that we have made such a fetish of university degrees. If we did not make such a fetish of university degrees, we could easily get as many candidates as we require from the Khalsa College and the Chiefs' College and the Muhammadan College at Aligarh. These boys have got the physique, they have got the training, they have got the knowledge, they come from villages and they would be just as happy in the forest as anywhere else. But it is the question of university degrees which bars out the really capable and likely boys from going before the Selection Board.

There is one more point, Sir, and I have finished. If you take a long view of the matter the best thing is to start our own institution in India itself. We have a very large area of forests. Our forests have not been fully developed and we shall need a large staff. Our Forests may not serve as "Models," but we can go on working till they become so, just as other countries have done. They did not start at once with perfect forest work. In the meanwhile, we will have the advantage of officers trained in the British universities who would come and co-operate with men educated in our own Forest Institution. Under these circumstances, Sir, I am not prepared to support the amendment of the Honourable Mr. Sarma but support the Resolution, which would provide a really well-fitted institution, and the sooner the work is started the better.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR S. M. ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR (Madras : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Honourable Mr. Sethna has made out a case for giving the best of education in Forestry in India itself. He has shown how only two years ago the Government of India had complimented itself on the excellence of the instruction given in the College at Dehra Dun. The Honourable the Revenue Member also has made a very able speech to-day. But it is an able speech from the Government point of view. Although the Honourable the Revenue Member has told us that the Government of India will do their best for the development of the Dehra Dun Institute, the counter proposal the Honourable the Revenue Member is making gives room for belief that the Government seems to think that India would get things cheap by contributing year after year to a Central Research Institute in England and by spending money on stipends to the English and Indian students every year towards the expenses of a costly living in England. This, Sir, is very like the calculation of a lodger who decides to live his whole life through in a rented house rather than go in for a house of his own.

Sir, this question was gone into in great detail by the Public Services Commission. They conducted a thorough inquiry in all parts of the country. They invited the opinions of all classes of men all over the land. Their decision is one of great weight. Their decision has been the result of an overwhelming volume of Indian opinion. Such considered and weighty judgment should not be discarded without a fair trial being made of the system they advocated. That system was then accepted by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Public opinion will not take it well if the Government of

12 noon.

India did not act upon their own decision. The world will accuse them of not knowing their own mind if the Government of India did not act on opinion to which they gave their considered assent. For them to bring in a counter proposal would expose them to a far more serious charge. A change of policy, even at the risk of being considered inconsistent might be necessary only where new facts come to light. But here, Sir, no new compelling fact has been disclosed. Hence the need for an adherence to the policy outlined by the Public Services Commission. Such an adherence may cost more money ; possibly more than the scheme the Government of India have in their view. But in working with a more costly scheme we must have to begin working towards our ideal even from to-day. In bad years we shall make a small contribution, in good years, larger contributions, but in no year shall we stint giving to this laudable object of helping India to have a well equipped school of Forestry in the land, for the attainment of this object will help India to make the best use of the best native talent of the country. Here, Sir, I am not minimising the advantages for the Indian students of the knowledge to be derived from a study of European Forestry. But I submit that such European study to be useful must start with a fund of knowledge of Indian forests. The comparative study will serve as a finishing touch to the education imparted in India. This education imparted in India could be best utilised only if it is followed up by an apprenticeship in the country itself at least for a certain number of years. Surely, at the end of the period, a tour in the continent and a study of European forests would help the student a good deal as he is already equipped with all the details of Indian forests. The scheme does not exclude the recruits from England. With regard to the difficulties of British recruits my friend the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh has suggested a solution. I would, therefore, Sir, support the Resolution of the Honourable Mr. Sethna.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, an amendment stands in my name both with regard to the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna and to the amendment moved by the Honourable Mr. Sarma, but before moving my amendment, Sir.....

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member's amendment is an amendment to the Honourable Mr. Sarma's amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : May I draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that I have sent in two amendments. One was to the Honourable Mr. Sethna's Resolution, and the other was, in case that did not come up, to the Honourable Mr. Sarma's Resolution.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member may conclude his speech by making any motion which is in order, but the amendment I have before me is an amendment to the Honourable Mr. Sarma's amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : I bow to your ruling, Sir. The Honourable Mr. Sethna's Resolution begins by saying :

"That in view of the fact that India provides in the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun a highly efficient and up-to-date institution for instruction in Forestry and for Forest research."

[Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.]

That part of the Resolution be supported by certain quotations, one of which was from the Moral and Material Progress of India in 1920. My friend is usually very accurate, but he seems to have been under some misunderstanding as regards the quotation which he gave us. He quoted, if I am right, from page 121 :

“ The arrangements for expansion, to which effect is already being given, involve large increases in the research staff, and the construction of an entirely new and enlarged Institute.”

And then he said :

“ With the completion of this project the Government of India should possess as efficient an institution for forest research as is to be found in the world.”

The meaning is, if I understand the English aright, that if and when the project is completed, the Government of India will have an institution of this kind, not that it has such an institution at present. If that is the meaning—and I believe that that is the correct meaning—then the stress that my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna laid on the encomium passed by Professor Rushbrook Williams on the Government of India's work is not quite correct. Not only that. I will go a step further. What do we find in the next year's Moral and Material Progress Report ?

After saying practically the same as was said in the preceding year, the author says :

“ But, unfortunately, the lack of money is already making itself felt, and as a consequence progress in the investigations which will lead to the fuller and better utilisation of the raw products produced by Indian forests is retarded.”

Again, he says :

“ During the period under review, progress has been made in the development of the Institute, but little or no advance has been possible in the construction of new buildings.”

It is due to financial stringency that very little progress has been made, and the Honourable Mr. Sethna's contention that at present we have an institute highly efficient and up-to-date for instruction in forestry does not hold good. May I also add that the remark made in the Moral and Material Progress of India was not about the instruction to be given but about the research work to be done, and I think it is right that Honourable Members should realise the difference between research work and training work. An institute may be very capable of doing research work, but it may not have the same facilities for doing educational work. Therefore we have not at present an institution to carry on training work equal to that which is required in the Honourable Mr. Sarma's Resolution. Sir, this question, as Honourable Members may know, was first taken up on the recommendations of the Public Services Commission Report, and I can quite understand the disappointment or the resentment felt by my Honourable friend, Sardar Jogendra Singh when he said that for seven years practically nothing had been done. It was in 1916 that the Public Services Commission said :

“ The time has now arrived when, in our opinion, a beginning should be made with the system of direct recruitment to the imperial branch in India. With this object we would make use of the facilities which have recently been established at the forest research institute at Dehra Dun for giving higher instruction in forestry subjects.”

The Honourable Member has said that sufficient has been done to provide instruction for the Provincial Service. More still remains to be done to provide instruction for recruits for the Imperial Service, and we all naturally feel that proper steps have not been taken to carry out this object till now. As regards the Indianisation of the Service the Public Services Commission said :

“ We also recommend, in order that the Dehra Dun advanced course may from the first attract a good class of student, that the Government of India should announce that not less than half the recruits required for the imperial branch of the department will be chosen from among statutory natives of India.”

And after six years what do we find, Sir? We find that only 40 per cent. are said to be recruited in India, while the remaining 60 per cent. are still recruited in Britain. Naturally, when we find that in spite of the expressed sympathy in words of the Government Members that “ we are going to Indianise the Services ”, if the Public Services Commission Report of 1916 which recommended Indianisation to the extent of 50 per cent. has not been acted up to after six years, my Honourable Friends Sardar Jogendra Singh, or Mr. Chettiar have every reason to feel disappointment and resentment. We were told that recruits were not forthcoming—the proper type of candidates did not come. May I draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the conditions at present prevailing as regards recruitment? The preliminary qualification for British students is Honours in Science. Here, for Indian candidates, it is not Honours in Science, but it is first class in any subject, and then if they have been accepted as recruits, they have to pass a qualifying examination in English, Mathematics and two science subjects equal to the Madras Honours course.....

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : May I explain? That rule does not obtain now. This year we have held no examination whatsoever. We take only from Honours and first class graduates in any subject. We have relaxed the rule which confined it only to Honours graduates in science because we felt that sufficient numbers were not forthcoming and we wanted a wider field.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : I am thankful to the Honourable Member for the explanation he has given and for the action that has been taken in doing away with the preliminary examination. But so long as that examination was being held, is it any wonder that first class students, say, in literature, or history and economics, or philosophy did not care to come here and undergo an examination again in the Madras University course in science? Moreover, it has been said. I dare say Honourable Members must have heard it, that the medical examination was much more stiff than it ought to have been. Candidates were made to walk miles and their hearts were examined to see if there was palpitation. I quite realise, Sir, from the health point of view, the forest officers must be strong men, but is it necessary that candidates who must be in a nervous state of mind at that time should be made to walk for miles, and if there was palpitation which there must necessarily be even in the case of the strongest of them, they were discarded.....

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : That has been modified also, Sir.

[Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.]

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS : So that, if capable Indian students did not come up, it was surely not because that they did not care to take up the forest service, but because the conditions laid down were hard. One has to be very grateful to the Government of India, and especially to the Revenue and Agriculture Department, for having modified those conditions.

Sir, my amendment says that the recruiting should be done in England and India for the present. The object of the amendment is to clear up a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding which my Honourable friend, the Revenue Member tried to explain away, that the Central Institution will be a permanent fixture, that the Dehra Dun institution will always be a secondary institution and will not be a complete training and research institution, and by the proposed amendment I make it quite clear that the goal that should be kept in view by us should be a complete research institute at Dehra Dun ; and that is the reason why I want to insert the words " for the present." Till that goal is attained we must have some other alternative, we cannot keep back our students. There are I think two alternatives : one would be to continue the present system, and if it is found that that system is more expensive and less efficient, then we must accept the scheme that has been laid down by the Government of India on the Departmental Committee's recommendations. To make my meaning clear, I have also added the words, " provided that the final goal to be kept in view be that complete training in Forestry be given in this country at an Institute where there should be full scope for Research work." I have said so for two reasons. We have the report of Mr. Clutterbuck where he says, that for 50 years India may not still be ready for this kind of work. Sir, when we hear this remark not from a layman, but from a man who is responsible for the forest administration of the country—when he says that for 50 years more India will not be a really suitable ground for training—we must lay down that we want it as early as possible. Then, Sir, the Government of India's first letter which was written soon after the Public Services Commission report was published—I was referring to the letter of 1918,—did not receive a sympathetic response from the Local Governments. Almost all the Local Governments tried to find difficulties except, it is really a pleasure to mention, the Government of the Central Provinces. Sir Benjamin Robertson, the then Commissioner of the Central Provinces, looked at the matter from an Indian standpoint. He says :

" The Indian public would very strongly and rightly object to any system of recruitment which neglected the opportunity of establishing a Forest Institute of the highest class in India."

The other Governments did not support that proposal, and possibly it was on account of the opposition of the Local Governments that the Government of India had to change their decision.

My Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Annamalai Chettiyar said that Government action will be misconstrued if they change their decision now and go against their own expressed wishes. Govern-

ment say that they have to change their opinion because all the Local Governments are against it. Now what do we find? In 1920 the Government of India referred the matter again to the Local Governments. It was only one Government, where Forests is a transferred subject, that sent a sympathetic reply. The Government of Bombay in which Forests is a transferred subject made it quite clear that they did not want to accept the Government of India's view. They want the Forest College to be combined with the Research Institute, and they say that scientific training in India should have all the facilities possible. Sir, when we have provincial autonomy, Forests will be a transferred subject and I have no doubt that all the Local Governments will say the same thing, and I would ask the Council to pay greater attention to what has come from the Bombay Minister than from all the Local Governments combined because the Bombay Minister, being an Indian, can express the Indian point of view much better than any one else. With these remarks I move my amendment, if I am in order, which stands in my name, namely :

“ That in the Resolution all the words after the words ‘ the Governor General in Council ’ be deleted and the following words be substituted :

‘ That recruitment to the Indian Forest Service be for the present by selection, in England and India of recruits who have already undergone a preliminary education in Forestry followed by training for one year in England and Europe of all recruits together at a Central Institution as recommended by the Inter-departmental Committee on Imperial Forestry Education in their Report of February, 1921 ; provided the final goal to be kept in view be that complete training in Forestry be given in this country at an Institute where there should be full scope for Research work ’.”

In moving this amendment.....

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member has already exceeded his time.

If the Council will look at the amendment which has been just moved, they will see that as a matter of fact it is an effect the same amendment as has been moved by the Honourable Mr. Sarma, except for the insertion of the words ‘ *for the present* ’ in line 1 and the proviso added in the end, namely :

“ Provided the final goal to be kept in view be that complete training in Forestry be given in this country at an Institute where there should be full scope for Research work.”

The proper way for the Council to consider this amendment is to treat it as an amendment to the Honourable Mr. Sarma's amendment. The point for the Council to consider is whether they wish to adopt the Honourable Mr. Sarma's amendment, or whether they would adopt it in the form in which it is proposed to be amended by the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai. That is under discussion now.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to oppose both the amendments.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member cannot oppose both the amendments now. The amendment now before the Council is the amendment of the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas to the Honourable Mr. Sarma's amendment. When that amendment is

[Mr. V. G. Kale.]

disposed of, we may take up the main amendment and the Honourable Member may oppose it then.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE : The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai has tried to dilute the amendment of the Honourable Mr. Sarma to the main Resolution. I have not been able to thread my way through the forest of extracts and quotations read and the compliments and criticisms offered by my Honourable friend with regard to the proposals which Government have placed before this House. But I take it that my friend is satisfied with the proposals of Government provided Government accept what he considers is the goal to be kept in view. I had thought that my Honourable friend had had enough of goals in politics, in industrial affairs and in administrative progress. I have not the patience which my friend has in regard to this question to be satisfied with a mere goal. I do not see why we should be contented with a mere goal in this question of educational equipment. No doubt the expenditure will be very heavy, and it has been pointed out that in the present financial stringency it will not be possible to provide the money that will be needed. However, in the course of the next five or six years, I do not think that there will be much difficulty in finding, from year to year, the funds that will be required for equipping the Dehra Dun institution up to the necessary level. The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai found fault with the wording of the Resolution where it has been said that the Dehra Dun institution occupies a certain efficient and up-to-date level. I do not see how there is any inconsistency between the position taken up by the Honourable Mr. Sethna and the position that the Dehra Dun institution requires further improvement and strengthening. As it is, the Dehra Dun institution is certainly efficient. We shall have to expand it and adjust it to the necessary requirements of the moment. We are now called upon to give expression to our views with regard to the Government Resolution. The country is being asked to express its opinion upon the schemes put forward, and I think we shall be failing in our duty if we accept the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai's amendment with regard to the goal, and consequently I strongly oppose that amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : I shall explain briefly, Sir. Objection has been taken to Mr. Samaldas' amendment by Mr. Kale on the ground that this would furnish us only with a goal and that what we ought to aim at is practical finality at as near a date as possible. I agree with Mr. Kale that we should attain practical finality at as near a date as possible, but I fail to see where his objection comes in. The position of the Government in regard to this amendment is this. We consider that those words would be surplusage and may perhaps be misleading. The final goal to be kept in view is complete training in forestry to be given in this country at an institute where there should be full scope for research work. Our contention is that we are going to provide that now and immediately under our scheme. It is not going to be merely an ideal to be realised in future. We hope by our scheme to provide for complete training in forestry in this country at an institute where there should be full scope for research work. Then with regard to the other portion 'for the present' all schemes are naturally intended to design appliances for the present.

What the future has before it, it is impossible for us to say. The scheme I have already said provides for the present. If at a future date it has to be revised, it will be revised ; if Britishers have to be brought here for training, if institutions in Europe are inadequate for the purpose, then certainly we shall insist upon Britishers coming to India to be trained here. It will be our duty to bring the Britishers here for training. But I consider that the last words of this amendment may be misleading ; it may be thought that the Government has some other object in view and the Honourable Mr. Samaldas is trying to put it on a proper footing. That is my only objection ; but we leave it to the Council to decide ; the Government will not vote.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The question is :

“ That in the amendment moved by Mr. Sarma, before the words ‘ by selection ’ the words ‘ for the present ’ be inserted ; and at the end of the said Resolution the following be added :

‘ Provided that the final goal to be kept in view be that complete training in Forestry be given in this country at an institute where there should be full scope for Research work ’.”

The Amendment was rejected.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, the Resolution put forward by the Honourable Mr. Sethna is so reasonable, and the speech he made yesterday was so convincing, that I find no other alternative but to give my full support to it. It will be quite in conformity with the orders of the late Secretary of State, who said in his despatch that the Dehra Dun institute should be made an Imperial one and all recruits should be trained in India and all students should go to India for training. But at that time the Government of India and some European institutions stood in the way and suggested to the Secretary of State that the matter should be postponed for some time. The result was that an Imperial Forestry Conference was held which passed a Resolution contrary to the ruling of the Secretary of State. But still the Secretary of State would not change his views until public opinion in India and the Legislature had been consulted. In these circumstances, Sir, I think it is necessary that we should have our own institution at Dehra Dun ; which is already, as Mr. Sethna clearly said yesterday, the best in the world. The amendment proposed by the Honourable Mr. Sarma will be quite contrary to the views of the Secretary of State. The same Resolution was recently discussed in the other House and was defeated by a large majority. If the same Resolution in the form of an amendment is carried here, it will be going against the opinion of the other House. We are not supposed to cancel what the other House does, and we should give our full consideration to the question in a fair and open-minded way. I think there is no reason why we should not have our own institution at Dehra Dun. We have large forests, though of course they are not as much developed as they ought to be ; we have an ample number of students who will go in for forestry education. If Indian boys are required to go to England, probably many may not be able to go on account of religious sentiment ; while students from abroad can come here without any prejudices. The Honourable Mr. Sarma has referred to the financial aspect of the question. I think for such a useful institution money should be provided anyhow,

[Lala Sukhbir Sinha.]

as it may not be so usefully spent in some other Departments. Therefore, I strongly support the original Resolution and oppose the amendment as put forward by my Honourable friend Mr. Sarma.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : General) : Sir, I am extremely sorry, owing to my not being in Council in time, that I have missed the advantage of hearing the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of this Resolution on behalf of Government. We listened with interest the other day to the speech of the Honourable Mr. Phiroze Sethna in connection with this Resolution. Undoubtedly, he has placed the case before the Council with great ability and perspicuity. But my difficulty in this matter, and my information in connection with it, is that there are serious impediments in the matter of obtaining recruits ; the Forest Service has of late become extremely unpopular, and we are unable to get recruits either from England or India. I also understand that the physical as well as the educational standard has been very considerably lowered. But in spite of this lowering of the standard in both the physical and the educational requirements, appointments in the Forest Service are going begging ; no recruits are forthcoming. Mr. Phiroze Sethna has not thrown any light on the subject. I ask my Honourable colleagues here if the Government Member has said anything about it, as I understand that he has not ! It appears to me that this is a storm in a tea-cup (Hear, hear) ; we are talking of academical matters, when as a matter of fact there is a serious dearth of recruits (Hear, hear). It is all right and very fine to talk of great educational facilities in England ; it is all right to say a great deal about the high standard and efficiency of the Dehra Dun Forest School. But let us first inquire if this Resolution is going to have any practical effect (Hear, hear). What is the use of moving at this stage in the matter—at this transitional stage, when the whole position of the service is not clear. Let us wait a little and see how things shape themselves. (*The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali* : “ How long ? ”) Well, my friend Mr. Raza Ali wants to know, how long ? I hope he will manage to throw some light on what I have said and manage to secure some recruits first before he calls upon us to decide whether they are to be educated in England or in India. I say that the whole affair, this debate, this heated discussion, both from the point of view of the Honourable Member who has initiated it, and of the Honourable the Revenue Member who has supported the amendment, seems, in my humble opinion, to be irrelevant and superfluous. At the same time, let us endeavour to know our exact position, and then we can correctly decide. Unless, therefore, I hear some further reliable information either from Mr. Sethna or from the Government Member, I propose to vote against both the proposition and the amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE (Berar : Nominated Non-official) : I move, Sir, that the question be now put.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The question is :

“ That the question be now put.”

The motion was negatived.

The HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LAJJA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna. It is now beyond doubt that Dehra Dun is the most suitable place for imparting instruction

in forestry for the Indian Forest Service. The Honourable the Revenue Member has not opposed the Resolution, but what he has explained is that even if the Resolution be accepted, it will take almost five years to get the thing going. The clear issue now before the House is whether we shall make a start now or later. The Honourable Mr. Sarma has assured us that the Government of India propose to take immediate action, and it is in this connection I propose such immediate action to be taken, and as far as temporary arrangements are concerned they could leave this matter to the department. I propose simultaneous recruitment in England as well as in India for the time being and urge this House to adopt the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE COLONEL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (West Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I support the Resolution. The only difficulty which is found to carry out the proposal, I think, is money, but "where there is a will, there is a way," and if any Indians who are in charge of the purse knew that the money would be spent usefully in this country, I am sure they would find the money. Then, Sir, I am in favour of this Resolution on principle, and that is, that all Indians as much as possible in every subject should be trained in India. It is much better to bring able men from England here to impart instruction than that all the candidates should go to England. There are many drawbacks in going to England. One is that some young people go away from their homes and from the influence of their parents and get spoiled.....

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : That is why you did not go.

The HONOURABLE COLONEL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN : I did not go there for education. I went later when I was of mature age and not when I was a youngster. (Laughter.) Then, Sir, it is found that many of the people who return from England are the bitterest enemies of England. In this case, Sir, about forestry, I think if a man knows the requirements of his own country and its ways and goes to England to find something better, it will be useful for it. But if he first knows about things in England and comes to India and finds everything different, all his knowledge learnt there will be of no avail. I can give an illustration. There is one man, Sir, who passed in Agriculture from England and came here. He was put a question as to what should be done about certain diseases of a tree. He said, "Wherever there is this disease, it should be washed, by a certain lotion." In India which is such a vast country and full of many such things, if everything was treated that way, I think the expense will be far more than the outcome. Then, again, Sir, it is said that we cannot find recruits. The difficulty is that in these days most of the services and appointments are bought. All those who have got money can send their sons to England and they come back and get the appointments, and the Zemindars, that is, the parents of the best men and strong men in the villages who can do the work, have got no money and they cannot send their sons to England. If the instruction is imparted in India, naturally the best men and the best brains would go to the college and most of the parents will be able to supply good recruits. Take the case of simultaneous examinations. Take, for

[Colonel Sir Umar Hayat Khan.]

instance, law, or the case of barristers who have come from England and the pleaders here.

There is a story I wish to relate in this connection. Some people wished to engage a lawyer for a law suit. They went to a Barrister, who said he wanted one hundred rupees. They replied, "If we were prepared to give one hundred rupees, we would go to a Pleader." Of course all barristers are not the same, but those men who come straight from England, unless they come and learn things in India, and learn the methods of this country, they are not able to work at all, or at any rate not properly.....

The HONOURABLE MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Education Member) : The Honourable Member has engaged barristers himself, to my knowledge, in preference to Vakils ! (Laughter.)

The HONOURABLE COLONEL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN : Under these circumstances, Sir, I am of opinion that an institution should at once be established in India, and students when they know something of their own forests, may go to England later, and complete their studies there, as suggested.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I labour under some disadvantage in having to crowd all that I have to say in reply to the many points brought out in the debate, within the short space of fifteen minutes.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I hope the Honourable Member will be as brief as possible.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : I shall try to be. In the first place, I would like to reply to the remarks of my Honourable friend on my right. He found fault with the particular quotation I made yesterday, and said that that quotation referred not to the school but to the Research Institute. I do not know whether he was present when I also quoted that at the Dehra Dun School there were at least four Indian Forest Service Officers and instructors on the staff, including the Principal of the College, a Sylviculturist and Superintendent of Forest Working plans, a Forest Zoologist, a Forest Chemist, a Forest Botanist and a Forest Economist. Then my Honourable friend quoted from Mr. Clutterbuck's Minute, and in reply to that I would refer him to the opinion of the Government of India expressed in their circular No. 633, Revenue Department, dated 29th October 1918. I do not know whether Mr. Clutterbuck held the same position on that date as he does now, but on that date the Government of India said :

"There are considerations which make it advisable that young Indians should be trained in their own country, if possible, while it is obviously desirable that the Indian Empire with greater forest reserves than any other parts of the Empire, except possibly Canada, should be in a position to provide training in scientific forestry up to the highest standard."

Then, Sir, he also found fault with me for having suggested the word "forthwith." Sir, if candidates for the Imperial Forest Service are trained forthwith at the Dehra Dun School, I contend that the education

that will be imparted to them there in forestry will be in no way inferior to that which is imparted to candidates in the three forest schools of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh (*A Voice* : Question ?) I will refer the Honourable Member to the Government of India. In the opinion of the Government of India themselves, forest instruction as imparted in these forest schools is inadequate, and the candidates receive 'inadequate training.' What more does my Honourable friend want ?

Then, Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy considers my Resolution irrelevant. I derive some consolation from the fact that he also found the same fault with the Honourable Mr. Sarma's Resolution. I may remind Sir Maneckji that Government themselves brought forward their Resolution on the subject, and it was by accident that I am moving my Resolution first and Government are moving theirs as an amendment. Sir Maneckji also sought some enlightenment from me as to whether the number of candidates would increase. (*The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy* : I said there would be no candidates ; not candidates in as large numbers as may be expected.) It is news to me that there are no candidates.

In regard to his other contentions the Honourable the Revenue Member has told us that the age limit is to be altered and the physical fitness qualification revised, and this, I hope, will mean that in future we will get more candidates. (*The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy* : " And I say quite useless candidates.") As regards there being no British candidates, the answer is the same as to why there were only 20 candidates this year for the Indian Civil Service. The fact that there have been so few British candidates for the Indian Civil Service examination is due in a measure to newspaper articles such as have appeared in the *Morning Post* and the *Daily Telegraph* advising young men in England not to take up appointments in this country. If that idea were removed from the minds of Britishers, as I hope it will soon be, we shall get as many candidates as we used to have before, and more. If Imperial Forest Service probationers are taught at Dehra Dun, one class of students, bright young men from the orthodox communities who cannot go to England, will be able to offer themselves as candidates for this service.

I now come to the amendment of the Honourable the Revenue Member. Government were of a different opinion altogether until only two years ago. Government to-day have changed their opinion. Consequently, Government should come forward with most convincing reasons to satisfy the Council in regard to the proposed change. The Honourable Mr. Sarma has told us that there is not much difference between my Resolution and his amendment, but that in the science of silviculture we have not advanced very far in India, and it is very necessary, therefore, that our students should go to the Continent. Sir, I have not disputed this. In my original Resolution I said that after passing their examination, they should go to the Continent after a period of 'six' years of continuous and approved service, which, with your permission, I altered to 'at least three' years ; but, if Government think they ought to go to the Continent immediately after qualifying at Dehra Dun, I have no objection. But I do not agree with the Honourable the Revenue Member that the study of silviculture on the Continent for students of the Imperial Branch of the Forest Service in India is so very essential, so far as their service in this country is con-

[Mr. Phiroze Sethna.]

cerned. On that point I cannot do better than quote a sentence from the reply of the Government of Bombay. It runs as follows :

“ The conditions in Europe as regards climate, soil and species are entirely different from those obtaining in India, and no amount of acquaintance, theoretical or practical, with European conditions can help much towards the development of scientific forestry in India.”

I agree with the Honourable Mr. Sarma that if, in the opinion of Government, it is thought necessary that a student who passes out from Dehra Dun, should go to the Continent to further qualify in silviculture he might be allowed to do so. I am not against their going immediately after their course is finished, though my Resolution contends that they should wait for a period of three years.

But, Sir, the most important point I wish to make is that Government in proposing a change have failed to convince us of its necessity. The item upon which they lay the greatest stress, is the item of cost. I interjected a remark asking the Honourable Mr. Sarma how he arrived at the figure of Rs. 50,000 for a British probationer. The Honourable Mr. Sarma said that Rs. 50,000 was the cost per recruit. Allowing Rs. 5,000 for the cost of his outfit and for his passage money both ways, there is still left a sum of Rs. 45,000 which gives for three years a monthly stipend of Rs. 1,250 per recruit. Does my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarma, contend that Government propose to give to the British recruit who comes out to this country Rs. 1,250 a month during his probationary period ? It is apparent that Government have not placed before us facts and figures as they might have well done and as we have a right to expect, and I repeat that the Honourable Mr. Sarma has not answered my very pertinent question, as to whether the Government of India will be required to contribute in any shape or form either towards the initial cost of the proposed Central Training Institute or towards the recurring charges. I understood Mr. Sarma to say that £150 per annum would be spent per recruit. I did not quite catch his meaning whether the Government of India had to pay to the Central Training College £150 per annum for training a student or whether that was the stipend to be paid to the recruit. But, whatever it be, the payment to the Central Training College will have to be taken into consideration, and if this is done it will be found that it will certainly be cheaper in the long run to have the Dehra Dun School brought up to the highest pitch of efficiency and make it a first class institution for the teaching of Forestry in India.

Then, again, Government lay such great stress on the advantages of a training in the Central Training College. I have not heard from the Honourable Mr. Sarma as to the manner in which this proposed Central College is going to be an improvement upon the three forest schools in England. They will I suppose retain the services of eminent professors. Where are they to be had ? It is an open secret that the best foresters and forestry teachers are to be had from a country where there are the best forests. Where are the best forests in the British Empire ? In India and in Canada. And as I also explained yesterday, the Principals of the existing forestry schools in England are drawn from men who have served in this country. Therefore, the only conclusion I can come to is that the so-called Central Training College which is boomed to such an

extent will be presided over and will be manned by teachers who in all probability will be no others than those who have served in this country in the Forest Department. If so, why should we not avail ourselves of the services of those very men in this country towards the end of their services? Why not, in that way, make the Dehra Dun Institution the best institution for forestry studies in the Empire for the reason that the best and the largest forests in the Empire exist in India?

My time is nearly up and I must try to end my remarks. Hy Honourable friend, Mr. Sarma, then referred to one or two other minor points in regard to 'assimilation' and in regard to Britishers coming out to this country. Sir, I do not attach much importance to 'assimilation.' That has been tried and, I am sorry to say, failed at Oxford and at Cambridge. I know that from personal inquiries. It may be the fault of the Indians who try to congregate together and do not mix with others to the extent we would like, and any similar attempt will meet with an equal failure.

In regard to Britishers coming out to this country, that was the recommendation of the Secretary of State himself only two years ago. If it is a disadvantage for British people to send out youths here, it is certainly equally hard on Indian students at a tender age to go to England. But Britishers coming to Dehra Dun would not be in a climate like that of Bombay, Calcutta or Madras; they would be in a place like Dehra Dun where the climate is certainly very much superior; they will be within a very short distance of hill stations like Mussoorie and Naini Tal. As I must now conclude I will do so by expressing the hope that reason and conviction will prevail with Honourable Members and that they will give their assent and sympathy to my Resolution and not to the amendment which has been moved by Government.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: I fear, Sir, that in spite of my attempt to disabuse the minds of

1 P.M.

Honourable Members that we do not propose to start an inferior institution, there seems to be still a settled conviction, that inasmuch as the Secretary of State's scheme has been modified in some particulars there must be some underlying motive which may not clearly appear on the surface but still accounts for the difference between the original scheme and the present scheme. It will take some time before this air of suspicion can be cleared, but I may state that under schemes 2 and 3, we propose to staff the college with exactly the same number of Imperial Service Officers, to provide the same sort of training, and the difference in the scheme does not come in under that head at all. I regret that those figures have not been furnished to Honourable Members, as we thought that too much detail was unnecessary, but all the necessary data have been furnished and that must convince Honourable Members that we do not propose to incur less expenditure under this head or provide inferior instruction under scheme 3.

Then it has been asked as to why this expenditure should be so very large. The expenditure is large for this reason, that under our scheme we propose to utilise the existing building, removing only certain departments therefrom, and building them on the new premises. Whereas if you bring the Britisher here you will have to maintain this institution, you cannot utilise this building, and you must build afresh on

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

new premises. That was estimated to cost originally Rs. 60 lakhs, but a few retrenchments may be possible. But I would ask Honourable Members as to whether they are not really delaying the realisation of their hopes by asking us to discard the present arrangements and to embark on an expenditure of 60 lakhs of rupees in addition to the enormous expenditure we will have to incur on the Research Institute premises at a time like this. It has been asked whether we propose to pay these students at the rate of Rs. 1,250. It is Rs. 480. That is provided for in this scheme, and for three years it amounts to Rs. 17,400. The details I have given and the full amount comes to Rs. 50,200.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : It cannot be. That is the point.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : The Honourable Member can read the figures. (Here the Honourable Member handed some papers for the inspection of the Honourable Mr. Sethna).

There is nothing secret about it. All I can say is that every figure has been carefully worked out.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : Sir, on the Honourable Mr. Sarma's own showing, if Rs. 450 is to be paid, that only amounts to Rs. 17,000 per annum, whereas the figure stated is Rs. 50,000. Well, if it is Rs. 50,000—it may be, I have not seen the figures,—Government must take into account the interest, etc., which they may have to pay on the amounts paid. If that be so, then the Honourable Mr. Sarma has not answered my point as to how

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member cannot make a speech. He can only make an explanation, but he is trying to get in a third speech.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : We do propose to take the interest charges into account, and we do not propose to contribute to the Central Institute at all. All that we have been asked to contribute is £150 per student, there may be a deficit of £20 or £40 when the accounts are fully taken which may have to be made good.

On the question of cost, I hope Honourable Members will realise the difficulties of the Government. It is not that the Government do not want to spend all the money required, but they feel that it is absolutely unnecessary to incur the expenditure needed for the all-Dehra Scheme and that it is absolutely impossible under present circumstances to embark upon that expenditure.

You will ask me " why is it unnecessary ? " I say, it is unnecessary because this new building we would be compelled to erect only if the British youth are brought here, and we are not convinced that there is any necessity for the British youth being brought here for training. If Honourable Members had convinced the Government by their arguments that it is necessary to bring the British youth over here for their training, then there would have been much to be said for the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna. The real point is that we do not think it necessary or desirable to bring them out here. You will ask me " Why

is it not desirable ? ” It is not desirable because we propose to reduce the age from 22 or 23 to 19, and we do not consider it desirable that the British youth should be removed from their home influences and the university atmosphere at such a tender age. Honourable Members have been complaining that Indians are at a great disadvantage in sending their young men to Europe because they are taken away at an impressionable age and cast among foreign surroundings. I would ask whether the very same reasons cannot be advanced against bringing British youths out at the same age, and, unless you can satisfactorily show that the training in Europe is not adequate.....

The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH : Why bring them here ? Have simultaneous recruitment in both countries.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : That is exactly what we provide and I am very glad that Sardar Jogendra Singh has been able to see our point.

The HONOURABLE SARDAR JOGENDRA SINGH : I am afraid I haven't seen your point.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Order, order.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : We are providing for simultaneous recruitment. And, in answer to the question of the Honourable Mr. Sethna, we say that the Universities have agreed to revise and have revised their arrangements and are providing a more efficient teaching staff, and the Committee are satisfied that the facilities that are to be given at Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh will be no whit behind what may be needed. Experience alone can tell us which is superior—but at the present moment, as far as we can see, the training would be the same, and we may not get the best British recruits at an early age, and our object would be defeated.

The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoi has asked us as to where the necessity for a change is. I am sorry he has not been here. But I think I should make some observations with regard to two of the points which he has raised. The first is that we have reduced the physical standard. I deny it.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : As well as the educational standard.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : We deny it. We have not reduced the educational standard. We insist upon an adequate medical test and we have instructed the Provincial Governments to satisfy themselves as to whether the candidates they are recommending are physically fit for the career which they are to embrace, and, if the medical authorities in the various provinces discharge their duty—as we take it they will—there is no ground whatsoever for levelling the charge that the Government of India has reduced the physical standard.

As regards the intellectual standard, there is no reduction in the standard. We are insisting upon a first class or Honours degree ; in some places there is no Honours course and where there is none we are insisting upon a first class degree. And, surely, if we insist upon a first class

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

degree, it cannot be said that we have reduced the intellectual standard in India? As for Europe, we have found it difficult to recruit the necessary Honours men, because, during the war, there has been considerable dislocation of studies, and we have been advised that it is only from next year that we can get an adequate supply. And it is for that reason and for other reasons that we have taken a large number of Indian military officers both in India as well as in England, and we do not find any difficulty whatsoever in obtaining recruits in England at the present moment except for the reasons and to the extent that I have mentioned.

The HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : Will the Honourable Member inform the Council if the military officers who are recruited have the same educational qualifications?

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member is now replying, and I think it is unfair that he should be asked to reply to a fresh speech.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : Owing to a policy which the Government has been consistently following—a policy recommended by the Secretary of State—we have found it necessary in the interests of the Empire and the British forces, for various considerations, to give a chance to men who have been serving in India and who have been acclimatized here, and who, we were satisfied, possess the necessary educational qualifications to benefit by a training in the United Kingdom. We are satisfied, the Department is satisfied, that the candidates who have been selected do possess the necessary educational qualifications.

It was said, Sir, with regard to sylviculture, that the Bombay Government contrasted the difference between India and the continent, and therefore that we are laying undue stress upon training in sylviculture. I encroached on the time of the House to a great extent this morning in explaining the position of the Government of India. We do regard that sylviculture is the basis of all training in Forestry. But knowledge of sylviculture adapted to European conditions would have to be modified with reference to Indian conditions, and we shall have the advantage of youths being trained here with reference to Indian forest conditions as well as European forest conditions. I think the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh said that when the institution is fully equipped, it may be possible for us to train both the British and Indian recruits here, but for the present, if I remember aright, he said that Indians should be trained here and the British there,—and one other Member also has suggested it—leaving it for future consideration whether they are to be trained together here or not, but that meanwhile our plans must proceed on the footing that training here will be of absolutely the highest standard. I have already given my undertaking that the Government do not propose, have never proposed, and will not propose any but the highest standard and that all their arrangements will be based upon that footing. But what I do object to in the Resolution of Mr. Sethna is the imposition of the condition that the Britishers and Indians should be trained here together for the reasons

which I have already given. I hope, therefore, that the House will see that our scheme provides for efficiency, is more practicable and that Honourable Members will realise their hopes much sooner than under the other scheme.

The HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE SETHNA : May I be allowed to ask a question with reference to the paper which the Honourable Member has passed on to me ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : If the Chairman permits.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I had risen to put the question and I don't think the information could assist Honourable Members in forming an opinion at this stage.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The question is that in the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna the following amendment be made :

For all words following the words " the Governor General in Council " the following be substituted :

" That recruitment to the Indian Forest Service be by selection, in England and India, of recruits who have already undergone a preliminary education in Forestry followed by training for one year in England and Europe of all recruits together at a Central Institution, as recommended by the Inter-departmental Committee on Imperial Forestry Education in their Report of February, 1921."

The Amendment was rejected.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : We wanted to know the opinion of the House and that is why we moved this amendment.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Does the Honourable Member ask for a division ?

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA : Yes.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The House will now divide.

The Council divided as follows :

AYES—15.

Amin-ul-Islam, Mr.
Baker, Mr. C. M.
Barron, Mr. C. A.
Dadabhoi, Sir Maneckji Byramji.
Edwards, Major-Genl. Sir William Rice.
Jha, Dr. G. N.
Hammond, Mr. E. L. L.
Lindsay, Mr. H. A. F.

Maricair, Sir Ahmedthamby.
Miller, Sir Leslie Creery.
Moncrieff Smith, Mr. H.
Sarma, Mr. B. N.
Shafi, Mian Sir Muhammad.
Thompson, Mr. J. P.
Zahir-ud-din, Mr.

NOES—16.

Acharyya Chaudhuri, Maharaja S. K.
Ayyangar, Mr. K. V. B.
Bahram Khan, Nawab Sir.
Chettiyar, Mr. S. M. A.
Harnam Singh, Raja Sir.
Jogindra Singh, Mr.
Kale, Mr. V. G.
Khaparde, Mr. G. S.

Lal Chand, Lieut. Chaudhuri.
Naidu, Mr. V. B.
Ram Saran Das, Mr.
Sethna, Mr. P. C.
Sinha, Mr. Sukhbir.
Singh, Maharaja Bahadur K. P.
Umar Hayat Khan, Col. Sir.
Vasudeva, Raja V.

The motion was negatived.

[The Honourable the President.]

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The question is that the following Resolution be adopted :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in view of the fact that India provides in the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun a highly efficient and up-to-date institution for instruction in Forestry and for Forest research, the present practice of recruiting a proportion of the probationers for the Indian Forest Service in Great Britain and training all probationers whether recruited in Great Britain or India, in the Universities of the United Kingdom, be abolished forthwith, and that all probationers for the service be recruited and trained in India and that every such probationer drafted into the service be given all facilities to add to his knowledge and experience by a tour to the Continent of Europe after at least three years of continuous and approved service.”

The motion was adopted.

The Council re-assembled after Lunch at 2-30 P.M., the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy in the Chair.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Council will now adjourn till Half past Two this afternoon.

RESOLUTION *RE* MILCH AND AGRICULTURAL CATTLE.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in order to improve the breed and number of milch and agricultural cattle, a Commission be appointed to make inquiries in every province, take evidence, collect facts and figures and report as to the following points among others :

- (a) The number and condition of agricultural bullocks.
- (b) the number and condition of milch cattle.
- (c) Slaughter of cattle for food.
- (d) Slaughter of cattle for Muhammadan religious purposes
- (e) Slaughter of cattle for British soldiers.
- (f) Whether beef can be imported from outside India if required for British troops.
- (g) The condition of grazing lands.
- (h) The condition of fodder.
- (i) How the number and breed of cattle can be improved.”

The items for inquiry which I have put down in this Resolution are tentative and open to amendment by the Government or by any Honourable Member who wishes to suggest changes. I have merely put them down as they have occurred to me. Only a few days ago, Sir, you referred to this Resolution and observed that it seemed to have a religious motive behind it. But I can assure you, as well as the Members of this Council, that it is not the case. It has no religious aspect whatever and I have put it before this Council simply with an economic and agrarian point of view. About 18 months ago, in March 1921, I moved a similar Resolution—worded somewhat differently—in this Council ; and in that discussion the Honourable the Revenue Member was pleased to observe that “ This much may be promised that the Government will institute inquiries as to whether any steps can be taken towards preventing indiscriminate slaughter of useful prime cows and calves by any Municipal Regulations

or otherwise, which must largely depend again upon the initiative of Provinces themselves." From that time till now, I have been carefully watching what the Government has done in this matter and what the people have done. The Government of India and the Provincial Governments have done nothing. So far as I am aware, no inquiry has been made : no steps have been taken to improve the breed or the number of cattle. The people on the other side are doing something to put a stop to the slaughter of cows by our Muhammadan friends ; but they have not succeeded to a great extent as yet. This question of the improvement of the breed of milch cows and of bullocks is becoming more and more acute. The prices of bullocks, of milk and of ghee are going up steadily ; the number of cattle is going down, as we know from our own experience. In March last the Cow Conference of Calcutta arranged for a deputation to wait upon His Excellency the Viceroy. We are thankful to His Excellency for his "assurance of the unremitting attention which his Government pays to the general agricultural condition of the country and, in particular, to those difficult problems connected with the preservation and improvement of its cattle wealth." But, Sir, in his reply, His Excellency laid much stress upon two points.

The first was that the number of cattle had increased. He compared the figures of 1920-21 with the figures for 1910-11 and said that there was an increase of over 6 per cent. in the number. The same thing was said during the last discussion on this subject by the Honourable the Revenue Member. But when the figures for 1920 are compared with the figures of 1914-15, we find a clear decrease in the number of cattle. We find that in 1914-15 the total number of cattle was 147 millions, while in 1920 it has gone down by 2 millions. Similar was the case with young stock that decreased by 2 millions. In the United Provinces alone the decrease was :

- 3 per cent. in bullocks,
- 2 per cent. in cows,
- 2 per cent. in buffaloes, and
- 1 per cent. in young stock.

From these figures I think it is clear that the number has not increased, but has gone down. The second point was that the cattle now killed are not useful, they are useless, emaciated and worthless. Well, I think this also is not according to the facts and according to the experience that we have every day in the country. We find that young calves are killed without any restrictions. We find that in cantonments young cows are killed. Contracts are given to butchers for bringing young cows not above the age of 5. We find the same thing in other places. When there is no restriction of age for the cattle that are killed in slaughter houses, I do not see how it can be said that only the old cattle are killed. In Municipalities there are no restrictions and there are no restrictions again in Cantonments. As soon as cattle do not get food for some time, they are bound to become lean and emaciated, and they are brought to slaughter houses.

(At this stage the Honourable the President took the Chair.) Until we make some inquiry into this matter, we cannot say fairly and reasonably that only worthless cattle are killed. Therefore, I think it is abso-

[Lala Sukhbir Sinha.]

lutely necessary that an exhaustive inquiry should be made into this important matter. Neither the Government nor the people are aware of the facts and figures that are necessary to be known in this case. The question of grazing lands and fodder supply is another most important one for the improvement of cattle. But we have no facts and figures to show how far grazing lands are provided in this country, or how far they can be provided. In every place, in every village, attempts are made to bring grazing lands under plough. There is no law on the subject. There are no rules to provide grazing lands for the cattle. The Agricultural Department is not taking necessary steps to encourage the cultivation of fodder.

All these matters require full inquiry before we can find out how the improvement of milch cattle and agricultural cattle can be effected. I think if the condition of cattle is improved, it will do good to all the people of this country, whether Hindus, Muhammadans or Christians—as all of us want milk for ourselves and for our children, and want butter and also ghee. So there is no religious question involved in this matter. What I beg to suggest is the appointment of a Commission to make an inquiry in this matter and to report how the condition and number of cattle can be improved. Another question is that of cattle diseases. The Commission will find out how cattle can be preserved from those diseases. I have mentioned some points for inquiry in my Resolution, but many others can be added by the Government or the committee itself, when formed. So far as my opinion goes, Sir I think it is absolutely necessary to have such a commission appointed, and I think all the members of this Council will agree with me and support me in this Resolution. I think this question does not need any further discussion, and I put it before the Council for their acceptance.

The HONOURABLE COLONEL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (West Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, as we all know, our Honourable friend has, since he has come to this Council, been very good to the kine. He has tried many times to have this question camouflaged, but this time I think it is not so well painted. I can quite understand that it is a religious question, and I am quite pleased that he has made so many attempts to get it through. He very kindly told me that if I brought forward an amendment, he would accept it. I do not know how he would feel when he hears that my amendment is to delete the Resolution altogether ! (Laughter).

I think, Sir, all these agriculturists who use bullocks and cows, are not fools. If they were, they would have been long since starved. They can appreciate the value of good cattle as well as that of bad. Now what is wanted in the Resolution is that the condition of the agricultural bullocks should be ascertained by the committee he suggests. If a man has got land which he wants to plough, unless his bullocks are in good condition he cannot do so. Naturally if he is to have anything in the way of his food, he will keep his cattle in good condition, but if there is a drought then his cattle will not be in good condition, and that of course is a matter in which he can do nothing, that being in the hands of Providence.

With regard to the cows, it is exactly the same thing. If a cow gives milk, naturally if the owner wants more he has to feed it well, but if that

cow neither gives milk nor is capable of giving young ones, if it is kept, because the owner does not want it, it will starve and starve and then die, and that will be very cruel on that animal.

Then another thing is that it will be eating the food of a better animal, that is a more useful animal. Naturally when the animal does not give milk the best thing is that instead of the animal eating away fodder the owner should eat it, which is a sort of double benefit to him.

About the slaughter of cattle for food, it is only such cattle as are absolutely useless that agriculturists will go to the extent of killing.

Then, again, Sir, as regards the slaughter of cattle for religious purposes, I have many times said, that in our religion there are many reservations relating to cows. Firstly, it is said that the drinking of milk is good for many diseases, but that the meat is bad because it brings on disease. It is also said that we should not hurt the feelings of our countrymen, and also that we should not pluck a shady tree from the roadside, or kill a cow which is not the right thing for Muhammadans. But I think, Sir, we should define a cow. A cow is a cow when it gives milk and produces young ones, but directly it ceases to do the work of a cow, I think it is no more such. (Laughter.)

Then, again, Sir, as regards the slaughter of cattle for British soldiers, if we can find other means of feeding them we might adopt those means. But, supposing we were to bring the beef from Australia; there would be the cost of the ship, of the coal, and of the people who run the ship as well as the cost of the railways for taking it up to the cantonments. I do not think it is possible for any country to breed cattle so cheaply that the beef could be sold cheap in India, after the cattle had been killed in that country and the beef brought over here. This might be possible if there were funds, but we all know Government has not got them so as to substitute something else for beef. But I think it is only economy which has led the Government and the military authorities to resort to that meat, and as I said above beef cannot be imported from outside, as is suggested in this Resolution.

Now, Sir, as regards the condition of grazing lands. It is known, that, if wheat or say *jowar* or any other crop is sown in the same land, it comes up perhaps to the height of a man or even higher, but if that place was only left for grass, it can never attain that height. So, the fodder sown in the artificial way in that land is far more valuable than grass. So the people, wherever they can irrigate their lands, sow fodder instead of allowing it to lie waste for the sake of grass. In the interests of economy too, Sir, if land can produce very nice cotton, wheat or any such stuff, why should it lie fallow like that. By sowing crops, one can feed the bullocks and cows as well. Sir, naturally the fodder which is sown is far more valuable and far better in every way for the cattle as well as for the milk than ordinary grass. Of course, there are lots of lands where there is no irrigation. There is no harm if these were made grazing grounds, but they will be no use directly there is a famine or the rains fail.

As to the breed, I have been a breeder, not so much of cattle but of horses and also dogs. I have seen, Sir, that, if we bring particular blood

[Colonel Sir Umar Hayat Khan.]

from outside and if we do not continue it, the climate of the country is such that the breed is bound to deteriorate. I think doctors have gone to the extent of saying so regarding men also. But as regards horses I have found that if they were bred from the blood brought from outside, in three generations they will absolutely become leggy and so of no use as horses. About cattle, too, as far as I know, they have been imported from England but they are so liable to get *sura* and various other diseases that they do not generally survive. So it will be seen that these things have been attempted.

Then there are countries and countries ; India is a continent, and there are places, say in the hills, where there are small cattle which can easily go about and graze ; they are not heavy and they are quite good enough for those places. In the same way in other places like Hissar and Rohtak, where my friend comes from (pointing to Honourable Lal Chand), and other places the animals are very big and if they are brought to Simla thinking that they will yield a very large quantity of milk they will simply eat their heads off ; a bullock will eat all that was meant for a man to eat and that is why people in various localities more or less like their own breed which is suited to the country and to the climate, etc. Wherever there are colonies in the Punjab for example, and there is land given for grazing, Government has gone to the extent of establishing a very nice farm, as in Hissar, and we the colonists, get very good bulls which are sold to District Boards for service. So all that is possible is being done. A Committee or anything like that will require so much money to go about the country ; perhaps Muhammadans and others who have certain religious ideas and who kill cattle during festivals, would not like this at all if they hear it is being asked to furnish such statistics ; especially at this juncture when unfortunately Hindus and Muhammadans in the Punjab are not getting on well together. So on these grounds I am sorry that I have to vote against the Resolution, although I must admit that there is a good deal in a way in the Resolution, and that for a long time to come we must get on as we have been doing for generations and generations past, that is without the aid of modern agricultural implements, and no doubt some such thing is needed to the extent that if there are really cattle which are useful or young, there may be some sort of restriction by law to effect scrutiny before they are killed,—I do not say it is practicable, but if it is there will be no harm if such a thing was done. That is all I have to say.

The HONOURABLE MR. K. V. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, if I take objection to one or two points contained in this Resolution it should not be construed that I am not in sympathy with the general principles of this Resolution. Of the headings from (a) to (i), I should take exception to the two paragraphs (d) and (f). Paragraph (d) relates to the slaughter of cattle for Muhammadan religious purposes. Sir, every nation should respect its own religion. We have our sacrifices of goats, horses and buffaloes which are sacrificed at the feet of the Mother Kali, and I don't think the Honourable Member takes exception to these sacrifices. Under these

circumstances, I think we should respect the religious feelings of our Moslem friends and omit clause (d) from this Resolution. Sir, I may say that there is a movement inaugurated among the Muhammadan community itself to respect the feelings of their Hindu brethren, and therefore I think it is unwise and improper to move a Resolution of this character at this juncture and force the hands of Government to enact legislation in order to forbid Muhammadans from sacrificing cows for their religious purposes.

Then with regard to clause (f), this relates to the question whether beef can be imported from outside India, if required, for British troops, and I wish to say only a few words about this. I have been telling my Honourable friend very often that this smells of parochial patriotism in the matter of Bovine species. Why Indian cows only should be protected and foreign cows slaughtered for British troops in India I cannot understand. (Laughter.) Whether race prejudice is extended to cows also I am amused to learn. I should request my Honourable friend to extend his philanthropy to foreign cows and have equal feeling of love for Indian as well as foreign cows.

I may further tell my Honourable friend that many a foreign country depends upon India for its raw product, and for tinned meat they want the raw product for which they have to look to India and export cattle from this place for being re-imported in the form of tinned meat.

I submit, Sir, that there is no use of this Resolution. Let my Honourable friend bring forward a Bill embodying the general principles of this Resolution and we shall then consider the question. We have had enough of Commissions and Committees, and again I repeat if I am not in favour of some points of his Resolution, it should not be understood that I am against the general principles contained in this Resolution.

*The HONOURABLE NAWAB SIR BAHRAM KHAN (Punjab : Nominated Non-official) : Sir, the cause of my intervention in the debate on the Resolution moved by the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha is this that I have a long experience and knowledge of the Punjab, Frontier Province and Baluchistan.

3 P.M.

The public are anxious and try their level best to improve the breed of cattle as much as lies in their power and keep them in condition as best as they can. For instance the Balochies and Pathans wherever there is a scarcity of fodder migrate with their stock to whichever place they can find it. They also go to the extent of purchasing the jawar and other fodder for their cattle. The Balochies are not so fond of selling milk or butter and thus leave plenty of milk to the calves to develop their body so that they may become good and powerful bullocks or fine cows. Thus very fine bullocks are obtainable in Sind and Baluchistan and in the Districts of Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh, etc. It is for the above reason that the Bhagnari Breed is so famous in the country that the cattle of this breed fetch handsome prices and find their way into the Punjab Colonies like

* Translation of speech delivered in the Vernacular.

[Nawab Sir Bahram Khan.]

Lyallpur, etc. Even the owners who sell their milk and butter in order to increase the output as a business proposition are devoted to their cattle and do their utmost to feed them well to serve the purpose in question. Generally speaking people towards the frontier keep big herds of cattle and in them they feel that they possess a foremost asset, in their property. Though at times of festivals or marriages an infinitesimal portion of cattle is sacrificed but care is taken that the animals are such as are not useful for breeding and ploughing purposes. No doubt some cattle find their way to Cantonments but these too are generally neither plough bullocks nor milch cows, but all the same bring to the owners a handsome money in return. Considering the deficit and what I have now stated I think there is no need for the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the matter suggested and accordingly I oppose the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA (Revenue Member) : Sir, I do not think it is necessary to say very much on this occasion inasmuch as we discussed this subject at very great length on a previous occasion in this House and nothing new has been brought forward for a more sympathetic consideration of the Resolution. If the object of the Honourable Mr. Sukhbir Sinha be to rivet the attention of the Government and the public on the important economic aspect of this question there is nothing to be said against it and we heartily appreciate that object, and we are not surprised that he should have brought it up. The Government are as keenly alive as the public to the extreme importance of paying attention—continued attention—to the cattle problem in India. They realise that the total value under the head of milk, meat, ghee and other products comes up nearly to a quarter of the total value of foodstuffs. They realise that the milk product alone would be somewhere about 210 crores in value. They also realise how much can be done—how much should be done—to increase the milk supply of the country. It is a painfully recognised fact that milk sells cheaper in New York and some European countries than in Calcutta and Bombay. It is not that we do not know the facts. It is not that we do not know the figures. The difficulty lies in people not being sufficiently enthusiastic—not being sufficiently steady—in their endeavours to co-operate with the Government to remove the evils. If facts and figures alone were wanted, the Census Reports, I think, would furnish ample testimony to the diligent zeal of the officers of the Government in trying to ascertain what the condition of the cattle is in various parts of the country. Only in 1920 such a cattle Census was taken and the Government, after an exhaustive inquiry into these facts and figures, have asked the Local Governments for certain information on the subject and have not yet received the replies of all the Local Governments. But, enough has been received to show that a Commission of the sort that is contemplated in this Resolution is absolutely unnecessary and that the various Provincial Governments are keenly alive to the task before them. They see clearly that this is a provincial transferred subject and that it is only they who can do anything really effective. Our position is only to co-ordinate the activities of the various Local

Governments. They realise that it is their duty to probe into the matter and to investigate it, and in some provinces committees have been appointed for the purpose.

And I am sure that the other Governments also will move in the matter when there is any necessity. The whole problem is how to produce a dual purpose cow which will breed good draught cattle as well as give a large supply of milk. Every one knows that the Indian cow, partly because it is ill-fed and partly because there is no particular care taken in breeding especially in many parts of the country, does not give a sufficient supply of milk. But what is the remedy? The remedy lies in the people growing fodder, in the people taking particular care as to how they breed these animals, and they have a legitimate right to expect the Government to afford all facilities for this purpose. I wish therefore the concentration of the public including Honourable Members especially upon this point as to how they can start Agricultural Societies and Cattle Societies which will inform the public as to what can be done and what is being done in other parts of the country and the world. In the United Kingdom a cow is reported to be giving $10\frac{1}{2}$ gallons a day and to have given 2,500 gallons in a year, i.e., 15 times her weight in milk. We know that in Pusa and other places we are able to breed a type of cow which will produce a very much larger quantity of milk than the average cow. Therefore we are doing our best. We are trying to supply the bulls and we will try to do more in that direction. But there is no use our sending bulls which are not cared for by the villager or by the public. Therefore, I hope the attention of the public will be directed to that aspect of the question and not to continuously dwell on what the Government ought to have done. Our difficulties really are financial. It is not want of information. We wanted to start two dairy schools, one at Lucknow and one at Poona, but unfortunately we have not been able to provide funds. We know that a dairy school is necessary, that we are importing unnecessarily 64 lakhs worth of condensed milk into this country and that it might perhaps be avoided. But the Provincial Governments have not been able to see their way to do so either, and you may rest assured that we will press this upon the attention of Local Governments, and we will also try whether we cannot do something in this respect. We also recognise that there is a duty laid upon the cities of Calcutta and Bombay. They do not make full use of the good cows they import and send them to the slaughter house without making full use of them as milkers. We are alive to that evil. But in a matter like this, progress must necessarily be slow. We shall address ourselves to the task as to whether anything can be done in these two cities to provide milk supply cheaper, but that again really rests with the Local Governments and the public. I wish the Marwaris and the other rich citizens, especially the Hindu citizens who are very keen about keeping the cow, would move in this matter, provide large grazing and fodder supply areas in the neighbourhood of these large cities, and facilitate the production of milk on a large scale for the people of these cities, and if the Government are asked to afford facilities and they do not afford facilities, then there would be time enough to blame the Government for their inattention to the prayers of the people.

We have no reason to suppose that there is not enough of ghee supply in the country because figures show that there has been a steady net export of ghee from India to foreign countries—may be to countries with

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

Indian population, but there is that fact. We know, as I have said, that the milk supply would be increased and should be increased, but with regard to agricultural cattle, barring one province from which we have a report that cultivation has suffered to a certain extent owing to the want of working cattle, there is no indication whatsoever that agriculture has suffered at all owing to this cause. With regard to that one particular province, Honourable Members will remember that during the year 1918-19 we had an unprecedented famine and that accounts for the mortality both in human beings as well as in cattle, and nothing I think that the Government could do could prevent a disaster of that description. I do not see the object of this continual harping upon the provision of grazing grounds as if the Government could do something which is not being done. My Honourable Friend seems to deprecate land being brought under the plough. I should strongly differ from him in that respect. The problem in India is increased food production. We are gravely alive to the shortage that overtakes us continuously, and how if more food were forthcoming the people could be fed on it. Therefore our task will be to bring more and more land under cultivation, and I think I am sure every reasoning Indian will sympathise with the Government in that object, and, as the Honourable Sir Umar Hayat Khan has pointed out, you can grow far more fodder than make hay or grass out of grazing lands. Consequently, I hope the attention of the public will not be diverted from their real duty in increasing the fodder supply and that they will not be continuously dwelling upon grazing grounds—not that I say that grazing facilities should not be extended where possible, but I do say there is enough land fallow, there is enough land unfit for cultivation, if properly utilised. What is wanted is organisation, co-ordination which I hope agricultural societies under the direction and lead of the agricultural officers will be able to effect. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into further detail. These roving commissions, I think, will not achieve any very useful purpose. One commission to ascertain the conditions prevailing in this vast continent with such a variety of conditions—I do not think any commission, however well equipped, however intelligent, however enthusiastic its members may be, will ever be able to achieve the task that is proposed to be assigned to them. Decentralisation and co-ordination of activities should be our policy and we hope to be able to pursue that. Honourable Members may rest assured that we shall not allow the Local Governments to rest idle in this respect as far as it lies in our power, and we hope ourselves to move in the desired direction. All that we expect is sympathetic following, enthusiastic following, and I think that the people should exert themselves, especially rich landholders of the type of the Honourable Mr. Sinha should exert themselves in the forming of agricultural and cattle societies for the purpose of effectuating the objects which he and we have at heart.

With regard to slaughter I do not think I need say much. The number of animals slaughtered for the British soldiers is so infinitesimally small that it does not count at all, and as a matter of fact, if we do import Australian meat, apart from the observations made by the Honourable Mr. Rangaswami Ayyangar, we should be incurring a heavy expenditure—upwards of Rs. 23,000,000—absolutely for nothing at all. I do not think therefore that any Honourable Member will ask Government to incur that

expenditure. All of us have at heart, and I think, will try to achieve this object that no cow which is useful is sent to the slaughter house. The Honourable Member said that no Government has moved in the matter. The Central Provinces Government have already moved in the matter and they have prohibited the slaughter of all animals below nine years of age which are useful and have imposed various restrictions which I need not allude to. It is not therefore that the Local Governments are idle in this respect.

I hope therefore that the Honourable Member will see that the Government are not so idle as he imagines they are, and that this usual charge need not be levelled against them but we realise that we have not been able in the past to do all that we should like to do, owing to financial reasons mainly. The cost of this committee will not be small and I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by appointing it. We do sympathise with the object which the Honourable Member has at heart, but regret that we are unable to accept this Resolution for the reasons that I have given.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Umar Hayat Khan has gone into much greater detail in this matter. I did not want to take up the time of the Council unnecessarily and therefore did not go into detail. He has admitted the importance of the subject, but he says that the appointment of a committee is not needed. I may tell him that at present we have got no exact facts and figures about the number and condition of the cattle, and my object in suggesting a committee was simply to find out where we are and what we can do. My friend Mr. Ayyangar has taken up the religious question which I did not want to take up. I may tell him that I am the last person to say that the religious feelings of any community should not be respected, and therefore I may tell him that it is not my object to stop the slaughter of cows. My object was to find out the exact number of cattle killed for this purpose. So far as my knowledge goes the number is very very small and very insignificant, but the general feeling in the country is that Muhammadans kill a large number of cows for sacrifice. I want to find out how far that is true. The number of cows killed for religious sacrifice is very small and I think the Muhammadans should not be afraid of an inquiry because then they would not be accused so much as they are at present. Then my friend Mr. Ayyangar has said that we must protect the cows of other countries also. I quite agree with him but the condition of other countries is different. Their religion and conditions of life are different. For example in Australia they do not want cows and bullocks for agricultural purposes, but here we want bullocks and cows. We want cows for milk and ghee upon which our life depends. There they can live on meat. Here we cannot. Mr. Ayyangar suggested that a Bill might be introduced. The Bill will depend upon this inquiry. If the committee find it necessary, they can draft a Bill or suggest other measures. How can I bring a Bill now without facts and figures. On one side we hear that the number of cattle is going down. On the other side we find that the number is going up. On one side we hear that only emaciated cows are killed, on the other we see that prime cows are killed. All these facts require inquiry. The

[Lala Sukhbir Sinha.]

Honourable Mr. Sarma said that the Government of India and the Local Governments have not been slack in this matter and they are doing what they can, but on account of the financial difficulty nothing more could be done. He has suggested that cattle societies should be formed and that people should come forward and co-operate with the Government. I quite agree with him. I find that my Muhammadan friends also are coming forward to help the people in this direction. I find that there is a general feeling in the country that Zamindars should come forward and provide grazing land.

But Sir, there are many difficulties in their way which ought to be removed. For instance, Zamindars cannot put aside any land for grazing purposes because every bit of land is put under assessment of land revenue. There are many other difficulties which I do not want to put forward before this Council on this occasion. But I can say that both the Zamindars and the people are willing to co-operate with the Government on this question. The Honourable Mr. Sarma has said that this Commission will cost a good deal of money. We all know that, but the point is, will that money be wasted? For such an important question as the preservation and improvement of cattle to say that money is not forthcoming, or that it will be wasted, I think is not right. If we can increase the number of bullocks and cows, I think the wealth of the country will increase, and the money spent on such a Commission will not be wasted.

However, as the Honourable Mr. Sarma has given an assuring reply that the Government of India is ready to do what it can and that he will ask the Local Governments to take necessary steps in this matter, I beg leave of this Council to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was by leave of the Council withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* LIMITATION ON HOURS OF WORK IN INLAND NAVIGATION.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY (Commerce Secretary) :
Sir, I move :

“ That the Council of State recommends to the Governor General in Council that no action be taken on the recommendation concerning the limitation on hours of work in inland navigation adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations convened at Genoa on the 15th day of June 1920.”

Sir, a year ago this House adopted six Resolutions which related to Recommendations and Conventions of the Genoa Conference. The Resolution now before the House is the seventh, relating to the same subject. It was not placed before the House at that time as Government wished to make further inquiries before coming to a decision. The first point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House in regard to this Resolution is that it relates not to a draft Convention, although that is the usual procedure adopted by the International Labour Conference, but merely to a Recommendation which was addressed to the principal participating States, in which they were asked to take action on the lines of this Resolution. And the second point to which I would like to

draw attention is the very guarded language in which this Recommendation is framed. It is to the effect that the hours of work of workers employed in inland navigation shall be limited in the direction of an 8 hours' day and a 48 hours' week, "with such special provisions as may be necessary to meet the climatic and industrial conditions peculiar to inland navigation in each country." That, Sir, is a very guarded declaration, and it showed that the members of the Conference were decidedly diffident in putting it forward. The Government of India first of all consulted Local Governments on the terms of this recommendation, and found that they were up against a general *non possumus*. They then consulted the India Office in order to ascertain what action, if any, had been taken by the other States which were members of the Conference. The result was as follows. The British Government had decided to postpone indefinitely any action on this recommendation; Norway and Sweden had decided definitely to take no action at all; Japan and Italy have taken no action so far; France has taken action, but the French limitation of hours of work can scarcely be called a limitation at all; they exceed the 8 hours fixed by the Recommendation and allow a considerable margin beyond that maximum.

There are three practical objections to adopting this recommendation for India. In the first place, the hours of work of inland navigation cannot be said to be very onerous; they are long, but on the other hand the work is light and the crew who are on duty from time to time take their own shifts of work. They are not necessarily working the whole time; they have to remain on duty to deal with any urgent work which turns up. The second objection is the difficulty of enforcing any such legislation in India. It would be necessary to maintain an inspecting staff and the results might not be satisfactory. The third objection is that Local Governments after going carefully into the whole matter have decided that legislation is not desirable nor suited to the conditions of India. Under these circumstances, Sir, I trust that the House will pass this Resolution.

'The HONOURABLE MR. K. V. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR (Madras: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I am of opinion that the labourers of the inland navigation also should obtain the beneficial results of the deliberations of the League of Nations. It was resolved upon by the nations who have a large experience of navigation, and I do not know why we should adopt a different Resolution here. The copies of the proceedings of the League of Nations are not available, but I do not know what different conditions obtain in India other than elsewhere. I say this both in the interests of the Government as well as in the interests of the labourers. The inland steam navigation company is competing very badly with the Indian railways. The Indian railways have to adopt a different tariff for competing with the inland navigation companies. As for instance, I know that there are competitive rates in the Indian railways from Calcutta to Madras, as the navigation companies compete in the carrying of goods from Calcutta to Madras. The same will be the condition in inland navigation also. The railways are a source of income to the Government of India, and when such is the case, we need not give inland navigation companies any special facilities, thereby depriving the labourers the beneficial results of the deliberations of the League

[Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar.]

of Nations. I want what applies to other labourers should apply to those of the inland navigation also. I do not think the dock coolies who are employed for the carrying of goods for the inland navigation are also included in the terms of this Resolution. I oppose the Resolution being carried.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the speeches we have just now listened to, left at least one impression on my mind, *viz.*, that Government would have done well if they had supplied us with fuller information with regard to the subject on which this Resolution is now being proposed. For example, as the Honourable Mr. Ayyangar has taken exception to certain features of this Resolution, I do not know how many workers are involved in the legislation if it had been undertaken and what is the number of crew employed in inland navigation. Then, again, another question seems to have been raised whether inland navigation includes coastal navigation. I am afraid the two are independent. But my Honourable friend seems to have confused the two, *viz.*, coasting navigation and inland navigation. So far as I understand the question, inland navigation is confined only to certain provinces. The question does not arise at all in other provinces. I should have very much liked to know from Government which are the provinces where we have got this inland navigation, what is the extent of this navigation, what is the number of the crew employed in that navigation, and what are the conditions of their work. We are entirely in the dark about these matters. I know that we cannot adopt in this country all the conventions that may be passed by the Conference of the Labour Organisation. In fact, it has been the understanding that all these conventions or recommendations are to be adopted in different countries subject to the peculiar local conditions that may prevail in different countries. Consequently, we cannot accept wholesale, or adopt wholesale, the recommendations or conventions or Resolutions of the Labour Conference. But before I can make up my mind as to whether this Resolution should be accepted or not, I should very much like to have the information asked for. We are all suffering from this lack of information and this ignorance on such an important question. It would have been much better if Government had circulated a statement of statistics and facts about the question before they brought up their Resolution before this House.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : I quite sympathise with the Honourable Members who have asked for further information on this subject. I imagined that they would have referred to the very full account of the Labour Conference published in one of the Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour. I think I am correct in saying that those Bulletins are in the Library and that any member, who is interested in the subject, would have studied them for himself there.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE : Does the Bulletin give statistics about inland navigation ?

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : The question of inland navigation is entirely distinct from that of coasting navigation, and I think that the Honourable Mr. Ayyangar has confused the two.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE : I was asking whether there was any information available about inland navigation.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY : This question applies entirely to inland navigation. There are no statistics of actual numbers employed on board ships. The inland waterways of India are confined to Burma on the one hand and to Bengal on the other, with branches in Assam and Bihar. The other provinces are very slightly concerned. My Honourable Friend will realise how very difficult it is to obtain a census of the number of workers involved, because it does not apply merely to inland steamships ; it must apply also to all sorts of barges and small country craft which carry trade up and down the rivers. It might have been possible to apply this limitation of hours of work to workers on board steamships, but to go further and apply it to all country craft would, I think, be almost impossible.

With regard to the form of this Resolution, the Recommendations of the Conference do not impose any liability upon the Government which is represented at the Conference. The Recommendation is simply a recommendation addressed by a majority of the Conference to the participating Governments, asking them to look into the question of legislation, and to legislate or not as they think fit.

In regard to the hours of work in the coasting trade of India, a recommendation on that subject was brought up before the conference but was not passed, and that question is entirely independent of inland navigation.

The Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* TRIMMERS AND STOKERS AND CHILDREN EMPLOYED AT SEA.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Council of State recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should ratify the Draft Conventions adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations convened at Geneva on the 25th day of October, 1921 :

- (1) Fixing the minimum age for the admission of young persons to employment as trimmers or stokers.
- (2) Concerning the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea.”

I must refer once more to the Resolutions that were adopted a year ago in this House. One of those Resolutions was to the effect that a minimum age of 14 should be fixed for all children employed at sea with two conditions, first, that it should only apply to sea-going ships and to coasting vessels of more than 300 tons, and, secondly, that it should not be allowed to interfere with the custom of sending children to sea for employment under the protection of their fathers and near relatives. Honourable Members will doubtless remember that Resolution. The present Resolution confirms and extends that practice. It falls into two parts. Firstly, trimmers and stokers shall not be employed unless they are of 18 years of age minimum, but that minimum is altered to 16 years

[Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay.]

of age in the case of boys who are found physically fit after medical examination and are employed as trimmers or stokers on vessels exclusively engaged in the coasting trade of India and Japan. And the second is a complementary provision that the employment of any child or young person under 18 years of age on any vessels, except only the members of the same family, shall be conditional on the production of a medical certificate attesting fitness for such work signed by a doctor who shall be approved by the competent authority.

Now, Sir, India can claim that she has to some extent anticipated these recommendations. So long ago as 1911 instructions were issued to Shipping Masters at all Indian ports that they were to pay particular attention to the physique of boys applying for employment as trimmers and stokers on board ships. They were instructed that if they found any candidate who was of insufficient physique he should either be refused employment or should be referred to the Port Health Officer. We have not yet legislated on the lines of the Resolution adopted last year, but it is proposed to do so on the first suitable opportunity and to incorporate with that Legislation the Legislation now recommended to the House. I trust that the House will accept this Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* FOREST RESEARCH.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Item *No. 7 on the List of Business has already been disposed of by the Resolution disposed of this morning.

RESOLUTION *RE* WEEKLY REST DAY IN COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

The HONOURABLE MR. H. A. F. LINDSAY (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, beyond forwarding a copy to Local Governments and Administrations for any action which they may consider desirable, no action need be taken on the recommendation concerning the application of the weekly rest day in commercial establishments adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations convened at Geneva on the 25th October, 1921.”

The first point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Council in connection with this Resolution is that it deals not with weekly rest days in industrial establishments, that is to say, in factories or workshops, but in commercial establishments, that is to say, in banks, business houses, warehouses, shops and so on. The Recommendation adopted at the Geneva Conference was adopted after considerable discussion and was adopted also subject to local conditions. The actual terms were as follows :

“ That the weekly day of rest should, wherever possible, be fixed so as to coincide with the days already established by the traditions or customs of the country or district.”

* Resolution by Honourable Mr. Sarma regarding recruitment for the Indian Forest Service.

Local Governments have been consulted on this Recommendation and they have all come to practically the same conclusion in regard to it. They point out, firstly, that large commercial shops in this country already allow a weekly day of rest, very often Sundays, and in the case of Muhammadan shops Fridays, and that all over the country general festivals are frequently observed and in addition there are local festivals and fairs. They point out also that it would be absolutely impossible to legislate to fix a weekly day of rest in the numerous wholesale and retail shops scattered up and down the villages and towns of India. •

Sir, the Government of India are in sympathy with the general spirit underlying this recommendation ; they feel it would be a good thing if days of work were periodical and regular. At the same time they feel that the difficulties in the way are so considerable that legislation cannot possibly be introduced or, if introduced, cannot be enforced. In these circumstances they think that the only possible action to take on this Resolution is to bring it to the notice of the various Local Governments, trusting that public opinion will slowly develop in its favour and that the substance of the Resolution will in time receive effect. I trust that the House will now accept the Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I would ask the Leader of the House whether he can make any statement with reference to the Bill to provide a penalty for spreading disaffection amongst the police.

The HONOURABLE MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Education Member) : Sir, I am not in a position to make any statement with regard to that as we have not yet had any notice from the Home Department.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I hope the Honourable Member will be able to tell us something about it to-morrow.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 20th September 1922.
