

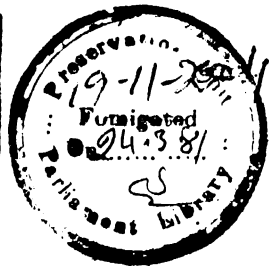
Monday, 12th September, 1927

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME II, 1927

(29th August 1927 to 21st September 1927)

THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1927



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, 12th September, 1927.

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

MEMBER SWORN :

The Honourable Sir John Perroñet Thompson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Political Secretary).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALARIA.

109. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER : Will Government please state :

(a) if they have seen the press statement to the effect that Sir Ronald Ross, after his recent Eastern tour, declared that India is not sufficiently advanced in campaigns against malaria ;

(b) what are the present efforts being made to combat malaria on a large scale ; and

(c) whether Government are prepared to entertain a scheme similar to that in progress in Malaya which was so highly commended by Sir Ronald Ross ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) Government have seen the statement made by Sir Ronald Ross regarding the position in India in respect of combating malaria.

(b) and (c). As the Honourable Member must be aware, Medical Administration and Public Health are now transferred provincial subjects and the duty of undertaking large scale schemes to fight against malaria, whether on the lines in progress in Malay or in some other manner better suited to local conditions, is primarily the duty of Local Governments. A note reviewing the activities of the Government of India in this matter, both before and after the Reforms, the difference in the conditions of Malay and India and possible lines of advance by Local Governments, which has been prepared by the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, is being laid on the table of the House.

NOTE.

1. Organised administrative effort against malaria in India was seriously begun in 1909 ; but received a check owing to the war and a further check on account of financial

(1099)

stringency from 1920 onwards. This early organisation consisted of a Central Advisory Board with provincial malarial committees, and, through these agencies, not only were periodical Conferences held, a Central Malaria Bureau established and a malarial journal (Paludism) published; but, at the same time, a stimulus was furnished to the various provinces to appoint special malaria officers and to commence provincial survey work. At the same time Government of India gave large grants-in-aid to approved provincial schemes.

2. During the great war much of this organisation languished and disappeared; but the Central Malaria Bureau, which was the nucleus of the Central organisation remained, and, in several provinces, the provincial Bureaux with their special officers remained or were revived, thus enabling work to continue, though in a somewhat restricted form.

3. From the Central Malaria Bureau at Kasauli, largely through the influence of Lieutenant-Colonel Christophers, I.M.S.—one of the world's foremost malariologists—proposals have now matured for the creation of a Central Malarial Organisation which is being financed by the Indian Research Fund Association at a cost of over Rs. 2,30,000, recurring and non-recurring, during the present year. A Director and an Assistant Director together with two malariologists for field work and one entomologist have already been appointed, and the services of various officers of the Research Department will be detailed from time to time as necessity arises to assist enquiries. Malarial classes have been established and are meeting at Saharanpur twice yearly. These will shortly be transferred to the new Ross Experimental Malaria Station at Karnal which is now being fitted out in St. Elizabeth Mission buildings since completion of their purchase from the Cambridge Mission. This station will be a rallying point for all scientific malarial work under Government of India.

4. Meanwhile the Indian Research Fund Association has been giving special grants for malaria research. In

1924-25	..	..	Rs. 25,846 were granted for 3 enquiries.
1925-26	..	..	Rs. 45,043 were granted for 8 enquiries.
1926-27	..	..	Rs. 39,494 were granted for 5 enquiries.
1927-28	..	..	Rs. 94,021 were granted for 10 enquiries.

Those for 1927-28 include malarial surveys of Delhi, of Coorg, of Sind, in the Madras Presidency, in Bengal, in Assam, in Peshawar and also laboratory research on malaria and its treatment and on malarial mosquitoes at Kasauli, Lahore and Bombay.

5. Much work is also being done by provincial Malarial Bureaux in provinces like the Punjab, United Provinces and Bengal. At the annual Research Workers' Conference in Calcutta each year provincial public health officers are encouraged to press, where necessary, for the resuscitation or creation of provincial Malarial Bureaux under the charge of special malaria officers. More work is in contemplation by the Central Government; but this is naturally limited for financial reasons and by the absence of trained workers.

6. The aforementioned organisation of a Central Advisory Board and provincial Malarial Committees had many resemblances to that in operation in Malaya whose problem is generally speaking dissimilar from that of India. The Indian problem really only touches it so far as plantation areas are concerned,—more especially in Assam. Boards dealing with an organised and controlled plantation community such as that of the rubber community in Malaya, with only a few modern European settlements, a small number of large native towns, and small indigenous population can establish an effective control with greater ease and certainty than could be done in a huge continent of agriculturists like India. This reason no doubt weighed with Sir Ronald Ross when he recommended the formation of Boards after the Malayan pattern in the tea areas of Assam, and there is nothing to prevent such an excellent suggestion being adopted. The reconstruction, however, of the provincial Malarial Committees or Boards perhaps on broader lines than in

1909, would be a great step forward in provincial malaria control. It should be encouraged and would be welcomed by the Central Malarial Organisation and Government of India.

(Sd.) J. D. GRAHAM,

The 30th August 1927.

*Public Health Commissioner with the
Government of India.*

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Having regard to the fact that the victims of malaria are found all over India, in spite of all that has been done, will Government be pleased to take further steps to have a clear grasp of the situation?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: The Honourable Member will do well to read the note that I am placing on the table before he puts any questions on the subject.

PRIZE OF DELHI SCHEME.

110. **THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER:** Will Government please state:

- (a) what progress has been made with the Prize of Delhi scheme; and
- (b) when the scheme is likely to become a reality?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (a) and (b). The action taken by the Government of India, which was to a great extent based upon the recommendations of the Prize of Delhi Committee, was to place before Local Governments a scheme for the establishment of a Central Art Institute at Delhi. This scheme did not find favour with the majority of Local Governments and in the absence of their co-operation, it has not been found possible to proceed with it for the present. An alternative scheme for the encouragement of Indian Art by providing facilities for decoration of the buildings in New Delhi has just been approved by the Standing Finance Committee.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION FOR THE CONTROL OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN FACTORIES.

111. **THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER:** Will Government please state:

(a) whether the Provincial Governments have been approached regarding the introduction of legislation for the control of building construction in factories; and

(b) what have been the results of such consultation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have been informed by one Local Government that they propose to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Council in due course and by another that they do not intend to take such action at present.

ILLICIT DRUG TRADE.

112. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government please state:

(a) if they have seen the report of Sir Malcolm Delevingne before the Advisory Opium Committee of the League of Nations, regarding the increase of the illicit drug trade in India, and the statement of Sir John Campbell that, through negligence of Government, 41 times the legitimate consumption of narcotics was being introduced into India;

(b) whether they have received the proposals of Sir Malcolm Delevingne which have been adopted by the Opium Commission; and

(c) what action they propose to take in this matter of the illicit drug trade?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) The facts are not as suggested. Sir Malcolm Delevingne's Memorandum drew attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the control over the drug traffic in manufacturing countries generally, and incidentally referred to the extent to which cocaine was being smuggled into India. Sir John Campbell, in endorsing Sir Malcolm Delevingne's remarks, estimated that the cocaine that was smuggled into India was about 41 times the licit demand. Neither of the speakers complained of negligence on the part of the Indian Government. Their complaint was against the Governments of countries in which cocaine was manufactured. A press communiqué was issued by the Central Board of Revenue on 3rd February 1927, explaining how Sir John Campbell's observations had been misunderstood owing to the way in which they were condensed in a Reuter's telegram.

(b) If the proposals that the Honourable Member has in mind are those contained in the Resolution of the Opium Advisory Committee dated 1st February 1927, recommending certain lines of investigation and suggesting certain specific penalties against smugglers, the answer is in the affirmative.

(c) In India itself (apart from raw opium and hemp) the only dangerous drugs manufactured are certain opium alkaloids that are manufactured at Ghazipur; and they are issued in India only for strictly medicinal purposes. All cocaine used in India is imported. The importation of dangerous drugs into India is subject to the closest control, but, owing to their small bulk and high value, the illicit traffic cannot be successfully checked except with the active co-operation of the Governments of manufacturing countries—which was precisely the point made by Sir Malcolm Delevingne and Sir John Campbell at Geneva.

INCONVENIENCES TO HAJ PILGRIMS.

113. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government please state :

(a) if the continued inconveniences to the *Haj* pilgrims, referred to in the Report of the Protector of Pilgrims for 1926, have been officially reported to them ; and

(b) what action is being taken to have these inconveniences removed ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
(a) and (b). If the Honourable Member will be good enough to specify the report and the difficulties he has in mind, I shall endeavour to secure the information that he requires.

SUPPLY OF EXHIBITS TO THE INDIAN SECTION OF THE MAMMALS IN THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM IN LONDON.

114. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government please state :

(a) if they have supplied any exhibits to the Indian section of the Mammals in the South Kensington Museum in London ; and

(b) if any requests for representative exhibits have been received and not complied with ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) No.

(b) No.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS IN INDIA.

115. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government please state :

(a) whether any agricultural research station exists in India ; if not, do Government intend to establish one ; and

(b) whether Government is able to state how many such stations exist in other parts of the British Empire ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) Yes.

(b) No ; but there are many.

ABOLITION OF FORCED LABOUR IN INDIA.

116. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government please state :

(a) whether Government have totally abolished forced labour in India ;

(b) if not, why no action has been taken in this direction ;

(c) was Government a signatory to the Slavery Convention recently passed at Geneva ; and

(d) if so, what action they intend taking to stamp out forced labour ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS : Forced labour for certain specified public purposes, chiefly in connection with Forestry and Irrigation exists in India and has legal sanction. In almost all such cases the labour is for the direct benefit of the man performing it, who either receives actual payment or remuneration in the form of special rights. Forced labour for private purposes has no legal sanction. It survives only in parts of the Madras Presidency and Bihar and Orissa, where progressive steps are being taken to eradicate it. The Slavery Convention was signed on behalf of India, subject to certain reservations.

EXHIBITION OF INDIAN PRODUCTS AT THE PUBLIC GALLERIES OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

117. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER : Will Government please state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's products exhibited at the Public Galleries of the Imperial Institute are not up to date ; and

(b) if so, why, and what steps have been, or are being, taken in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) and (b). Previous to 1923 the Government of India subscribed £400 a year for the scientific and technical work of the Institute and £1,000 a year for the upkeep of the galleries. They now make a total contribution of £1,200. Of this, £1,000 represents the subscription to the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau which has since been amalgamated with the Institute. But the subscription to the galleries was discontinued in 1923, on the ground that they were of little value. Recently, however, the galleries have been re-organised, and the Indian exhibit has been re-arranged and greatly improved by the Indian Trade Commissioner, with the voluntary assistance of the technical departments of the Government of India and the Local Governments, as well as commercial bodies. Many of the Wembley exhibits were also transferred to the galleries. It has, however, been represented that these voluntary efforts are handicapped by want of funds, and a proposal to renew the annual subscription is now under consideration.

RESOLUTION *re* UTILIZATION OF INTEREST FROM THE DEPOSITS IN THE POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS AND GOVERNMENT SECURITIES BELONGING TO MUSSALMANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUSLIM EDUCATION.

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

(a) what steps they have taken to give effect to my Resolution, passed by the Council on the 16th February last, regarding the utilization of interest from the deposits in the Postal Savings Banks and Government securities belonging to Mussalmans for the improvement of Muslim education ; and

(b) if no steps have so far been taken, then when they intend to take steps ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : The Government of India have made an announcement that they are willing to make arrangements for

facilitating the payment into a special fund (or funds) which they are satisfied has (or have) the support of a representative body or bodies of Muslims of sums representing the interests which is earned upon moneys standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks which the individual depositors do not wish to claim for themselves. The first step is therefore for Muslims to make arrangements for establishing such fund or funds and then for the individual depositors to give the requisite direction. Local Governments and Minor Administrations are being informed of this decision.

As regards interest on Government securities the Government of India do not propose to extend the offer of similar facilities beyond the Post Office Savings Bank deposits, until they have gained some experience of the working of the arrangement in regard to Savings Banks.

TAKING OF *Taboots* OVER THE SANGAM BRIDGE ON WELLESLEY ROAD, POONA.

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

(a) with regard to my question No. 140, asked on the 7th March last, have the Government now received any reference from the Bombay Government regarding the continuance of the present practice of taking *Taboots* over the Sangam Bridge on Wellesley Road ;

(b) have they passed any orders on the subject ;

(c) if so, will they place them on the table ; and

(d) if not, do they intend to make independent inquiries before any orders are passed on the report received from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: Government have received no reference from the Government of Bombay, but they understand from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, that that Government has the subject under consideration.

RESOLUTION *re* CONTROL OF THE CRAZE FOR MEDICINAL DRUGS.

120. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken on my Resolution, regarding the control of the craze for medicinal drugs, adopted by this Council on the 9th March last ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: A copy of the Resolution referred to by the Honourable Member together with a copy of the Council of State proceedings relating to it was forwarded to Local Governments for eliciting opinion, and replies of some of the Local Governments are still awaited.

RESOLUTION *re* TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

121. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken on my Resolution, regarding the treatment of tuberculosis, passed by this Council on the 7th March last ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: A copy of the Resolution referred to by the Honourable Member and the

discussion thereon were circulated to all Local Governments for opinion last March.

The question of holding a conference to consider the problem of tuberculosis will be decided after certain replies which are still outstanding, have been received.

EXPULSION OF JAGANNATH PRASAD SINGH, MUHAMMAD YASIN AND MUHAMMAD UMAR FROM THE BARRACKPORE CANTONMENT AREA.

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

(a) whether one Jagannath Prasad Singh and his two co-workers, Muhammad Yasin and Muhammad Umar, were excluded from the Barrackpore Cantonment area, on the 23rd December, 1921, for taking part in the non-co-operation movement;

(b) are they still strictly prohibited from re-entering the Cantonment area;

(c) how many persons are still excluded from different Cantonments in India; and

(d) do Government intend to allow such persons to re-enter the Cantonments?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Muhammad Umar and Muhammad Yasin have already been permitted to re-enter the Cantonment. Jagannath Prasad Singh has not yet furnished the undertaking on which permission to return was made dependent.

(c) As far as the Government are aware there are not more than 15 persons (including Jagannath Prasad Singh) against whom expulsion orders are in force and it is possible that some of these orders may already have been withdrawn by the local authorities.

(d) Government are prepared to consider on its merits any individual case that may be brought to their notice.

CONFLICT OF DECISIONS OF DIFFERENT HIGH COURTS REGARDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE RIGHT OF PRE-EMPTION.

123. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to discrepant rulings by different High Courts on the question whether it is necessary to the enforcement of the right of pre-emption that the pre-emptor should be a Muhammadan?

(b) Do Government intend to take steps to amend the law so as to remove the conflict of opinion?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: (a) The attention of Government has not hitherto been drawn to such discrepant rulings.

(b) Government are not at present aware of any necessity for amending the law.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER : I should like, Sir, to ask a supplementary question. I would refer my Honourable friend to "Muhammadan Law" by Mr. D. F. Mulla, page 160, sect on 184, which says this.....

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member is giving information, he is not asking for it.

THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER : May I point out.....

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Order, order. He should do that outside the House.

RESERVATION OF FIRST AND SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON RAILWAYS.

124. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER : Will Government be pleased to state whether a first or second class railway compartment, reserved for a journey of long distance, is reserved for the whole journey, night and day, or only during the night ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : For the whole journey, Sir, night and day.

TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE JUDGES IN THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT.

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

- (a) the usual total strength of the High Court Judges in the Bombay Presidency ;
- (b) is the strength short at present ;
- (c) if so, why ; and
- (d) how many Judges are Muslims ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) Eight permanent Judges (including the Chief Justice).

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) One.

AWARD TO TINDAL EBRAHIM OF THE MEDAL OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.

126. THE HONOURABLE SIR HAROON JAFFER : With reference to the replies given to the unstarred questions Nos. 60 and 62, asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 31st January last, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Tindal Ebrahim of Cutch Mandvi has been recommended for an award of the Royal Humane Society for saving human lives during the "Vita" tragedy ;
- (b) if not, why not ;
- (c) what action Local Governments have taken to improve the existing facilities for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers at ports where ships have to lie in a roadstead ; and
- (d) if no action has so far been taken, then when will it be taken ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) No.

(b) Enquiries made by the Government of India in the matter did not indicate that the services rendered by Tindal Ebrahim were such as would justify a recommendation being made to the Royal Humane Society.

(c) The Local Governments were asked by the Government of India to consider whether any action could usefully be taken to improve the existing facilities for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers at ports where ships cannot come alongside the shore. They were also asked to tighten up and overhaul the existing rules for the prevention of overcrowding and overloading of boats carrying passengers and to enforce these rules strictly. It was further suggested that in ports where there is considerable passenger traffic, steam or motor launches should be provided for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers. An examination of the existing arrangements shows that adequate rules for the licensing of boats and prevention of overloading and overcrowding of passengers already exist. The Local Governments have instructed Port Officers, wherever necessary, to see that these rules are effectively administered. The feasibility of providing steam or motor launches at ports where there is considerable passenger traffic is being examined. In some of the ports the construction of landing places or piers is being taken up. But, as the Honourable Member is doubtless aware, embarkation and disembarkation in an open roadstead, must in anything but very fine weather, always be inconvenient and uncomfortable. This is an inevitable incident of sea travelling and is not confined to the coasts of India.

(d) Does not arise.

NUMBER OF POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

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

- (a) how many Postal Superintendents there are in the Bombay Presidency ;
- (b) how many of them are Muslims ;
- (c) when those Muslims were appointed ; and
- (d) have Government advertised recently for applications for a fresh appointment ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : (a) 24.

(b) 1.

(c) 15th August 1913.

(d) The Postmaster-General advertised for a candidate from the Deccan.

NUMBER OF MUSLIMS APPOINTED ON SALARIES OF Rs. 100 AND OVER BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, SINCE APRIL 1927.

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

- (a) how many appointments of Rs. 100 and over have been filled by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay Presidency, since April 1927 ; and
- (b) how many such appointments were given to Muslims ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : (a) 13 including six posts filled up by promotion from the office staff.

(b) 3.

PROTECTION OF HINDUS RESIDING IN THE TRIBAL AREAS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

129. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly state :

- (a) what is estimated, at the present time, to be the total population of the Hindus, in each of the political agencies of the tribal area in the North West Frontier Province ;
- (b) how many of the Hindus in each of the political agencies of Malakand, Khyber, Kurram, Tochi and South Waziristan, have been forced to leave their homes in the tribal area and seek refuge in the British districts ;
- (c) whether all the Hindus residing in the tribal area follow the profession of trade, shopkeeping and money-lending ? Do any of them follow any other profession or occupation ; if so, what other occupation do they have ;
- (d) what measures for the protection of the Hindus, residing in the tribal area, are adopted by Government or proposed to be adopted by Government in the future ;
- (e) whether the Mullahs, who incited the tribal Pathans against the Hindus, were British subjects, or residents of the tribal area ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN THOMPSON : (a) An endeavour is being made to compile the information, and the results, which can of course be approximate only, will be communicated to the Honourable Member. It is believed that the total is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 16,000.

(b) About 500 from the Khyber Agency. There were no evacuations elsewhere over the Rajpal case.

(c) Practically all, though a very few own a little land.

(d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Foreign Secretary's speech in this House on the 7th instant.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR AGENTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CENTRAL ASIA, KHORASAN, PERSIA AND ARABIA.

130. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly state :

- (a) the places at which the Government of India have diplomatic and consular agents in Central Asia, Khorasan, Persia and Arabia ;
- (b) what was the total value of merchandise imported to and from Central Asia, Khorasan, Persia and Arabia from and to India in the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 ; and

- (c) how many diplomatic and consular agents are employed in Central Asia, Khorasan, Persia and Arabia, and how many of them are Indians ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN THOMPSON : (a) Kashgar, Meshed, Bushire, Bunder Abbas, Sistan, Birjand, Karman, Mohammerah, Ahwaz, Duzdap, Muscat and Jeddah.

(b) A statement has been laid on the table furnishing the information available on this point.

(c) 14, of whom 2 are Indians.

Statement showing the total value of merchandise imported by sea to and from Persia and Arabia from and to India during 1925-26 and 1926-27 (referred to in Sir John Thompson's reply to Question No. 130 in the Council of State meeting of the 12th September 1927).

Countries.	Imports to		Imports from	
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	Figures in Lakhs of Rs.		Figures in Lakhs of Rs.	
Persia (including Khorasan)	236	250	215	198
Arabia	178	181	54	45

N. B.—Similar figures of trade with Central Asia, the figures of trade by land with Persia and separate figures for Khorasan, which is a province of Persia, are not available.

DISCHARGE OF INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE IRAQ GOVERNMENT.

131. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly state whether it is a fact that the services of the Indian employees under the Iraq Government are being rapidly dispensed with ? If so, will Government kindly state who are displacing these Indians, and why the services of these Indians are being dispensed with ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN THOMPSON : Yes, Sir. It is understood that the policy followed by the Iraq Government is gradually to reduce the number of foreign officials, including Indians, and to replace them by qualified Iraqis when available.

PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS RESIDENT IN BRITISH COLONIES IN EAST AFRICA.

132. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : In view of the movement set on foot for the federation of all British Colonies in East Africa, will the Government kindly state what action the Government of India propose to take for the protection of the interests of Indians resident in those Colonies ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to the Honourable Mr. Kumarsankar Ray Chaudhury's question No. 34.

TRAINING OF INDIANS FOR COMMISSIONS IN THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

133. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly state what steps the Government have taken or propose to take for the purpose of giving necessary training to Indians, so as to enable them to get commissions in the newly-established Royal Indian Navy?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The selection of boys for executive officers will be made generally on the lines recommended in paragraph 8 of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the re-organization of the Royal Indian Marine. The Admiralty have already agreed to train Cadets, both British and Indian, and it is hoped to inaugurate examinations in India and in England next year. As regards engineer officers, the Government of India are at present in correspondence with the Secretary of State about recruitment for the current year. The rules for future recruitment are now under consideration.

PURCHASE OF RAILWAY MATERIALS FOR STATE RAILWAYS.

134. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will the Government kindly state what was the total value of railway material, including locomotive engines, wagons, etc., purchased for the Government of India, in the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27? What was the value of such material manufactured in India, in America, in England, and in other countries of Europe, respectively?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : By the term ' railway material purchased for the Government of India ' it is understood that the Honourable Member refers to material purchased for the State-worked railways.

The figures I am able to give represent the cost of imported and indigenous material purchased, excluding the value of coal, stone, bricks, lime, etc., the purchases of which are however confined to Indian material.

Year.	Imported.	Indian.
1924-25	Lakhs 690½	Lakhs 494
1925-26	„ 797	„ 535½
1926-27	„ 718½	„ 738½

The country of origin of the imported material is not known but the report of the India Store Department, London, for the year 1925-26, states that the total purchases in America, in that year, amounted to £164,456 and on the Continent of Europe to £735,563 and that the principal orders abroad were for railways. Purchases by the Department, for railways, from all countries amounted to £2,902,792 during the year.

RATES OF FREIGHT ON COTTON ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

135. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : (a) Will the Government kindly state what is the rate of freight on cotton on the North Western Railway, when it is exported to Karachi and when it is transported

to Ahmedabad or Bombay? Is it a fact that some concession in rates is given when cotton is exported to Karachi?

(b) Is it also a fact that a higher rate of freight is charged on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the Great Indian Peninsula Railways? Do Government propose to take any steps to remove this differentiation in rates?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) Cotton is carried over the North Western Railway at Class IV rates and a reduction of 6 pies a maund is made from these rates for cotton booked to Karachi at owners risk which does not apply to cotton booked to other stations. The reason for this reduction is that the North Western Railway rates to Karachi are competitive with rates to Bombay.

(b) Actually the charges per maund per mile over the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the Great Indian Peninsula Railways for cotton booked to Bombay from the North Western Railway cotton areas are lower than those for cotton booked to Karachi and Government do not consider any action necessary.

RATES OF FREIGHT FOR WHEAT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

136. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will the Government kindly state whether it is a fact that rates of railway freight on the North Western Railway for wheat are lower when they are exported to Karachi and higher when they are transported to parts of the country east of the Punjab? Do Government propose to take any steps to remove this differentiation in rates?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: The North Western Railway rates for wheat to Karachi and to stations in the East of the Punjab are the same, except in the case of a comparatively small number of stations, from which rates to Karachi are lower than the general grain rate on account of competition with other Railways. The Government do not propose to take any steps to remove this differentiation.

EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH LEGATION IN KABUL.

137. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will the Government kindly state whether it is a fact that something like 26 lakhs of rupees has so far been spent on the construction of the British Legation in Kabul from Indian revenues?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN THOMPSON: Yes, Sir; the figure is about 30 lakhs.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: May I ask a supplementary question, Sir?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: It depends on the question.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: May I ask whether this amount will be realised from the Imperial Government?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member knows perfectly well that he cannot ask that question. He is now attempting to put as a supplementary question part of the original question which I disallowed.

IMPORT DUTY ON VANASPATI OR ARTIFICIAL GHEE.

138. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will the Government kindly state what is the amount of import duty at present levied on the import of Vanaspati or artificial ghee into this country? Have Government under consideration the question of putting a prohibitive import duty on the import of this commodity?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The import duty on "vegetable products" which include such articles as vegetable ghee and vegetable fat is 15 per cent. on a tariff valuation of Rs. 46 per cwt.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

VALUE AND AMOUNT OF ARTIFICIAL GHEE IMPORTED IN THE YEARS 1924-25, 1925-26 AND 1926-27 RESPECTIVELY.

139. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will the Government kindly state what has been the value and amount of artificial ghee imported into India in the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27, respectively?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The information is not available, as imports of artificial ghee have not been separately recorded in the past. Imports of "vegetable products", which include such articles as vegetable ghee and vegetable fat, are now being shown separately in the Seaborne Trade Accounts from April 1927, and amounted up to the end of July to about 72,000 cwt. valued at about 31½ lakhs of rupees.

EXCISE DUTY COLLECTED ON Kerosine Oil AND PETROL PRODUCED IN INDIA, ETC.

140. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will the Government kindly state what has been the amount of excise duty collected on kerosine oil and petrol, produced in India, during the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27? What has been the value and amount of kerosine oil and petrol imported into this country during these years?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : A statement is laid on the table.

Amount of excise duty collected on kerosine oil and motor spirit produced in India during the three years ending 1926-27.

	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kerosine oil	98,39,000	97,88,000	1,04,89,000
Motor spirit	78,86,000	76,82,000	97,88,000

Value and quantity of kerosine oil and petrol imported into India during the three years ending 1926-27.

	1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.	
	Value. Rs.	Quantity. Gals.	Value. Rs.	Quantity. Gals.	Value. Rs.	Quantity. Gals.
Kerosine oil	4,77,50,710	71,979,920	5,16,77,156	79,221,643	4,29,69,062	63,686,292
Motor spirit	10,555	3,500	7,042	5,641	13,951	3,844

GRANT OF A CONCESSION IN FARES FOR THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

141. **THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR:** (a) Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway has granted concession in fares in other sections but have not done so on the Dacca section, in respect of third class passengers ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: (a) The concession in respect of third class fares given by the Eastern Bengal Railway applies to the whole system including the Dacca section.

(b) Does not arise.

RAILWAY TERMINUS IN THE CENTRE OF CALCUTTA.

142. **THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR:** (a) In what stage is the proposal for a railway terminus in the centre of Calcutta at present ?

(b) Have the officers especially employed for the purpose of enquiring into the feasibility of the proposal submitted their report ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table ?

(d) Has the proposal been sanctioned by the Railway Board ? If so, when do Government propose to give effect to the project ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: There is no proposal under consideration for a railway terminus in the centre of Calcutta. In connection with proposals for the electrification of suburban lines entering Calcutta the possibility of extending the railway further into the urban area is under examination, but the scheme has not yet advanced to a stage at which it is possible for Government to make a statement or to lay papers.

TRANSFER OF THE RAILWAY MARSHALLING YARD FROM CHITPUR TO BELGHURRIAH.

143. **THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR:** Is there any proposal for the removal of the Railway Marshalling Yard from Chitpur in Calcutta to somewhere else ? If so, when is the proposal likely to materialise ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT: A proposal to transfer the yard from Chitpur to Belghurriah is under consideration. The plans of the yard at Belghurriah are being prepared.

CONTRIBUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TOWARDS THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

144. **THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India agreed to contribute towards the cost of the construction of the Howrah bridge at Calcutta only in case it was decided to have a cantilever bridge and that the Government of India refused to contribute anything in case the said bridge was of any other type ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) The answer is in the negative. The Government of India were unable to make a contribution

towards the cost of a bridge of any type on the ground that this is a matter of provincial concern.

(b) Does not arise.

NUMBER OF HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILIES EXEMPTED FROM SUPER-TAX.

145. THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR : (a) Will the Government kindly state the number of Hindu undivided families who got the benefit from exemption of super-tax, on account of their income ranging from Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 75,000 per year during the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 ?

(b) What would have been the total amount of super-tax that would have been realised from families referred to in (a) above, had they been assessed at the rate of one anna in the rupee of their income during the said three years ?

NUMBER OF HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILIES IN BENGAL GOVERNED BY THE DAYABHAGA SCHOOL EXEMPTED FROM SUPER-TAX.

146. THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR : (a) Will the Government kindly state the number of Hindu undivided families in Bengal governed by the Dayabhaga School, who got the benefit from exemption of super-tax, on account of their income ranging from Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 75,000 per year during the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 ?

(b) What would have been the total amount of super-tax that would have been realised from families, referred to in (a) above, had they been assessed at the rate of one anna in the rupee of their income during the said three years ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : I will reply to questions Nos. 145 and 146 together. Separate statistics of such tax-payers are not kept and the information is thus not available. Government will however consider whether it is possible without undue trouble to collect the information which the Honourable Member desires.

AMOUNT OF INCOME-TAX REALISED ON INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, ETC.

147. THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR : Will the Government kindly state :

(a) the amount realised as income-tax on interest on Government securities during the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 ;

(b) the amount of refund claimed and allowed to persons for not being assessable to income-tax during the said three years ; and

(c) the amount of refund claimed and allowed to persons for being assessable at a lower rate during the said three years ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : I place a statement on the table for the past two years. Complete information for 1926-27 is not available.

Statement showing the amount of tax realised on interest on Government securities and refunds granted for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26.

	1924-25.	1925-26.
	Rs.	Rs.
(a) Gross tax collected on interest on Government securities.	34,55,723	40,46,020
(b) Refunds* allowed to persons for not being assessable.	2,52,247	3,13,513
(c) Refunds allowed to persons for being assessable at lower rate.	1,59,486	1,89,423

* This however does not include persons with incomes of less than Rs. 2,000 or less than Rs. 40,000 a year who may have obtained anticipatory certificates under the procedure laid down in paragraph 58 on page 113 of the Income-tax Manual, Volume I.

NUMBER OF HOLDERS OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES LIABLE TO PAY INCOME-TAX.

148. THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR : (a) What is the number of holders of Government securities who are liable to pay income-tax ?

(b) What are the safeguards in the system of the administration to ensure relief to the holders of such securities who are either not liable to tax or are only liable to pay at a lower rate ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : (a) The Government have no information.

(b) The safeguards are those provided by section 48 of the Indian Income-tax Act and the executive instructions issued on page 113 of the Income-tax Manual, under which anticipatory exemption certificates are issued by Income-tax Officers.

ASSESSMENTS TO INCOME-TAX MADE BY THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT IN CALCUTTA DURING THE YEARS 1924-25, 1925-26 AND 1926-27.

149. THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR : In how many cases did the Income-tax Department in Calcutta make assessments during the years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 :

(a) disbelieving the returns filed by the parties and their statements and proofs ; and

(b) on an income taken at a figure higher than that in the return filed, the parties having in the opinion of the Income-tax Officer either failed to appear at the hearing or failed to comply with notices to produce evidence ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : Information has been called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

EXPENDITURE ON THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, ETC.

150. THE HONOURABLE RAI NALININATH SETT BAHADUR : (a) What is the estimated cost of the Royal Commission on Agriculture ?

(b) When are the labours of the Commission expected to be completed and their Report expected to be published ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIB MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th March 1927.

(b) The Government of India are not yet in a position to say definitely when the labours of the Royal Commission on Agriculture will be completed and their Report published.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Mr. Ratansi Morarji.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Sir, I have been asked by the Honourable Member to put questions on his behalf.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.

REORGANISATION OF THE ARMY IN INDIA.

151. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji) : (a) (i) Is there any truth in the statement, which has been circulated by the Press, that a scheme to reorganise the Army in India is under consideration, and (ii) that there have been differences of opinion on the subject between the War Office and the Government of India ?

(b) Is the scheme designed to make India a military base for Imperial Forces similar to the naval base at Singapore ?

(c) Is it also proposed to reduce the Indian Army in size and maintain it as a territorial force for purposes of internal security only ?

(d) Is it true that the proposed visit of the Secretary of State for War to the Indian Frontier is in connection with the settlement of differences over the matters referred to above ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) I do not know to what statements exactly the Honourable Member refers, but there is no foundation for either of the suggestions in his question.

(b) to (d). These parts of the question do not arise.

REORGANISATION OF THE ARMY IN INDIA.

152. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji) : Will the Government lay the whole correspondence, on the subject, on the table of the Council of State ? Or, if that is not possible, indicate its own attitude towards the proposals referred to in the preceding questions ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : In view of my answer to the previous question, this question does not arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO THE INDIANISATION OF THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE.

153. **THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE :** Will the Government be pleased to state how far the recommendations of the Lee Commission have been given effect to with regard to the question of the Indianisation of the Imperial Police Service ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : The Commission's recommendations in respect of direct recruitment have been in full force since 1925. As regards recruitment by promotion it has always been the intention that the number of posts to be filled in this way should be increased, gradually up to the proportion recommended by the Commission. The principles to govern this rate of increase are at present under the careful consideration of the Government.

PROMOTION OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE TO THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE.

154. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the Deputy Superintendents of Police—direct and departmental—have been promoted to the ranks of the Imperial Police Service since the recommendation of the Commission ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Twenty.

PROMOTION OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE TO THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE.

155. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : Is it in the contemplation of the Government to promote qualified Indian Deputy Superintendents of Police, at a comparatively young age, to the ranks of Superintendents of Police ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Recommendations for promotion to the rank of Superintendent are in the first instance made by the Local Governments. No proposals of the nature suggested are under the consideration of the Government of India.

THROWING OPEN OF OFFICIATING AND ACTING APPOINTMENTS IN THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE SERVICE.

156. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : Is it in the contemplation of the Government to open officiating and acting appointments in the Imperial Police Service to the members of the provincial Police Service ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Members of the Provincial Services are already appointed from time to time to officiate in posts borne on the cadre of the Indian Police Service, when the public interests so require.

RECRUITMENT TO THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE.

157. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, since the introduction of the system of open competitive examination for recruitment of Indians directly to the Imperial Police Service, any Indians have been recruited without passing the examination ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of such recruits and how many of them are Muhammadans and how many are Hindus or non-Muhammadans, province by province ?

(c) Is it a fact that the prescribed rules lay down that no post in this service is to be filled up except through competitive examination ?

(d) If the answers to (a) and (c) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for departure from the prescribed rules?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the table. It does not include appointments by promotion.

Province.	Caste or Religion.			
	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Parsi.	Burman.
Madras ..	..		..
Bombay ..	2	..	1	..
Bengal ..		3		
United Provinces ..	1	1		
Punjab ..	..	..	..
Burma ..				1
Bihar and Orissa ..				..
Central Provinces ..	..	..	0	..
Assam ..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3	4	1	1

(c) No.

(d) There has been no departure from the rules.

RECRUITMENT TO THE IMPERIAL POLICE SERVICE.

158. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the prescribed rules for the recruitment of members for the Imperial Police Service?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the criterion in making appointments to this service?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India have issued any definite instructions to the Provincial Governments in the matter of such appointments?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) I will furnish the Honourable Member with a copy of the rules under which appointments have been made in recent years. A new set of rules is at present under preparation.

(b) Government aim at securing candidates who are in all respects fitted for appointment to the Service.

(e) The principles governing recruitment will be found in the rules which I am furnishing to the Honourable Member.

RECRUITMENT TO IMPORTANT BRANCHES OF IMPERIAL SERVICES ON A COMMUNAL BASIS.

159. **THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE** : Is it a fact that, in the recruitment of members to some of the important branches of Imperial Services, the efficiency question is overlooked and the principle of recruitment on a communal basis is favoured ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Efficiency is certainly not overlooked, but appointments are not made solely on the results of competitive examination. The principles followed in the matter are fully explained in Sir Alexander Muddiman's speech of the 2nd March 1925 in this House, to which I would refer the Honourable Member.

DIFFERENCE WITH REGARD TO RANK, EMOLUMENTS AND DESIGNATION BETWEEN AN OFFICER OF AN IMPERIAL SERVICE AND AN OFFICER PROMOTED TO THE IMPERIAL SERVICE.

160. **THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE** : Will the Government be pleased to state the difference, with regard to rank, emoluments and designation between an officer of an Imperial Service and an officer promoted to the rank of the Imperial Service ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : There is no difference of rank, or, except in the case of the Indian Civil Service, of designation. The initial pay of promoted officers on the time-scale of the all-India Service is regulated by special rules, and thereafter they draw pay on the same scale as directly recruited officers.

USE OF THE LETTERS "I. C. S." BY AN OFFICER PROMOTED TO AND CONFIRMED IN THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

161. **THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE** : (a) Is it a fact that a member of the Provincial Civil Service always remains a member of the Provincial Civil Service, even when he is promoted to and confirmed in the rank of the Indian Civil Service and is not entitled to use the three letters "I. C. S." ?

(b) Is it a fact that members in other branches of Provincial Services, such as Educational, Medical and Police Services, etc., can use the respective denominations of different branches of the Imperial Services when they are promoted and confirmed in their respective Imperial grades, as also when they are appointed to act or officiate therein ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the discrimination ?

(d) Do Government propose to enable the members of the Provincial Civil Service to use the three letters "I. C. S." when promoted to and confirmed in the grade of the Indian Civil Service ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) A member of the Provincial Civil Service promoted substantively to a listed Indian Civil Service post has

the status of an officer of an all-India service, though he does not actually become a member of the Indian Civil Service.

(b) The position is correctly stated so far as officers promoted substantively to one of the Services in question are concerned. Those officiating only in posts borne on the cadre of an all-India Service are not entitled to style themselves members of the Service.

(c) Recruitment to the Indian Civil Service is governed by special provisions of the Government of India Act, which do not provide for appointment to the Service by promotion but prescribe the system of listed posts, under which officers of the Provincial Civil Services are appointed by Local Governments to posts borne on the cadre of the Service.

(d) Government do not propose to take the action suggested, which would involve not only the legal difficulty explained in my answer to part (c) but also difficulties in regard to pension and the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Fund.

CONVEYANCE BY SPECIAL TRAINS OF INWARD FOREIGN MAILS FROM BOMBAY.

162. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that special trains are provided for the conveyance of inward foreign mails from Bombay to various parts of India ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) what is the total cost per year on account of each of these special trains ; and

(ii) the public, State or other utility, if any, of the provision of these special trains ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : (a) Special trains are run for the conveyance of the inward foreign mails :

(1) From Bombay to Howrah every week.

(2) From Bombay to Madras via Arkonam and Arkonam to Negapatam every fortnight when the Europe mails for the Straits Settlements are sent across India.

(b) (i) The cost of running the Bombay-Howrah special is Rs. 1,12,866 per annum.

The cost of the Bombay-Madras and Arkonam-Negapatam specials is Rs. 60,814 and Rs. 26,926 respectively per annum. India, however, receives from the Straits Government in transit fees about three-fourths of the total cost of this service.

(ii) In respect of the Bombay-Howrah special the mails are too heavy to be conveyed by the ordinary mail train which could not take the extra bogies required. If the inward foreign mails between Bombay and Howrah were sent by the ordinary mail train, they would have to be sent in batches which would cause serious delay.

The Bombay-Madras and Arkonam-Negapatam service is required for the Straits mails in consequence of an international obligation for which payment is received. It is also utilised for the inward foreign mails for South India once a fortnight.

CONVEYANCE BY SPECIAL TRAINS OF INWARD FOREIGN MAILS.

163. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a tabular statement showing how it will affect the revenue on account of postage on foreign letters, etc., if the system of the provision of special trains for inward foreign mails is discontinued ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS : The revenue on account of the postage on foreign letters, etc., would not be affected if the special trains were discontinued.

THE SANTRAGACHHI-VISTUPUR CHORD LINE OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

164. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : (a) Is it a fact that a scheme for the Santragachhi-Vistupur chord line of the Bengal Nagpur Railway was prepared several years ago ?

(b) Will the Government of India in the Railway Department be pleased to inform the Council what steps, if any, have been taken to give effect to the project of the said chord line ?

(c) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to give effect to the scheme, at an early date ?

(d) What is the approximate time within which the said scheme is likely to be taken in hand ?

(e) Is there any prospect of the project being abandoned ? If so, why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) Yes.

(b) to (e). Government do not contemplate re-investigating the project in the near future ; but they are not prepared to say that it will never be taken up.

RESERVATION OF THREE POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

165. THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT LOKENATH MUKHERJEE : (a) Is it a fact that three posts of Accountant-General are reserved for members of the Indian Civil Service ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this reservation ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : Originally all appointments of Accountant General were reserved for members of the Indian Civil Service. Now only 3 out of 17 such appointments are held by them. The reservation was made because experience showed that, as in the case of other Departments, such as the Posts and Telegraphs and the Imperial Customs Service, the admixture of a few specially selected members of the Indian Civil Service with their special training and experience added generally to the efficiency of the Department and in this case provided officers trained in finance for higher posts under Government.

BILLS AFFECTING INDIANS PENDING BEFORE THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT.

166. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY :** Will the Government be pleased to state what Bills affecting Indians are now on the anvil of the South African Legislature and the nature of these Bills ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : So far as the Government of India are aware, there are at present no Bills affecting Asiatics pending before the South African Parliament.

COMPOSITION OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN 1926.

167. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members of the Government of India delegation to the League of Nations Assembly held in September 1926, and the pay and allowances drawn by them : and

(b) the composition of the Secretariat staff, which accompanied the above delegation, and the pay and allowances drawn by them ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS : A statement showing the composition of the delegation and of the Secretariat staff is laid on the table. The delegates and substitute delegates who held office under the Crown in India received during the period of their deputation on the delegation two-thirds of Indian pay *plus* travelling expenses and subsistence allowances. The delegates and substitute delegates and the members of the Secretariat staff who held appointments in the India Office drew the ordinary pay of those appointments *plus* travelling expenses and subsistence allowances. The delegate and substitute delegate and the members of the Secretariat staff who held no appointment under the Crown received travelling expenses and subsistence allowances only.

Statement showing the composition of the Indian Delegation to the 7th Assembly of the League of Nations held in September 1926 and the Staff which accompanied the Delegation.

DELEGATES.

Sir William Vincent, K.C.S.I., Member of the Council of India.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala.

Khan Bahadur Sheikh Abdul Qadir, Bar-at-Law.

SUBSTITUTE DELEGATES.

Sir E. Chamier, K.C.I.E., Legal Adviser to the India Office.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., Member, Executive Council, Madras.

Sir B. K. Mullick, Kt., Judge, High Court, Patna.

STAFF.

Mr. W. D. Croft, India Office, Private Secretary to Sir William Vincent.

Sirdar Muhabbat Rai, Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala.

Mr. M. Sleem, Private Secretary to Khan Bahadur Sheikh Abdul Qadir.

Mr. P. J. Patrick, India Office, Secretary to the Delegation.

Mr. R. W. Wright, India Office, Assistant Secretary to the Delegation.

NUMBER OF OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN RECEIPT OF BOTH PAY AND PENSION.

168. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) what are the rules as regards Government officials being allowed to draw both pay and pension ; and
- (b) how many officials of the Indian Government and Provincial Governments have been allowed to draw both pay and pension and the reasons why they have been granted this privilege ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE : (a) The rules on the subject are contained in Chapter XXI of the Civil Service Regulations, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The collection of information required by the Honourable Member will involve considerable time and labour which the Government are not prepared to expend.

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF EUROPEANS AT SERAJGUNJ GHAT STATION.

169. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : Is it a fact that several Europeans broke into the booking and parcel offices at Serajgunj Ghat station on the night of 21st June 1927 and smashed several station lamps and assaulted two of the station staff ?

If so, what steps have the railway authorities taken against these persons ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government have received no report of any such incident. If it occurred, the Agent can be relied upon to take such action as may be required.

LEVY BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY OF TOLLS ON BOATS MOORED TO THE RAILWAY GHAT AT NARAINGUNJ.

170. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities are levying tolls on boats moored to the railway ghat at Naraingunj ? If so, since when and why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports that he has let a contract for mooring rights on the railway foreshore and canal at Narainganj with permission to levy tolls for one year from the 1st April 1927. The contract was entered into in order to protect railway property from damage and to prevent rights of occupancy.

PROSECUTION FOR ASSAULTS BY CREWMEN EMPLOYED ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

171. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY :** Will the Government be pleased to state how many, if any, cases of assault have been brought in the criminal courts against the crewmen employed in the East Indian Railway and with what results ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : I am enquiring and will let the Honourable Member know.

PROVISION OF APPOINTMENTS FOR THE INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE ARMY CANTEEN BOARD.

172. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY :** (a) Is it a fact that the Army Canteen Board in India which is now under liquidation was an institution started by Government guarantee and controlled by a board of management, including high Government officials, and that a large sum of money was advanced to the Board by the Imperial Bank of India on the security of the Government of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees of the Board joined its service on the understanding that it was a semi-Government institution ?

(c) Is it a fact that the European employees of the Board have in most cases been provided with new jobs in the Indian Army Service Corps and in other Government appointments without having to pass the admission examinations and beyond the limit of their age ?

(d) What have the Government so far done to make similar concessions and provisions for the Indian employees of the Board ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No. Only 5 out of the 84 Europeans previously employed by the Army Canteen Board have been appointed to the Indian Army Service Corps. There is no examination for entry into the subordinate ranks of the Indian Army Service Corps into which these men were admitted. All five men were ex-soldiers and three of them had held commissioned rank. As far as Government are aware, no European employee of the Army Canteen Board has yet been appointed in any other Government department.

(d) Government have already done, and will continue to do, what they can to help the Indian employees to obtain employment in Government offices, and at least 10 have already secured such employment.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNPASSED MEN IN THE OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER, MILITARY FINANCE.

173. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY :** (a) Is it a fact that candidates for employment in the office of the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, are not exempt from the examination by the Public Service Commission ?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of unpassed men are employed in the Military Finance Department ? If so, why ?

(c) Is it also a fact that some of the unpassed men do not hold any permanent posts in the Military Accounts offices and have been taken in this office without the usual condition of passing the prescribed examination? If so, why and for what period?

(d) Is it a fact that these unpassed men are being given preference over passed and experienced men available from the Public Service Commission?

(e) When do the Government propose to replace the unpassed men by qualified candidates on the waiting list of the Public Service Commission?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) There are two categories of unpassed men employed in the Military Finance Department:

(1) Those who have been recruited from the Military Accounts Department under the special authority given to the Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

(2) Those who have been recruited temporarily with the permission of the Staff Selection Board and the Public Service Commission.

The first class have been taken on account of their technical qualifications; the men in the second class were engaged because no passed men were available at the time and they are being retained to complete a special piece of work on which they are employed.

(c) There is only one such clerk. He was recruited under the authority referred to at (b) (1) above.

(d) The question is not understood. If the Honourable Member means preference in the matter of promotion, the answer is in the negative.

(e) The unpassed men, other than those recruited from the Military Accounts Department, are temporary employees and their services will be dispensed with on the completion of the special work on which they are engaged.

RATES PAID TO THE CONTRACTORS BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOR INDIAN CLERKS' CHUMMERIES IN NEW DELHI.

174. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY:

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the rate per chummary at which the Indian clerks' chummeries at New Delhi were leased to contractors for the year 1926-27?

(b) Is it a fact that rents as high as Rs. 19 per chummary were charged by the contractors from the Government servants, who occupied them during the last winter?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to prevent profiteering at the cost of Government employees?

(d) Have Government considered letting the chummeries direct to the Government servants concerned?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) Rs. 1,400 per block.

(b) Government believed that a rent of Rs. 19 per mensem for each quarter was charged when occupied by two persons.

(c) The lease of some of the blocks to the Imperial Secretariat Association is under consideration.

(d) No.

NOTES PUBLISHED IN THE *Hindustan Times* UNDER THE CAPTION "UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION RULES."

175. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : Has the attention of the Government been invited to the note under the caption "University Examination Rules" published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 1st July 1927 ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : Yes.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE PROVINCIAL SERVICES OF NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES OF GRADUATES OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY, ETC.

176. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : (a) Has the attention of the Government been invited to the note under the heading "Delhi's disabilities", published in the *Hindustan Times* on the 24th August 1927 ?

(b) What steps do the Government propose to take in this respect ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) Yes.

(b) Information has been called for and a further reply to this part of the question will be given on its receipt.

THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENTS ATTACHED TO THE DOWN PUNJAB CALCUTTA MAIL.

177. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : Is it a fact that only two third class compartments are attached to the Down Punjab Calcutta Mail and that one of them is reserved for Europeans and Anglo-Indians ? If so, has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great inconvenience caused to Indian third class passengers by being confined to one compartment and to the fact that the other compartment goes almost empty ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Two bogie third class carriages are attached to this train between Rawalpindi and Lahore and one bogie third class carriage between Lahore and Saharanpur. Each carriage has two compartments for 40 passengers each and two for 21 passengers each. Of these, one compartment for 21 passengers is reserved for Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRAM LINES IN NEW DELHI.

178. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY : Have the Government received any proposals for constructing tram lines in New Delhi ?

If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to give effect to such construction ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. F. HARRINGTON AS CURATOR OF THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL IN CALCUTTA.

179. **THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHOUDHURY :** Will the Government be pleased to state from what date and on what terms and conditions Mr. F. Harrington has been appointed Curator of the Victoria Memorial at Calcutta, and what are the qualifications of Mr. Harrington for holding this appointment and why no Indian has been appointed to that post ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : Mr Harrington was appointed Art Exper , Victoria Memorial, in 1903. In 1922, on the death of the Curator, the Trustees combined the posts of Art Expert and Curator in the person of Mr. Harrington on a pay of Rs. 500 per mensem together with a monthly house allowance of Rs. 300 in lieu of free quarters previously enjoyed by him. Mr. Harrington's duties comprise general responsibility for, and watching over, the collection, restoration, prevention of deterioration and repair of all exhibits and pictures which require constant expert attention. He also attends to all enquiries from tourists and eminent visitors, is in charge of admission fees and controls the exhibition staff of the institution. Mr. Harrington is a Member of the Royal Society of Arts, has studied picture preservation for 40 years, and has several noteworthy achievements in picture restoration to his credit. His work has received approval from successive Governors and Trustees who have had no reason for making any change during the whole period of his service.

SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VEGETARIANS AND NON-VEGETARIANS IN THE INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOM AT HOWRAH.

180. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD :** (a) Have Government received complaints that inconvenience is felt at the Indian refreshment room at Howrah railway station for want of separate arrangements for vegetarians and non-vegetarians due to insufficiency of space in the cook room and for want of a separate arrangement for females ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the measures that are being taken to remove these defects ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) Government have received no complaints to this effect.

(b) These are matters which the Agent is competent to deal with. A copy of the Honourable Member's question will be sent to the Agent.

FLOODS IN ORISSA.

181. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD :** Will the Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the present situation of Orissa, stating the area affected by the flood, loss of human life and cattle, number of houses that have collapsed or have been damaged, amount sanctioned by Government for relief, amount available from public subscriptions for relief, and the measures taken till now to relieve the distress, in detail, as far as possible ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : The Local Government have been asked for full particulars. A statement will be made when they have reported.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIGHTS AND FANS IN SECOND CLASS CARRIAGES IN SOME OF THE TRAINS ON THE BRANCH LINES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

182. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD : (a) Have Government received complaints of the inconvenience felt at present by second class passengers for want of good arrangements for lights and fans in some of the trains on the branch lines of East Indian Railway, such as Sone-East Bank to Daltonganj line ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if they intend providing the trains running on branch lines with up-to-date facilities and conveniences similar to those provided in the trains running on the main line ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : (a) Government have received no complaints to this effect. About two years ago they gave Government Inspectors definite instructions to report specially on the condition of branch line stock, and the report received for the East Indian Railway for the year ending 31st March 1927 showed that the passenger stock on the principal branches was good and well maintained.

(b) As the instructions mentioned in my reply to the previous part of the question show the subject of branch line stock is receiving careful attention and it is desired by the Government that branch line stock should be brought up to date, the Honourable Member will recognise that this must be a gradual process as funds permit.

WAITING ROOMS AT STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

183. THE HONOURABLE MR MAHENDRA PRASAD : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars regarding the Bengal and North-Western Railway :

- (1) total number of railway stations ;
- (2) number of railway stations provided with waiting-rooms both for (a) first and second class passengers, and (b) third class passengers ;
- (3) number of railway stations not provided with waiting-rooms for first and second class passengers ;
- (4) number of railway stations not provided with waiting-rooms for third class passengers ; and
- (5) number of railway stations provided with special waiting-rooms for ladies ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the conditions, if any, under which the Bengal and North-Western Railway provides waiting-rooms for (i) 1st and second class passengers, (ii) third class passengers, and (iii) ladies ; and the number of railway stations that fulfil these conditions, but have not yet been provided with the waiting-rooms of the classes concerned ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : I am obtaining the information for the Honourable Member.

NUMBER OF INDIANS IN THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE, THE INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AND THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE, IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

184. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of posts belonging to (i) Indian Civil Service,

(ii) Indian Educational Service, and (iii) Indian Medical Service, in Bihar and Orissa, and the number in each that are intended ultimately to be occupied by Indians and the number actually held at present by Indians with the period in which the remaining posts in each service are likely to be held by Indians ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : A statement containing the information required by the Honourable Member is being placed in the Library.

STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

185. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Government be pleased to state when the present term of the lease to the Bengal and North Western Railway is to expire and when the line is to be taken over under the direct control of the State ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : The principal contract between the Secretary of State and the Bengal and North Western Railway Company was executed on the 12th December 1882 and terminates by efflux of time on the 31st December 1931. The Secretary of State has, however, the right to determine the contract on the 31st December 1932 by giving one year's previous notice of his intention to purchase the Railway. The question whether this right should be exercised has not yet been considered.

SUPPLY OF WATER IN RUNNING TRAINS AND AT STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

186. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD : (a) Have Government received complaints that great inconvenience is felt by the passengers on the Bengal and North Western Railway for want of arrangements for the supply of water in the running trains ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is no adequate arrangement for the supply of water at the stations of the Bengal and North-Western Railway ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEOFFREY CORBETT : Government are not aware of the extent, if any, to which there is substance in the complaints contained in the Honourable Member's question. They relate to matters which might well be brought to the Agent's notice by his Local Advisory Committee, but they have drawn his attention to them by sending him a copy of the question and this reply.

NON-RECEIPT BY THE POST OFFICE OF MORE THAN 30 MONEY ORDERS A DAY FROM DISTRICT AND LOCAL BOARDS IN BIHAR.

187. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD : (a) Is it a fact that a Post Office rule in force in certain Districts of Bihar forbids the acceptance of more than 30 money orders per day from any District or Local Board ?

(b) Is it a fact that certain District and Local Boards in those districts have occasion to pay some 2,500 to 3,000 teachers and doctors by money order per month ?

(c) Has the attention of Government been called to the hardship caused to such doctors and teachers by the consequent delay in the receipt of their pay ? What action, if any, do Government propose to take ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) No. The number of money orders to be accepted from Districts and Local Boards is not restricted to 30 a day in all post offices. It depends on the permanent staff employed in the post office concerned.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The question will be examined. The difficulty presumably arises from the reluctance of District and Local Boards to send the money orders to the post office in batches as they are prepared.

BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in accordance with rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table copies of—

A Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, in order to protect the manufacture of cotton yarn in British India ;

A Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 ;

A Bill to amend the law relating to the fostering and development of the bamboo paper industry in British India ; and

A Bill to amend the Indian Securities Act, 1920, for certain purposes, which Bills were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 8th and 9th September, 1927.

RESOLUTION RE PROHIBITION OF THE DEDICATION OF UNMARRIED MINOR GIRLS TO TEMPLES AS DEVADASIS.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Resolution that stands in my name runs as follows :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to introduce legislation at an early date to prohibit the practice of unmarried minor girls being dedicated to temples as *Devadasis* ”.

Sir, I move this Resolution in response to a large volume of public opinion in my constituency. Numerous women associations, including those of *Devadasis* themselves passed resolutions in their institutions, as well as in public conferences, in many parts of my province urging the need for immediate reform in the direction of abolishing the abominable custom of dedicating unmarried girls to temples and thus condemning them to a life of professional prostitution. A member of the *Devadasi* community speaking of the evil at a conference recently held at Anantapur in the Ceded Districts, pathetically said :

“ It is obvious that this particular community while rotting under the corroding influence of its poison is vitiating the sources of national regeneration. Professional prostitution is a canker worm in the blossom of national regeneration and many respectable families are ruined by this evil ”.

Mr. Thurston in his informing compilation on castes and tribes in Southern India gives a full and accurate account of the institution of *Devadasis*. A

[Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu.]

Recent writer has briefly summarized the incidents of the customary dedication of girls to temples thus :

“ In Madras Presidency there is an ancient custom of dedicating young girls to the pagodas as *Dasis*, variously called as *Aradhinis*, *Basavis*, *Bhawanis*, *Devadasis*, *Joginis*, *Moralis* or maids and dancing girls, but who, it is notorious, are used for the purpose of prostitution. Both *Dasis* and dancing girls are used, and dedicated to the temple by the performance of certain ceremonies after which they cannot marry but lead the lives of life-long prostitutes. It appears that after dedication the girls pass through a period of a novitiate during which they learn singing and dancing. The dedication is accompanied by the registration of their names as belonging to the pagoda ”.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN: (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, on a point of order. We, on this side of the House do not understand a word that the Honourable the Mover says. As we have to participate in the debate, would you, Sir, kindly ask the Honourable Member to speak louder so that we can hear him.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramadas Pantulu.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: Sir, the order in which the several acts of dedication may be performed would appear to be these :

- (i) application by the minor's guardian for permission to dedicate ;
- (ii) acceptance by the pagoda authorities ;
- (iii) her registration on the pagoda list from which date she commences to draw her emoluments ;
- (iv) tying of *bottu*, a ceremony of [nominal marriage with the idol (called *Basavi*) consigning her to a life-long spinsterhood ;
- (v) dancing at pagoda ceremonials and for courses of prostitution, for which there is no starting point.

There seems to be some local variations in these ceremonies, for instance, the ceremonies of *gajji* and *phalobhau* are considered to be final acts of dedication in some parts of the Telugu country.

The chief incident of the custom with which we are mainly concerned is the one consigning the girl dedicated to life-long spinsterhood and to a life of promiscuous intercourse. This fact seems to be indisputable. The Madras Census Report of 1911 which was compiled with great care says at page 67 “ that the girl may marry an arrow, a dagger or a tree ” and proceeds to say “ that she may marry an idol which generally implies that she becomes a prostitute ”. Judicial pronouncements which are based on legal evidence tendered before Courts to prove the custom confirm these facts. In a case reported in I. L. R. 15 Madras at page 75, that distinguished civilian judge, Justice Parker, whose judgments are noted for their accuracy and learning, came to this conclusion :

“ The evidence shows that a girl who is dedicated as a *Basavi* becomes incapable of contracting a marriage which would be recognised as valid by the law and custom of her caste, that she is at liberty and is expected to have promiscuous intercourse with men generally ”.

The system of dedication is perpetuated by retired *Devadasis*, who have no children of their own to dedicate, securing new recruits by adoption of girls.

Custom and judicial pronouncements have alike, unfortunately, recognised the validity of such adoptions and clothed them with legal rights. In order to remove any possible misunderstanding, I must mention to the House that this cruel custom is strictly confined to a particular caste which is differently known in different parts of the country and by no means obtain among a large section of Hindus. It is here that Miss Katherine Mayo either makes a mistake or wilfully misrepresents facts. This is the sweeping way in which she describes the custom at page 51 of her Indian edition of "Mother India" :

"In some parts of the country, more particularly in the Presidency of Madras and in Orissa, a custom obtains among the Hindus whereby the parents, to persuade some favour from the gods, may vow their next born child, if it be a girl to the gods. Or a particularly lovely child, for one reason or another held superfluous in her natural surroundings, is presented to the temple. The little creature, accordingly, is delivered to the temple women, her predecessors along the route, for teaching in dancing and singing. Often by the age of five when she is considered most desirable she becomes the priests' own concubine. If she survives to later years she serves as a dancer and singer before the shrine in the daily temple worship; and in the houses around the temple she is held always ready at a price, for the use of men pilgrims during their devotional sojourns in the temple precincts".

*** Her parents who may be well-to-do persons of good rank and caste, have lost no face at all by the manner of their disposal of her. Their proceeding, it is held, was entirely reputable. And she and her like form a sort of caste of their own, are called *Devadasis* or prostitutes of gods and are a recognised essential of temple equipment".

Comment is unnecessary. Any one who knows anything about the institution will find Miss Mayo's to be a perfectly ludicrous account of it besides being grossly defamatory of the Hindu community as a whole.

I shall now proceed to deal with the attempts that were made to eradicate this evil to show that they have only partially succeeded and that there is scope and need for further measures of a more effective character. This agitation can really be traced as far back as the year 1868. But I find evidence that the Government of India have been acting entirely themselves in the question since 1906-07 when they called for reports from the various Local Governments to ascertain the extent and character of the evil, evidently with a view to suppress it as far as possible.

In the year 1912 three members of the old Imperial Legislative Council, Messrs. Maneckji Dadabhoy, Mudholkar and Madge, brought three different Bills with more or less the same aim, namely, to suppress this evil custom. I hope that Sir Maneckji will not disown in 1927 what Mr. Maneckji did in 1912. The Government of India then referred the whole question to Local Governments and, on the receipt of those opinions, brought a Government Bill in September 1913. It was referred to a Select Committee which reported on it in March 1914. The report was however again referred for opinions and the Bill was ultimately dropped. I understand, Sir, that although there was a fair amount of agreement on the main issues, certain disputes and contentions on some subsidiary issue led to the wrecking of that Bill. One of those subsidiary issues seems to relate to the mode of protecting the girls who are rescued from vice. The differences seem to have arisen on the proposal to hand them over to other religionists or to non-Hindu philanthropic institutions.

[Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu.]

* Nothing was done however until 1922 when the matter was again brought before the Legislative Assembly in the form of a Resolution by Dr. H. S. Gour. His Resolution which was carried by a large majority ran thus :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to be so pleased as to enact a law prohibiting the wholesale traffic in minor girls for immoral purposes ostensibly intended as *Devadasis* but in reality used for indiscriminate immoral purposes."

There were no doubt one or two champions and admirers of *Devadasis* in the Assembly then like my friend Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, but the general trend of Hindu opinion was entirely in favour of the reform. Even Mr. Rangachariar displayed zeal but not knowledge in his opposition, for he is reported to have stated as follows on that occasion :

" I know that the question does not affect the Telugu Districts—only the Tamil Districts "

(*Vide* page 2605 of the Assembly Debates, 1922.) I can contradict this with an amount of confidence which he could not command. Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, the then Law Member, thought he wanted more time to deal with the matter, made it clear that the attitude of the Government of India was one of a sympathetic character. Eventually a Bill was introduced in 1924 and finally passed, as Act XVIII of 1924, whereby sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code were further amended to include cases of disposal of girls dedicated to temples within the scope of the Act. That Act came into force on the 1st January, 1925.

My first submission to this House is that that Act is not adequate to meet the situation. The age up to which the disposal of a girl becomes an offence was no doubt raised from 16 to 18 and the slight changes were made by the Act of 1924. But the two outstanding questions still remain unsolved :

- (1) When will the disposal of the girl be complete so as to make the dedication liable under the section of the Indian Penal Code ?
- (2) Was such disposal saved by the sanction of religious usage ?

So far as my province is concerned the general trend of the case-law was that there was a presumption that the dedication was also for purposes of prostitution and so the disposal referred to in section 372A of the Indian Penal Code was deemed to be complete by dedication and trustees of temples and guardians of minor girls used to be punished under the section. But the Act, XVIII of 1924, which was intended to be an improvement on the old law, had a precisely contrary effect on the law in Madras. During the debate on the Bill of 1924, the Home Member explained the scope of the Act thus :

" We have not definitely assumed that employment as *Devadasis* is equivalent to employment for purposes of prostitution, but should such employment actually prove to come within the definition, our Bill will enable it to be dealt with more effectively than hitherto "

This throws the law as administered in Madras into the melting pot and begs the very question to be answered. Is dedication with its established customary incidents of spinsterhood and prostitution to be *ipso facto* deemed an offence or not ?

My first proposal therefore, Sir, is that the penal law should be so amended as to definitely assume that employment as *Devadasis* is equivalent to employment for purposes of prostitution throwing the onus of proving the contrary on the minor girl's guardian and on the trustees of the temple who promote the dedication. That is my concrete suggestion.

Then all this reform will not succeed without some subsidiary legislation and executive action. At present many *Devadasi* families are dependent upon the income derived for temple service, *inams* for their livelihood. If they fail to maintain the heritage and perpetuate the succession to *Devadasihood* they lose their *inams*. So they are compelled to maintain the vicious institute by dedicating their children or by adopted children when they have none. So unless these *inams* are enfranchised by the imposition of a reasonable assessment and the lands made over to the families now in possession and enjoyment thereof, transferring the assessment to the temples, progress will be almost impossible. I therefore beg to submit that the measure of reform is an urgent one and request that some statutory rules should be made under the revenue laws by Government.

Then the time has come for the insertion of a provision in the Religious Endowment Acts, disallowing expenditure on the entertainment of *nautches* and employment of *Devadasis* in the budgets of temple finance and prohibiting such entertainment and employment.

Finally, the question of making some legislative provision for rescue homes and asylums for the girls who are weaned away from a life of vice and degradation should be seriously tackled. It is no use allowing them to continue in the guardianship of their mothers or patrons who lead a life of vice themselves. The English law affords a guidance to us in this matter. The Statutes of 1885 and 1908 serve a very useful purpose in England to control vice, and a Court of Chancery in England would not allow a mother leading an immoral life to be the guardian of the girl. In removing them from the guardianship of their immoral guardians, care should be taken that they should not be made over to non-Hindu homes or institutions for the feelings of the community will be outraged thereby. Hindu asylums should be established having regard to the religious susceptibilities of the community. The local and municipal boards should be made to bear a portion of the cost of their maintenance.

These reforms are now easy of accomplishment because the general Hindu sentiment has come to realise the enormity of the evil custom. Even Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a pillar of Hindu orthodoxy, spoke thus on a measure of reform of this character in the Imperial Legislative Council in 1913 :

"I hope that not a man in the country will be able to put forward one single text which will justify a thing which is so irreligious and sinful as the dedication of minor girls in a position where they must be compelled to lead a life of sin and shame".

"My Lord, I hope that all sound men will be united in the desire to support the Government in any legislation which shall secure that no girl shall be led, induced or compelled to take to a life of shame or placed in a position where she may be helplessly led to adopt it until she has attained to discretion".

[Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu]

Again, Sir, the *Devadasi* community itself has awakened to its rights to live as respected members of the Hindu community in general and have already begun to marry their girls and settle them honourably in life. So it will be the duty of

12 Noon. the State and the public in general to encourage those efforts and to make rapid progress in the direction of eradicating this evil. I assure this House finally that the social problem involved in this Resolution is one of great national importance, and I therefore ask for the very serious and sympathetic consideration of this question both by this House and by the Government. With these words I beg to move the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. DAS (Law Member): Sir, I think it is only right that Government should at the very beginning place before the House the position which they take up with reference to this Resolution. To begin with, we welcome the Resolution though, for reasons which I am about to state, we are not in a position to accept it. We welcome it because of the object which underlies it, the suppression of the practice of dedication of minor girls as *Devadasis*, an object with which the Government is in wholehearted sympathy so far as that practice leads to prostitution. It was with this object that in 1924 the Government introduced a Bill which amended sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code. I propose now to quote a passage from the speech of the then Home Member, Sir Malcolm Hailey, when introducing the Bill—a passage which the Honourable Mover has already quoted. He said :

“ We have not definitely assumed that employment as *Devadasis* is equivalent to employment for the purposes of prostitution. But should employment actually prove to come within that definition, our Bill will enable it to be dealt with more effectively than hitherto.”

Now, Sir, that explains even now the position of the Government. The Resolution assumes as the Learned Mover has clearly pointed out, that employment as *Devadasis* is in fact equivalent to employment for the purposes of prostitution. If that is a fact there can be no doubt that the law as amended in 1924 covers such a case, and any dedication of a *Devadasi* would be an offence under sections 372 and 373 as amended :

“ Whoever sells, lets to hire or otherwise disposes of any person under the age of eighteen years, with intent that such person shall at any age—”

That is to say, not necessarily at the time of disposal :

“—be employed or used for the purpose of prostitution or illicit intercourse with any person or for any unlawful or immoral purpose.”

And I draw particular attention to the next words :

“ Or knowing it to be likely that such person will at any age be so employed ”
commits an offence under this section.

Now, Sir, it is quite clear that if my friend's assumption is correct—that the dedication is equivalent to her employment as a prostitute as a matter of fact—then there is no question that the person who dedicates her must be taken to know that that person is likely to be employed as a prostitute and no further strengthening of the Act is necessary. If, on the other hand, it is not a fact

that the dedication is equivalent to her employment as a prostitute, then some doubt may be raised as to whether it comes within that section or not. There has been a certain amount of conflict of decisions in the Madras High Court as regards this fact, and the position of Government is this: if the Judges of the Madras High Court, who are more familiar with what happens in the Madras Presidency with reference to these *Devadasis* than the Government, are not prepared to hold that dedication is equivalent to the employment of a girl as a prostitute, it is somewhat difficult for the Government to introduce legislation on the assumption that that is a fact. It is for this reason that the Government is not in a position to accept this Resolution which would really amount to their accepting as a fact that the dedication of a minor girl as a *Devadasi* amounts to, or is equivalent to, her employment as a prostitute. But if the Honourable Mover is certain of his facts; if it is a fact that such dedication does amount to employment as a prostitute, what I would suggest to the Honourable mover is that he should move the people of Madras to institute vigilance associations to see that prosecution in every case of dedication is launched against the person who dedicates as well as against the persons who obtain possession of girls, and that sections 372 and 373 are given effect to. The Government are, however, sympathetic towards the suppression of this crime, and I should like to assure the House that the Government feel this evil very seriously and that they would be prepared to assist the House in every way to suppress the evil if, as a matter of fact, the dedication of a girl does amount to her employment as a prostitute. I trust the House will recognise that that is an assumption which the Government as such is not in a position to make, certainly without further inquiries; and I am prepared to say this: that, if the Honourable Mover will introduce a Bill or any other measure by which he can suggest further strengthening of the law on this point, we are perfectly willing to circulate such proposals or measures for opinion and then you can ascertain whether the dedication of a girl does really amount to, or is necessarily followed by, her employment as a prostitute.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : Nominated Non-official): Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction that my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramadas Pantulu has brought this Resolution before the Council. He has dealt with the subject in a very thorough and satisfactory manner, and it is therefore needless for me to offer any further comments on the subject. I have also heard with interest the learned explanation which was given by our able and distinguished Law Member. There is no doubt that there is a divided opinion so far as the interpretation of these two sections 372 and 373 is concerned. It is said that it is not possible to bring a case within the limits of these sections in the absence of direct proof. The Honourable the Law Member has given a full explanation of the law on the subject and has stated that he would be very willing to further strengthen the provisions if any method can be devised. May I submit for his consideration a simple suggestion?

There is no doubt that it is a matter of absolute moral certainty that these innocent girls are dedicated to temples with the express object of employing them as prostitutes. There are no two questions about it at all. Could not the Government put a proviso to section 372 or section 373 of the Penal Code or to

[Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.]

section 114 of the Evidence Act and presume in case of a dedication that it is for the purpose of prostitution and throw the burden on the opposite party for rebutting that presumption in the negative. If this is done, the whole question, in my opinion, will be solved, and a great deal of relief will be given to communities who are now clamouring for it. I think, Sir, there can be no objection to introducing a presumption of this nature into the law, because it must be a natural presumption. No respectable person would dedicate his young girl or his young child to a temple, throw her to the tender mercies of regular prostitutes or put her in such unfavourable and loathsome environments except with the object of seeing her turned out as a prostitute. Therefore, it would be a natural presumption to draw that the people who employ her in the temples accept her with the object of turning her out a prostitute. If, therefore, as I suggest a proviso is introduced, it will solve the difficulty and bring the offenders to justice. I do not think I need say anything more on this subject.

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (North-West Frontier Province : Nominated Non-official) : Sir, personally speaking I am absolutely in favour of the Resolution brought forward by my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu regarding the prohibition of the practice of dedicating minor girls to the temples, although I cannot say in what light his own community, *i.e.*, the Hindus, will take this suggestion. To my mind there appears no reason for any opposition of the Hindus to the proposed measure, since it aims at the eradication of a good deal of immorality resulting from this kind of human dedication to the temples. The practice was greatly in vogue in Southern India and Honourable Members might know that it has been done away with in Mysore State by the order of the State Government, because it has been found wanting in the high ideals with which the institution was started. Honourable Members might have had an opportunity to read in the columns of the *Pioneer's* issue of the 7th September 1927, the actual words of the order of the Mysore Government in connection with the abolition of this sort of institution. The order runs as follows :

“The Government now observe that whatever might have been the original object of the institution of the *Devadasis* in temples, the state of immorality in which these temple servants are now found, fully justifies the action taken by them in excluding the *Devadasis* from every kind of service in sacred institutions like temples. Further, the absence of the services of these women in certain important temples in the State has become established for nearly fifteen years past, and the public have been accustomed to the idea of doing without such services. The Government, therefore, see no need to revert to the old order of things as prayed for in the memorials now under disposal. There is, however, no objection whatever to the *Devadasis* coming into temples like all Hindus and offering ordinary worship to the deity like other persons.”

It will be seen from the wording of this order, that the practice of dedicating girls to the temples has furnished to the Mysore Government ample proof of a good deal of degradation in it. Now, when a Hindu State like that of Mysore, which is expected to cling to its religious institutions, has considered it wise to effect a reform in this sort of worship, I do not think Hindus would like to offer an opposition to the proposal contained in the Resolution under discussion. I, together with other Muhammadan Members of this Honourable House, would be glad to see the Hindu community begin to see the light in

this direction in accordance with the Islamic Shariat, which absolutely prohibits such practices and institutions.

I, therefore, extend my cordial support to the Resolution brought forward by my friend the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu, and in doing so I hope that I will be voicing the sentiments of all the Muhammadan Members who can never object to the prohibition of this objectionable practice, provided it is agreed to by the Hindu Members of this House.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN: Sir, I entirely agree with all that has just been said by my Honourable friend Major Nawab Mahomed Akbar Khan.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHIVDEV SINGH OBEROI (Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I have heard with regretful surprise the existence of an immoral institution of dedicating young girls to temples in the Madras Presidency, not generally, but in a particular class, and I am strongly inclined to give my warm support to such a Resolution which is intended to bring about a very important reform in human society. Time would have been when the children were considered to be dedicated to deities for the sake of some religious beliefs, but the time has come in the 20th century with all the civilization and education that is rapidly taking place to-day when these practices must be considered as not only immoral but as a great sin to humanity. I have tried to find out from the speech of the Honourable Mover, but have not succeeded in doing so, whether there is a practice of dedicating boys as well to deities. I have tried to find out the reason for dedicating minor girls, and what has struck me is this, that it is human selfishness which prompts parents to dedicate their minor girls to deities. It is perhaps on account of this fact that the girls are considered not only an unhappy addition to the family, but as an item of expenditure to the family, that is of marrying her and taking her responsibility in future. This may be at the bottom of the institution of dedicating girls to deities. Similarly, Sir, there was also a practice in the Punjab among some people of infanticide. Some of them used to kill their girls immediately after their birth, merely to save the expense of marriage and also to avoid the inferior position of marrying the daughter to a man, that is the father of the boy, owed allegiance all his life. The result of this bad practice in the Punjab has been that the female population is very much lower than the male population, and the immoral results of this are also manifest in the illicit connections between man and woman, all due to a reduction in the female population. I think I would not be wrong in saying that at the present day in the criminal courts of the Punjab the majority of the cases relate to abduction of women, and with all respect to the books of law and the Indian Penal Code, to which the Honourable the Law Member has referred, I am in a position, by my personal experience, to say that the existence of sections 497 and 498 of the Indian Penal Code has not in any way diminished the number of abduction cases; while, on the other hand, out of every hundred cases of adultery and abduction, a very small number is proved in the law courts in the Punjab, and all these cases generally are shattered to pieces. I have no doubt that there is a section in the Indian Penal Code under which action can be taken against the persons if it is found that a girl is dedicated to a temple with the ulterior object of prostitution.

But the question arises whether it would be possible to prove in the law courts to the satisfaction of the prosecution that the girls have been dedicated

[Sardar Shivdev Singh Oberoi.]

for the purpose of prostitution. I think these things are mostly done in such wise and ingenious ways by the mischievous priests who are in charge of such places that it would not be a very easy task to prove the cases in the law courts when those people having been enriched can afford to engage eminent lawyers to defend themselves there. So what has struck me, Sir, is that the Government should not oppose such a measure which is intended to bring forth reform in human society. Time was, Sir, in this country when another similar custom was prevalent, that is of *Sutti*. That is, a widow used to burn herself on the same pyre on which her husband was burnt. Of course, the British Government's name is up to this time regarded with admiration on account of putting a stop to that bad custom in society, although it could have been said at that very time that this is a practice which concerns the society of the Indians themselves and the religious susceptibilities of theirs so it would be for the social societies to bring forward such a social reform. But the Government thought that it is suicidal and it is very sinful that a widow should, on account of devotion to her husband or whatever it may be, also burn herself on the same pyre. So, Sir, I think that this measure which has been brought forward by the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu is a measure which is to bring forth a reform in human society and to save society from immorality, and not only immorality, but from indulging the courts of the Government in litigation of a fruitless nature. I would support this measure with these few words and request the Law Member with all respect that he should not oppose it but accept it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I think it would be a great pity if Members who do not belong to the Presidency of Madras carry away any wrong impression regarding this subject. I want them clearly to understand that, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, the evil to which my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu has referred is confined only to a community which is called *Devadasis*. I hope no one for a moment will take that to be an evil with which respectable members of society or married people have anything to do at all. I am very anxious that there should be no such impression like that. I fear at any rate the speech of my Honourable friend who preceded me has given rise to some confusion. What my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas is trying to deal with is an evil practice which is confined only to a community which is called *Devadasis*.

I quite agree with the difficulties which have been suggested by the Honourable the Law Member in regard to this measure. If I am not mistaken, when a girl is dedicated to a temple, a medical certificate has to be given that she has come of age. I wonder whether the Honourable the Law Member will find any serious difficulty in insisting that the parent or guardian of the girl who arranges for the dedication is also compelled by some legal enactment to give a declaration amounting more or less to an affidavit which will afterwards be recognised by a court of law—a declaration that the girl in question will not be used for any immoral purpose. If this is done the object of the Mover will be served, and I do hope, having regard to the suggestion made by the Honourable the Law Member that the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu might bring forward a constructive Bill in this connection—I believe, if I am not mistaken, that the Honourable the Law Member said he would circulate it among the

Local Governments and that some steps would be taken—the matter might be dropped now.

There is again another point on which I should like to lay stress so that there might be no misapprehension. We ought not to forget that public opinion of late has been strongly against the continuance of *Devadasis* and my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu drew the attention of the House to the suggestion that the various religious endowment boards in the provinces may be asked to see, as far as possible, if they could not absolutely do away with it, to see that the emoluments which are attached to this unfortunate institution of *Devadasis* are done away with. If public opinion freely asserts itself and finds that the leaders of our Hindu society are keenly alive to the sense of shame and the demoralisation and degradation which this practice involves, and if those who are connected with the temple management will see that this source of living is no longer available to them—a step which could no doubt be taken by any responsible local Legislature—the Local Governments ought to be quite willing to help in the matter. But I do hope that, having regard to the turn the discussion has taken and the assurance of the Law Member my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas will consider the suggestion very carefully and withdraw his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHIVDEV SINGH OBEROI : Sir, may I know from the Honourable Member....

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member is not entitled to speak again.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU : Sir, I must express my gratitude to the Honourable the Law Member and to my colleagues in this House, specially to my Moslem friends, for the very kind response they have given to this Resolution. I am now in a position to console myself with the reflection that both the Government and the non-official Members of this House are at one with me on the necessity for this reform. The Honourable the Law Member's speech is certainly a helpful one. Though the Privy Council has often held that speeches made in the Councils and proceedings in Select Committees and things of that sort ought not to be looked into in interpreting a Statute, it is very often done. (*The Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair* : "At least at home.") The Honourable the Law Member's speech is helpful in that way. He has put the case very clearly and after what he has said no Magistrate ought to have any hesitation in holding that whenever it is proved that the customs of dedication involved spinsterhood and prostitution, persons who are responsible for the dedication will be guilty of an offence under section 372, Indian Penal Code. The Honourable Mr. Das has suggested to me that I might put forward a constructive proposal and that the Government would consider it favourably. I know that it is very difficult for non-officials successfully to get their Bills through all their stages in the Central Legislature, and I therefore venture to make a counter proposal to him that Government itself might consider the addition of a proviso to section 372, Indian Penal Code, on the lines suggested by my Honourable friend Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy. However, as a Swarajist, I ought not to throw away a suggestion made to me to be self-reliant, and therefore I want to take up the suggestion of the Government. With regard to my other suggestions, on reflection, I find that they are all within the competence of the

[Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu.]

Local Governments and therefore the Local Governments may be asked by the Local Legislative Councils to move in the matter. Having regard to the assurance given by the Law Member and the sympathetic response given by the House as a whole, I am sure I will be able to carry this Resolution, but under the circumstances I do not desire to press it to a division and if you, Sir, and the House will permit me I will withdraw the Resolution on the assurance given to me by the Honourable the Law Member and my Honourable colleagues, of further support.

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

RESOLUTION *RE* ENHANCEMENT OF THE DUTY ON FOREIGN LIQUORS.

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

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that with a view to promote and ensure moderation in the use of alcoholic liquors and at the same time to give effect to the recommendation of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, the duty on foreign liquors imported into India be enhanced by 50 per cent."

Sir, this Resolution is the direct sequel to the one moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu, and accepted by this House in a modified form in February last, on the subject of prohibition of alcoholic liquors in local Administrations under the direct control of the Government of India. The amended Resolution moved from the official side runs thus:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a policy designed to promote and ensure moderation in the use of alcoholic liquors should be adopted in the local Administrations under the direct control of the Government of India."

There is no doubt that this same policy would be pursued by the other Provincial Administrations as well. My Resolution suggests the first step to be adopted in the direction of promoting and ensuring moderation in the use of foreign liquors throughout India. By far, the largest consumers of foreign liquors, apart from the European community are, barring, of course, a few honourable exceptions, the well-to-do and the educated classes among the Indians, who have been wholly or partly westernized. I hope to be pardoned for so saying. I do not mean any offence or insult to the wealthy and educated communities of India and I may at once deny I am the author of this statement. It was Mr. Strathie, I.C.S., who, in his official report on the Excise policy of the Government of Madras, had made that astounding but not altogether unfounded assertion and I simply reiterate it here. In moving this Resolution I do not propose to put a ban on the literates and aristocrats of this country and ask them to totally abstain from enjoying this luxury. The Government of India are opposed to total abstinence and so it would be the height of folly for this class of consumers to go counter to their wishes and disoblige them. There is also the expert medical opinion of Major General T. H. Symons, in their favour, who said during the debate on this subject last time:

"Let me state straightaway that, in moderation—and what I am speaking is in favour of the amendment—that in moderation, alcohol is decidedly a food. When taken in

moderation, 98 per cent. of alcohol is absorbed or taken into the system—whether it be whisky, beer, toddy or arrack—98 per cent. of that is absorbed by oxidization ”.

Now that moderation in drink is the goal of the Government, the question arises as to how best to promote and ensure moderation. The first method is by education and propaganda, and the next by making the cost of liquors prohibitive. It will be something like carrying coals to Newcastle if we begin to educate the educated on the subject of “Moderate drinking”. The next course—and that is the only course available—is to levy a prohibitive tariff on the import of foreign liquors. This would wean, at least the educated classes who are proverbially poor, away from excessive drinking. As for the aristocrats, they will not mind even the prohibitive cost, if they are bent on too much drinking. Time and gradual drain of their wealth must alone bring them to their senses. So let us make an attempt, an earnest attempt at reforming the higher strata of society, by putting a heavy import duty on foreign liquors and making it impossible for the addicts of these drinks to buy them in larger quantities and use them in excess.

The Taxation Enquiry Committee have dealt with the question of increased tariff on foreign liquors rather exhaustively in their Report. They have made out a strong case for the levy of an increased tariff.

Further, the Taxation Enquiry Committee Report says :

“ A class of goods upon which a higher duty could apparently safely be imposed consists of wine, beer and spirits ”.

Of course, they make this recommendation on different grounds altogether. There is a supplementary customs duty in the shape of vend fees charges levied in Bombay and Bengal, and the Committee are at a loss to understand why the rest of India should not do so. They consider that if the duty is to be increased at all, it is much better that it should be increased through the tariff than by such indirect and partial means. They add :

“ that inasmuch as the root of the difficulty lies in the fact that the duty on the imported article goes to the Government of India and that on the locally-made article to the Provincial Governments, it would be best, in any re-arrangement of the proceeds of taxation that may be made, to arrange that both should be credited to the same head and so to put an end to the unhealthy competition that results from the division ”.

Well, whatever may be their view point, it is pretty clear that an increased tariff rate on foreign liquors and an equally heavy duty on locally-made liquors, will go to restrict their consumption a great deal more than at present, and this will be in consonance with the spirit of the Resolution recently adopted by this House. By so doing we will then bring at least one section of the population of India nearer to the goal of “Moderation” which the Government of India seem to embrace as their avowed excise policy. With these few words, Sir, commend this Resolution for your kind acceptance.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN : (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official). Sir, no Indian can oppose this Resolution. I support it.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : Question ? It all depends.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE (Finance Secretary) : I wish, Sir, I could follow the excellent example of my friend the Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das, who found it possible last week on two consecutive

[Mr. A. F. L. Brayne.]

Resolutions to accept them briefly in principle. The trouble in the case of Dr. Rama Rau is that, however excellent his principle, he wants to go much too fast. He seems to contemplate a sudden increase of 50 per cent. in the import duty on foreign liquors. Now the traditional policy of the Government for some years past has been one of maximum revenue and minimum consumption which being interpreted means that high taxation is used by them as an instrument to discourage the abuse of liquor and also to inculcate habits of temperance. Government have no desire to interfere with the moderate use of alcoholic liquor nor do they desire to drive people, by excessive taxation, to illicit distillation or to the use of more deleterious liquors and drugs. I would ask the House for a minute to hear with me while I indicate briefly what the Government found it possible to do during the last 20 years. In the last 20 years the duty on beer has been raised by 700 per cent., from one anna per gallon to 8 annas per gallon. Import before the War averaged about 4½ million gallons: in 1925-26 they amounted to 3½ million gallons, or one million gallons less. The duty on spirits, including whisky, brandy, rum and gin, was in the same period raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 21-14-0, or by more than 250 per cent. Consumption before the War was 1½ million gallons and in 1925-26 it was a little under that figure. In the case of wines, the duty on champagne was raised from Rs. 2-8-0 per gallon to Rs. 9, and that on other wines from Re. 1 to Rs. 4-8-0 in the same period. Imports averaged about 340,000 gallons before the War, but now they are only 275,000 gallons. Therefore, the policy of the Government has brought increased revenue and at the same time resulted in decreased consumption, and if it be asked why the reduction has not been greater, I think the reason is to be found in the growth of the population and in the spread of higher standards of comfort throughout India during the last few years.

My Honourable friend wants to raise this duty, which has already been raised by 250 to 700 per cent. by a still further 50 per cent. He has given the reasons which led the Taxation Enquiry Committee to make their recommendations, and I will not repeat those recommendations, but the House will realise from what Dr. Rama Rau quoted that the Taxation Enquiry Committee were not very enthusiastic on the subject.

I do not think that the Taxation Enquiry Committee can ever have contemplated such an increase of duty as 50 per cent. The Honourable Mover in his speech said that his main purpose was to decrease the immoderate use of foreign liquors, but I have yet to hear it said that the classes which mainly use these liquors are given over to intemperance. I think that one of the striking features of modern life has been the tremendous growth of temperance amongst these classes, and I believe His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will bear me out when I say that intemperance is now practically unknown in the Army. Nor do I think that we could count on much additional revenue from so heavy an increase as 50 per cent. I maintain that the only effect of an excessive duty would be that people who now drink foreign liquor will transfer their allegiance to so-called foreign liquor which is made in the country, and the benefit which my Honourable friend is so anxious to give to our revenues would, I think, be found in the end to accrue to the Provincial Governments. That is happening already, because the consumption of locally manufactured liquor of foreign type has doubled in the last 20

years. Also, if we impose such a high percentage of duty, it might affect the excise policy of Local Governments, and in this connection I may state that it is necessary to preserve a certain amount of equilibrium between the import duty and the local excise duty.

Lastly, there is one little point which cannot be entirely ignored. The great quantity of these imported liquors comes from other foreign countries, and I conceive they might find it difficult to resist counteraction if the Government of India imposed a very high increase in the duty on products imported from those countries.

Thus, to recapitulate, the duties are already very heavy, consumption has fallen to a considerable extent having regard to other factors, and there is no evidence of general intemperance or immoderate use of imported liquor. The Government of India, in adherence to their policy, consider annually at the time of the Budget whether increase in the customs duty is justified by all the circumstances of the case, and I can assure my Honourable friend that they will continue to give full consideration to the question both from motives of encouraging temperance and for revenue reasons, and, further, in connection with the revision of the tariff, to ensure a more equitable distribution of taxation. I am bound to say, however, that it is extremely doubtful whether so heavy an increase as 50 per cent. would be found possible. I trust, therefore, after this statement of the case, and considering the assurance that the question is already engaging the attention of Government and will continue to engage the attention of Government, my Honourable friend will see his way to withdraw his Resolution.

(No Honourable Member rose to speak. A little later the Honourable Dr. U. Rama Rau rose in his place).

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable Member wish to reply? He must look after his own interests.

THE HONOURABLE DR. RAO SAHIB U. RAMA RAU: Sir, the Honourable the Finance Secretary said that my proposal was too much. If it was too much, he might raise the duty by 10 or 15 or 25 per cent. At any rate, he has given me an assurance that the Government will consider the matter when the time comes for the preparation of the Budget. Therefore, I do not wish to press the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE: I thank the Honourable gentleman, but I hope he will realise that it is impossible to give any particular figure. But I can assure him that the Government will consider the matter when the proper time comes.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Honourable Dr. Rama Rau be permitted to withdraw the Resolution?

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN: No.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I presume the Honourable Member from the Punjab understands that his single voice saying: No means that the Resolution cannot be withdrawn.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN: I mean it. You may also ask the other Honourable Members.....

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. The question is:

"That the following Resolution be adopted:

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, with a view to promote and ensure moderation in the use of alcoholic liquors, and, at the same time, to give effect to the recommendation of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, the duty on foreign liquors, imported into India, be enhanced by 50 per cent.'

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE ERADICATION OF THE WATER HYACINTH PEST IN BENGAL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY:
(East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): I beg to move:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that 40 per cent. of the revenue realised out of the export duty on jute be utilised for the eradication of the water hyacinth pest in Bengal."

The object of my Resolution is to draw the attention of this House and through it of the Government of India to the awful condition in which a greater part of the province of Bengal is rapidly, though imperceptibly, drifting for the last decade or two. There have been devastating floods in different parts of India and appeals have been made to the Government for help from these quarters. The calamity that has befallen these parts is no doubt sudden and severe, but it is likely to be temporary and its effects will soon pass away, but the calamity that has overtaken Bengal, though not so sudden, is equally, if not more, severe, and is not of a temporary character. It is bound to get beyond all control if it is not seriously tackled immediately.

This weed, water hyacinth, botanically known as *Eichhornia speciosa*, was first introduced in the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta in 1896-98. On account of the bewitching blue flowers the plants were taken in and about Calcutta and soon filled up the tanks and ditches all round. In 1905, Mr. George Morgan took some of them to Naraingunj. In July 1913, practically the whole of Naraingunj, Baider Bazar, Rupganj and Araihasar thanas were blocked by them. Manikganj sub-division was affected in 1914, Kishoregunj and Brahmanbaria sub-divisions in 1916. In the rapidity of its growth the plant has now taken possession of almost every tank, ditch and *beel*, and the *haors* of Sylhet and north Mymensingh, the *Manda beels* in Naogaon sub-division, the *Chalan beel*, the *Sarail beels* in Tipperah, the *beels* of Gopalgunj and the *beels* of Gournadi, Uzirpur, and Swarupkathi in Backergunj are the worse sources of infection. It has now almost paralysed the water communications in Eastern Bengal. This is what Mr. Kalipada Maitra, the special officer on Water Hyacinth duty in Bengal, says in his report at page 2:

"In course of the last 12 months the Barisal mail was on many occasions held up by these weeds near the Kankhali bend, and in the Nazirpur-Matibhanga channel and missed connection at Khulna. The Chandpur-Raipura passenger steamer was held up for days together last year on the Tippera-Noakhali border. Navigation by boats on smaller rivers and *khals* presents a still greater difficulty. The channels are sometimes so much jammed that it might take even an hour to clear one hundred feet. I have seen many deep channels blocked in such a way that men and animals actually walk over them. The congestion is

ordinarily very acute below the bridges and many iron bridges have given way under the lateral pressure of the weeds holding up strong downward currents, e.g., at Baburhat in Khulna, at Kishoregunj in Mymensingh and at Hili in Bogra. There are very few roads and railway lines in Central and Eastern Bengal. Rivers and *khals* are the vital commercial arteries and trade routes, and blockage of these routes tends to paralyse communications. I have seen for myself how on account of the blockage of *khals* the merchants and shopkeepers cannot freely transport rice and other commodities. The effect is that the prices rise abnormally. I once noticed a difference of Re. 1 per maund of rice in different parts of the same thana in the district of Faridpur. I have also seen putrefaction of fishes, fruits and other perishable commodities while held up in transit in certain *khals*. All this might sound like a tale, but the situation can be better felt than described."

Agriculture has also been badly affected in low-lying areas, and this is what the same officer says about it :

"Not only is the navigation obstructed but agriculture in the low-lying areas is almost at the mercy of this pest. The broadcast *aman* paddy in the swampy areas counts as the first prey. The late sown jute cannot also escape its doom. According to my estimate a good 15 to 25 per cent. of the winter paddy in the low-lying areas is being damaged year after year since the advent of this infernal plant.

This pest has also taken possession of almost all the sources of water supply. There are very few tanks in Eastern Bengal which have not been polluted by water hyacinth. In Western Bengal the tanks are the plague spots. Even the tanks in Burdwan and Murshidabad districts are badly affected. It is a common complaint that the water hyacinth has affected the fishery kingdom. In many districts income from fishery has dwindled down considerably as the floating water hyacinth has brought about a partial extinction of the fishery particularly in the case of shallow waters. So that if we have to eradicate the pest we have to take into account almost every tank, ditch or *doba* as well as the big *beels* and rivers of Bengal. The task is superhuman and beyond the resources of provincial income.

"For the last twelve years "

I again quote—

"many of the district boards have been spending money over clearance of the worst affected *khals* but they have now grown disgusted and some have discontinued the work as a hopeless task. A channel cleared in the dry season is filled again early in the rains and again when flood water subsides. These boards now feel that unless they can organise simultaneous action all over and unless the border districts join in the campaign nothing can be done."

In order therefore to attain success we must take simultaneous, concerted and continuous action throughout the whole of the affected areas in Eastern and Central Bengal including the Sylhet districts of Assam. The vast and complicated nature of the task involved may best be comprehended by the following statement of the affected area given by Mr. Mitra. This is a statement showing the approximate area of cultivable lands, tanks, navigable channels, *khals*, *beels*, etc. In the Pabna District it is cultivable lands 276 square miles, tanks, ditches and *dobas* 37 square miles, navigable channels 14 square miles, *khals* which dry up 14 square miles and *beels* 41 square miles, total 382. In the Rajshahi district the total is 382 square miles. In the Faridpur district the total is 462 square miles. In Backergunj 253 square miles, in Dacca 447 square miles, in Mymensingh 1,024 square miles, in Tippera 830 square miles, in Noakhali 22 square miles, in Jessore, 264 square miles, in Khulna 203 square miles, making a total of 4,269 square miles. The solution of the problem how to eradicate the pest has long become very urgent and though the weeds assumed a serious proportion as early as 1914-16 nothing has been done by Government in the

[Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray Chaudhury.]

course of the last ten years. A responsible gentleman like Mr. O'Brien, District Engineer, Backergunj, accuses Government of playing with the problem. But the apathy of the Government of Bengal is perhaps largely due to lack of funds from which that Government has all along been suffering on account of unfair adjustment of the resources of Bengal between the Central and Provincial Governments. The unfavourable position in which Bengal has been placed compared with other provinces may be seen from the following table in which figures for the year 1921-22 are given :

	Realized by taxation.	Taken by Govern- ment of India.	Left to provinces.
	Lakhs.	Lakhs.	Lakhs.
Bengal	3,416	25,20	8,96
Bombay	3,777	24,87	13,10
Madras	21,32	9,57	11,75
United Provinces	13,81	3,80	10,01
Punjab	9,75	2,66	7,09
Central Provinces	5,70	98	4,72
Bihar and Orissa	4,93	57	4,42
Assam	2,17	35	1,82

The result has thus been that the Bengal Government has had to impose new taxation simply to carry on the administration without being able to allot any money for the nation-building or nation-conserving subjects. Consequently the Government of Bengal has been repeatedly pressing for the assignment of some more additional sources of revenue to it. Recently the Committee of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce pressed on the Honourable the Finance Member the desirability of transferring the proceeds of the export duty on jute to Bengal, and this claim has received the support of all public bodies in Bengal. Without going into the merits of this controversy, and conceding for the present that until the revision of the Meston Settlement this question cannot be solved, may I not, in the name of Bengal, appeal to my fellow countrymen from other provinces and to the Government of India to allot to Bengal, at least for 2 or 3 years a certain portion of the income derived from jute for eradicating the water hyacinth pest from Bengal? The cultivation of jute, which is the monopoly of Bengal, and other crops is being seriously hampered by this pest. It is also paralyzing the commercial arteries of Bengal. These are, I submit, matters greatly of Imperial concern and the Imperial Government ought to come out with contributions for solving the problem.

I now come to the cost involved for tackling the situation. According to figures collected by Mr. Maitra, about 981,120 acres have been infested with the pest in Bengal, and the cost estimated by the Irrigation Department for clearing an acre is about Rs. 200. This works up to a figure of about 19 crores. But the Government of Bengal is contemplating to pass laws compelling people to clear the weeds out of tanks and ditches in their private possession. This will no doubt greatly reduce the cost to be incurred by Government, but the real work in the matter of water hyacinth clearance, as observed by Mr. Maitra, 'lies not in tanks and ditches of private individuals but in *khals* and *beels*' and the cost therefore of eradicating the pest will fall more heavily on the shoul-

ders of the Government than those of private individuals. Government no doubt will try to impose this burden on the shoulders of the people themselves by imposing fresh taxation, but this is sure to meet with strenuous opposition from the people, especially when they will also be saddled with the cost of clearing the weeds from tanks and ditches in their own possession.

The burden of the export duty on jute also falls mostly on the poor jute cultivators, as is obvious from the fact that during the war boom, although the rich purchasers of jute, such as the jute mill-owners reaped huge profits, the price of jute continued as low as about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per maund. Moreover, as I have already submitted, export duty on jute and the maintenance of the commercial waterways of Bengal being an Imperial concern, it is not just and proper that the cost of eradicating the pest should be saddled on the shoulders of the people of the province. Taking the cost to be incurred by Government at about 10 crores and spreading it over 5 years, as proposed by Mr. Maitra, Government have to pay at least 2 crores each year towards the solution of this task. The Government of India are realising about 3 crores of rupees each year from the export duty on jute, and I therefore appeal to them to contribute 40 per cent. of this duty towards the eradication of the water hyacinth pest from Bengal which, if not done now, is sure to choke the fair province of Bengal with its livid blue flowers. The period for which it is to be paid I leave purposely open to be decided upon between the Government of India and the Bengal Government, because the time required for eradicating the pest would largely depend upon the method adopted, and the Local Government is alone best fitted to select the method. With these few words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of this House.

1 P.M.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. L. SWAN (Bengal: Nominated Official) : Sir, I feel that as an official serving in Bengal I owe it to the Honourable Mover to explain why I am unable to support his Resolution. In the first place, Sir, his request for a dole for two or three years is much too modest. The Honourable Mover has referred to the financial situation created in Bengal by the Meston Settlement. I should like to supplement what he has said by quoting, with your permission, Sir, two sentences in which the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey, at that time the Finance Member of the Government of India, summed up the situation when in September 1922 he moved a Resolution in another place recommending the remission of the Bengal Provincial Contribution of 63 lakhs. Sir Malcolm said :

" We have examined the case both narrowly and critically, and it appears certain that with every economy Bengal must have a deficit of not less than Rs. 120 lakhs even if we make no allowance for any extra expenditure on improvements in Transferred Subjects such as are desired by Ministers. . . . Bengal would have that deficit even if it provided only the bare minimum expenditure required to carry on the ordinary administration of the province."

(At this stage the Honourable the President vacated the Chair, which was taken by the Honourable Sir John Bell, one of the Panel of Chairmen.)

That remission, Sir, was sanctioned and it afforded some relief. But it was very far from setting right the injustice which had been done to Bengal. That injustice, Sir, will not be set right by a dole or a series of doles. It can only be remedied by a revision of the Settlement, and for that the Government

[Mr. J. A. L. Swan.]

of Bengal have never ceased to press. They would prefer that necessary adjustment should be made by means of the income-tax ; but if that cannot be arranged, I understand that they would gladly accept adjustment by transfer of a part, at any rate, of the export duty on jute. My second objection to the Resolution is that it proposes a reversion to the system of ear-marking which prevailed in pre-reform days. That system, Sir, if not unconstitutional, seems to me at least to be entirely contrary to the spirit of the reforms. Any additional revenue which may be assigned to Bengal should be at the absolute disposal of the Government of Bengal and of the Bengal Legislative Council. Finally, Sir, the Resolution is premature. The Honourable Mover has not overdrawn the picture which he has given us of the disastrous effects of the water hyacinth in Bengal. The problem affecting as it does the food supply, the public health and the communications of the province is a grave one and it is receiving the earnest consideration of the Government. I understand that legislation is being prepared, but there are many difficult questions to be settled, such, for instance, as the allocation of responsibility for clearing up the plant between the Government, the local authorities and private individuals. So far, no estimate of the cost has been prepared. The figures which the Honourable Mover has quoted are merely a rough and ready calculation which certainly cannot be accepted without further and very careful examination. Until, therefore, the cost is estimated, I think it would be entirely contrary to all principles of finance to vote a grant for the work. On these grounds, Sir, I regret that I am unable to support the Resolution. But I hope that shortly the Government of India will be able to take up the wider question of revising the Settlement and allotting to Bengal a revenue commensurate with her needs and with her just claims.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. F. L. BRAYNE (Finance Secretary): Sir, I fear that I have never made the acquaintance of the two species of the flora of Bengal now under consideration. There is something attractive in a proposal which would have the effect that one aquatic plant which has brought so much wealth and prosperity to certain areas of Bengal should be called upon to supply funds for the eradication of the extension and growing ravages of another such plant ; but I fear, there are many objections in the way of an available and domestic arrangement of that sort. The Government of India are fully sensible of the gravity of that problem and have the fullest sympathy with the Local Government, but they cannot agree in their difficulty to a solution of the problem on the lines proposed in this Resolution. I think it has been suggested that as the export duty on jute to the extent of nearly four crores is collected almost entirely in Bengal, it is only right and just that a share of that duty should accrue to Bengal as a means of relief to the province in her financial difficulties. I maintain that this is not a real argument. Jute is a definite monopoly and it has been held by all economists that when an export duty is imposed on an article for which no effective substitute can be found, that duty is inevitably imposed upon and paid by the foreign consumer. Therefore, it appears to me that on these grounds Bengal can have no claim to a share in the duty. When in 1923, the precarious nature of the finances of Bengal was under consideration, the Government of India very carefully considered whether they could not give Bengal a share of the export

duty on jute ; but they felt that it would be a dangerous precedent to allow a province a share of revenue collected in that province, and as an alternative they agreed to the remission of the provincial contribution to the extent of 63 lakhs. I mention this matter because this remission was really an alternative to a share of the export duty.

The main difficulty is a constitutional one and, of course, there is also a financial difficulty in the way of the present proposal. The first difficulty is that under the present constitution this subject of waterways in Bengal is a provincial subject for the management of which the province is solely responsible. It is therefore absolutely impossible for the Government of India to give any contribution from central revenues for the purpose stated. Then, of course, comes the financial reason. I think every one will admit that there have been various mistakes in the Meston Settlement. It does not work as well as it might do, but the Government of India, I think, have not been tardy to recognise their responsibilities. They have set themselves to get rid of the provincial contributions as quickly as possible. This year they have remitted them entirely, though part of the remission remains temporary. Now, it is to be hoped that this remission will become permanent, and supposing there were two crores available next year for the permanent remission of the contribution, and supposing this Resolution were accepted, the result would be that $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores or thereabouts would go to Bengal and that these $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores would have in reality to be paid by the United Provinces, by Bombay, by the Punjab and by Madras. I do not think my Honourable friends from those provinces are likely to be so full of loving-kindness as to agree to such an arrangement. Then, of course, if Bengal got a share of this duty, naturally this would drive other provinces to make similar claims. Bombay would probably, in due course, demand that a duty be imposed on the ship loads of cotton that are exported from that port in order that she might have some relief from her troublesome development liabilities. Burma would undoubtedly claim a share of export duty on rice.

Lastly, I think I may inform the House that Government have under consideration certain proposals for a modification of the Meston Settlement. It was discussed at the last conference of financial representatives. The dominant idea is that the Governments concerned should get a larger share in the growing income-tax revenues of the province. Of course, as the House is aware, Devolution Rule 15 has been a failure in that respect, and Bombay and Bengal have got little or nothing out of it. But under the proposal contemplated it is hoped that they will get some relief from their difficulties in this way. Obviously I cannot say anything more at this stage. The Provincial Governments are being addressed very shortly on the matter, and I cannot say how much Bengal might get out of this arrangement, but I would ask the Honourable Member to wait and see whether a solution cannot be found in that way rather than to press a Resolution asking for relief in a form which the Government could not possibly accept.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR NALINI NATH SETT (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I support this Resolution. It is well known that jute is produced only in Bengal and that a very large amount of customs duty is realized by the Central Government from the exportation of jute.

[Mr. Nalini Nath Sett.]

No part of this customs duty goes to the Provincial Government. One of the causes why Bengal is so unhealthy is the cultivation of jute. After the jute crop is cut the stems have got to be steeped in water for a few days in order to enable the fibre being extracted from the stems. This is done by keeping the sticks under water in the ponds, *beels* and waterways, with the result that the water in these ponds, *beels* and waterways gets contaminated and stinky and becomes unfit for use, even by the cattle and when there is a scarcity of good water various diseases break out. This is the result of the production of jute. Equitably, therefore, the Provincial Government should have a permanent share in the profits arising from the production of jute. My friend the Mover's demand is therefore very reasonable. He only asks for a certain period a portion of the income from jute. The question of eradication of the water Hyacinth has assumed such a formidable proportion in Bengal that it is not possible for the Provincial Government to cope with the evil with the very limited resources at its disposal.

As has been pointed out in the report of the special officer on water Hyacinth it is not possible for people to conceive of the misery which has been brought on Eastern and a part of Central and Northern Bengal by this pest. It is not possible for people while travelling in railway trains to believe that these apparently innocent flowery plants which look so nice can choke up the navigable channels in Eastern districts rendering navigation almost, and in many cases totally, impossible. This pest has now invaded Western Bengal, such as Burdwan and other districts and most of the tanks and waterways in Western Bengal have been polluted. The water of these tanks has got to be used for drinking and other domestic purposes as there is no water from any other sources available in most places, and the result is that various sorts of preventible diseases break out in epidemic form.

It has been reported by the special officer that this pest can be eradicated if a sufficient sum of money is available. As I have said before, the Bengal Government can hardly be expected to spend the large sum of money necessary for the purpose. As a result of the Meston award Bengal has been starved since the Reforms. It has with the greatest difficulty and owing to the remission of the Contribution to the Central Government been able to continue its routine administration with the limited resources at its command. It is therefore incumbent on the Central Government to come to the help of Bengal in these special circumstances. I would therefore appeal to the House to carry this Resolution and save the people of Bengal from diseases and untimely death.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN: (SIR JOHN BELL): The question is :—

“That the following Resolution be adopted :

‘This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that 40 per cent. of the revenues realised out of the export duty on jute be utilised for the eradication of the water hyacinth pest.’”

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION *RE* LEVY OF AN EXPORT DUTY ON OIL-SEEDS,
BONES AND OTHER FORMS OF MANURE.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : I beg to move :

“That this Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council to give immediate effect to the recommendation of the majority of the Taxation Enquiry Committee contained in paragraph 162 of their Report, regarding the levy of an export duty on oil-seeds, bones, and other forms of manure, with a view to promote the interests of the agriculturists in India.”

Sir, this Resolution hardly needs any lengthy comment. Since the publication of the Taxation Enquiry Committee's Report, the Government have adopted some of their recommendations *in toto* and have begun to revise the tariff rate in accordance with those recommendations. In some cases, they have disregarded the Committee's recommendations and have acted *contra* to their wishes. One instance of the latter will be found in the lowering of the import duty on motor-cars from 30 to 20 per cent. In regard to this the Committee distinctly held that :

“the much criticized 30 per cent. duty on motor-cars has justified itself as a producer of revenue. After a severe slump, which was partly due to special causes, imports have nearly recovered to the level they attained in 1919-20.”

But still, the Government thought fit to reduce the rate in the interest of the western trader and western manufacturer. The readiness and alacrity with which the Government of India sought to reduce this duty and thereby help the foreign producers to dump the excess output of motor cars on the Indian market is a striking contrast to the slow, halting and indifferent attitude they have adopted in giving effect to the majority of the Taxation Enquiry Committee in regard to the levy of an export duty on oil-seeds, bones and other forms of manure, calculated to further the interests of the Indian agriculturists. Thus, it is evident that there is no definite policy underlying the revision of tariff rates, that the Government are in no way guided by the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, nor are they prepared to consult the Legislatures before any tariff reform is contemplated. In this particular instance, there is every possibility of the Government brushing aside the majority recommendation and upholding the minority view. A clear and clever inking on this point is already given in the last line of paragraph 162 of the Taxation Enquiry Committee's Report which says :

“The President and Sir Percy Thompson are opposed to this recommendation, on which the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan expresses no opinion.”

and the Government are not slow to understand it. Read between the lines, it means that the European opinion is dead against this recommendation and the landed aristocracy of India, represented by the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, is indifferent to it and so no heed should be paid to majority recommendation. It is therefore incumbent on this Council to press the popular view and bring home to the Government of India the urgency and importance of the proposal which aims ultimately at the building up of a big oil industry in India besides bringing plenty and prosperity to the teeming poverty-stricken millions of agriculturists in this country. Hence this Resolution.

[Rao Sahib Dr. U. Rama Rau.]

A word about the productivity of oil-seeds and the possibility of an oil industry in India will not be out of place here. India is the principal source of supply of oil-seeds in the world. It produces the following seeds: Copra, mahwa, cotton seeds, rape, mustard, sesame, castor, linseed, poppy, ground-nuts, tea seeds, tobacco seeds, sunflower, etc., besides some mineral fats and oils. These oil-seeds are grown on an average over an area of 40,000,000 acres. No other country in the world produces such a great variety of oil-seeds in commercial quantities as India does. The total value of oil-seeds produced is about 50 million sterling and the total value of India's exports of oil-seeds, oils and oil-cakes amounts to 18 million sterling annually. Great Britain and Germany are the two principal European countries engaging on an extensive scale in the oil and allied industries. Oils and fats are consumed both for edible and technical purposes. Oil-cakes constitute the very valuable bye-products of the oil industry. These cakes are abundantly used as cattle fodder and fertilisers the world over. With the introduction of modern scientific methods and implements in Indian agriculture the demand for fertilisers is bound to increase in the near future. This will create an additional demand for oil-cakes and thus will serve to give a good impetus to the growth of the oil industry in India. Roughly speaking, about 25 per cent. of the oil-seeds produced in India are exported. The rest of the seeds remains in the country and is oftentimes consumed most uneconomically. Oil presses are still in use in large numbers in the country for the recovery of oils from their seeds. This method of recovery of oils is very primitive and wasteful, for, from 10 to 30 per cent. of the actual oil contents of the seeds remain in the cakes and they are entirely lost, as they serve no purpose in the cattle food or manure but rather do harm to both. This is a great national loss.

Mr. R. D. Anstead, C.I.E., the Director of Agriculture, Madras, writing in the *Planter's Chronicle*, gives some idea of the loss sustained by agriculturists in this country by export of manures. He says that in 1926, India exported 45,706 tons of bones, 1,07,142 tons of ground-nut cake and 44,46,600 tons of ground-nuts." During the same period, Madras alone exported 7,895 tons of bones, 3,23,120 cwts. of ground-nut cake, 3,55,293 cwts. of gingely cake, 20,653 cwts. of castor cake, 84,13,199 cwts. of groundnut seeds, 5,64,404 cwts. of castor seeds and 13,995 cwts. of bones. No wonder that the people of India are such miserable specimens of humanity, for they are denied cheap nourishing fatty foods, the cattle are merely limbs and bones, for they are deprived of much useful fodder for their consumption, and the soil is deteriorated and exhausted, for want of good fertilisers and manure.

The time has arrived that this huge exploitation should stop. A double wrong, a double injury has been done to India by this exploitation. It successfully prevents her from building up a large and profitable oil industry in this land and thus finding means of employment for the millions of unemployed roaming about from one end of the country to the other with bowls in hand begging for alms. It prevents also the improvement of the agricultural condition of India, which is fast decaying. It is true that the Government of India under Lord Irwin are trying their level best to improve the lot of the poor agriculturists and the Agricultural Commission that is now sitting is expected

to shower unlimited boons and untold blessings on their heads. But these Commissions are no good, these boons will be of no avail, if the root cause of the evil is not removed. The Indian agriculturist wants *money and manure*—money to buy his cattle, seeds and implements, and to free him from the clutches of money-lenders. He wants manure—cheap manure to fertilize his land and make it doubly and trebly productive. The forest policy of the Government has bereft him even of the shrubs and leaves which he once used as manure. The oil-cake, which he will have to depend upon, goes to foreign lands and is costly and prohibitive. His money problem can be solved by the wide establishment of Land Mortgage Banks, a proposal which this Council recently approved by passing a Resolution to that effect and the manure problem only by raising a high protective tariff wall against the export of oil seeds, bones and other forms of manure. The majority of the Taxation Enquiry Committee held that it is important in the interests of the Indian agriculture to encourage the use of fertilisers, and to increase the supply of a valuable nourishing food for cattle whose condition is generally regarded as deteriorating. They think that the most suitable method of doing so is to impose an export duty which would have the effect of encouraging the crushing of oil-seeds in India and of cheapening the cost of oil-cake and other forms of manure to the Indian cultivator. They also recommend that a part of the proceeds of this export duty should be applied towards educating the cultivators to make an increased use of these artificial manures and thus increase the productivity of the soil. No saner counsel could have been tendered by the Committee and the Government of India, if they are really sincere in their intentions and sympathetic towards the agriculturists, must seriously consider this recommendation and impose a heavy export duty on oil-seeds, bones and other forms of manure, which would form the basis of agricultural advancement in this country. I now commend this resolution for your kind acceptance.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU (Madras : Non-Muhamadan) : Sir, my only excuse for detaining the House at this somewhat late hour is to point out that we in Madras have a very unique co-operative product called the bone-meal which co-operative effort wants protection. The officers of the Agricultural Department of the Madras Government have urged upon the Local Government the imperative necessity of protecting the agricultural industry of the Presidency by controlling the exports of some of the indigenous manures. Many raiyats in the Madras Presidency, I know, are very anxious to use the artificial manures because they fully appreciate their nutritive value, but their prohibitive cost practically makes it impossible for them to use these manures. Therefore, the Madras agricultural officers have urged upon the Government some method of controlling the export and artificially keeping down the prices. The great difficulty now found is that the large exports to Japan, Java and Ceylon and to other places leave very little manure for use in the country. No doubt, a small portion of it is used here, but only in the case of very costly crops like sugar-cane. The answer which was given to the advocates of this protection is that the Fiscal Commission has reported that the reduction of prices will lead to diminution in production, and therefore the Government advanced the economic theory that the export duty should not be levied in order to reduce the prices of the manures, lest the producer might be hit. But I may be allowed to point out to this House, Sir, that the theory of the

[Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu.]

Fiscal Commission has been tested and found to be fallacious, with reference to these three forms of manures, bone-meal, oil-seeds and fish manures. Everybody knows that bone is a by-product and the theory of the Commission does not apply to such by-products. Because the quantity of bone available will depend on animals killed for food or which die of starvation or pestilence and so forth and not on the price of bone-meal. With regard to one other manure—fish manure—fishermen will carry on their trade and are not likely to be less employed because the value of fish manure will fall by the export duty. With regard to oil-seeds, the production is largely regulated by the agriculturist on the system of rotation of crops rather than by the value of the oil cakes. Therefore, I think the Fiscal Commission's economic theory is utterly fallacious with reference to these manures. Therefore, Sir, I am heartily in sympathy with this Resolution and press for a stern manural policy which will help the agriculturists and prevent the deterioration of the soil which is proceeding apace by the illegitimate export of available manures. For these reasons I support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : (Education, Health and Lands Member) : Sir, I wish, if I may, to congratulate the Honourable Doctor who adorns the medical profession in my part of India, for the keen interest that he has exhibited on behalf of the agriculturists. He will, however, pardon me if I say that both his diagnosis and treatment in this case are not as accurate as they are reputed to be in the case of human ailments. The question that he has raised is indeed not so simple as he imagines nor is its solution so easy as he suggests. Furthermore, I press one objection at this stage, namely, that the discussion of this question must be regarded as premature. I take it that the Honourable Member who has moved this Resolution is familiar with the past history of this case and I think it is only due to the House that I should, even at the risk of tiring their patience at this inconvenient hour, try and give them a brief resume of the past history of the question raised. In the year 1922, Mr. K. Reddy, of the same province to which my Honourable friend belongs, moved a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly to the following effect :

“That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that (a) the export of all kinds of manures from India be prohibited as soon as possible, and (b) that a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* be levied on all kinds of oil-seeds exported from India.” The Government spokesman who was in charge of that Resolution in the other place after enumerating the difficulties which the acceptance of this Resolution would involve, undertook on behalf of the Government to refer it for the consideration and report of the Board of Agriculture and further promised to refer it for consideration by the Fiscal Commission which was at that time functioning. The Board of Agriculture considered this Resolution very carefully and passed the following Resolution and communicated it to the Government of India :

“Without expressing an opinion on the portion of the Committee's Report dealing with phosphatic manures the Board is of opinion that on the evidence before it, it is doubtful whether the method of prohibition or restriction of export of bones, fish manure and other phosphatic manures would achieve the end desired ; but it is nevertheless of opinion that the retention of its manurial resources, especially of phosphate, is of vital importance to the future of the country and that it is essential that a constructive policy should be framed

which would lead to this end, and it therefore requests the Government of India to appoint a small Committee of about five members to consider the question from this point of view and suggest a constructive policy which will lead to the results desired."

Action on this Resolution was postponed pending the receipt of the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission to whom also this specific question had been referred, and my Honourable friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu has already referred to the fact that the Fiscal Commission reported against any such action. Their language in that connection is significant.

"Many witnesses have advocated the imposition of a protective export duty on oil-seeds. The argument is that a very large quantity of Indian oil-seeds is exported, and that by imposing an export duty the crushing of the oil-seeds would be carried out in India with economic advantage to the country. This proposal like all other proposals for protective export duties is inconsistent with our general principles. In the case of oil-seeds we consider that such a duty would be particularly disadvantageous to the country. Certain oil-seeds are grown very largely for the export trade. The Indian demand for the oil and the cake would be quite insufficient to absorb the whole product, if all Indian oil-seeds were crushed in the country. At the same time there are considerable difficulties in exporting the oil; and it is unlikely that any appreciable export trade in oil could be built up. The main result therefore of imposing a protective export duty on oil seeds would be that the producer would be sacrificed to an unsound economic theory, and that the production of a valuable crop would be discouraged."

In the next paragraph they refer to the use of manures not likely to be promoted by export duties. The Government of India were, therefore, in possession of two recommendations, one from the Board of Agriculture, which, while condemning an export duty, was nevertheless of opinion that it was worthy of being pursued and examined by a small Committee, and on the other, there was the distinct and unequivocal recommendation of the Fiscal Commission...

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY: Unanimous decision.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: Unanimous, and from a body consisting of Indians—that the export duty must be condemned for the reasons that they had advanced.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India still support that exploded economic theory?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: I will deal with my attitude about it. Faced therefore with this contradictory recommendation, the only alternative which the Government of India thought it expedient to adopt was to accept the recommendation of the Board of Agriculture and consider the desirability of installing a small Committee for the purpose of investigating the question as regards the conservation of the manurial resources of the country. This matter was seriously pursued and a proposal to that effect was laid before the Standing Advisory Committee attached to the Department of Education, Health and Lands. Along with this proposal Government had also laid before that Committee a few other proposals, all of which were intended to develop agriculture generally in India. The Committee, while arranging their programme of work, gave this particular item the last place on the priority list. It was impossible to ask the Finance Department to provide money for all the items of work included in that programme, including even the one which,

[Sir Muhammed Habibullah.]

according to the judgment of the Committee, was given the last place. Therefore, we were abiding time for the purpose of bringing into existence the proposed Committee, which for the sake of convenience had been officially designated as the Manures Committee. In the meantime, the last but not the least important incident in this long chain of events occurred—I refer to the Royal Commission on Agriculture which was appointed last year. While, therefore, this Commission has been charged with the specific duty of making recommendations pertaining to every item of agricultural development in this country, and while we expect to receive from that body some valuable recommendations regarding the conservation of the manurial wealth of India, we could take no further action on the Report of the Taxation Enquiry Committee. When the recommendations of the Royal Commission are received, and it is hoped that they will be received in the near future, I can assure the Honourable Member who has moved this Resolution that this matter will receive our most earnest and serious consideration.

THE HONOURABLE RAO SAHIB DR. U. RAMA RAU: I thank the Honourable Member for his assurance. In the circumstances I do not wish to press the Resolution.

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

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN (SIR JOHN BELL): I shall now ask the Leader of the House to make a statement with regard to future business.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Leader of the House): Sir, we shall have no business to place before the Council to-morrow. Wednesday, as Honourable Members are aware, is a non-official day. On Thursday, we shall proceed with the four Bills which have been laid on the table to-day, namely, the three Tariff Bills and the Indian Securities Bill, and motions will be made for the introduction, consideration and passing of the Aden Civil and Criminal Justice (High Court Jurisdiction Amendment) Bill, copies of which will be made available to Honourable Members this evening. Thereafter official Resolutions will be moved by myself and the Honourable Mr. Haig dealing respectively with certain Geneva Conventions and Recommendations, and with the encouragement of Empire cinema films.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 14th September, 1927..