

Monday, 7th March, 1927

THE  
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VOLUME I, 1927

*(8th February 1927 to 29th March 1927)*

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1927



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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, 7th March, 1927.

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

## MEMBER SWORN:

The Honourable Mr. James Alexander Richey, C.I.E. (Educational Commissioner with the Government of India).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### CONTINUANCE OF THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF TAKING TABOOTS OVER THE SANGAM BRIDGE ON WELLESLEY ROAD, POONA.

140. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the *Taboots* have passed over the Sangam Bridge on Wellesley Road, Poona, from a very long time?
- (b) Whether a new bridge has been built in place of the old one?
- (c) Whether they are aware of any dispute between the Mussalmans of the place and the railway authorities?
- (d) If so, will they place all the papers on the table?
- (e) Have the Bombay Government referred the matter to the Government of India?
- (f) Do the Government of India intend to allow the Mussalmans to continue the present practice of taking the *Taboots* over the bridge?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT: (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c)—(f). No reference has been received from the Government of Bombay on the subject, but a report has been received from the Agent. It is understood that the matter is under the consideration of the Local Government and I am not prepared to place the papers on the table.

### PROMOTIONS FROM THE BOMBAY CIVIL SERVICE TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

141. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they intend giving effect, in the case of the officers of the Bombay Civil Service, to the recommendations made by the Lee Commission in paragraph 36, page 19, of the Report?

(b) Will some of these officers be promoted to the Indian Civil Service during this year?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: (a) It has always been the intention that the proportion of posts filled by promotion from the Provincial Services should be increased gradually up to the proportions recommended by the Lee Commission. Any other system would involve grave injustice to the existing members of the All-India Services. The increase has already begun in Bombay, three additional posts on the Indian Civil Service cadre having been thrown open to the Provincial Services.

(b) This will depend on the occurrence of vacancies, which the Government of India are not in a position to forecast.

#### EXPORT OF PEACOCK FEATHERS.

142. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Do Government intend to allow the export of peacock feathers? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: No, Sir. Export was prohibited in 1902, in order to prevent the indiscriminate slaughter of birds by persons interested in the sale and exportation of their feathers. The Government do not propose to withdraw the prohibition.

#### REPRESENTATIONS IN FAVOUR OF FIXING THE RATIO AT 1s. 6d. TO THE RUPEE.

143. THE HONOURABLE MR. ANUGRAHA NARAYAN SINHA: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any representations from recognised public bodies in this country or outside in favour of fixing the ratio at 1s. 6d. to the rupee?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list containing the names of the public bodies in question and the dates on which the representations have been received?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: No representations in favour of 1s. 6d. ratio have been received from public bodies outside India. As regards public bodies in India I would refer the Honourable Member to the list of opinions on the Currency Bill circulated to Honourable Members. In addition to these, direct representation was also received from the Delhi Piece-Goods Association on the 14th August 1926.

#### MADRAS LOCAL OPTION BILL.

144. THE HONOURABLE MR. ANUGRAHA NARAYAN SINHA: Is it a fact that the Government of India have refused permission to a non-official Member of the Madras Legislative Council to introduce a Bill for local option, during the last few years? If so, will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for the same?

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part of the question therefore



does not arise. I may however state for the information of the Honourable Member the facts of the case to which he presumably refers. In November, 1921, the Government of India received from the Government of Madras a copy of a Local Option Bill, which M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu, a non-official Member of the Madras Legislative Council, proposed to introduce in that Council. The Bill applied primarily to country liquor, but contained a provision admitting of the extension of its application to foreign liquor by notification. In its application to foreign liquor, the Bill would inevitably have affected the customs duties and the Bill therefore required the previous sanction of the Governor General under clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act. The Government of India, therefore, instructed the Local Government to explain to the Honourable Member that the Bill as it stood required the sanction in question and that it was open to him either to apply for that sanction, or to omit from the Bill the only provision in respect of which the requirement of sanction arose. The Government of India understand that the Honourable Member adopted the second alternative and gave fresh notice of his Bill after omitting the provision permitting of its extension to liquor other than country liquor. It appears, however, that he took no steps to introduce the Bill.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO THE COAL TRADE.

145. THE HONOURABLE MR. ANUGRAHA NARAYAN SINHA: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the coal companies in Bihar and Orissa that have closed down and the number of those that have diminished their output during the last three years, stating separately the extent of such diminution in the case of each company?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have taken any steps to afford relief to the coal trade? If so, what? If not, do they propose to take any step in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT: (a) The information so far as it is available is being collected, and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(b) In September, 1924, the Government of India appointed a committee representing all interests concerned to inquire and report what measures could be taken to stimulate the export of coal from Calcutta to Indian and foreign ports. The Committee reported in March, 1925, and effect was given to their principal recommendations, which included:

- (1) Various improvements in methods of transport, both on the railways and at the port of Calcutta;
- (2) The constitution of the Coal Grading Board;
- (3) An increase in the rebate on the railway freight for graded export coal from 25 per cent. to 37½ per cent.
- (4) A reduction in the river due at Calcutta on graded coal from 8 As. to 4 As. per ton.

In addition long distance railway freights for coal have been reduced.

In September, 1925, the Government of India referred to the Tariff Board for investigation the question whether a protective duty should be

imposed on imported coal. Their Report was published in July, 1926, and the decisions of the Government of India thereon were announced in their Resolution of the 17th July, 1926, published in the Gazette of India of the same date.

If the Honourable Member is interested in the Indian coal industry, I would suggest to him that he should read both these reports. He will find copies in the Library.

I may add that the Monthly Trade Accounts show that during the first 10 months of this year, India imported only 118,000 tons of coal and exported 576,000 tons.

#### TOTAL IMPORTS OF COAL FROM NATAL, ETC.

146. THE HONOURABLE MR. ANUGRAHA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of Natal coal consumed in India; and
- (b) the quantities of Natal and Jharia coal, respectively, consumed in the Bombay Presidency in the years 1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT: (a) Total imports of Natal coal into India during the last 3 years were:

1924	. . . . .	172,478 tons.
1925	. . . . .	188,582 ..
1926	. . . . .	84,956 ..

But a portion of these imports would be used as bunkers for outgoing steamers. The quantity consumed in India would be less than these figures.

(b) It would take much time and trouble to extract the figures of Natal and Jharia coal landed in the Bombay Presidency both by sea and by rail. Even then the figures of consumption in the Bombay Presidency would not be known, for, as I have explained above, allowance would have to be made for bunkers on outgoing steamers.

#### PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED HEADS.

147. THE HONOURABLE MR. ANUGRAHA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, province by province, the proportion of the provincial revenues spent by each province on Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries, and the percentage of such expenditure on Police, General Administration, Justice and Jails?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: I would refer the Honourable Member to Account No. 9 of the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India.

OUTPUT OF COAL IN THE COLLIERIES OF BIHAR AND ORISSA, ETC.

148. THE HONOURABLE MR. ANUGRAHA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total output of coal in the collieries of Bihar and Orissa, excluding railway collieries;
- (b) the principal markets for such coal inside and outside India; and
- (c) whether there has been any shrinkage of consumption of such coal during the last two years?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT: (a) The total output of coal in the collieries of Bihar and Orissa, excluding railway collieries, in 1926 was 11,855,779 tons.

(b) The principal markets for such coal inside India are the chief industrial centres, such as Calcutta, Cawnpore, Bombay, Ahmedabad, etc.,. The principal markets outside India are Colombo, Singapore and the Straits Settlements.

(c) The total output of such coal in 1925 was 11,616,994 tons. That is, the output in 1926 was nearly a quarter of a million tons more than in 1925. It may be inferred, therefore, that there has not been any shrinkage of consumption during the last two years.

SUPPLY OF BEEF TO BRITISH REGIMENTS.

149. THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA: Will His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief be pleased to give the following information:

- (a) List of all Cantonment slaughter-houses in India where cattle are killed for beef;
- (b) total number of British officers and soldiers to whom beef is supplied;
- (c) total quantity of beef supplied to them every year;
- (d) whether any beef is imported and, if so, how much and from what country;
- (e) how many cows and bullocks are killed every year in all the slaughter-houses for military requirements;
- (f) is there any age limit up to which cattle are passed and allowed to be killed; and
- (g) is it a fact that cows below the age of 5 years are generally killed?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) The number, as stated in reply to question No. 68, dated the 15th February, 1921, in the Legislative Assembly, was 85. The present-day figure may be taken as about the same.

(b) I am unable to give the exact number of British officers and soldiers to whom this is supplied either free or on payment, but the sanctioned establishment of British troops in India, including the Royal Air Force, is 6,666 officers and 61,275 other ranks.

(c) The estimated requirements during 1926-27 were 8,598 tons, including weight of bone, calculated at the rate of 6 lbs., including bone, per man per week.

(d) 50 tons of tinned beef are imported from Australia every year for purposes of the turnover of mobilisation reserves and of maintenance stocks.

(e) The total number will be obtained and communicated to the Honourable Member.

(f) Yes, the age limit is between 3 and 9 years.

(g) No, Sir.

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#### STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE (Finance Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table a statement\* showing the action taken on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

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#### RESOLUTION *RE* CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN MANGALORE AND THE NEAREST POINT IN BRITISH INDIAN TERRITORY TO MARMAGOA.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution which stands in my name:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the construction of a new railway line between Mangalore and the nearest point in British Indian territory to Marmagao be undertaken at an early date, and that necessary provision be made in the ensuing Railway Budget for conducting the preliminary investigations for this project."

Sir, the question of providing railway facilities for the people of South Kanara and of connecting the flourishing port of Mangalore with the rich plateau of Mysore on the one side and the West Coast ports of Marmagao and Bombay on the other, has been hanging fire for nearly a quarter of a century. Looking at the railway map of India, one may say that a big gap in railway construction is to be found in the West Coast from Mangalore to Marmagao. The districts of South Kanara and North Kanara are still in the same old primitive state and if any one in the northern-most corner of the South Kanara district should wish to go to Bombay, one must travel miles and miles in carts through beaten tracks and trunk roads before he could reach Mangalore and take the train to Madras and go back from there to Bombay. It is like putting the hand round the head to touch the nose. Numerous representations have been made by the public of South Kanara and North Kanara, by the District Boards of South and North Kanara and by the Planters' Associations, by merchants, traders and other commercial interests to open the districts with railways, so as to stimulate not only internal traffic but also to encourage external foreign trade, but all in vain. Sir, the indifference of the several railway administrations who were consulted in the matter, and who were more overawed by the geographical conditions of the districts, the ghats and the mountain streams, which would involve them in heavy capital expenditure than allured by the prospective returns in trade and traffic, coupled with the indecision and the wavering attitude of the Madras and Bombay Governments and the apathy and obstructive tactics of the Railway Board and the Government of India, has been

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\*Not printed.

responsible for the cold neglect and unjust treatment meted out to these districts. The Sea-route from Mangalore to Bombay is none the less dangerous. The East is noted for its quiet and calm and the West for its roughness and boisterousness and unlike the Eastern Waters, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea on the West, especially during the monsoonic weather, is beset with formidable difficulties for cargo and passenger traffic. There had been schemes and schemes during the past 20 years for railway construction in South and North Kanara, and though some of them had the full support and sympathy of a few kind-hearted collectors of the districts—the men on the spot—who worked heart and soul for the material advancement of the people of South and North Kanara, over whom they held temporary sway, they had been rejected or abandoned for some reason or other by the adamant Railway Board and the Government of India. One of such schemes, Sir, is the Mangalore-Hassan Railway. I have been recently prevented from moving a Resolution on this subject of which I had given notice and so I do not propose to harp on this project at any length here. A detailed survey and estimate was prepared for this line about 20 years ago by Mr. Gilchrist and the construction of the line was justified “by its immense importance to the Mysore State and the planting industry, by the advantages it would confer on the populous and fertile South Kanara District, and by the traffic that might be expected to develop when the line was constructed”. A brief description of the internal and the external trade of the District, which is of vital importance to any programme of railway construction, will not be out of place here. Apart from the trade which Mangalore Port has in salt-fish, fish manure, fish guano and fish oil, which amounted to 3 lakhs of rupees in 1912 and which must have been doubled and trebled now, there is the export trade to Mysore through Mangalore about 18,000 tons annually, consisting of tiles, metals, coir matting and gunnies, shell-lime and coral, fish and chemical, manures, salt, kerosene oil, besides timber and other forest produce to the extent of about 30,000 tons. The import from Mysore approximates 7,000 tons of coffee, sandal-wood, minor forest produce, cereals, sundries and so on.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. I must ask the Honourable Member to refrain from making on this Resolution the speech which he apparently intended to make on the Resolution to which he referred and which he said he was not allowed to move. That Resolution was one which affected the relations of the Government of India with the administration of an Indian State and under the rules was disallowed. The Honourable Member must try to confine himself strictly to the Resolution which is on the paper.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Yes, Sir. I only wanted to show that a number of projects were considered and given up, and so I am proposing that this particular project be taken up. However, I am not going to harp on that. These figures are some years old and can therefore be safely doubled or even trebled now. The District Board of South Kanara had also undertaken to guarantee an interest of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. by the levy of a railway cess. All these considerations never found favour with the Railway Board, and the Mangalore-Hassan Railway project is a thing of the dead past never more to revive. I however hope, Sir, though it will be hoping against hope, that a day will come when we will all hear of its resurrection for the lasting and mutual benefit of the people of South Kanara and of Mysore.

[Rao Sahib Dr. U. Rama Rau.]

Another alternative scheme is the Mangalore-Shimoga line. This line was first thought out and even traced roughly by Mr. Vibert, the Collector of South Kanara, in the hope that only in case the Hassan-Mangalore project is finally dropped, a branch line from Shimoga *via* Tirthalli, Kallarkatta, Nagodi, Baji, Malpe and thence to Mangalore will be the next best line. Mr. Richards, the railway expert of the Government of India, who was deputed to investigate into the railway projects of South Kanara in 1916 while he gave the first place of importance to the Mangalore-Hassan Railway project, preferred the Shimoga-Malpe-Mangalore project above referred to as the next best to the Shimoga-Bhatkal line. According to Mr. Richards' report, this line will not meet with much difficulty in the ghaut section from an engineering point of view. Now that a line from Mangalore to Malpe has been included in the quinquennial programme of railway construction and its survey is proposed to be undertaken in 1928-29, it would facilitate work if provision is made in the next year's Budget at least, for the survey being taken of the extension from Malpe to Shimoga or to the direct extension of the line, all along the West Coast, up to the nearest point in British Indian territory to Marmagoa *via* Hubli, which I now propose.

This line—the Mangalore-Marmagoa line—which we shall name as such for the present, goes right along the coast and touches all the important ports of South Kanara and North Kanara, *viz.*, Malpe, Gengully, Byandur, Bhatkal, Honnavar to Kumta and from there diverted North-East to Hubli to connect it with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway line, which reaches as far as Marmagoa. The ghat difficulty does not exist to any alarming extent in this route nor are there many mountain streams to bridge. This will give a direct route to Bombay and improve the coastal traffic of South and North Kanara. This will practically complete the chain of railways along the coast and will be useful not only in times of peace but also in times of war which may God forbid. When these ports flourish in course of time, the traffic from Mysore will, I am sure, flow into them and that day will be the day of resurrection for the Mangalore-Hassan Railway, which I had previously forestalled. I trust, therefore, the Railway Board and the Government of India, in consultation with the Madras and Bombay Governments, will see their way to make a complete survey of the Mangalore-Marmagoa project and undertake its construction, without undue delay and unnecessary pessimism, thus conferring on the people of South Kanara and North Kanara a lasting boon.

One word more, Sir, and I am done. This is my last railway Resolution for this Session and I am sure it will share the same fate as its predecessors. The Government of India have discovered a nice formula for the solution of these problems, and that is, these are local matters. I do not know if that formula is applicable to this case, and if I am to be told after all it is a "local matter" which this House need not be bothered about, I bow to their ruling. Already, my friend the Honourable Sir Umar Hayat Khan and my other friend the Honourable Sayyad Alay Nabi have solved some of their problems easily, by the application of this formula and they have advised me to leave it. Meanwhile, I am confronted with another difficulty. Only the other day, when a motion was moved in the Bombay Legislative Council, on the advice of the Government of India, on my Resolution regarding the formation of a separate Kannada province, it was disallowed on the ground that it was not a local matter but an all-India question concerning the Central Legislatures. So they have also devised a formula

for them, and between "Local matter" and "All-India matter", we are nowhere. I am yet to know where the one ends and the other begins. With due deference to my Honourable friends on the other side, I shall do my duty and rest content. With these words, Sir, I move this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. L. CORBETT (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I welcome this Resolution very much. I am very glad and I congratulate the Honourable Mover on raising a question of considerable interest and importance in the communications of India. I can assure him that I do not regard this as a local problem at all. In fact it involves two Local Governments, Madras and Bombay, an important Indian State, as the Honourable the President has reminded him, and I may add the Republic of Portugal, which is interested of course in the development of railway communications with Marmagao, which is Portuguese territory. Well, Sir, any one looking at a railway map of India will, as the Honourable Mover has quite rightly said, be struck by the fact that there appears here to be an obvious breach in our system of communications. A line here would not only connect Canara and Malabar with Marmagao, but, as the Honourable Mover said, it would be a direct line of communication with Bombay.

But before we undertake the construction of a railway line we have to consider whether the project is likely to be remunerative. We do not, as the Resolution suggests, decide to undertake the project first and make the preliminary investigation afterwards. I do not think that the Honourable Mover seriously meant that, but that is how his Resolution is actually worded. Well, Sir, our railways are run on business lines, and not merely to provide amenities regardless of cost. And in considering whether a line is likely to be remunerative we do have to rely, even in an all-India matter, on local information supplied by the local authorities. Well, Sir, it is a fact that no Local Government and no railway administration has in point of fact ever recommended a connection from Mangalore to the line leading to Marmagao. The South Indian Railway have, however, as the Honourable Mover is already aware, proposed an extension from Mangalore to Malpe, a sea-port on the west coast, a distance of about forty miles north of Mangalore, and this is on their programme for survey in 1928-29. We are asking the Agent of the Railway to expedite this survey, and when the report and estimates are received, we shall be in a position to decide whether the line is likely to be remunerative; and if we are satisfied, we shall undertake this construction at once.

A further extension from Malpe to the line leading to Marmagao will be considered in due course. But so far as one can see now, there does not seem to be very much likelihood that this section will be justifiable financially. The map will show what the Honourable Mover was inclined to deny, I think, that this section will involve some very heavy and expensive ghat work, and it is rather doubtful whether the traffic offering would be sufficient to bear the cost.

There is also another proposal now under consideration, to which the Honourable Mover has also referred, which would give through communication from Canara and Malabar to Bombay. This is a line from Mangalore to Hassan on the Mysore Railway. And although I have no intention of discussing this matter now, I have not the slightest objection to saying that this is actually under consideration. This would be a preferable line, I think, in many ways, because it would have the additional

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advantage of giving direct communication between Malabar and Canara and Mysore and Bangalore.

I am very glad the Honourable Member referred to the alternative route, that is, the sea route from Canara and Malabar ports to Bombay, because it is a fact that the traffic from the Malabar coast up to the Bombay Presidency is already provided for to a considerable extent by an efficient service of coastal steamers, which I am very glad to say are run almost entirely by Indians—Indian Captains and engineers.

We have to recognise that a coastal railway would have to face severe competition from these steamers, and, on the other hand, I think that we who are interested in the development of an Indian mercantile marine would be very sorry to see this line of steamers and the small ports at which they call injured by competition from a railway which is not fully justified on its own merits. I should deprecate the construction of a railway merely as an alternative route, even to save the Honourable Member's patients from sea-sickness.

I can promise the Honourable Member, however, that we will survey the Mangalore-Malpe section at a very early date, and if the survey and report are satisfactory, we will undertake construction. But I cannot promise now any extension beyond Malpe, though naturally we always have this possibility in our mind. I cannot say more than that, and I hope the Honourable Member will be satisfied with my reply.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: Sir, I am extremely glad that the Honourable Member who has spoken on behalf of Government is very sympathetic towards my proposal, but I may as well inform him that the steamer service is not very regular at all. Sometimes it is available and sometimes it is not. In fact, for four or five months in the year, the steamer does not touch these ports owing to heavy rain during the monsoon. As to whether the scheme will be successful and pay the company, that is exactly what I want the Government to find out. I would like inquiries started, surveys made, and see how much it will cost, and whether it will pay. I want that sort of investigation made; I do not want to start the railway construction all of a sudden. As from the summary of his speech, the Honourable Member is very much inclined towards my proposal, I do not want to press my Resolution, but with the permission of the House would like to withdraw it.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

#### RESOLUTION RE COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution which stands in my name:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to adopt measures for providing compulsory military training to students studying in the college classes in Indian Universities."

Sir, the object of my Resolution is twofold. My primary object is to see that students are prepared, during their careers at college, to



occupy in course of time their proper place as manly citizens of the country. Most of you are painfully aware of the fact that our students when they enter colleges are hale and hearty. By the end of their educational career you find that many of them—the large majority of them—are actual physical wrecks. The system of education and their conditions of living are such as to lead to physical deterioration and degeneration. I do not lay the blame at the door of any particular agency. Perhaps the students and their parents and their domestic environments are as much responsible as the system of education and scholastic surroundings. However, the fact remains that our students do require to be trained physically to become men. That is the first object of my Resolution.

The second object is to see that there is a proper development of civic soldiering in this country by means of a proper educational curriculum while students are at college. It is a very painful fact but it has got to be stated, that during the fairly long period of law and order which this country enjoyed under the shelter of the British arms, the people became emasculated, largely. I am sorry to say, due to the military policy of the British Government. This pathetic, placid contentment cannot for ever remain undisturbed and the British Government in this country is itself responsible for awakening the consciousness of the people. Therefore there is a natural desire on our part to take a legitimate share in the defence of our country. These two objects which I have in view can only be promoted, if an earnest and real effort is made both by the people and the Government to give military training to the students of this country. With the larger question of military training of the people I am not now concerned. I am confining my Resolution to students studying in the various colleges and universities in India. You may ask me, why should you confine your Resolution to students; why don't you ask for military training for all the people of India who are of fit age to be trained for military purposes? That is a larger problem. We shall begin with students. The Esher Committee and some other committees which sat on this question of military training have come to the conclusion that the universities and colleges where students are congregated for purposes of education furnish the best field for military training. They had greater hesitation in forming territorial units in urban and rural areas, because they found that such units were not a success. They gave a good and satisfactory account of their experiments with students in colleges and universities. I will, without substituting my own words for theirs, read one or two passages from the Esher Committee's Report. At page 78 of that Report the Committee says:

"Another experiment which so far promises better results has been made since 1917, when sanction was given to the formation of six university corps varying in strength from 1,125 in Calcutta to 125 in Patna in areas served by the universities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Allahabad, Lahore and Patna. The total sanctioned strength is 2,625. There were 2,916 applicants . . .

The Calcutta corps is the strongest in numbers and most forward in training. It appears that, even with an insufficiency of officers and instructors (now being made good), the corps has made healthy progress; the men have improved much in physique under the training, are quick to learn from European instructors (whom they prefer to Indian non-commissioned officers), are steadily overcoming the caste difficulties which stand in the way of training, are becoming more amenable to discipline and turn out smartly on parade. We consider the success attained by the Calcutta University Corps a hopeful indication that these corps are likely to furnish the best material as well as the surest foundation on which to build."

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Again at page 74 of the Report this is what they say :

" Obviously the attitude of men will depend on the extent to which a sense of discipline and obedience has been instilled by training, on their confidence in their officers and their *esprit de corps*; and we are here again drawn to the conclusion that these qualities will be more readily forthcoming and more speedily developed in University corps than in the miscellaneous aggregation of individuals collected in a general territorial unit . . . . When the question was discussed with the heads of provinces their general view was . . . . that the formation of University corps offered the greatest prospect of success."

And finally they made the following recommendation :

" Recommendation No. 7, Part VI—

University companies should be encouraged but strictly limited to the students and the staff. The men should take their discharge on completion of the university course but should be eligible for transfer to another university unit."

This is the opinion expressed by the Esher Committee. They therefore are of opinion that students while they are at college furnish the best material for military training which is really part of their proper physical training.

Then I am asked the question, why do you make it compulsory and is there any analogy to be found in any other country? Before I answer the question, I would like to ask a question in return. Is there any other country in which people are prevented by law from possessing fire arms? Is there any other country in which students are prohibited from touching arms? Therefore it is illusory to draw comparisons from other countries when a question of this sort is raised. The real answer is that in other countries students do get military training very largely. In the English schools we have what are called Cadet Corps, Rifle Clubs, Officers Training Corps, and various other facilities for military training. Some years ago I read that there were no less than 35,000 students in the Officers Training Corps in England in the public schools. Therefore it is a somewhat amazing contention that because there is no system of compulsory training elsewhere it is really not required or ought not to be inaugurated in India.

Then the question is asked, what is the justification for making it compulsory? Can the Government really embark on a policy which will be resented by the people of this country? I am in a position to state that the assumption underlying this question, namely, that the people of this country will resent compulsory military training is unfounded. I do not think that public opinion in this country has been ascertained by Government at any time. If you want evidence that compulsory military training would not be resented by the educational institutions, but on the contrary would be welcomed, I can furnish it to the House immediately. There are at least five universities which have actually asked for compulsory military training being introduced into the colleges which are managed by them. The Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Allahabad have actually passed resolutions asking for compulsory military training of their students.

I have not got here the resolution of the Allahabad University, but it is a fact that that University did pass a resolution. I have got the resolutions of the Calcutta and Bombay Universities. The Calcutta

university decided to make physical education compulsory in all schools and colleges and in the University and to request Government to take immediate steps on the question of compulsory military training for students reading in the colleges or university classes. That is so far as Calcutta goes. The Senate of the Bombay University recommended the institution, by the University, of a system of medical examination and compulsory (a) physical education, (b) military training of university students, to be organised and directed by university officers.

Then, Sir, besides these three universities, two great national universities of India, the University of our Muslim brethren at Aligarh and the Hindu University at Benares have also passed resolutions asking for compulsory military training. The universities consist of people who are in touch with the students and their conditions and the Senates of these universities are large and representative bodies in which the parents of the students and the public of the provinces are largely represented. Therefore we cannot say that these Senates have passed resolutions without a full sense of their responsibility in the matter, both to the public and to the students entrusted to their care. In my own university also, the University of Madras, a resolution on the same lines, introduced by my friend Mr. Satyamurti, was referred back to a committee some time ago to be brought up in a more complete form. In the meantime the Academic Council of the University, of which I am a member, passed a resolution to enforce compulsory physical training of students, and we have asked various heads of schools and colleges to find proper teachers to give compulsory physical training to the students; we have also instituted a system of medical examination of the students to test their health as well as their fitness for compulsory physical training. Therefore you cannot say that the universities have not taken the lead in the matter or that the Government is being asked to do something on which there is no expression of opinion by those concerned or by the institutions interested in advocating this reform.

But let me see what the attitude of the Government has been in this matter. The Government has shown that it is not at all in earnest to do much in this direction. The University Corps were started some time ago and are working very well. In my own province the strength is somewhat between 600 and 700 and in other universities also students are taking a lively part in the training. But the facilities which Government have afforded are absolutely inadequate for the purpose. I have looked up the records of the debates in the Assembly and also some answers to questions which were put by members interested in the problem to find out what the attitude of Government has been. It is, though not one of hostility, yet one of supreme indifference. In 1925 an Honourable Member asked the following question of the Army Secretary:

“Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article, ‘Compulsory Military Training for University Students,’ published in the issue of the *Leader*, dated 7th December 1924?”

Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Allahabad University Training Corps was organised in the year 1922 and the members have not yet been supplied with rifles?

If so, what is the cause of this delay? When are they going to be supplied?”

Mr. Burdon's answer was:

“The Government have seen the article referred to. The Allahabad University Training Corps was formed in the year 1922. In July 1924 orders were given for the

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issue of rifles, but I cannot say whether rifles have actually been issued. The reason why rifles were not issued to the United Provinces Battalion, when it was formed, is that arrangements could not be made at Aligarh and Benares for the safe custody of the rifles, particularly during the university vacation."

Are we to believe, Sir, that in Benares and Aligarh there are no places where the Government can have the rifles safely stored during the period of two months when the University is closed for the vacation? Are there not enough police stations there? Are there no Government offices there where some of these rifles can be safely lodged? I am afraid that Mr. Burdon has failed to convince any right-thinking man that this can be an excuse. It is an excuse of the flimsiest kind and one in which I for one am not prepared to place any belief. It only shows the extent to which the Government can go in evading an issue.

Then another question was put :

"Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the conditions laid down in the Territorial Force Rules, Part III, section 2 and section 16 (2) were observed in practice in the University Training Corps at Allahabad?
- (b) how many drills were actually held during the session 1923-24?
- (c) were there any camps during the sessions 1922-23 and 1923-24? If so, how many days; if not, why?"

Mr. Burdon answered :

"The information desired by the Honourable Member is being obtained and will be furnished to him as soon as possible."

I have not been able to trace it. Then there were two other questions :

"(a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the Courts of the Allahabad University and the Hindu University of Benares have resolved to make military training compulsory for such of their students as are physically fit?

(b) Do the Government propose to revise the strength of the University Training Corps in the U. P. of Agra and Oudh so as to enable universities to accommodate their students in the University Training Corps?"

Mr. Burdon replied :

"(a) The Government have no information on the subject.

(b) The Government propose to await the report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee before considering any change in the present arrangements."

So the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that the arrangements are so unsatisfactory that the University Training Corps are not able to function properly. And their reply is that they have no information on the subject and that they must await the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee before doing anything. That report has been published I am told; but I don't think any action has been taken.

Then my friend Seth Govind Das recently asked a question :

"Will the Government be pleased to state how many universities in India have approached them to provide compulsory training in the University Training Corps by supplying them with rifles, sergeant instructors, etc.?"

Mr. Burdon answered :

"The Aligarh Muslim University is the only university that has applied to the Government of India for the provision of compulsory military training."

Seth Govind Das followed it up by asking another question which was as follows :

“ Will the Government be pleased to state when the University Training Corps of the United Provinces will be supplied with rifles ? ”

Mr. Burdon's answer was :

“ I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given on 22nd January to unstarred question No. 50. The matter will be further considered in connection with the report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee.”

That is the kind of attitude which the Government assumed towards these University Training Corps, which are functioning usefully but which are languishing for want of any stimulus from the Government and for want of enthusiasm because of paucity of facilities.

On more than one occasion we have asked for facilities for training Indians for the army. In 1921, a Resolution was tabled by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyar, as a sequel to the publication of the Report of the Esher Committee. It was carried with the assent of the Government. In 1923, Sir Sivaswamy finding that no action was taken on it, brought forward another Resolution urging on the Government to take prompt action in connection with the former Resolution. In 1925, Mr. Venkatapathi Raju brought a Resolution again asking the Government to start a Military College for the training of students in India. As a result of an amendment put forward by Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar and other Members in the course of the debate, the Sandhurst Committee was appointed. The report of that Committee has not been published yet. The Army Department is examining it, I believe, and I do not know what will come out of it. However, it is clear that in 1921 a Resolution passed with the concurrence of the Government remains a dead letter till 1927. It was pointed out very rightly in another place by my friend Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar that 1921 was different from 1925. In 1921, when the Government acceded to the Resolution, they were trying to make the Assembly commit itself to certain proposals for additional taxation. Then there was non-co-operation abroad, there was some life in the country; and Mr. Montagu was at the India Office. In 1925 the conditions had all changed; and the Commander-in-Chief, the late Lord Rawlinson, said he was caught napping in 1921, when he assented to that Resolution, and that he would not commit such a mistake in 1925. He therefore opposed the later Resolutions. Sir, that is the attitude taken by the Government with regard to military training. It certainly does not inspire us with any hope that the Government of India will do anything to train the people of this country to become soldiers in order to defend their own country. Whenever we ask for an advance towards self-government, we are told “ You are unfit to defend your own country, and unless you know how to defend your shores it is useless to invest you with self-government.” When we ask for facilities for learning how to defend ourselves by a course of preliminary training, we are told that there are difficulties of an insuperable character to be overcome before Indians can become officers, that the traditions of the British Army have to be maintained and so on. As the result of agitation for years what we have got is a preparatory elementary school at Dehra Dun, which is, I think, called by the dignified name of a Royal Military College. My friends on the opposite side are adepts in coining names, but there is really nothing of a military character, or of a college or of

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royalty about this institution. It is one of those fine names which delude people into thinking that there is a military college in India. This is not surprising, having regard to the fact that they themselves stand by a name which is so unreal. My friends call their service the Indian Civil Service, although it is neither 'Indian' nor 'civil' nor 'service'. It is no wonder therefore that they have coined a phrase very much like their own Service for this college. Knowing that general military training is unacceptable to Government, I ask for this modicum of reform which ought to be taken up immediately. Public opinion favours it. I hope that I will not to-day be put out of court by the objection that I have not put forward any concrete financial proposals for carrying out my scheme. What will be the cost of it, what are the commitments of this scheme if successful?—these are matters for experts. In a country where 40 million pounds is being spent on the Army every year, it should surely not be difficult for the Government to find the money for this purpose. If it comes to that, the parents of the boys themselves will be prepared to pay their share, if the Local Governments pay a portion and the Government of India another portion. Those are details which can be gone into by any Committee which sits for a few days to formulate a scheme. I am asking for this reform, for the reason that there are really no facilities for military training of students in India. The irony of the situation is that in India itself there are not less than 15 institutions where military training of some sort is given, but Indians have no access to them. They have no chance of getting in. In England again I am told there are various institutions for which money is paid from the Indian Exchequer but into which Indians are not admitted. (*The Honourable Sir John Bell*: "What are these institutions?") My Honourable friend wants to know what are these institutions. This is answered by the reply given to a question put by an Honourable Member of the Assembly which will be found in the Debates, Volume VII, Part I, page 81:

"Will the Government please state whether there are military training institutions in England in receipt of direct or indirect contribution from India, as a result of the capitation grant, which exclude the admission of Indians on principle?"

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative will the Government please state:

- (i) the total number of such institutions;
- (ii) the total amount of contributions during the last three years;
- (iii) whether the exclusion of Indians is under orders of the War Office; and
- (iv) whether the question of the admission of Indians to institutions enjoying a subsidy from India has been, or is proposed to be, taken up for consideration?"

Mr. Burdon replied:

"As has been stated in answer to previous questions, the only military training institution in Great Britain to which Indians are admitted is Sandhurst, the reason being that Sandhurst is the training college for officers of the cavalry and infantry, and Indians are at present eligible for appointment as King's Commissioned officers in these two arms alone on the combatant side. Government have no information whether any portion of the capitation rates is *definitely ear-marked* by His Majesty's Government for expenditure on military training institutions, but this is probably not the case. The fact that Indians are not admitted to other arms of the service nor consequently to other military training institutions is, as the Honourable Member surmises, a decision of His Majesty's Government. As the Honourable Member is

aware, the question of employing Indians as King's Commissioned Officers in other combatant arms is under consideration."

Mark the words money is not "definitely ear-marked for these institutions," and the whole question is under consideration. The fact is no facilities are given in India and no facilities are given in England; and if we ask for training to be given to students in universities various kinds of objections are raised.

I have taken up much time already, Sir; and I will allude only to one fact before I sit down. There is an apprehension in the minds of some Indians themselves that the military training will interfere with the studies of the students and that there will be difficulties in fitting in military training in the curriculum of schools and colleges. I will just answer that point before I resume my seat. In Madras there is a journal edited by Captain Maxwell-Lawford who is in charge of the University Training Corps—a very popular officer I am glad to admit. This journal is edited by him, and in one of the leading articles he denies that any appreciable time of the students is likely to be swallowed up by military training; he says there is no such danger. The journal says:

"The idea is for each recruit on joining, to parade a sufficient number of times, as frequently as he likes, until he is fit to appear before a Board of Officers who will either "Pass him out" as a trained member of the Corps or else return him for further training. It is expected that in the average case about six months will be necessary to reach the state of efficiency required by the Board of Officers and the subjects in which the recruits will have to be examined are those up to and including Arms Drill but not musketry. Those who satisfy the Board will then have to complete their Musketry training during the following year and will then only be called upon to parade on Battalion parades held sufficiently frequently to maintain the necessary standard of good drill. Hence once a recruit has completed his recruits training he will find that the U. T. C. will interfere practically not at all with his college work and games. We have always had to face the fact that those who join the Corps are those whose activities are invariably greatest in other branches of College life, be it on the Sports field or in College Societies and we have always felt that in the University the willing horse was doing more than his fair share of work."

This is the account given by the military editor of the journal who knows all about the conditions of the students in Madras. Before I close, I have to impress upon my own countrymen, rather upon the Government the need to get rid of the fear of this military training and to see the necessity for it and to nerve themselves for the task by putting their children under a compulsory system of military education. If we are to realise our ambition of self-government for India or even the more modest and less ambitious dream of Indianising the Army, I submit there is no other way of doing it except by giving military training to our students in colleges. They are the fittest material, and I do say that if you begin the experiment with the students you can bring the scheme of general training to a successful issue. There is no danger at all either to the Empire or to the permanence of British rule, because the students will be discharged as soon as their college course is over. Therefore you need not distrust them. Distrust is the root of all evil, and I hope you will not find it difficult to reconcile yourself to the position that Indian students can be trusted with arms. In the University Corps the Government of India will have a national militia and a second line of defence. Our peace strength can be much reduced if our students in India are given sound military training. With these words I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. RICHEY (Educational Commissioner with the Government of India): Sir, I do not propose to follow the Honourable Mover of this Resolution in his arguments concerning the Royal Military College or the University Training Corps. A large part of his speech seemed to me directed towards the encouragement of military training on a voluntary basis, but the words of the Resolution propose compulsory military training, and there is a wide gulf, as I shall show later on, between compulsory military training and voluntary military training; and were the Resolution to be worded in favour of an extension of voluntary military training, I do not know what the attitude of the Government of India would be. But I regret that as the Resolution stands, it cannot be accepted by Government and I will give first a summary of the technical reasons why it cannot be accepted. The Honourable Mover of this Resolution has nowhere given us any idea of the steps which he wishes the Government of India to take. He speaks of the Government of India adopting measures, but he does not describe the measures which he wishes the Government of India to adopt. The Government of India cannot ignore this practical difficulty because a great majority of the universities in India are not controlled by the Government of India. So far as any control exists, it is exercised by the provincial ministries of education, but even this control does not extend to the power of introducing regulations prescribing the courses to be followed by students; the initiative in this matter rests with the universities. They are autonomous bodies in this respect and they are very jealous of their autonomy. Any one who has served on a university body need not be assured of that fact. Now, it will be impossible either for the Government of India or for any Provincial Government to introduce an order or rule that no student should proceed to a university degree examination or other examination until he had followed a course of military training. Only the universities themselves can propose such regulations and only the universities can enforce them. The students are controlled by the college and university authorities, and therefore I hope it is clear to the Honourable Member that it is not here but from the universities that the initiative in this matter must come. Now, he has quoted the cases of several universities which have adopted resolutions to this effect. So far as I gathered in the case of both Bombay and Madras which are the only two resolutions he quoted, the resolutions were in favour of compulsory physical education and not compulsory military education.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: Allahabad, Calcutta and Bombay are for compulsory military education, not merely physical education.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. RICHEY: You read out "in the case of Madras and Bombay".

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: Not Madras, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. RICHEY: If there have been any such resolutions passed by those universities they have not proceeded beyond the stage of mere pious resolutions. I am not aware that any Syndicate or Senate has drafted regulations or proposed draft regulations to enforce compulsory military education on its students preparing for the degree



examinations. But lest the Honourable Member should think that the objections of the Government of India to this Resolution are purely technical, I should like to advance some arguments to show the disadvantages of introducing compulsory military training in colleges in India. It has been supported by the Honourable Mover and by others who think like him elsewhere on two grounds, both of which he gave to-day.

Firstly, with the object of training the young men of India in the defence of their country; and secondly, as a means of improving their physique. If we take the first object, on which the Honourable Member laid the greatest stress, it amounts to nothing less than a proposal to introduce conscription into this country. Whether this is desirable or not is a matter on which the military authorities can speak better than I; but as an educationist I would strongly protest against a start being made with the student community. The obstacles in the path of education already are sufficiently serious, and we do not need to add this additional stumbling block to them. The Honourable Member stated that the Esher Committee pointed out that the student population were eminently fit for military training. That has been recommended by the Government of India and the necessary facilities have been provided; but no committee would have the temerity to suggest that conscription should be applied to students. That would act as a deterrent to education, and I don't think that anyone would deny that. The Honourable Member also said that the people of this country would be in favour of it. I would like him to ask the parents if this is so. Does he not know that many parents would hesitate to send their boys to college if they knew that by doing so they were committing them to the danger of service in war time, the ultimate implications of which they could not foresee? There is no country which at present combines a voluntary system of military service with conscription for its undergraduates. The Honourable Member said that India should take the lead. I understand that India is backward in other ways, but this position of education in India at present and the rapidity of her advance in education is not so great that we can afford to put this additional burden on her. I strongly protest against any innovation of this kind being introduced for political reasons.

I think the other argument about improving the physique of the students I am ready to admit, and if that was his object the Honourable Member would have been better advised to amend his motion and ask for compulsory physical training. Games, athletics, etc., are equal, if not better, instruments for the improvement of the physique of young men. Those who have some taste for military exercises have provided for them the University Training Corps. The success of the colleges to which the Honourable Member alluded is, I believe, very considerable, and is in a very large measure due to the enthusiasm and keenness of its members, and they are keen and enthusiastic because they are voluntarily recruited. If you introduce conscription, the whole student population would be flooded with unwilling conscripts with a lower standard of efficiency. It would kill the enthusiasm of the members, a fact that cannot be denied.

However, the Government of India are quite prepared, if there is any strong feeling in this Council in favour of the Honourable Member's motion, to forward a copy of this Resolution to Local Governments for their views, and also to the Inter-University Board. This is a Board

[Mr. J. A. Richey.]

which contains representatives from every part of India. It happens to be meeting to-morrow at Benares. It is designed expressly to consider questions of this nature which concern all Indian universities in common.

I hope with this assurance that the Honourable Member will see his way to withdraw his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, if the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution wants simply to improve the physique of the university students, then he could very easily do that by introducing some sort of physical training or Swedish drill, and for that there are regulations, and he could very easily get a copy of the regulations and in half an hour's time the necessary exercises could be done and the physique of the students improved in this way. But, Sir, when he comes to the question that every student of the university should be made a conscript, that is a different question absolutely because there may be some students who have not got a natural aptitude for military training or who might be physically unfit for it. I do not see why he should force those students to be taken into the Territorial Force. Or there might be another reason. The parents of the students might not like their sons to be taken into the army, and the boy's ambition might not be to follow an army career. I do not know why against the natural inclination of the students and against the parents' opinion a boy should be pressed and the service made compulsory. I should say, Sir, that German militarism was a good deal due to such ideas, and even in Germany there might have been conscription before the War, but my friend goes a little bit further than conscription. He is for universal army service, and that means, whether a man is fit or unfit he is to be pressed into the army. He goes a little further than the German system. Well, Sir, I do not know, but my own ideas are that though the idea may be very commendable, there will not be many students who will approve of this scheme. In the Punjab itself, if we put down 500 students from each college, and I should say there are about 20 colleges, it will bring in at least 10,000 students. Well, Sir, to provide these 10,000 students with bayonets, rifles, uniforms and other necessaries will be a very tall item, and I do not know how my friend will find the money because when the Military Budget is presented he and his friends always object to the amount already being spent on the Army. I do not know where he will find the amount for the new item, the money for training these 10,000 students. Sir, nearly half or more than half the number of students studying in the university may not have the inclination to go into the army, and in their case I should say it would be a waste of time to compel them to be put into the Territorial Force. Sir, I am in no way averse to imparting military training to the population as a whole, but what I do wish to impress on the Honourable Members of this House is that persons devoid of martial spirit should not be forced to undergo military training as it will be a waste of time for them as well as for the Government. I recollect an incident, Sir, that occurred in Aden. At that time we were attacking the Turkish trenches at Bir Jabbar. There was a doctor with his assistant and they both followed me and I told them they should not make me a target but should select a suitable place for their dressing station, but it seemed to the doctor a fine *tamasha* and he followed. All of a sudden the Turkish machine-guns opened fire and the first thing that I saw was that the doctor ran into

his hospital assistant and the hospital assistant's *pugree* got twisted round the legs of the doctor and his assistant and both of them fell, and that was the last I saw of the doctor and his assistant. As I had to carry on with my own duties I had not much time, but, I think bringing an unwilling people under compulsion will result in something like that. To the Honourable Member it seems that the Army is a very paying department. I can assure him that as regards pay, the Army is very badly paid, and a man, after 25 years' service can only hope to become a Lieutenant-Colonel, and a Lieutenant-Colonel's pay, if I am not mistaken, is not more than Rs. 1,750, and when he has paid the necessary mess and other subscriptions and has paid something for his chargers and ponies he is left with a very small amount of Rs. 500 or 600 for himself and his children. The Honourable gentleman might not know it, but I can assure him that there are not many Colonels in the Army who could sign a cheque for Rs. 10,000, while the successful pleader, barrister, engineer and business man in India can earn much more than a Colonel in the Army, and I do not think that a great many people would like to go into the Army because it is not a very lucrative profession. With these remarks I oppose the Resolution of the Mover because it seems to me impracticable.

THE HONOURABLE SIR S. R. M. ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR (Madras : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, nobody can deny that there has been a neglect of physical education in the country and that the system now prevailing tends to the development of the mind more than of the body. No systematic training for the development of the body as such has been given. However a welcome change is taking place. Sports and athletics are now one of the important functions of a college. As time goes on, I am sure they will take an increasingly prominent part in college life. Physical training is thus sought to be given in some shape or other. In Madras they are contemplating taking a step further. Provision for systematic regular physical training under trained capable instructors with good general educational qualifications is engaging their attention. From this to military training is a step further and there is no reason why it should not prove equally beneficial. I should, however, like to place before the House one or two considerations which to me at any rate make it only a distant ideal. The Resolution before the House wants the Government to provide measures for compulsory military training for all students in colleges. If the Resolution is accepted by the Government, it means that tens of thousands of students will be under training every year in the various provinces of India. That will involve a large expenditure. Is it to be borne by the Central or the Local Governments, or is it to be borne partly by the Central and partly by the Local Governments? The Honourable Member who moved this Resolution has told us that he would leave this question in the hands of the experts. Will the managements of the colleges be also called upon to bear a share of the expenditure? I do not know what the intention of the Honourable Mover is in this connection. Again, I am not sure if the introduction of the element of compulsion into the training will have the support of public opinion in the country. The Honourable Mover has told us in his speech that some universities, Calcutta, Bombay and perhaps Allahabad, have asked for permission to introduce compulsory training. But, Sir, I would like to suggest that a fair index to the general desire for compulsion can be had if the opinion of the Senate, the principals and staffs of the colleges of the different universities regarding the compulsory nature of the training is gathered throughout the country. I

[Sir S. R. M. Annamalai Chettiyar.]

should not be surprised if several universities express themselves against compulsion. Personally, Sir, I am definitely against the introduction of compulsion in any shape. From a practical point of view the Resolution as it stands is open to objection. I would therefore have the Government of India to suggest to Local Governments the desirability of extending the training now being imparted on a small scale by the formation of University Corps to places where there are facilities so that such of the students as have a preference for it may have an opportunity to get themselves trained. Sir, in this connection I should like to say something with regard to what the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of the Government said. If I remember aright he said that 'the universities are not controlled by Government. But, Sir, I think without the introduction of any element of compulsion in training if the Government of India desire to extend the training now given by the university corps it will not be very difficult for them to do so.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. DESIKA CHARI (Burma: General): Sir, this is a Resolution which, as it is worded, would, I thought, provoke much opposition, and I thought in a House like this it might even be locked out; but I find after all the Honourable Mover when he actually moved the Resolution was able to recognise some of the difficulties which he will have to face in putting forward a Resolution in this rigid, extreme and unreasonable form without providing further details as regards exemptions and without giving any indication as to how it is to be worked. Sir, what do we find in this Resolution as it stands? It enjoins upon all Universities the introduction of the element of compulsion. Of course as regards the undesirability of compulsion a good deal has been said, but I should like to say this compulsion, if introduced by a sort of general consent coming from the class of persons who are likely to be affected, would go a long way to remove the obstacle or the prejudice attaching to compulsion in its extreme form. Sir, we find that the attention of many of these Universities has been engaged for some time on this question and some of those people who are in direct touch with the students and the staffs of the various colleges as well as with the parents have come to think that after all a sort of compulsion by general consent can to some extent be introduced. But to put the Resolution in this form is not to recognise the difficulties which are still to be faced. If absolute compulsion is to be introduced it would have been better for my learned friend the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu who tabled this Resolution if he had put it in such a way as to make it acceptable to all Members of this Council as well as to the Government who might then have been inclined to be more favourable. After all what is the object of bringing a Resolution if it is not for the purpose of making it acceptable to Government which will have the option of acting upon a Resolution of this sort or not acting upon it? Sir, I find the object of the Honourable Mover is to give some sort of military drill and some sort of training to students in general in the use of arms. If that is all he has got in view then I think the object of my Honourable friend will best be served by removing the word "compulsory" and substituting in its place "further facilities for" to students studying in the college classes; and if the Chair would permit me to move an amendment

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\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

of this kind I should be very glad to do so, because it will meet to a considerable extent the object of the Honourable Mover while at the same time make it acceptable to the Council. May I request the Chair . . . . .

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I can express no opinion about the Honourable Member's amendment till he hands it to me in writing.

(The amendment was handed in.)

The Honourable Member's amendment appears to be as follows:

"To substitute for the words 'providing compulsory military training' the words 'providing further facilities for military training'."

Amendment moved.

**THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN** (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, having been a member of the Esher Committee which was not against military training naturally I cannot be against it, but there is one thing I wish to note—that neither in this Resolution nor in the amendment is there any mention of "able-bodied". The other day, Sir, if I had been lucky enough to catch your eye I wanted particularly to put before the Council the various forms of training, specially during the education which is now imparted. When a boy comes to college he is generally a youth and if his physical training in school is neglected he will be absolutely unfit for military training because after all he is required to be so strong that he will be able to carry his kit and be able to walk about 26 miles. If these students who go to the colleges were tested in the way I have suggested there will not be more than five or six per cent. of them who will be of any use.

I might ask, Sir, whether these boys are required to have military training for their own bodily benefit or that they would in future be of any use in defending their country?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU:** Both, Sir.

**THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN:** If it is for the boys themselves then it is all right. But if it is for the defence of the country, then, if you were to see how many of these boys who go to colleges joined during the War to defend their country, you will see whether they are really of the stuff that could be of any use. I think, Sir, that the number was negligible. Again, it is known to His Excellency and others in the country that there are certain people who have had the army as their profession and who have been tried as soldiers in the War, while the others have not been so. This was seen when a regiment of the non-fighting class was sent to the front. Their Colonel and the Generals did not have the courage to send this regiment into the fighting line, being afraid that if they left that gap the whole line might be affected. So, Sir, I think that if only boys of the proper stuff and with proper bodies are taken into these corps they can be of some use. So far I agree with the Honourable Mover. But the boys must be physically fit and should be able to handle arms and be, if possible, of the right class. If you take cold countries like England where boys sit inside a nice school building on chairs and benches, it is a different thing altogether; they are bodily fit and they can become good soldiers. But here from the very beginning the boys sit under shade and do not take sufficient exercise; and when they have read up to the M.A. standard they may be considered to be educated, but they are not men; some lose their eyesight; and their limbs get into such a condition that when they are made

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to walk or do any hard work they cannot do it. If they were asked to do the work their fathers did, and to plough their fields on the hottest day of the hot weather, they cannot do it; and their complaint is that they have been taken away from their fathers' profession and not provided with jobs in Government service. All those who read now-a-days in schools, with few exceptions, all do so for Government service; they do not go in for education as education.

Then of course there is another consideration as to how they will use fire-arms. Honourable Members know that in these various crimes in Bengal pistols and things like that have been used. These crimes were committed mostly by the student class. That is why I say that you should take only such boys as know, that when they get fire-arms, they should not use them to kill those whom they do not like, but for the defence of the country—not for killing and murdering people.

Therefore, Sir, I do think that this compulsory training would be bad because some of these boys do not have mature brains and they are led away by agitators sometimes and by papers and then they commit all sorts of things which are prohibited by law. With these few remarks I resume my seat.

\*THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, in supporting the Resolution so ably moved by my Honourable friend and leader I would like to make a few general observations on the subject. At the very outset I should say that I agree with the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Chari, and I may request my Honourable friend the Mover of this Resolution to accept the amendment.

Sir, representing as I do my *alma mater*, the University of Calcutta, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not place before the House the views of an important section of my constituents, I mean, the educated section of my province in this matter. There is a strong feeling in my province that students should and must get some sort of military training which in itself constitutes a portion of education proper. The present condition of complete ignorance on the part of the Indian, be he educated or illiterate, in the use of arms is not at all a healthy sign of citizenship nor is it desirable. Sir, I think I will not be accused of exaggeration if I say that by the grace of the present bureaucratic administration we have been denied the knowledge of even using a rifle. Of course this state of affairs of ours is very welcome to our masters here or at Whitehall in whom, really speaking, lies sole centralised power in matters relating to the military training of British Indian subjects. Sir, if the racial discriminations between the Territorial and the Auxiliary Forces in matters of rank and in certain other respects had been done away with, as recommended by the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee, and also if the doors to these ranks were made more open and free for our young men, the necessity, I believe, for this Resolution would not possibly have arisen. The Resolution which my Honourable friend has brought seeks only to provide for military training of students of colleges under Indian universities. Sir, the Resolution, as I have understood it, never even contemplates to make the possession or use of fire-arms free. Sir, I think the Government have nothing to be afraid of in this Resolution, even if we

\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

admit for argument's sake the alleged existence of a terrorist movement in this country. The Resolution simply suggests that our youths may be given some sort of military training, and I submit that military training is as necessary as literary training for the healthy growth of a country in the proper direction. It teaches, above all, that great thing which I call discipline, a quality which our youths, nay, we all, so much lack. But, Sir, I know it is nothing but crying in the wilderness to expect mercy from our bureaucratic masters. I think it will not be out of place to mention here that the human material required for military training is in abundance in this country and it is simply the opportunities that are wanting for our young men to be trained in military art and discipline. In the opinion of the Esher Committee the qualities required for military activities will be more readily forthcoming and more speedily developed in University Corps composed of the literate section of the people of this country.

Thus, Sir, it is an accepted principle that the willingness on the part of the young men for getting military training is there and that the human materials are also available for being instilled in them the sense of discipline and obedience. Further, Sir, I may mention a few facts which stand in the way of the educated classes joining the Territorial Force in its existing form.

I may, Sir, with your permission read here what Major Suhrawardy said in giving evidence before the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee. He said :

"It is mainly because the educated classes all over India, and especially in Bengal, want equal treatment with Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and the Resolution that was passed in the Legislative Assembly, which created this Committee also lays down that the territorial force should be made into an efficient second line of reserve to the regular Army, and also that all racial distinctions in the non-regular military forces in India, including the Auxiliary Force, should be removed. This last sentence echoes the general feeling which exists among educated Indians, as I have gathered from different people whom I have consulted in the Bengal Legislative Council and outside it. That is one of the chief reasons why there has not been a better response."

Sir, it is on account of this unwillingness on the part of our young men to join the Territorial Forces that we demand military training for our students in the colleges. That this demand is genuine on the part of our educated section will be further proved if I quote the Major again. He said :

"At the present moment I am sorry to say that our educated young men are suffering from indiscipline of the worst type and nothing will be more conducive to the betterment of the conditions in my province than to make it compulsory for every student in the university to enter the University Training Corps unless exempted under a medical certificate."

Sir, the present Resolution is just the same as was demanded by the representative of the Bengal Legislative Council deputed to lay the views of the Members of that Council before the Committee.

Sir, before I finish, I shall quote a few lines from the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee on the subject :

"We recognise that at the present time there may be serious difficulties in the way of establishing Cadet Corps in all schools in India, but a beginning can be made even in schools with the teaching of elementary principles of civic duty and with physical training and elementary military drill. In the Universities the great opportunity lies, and here it is possible to communicate more advanced ideas on the subjects of patriotism and self-defence to a large and increasingly influential section of the

[Srijut Lokenath Mukherjee.]

population. We are of opinion that in the present stage of India's evolution, and for many years to come, the University Training Corps should be regarded as the most important section of the Territorial Force. By means of the University Training Corps, if properly organised and developed, it is possible to educate and influence over a number of years that large body of young men who should become the leaders of thought and the teachers of the next generation. Their training in the principles and the practice of military service will not be limited to themselves, for, when they go out into the world, they will, if their military training has been adequate, take with them the spirit of patriotism, the sense of discipline and the improved physique which will be their legacy from the University Training Corps, and their example should serve to inspire a widening circle of the people of India with a sense of the benefits which fitness for military service confers both upon the individual and the community as a whole. We therefore recommend that the University Training Corps be viewed as the foundation stone of the national army, and that no artificial limit be set to the expansion of these Corps, every encouragement being given for the formation and development on sound lines of fresh contingents in all Universities and Colleges where they do not already exist."

Sir, from the lines which I have just read the House will realise that the Committee recommended nothing more or less than what the present Resolution seeks to suggest. Sir, I strongly and wholeheartedly support the Resolution with these few remarks.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: Sir, as at present advised, I see that the opinion of the House is against the principle of compulsion. Though I cannot agree with the arguments put forward against compulsion, I am not now anxious to force that issue on the House. After meeting one or two objections urged against my Resolution I shall signify my willingness to accept Mr. Desika Chari's amendment, if it is the sense of this House that I should do so.

Mr. Richey asked me to state exactly what steps the Government were expected to take in a matter like this, as I did not do so in my opening speech. All that is required of the Government is to help the University Training Corps with instructors and with rifles. When the universities ask for help and the Government accede to the request of the universities, that is as much as the Government is expected to do. It is not my object to place the students under the exclusive discipline and control of the military. The scheme cannot be successful without the co-operation of Government with the universities. At least five universities have asked for help, and in those cases Government ought certainly to see their way to give them what they want, and not excuse themselves that rifles cannot be given because there are no arrangements for their safe custody in the vacation.

With regard to what fell from the Honourable Colonel Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan I may at once state that his apprehensions that I am asking for compulsory training even in the case of physically unfit people are groundless. It is far from my intention to do so. It goes without saying that what is aimed at is training of people physically fit; others will be exempted. At present there is a medical examination in all schools and colleges, and even physical culture is not forced on people not physically fit. They are exempted.

My friend Sir Annamalai Chettiyar expressed an apprehension whether the proprietors of schools will be asked to share the cost of this training. My friend owns a 1st-grade college but I am surprised that he should be apprehensive of the cost. I can understand poor managers bestowing a thought on it but not Sir Annamalai. I am absolutely certain, however,



that his philanthropy would not let him grudge paying a portion of the expense. I know his magnificent charities in my province, and this is a charity which deserves his greatest consideration, and he would not grudge it.

As for Mr. Desika Chari's suggestion about framing my Resolutions in accordance with the wishes of this House or the notions of the Government, I am afraid that that is a very tall order. It would not suit me to frame my Resolutions so as to make them acceptable to the opposition. It is for Government to say what they intend to do. The acceptance or rejection of my Resolutions does not trouble me in any case in this House.

As a matter of fact in regard to military training, three times 1 P.M. Resolutions were passed in the Assembly, the first of which was accepted *in toto* by the Government. It was successfully repeated twice afterwards though the Government opposed it. Six or seven years passed by, and Government did nothing. Therefore, a Resolution passed in the Legislature stands in no better position than one which is lost. I have ceased to think of the success or failure of Resolutions; it does not trouble me.

Before I sit down, I should point out that my friend Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan did a little injustice to the Calcutta University students when he said they did not behave properly in the Calcutta riots. The Esher Report, to which he also affixed his signature has given this gratifying account of them :

" We are told that during the latest riots at Calcutta several students of the Calcutta University Corps offered their services, which it was not, however, necessary to accept."

And I have already read another passage in which the Committee testified to the excellent disposition of the Calcutta students. Therefore, I suppose there was some lapse of memory on the part of the Honourable Member when he referred to the Calcutta University Corps. I would also remind my friend that his co-religionists at Aligarh have asked for compulsory military training and I would also ask the Honourable Major Nawab Akbar Khan to go to Aligarh and ask them for their reasons for advocating compulsory military training and that he should then urge upon the Government that they should co-operate with the Aligarh University by supplying rifles and instructors so as to make the military training compulsory . . . .

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB AKBAR KHAN: It is their folly if they are doing it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: They will correct your ideas and impressions about the question and you will alter your opinions if you go there. I am thankful to Mr. Desika Chari for having brought forward an amendment which seems to find favour with the House. I accept it and request the House to pass it.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR: (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, it is not my aim or purpose to enter a discussion on the merits of the Resolution at this stage. The Honourable Mr. Richey has clarified the point much to the advantage of the House I take it, and the trend of the discussion justifies my assumption that they have profited by that dissertation. I have risen at this stage merely for the purpose of convincing my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu that, although he on his

[Sir Muhammad Habibullah.]

part may be quite willing to accept the amendment which has been suggested by my Honourable friend Mr. Chari, I am not in the same happy position as he is, for some of the objections which had been urged against the acceptance of the Resolution still hold good. It has been emphasized that this is rendered impossible because of the phraseology employed in the Resolution, namely, that "the Governor General in Council should adopt measures." This cannot be done by the Governor General in Council even in respect of the amendment. All that the amendment seeks to do is to eliminate the word "compulsory" from the Resolution and substitute in its place the words "further facilities for." But the essential ingredients of the Resolution, which the Governor General in Council cannot accept, are still there. He cannot call upon the Universities to do anything in that direction. He cannot take any initiative in that matter without an application from the universities. He cannot do anything unless and until the Local Governments have been consulted as regards this very important question, and above all there is the question of finance. Who is going to foot the bill for the provision of further facilities for the military training of students in the universities? Have the universities expressed their willingness to do so? Have the Local Governments expressed their willingness to contribute their own share in that direction? There is therefore no information before the Government of India at the present moment to enable them to accept either the Resolution or the amendment, for the essence of the amendment and the Resolution are more or less the same, excepting that in the former case it is not going to be compulsory as it was proposed to be in the Resolution itself. But the obligations arising from the Resolution, namely, to adopt measures for providing further facilities for military training are there, and for the various reasons which have been explained already, the Government of India are unable to accept those obligations. They can only consult the universities; they can consult the Local Governments, but they cannot commit themselves to anything like an acceptance of the obligation to adopt measures, for that, as I have already repeatedly pointed out, is contingent upon the acceptance of those obligations, in the first instance, by the universities and in the second instance by the Local Governments, provided again that either one or both are willing to undertake the financial responsibilities arising from that commitment. This again, as I say, is a question which affects all universities in India. It is true my Honourable friend has pointed out that a few universities have given an indication of their views in this matter. . . .

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: Five out of ten, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR: But there again other universities will have to be consulted. The Honourable Mr. Richey has already stated that the Inter-University Board, which was brought into existence as a result of the Universities Conference which was held in Simla three years ago and whose function, if I may say so, is to bring about a community of feeling between the various universities, to investigate into questions of common interest and to devise means for co-ordination of effort between university and university, is beginning its session from to-morrow at Benares. So I reiterate the promise which was made by my friend Mr. Richey that I shall communicate at once to that body the discussions which have

taken place in this House to-day and ask them to give us the benefit of their opinion. Seeing that the representatives of all the universities in India are members of that body, it is only to be assumed that the expression of opinion which we will get from that body would be sufficiently representative of the universities. With this assurance I hope my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu will withdraw.

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

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to adopt measures for providing compulsory military training to students studying in the college classes in Indian Universities."

Since which an amendment has been moved that:

"For the word 'compulsory' the words 'further facilities for' be substituted."

The question I have to put is that those words be there substituted.

The motion was adopted.

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

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to adopt measures for providing *further facilities for* military training to students studying in the college classes in Indian Universities."

The motion was adopted.

#### RESOLUTION RE-TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER (Bombay Presidency: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise with the utmost pleasure and move the Resolution which stands in my name, worded as follows:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that immediate steps be taken to call a conference to discuss the question of the provision of tuberculosis hospitals, sanitoriums and institutions for training practitioners in the treatment of tuberculosis throughout India."

Few lands, Sir, have suffered so much from the ravages of disease as India, and while a great deal has been done, both by official administration and non-official agencies, to lessen that suffering, there is still a great work to be carried on if we are to be able to look out upon a country peopled by healthy and happy citizens. Thanks to the application of the discoveries of modern science, plague and small-pox have been well-nigh conquered in India with the fight against leprosy now well under way. All credit must be given to those who have led in these campaigns against the greatest conquerors India has been trodden under, with renewed appeals that there be no diminution in the intensity of the attacks. But, at the same time, I feel I must call for the immediate attention of this Honourable House to the menace with which we are faced by the great white plague against which we have as yet for some reason or other never pitted our real strength.

The care of health, the State's concern in and control of it, the immeasurable expansion of our knowledge of disease, and the awakening of public interest in all these matters.—these facts by themselves form a useful compendium in the progress of the country and a still more useful

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index of the extent of that progress. And it is obvious that in such matters the interest of the State should not be in any degree one-sided. By careful attention to all phases of this question the British Government was able, even in the early days of health reform, to reduce the death-rate in England from 23 per 1000 in 1886 to 14 per 1000 in 1908; and since then the proportion has been reduced still further. In other words, over three lakhs of lives were being saved annually through the curing or prevention of disease, even at a time when there was neither public opinion nor medical sentiment in favour of the improvements and remedies and measures enforced. Since that time, the annual saving of life must have been more than doubled, but the figures above quoted of a time when public opinion was more or less in a similar state of *qui es cence* (and even antagonism if not total indifference) will show what can be done once a definite attempt is made. Public opinion on these matters in India is usually only stirred when we are brought face to face with a sudden calamity, such as a terrible visitation of the plague or small-pox and so tuberculosis, the white plague of the whole world, has been permitted not only to remain as a devastating scourge but to spread to a deplorable extent. It is probably too early in the campaign to call upon the Governments to make tuberculosis a notifiable disease, and thus follow the example of England and other western countries, but we can at least start off in a very definite way to combat the scourge where we know it exists, leaving it to future enthusiasts to devise plans to search out the cases of which we know nothing by making the disease notifiable.

Let us now look at the extent of this disease, and the figures that I shall quote, erring perhaps on the conservative side, will probably astound every Member of this Honourable House. Sir, a modest calculation puts the number of consumptives in India as sixty lakhs, a total which provides an annual death-roll from this disease of twelve lakhs. In other parts of the world, it has been reckoned from carefully collected statistics that one out of every seven deaths is due to consumption, with the average rising to one out of every four in large cities and crowded districts. If we calculated on this basis with Indian deaths we should have an annual death-roll of a little under the above figure, but judging by the fact that, next to fevers, respiratory diseases carry off the highest percentage of those who die annually, the estimate of twelve lakhs a year is by no means far-fetched. In every part of the world the tuberculosis germ is ubiquitous, to be found on the floors, on the walls, in the air, in the streets, in the trains, in the rivers,—and even more so in such a country as India. The estimate is that at least one per cent. of the population is infected with pulmonary tuberculosis, meaning a total of 80 lakhs suffering from this phase of the disease, with another 80 lakhs ailing with non-pulmonary consumption. Moreover, the disease is admittedly on the increase, recent official and non-official inquiry all over India having elicited the information that during the past twenty years there has been a noticeable progressive increase in the extent of infection by about 50 per cent. over the previous figures.

Sir, and what is the position regarding relieving the distress of this vast army of consumptives? According to official figures, there are barely six hundred beds in sanitoriums to accommodate these 60 lakhs of consumptives, whilst even with our chain of hospitals and dispensaries,

the average annual total of patients treated, indoor and outdoor, for respiratory diseases is less than 1½ lakhs out of the 60 lakhs who need treatment. It is admitted that sanitoriums are more or less for the middle and upper classes who can afford to pay for their treatment, but even then the accommodation available for these is woefully insufficient. And when it comes to the poorer masses who comprise the vast majority of the sufferers, it is very apparent that there are at the present time absolutely no resources available to deal with the scourge. A certain amount of relief work has during the years been undertaken by the Provincial and Central Governments, but in view of the vastness of the task, the previous efforts have been a bare tinkering at the problem. Hence my comprehensive Resolution, which I shall now deal with, in brief detail.

In view of what I have already told this Honourable House, I think, Sir, it will be agreed that the great task can only be tackled by a central organisation, working with, or perhaps composed of, representatives of the different Provincial Governments. The exact composition of such an organization and its detailed functions can be decided after this Honourable House has accepted the principle of my Resolution, but I desire to have it definitely agreed that *immediate action of a comprehensive character is necessary*. In short, the chief functions of this conference will be first, to outline a practical scheme, then to finance it, and finally, to arrange for a Central organisation to control and co-ordinate the work carried out. It is to consider all these points that I am calling for a conference.

As for the scheme to be devised by this Conference, I propose that it should first consider the establishment of a chain of hospitals, or dispensaries, or clinics, throughout India to give free treatment to all desiring it. I do not propose that these hospitals should be of an elaborate character, but should take the form of the dispensaries now established in many districts by municipalities and district local boards. It might even be possible to combine the operations of these dispensaries with the work suggested in the combating of consumption. I am of the opinion that treatment of a definite kind can be made decidedly useful, and while in this Honourable House I cannot act as an advertising agent for any particular kind of medicine, I think I am quite in order in stating that the British Government have recently officially accepted as successful the now famous anti-tuberculous remedies of Dr. Spahlinger after exhaustive experiments for many years. Admitting this to be the case, it would seem that a ready treatment and cure is at our doors if only we like to adopt it and arrange for its wide adoption.

Now I would emphasise that I am not here acting as a propagandist for these new remedies, although far better and far more experienced men than myself have proclaimed their virtues. I am merely endeavouring to show that the solution of this great problem is not so impossible of achievement as many would suppose, and that if only we have the organisation it seems quite possible that after a careful investigation into the claims of such remedies as those I have enumerated, a definite and organised scheme for taking the remedies to the districts could well be devised in connection with the hospitals I have already advocated.

Sir, regarding sanitoriums, I believe that there should be more of these useful institutions, although I feel that the expense involved would rather

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recommend an earnest endeavour to get private philanthropists to undertake this phase of the task. It might be possible to arrange for such institutions to pay their way once they were established, and it seems to me that in such a country as India, where luxury in housing accommodation is not the rule but the exception, the establishment of a number of simple but useful sanitoriums would not be so expensive a task as appears on the face of the proposition. In this connection I am glad to state that I read with pleasure in the *Times of India* this morning that Mr. Byramji Jeejeebhoy of Bombay has given Rs. 8 lakhs to His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson to establish an anti-tuberculosis institute in Bombay. I hope his noble example will be followed by other philanthropists.

Sir, the last part of my Resolution calls for a series of institutions for training practitioners to deal with the great white plague. This, I admit will be the last phase of the organization of any scheme for, as I have already pointed out, the preliminary work can be successfully carried out with certain additions to the existing system of dispensary services and hospital facilities. Of course if a real effort is to be made to stamp out this dread disease, it will in the future be necessary to have an army of trained practitioners, and I look forward to the time when such an army is available.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT SHYAM BIHARI MISRA: Have we a quorum now, Sir?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Let the division bells be rung.

(After a minute.)

The House is now duly constituted; the Honourable Member may resume his speech.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: But it would seem that for the time being we shall have to content ourselves with a direct attack with the resources at present available, ultimately using the existing dispensaries as jumping off places for the establishment of larger institutions in which additional village workers can be trained. I would not ask, even despite the urgency of the subject, that we should expect to have a corps of highly-trained experts on tuberculosis to carry out this work, for I fear that in such cases we often demand too elaborate a system of workers. A body of practitioners, who know the principal causes of the disease, who know how to administer the treatment, and who would be successful in explaining the preventive measures to be adopted, are the practitioners that are needed, and I feel that such a body could easily and speedily be trained once the general scheme of operation was started.

I hope, Sir, I have made plain my proposal. As I have tried to make clear, I am merely breaking the ground in this Resolution, believing that once the gravity of the situation is realised there will be the right kind of co-operation forthcoming to work out a plan that will be successful. It is not for a layman to presume to lay down the details of such a campaign; all I desire to do in moving this Resolution is to present the picture of the need and to awaken the public and the Governments to the possibilities of defeating India's greatest scourge.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, no one can dispute the accuracy of the statement that tuberculosis is indeed a deadly human foe, and no effort to exterminate it or to eradicate it can be regarded as too great. In this as in many other matters it is not merely the forces of Government that could operate successfully, but the willing and large-hearted co-operation of the public at large would be essential. Seeing that the Honourable Mover has entered into the arena and has exhibited this great interest on behalf of those who suffer from tuberculosis, I hope that he will carry his zeal and enthusiasm further and conduct such propaganda work in his own province as would carry to the door of the ignorant and the illiterate masses the knowledge that is essential for the purpose of keeping themselves out of the clutches of this fell disease. Lest the Council may not be carried away by the impression, as a result of the very powerful speech to which they have just now listened, that the Government of India, and for the matter of that, the Local Governments also, have not grappled with the situation as seriously as they ought to have done, I deem it my duty to place before the House a few facts which will convince them that the Government of India have been doing everything possible all along. It was so long ago as in the year 1902 that the earnest attention of the Government of India was first drawn to the necessity for adopting effective measures to cope with the inroads of this epidemic. In the year 1910 Sir Pardey Lukis, the then Director General of the Indian Medical Service, whose name I take it is still remembered with affection in India, submitted a very interesting and illuminating report to the Government of India as regards the measures that should be adopted for the purpose of combating this disease. A few of the recommendations which were contained in that report were, the need for sanatoria for early cases, hospitals or wards for advanced cases, dispensaries to treat patients living in their homes, farm colonies, open-air schools, promotion of philanthropic agencies, such as anti-tuberculosis societies, and the improvement of school hygiene. And the Central Government circulated these instructions to the Local Governments, with the result that in most of the provinces activities have since been in operation. A number of sanatoria have been brought into existence and I think there are about 18 of them in India now. Separate dispensaries and special wards in the existing large hospitals have been opened and have been set apart solely for the use of tuberculosis patients, and improvements of various other descriptions have been brought into existence. The Government of India, not content with the activities referred to above, also entrusted the task of further investigation into this disease to the Scientific Advisory Board which consists of very eminent experts in all branches of medical science. Further, the Indian Research Association, which is largely financed by the Government of India, are still conducting investigations into the connection between bovine tuberculosis and human tuberculosis. I should therefore maintain, and maintain with emphasis, that the Government of India have been doing everything possible under the circumstances and that they were never negligent. The Local Governments also, I must claim, have, with the funds at their disposal, tried to cope with this very difficult problem. Since 1921, however, the problem has assumed a different complexion. Honourable Members are aware that medical administration and public health have from that time been provincial transferred subjects. It is now for the Ministers in charge to start necessary measures in this direction, and it

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is not therefore for the Government of India any longer to take the initiative, but they will certainly help these Local Governments with information and advice in the light of the opinions which they get from their own experts. Doctor Lankester, who was deputed in the year 1914 for the purpose of conducting investigations, submitted a very valuable report and that is also in the hands of the Local Governments for necessary action. I merely mention these facts to convince the House that the Government of India have not been negligent so far, and that Local Governments have also not been remiss. We are fully alive to the importance of this very vital question, but at the same time I will concede that if Local Governments are agreeable or consider it desirable to conduct further investigations into this disease, the Government of India will be only too glad to give the Local Governments an opportunity to consider this Resolution and to adopt such measures as they may deem expedient. I have no objection therefore to accept this Resolution on behalf of the Government.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Sir, I thank Government for accepting this Resolution.

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

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that immediate steps be taken to call a conference to discuss the question of the provision of tuberculosis hospitals, sanitoriums and institutions for training practitioners in the treatment of tuberculosis throughout India."

The motion was adopted.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 9th March, 1927.

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