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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1927



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Legislative Assembly.

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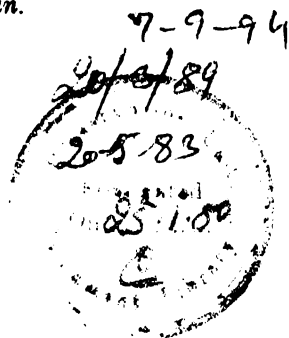
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MR. C. DURAISWAMY AYYANGAR, M.L.A.



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 13th September, 1927.

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

MEMBER SWORN.

Sardar Gulab Singh, M.L.A. (West Punjab : Sikh).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TRANSFER OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING HOUSE OFFICE TO DELHI.

913. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Clearing House office is to be shifted to Delhi in September 1927 ? If so, why have such orders been passed when the Resolution, of which notice has been given by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, has not yet been discussed in the Assembly ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Clearing House office is being moved to Delhi at the end of this month. The accommodation at Lahore, though it could be made to serve the purpose as a temporary measure, was very cramped, in fact, I understand that some of the clerks there had even during the hot weather to work in verandahs. It was therefore most desirable to transfer the office to its permanent location as soon as possible after the question of its location had been decided.

HIRE OR PURCHASE OF BUILDINGS AT DELHI FOR THE RAILWAY CLEARING HOUSE OFFICE.

914. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : Is it a fact that the building of buildings have been hired or purchased at Delhi for the Railway Clearing House office contrary to the Financial Commissioner of Railways' reply in the Assembly in the last Session on the 25th March 1927 that in Delhi the Government has its own building which can be occupied at a little or at no cost ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : We have purchased one building for 3 lakhs of rupees after ascertaining that there was no Government building in Delhi which could be made available to us for this purpose. It was only a hope which I expressed in the speech to which the Honourable Member has referred, and it has been now found impracticable of realisation.

DEMOLITION OF SOME PARTS OF THE BUILDINGS OF THE LATE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

915. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : Is it a fact that some parts of the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway buildings are being demolished ? If so, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : If the Honourable Member refers to the general office building of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway at Lucknow, the reply is in the negative except that a small bungalow has been condemned as dangerous and is being demolished.

TRANSFER TO LUCKNOW OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE LATE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

916. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any opportunity of bringing the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employees back to Lucknow ? If so, when and how ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my speech in this House on the 25th March, 1927, in which I explained how the Government and the East Indian Railway Administration were endeavouring in a number of ways to return old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway men to Lucknow and other up-country stations.

OPENING OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR MUSLIMS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

917. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Is it a fact that in view of the comparative fall in the number of Muslim pupils in the primary schools of Ajmer-Merwara the representative of the Provincial Muslim League, Rajputana, waited on the Education Member and submitted a memorandum to the Government of India in October 1925, in which, among other suggestions, numerous centres of Muslim population were pointed out as fit places where primary schools for Muslims could be opened ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state if any schools have since been opened in any of those centres ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to part (b) of his question No. 849 which was asked in this House on the 5th September, 1927.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION AMONG MUHAMMADANS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

918. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub :** (a) Is it a fact that the memorandum by the Provincial Muslim League, Rajputana, submitted to the Government of India in October 1925, reminded the Education Department that in April, 1920, the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara strongly approved of the formation of a small Committee to develop primary education among Muhammadans ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Education Department has not as yet done any thing towards the carrying out of the promise of the Local Government ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REFUSED ADMISSION INTO THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL AND THE MOINIA ISLAMIA HIGH SCHOOL IN AJMER.

919. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Will the Government be pleased to furnish the information as to how many students were refused admission during the session by the Headmasters of the Government High School and the Moinia Islamia High School which are the two Government Schools in Ajmer ? How many of these were Muhammadans ?

Mr. A. E. Dalal : A statement, showing the particulars required by the Honourable Member in so far as they are available, is laid on the table.

Name of School.	Number of boys who were refused admission during the session.		
	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Total.
1. Government High School, Ajmer*	97	16	113
2. Moinia Islamia High School, Ajmer	5	26	31
	102	42	144

*For July 1927 only.

N. B.—The present session commenced only from the 1st July 1927.

NUMBER OF MUHAMMADAN AND MAHRATTA TEACHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, AJMER.

920. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish the information as to how many Muhammadan teachers other than Persian and Urdu Maulvis and the Drill Instructor, were on the staff of the Government High School, Ajmer, on 1st April 1917 and on 1st April 1927 ?

(b) Will the Government be further pleased to state how many Maharatta teachers were on the staff on these two dates, respectively ?

Mr. A. E. Dalal : (a) and (b). A statement, giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Government High School, Ajmer.

	On 1st April, 1917.	On 1st April, 1927.
Number of Muhammadan teachers (other than Persian and Urdu Maulvis and the Drill Instructor).	3	1
Number of Mahratta teachers	2	5

SUPERVISING STAFF OF THE BOARDING HOUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, AJMER.

921. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Is it a fact the Assistant Headmaster, Government High School, Ajmer, is also the Superintendent of

the boarding house attached to the School and has an Assistant Superintendent under him who also is a Hindu ? Are there any Muhammadan boys in the boarding house ? If so, why has not a Muhammadan been appointed to hold one of the two posts of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of the boarding house ?

Mr. A. R. Dalal : The answer to the first two queries is in the affirmative. There are only 18 Muhammadans as against 86 Hindus and 12 Jains in the boarding house.

ENTERTAINMENT OF UNPASSED GIRL CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.

922. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 1339, dated 22nd March 1926, relative to the employment of unpassed girl clerks in some branches of Army Headquarters, will Government please state whether such clerks are still being entertained in these offices ? If so, why ?

(b) Are passed candidates available to replace them ?

(c) If so, what is the justification to further employ them ?

(d) Was it the opinion of a late Quartermaster General in India that girl clerks were more of a hindrance than a help to Government ?

(e) Why do the branches of Army Headquarters and the Railway Board engage them in preference to duly qualified clerks ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) A few lady clerks who are unpassed are still employed because no passed lady clerks are available.

(b) Only passed men clerks are available.

(c) Lady clerks are considered to be more suitable for the work on which they are employed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) For the reason given in my answer to part (c).

I am informed that the only ladies at present employed in the Railway Board's office are two typists and one stenographer.

GRANT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES TO THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ETC.

923. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) With reference to the reply on 22nd March 1927 to starred question No. 1109, relative to the grant of house rent allowances to the clerical staff of the Army Headquarters, will Government please state whether the amounts have since been worked out ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Has the expert inquiry been instituted ?

(d) If not, when will it be done ?

(e) Will Government please say when the labours of the expert inquiry are likely to be finished ?

(f) Who are the personnel of the inquiry ?

(g) Is it a fact that the 2nd Innes Committee recommended some reduction from the officers' establishment of the Army Headquarters ?

(h) If so, has any effect been given to these recommendations ?

(i) If not, why not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes. The net extra cost is estimated at Rs. 1½ lakhs.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The officer conducting the inquiry was expected to arrive by the last mail and will begin his inquiry immediately.

(e) Probably by the middle of November.

(f) The inquiry is being conducted by Mr. H. N. Heseltine, C.I.E., an officer of the Finance Department, who retired in 1918 after 37 years' service, and is an expert in office establishments.

(g) Yes.

(h) Yes.

(i) Does not arise.

GRANT OF NOT-ENTITLED OR INDULGENCE PASSAGES TO CIVILIAN CLERKS OF THE ARMY DEPARTMENT AND ARMY HEADQUARTERS HAVING AN INDIAN DOMICILE.

924. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Is it a fact that under Army Regulations, India, Volume X, civilian clerks of the Army Department and Army Headquarters are entitled to not-entitled or *indulgence* passages to the United Kingdom and back to India ?

(b) If so, will Government please state whether the rule is equally applicable to civilian clerks having an Indian domicile ?

(c) If not, why not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) A not-entitled passage is a passage to which no one is entitled, but all civilian clerks in the Army Department are eligible for not-entitled passages if vacant berths are available. Under present conditions, the supply of entitled passages is barely sufficient to meet requirements : and there are no berths left over for not-entitled passages, which exist now only in name.

(b) The question of domicile has never been raised in this connection.

(c) Does not arise.

LEAVE RESERVE FOR THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

925. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Is it a fact that the principle of the leave reserve for the clerical establishment of the Army Headquarters has been accepted by the Government ?

(b) If so, when is it proposed to give effect to this principle ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) and (b). The question is under the consideration of the Government of India, and a decision will be reached after the report of the officer, who is inquiring into the clerical establishments of Army Headquarters, has been received.

SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS FOR EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN CLERKS IN THE SPECIAL TRAIN RUNNING BETWEEN SUMMER HILL AND THE SIMLA GOODS SHED.

926. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Is it a fact that a special train composed of three bogie carriages runs on week days between Summer Hill and Simla Goods Shed to transport clerks of the Army Headquarters residing at Summer Hill ?

(b) If so, will Government please state whether there are any orders under which Indian clerks and Superintendents are not allowed to travel in the same compartment with their European and Anglo-Indian fellow clerks ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a widespread discontent among the Indian clerks that they are made to travel with menials and domestic servants of the European and Anglo-Indian clerks in the same compartment ?

(d) Are Government prepared to issue orders to stop this practice ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir, there is no separate reservation for European, Indian or Anglo-Indian clerks.

(c) The answer is in the negative. Government are not aware of any widespread discontent among the Indian clerks. These clerks are not made to travel with menials or domestic servants.

(d) Does not arise.

RETENTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE MASTER GENERAL OF SUPPLY IN SIMLA DURING THE WINTER.

927. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Is it a fact that, with the exception of the Master General of Supply Branch, other Branches of Army Headquarters, either wholly or partly, move down to Delhi during the winter months ?

(b) If so, will Government please state why this Branch is differently treated in the matter of the move ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is widespread discontent amongst the officers and clerks of this Branch that while their confreres in other Branches of Army Headquarters go down to Delhi, they are forced to spend the snowy months in Simla ?

(d) Is it a fact that on this account a large number of applications for privilege leave for winter months are received from the civilian clerks of this Branch ?

(e) Is it a fact that generally medical certificates are called for from the clerks before leave is granted ?

(f) If so, why cannot leave earned and admissible be granted without medical certificates ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is not sufficient accommodation at Delhi for all the Branches of Army Headquarters, and there is nothing to be gained administratively by bringing the Master General of Supply's Branch down to Delhi for the winter.

(c) There is no discontent amongst the officers, and Government are not aware of any widespread discontent among the clerks.

(d) No, Sir. On the contrary, the majority of applications for privilege leave are received, and granted, during the summer months.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

ABOLITION OF THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

928. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Is it a fact that a proposal for the abolition of the examination system for recruitment to the Government of India Secretariat and attached offices is under contemplation ?

(b) If so, when will the decision be arrived at ?

(c) Is it a fact that the proposal is to revive the old system whereby recruitment used to be made on the nomination basis ?

(d) If so, what will be the fate of those candidates who have already qualified for appointments in the respective divisions at the examinations held by the late Staff Selection Board and the Public Service Commission ?

(e) Do Government propose to issue orders to the effect that these men should be given preference to outsiders ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Do not arise.

ALLEGED USE OF A TIME-EXPIRED PASS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, T. DIVISION, FOR HIS JOURNEY FROM MADRAS TO TRICHINOPOLY.

929. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Has the attention of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, India, and of the Government of India been drawn to resolution No. 2, passed by the Bangalore Railway Mail Service Association on the 31st October, 1926, and published at page 310 of the General Letter for November 1926 issued by the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union, Madras Circle ?

(b) What are the " card passes " referred to ?

(c) Were they issued before or after 1st April 1926 ?

(d) If before the 1st April 1926, how were they current after the 1st April 1926 when passes had been withdrawn ?

(e) Is it true that the Superintendent, R. M. S., T. Division, travelled under cover of such a time-expired pass from Madras to Trichinopoly on

the 18th September, 1926, in a first class compartment and was challenged by the Travelling Ticket Examiner, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, at Tanjore ?

(f) When was this time-expired pass actually withdrawn from the Superintendent ?

(g) Did the Superintendent use that pass from the 1st April 1926 up to the date of withdrawal ?

(h) If so, did he deduct in his travelling allowance bill the railway fare covered by the free pass ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Government have no information on the subject. Enquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course.

RETENTION OF EXCESS CLERKS IN THE OFFICES OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES AND THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

930. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (a) Is it a fact that orders have been issued that no clerk should be retained excess in the offices of the Superintendents of Post Offices and the Railway Mail Service ?

(b) When were the orders issued ?

(c) Is it also a fact that Superintendents are asked to certify in their diaries that no excess clerks are retained in their offices ?

(d) Is it a fact that one K. Ramaswamy Pillai was retained in the office of the Superintendent, R. M. S., T. Division, Trichinopoly, in excess from January 1927 to June 1927 ?

(e) Have Government taken notice of this irregular retention ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) 7th March, 1927.

(c) Yes.

(d) Information has been called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

(e) Action will be taken if necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF VENKATASWAMY, POSTAL MAIL OVERSEER, NELLORE DIVISION, AS A MAIL GUARD IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, TRICHINOPOLY.

931. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt :** (1) Is it a fact that one Venkataswamy, postal mail overseer, Nellore Division, has been appointed a mail guard Trichinopoly Railway Mail Service in May 1927 ?

(2) If so, will Government kindly state if the appointment is permitted by the rules of the Department ?

(3) Has the appointment blocked the promotion of van peons to the post of mail guards ?

(4) Is it a fact that this Venkataswamy travelled in the mail van with section T.-2 Out Set No. 3 on the 28th May, from Trichinopoly to Egmore on a requisition given by the Sub-Record Clerk, Trichinopoly R. M. S. ?

(5) What appointment did he hold on the date in the Railway Mail Service and why was he allowed to travel at Government cost from Trichinopoly to Egmore ?

(6) Is it true that the present Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, T.-Division, was in 1924 Superintendent of Post Offices, Nellore Division ?

Mr. H. A. Sams : (1) Yes. But he did not join.

(2) Yes. Direct recruitment is permitted.

(3) Does not arise, in view of the reply to (1).

(4) and (5). Information has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(6) Yes. Up to 1st September, 1924.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROSPECTS AND TERMS OF SERVICE OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT STORE-KEEPERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

932. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Will the Government please state the total number of candidates that offered themselves for the clerical and storekeepers' appointments respectively at each of the last two examinations for recruitment in the Indian Army Service Corps of Supply and Transport clerks and storekeepers ?

(b) What is the total number of qualified candidates on the waiting list for clerical and storekeepers' appointments respectively ?

(c) Is it a fact that the storekeepers have to prove their knowledge of book-keeping in addition to passing the usual test which is common for clerks and storekeepers ?

(d) Is it a fact that the storekeepers have to deposit a cash security of Rs. 1,200 which is not demanded from clerks ?

(e) Is it also a fact that the scale of pay of storekeepers is much lower than that of clerks ?

(f) When do the Government propose to improve the prospects and terms of service of the Supply and Transport storekeepers to attract a sufficient number of qualified candidates ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) 750 candidates applied for clerical appointments and 62 for storekeepers' appointments in the last examination but one. The numbers for the last examination were 738 and 180, respectively.

(b) 127 for clerical appointments and none for storekeepers' appointments.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, because storekeepers have charge of valuable Government stores. Interest on this security is paid annually to the storekeeper.

(e) No, Sir. The initial pay of clerks and storekeepers is the same. The prospects of the clerks and of those storekeepers who are employed in the M. T. Branch are slightly better than those of storekeepers in the Supply Branch.

(f) A sufficient number of qualified candidates already apply for appointment as storekeepers ; the remainder of the question does not therefore arise.

APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES WHO PASSED THE QUALIFYING TEST FOR CLERKS FOR THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS AS SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT CHECKERS.

933. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah** : (a) Is it a fact that a large number of candidates who passed the Indian Army Service Corps examinations for clerical appointments as early as in March, 1926, have not so far been provided ?

(b) How many posts of Supply and Transport checkers have been filled since March 1926 ?

(c) Were all or any of these posts of checkers which were offered to passed clerks accepted by any of them ?

(d) Do the Government propose to issue instructions to the effect that in future all vacancies of checkers should first be offered to passed clerks that have not so far been appointed ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes.

(b) 43.

(c) Three of the candidates who passed the qualifying test for clerks have been appointed checkers.

(d) Yes.

AGE LIMIT PRESCRIBED FOR DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTIONS IN CERTAIN SERVICES.

934. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah** : (a) Will the Government please state whether any age limit is prescribed for the promotion of postal officials from the grade of Inspector to that of Superintendent, or for departmental nomination for the All-India Accounts and Audit Service, or for promotion from the ministerial appointment of a Superintendent in the Secretariat to that of Assistant Secretary ?

(b) Is it a fact that departmental candidates holding permanent appointments in the second division of the Secretariat are not considered eligible candidates for examination for the first division of the Secretariat if they are above thirty ?

(c) If so, when do the Government propose to remove this restriction ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) I understand that promotion to the grade of Superintendent of Post Offices is allowed to postal officials after they have passed the departmental examination. Ordinarily no one is nominated for the examination whose age exceeds 31 years. There is no age limit prescribed for the promotion of subordinates to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, or of members of the ministerial establishment to the rank of Assistant Secretaries in the Departments of the Government of India.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government do not consider that it is in the interests of the public service that clerks in the Secretariat should continue year after year to prepare and enter for examinations till an advanced age, and the age of 30 appears to represent a reasonable limit.

GRANT OF PERMISSION TO ASSISTANTS OF ATTACHED OFFICES TO APPEAR AT DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION AS SECRETARIAT ASSISTANTS.

935. *Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : (a) Will the Government state the nature of work usually entrusted to (a) second division clerks of the Secretariat (b) assistants of attached offices and (c) assistants of the Secretariat ?

(b) Is it a fact that the duties of attached office assistants are more like those of the Secretariat assistants than of those of the second division Secretariat clerks ?

(c) Is it a fact that second division Secretariat clerks are usually considered eligible for departmental examination for the Secretariat assistants and that the attached office assistants are not permitted to appear at departmental examinations for promotion as Secretariat assistants after passing the usual examination ?

(d) When do the Government propose to remove this treatment accorded to the attached office assistants ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman on the 15th September, 1925, to Mr. Mahmood Schamnad Sahib Bahadur's question No. 943.

(b) No, Sir. I should say it was a matter of opinion.

(c) No purely departmental examinations are now held for promotion to the upper division. All candidates who are eligible under the rules, whether outsiders or departmental, are examined together and the successful candidates come on to a common list from which selections are made for appointments in the upper division.

(d) Does not arise.

REVISION OF THE PAY AND PROSPECTS OF FIRST DIVISION ASSISTANTS IN ATTACHED OFFICES.

936. *Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : (a) Is it a fact that the following educational qualifications were prescribed for admission to the Staff Selection Board examination in 1920, namely—First division Secretariat, University Degree, first division attached offices, University Degree, second division Secretariat, Intermediate ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the following educational qualifications were prescribed for admission to the Public Service examination in 1926—First division Secretariat and also attached offices, Intermediate, second division Secretariat, Matriculation ?

(c) Is it a fact that the educational qualifications and also the nature of work expected from attached office first division is more like that of the Secretariat first division than the Secretariat second division ?

(d) Is it a fact that the scales of pay and allowances (specially the maximum pay) of first division attached offices is not better than those of the second division Secretariat ?

(e) Is it a fact that the prospects of departmental promotion to the first division Secretariat are better for the second division Secretariat than for the first division attached offices ?

(f) When do the Government propose to revise the pay and prospects of the first division attached offices to bring them nearer to the first division Secretariat ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes.

(b) For the examination conducted by the Public Service Commission, Ministerial Selection Branch, in November, 1926, the Intermediate standard of any University or the Senior Cambridge was prescribed as the minimum educational qualification required of outside candidates for the first and second division.

(c) No exact comparison can be made as conditions vary so widely.

(d) The scale of pay for first division assistants in an attached office is Rs. 120—8—160—10—350 and, in certain offices Rs. 220—12—440.

The scale for second division Secretariat clerk is Rs. 100—8—172—*efficiency bar*—180—8—300 with a special grade of Rs. 300—25—350. The special grade is confined to those who show special merit and capacity and fulfil certain other conditions of service : it is also subject to a limit of 10 per cent. of the permanent staff. It will be seen that the two scales are not strictly comparable.

(e) It is open to an attached office assistant, who is duly qualified, to apply for a post in the Secretariat first division.

(f) The Government of India do not propose to take any action in the matter.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTACHED OFFICES.

937. ***Fao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Will the Government please state the date on which they received the representation from the attached offices for revision of their pay ?

(b) What has been the cause of delay in announcing the decision and what is the present stage of the case ?

(c) When do the Government propose to issue orders and when do they propose to give retrospective effect from the date on which they received the representation or the date from which they sanctioned increase in the scale of pay of attached office stenographers ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) The representation was received in June 1926.

(b) and (c). It was necessary to obtain the views of all Departments of the Government of India in the matter. Orders declining to undertake any general revision of pay were issued on the 5th September, 1927.

†938.*

† Not asked at the meeting, but the question and the answer thereto will be found at pages 4231—32 of these proceedings.

CARRIAGE, FREE OF CHARGE, BY THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY OF CLOTHES AND OTHER NECESSARIES OF LIFE FOR THE SUFFERERS FROM FLOODS IN GUJARAT.

939. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) If their attention has been called to a message from the Free Press of India under the caption "Karnatak Workers for Flood Areas" published in the issue of the *Indian Daily Herald* of Bombay in its issue of the 22nd August, 1927 ?
- (b) If so, whether it is true that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company has refused to carry clothes and other necessaries of life for the benefit of sufferers from the floods in Gujarat from the Karnatak, free of charge ?
- (c) If they will lay on the table the correspondence on this subject between Dr. N. S. Hardikar and the said Railway Company ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have received an extract copy of the article referred to from the Honourable Member and are making enquiries the result of which will be communicated to him.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF INDIAN APPRENTICE ENGINEERS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

940. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda** : (a) Is it a fact that under the rules in force on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway all apprentice engineers on that line are entitled to receive travelling allowance at the rate of Rs. 4 per night ?

(b) Are Indian apprentice engineers paid travelling allowance at that rate ?

(c) If not, will Government give reasons why this is not done ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) The rule draws no distinction between Indians and non-Indians.

(c) Does not arise.

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS ON RS. 500 AND OVER ON STATE RAILWAYS.

941. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 500 and above in the Railway Departments under the Government ?

(b) How many of these appointments are held by Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians) in general and by Biharis in particular ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I would refer the Honourable Member to Appendix 'F' in the Report on Indian Railways, Volume I, for 1925-26. Anglo-Indians are not shown separately from other Indians in this Appendix ; but, as I explained to the House the other day, we propose to separate the figures in future. Our statistics do not show the provinces from which employees come.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL ENGINEERS IN THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

942. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** : (a) What is the total strength of civil engineers in the Railway Departments under the Government ?

(b) How many of these railway civil engineers are Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians) ?

(c) Is any of these Indian civil engineers in the Railway Department a Bihari ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The permanent engineer officers number 310, of whom 87 are Indians, excluding statutory Indians. Government do not know how many are Biharis.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS RAILWAY CIVIL ENGINEERS.

943. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of posts of railway civil engineers that fell vacant within a period of the past five years and also the number of Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians) who were appointed as such ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of posts of railway civil engineers that are likely to fall vacant in the coming five years ?

(c) Will all these posts be filled up by qualified Indians ? If not, why ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) 39. 19 Indians, excluding statutory Indians, were appointed.

(b) 60 approximately.

(c) They will be filled in accordance with the regulations published with Railway Board's Resolutions No. 2058-E., dated 15th July, 1926, and 4048-E., dated 6th July, 1927, which appeared in the Gazette of India, dated 17th July, 1926, and 9th July, 1927, respectively.

APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED INDIANS AS RAILWAY CIVIL ENGINEERS.

944. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** : (a) Are the Government aware that a large number of Indians including some Biharis having qualified themselves for the posts of railway civil engineers from British Universities are sitting idle for want of employment ?

(b) Will the Government state the number of applications from Indian candidates for the above posts ?

(c) Is there any such application from a Bihari candidate ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government are aware that some Indians have returned from abroad having qualified as civil engineers in British Universities.

(b) and (c). Appointments are made in accordance with the regulations referred to in the reply given by me to the Honourable Member's previous Question. Under these regulations all applications are dealt with by the Selection Committees appointed by Provincial Governments and consequently the Government of India do not know exactly how many applications were received by the Bihar and Orissa Committee. I might, however,

mention that out of a quota of 7 candidates for the Indian Railway Service of Engineers allowed to the Bihar and Orissa Province for the 1926 examination, that Province nominated only 4 candidates. None of these qualified at the examination.

INDIANISATION OF THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

945. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh : Is it a fact that the Government are pledged to Indianise the Railway Department? Are the Government prepared to announce and to definitely direct the Railway Board that qualified Indians being available, all vacancies in all grades of the Railway Department shall in future be filled up by Indians ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The policy of Government is that recommended by the Lee Commission in paragraph 42 (d) of their report. I would refer the Honourable Member to the Railway Department's Resolution No. 2658-E., dated 15th July, 1926, in which it was announced that those recommendations of the Lee Commission were accepted by Government.

REPAIR OF BREACHES OF THE LINE ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

946. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Are Government aware that the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company expected to repair the breaches of the line due to the Orissa floods in three weeks ?

(b) When are they going to resume regular traffic ?

(c) Did the Engineer, Bengal Nagpur Railway, suddenly reduce the wages of labourers working on the breaches to 8 annas per day, thus making about 2,000 men leave work three or four days ago ?

(d) Do Government propose to ask the Company to raise wages so that the distressed people of the locality may find it possible to work ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Our latest information is that the Bengal Nagpur Railway Administration expect through running to be restored by the 15th of this month. They originally hoped to repair the very extensive breaches on the East Coast line earlier, but have been much hampered by further floods from the Baitarani river.

(c) and (d). Government have received no information to this effect and do not propose to address the Railway Administration on the subject.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

947. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : Have the Railway Board issued any new orders this year for retrenchment to the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No. The Honourable Member is possibly referring to letters which the Railway Board issued this summer to all Railway Administrations suggesting an investigation by them of methods whereby they could obtain economy in administrative charges and in their expenditure on the repairs and maintenance of rolling stock. I am having copies of these letters placed in the Library.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

948. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Were there any complaints purporting that the present retrenchment in the Bengal Nagpur Railway is

contemplated as a measure of retaliation against the recent strike by means of (i) representation or deputation ; (ii) meetings and resolution ; (iii) criticisms in the Press ?

(b) If so, what are those complaints and how were they met ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have received no complaints to this effect, though, I believe, that there have been suggestions in one or more papers to the effect that the contemplated reduction in the staff of the Kharagpur workshops is a measure of victimization. I am, therefore, very glad to be able to take this opportunity of stating publicly that this is not so. The reductions are entirely due to the fact that there is not now, and is not likely to be for a very considerable period, sufficient work in the Kharagpur workshops to keep the present number of men there employed.

As I have explained in reply to a question recently put by Mr. Joshi, no question of retrenchment arises.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether Government are aware that Mr. Towers, the Works Manager of the Kharagpur Shops, issued instructions to the foremen that those people who had acted as blacklegs during the last strike should not be retrenched at any cost ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am not aware of it, but if any such instructions were issued they were quite without authority.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Will the Government inquire whether such instructions were issued and what steps do Government propose to take to deal with the officer who issued such instructions ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : As I have said, I am not aware that such instructions have been issued. I will make inquiries.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

949. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** (a) How many men have been discharged during the last six months in the Bengal Nagpur Railway ?

(b) How many of them had put in more than three years' service or regular work ?

(c) How many permanent employees have been discharged under the present policy of retrenchment ?

(i) How many in 1926,

and (ii) How many in 1927 up-to-date ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to discharges from the Kharagpur workshops. If so, as has been explained in replies recently given to the Honourable Mr. Joshi, 178 men were discharged prior to the issue of the recent notice of reduction in establishment and it is proposed to dispense with the services of about 2,000 more either by voluntary resignations or by discharges. Government are not aware how many of the men who have been formerly discharged had put in more than three years' service but, as is explained in the notice, a copy of which has previously been laid on the table, the reduction will be made, in the first place, from men approaching or
past 55.

(c) No employees have, so far as Government are aware, been discharged during the two years mentioned as a measure of retrenchment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Government are aware that during the last two months, when proposals for economy were being considered, the Bengal Nagpur Railway engaged more than 300 new men ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I do not think I have received any information to that effect, Sir. If the Honourable Member will give me the information in his possession, I shall be glad to inquire.

Pandit Nilakantha Das : Was any assurance given that men working more than three years would not be discharged ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No assurance was given to that effect, but as was explained in the notice, the methods adopted to effect the reduction are as follows :

First of all, voluntary resignations, which were acceptable up to the 7th September ; thereafter people who were approaching the age of retirement, that is to say, men of the age of 54 or 55 ; thereafter by selection from persons according to their work, men who had done the best work naturally being retained. I did however bring to the notice of the Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, as the result of a question put to me by some Honourable Member when last the subject came up before this House, the suggestion that he should, other things being equal, give preference in retention to those people who had had done a good many years of good service on the railway.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY CONSEQUENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF PUNCHING AND THE DISC SYSTEM.

950. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** (a) Did the Loco.-Auditor, Bengal Nagpur Railway, introduce punching and the Disc system ?

(b) What was the retrenchment achieved in introducing that system ?

(c) Is the system working ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Information has been called for from the Bengal Nagpur Railway and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY CONSEQUENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDRESSOGRAPH AND GRAPHOTYPE AND ACCOUNTING MACHINES.

951. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** (a) Has the Loco.-Auditor introduced any Addressograph and Graphotype machine, and accounting machine for compilation of pay sheets, etc. ?

(b) What is the entire cost of the establishment of those machines ; and what is the price of the machinery ?

"(c) What retrenchment has the new machinery arrangement effected? Will the Government please give an exact estimate?"

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Information has been called for from the Bengal Nagpur Railway and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

EXPENDITURE ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY FOR SUPERIOR AND SUBORDINATE SUPERVISING STAFFS.

952. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** Will the Government give statements comparing in the Bengal Nagpur Railway the estimated expenditure between 1920-21 and 1926-27 :

(i) for the maintenance of superior supervising staffs under the heads

(a) Engineering, (b) Loco. Carriage, (c) Traffic, (d) Agency, (e) Audit, (f) Stores, (g) Watch and Ward; and

(ii) for the maintenance of subordinate supervising staff under the heads

(a) Engineering, (b) Loco. Carriage, (c) Traffic, (d) Audits, (e) Agency, (f) Stores?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : As I explained on the 7th instant in reply to a question by Mr. Joshi, the final figures for 1926-27 are not yet available; but I will supply the Honourable Member with the information required as soon as they come in.

Pandit Nilakantha Das : Will the Honourable Member lay the information, when received, on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I will see what the size of the statement is, Sir. If it is not long, I will lay it on the table; otherwise I will place it in the Library.

CASES OF ASSAULT BY SUPERIOR OFFICERS ON WORKERS AND LABOURERS IN THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

953. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das :** (a) Are the Government aware of the statement of the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, in the supplement to Bengal Nagpur Railway, Gazette No. 8 of 19th February 1927, that "undoubtedly such cases (of assault by superior officers on workers and labourers) do occur, and inevitably must occur owing to the frailties of human nature, but any proved cases of physical violence and gross and excessive abuse will be promptly dealt with"?

(b) How many cases of assault, bribery, victimisation, ill-treatment and harassment have since come to the notice of the Agent, and how have they been dealt with?

(c) How, in this connection, has the Agent dealt with the persons concerned in the recent case Mr. Madhvan versus Howaram (Aff case No. 4036 of 1927, in the Court of Mr. F. Karim, Deputy Magistrate, Midnapur)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I have called for the information, and will communicate with the Honourable Member when it is received.

AMALGAMATED ORGANISED CONSPIRACY OF MUHAMMADANS TO MURDER HINDUS.

954. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the large Hindu meeting in Delhi held on 26th August 1927 where a resolution referred to an organised conspiracy of Muhammadans to murder Hindus ?

(b) Do the Government contemplate in any way moving in the matter ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Grewar : (a) Government have seen references to the meeting.

(b) Government do not accept the fact that there is any such conspiracy.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

955. *Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Is it a fact that the late Department of Industries and the Public Works Department were amalgamated into the newly formed Department of Industries and Labour in 1923 as a measure of retrenchment ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the two Departments still remain as separate units with separate establishments, etc., with a common Secretary ? If so, why so ?

(c) Do Government propose to merge them into one ? If so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes, partly in pursuance of the recommendations of the Inchoape Committee, and partly as a measure of general administrative convenience.

(b) Yes, because this arrangement has hitherto been found convenient.

(c) There is no such intention at present.

MAIL SUBSIDIES TO THE BRITISH INDIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY AND THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

956. *Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : 1. Will the Government please state if any subsidies are given to the British Indian Steam Navigation Company and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for :

(a) carrying overseas Imperial Mail to Europe, and

(b) Indian Mails in Eastern waters including ports in India and Burma ?

2. If so, will the Honourable Member please inform this House of the total amount of such subsidies per annum ?

Mr. H. A. Gans : 1 and 2. The subsidy paid to the British Indian Steam Navigation Company annually is Rs. 15,18,000, while a sum of Rs. 22,000 is paid annually to the British Government as India's share of the subsidy payable to the P. and O. Company.

**DISCONTENT CAUSED BY THE PROMOTION OF MR. T. MANSER, ASSISTANT
ENGINEER, TO THE 1ST DIVISION OF THE TELEGRAPH
ENGINEERING BRANCH.**

957. ***Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Are Government aware of the discontent which the recent promotion of Mr. T. Manser, Assistant Engineer, to the 1st Division of the Telegraph Engineering Branch has caused ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Manser superseded 13 Deputy Assistant Engineers in 1925 and 10 Assistant Engineers in 1927 ?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the qualifications possessed by Mr. Manser which entitled him to such a whirlwind promotion by selection ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Promotion from the 2nd to the 1st Division of the Engineering Branch is a matter of pure selection. In the case of Mr. Manser, his promotion to the 1st Division was made by Government after consultation with the Public Service Commission. The Commission reviewed the cases of all men senior to Mr. Manser in the 3 Engineering Branches and advised that he was the most suitable man for promotion.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will the Honourable Member kindly tell me whether it is a fact that all such departmental promotions depend entirely on the recommendations of the Head of the Department, and that, outside this as also the files of the applicants before them, the Public Service Commission are in no position whatever to give an independent and impartial opinion on the comparative suitability of the qualifications of the candidates.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The answer to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is in the negative. It is not a fact that these promotions depend entirely on the opinions expressed by the Head of the Department. With regard to the second part, the Public Service Commission are undoubtedly in a position to arrive at a correct judgment after examining the various records placed before them.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Arising out of that answer, Sir, will the Honourable Member please state whether it is a fact that the Public Service Commission, realising their difficulties, are not very desirous of continuing to make such selection promotions in Departments ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I have no information on that point, Sir.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether he sends materials to the Public Service Commission for them to arrive at the conclusion that certain officers who are considered fit for promotion have done certain meritorious work in his Department ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I am sorry I did not catch the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is there any way whereby the Honourable Member's Department places sufficient materials before the Public Service Commission sitting here now, to come to the conclusion that a certain officer is fit for promotion as has worked meritoriously in his Department ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Complete materials are supplied to the Public Service Commission to enable them to arrive at conclusions in the matter.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Does the Honourable Member send in the names of certain officers working under him saying that they are fit for promotions, because they have done meritorious work in his Department ; and, with regard to this case brought to notice by Colonel Gidney, will the Honourable Member please state whether certain promotions were made on the recommendation of the Honourable Member ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : No recommendations were made by me personally. Recommendations were made by the Head of the Department, and all the relevant papers were placed before the Public Service Commission.

REVISED RATES OF PAY FOR CERTAIN INDIAN ARMY DEPARTMENTS.

958. ***Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Will the Honourable Member kindly inform me whether it is a fact that further revised rates of pay have been sanctioned for certain Indian Army Departments, e.g., the I. A. O. C., I. A. S. C., M. E. S., and I. M. L., with effect from the 1st June, 1927 or any other date ?

(b) If the answer to this is in the negative, will the Honourable Member please state whether any such proposals have recently been submitted to the Secretary of State for India for sanction ?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state whether the I. M. D. is an integral part of the British Army in India, and is, in all respects, a Department similar to all other Departments in the Army ?

(d) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) are in the affirmative will the Honourable Member please give me details of the proposals and state his reasons why the I. M. D. were omitted ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) No.

(b) Certain proposals have recently been submitted to the Secretary of State, but I am afraid I cannot give details of these proposals until his sanction is received.

(c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to part (a) of his unstarred question No. 130 on the 31st August, 1926. The Indian Medical Department is an integral part of the Indian Army, not of the British Army in India. It differs from all other departments of the Army in being directly recruited from the domiciled community in India.

(d) My Honourable friend is aware that details of the proposals cannot be disclosed before they have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The latter half of this part of the question does not arise.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Arising out of the answer, will the Honourable Member kindly state why, if the Indian Medical Department is a purely Indian service, it is employed purely for European troops ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am not aware, Sir, of having said that the Indian Medical Department was a purely Indian service ; I said it was an integral part of the Indian Army.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : May I ask a supplementary question ? If it is an integral part of the Indian Army, why is it confined to the Domiciled Community, and why are Indians not generally admitted ?

REVISED PENSIONS FOR THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

959. ***Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) With reference to my unstarred question No. 220, dated 25th March, 1927, will the Government please state when they hope to publish the revised pension rates for the Indian Medical Department ?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the great discontent that prevails among the members of the I. M. D. because of this delay in putting them into operation ?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state if it is a fact that the revised pension rates of other Departments such as the I. U. L., etc., were sanctioned from the 1st October, 1925 ?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please state if the revised rates of I. M. D. pensions have been submitted to the Secretary of State for India with a recommendation that these be given retrospective effect from the date of sanction or 1st April, 1927 ?

(e) Has the Honourable Member recently received a cablegram from the Secretary of State for India asking for further information regarding the difference of the dates of retrospective effect between the I. M. D. and other Departments ?

(f) Is the Honourable Member prepared to give this House an assurance that the new pension rates of the I. M. D., whatever they be, will be given earlier or at least with equal retrospective effect as has been given to all other similar Departments ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a), (d) and (f). The proposals of the Government of India are being submitted to the Secretary of State. I am afraid I cannot give any information about the correspondence that has taken place, until the final orders of the Secretary of State are received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

GRANTING OF MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

960. ***Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : Will the Honourable Member be so good as to state whether the Government of India has come to a

decision regarding the granting of marriage allowance to members of the I. M. D. as is being allowed to all other similar Departments ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No final decision has yet been reached, but the Government have under consideration a proposal to grant marriage allowances to warrant officers of the Indian Medical Department when on leave out of India.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Sir, has not this question of granting marriage allowances to the Indian Medical Department been under the consideration of the Government of India for the past three years ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I cannot say offhand how long it has been under consideration.

NUMBER OF ANGLO-INDIANS SELECTED FOR THE I. C. S. FROM 1922 TO 1927.

961. ***Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to my supplementary question in connection with question No. 492, dated 29th August, 1927, will the Honourable Member please state the number of Anglo-Indians selected for the I. C. S. from 1922 to 1927 ?

(b) If the reply to (a) is "None", will the Honourable Member please state why the claims of a single Anglo-Indian have not been considered fit to correct communal irregularities as is the avowed policy of the Government regarding 25 per cent. of all such appointments ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) None.

(b) Government have never undertaken to do more than consider the claims of minority communities generally, and much necessarily depends on the qualifications of the candidates of various communities available. The claims of Anglo-Indians who, though not successful in the competition for open vacancies, qualify sufficiently highly in the examination will receive careful consideration along with the similar cases of members of other minority communities.

ABANDONMENT OF THE GAYA-SHERGHATTY RAILWAY PROJECT.

962. ***Mr. Siddheswar Sinha :** Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances which led them to take up the Gaya-Sherghatty Railway project and the reasons for giving it up ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The new re-survey of the project was taken up in pursuance of the Government of India's policy of developing the country by means of railways. It has been found that there is not sufficient traffic to justify a broad gauge line, but the project will probably be re-examined at some later date as a narrow gauge line.

NUMBER OF EUROPEANS, ANGLO-INDIANS, BIHARIS AND INDIANS OTHER THAN BIHARIS EMPLOYED IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

963. ***Mr. Siddheswar Sinha :** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of (a) Europeans and Anglo-Indians, (b) Biharis, (c) Indians other than Biharis, employed in different Departments of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians in the different Departments of the Government of India Secretariat on 31st December last was 173. The number of Indians was 781. I have no information as to the number of Biharis included in the latter figure.

PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE REGARDING SHIVAJI IN THE *Peshwa*, A DELHI MONTHLY.

964. ***Mr. Siddheswar Sinha :** (a) Are the Government aware of the great indignation prevailing among the Hindus on account of the wild assertions made by the Delhi monthly *Peshwa* with regard to the great Hindu leader Shivaji Maharaj and his mother ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why the printer, publisher, and others connected with the aforesaid vilifying article have not been yet prosecuted ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : Government have received a representation on the subject. It is still under consideration.

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON AN INDIAN CLERK OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

965. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the incident reported in the *Forward* of Calcutta, dated the 6th August, 1927, under the caption " Indian Clerk of E. I. Railway Assaulted " ?

(b) Is it a fact that Ardhendu Babu who was assaulted has been placed under suspension by the higher railway authorities ? If so, why and, by whom, and do Government contemplate asking the authorities concerned to reconsider his case ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) I have seen the paragraph mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) The matter is entirely within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, and Government see no reason to interfere with his discretion.

EXPENDITURE DURING THE CURRENT YEAR ON THE INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES.

966. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra :** (a) Will the Honourable Member-in-charge of the Military Department be pleased to state the amount that Government are going to spend on the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces during the current year ?

(b) How much of the said sum will approximately be spent on (1) ammunition for the said Forces, (2) camp expenses, (3) salary of the men, (4) pay of the European instructors ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) About Rs. 68,62,000 on the Auxiliary Force and Rs. 22,78,000 on the Territorial Force. These figures do not include any part of the 10 lakh programme which is involved by the acceptance.

of the proposals of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee, and most of which will be incurred next year.

(b) The figures are approximately as follows :

Ammunition—

Auxiliary Force 3 lakhs, 90 thousand.

Territorial Force 92 thousand.

Camp Expenses—

Auxiliary Force 2½ lakhs.

Territorial Force 95 thousand.

Salaries of Men—

Auxiliary Force 30 lakhs, 44 thousand.

Territorial Force 5 lakhs, 37 thousand.

Pay of European Instructors—

Auxiliary Force 20 lakhs, 29 thousand.

Territorial Force 10 lakhs, 71 thousand.

RELEASE OF MOHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN, CONVICTED UNDER SECTION 121 OF THE INDIAN PENAL CODE.

967. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if Mr. Mohammad Akbar Khan, an inhabitant of the District of Hazara in the North-West Frontier Province, as reported in the *Ganabani*, a Bengali weekly of the 28th of July, 1927, has been convicted under section 121-A of the Indian Penal Code, on the 27th April 1923 and sentenced to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment and whether he has been transferred to the District Jail at Raipur in the Central Provinces ?

(b) Is it a fact that in view of his excellent conduct in jail, the local jail authorities recommended his release, on the expiry of half the term of his sentence, to the Jail Remission Board ?

(c) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate of Hazara, of which he is a resident, reported, when referred to by the Jail Remission Board, that there was nothing against Mr. Akbar Khan being released as recommended ?

(d) Is it a fact that the recommendation was set at naught on the adverse report of the District Magistrate of Peshawar ?

(e) Is it a fact that Mr. Akbar Khan was convicted for conspiracy with Dr. Nur Mohammad and Ruknuddin and that both of these persons have long returned to India and that no cases have been brought against either of them and that the order of suspension of the pension of Risaldar Ruknuddin has been withdrawn ?

(f) Under the circumstances, do the Government contemplate releasing Mr. Akbar Khan now ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) I have not seen the publication quoted, but the facts are generally as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) The jail authorities forwarded his nominal roll to the District Magistrate, Hazara, in the ordinary course with a view to putting his

case before the Advisory Board, but made no recommendation in the matter.

(c) The District Magistrate, Hazara, made no recommendation in his favour.

(d) The District Magistrate, Peshawar, made no recommendation in the case.

(e) No, but the evidence in the case showed that he had been in correspondence with Ruknuddin and possibly with Dr. Nur Muhammad. Neither of these has been prosecuted.

(f) No.

APPLICABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' CONDUCT RULES TO THE PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND OTHER SALARIED OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

968. *Mr. E. F. Sykes : Are the Honourable the President, the Deputy President and the other salaried officers of the House subject to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The Honourable the President and the Deputy President are not subject to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. (Hear, hear.) The Secretary and other salaried officers as officers of the Assembly are not subject to the rules but they are so subject if they are also persons in the civil service of the Crown in India to whom the Government Servants' Conduct Rules apply under section 96-B of the Government of India Act.

NEW PENSION RULES, ETC.

969. *Mr. D. V. Belvi : (1) Will Government be pleased to state if the consideration of the proposed new rules regarding the grant of pension, provident fund and gratuity under the Fundamental Rules to employees in the subordinate Government service has now been completed by the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India ?

(2) If not, for how many years has the matter been under consideration and when is the consideration expected to be completed finally ?

(3) Has the attention of the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India been drawn to the answers given by the Bombay Government on the subject of the new Pension Rules in reply to interpellations on the 23rd October 1924, on the 2nd March 1925 and on the 28th July 1925 ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : (1) No.

(2) A draft was prepared at the end of 1923, but further consideration was postponed in view of impending changes in the control of the various services. Local Governments have now received full authority to make rules prescribing conditions of service, including pension, provident fund and gratuity, for all services and officers under their control and it is understood that they have such rules under their consideration. It is expected that similar authority will be delegated to the Government of India shortly.

(3) The Government have perused the questions and answers referred to.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT, SIMLA.

970. *Mr. Abdul Haya : (1) Will Government please state separately :

- (a) What is the number of sub-postmasters, clerks, postmen, mail peons and runners in the Simla Post Offices and how many of them are Muslims ?
- (b) What is the total number of Inspectors in Simla Town and how many of them are Muslims ?
- (c) For how long has there been no Muslim Inspector in the Simla Postal Department ?

(2) What action do Government propose to take to give Muslims their due share in the Postal Department of Simla—the seat of Government ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :

		Muslims.
1. (a) Sub-postmasters	17	Nil
Clerks	82	9
Postmen	199	3
Mail-peons	51	5
Runners	28	3

(b) Two. Neither is a Muslim.

(c) Since 1922. There is one Muslim Sub-Town Inspector since 1919.

2. Government do not propose to take any action in the individual case of Simla, apart from the action which is already being taken in the Indian Postal and Telegraphs Department as a whole to give effect to the general policy of Government in the matter of representation of minority communities in various services which has been explained on the floor of this House on several occasions.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

971. *Mr. Abdul Haya : (a) Is it a fact that all posts which fell vacant in the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, during 1927, have been given to non-Muslims exclusively, in spite of the fact that an assurance was given by the Director-General in his letter No. A.M.-65/26, dated the 25th September, 1926, to the address of the Anjuman-i-Islamia, Simla, and by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra in reply to my unstarred question No. 229 of 26th March, 1927, with regard to the representation of Muslims in the Postal Department ?

(b) Will Government please state how many fresh candidates were employed in the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, since January, 1927, and how many of them were Muslims ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a tabular statement showing separately the total number of appointments and the number of

appointments held by Muslims in each scale of pay, in the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, as it stood on the 1st August 1927 ?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to ensure that the undertakings given by them from time to time with regard to the representation of Muslims in Government service, are strictly acted upon ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) No.

(b) Three, of whom one was a Muslim.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) Government do not propose to take any action as they have no reason to apprehend that their instructions in regard to the representation of minority communities in Government service are not being acted upon in this particular office.

Tabular statement showing number of appointments in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs as it stood on 1st August 1927.

<i>Number of appointments.</i>	<i>Hindus.</i>	<i>Christians.</i>	<i>Muslims.</i>
2 appointments on Rs. 500—700	.. 2	.. ..	..
2 appointments on Rs. 350—450	.. 2	.. ..	..
16 appointments on Rs. 250—350	.. 14	2	..
129 appointments on Rs. 80—250	.. 120	3	6
2 appointments on Rs. 150—200	.. 2	.. ..	..
58 appointments on Rs. 50—140	.. 43	1	14
TOTAL 209	183	6	20

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Do not the figures stated by the Honourable Member show that the directions given by the Government of India are not carried out by the Department ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The answer is in the negative. I am afraid the Honourable Member was not listening when I replied to the main question. In reply to part (b) I said that three fresh candidates were taken, of whom one was a Muslim.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE CENTRAL PRINTING OFFICE.

972. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) How many appointments have been newly created in the superior ministerial establishment of the Central Printing Office on account of the recent organisation in April last ?

(b) Of the above how many appointments and in what grades have been offered to such Muslims, Hindus and Christians who were not already serving in that office ?

(c) Do Government recognise the principle of employing members of the minority communities in their services ? If so, why was this opportunity not availed of to avoid the preponderance of Hindus by recruiting more Muslims who are in a hopeless minority in the said office, as stated by the Honourable Member in reply to my starred question No. 905 (d), dated 14th March, 1927 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra :

(a) Superintendents	..	Two
Assistants	.. ..	Five
Clerks	.. ..	Eight.

(d) Muslims One Assistant and one clerk.

Hindu One clerk.

Christian One Superintendent and one clerk.

(c) The desirability of preventing an undue preponderance of any community is kept in view and as the figures I have just given indicated, only one out of the five new appointments was offered to a Hindu.

Mr. K. Ahmed : In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has in his answer to question No. 971 admitted the fact that he has not in his Department a sufficient number of Muhammadans, do Government propose now, for the benefit of the country and in the interests of the Department, to give effect to the rule of 33 per cent. of the appointments being given to the Muhammadans, which was declared by His Excellency the Viceroy in December 1925 ?

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER, PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS.

973. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** In view of the fact that there is no Muslim employed in the office of the Controller, Printing, Stationery and Stamps, as stated by the Honourable Member in reply to my starred question No. 905 (a) (i), dated 14th March, 1927, are Government prepared to issue instructions to take the earliest opportunity to recruit Muslims when fresh vacancies occur in future ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps is already aware of the policy of Government in the matter of the appointment of members of minority communities in public offices and will give due consideration to the claims of qualified Muslims along with those of other minority communities as yet unrepresented in his office, if and when an opportunity for fresh recruitment arises.

QUALIFICATIONS, LENGTH OF SERVICE, PAY, ETC., OF EACH MEMBER OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, DELHI.

974. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names, qualifications, length of service, pay and scale of pay of each member of the clerical establishment in the Government of India Press, Delhi, as it stood on the 31st March, 1927 and on the 1st August, 1927 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the rules and principles on which the promotion of the staff has been granted in the revision of pay introduced from the 1st of April, 1927 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The answer is in the negative. The compilation of such a statement would require an amount of clerical labour and expense disproportionate to its value.

(b) The promotions were made with due regard to seniority consistently with efficiency.

DISCONTENT AMONG THE MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, DELHI.

975. *Mr. Abdul Haya : (a) Are Government aware of the fact that great discontent is prevailing among the Muslim employees of the Delhi Press for want of their representation in the higher scales, viz., Assistant Manager, Head Assistant and Accountant ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take necessary steps to remove such discontent ?

(c) Is it a fact that out of four posts recently created in the scale of Rs. 80—140 none has been offered to any Muslim ?

(d) If the answer to part (c) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether no Muslim possessing the qualifications necessary for the discharge of the duties of those posts was available from inside or outside the Press or from other Government Presses ?

(e) Was the advertisement inviting applications for those posts published in the leading newspapers of all communities ? If not, why ? Will the Government please state the names of the papers in which the advertisement (if any) was published ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise. In any case it is not the policy of Government in making promotions from one grade to another within the authorised establishment of an office or a service to give any special consideration to the question of communal representation in each grade.

(c) Yes.

(d) No Muslim possessing the necessary qualifications was available in the Government of India Press, Delhi, and none of the eight Muslims who applied from outside possessed the necessary qualifications.

(e) The advertisement inviting applications for the posts was published in the *Pioneer*, the *Civil and Military Gazette* and the *Hindustan Times* papers which were believed to have a wide circulation among members of the various communities at or about Delhi.

PERSONNEL OF THE PRESENT GOVERNING BODY OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE.

976. *Sir Hari Singh Gour : 1. (a) Will the Government be pleased to give the personnel of the present Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge College including the office bearers ?

(b) Is there any vacancy in the Governing Body ?

(c) If so, (since) how long ?

(d) How many meetings of the Governing Body were held in the course of the last 12 months and how often do they meet ?

2. (a) With reference to the speeches made by some of the Honourable Members on the Resolution on the 5th March 1925 criticising the management and affairs of the Institution, will the Government be pleased to state what remedial measures have been taken to improve the affairs of the Institution and with what result ?

(b) If not, why not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : 1. (a) A statement showing the present personnel of the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College has been placed in the Library.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Three meetings were held during the last 12 months. Ordinarily only two meetings are held in a year.

2. (a) Seven additional members have been added to the Governing Body, namely,

(a) three members of the Indian Legislature ;

(b) one prominent businessman of Delhi ;

(c) one prominent Indian resident of Delhi ;

(d) one Medical officer, Delhi ; and

(e) one prominent Indian lady of Delhi.

For the expeditious despatch of business a sub-committee of the Governing Body has been formed and meets once a month.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED INDIAN LADIES TO THE SUPERIOR STAFF OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.

977. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) With reference to the Government reply given in February 1924 undertaking to give preference to Indian lady candidates duly qualified for any post falling vacant on the superior staff of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, will the Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies since occurring and the appointments made thereto ?

(b) How many applications were received ; how many of them were from Indian ladies and why were Indian ladies not appointed to those vacancies ?

(c) Is it a fact that the post of a Nursing Superintendent on the superior staff of the Institution has fallen vacant ? If so, are Government prepared to see that an Indian lady duly qualified is appointed thereto ?

CHARGES TO PATIENTS AND THEIR RELATIVES BY THE LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL, DELHI.

978. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) Is it a fact that on the celebration of the foundation day of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital in March last the Principal announced that about Rs. 25,000 was the year's income from the Hospital alone ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Institution charges patients or their relations for consultation and operation even during hospital hours and that such charges range from Rs. 5 to 200 per operation ?

(c) Is it a fact that charges are made even for the use of Serai cubicles depriving guardians of poor patients of their right to use the Serai free of charge ?

(d) Is it a fact that this Institution was mainly founded by contributions received from the Indian people with a view to afford facilities for medical aid to Indians of all ranks, especially the poor ?

(e) When were the rules relating to charges made and were any Indians on the Governing Body at that time ?

(f) Do Government intend to see that these rules are once more placed before the Governing Body when the Indian members in their full strength are present to consider them ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to Questions Nos. 977 and 978 together. The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when received. As regards both these questions I should like to point out that the affairs of the Lady Hardinge Medical College, including appointments to the staff, are dealt with by the Governing Body and not by the Government of India.

AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL BY A GOVERNMENT AUDITOR.

979 ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) Is it a fact that the audit of the accounts of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital are made only by Chartered Accountants and not by the Government Auditor ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government contributes about 3 lakhs of rupees towards its annual expenditure, and do Government intend to see that the accounts of the College are audited by a Government Auditor ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Institution prepares and publishes only a quinquennium report ?

(d) If so, are the Government prepared to see that an independent annual report of the Institution is published ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Lala Duni Chand's question No. 882 on 19th February, 1926.

(c) A short report is also issued annually as part of the annual report of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

(d) Does not arise.

TERMS AND TENURE OF APPOINTMENTS OF THE PRINCIPAL AND BURSAR OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.

980. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what are the terms and tenure of the Principal and Bursar of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital ?

(b) For how long have the present Principal and Bursar been in charge of their present posts ?

(c) Is there any rule limiting their tenure to a certain number of years? If not, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of limiting it to a number of years?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The Principal is a member of the Women's Medical Service and receives from the College an allowance of Rs. 400 a month for her duties as Principal and a teaching allowance of Rs. 250 a month as Professor of Obstetrics. The Bursar is employed on a contract of 4 years, which is renewable at the discretion of the Governing Body. The pay of the present Bursar is Rs. 700 a month. The tenure of the posts of Principal and Bursar is not fixed.

(b) The Principal and the Bursar have been in charge of their posts from 9th September, 1921 and 7th September, 1918, respectively.

(c) No. The matter is primarily the concern of the Governing Body.

EMPLOYMENT OF ITS GRADUATES BY THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

981. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many lady graduates the Lady Hardinge Medical College has turned out since its institution and what facilities are offered to them for employment in the Institution itself?

(b) Has any scale of pay been fixed for the recruitment of such graduates in the Institution?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement on the subject?

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE BY COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND.

982. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) Is it a fact that no scale of pay for the recruitment of graduates of the Lady Hardinge College has been fixed by the Dufferin Fund for employment in the Institutions maintained by that Fund?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the negative, are Government prepared to see that graduates of this College are given facilities for employment by that Fund?

(c) How many applications for admission to the College were refused during the last two or three years and on what grounds?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I will reply to questions Nos. 981 and 982 together, Sir. The information asked for is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member when received.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Will the Honourable Member kindly consider the desirability of placing the information on the table seeing that it affects a large number of people other than the questioner himself?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I am not sure whether the House is interested sufficiently in the details of the internal administration of the College. But if it is the wish of the House, I shall certainly consider the suggestion to place the information on the table of the House.

THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND.

983. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Dufferin Fund was instituted with a view to afford medical aid to the women of India by medical women ?

(b) Is it a fact that for this purpose medical women have since been recruited ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government makes an annual contribution of about Rs. 4 lakhs towards this Fund ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money invested by this Fund in Government or other securities ? What is its annual income therefrom ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Dufferin Fund does not yet fully meet the requirements of medical aid in the country ?

(f) Are Government prepared to revise their scheme of operations with a view to make this Fund more widely useful and better fulfil the aims and objects for which this Fund was instituted ?

(g) How many European medical women and how many Indian medical women are employed by this Fund ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The exact amount of the annual grant is Rs. 3,70,000.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the report of the Association for the year 1926, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

(e) Yes.

(f) As the Honourable Member is aware Medical Administration is a provincial transferred subject and it is for Provincial Governments to consider how the activities of the Association can best be extended.

(g) Of the 44 officers of the Women's Medical Service, maintained by the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, there were 24 Europeans domiciled, and 20 Indians domiciled, on the 31st December, 1926.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE INDIAN GRADUATES OF THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE BY THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND.

984. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour** : (a) Is it a fact that one of the main objects in instituting the Lady Hardinge College was to provide for the graduation in Medicine of Indian women so that they may be employed by the Dufferin Fund and thus restrict the importation of outside medical women ?

(b) Is it a fact that in instituting the Lady Hardinge College the view of the founders and donors was that Indian women should be qualified so that they may render medical assistance to their own country women by being employed by the Dufferin Fund ?

(c) If the answer, to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, how far have those objects been attained and promoted and what facilities have Government given to Indian graduates of the Lady Hardinge College to employ them in Dufferin Fund Institutions ; and if not why not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The main object of the founders of the College was to provide for the training in medicine of Indian women so that they may render medical assistance to their own country women through, as well as outside, the Women's Medical Service. It was no part of the policy of the founders to prohibit the employment of doctors from outside India except in so far as the supply of trained doctors from the College reduced the need for resort to outside sources.

(c) Government have asked for information as to the number of medical graduates turned out by the Lady Hardinge Medical College and the number now employed under the Countess of Dufferin's Fund and Local Governments, and will supply it to the Honourable Member when received. The Government of India do not make appointments to the Women's Medical Service maintained by the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, and cannot, therefore, undertake to provide facilities for the graduates of the College to join that Service.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Will the Honourable Member kindly lay the information on the table as soon as it is received, instead of supplying it to the Member ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I shall place the statement in the Library of the House, and I think that will meet the requirements of the Honourable Member.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : No, Sir. What we really want is that the public should know as to how far graduates of this college receive patronage at the hands of the Government.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Very well. I shall consider the suggestion. It will all depend on the size of the statement which we have called for.

ENQUIRIES BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE INTO THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF AJMER-MERWARA.

985. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** Will Government be pleased to state if the Royal Commission on Agriculture will make any inquiries into the agricultural resources of Ajmer-Merwara in view of the frequency of famines and years of scarcity in that province ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. B. Dalal : The Commission will enquire into agricultural conditions generally throughout British India including Ajmer-Merwara.

ISSUE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO FILL FUTURE VACANCIES IN HIS OFFICE BY MUSSALMANS.

986. ***Mr. Siddheswar Sinha :** Will Government be pleased to state if any instructions have been issued to the Director of Public Information asking him to fill up all the future vacancies in his office only by Mussalmans ? If the reply be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to lay the said letter on the table and state their reasons for issuing it ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : As a temporary measure orders of this nature were issued in September 1925 in view of the fact that there were no Muslims in the office. The orders were superseded in February

1926 by the general orders relating to representation of minority communities, which apply to all offices of the Government of India Secretariat.

MURDER OF SWAMI SHARDHANAND THE RESULT OF AN ORGANISED CONSPIRACY.

987. ***Mr. Siddheswar Sinha** : (a) Is it a fact that police officers investigating the murder case of Swami Shradhanand were supplied with certain documents supporting the allegation that the said murder was the result of an organised conspiracy ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state what use was made of the said documents ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to publish them ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Certain documents were furnished to the police officers investigating the case.

(b) After careful examination it was found that they afforded no ground for suspecting the existence of an organised conspiracy.

(c) Government do not propose to publish the papers.

†988.*

STOPPAGE OF MAIL TRAINS OF THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY AT SOMPETA IN THE GANJAM DISTRICT.

989. ***Mr. V. V. Jogiah** : Is it a fact that the people of Sompeta in the District of Ganjam in the Presidency of Madras made a representation, supported by the District and Divisional officers of Government, to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities, that in view of the commercial importance of Sompeta and by reason of the location of civil and criminal courts and the Government Sub-Treasury, the mail trains be stopped there for a short time and the railway authorities declined to accede to their representations ? Have any steps been taken in the matter ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have received no intimation, except that given in the Honourable Member's question, of any such representation, but have sent a copy of his question to the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway. They cannot themselves undertake to interfere in time-table arrangements.

EXEMPTION FROM INCOME-TAX OF THE INCOME FROM THE AHMEDABAD MILLS TILAK SWARAJ FUND USED FOR CHARITABLE EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

990. ***Sir Victor Sassoon** : Is it a fact that exemption from income-tax has not been granted under section 4 (3) (ii) of the Income-tax Act in respect of the income from the Ahmedabad Mills Tilak Swaraj Fund which is used for charitable educational purposes ? If so will Government be pleased to enquire and state the reasons ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Government are calling for a report whether the Income-tax Officer has passed an order such as is described and, if so, whether an appeal has been made to the Assistant

† Not put at the meeting, but the question and answer thereto will be found at pages 4232-33 of these proceedings.

Commissioner and disposed of. If and when it is ascertained that the Income-tax Officer has passed such an order and that it has been upheld by the Assistant Commissioner the Government will call for a report as to the reasons for such decision, and communicate the result to the Honourable Member.

Sir Victor Sassoon : Are Government aware that the Income-tax Officer at Ahmedabad, in investigating the claims, insisted on being informed as to what sort of education was being given at the free day and night schools run by the Labour Union, and asked that the subjects taught should be mentioned in detail? Further, that a list of books prescribed for each school of the free day and night schools was to be forwarded to the Income-tax office; that subsequently a teacher of the school was asked to be sent to the office.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member must not put several questions all at once.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I can at once say that the answer to all is in the negative. (Laughter.)

Sir Victor Sassoon : Will the Honourable Member take steps to see that inquisitorial methods should not be continued?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. B. Das : Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire if the allegations in the supplementary question are true?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I have undertaken to call for a report.

Mr. B. Das : On the point referred to by Sir Victor Sassoon?

CHECKING OF ILLICIT TRAVELLING ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

991. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Is it a fact that various measures are under trial to eradicate the evil of illicit travelling on Indian Railways, and that as a result, on the North-Western Railway the Divisional and Audit Travelling Ticket Examiners were amalgamated in 1926 and put under special Travelling Ticket Examiners, whose posts were specially created for supervision, regulation and control of Travelling Ticket Examiners' activities?

(b) Is it a fact that in view of the higher class of work required of these special Travelling Ticket Examiners, selection was made by an examination held by a Senior European officer of the Indian Finance Department?

(c) Will Government please state if this new measure has proved successful in checking illicit travelling?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) It is a little too early to say yet.

GRANT OF HONORARY KING'S COMMISSIONS TO SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

992. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Will Government please state what is the total number of sub-assistant surgeons serving at present in the Indian Medical Department?

(b) Will Government please state how many sub-assistant surgeons of this Department, who are on the effective list, hold honorary King's commissions ?

(c) Is it a fact that according to Army Instructions these sub-assistant surgeons are to be awarded honorary King's commissions at the rate of 1 *per cent.* of the total strength of the military cadre ?

(d) Is it a fact that vacancies in these commissions are not filled as usual on transfer to the pension establishment but on the death of the previous holder of the commission ?

(c) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if this method of filling vacancies on death is at present adopted by Government in any Department other than the I. M. D. ?

(f) While granting these commissions at the rate of 1 *per cent.* of the strength of the military cadre, do Government take into consideration only the strength which is on the effective list or does it also include those who have been transferred to the pension establishment ?

(g) Have Government ever granted such honorary commissions to a sub-assistant surgeon of the I. M. D. who was on the pension establishment ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) 891.

(b) Four officers on the effective list hold honorary King's Commissions. The balance to make up the required percentage are at present on the retired list.

(c) Yes ; the proportion of one *per cent.* is fixed on the total strength of the active list, including sub-assistant surgeons in civil employ.

(d) The practice in the past has been as stated by the Honourable Member, but vacancies will in future be caused by retirements and steps are being taken to make 5 promotions against the 5 retired officers who now hold honorary King's commissions.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Only the effective strength is now taken into account.

(g) When the scheme was first introduced the claims of certain pensioners were considered and a number of pensioners were included in the original awards. Only sub-assistant surgeons on the active list are now eligible.

ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES SUBORDINATE TO THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

993. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) With reference to the Honourable the Finance Member's reply to my questions Nos. 896—900, 903, 910, and 911 on 14th March, 1927, will Government be pleased to state the date on which the instructions regarding adequate representation of Muslims and other minorities in Government offices (alluded to by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes on the 27th January, 1927 in his reply to Maulvi Mohammad Yaqub's unstarred question No. 3) were issued by the Honourable the Finance Member to the Heads of Departments and officers subordinate to the Finance Department (Civil and Military) ?

(b) Do those instructions relate to the fresh recruitments in all grades of services in the offices subordinate to the Finance Department ?

(c) Do those instructions govern the cases of (i) recruitment in temporary posts and (ii) promotion from the lower to the higher grades ? If not why ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of appointments made in the permanent and temporary vacancies as well as promotions given from the lower to the upper grades during the period from the date of issue of Government instructions referred to above, to 31st July, 1927, separately in each grade and in each office subordinate to the Finance Department and how many of such vacancies have been filled by Muslims in each grade and in each office by direct recruitment or promotion as the case may be during the period in question ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE MILITARY TEST AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

994. *Mr. Abdul Haye : (a) Will Government please state the date on which the reorganization of the Military Test Audit Department was sanctioned and the number of officers, accountants and clerks at present employed therein ?

(b) What is the number of men who were not before in Government service who have been recruited to these appointments ?

(c) What is the number of Muslims appointed to each of these ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE INDIAN ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT SERVICE AND THE SUPERIOR SERVICE OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

995. *Mr. Abdul Haye : (a) Is it a fact that several posts in the Indian Accounts and Audit Service and superior service of the Military Accounts Department are filled in annually by selections from the Assistant Accounts Officers, etc. ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government state the number of appointments thus made and the number of Muslims thus promoted during the period from the date of introduction initiating the above system of promotion to the 15th August, 1927 ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS, ETC.

996. *Mr. Abdul Haye : (a) Is it a fact that a certain percentage of vacancies in the appointments of Assistant Accounts Officers and gazetted ranks of the Sub-Accounts Service of the Military Accounts Department is filled in by promotion of qualified officials by selection ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the total number of such appointments between the date of introduction of such scheme and the 31st July, 1927, and the number of Muslims appointed to these posts ?

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE SUPERVISING STAFF OF THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE AND IN GAZETTED APPOINTMENTS.

997. *Mr. Abdul Haye : Are Government aware of the fact that great discontent and disappointment is prevailing among the Muslim employees in the offices subordinate to the Finance Department on

account of the treatment meted out to them in the matter of promotions owing to the paucity of Muslims in the supervising staff, S. A. S., and gazetted appointments ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS TO NEW POSTS IN THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS AND CLERICAL SERVICES IN THE OFFICES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

998. ***Mr. Abdul Haya** : (a) Is it a fact that a number of new posts in the Sub-Accounts and clerical services has been sanctioned by Government for the offices of the Auditor General and the Accountant General, Central Revenues ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the claims of the Muslim community will be duly considered in filling up those posts in the light of the Government instructions alluded to by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes in his reply to Maulvi Muhammad Yakub's unstarred question No. 3 on the 27th January, 1927 ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I propose to reply to questions Nos. 993 to 998 together. I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 24th of last month to Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's question No. 244. General instructions regarding the measures to be adopted for securing adequate representation of minority communities in Government offices were issued in February 1926 and these were immediately communicated by the Finance Department to the heads of departments and offices under it. The instructions were intended to be applied to all future recruitment, but not to departmental promotions, which must always be regulated by considerations of seniority and merit. No useful purpose would, therefore, be served by collecting the detailed information asked for by the Honourable Member regarding the appointments made by promotion. With regard to appointments made by direct recruitment, considerable trouble would be involved in collecting particulars and these cannot afford useful information until the instructions have been in force for some time longer.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Have the Government ever enquired what effect was given to the instructions issued, or collected any statistics to show what action has been taken on the instructions issued by them ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : That is a general question which I think should be addressed to my Honourable colleague the Home Member and probably put down ; but I can say that the Members of Government are constantly watching the effect of those instructions on the offices in their particular charge.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do I understand the Honourable the Finance Member to say that he has issued a circular to his Departments bringing to their notice that 33 per cent. of Muhammadans should be appointed according to the declaration made by His Excellency the Viceroy in December 1925, or does he mean only the instructions given to some of his head officers to act upon what he said in his instructions on the 2nd February 1926, as he has stated himself ? Which is correct, the former or the latter or both ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I gather, the Honourable Member's question is, does he understand something ? I am afraid I cannot answer him.

ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

999 ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** With reference to reply given on the 14th March, 1927, by Government to my starred question No. 907, will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have since been taken by Government to make adequate representation of Muslims in the Indian Stores Department ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The claims of minority communities are always prominently kept in view in making selections for gazetted appointments in the Indian Stores Department.

Since the Honourable Member's question No. 907 was answered in March last three outsiders have been selected in India for appointment to gazetted posts in the Indian Stores Department. One of these three is a Muslim who was declared by the Public Service Commission to be qualified for the appointment offered to him.

REVISION OF THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CODES.

1000. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) With reference to Government reply on the 14th March, 1927, to my starred question No. 902, regarding the revision of the Postal and Telegraph Codes, will Government be pleased to furnish the information asked for in sub-clauses (d), (e), (f), (i) and (j) of the question No. 902 separately for the work entrusted to the staff under Mr. S. P. Verma, and Messrs. P. N. Mitra and B. B. Bhattacharjee, reviewing the situation as it stood on the 28th February, 1927, and on 31st July, 1927, respectively ?

(b) Are the three officials named above solely employed for the Code Work or are they required to do some other work as well ?

(c) Have Mr. S. P. Verma and the staff under him previous experience of the executive or audit side of the Posts and Telegraph Department ?

(d) What will be the probable cost of compilation of the Codes and by what date is the work to be completed ?

(e) Has any such costly Code ever been compiled by the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

1001. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** 1. (a) Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the number of Hindu, Muslim and Christian clerks in the Copying, Personnel, Operating, Way and Works, Commercial, Rates and Outstanding Branches of the Headquarters office of North Western Railway ?

(b) What action, if any, do Government propose to take to safeguard the Muslim interests in the Central Office of the North Western Railway ?

2. (a) Is it a fact that the number of Muslim clerks in the Personnel Branch of the Headquarters Office is on the decrease ever since the amalgamation ?

(b) What was the number of Muslims in this Branch before amalgamation and what is it now ?

(c) Is it a fact that not a single Muslim has been recruited in this Branch since January, 1925, whereas almost every vacancy, temporary or permanent, has been filled up by Hindus ?

(d) Will Government please state the number of Hindu clerks recruited since January, 1925 ?

(e) Is it a fact that two clerks coming from Multan side, who are still temporary in class II, have been given officiating chances in class III thereby depriving a confirmed senior Muslim clerk in class II ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I propose, with your permission, Sir, to answer questions Nos. 1001, 1003, 1006 and 1009 together. The information in the possession of Government with regard to communal representation on the North Western Railway will be found in Appendix F in Volume I and Appendix C in Volume II of the Report on Indian Railways for 1925-26, a copy of which is in the Library. The statistics were formulated in this form after consultation with, and acceptance by, the Central Advisory Council for Railways, and Government do not consider it desirable to supplement them by details regarding individual offices. The policy of the Government of India regarding the representation of minority communities was communicated to the North Western Railway Administration as to other Railway Administrations, and Government have no reason to believe that it is not being carried out by them.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : A supplementary question, Sir. Have the Government any reason to believe that these directions have been complied with ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : They have no reason to believe that they have not been complied with.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : On a point of order, Sir. Before questions Nos. 1002 (a) and 1012 (d) are put, I would like to have a ruling from the Chair whether they are matters of public concern as described in Rule 14 (1) ?

Mr. President : If they did not relate to matters of public concern, they would not have been admitted.

SUPERSESSION OF MUSLIM BY HINDU CLERKS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

002. ***Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) Is it a fact that Uma Chand is closely related to the Superintendent in charge of Establishments at the Headquarters Office of the North Western Railway, and that he has been given class IV superseding many Muslims senior to him ?

(b) Is it a fact that all the clerks employed with the Retrenching Officer are Hindus and one of them has been given class IV in preference to a senior better qualified Muslim clerk ?

(c) Is it a fact that not a single Muslim clerk in the Personnel Branch of Headquarters' Office is in class IV, the only Muslim in that class having been transferred and replaced by a Hindu clerk on the same pay ?

(d) Will Government please state the number of Hindu and Muslim clerks in all branches of the Headquarters Office, as it stood at the time of amalgamation, and as it stands at present ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information.

RECRUITMENT OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†1003. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of asking those responsible for the recruitment of the staff in the clerical establishment of the Headquarters Office of the North-Western Railway to abide by the instructions contained in the Government of India, Home Department Memorandum No. F-176|25-Ests., dated 5th February, 1926, regarding the recruitment of minority communities ?

SELECTION OF A HINDU FOR THE POST OF JUNIOR INSTRUCTOR AT LYALLPUR, THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1004. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Is it a fact that a competitive examination of booking clerks from all North Western Railway Divisions was held in the beginning of July last to select candidates for the Junior Instructor's post at Lyallpur ?

(b) Is it a fact that a Muslim who stood first in that test was not appointed to the post because he was drawing Rs. 60 *per mensem* and that it was not considered desirable to give him Rs. 150 *per mensem* ?

(c) Will Government please state the original pay at the time of selection of the Hindu candidate selected for the appointment in Lyallpur School ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Enquiry is being made and I will let the Honourable Member know the result.

PROMOTION OF A MADRASI CLERK OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1005. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** Is it a fact that a Madrasi clerk of the Chief Auditor's office drawing Rs. 68 *per mensem* with only a year's service has been given Rs. 140 in the Agent's Office of the North Western Railway ? If so, will Government state the reason ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information. The matter is entirely at the discretion of the Agent and there is no reason to believe that in filling up the appointment he did not satisfy himself that the nominee was fully qualified for the duties.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Sir, will you permit me to put my question No. 988 ?

† For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1001.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member just disappeared when the question was about to be called. I cannot permit him to put it now.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I was going to look up a reference necessary for that purpose.

Mr. President : Order, order.

HINDU AND MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE PERSONNEL BRANCHES OF DIVISIONAL OFFICERS ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

†1006. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** Will Government please state separately the number of Hindu and Muslim clerks together with their pay and period of service in the Personnel Branches of Divisional Officers on the North Western Railway ?

EMPLOYMENT OF AN OUTSIDER AS SUPERINTENDENT, COMMERCIAL BRANCH OF THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1007. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Is it a fact that the post of the Superintendent, Commercial Branch of the Headquarters Office of the North Western Railway, which is about to fall vacant is to be filled by an outsider ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government please state what are the educational qualifications of this outsider to fill the vacancy, and what is his previous experience in the Commercial Branch ?

(c) Was due consideration given to the claims of the deserving senior Muslim clerks ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information, and are not prepared to interfere with the discretion of the Agent in the matter.

MUSLIM TRAFFIC INSPECTORS AND JUNIOR ASSISTANT OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1008. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Is it a fact that there is not a single Muslim Traffic Inspector on the whole North Western Railway whereas there are many Hindu Traffic Inspectors ?

(b) Is it a fact that three posts of Junior Assistant Officers on the North Western Railway have been recently given to Hindus and none to Muslims ?

(c) Are Government prepared to enlist successful Muslims for similar appointments until communal inequalities are removed ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am making enquiries and will communicate with the Honourable Member.

MUSLIM AND HINDU CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PERMANENT WAY BRANCH, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†1009. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Will Government please state the present number of Muslim and Hindu clerks in the office of the Executive Engineer, Permanent Way Branch, North-Western Railway, Lahore ?

† For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1001.

(b) Is it a fact that the five new vacancies in this office were filled up by Hindus only and not a single Muslim was taken ?

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF B. BAHADUR SINGH AND OTHER SPECIAL TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1010. *Mr. Abdul Haya : (a) Will Government please state the educational qualifications of B. Bahadur Singh and other Special T. T. Es. of the North-Western Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that B. Bahadur Singh was selected Special T. T. E. when he was getting Rs. 150 *per mensem* ?

(c) What was his relative position as regards seniority at the time ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government understand that one is a graduate and two have passed the Matriculation Examination, the gentleman mentioned not being one of them.

(b) Yes.

(c) He was selected in preference to seven seniors.

HINDU AND MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1011. *Mr. Abdul Haya : 1. Will Government please state the number of Hindu and Muslim clerks with their respective educational qualifications, period of service, if any, and pay they draw, who have been recruited to the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, by :

(a) transfer from the Chief Auditor's Office ; and

(b) fresh appointment ?

2. Will Government please state the number of Hindu and Muslim clerks who have been taken in the upper grade in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office ?

3. How many Hindus and how many Muslims have been taken as accountants without passing the examination ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The compilation of the information for which the Honourable Member asks would involve a great deal of trouble which Government are not prepared to impose on the authorities concerned.

STARTING SALARIES FOR GRADUATES AND MATRICULATES IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AT LAHORE.

1012. *Mr. Abul Haya : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the starting salaries for graduates and matriculates in the clerical establishment of the North Western Railway offices at Lahore ?

(b) Is it a fact that Prem Chand, B.A., who was appointed on Rs. 80, is now drawing Rs. 130 *per mensem* with less than a year's service ?

(c) Is it a fact that one Jagdish Lal, who is only a matriculate, was appointed on Rs. 80 direct ?

(d) Is it a fact that Kanshi Ram, who is an F. A., was appointed direct on Rs. 100 and is now getting Rs. 150 although he has not a year's service at his credit ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) I am not aware whether there is any special rule or practice laying down starting salaries for graduates and matriculates in the clerical establishment of the North Western Railway offices at Lahore, but I am making enquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result.

(b), (c) and (d). The matter is entirely at the discretion of the Agent and Government are not prepared to interfere with that discretion.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1013. ***Mr. Abdul Haya :** (a) Is it a fact that of the 16 senior accountants in the grade of Rs. 270—20—450 in the Chief Auditor's Office of the North Western Railway at Lahore, no one is a Muslim ?

(b) Is it a fact that there are only two Muslim junior accountants as compared with 20 Hindus ?

(c) Is it a fact that there are three Muslim accountants in lieu of clerks as compared with 13 Hindus (in the grade 80—10—250—20—270) ?

(d) Is it a fact that there is one Muslim I.C.G. in grade I as compared with 4 Hindus and 8 Muslim I. C. G.'s in grade II as compared with 27 Hindus ?

(e) Is it a fact that there are three Muslim stock verifiers as compared with 12 Hindus ?

(f) If the above facts are correct, do Government intend to redress the grievances of the Muslims as regards inadequate representation ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I would refer the Honourable Member to the last sentence of the reply just given to his questions Nos. 993 to 998.

Mr. K. Ahmed : The Honourable Member says he has answered this question in his answer to questions Nos. 993 to 998. But if Members of the Assembly are not satisfied with the action taken by the Agent of the Railway, do Government propose, for the benefit of the country.....

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I suggest that it would be for the benefit of the country if the Honourable Member understands what is said before he puts questions. I was not talking about Agents of Railways but about the Auditor's Office at Lahore—a different matter.

REMOVAL OF STATE PRISONERS AND DETENUS IN BURMA TO THE MARY'S SCHOOL BUILDINGS AT MANDALAY.

1014. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of Burma on the suggestions of the Superintendent of Jail, Deputy Commissioner of Mandalay and of official and non-official visitors recommended to

the Government of India that State prisoners and detenus confined in different Jails in Burma should be removed and lodged together in Mary's School buildings at Mandalay which have been purchased by the Burma Government ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India also approved of the scheme subject to a Bengal Government official visiting and approving the site ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Lowman was sent to Mandalay to see the site and then reported that it was not desirable to keep all the State prisoners and detenus together ?

(d) If the answers to the previous questions are in the affirmative and if on the above suggestion of Mr. Lowman this scheme was abandoned, will Government please explain why Mr. Lowman was sent at all to Mandalay at a considerable expense ?

(e) Is there any truth in the allegation that Mr. Lowman disapproved of the scheme only because of the altercations he had with the State prisoners in the Mandalay Jail ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar : (a) A proposal on these lines was submitted by the Government of Burma.

(b) The Government of India approved the proposal in the first instance, but subsequently modified their views.

(c) Mr. Lowman visited Mandalay, but the Government of India are not aware of the nature of his report. The decision referred to above was taken on general grounds.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of India are not aware whether Mr. Lowman reported in favour of or against the scheme.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Sir, with your permission I will ask a short notice question of which I have given notice.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Before Mr. Mehta asks his short notice question, may I, Sir, be permitted to put my question No. 988 ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member knows that his question was on and he at once disappeared when it was about to be called. It is not right that the Honourable Member should get up now and again and ask that he should be allowed to put that question. He should at least have asked the Chair before we was leaving. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE VASAD-BORSAD-KATANA RAILWAY.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : (a) Will Government be pleased to say whether the construction of the Vasad-Borsad-Katana Railway has been started ; if not, when do Government propose to start it ?

(b) Do Government realise that thousands of people in Gujarat have become homeless and have been otherwise ruined by recent floods ?

(c) Are Government prepared to expedite the starting of the construction work of the Vasad-Borsad-Katana and other railways in Gujarat with a view to give relief to the stricken people ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Owing to negotiations with the Baroda Durbar, from whom a final reply was only received on the 29th August, sanction has not yet been given to the construction of the Vasad-Borsad-Katana Railway, and the agreement of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company has still to be obtained on one outstanding point. The Railway Board are, for the reasons mentioned by the Honourable Member, most anxious to start the construction of this line at the earliest possible date, and they have asked the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to communicate the agreement of his Company on this point by telegram as quickly as he can. They propose then to instruct him to commence the construction forthwith.

The Railway Board will examine whether there are any other projects in the afflicted area which can be taken up immediately, if necessary, by advancing their place in their construction programme.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE DISCHARGE OF WORKMEN FROM THE KHARAGPUR WORKSHOPS UNTIL AFTER THE PUJA HOLIDAYS.

Diwan Chaman Lall : In view of the possibility that men discharged from the Kharagpur workshops may find it difficult to set about getting work during the Puja holidays, are Government prepared to ask the Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway to postpone such discharges until the holidays are over ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I should first explain that the date chosen for the discharge of men from the Kharagpur Workshops was originally selected in the interests of the men, many of whom might be expected in the ordinary course to go to their homes during the Pujas. But the Railway Board recognise that the holidays may add to the difficulty of discharged men in finding new work immediately, and as soon as this possibility was mentioned to me by Mr. Acharya, we wrote to the Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, asking him if he could arrange to give the men who are being got rid of their pay up to the end of the Pujas in addition to whatever other benefits they might be receiving. We also told him that, unless there were serious practical difficulties, we should like him to do so and that we were prepared to sanction any departure from the rules which this might occasion. We have since learnt that he has agreed. This course, I think, will be more advantageous to the men than postponing their discharge, since while getting pay up to the end of the Pujas they will be able to use the Puja holidays in search of work.

With your permission, Sir, I should like to supplement this reply by apprising Honourable Members of the latest information which I have received of the position at Kharagpur. It is contained in a telegram which the Railway Board received yesterday from the Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway—the telegram being dated the 11th September. The telegram runs as follows :

“ Last two days Kharagpur shop men have turned out but have done no work adopting a policy of passive resistance. On the other hand there have been isolated cases of intimidation and assaults on subordinate supervising staff. At Labour Union mass meeting yesterday (Saturday) leaders recommended continuance of policy of passive resistance, that is, all men surging up to shops but not working. In opinion of District Magistrate and Cole (Mr. Cole is the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Railway) feeling of tension great and growing. Cole considers shops should be closed as, if men remain idle and tension grows, serious disturbances in shops will take place resulting in probable serious damage to property. If shops remain open and serious disturbances occur inside, which District Magistrate thinks probable, he cannot guarantee protection of person or property. He considers that if shops close he will be better able to control probable outbreaks. Have discussed matter fully with the District Magistrate and Cole and I agree that closing of shops is the lesser evil as likely to lead to less trouble and in view of situation now arisen have decided to close shops till situation clears.”

The date on which the shops were closed is not mentioned in this telegram ; but I understand from another telegram received by the Railway Board from an official of the Labour Union, that they were closed on the 12th September :

“ On September 16th arrangements are being made to pay men their August wages, settlement of all men on reduction commencing the following day. All men down for discharge will be paid up to the end of the Puja holidays, *viz.*, 11th October—*vide* my letter of yesterday's date. I am intimating that shops will be opened as soon as the men's leaders will give assurances that men are willing to work.”

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask what were the reasons which led these workers to go into the workshops and adopt passive resistance ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I understand they were advised to do so by their Labour Union.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What were the grievances behind this action taken by the workmen ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am aware of no grievances except the general grievance that a reduction in the staff is being carried out.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether any damage was done to property in the workshops by any of these men who were not willing to work there ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I do not think we have received information of any damage in the workshops. As I mentioned there have been one or two cases of intimidation of which we have had notice.

QUESTIONS NOT ASKED AT THE MEETING, OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF THE QUESTIONERS, AND ANSWERS TO THE SAME.

PURCHASE OF PAINTS, VARNISHES AND ENAMELS OF EUROPEAN MANUFACTURE BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

938. ***Mr. N. C. Chunder :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a notice was advertised by the Controller of Stores, North Western Railway in the *Statesman* (of Calcutta) of the 23rd August, 1927, inviting sealed tenders for the supply amongst other things of paints, varnishes and enamels of European manufacture ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to explain whether European manufacture means or includes articles manufactured in India by European firms or companies ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether :

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| (a) Paints | } of indigenous origin |
| (b) Varnishes | |
| (c) Enamels | |

are available ? If so, why have no tenders been invited therefor ?

(d) Are the tenderers bound to despatch samples to the office of the said Controller if so required to do ?

(e) Has the said Controller ever called for and examined samples of paints, varnishes and enamels of indigenous origin ? If so, with what result, if not, why not ?

(f) Are quotations being obtained from England for paints and varnishes ?

(g) Will Government state why quotations are not being obtained from England for enamels ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Paints, varnishes and enamels of indigenous origin are available. Tenders, however, were not invited for these as the North Western Railway obtain their supplies of indigenous paints and varnishes through the Indian Stores Department.

(d) Yes, one of the terms of the call for tenders was that samples if required must be despatched to the office of the Controller of Stores, Moghalpura.

(e) Yes. Trials have been made with such material and as a result practically all paints and some of the varnishes are of indigenous origin. An indigenous enamel has not so far been tried which has been found suitable for the requirements of the Railway.

(f) Yes.

(g) Quotations are being obtained from England for enamels.

AMOUNT OF HONORARIUM TO BE PAID TO THE ARCHITECT OF INDIA HOUSE IN LONDON.

988. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the honorarium agreed to be paid to the architect of India House in London ?

(b) If it be a percentage on cost what will it amount to on the estimated cost ?

(c) Did Government call for designs for the building by a public advertisement ? If so, in what papers, English and Indian, were the advertisements published ? If not, why not ?

(d) What steps have the Government taken to see that India House is an example of the best type of Indian architecture ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) and (b). The fee of the architect is fixed by the Royal Institute of British Architect as a percentage on the cost of the building, and the Institute's rules do not permit an architect to undertake work for less than the authorised fee. The percentage is ordinarily 6 per cent., and this would amount to about £16,500 on the estimated cost of India House.

(c) No. The design was prepared by Sir Herbert Baker, who was selected as the architect for the building. The Government of India do not consider that anything would have been gained by the procedure suggested.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to a similar question by Mr. Neogy on the 1st September.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DELAY BY RAILWAYS IN THE DISPOSAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR SIDINGS BY COLLIERIES.

105. Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the recommendation recorded by the Indian Coal Committee in paragraph 71 of their Report that undue time should not be taken by the Railway Administration in disposing of applications for sidings by collieries on Assisted Siding Terms, and in the eventual construction thereof after they are sanctioned ?

(b) Are Government aware that even this recommendation of the Indian Coal Committee is not being worked up to at present—that unusual time elapses (i) between the first application for siding and the decision thereon, (ii) between the decision and the preparation of plans and estimate, (iii) between the deposit of money for sub-grade work and final construction of siding and (iv) between the construction and the refund of unspent balance of the money deposited by the applicants ?

(c) Are Government aware that, in the case of the Dobary No. 3 Siding on the East Indian Railway, application was made in June 1921, was sanctioned on 5th March, 1923, and the plan and estimate were submitted on 11th March, 1924, i.e., after one year, and the cost of sub-grade work having been deposited in June 1924, the siding was actually opened for traffic in January, 1927 and the refund of the unspent amount of the deposit is still outstanding without earning any interest meanwhile, in spite of repeated reminders by the party ?

(d) Is it a fact that in 1921, the Indian Mining Federation initiated a proposal which was supported in the minute of dissent of the Indian Coal Committee, that a special machinery should be set up to consider all applications for siding from the collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields ? Should the reply to the questions (b) and (c) above be generally in the affirmative, are Government prepared to accept such a proposal for setting up a special machinery ? If not, do they propose to enforce on the railways concerned the observance of a time chart indicating the maximum permissible interval between the different stages during the pendency of an application for siding till its final completion ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Government are aware that in some cases delay has occurred in the provision of sidings. In the first place, compliance with an application must sometimes be withheld until the Railway Administration is satisfied that the colliery's business has grown or will grow sufficiently large to justify the outlay by the Railway on a siding. Secondly, after a decision to build the siding is arrived at, time is often lost in reconciling the conflicting interests of various parties. Thirdly, after the money for the sub-grade work has been deposited, delay may occur in the acquisition of the land. Government have received no complaint that delay occurs after construction in refunding the unspent balance of money deposited by applicants.

(c) In the case of Dobary No. 3 siding the Railway Administration Reports that the siding was opened in September 1926, not January 1927, as stated by the Honourable Member. Government have received no representation that the balance of the deposit has not been refunded but are enquiring.

(d) Government are aware of the proposal made by the Indian Mining Federation in 1921, but cannot find any reference to it in the minute of dissent in the Indian Coal Committee's Report. Government are not prepared to adopt the proposal of the Indian Mining Federation. When delay occurs in the provision of a siding, the causes are often not under the control of the Administration. For this reason the enforcement of a time table as proposed by the Honourable Member is not considered practicable.

RENT FOR COAL DEPÔTS IN ALL THE CALCUTTA STATIONS, ETC.

106. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Is it a fact that rent for coal depôts are not identical in all Calcutta stations (Sealdah, Howrah, Howrah-Punjab line and Uitadingi) nor are the non-mechanical facilities the same in these stations? If so, do Government propose to set up a permanent machinery to equalise facilities and rents among these stations with a view to fostering the trade in soft coke in the Calcutta city and suburbs?

(b) Is it a fact that the pilferage from coal and coke wagons arriving in Sealdah is markedly higher than that with regard to the same traffic arriving in other Calcutta stations?

(c) Is it a fact that at Sealdah the contents of coal wagons booked to non-depôt holders are allowed to remain on the railway yard without any wharfage being charged, to the greatest injury of the registered depôt holders who have to pay heavy rent for depôt spaces.

(d) Is it a fact that non-depôt holders at Sealdah are allowed to take deliveries of coal from wagons booked to them under "To Pay" system, without paying the railway freight, and is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities could not realise a large amount of freight owing to the latitude permitted in delivery referred to above; if so, will Government be pleased to state the total amount that could not be realised and the amount of such outstanding as at the 15th of August, 1927?

(e) Is it a fact that the wagons booked to registered depôt holders at Sealdah are in many cases not placed alongside their respective depôts?

but are placed sometimes a long way off the depôts ? If so, are Government prepared to ask the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities to adopt the method prevailing on the East Indian Railway system at Howrah and other Calcutta stations that wagons booked to a registered depôt are placed alongside the respective depôts and are not considered as " placed wagons " until they are so done ?

(f) Is it a fact that when wagons are placed at Sealdah coal yard no signature is obtained by the railway staff of the consignees as well as of the depôt holders noting the time of placing of such wagons ? If so, are Government prepared to enforce the practice that such signature shall be invariably taken at Sealdah at the time of placing of wagons ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The information has been called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member on receipt.

EMPLOYMENT OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS BY THE ROYAL TURF CLUB, CALCUTTA.

107. **Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many employees of the Calcutta Customs Appraisers Department and of other Government offices in Calcutta are working in the Calcutta Races Totalizator or in any other branch of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club and are receiving remuneration for such services from the said Turf Club ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to call for a list from the Royal Calcutta Turf Club of Government servants employed by the said Club in connection with the races and other duties who receive remuneration for services rendered ?

(c) Are Government employees permitted to accept such services ?

(d) Are the Government aware that instances have occurred that Appraisers of the Calcutta Custom Office, employed in race work, have left their duties as early as 12 Noon on race days (especially in the winter season when races start early) neglecting their duties inasmuch as they locked up in their drawers for days and days the customs import passes for appraisement with the regrettable consequence that the goods relating thereto incurred heavy demurrage to the great loss of the importers ? If not, are the Government prepared to enquire into the matter and inform the House of the result of their enquiry ?

(e) Do the Government propose to take steps to prohibit Government servants from accepting services elsewhere to the detriment of the public interest ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

DISMISSAL OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

108. **Mr. M. Rathnaswamy :** 1. Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state, if it is a fact :

(a) that railway companies reserve to themselves in their agreements with their employees a power to dismiss them on one month's notice " for any reason " whatsoever ;

(b) that such dismissals have been held to be wrongful by the subordinate Judge of Nagpur in *Leniage vs. the Great Indian Peninsula Railway* decided in 1924 ;

(c) that such dismissals are a matter of frequent occurrence even now ; and

(d) that the payment of bonus is considered to be a matter of grace and favour on the part of the employees ?

2. Have Government considered the question of instructing all railway companies to alter the agreement so as to make a railway servant liable to dismissal only for proved misconduct ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : 1. (a) No provision is made in the agreements for dismissal with notice. Provision is made for termination of service on notice being given by either side ; the period of notice varies from one to six months.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Employees are discharged under the terms of the agreement when in the interests of the Railway Administrations their services are no longer required.

(d) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to service gratuity. If so, a gratuity is granted as a reward for good, efficient, faithful and continuous service. The grant of gratuity is at the discretion of the Railway Administrations and it cannot be claimed as a matter of right.

2. The agreements provide for dismissal for proved misconduct only. If the Honourable Member is referring to discharges under the terms of the agreement Government do not propose to alter the agreements as suggested by him.

POLICE ESCORTS FOR REMITTANCES OF GOVERNMENT TREASURE SENT BY RAILWAY.

109. **Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article entitled " Safety at lonely stations " at page 3 of the issue for January 1927 of the Indian Railway Magazine ?

(b) Is it a fact that even guards of cash " carrying trains " have no police protection given to them ?

(c) Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of allowing the use of fire-arms to all station masters and railway guards ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) Police escorts accompany all remittances of Government treasure sent by railway except remittances of nickel, copper and bronze coin.

As regards private treasure, consignments weighing more than 54 maunds are only conveyed in owners' charge. Whether any protection is required for smaller consignments is under consideration.

With regard to railway earnings remitted by train, arrangements have been made to reduce such remittances as much as possible by payment into local treasuries. No police protection is, as a rule, given.

(c) On certain specially dangerous sections of railway, arms are given to the staff, for example on the Quetta and Rawalpindi divisions,

but Government do not consider that there is any necessity to allow the use of fire-arms to all station masters and railway guards, particularly, as in many cases, such fire-arms would prove to be a greater source of danger than advantage to the person concerned.

ACCIDENTS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

110. **Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article entitled "Buried alive" at page 10 of the Indian Railway Magazine in its issue for May-June 1927 ?

(b) Is it a fact that it is the third accident of its kind on the South Indian Railway during the last three years ?

(c) Is it a fact that as the result of a departmental enquiry an European engineer was reduced and a maistry prosecuted ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the ages of the victims and the amounts of compensation awarded to them ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). Enquiries are being made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

ACCIDENTS DUE TO THE NON-FENCING OF RAILWAY LINES.

111. **Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the two accidents mentioned at pages 129 and 130 in the July issue of the Indian Railway Magazine ?

(b) Is it a fact that a large portion of the railway line at Thirumathikunnam, the place of accident, is unfenced ?

(c) Has the Governor General in Council issued orders under section 13 of the Railways Act to have all railway lines fenced ?

(d) If so, do Government intend to take any notice of the negligence ?

(e) Are the Government prepared to take action to ensure that the members of the Local Advisory Committees should be asked to be present at all enquiries into accidents attended with loss of life ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state if any and, if so, how much, compensation has been awarded to the victims in the aforesaid two accidents ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes.

(b) Such information as we have goes to show that the line is fenced at this spot, but I am making enquiries.

(c) No.

(d) I am not sure that I understand what alleged act of negligence the Honourable Member refers but, as I have said, I am enquiring whether the line is fenced at this spot.

(e) The question of the possibility of associating representatives of the public with enquiries into accidents has been carefully considered by Government, but with the advice and consent of the Central Advisory Council the proposal to provide for such association has been dropped.

(f) I will enquire whether any compensation has been paid and let the Honourable Member know. In one of the cases mentioned there seems, *prima facie*, no reason for any such payment.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF CLERKS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

112. **Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy** : (a) Are the Government aware that at the last Session of the Legislative Assembly Government stated that the revision of the pay of clerks on the South Indian Railway was under contemplation ?

(b) Are the Government aware that the Agent of the South Indian Railway said in answer to the deputation of the members that waited on him recently that it was not proposed to revise their salaries ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state which of these statements is correct ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (c). At the last Session of the Legislative Assembly it was stated that the question of revising the starting pay of junior clerks was under the consideration of the South Indian Railway Company. This was certainly a correct statement of fact at the time it was made.

(b) Government have no information, but will enquire.

GRANT OF ALLOWANCES TO THE OFFICERS AND CLERKS OF THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE, SIMLA, MOVING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BETWEEN SIMLA AND DELHI.

113. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the allowances that are being paid to the staff of the attached offices of the Government of India, namely, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and the Military Accountant General ? Are these allowances paid on the ground of the nature of work in the offices mentioned or on account of the higher cost of living in Simla and Delhi or on account of the move of the two offices with the Government of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that three-fourths of the staff of the Simla Government Telegraph Office move with the Government of India Headquarters ? If so, will Government kindly mention the number of such persons concerned and the grade they belong to ?

(c) Do not the officers and clerks of the Telegraph Office, Simla, face the same hardships as those in the two attached offices of the Government of India mentioned in part (a) above ?

(d) Are these officers and clerks of the Simla Telegraph Office paid the same allowances that are paid to the staff of the two attached offices ? If not, why not ?

(e) Do these telegraph employees receive the same treatment in regard to joining time when they move down to Delhi or up to Simla as the employees of the two attached offices ? If so, why is the distinction made in respect of the allowances and why is the Simla Allowance Code applied to the telegraph employees in one respect and not in another ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The establishment of the offices of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and of the

Military Accountant General receive allowances under the Simla Allowance Code. These allowances are paid in consideration of the expensiveness of living in Simla and of other disadvantages to which these establishments are subject as a result of their having to move with the Government of India.

(b) Yes.

Office Superintendent	..			1
Telegraph Master, General Service	..	..	..	3
Telegraphists, General Service	..	..	..	28
Clerks	..	..	..	15
Munshies	..	..	..	3
Time keepers	..	..	..	2
Compositors	..	..	..	6

(c) The Office Superintendent and the General Service Telegraph Masters and Telegraphists, Simla, are provided with free quarters and thus protected against excessive house-rents. With this exception the reply is in the affirmative.

(d) No. The Telegraph Office staff receive allowances specifically sanctioned for them by the Government of India. The allowances are based on the recommendations of the Telegraph Committee of 1921.

(e) No. The telegraph employees are granted joining time under the Supplementary Rules while the establishments of the Director-General's and Military Accountant General's offices are granted joining time under rule 18 of the Simla Allowances Code. The restrictions until recently imposed on the grant of joining time to the former have been removed.

The second part does not arise.

GRANT OF FREE QUARTERS OR HOUSE-RENT IN LIEU THEREOF TO THE SIGNAL ROOM CLERKS TRANSFERRED FROM OLD DELHI TO NEW DELHI.

114. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Is it a fact that the services of the signal room clerks of the Simla-Delhi Telegraph Offices are not transferable except on promotion ; if so, will the Government please state whether the signal room clerks transferred from Delhi Old Secretariat to New Delhi have been either provided with free quarters or house-rent allowance ? If the answer be in the negative, will Government please state if they propose now to redress their grievance by granting house-rent or free quarters ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The answer to the first part of the question is that signal room clerks are transferable from one station to another either on promotion or on revision of establishment or in the interests of discipline.

The answer to the second part is in the negative.

In respect of the third part Government do not admit that the clerks concerned have a grievance. Signal room clerks are not entitled to free quarters nor to house-rent allowance.

LONG HOURS OF WORK OF ASSISTANTS AND CLERKS EMPLOYED IN THE FINANCE
AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SECRETARIAT.

115. **Kumar Ganganand Sinha** : (a) Is it a fact that the prescribed hours of work in the Government of India Civil Secretariat Department are generally from 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. ?

(b) Is it a fact that in some of the Departments (*e.g.*, the Finance and Commerce) assistants and clerks are generally in office much beyond the prescribed hours, *i.e.*, up to 6 or 7 P.M. ?

(c) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government please state what this is due to ; is it due to the fact that they have to wait till their officers leave or because the work is excessive or because the staff is insufficient ?

(d) If the reasons are not any of those specified above will the Government be pleased to state what the reasons are ?

(e) Are the men who stay late in office paid any remuneration for the extra labour ; if so, what ; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar : (a) Yes, except on Saturdays when the hours are usually 10-30 A.M. to 2 P.M.

(b) and (c). No. Assistant and clerks *sometimes* have to stay late in office when work is heavy. I am not aware that this is *generally* the case.

(d) Press of work.

(e) The staff of the Secretariat are whole-time servants of Government and no extra remuneration is paid for occasional overtime work.

DISCHARGE AFTER NINE YEARS' SERVICE OF 23 TEMPORARY COMMISSIONED
OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

116. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Is it a fact that on the 1st September, 1926, 23 temporary commissioned I. M. S. officers were served with notice of discharge from the Service after having served the Indian Army for 9 years ?

(b) Was this discharge effected by Army Order Z.-2396-2 (D.M.S.-1-B), dated Simla, 23rd April, 1926 (limitation of the period of service of temporary commissioned officers of the I. M. S.) ?

(c) If so, will the Government please state if, when these temporary officers were entertained, they were informed of this intention on the part of the authorities and have they no vested interests in their service ?

(d) Have any Europeans been enlisted *in India* as temporary I. M. S. officers and have they also been discharged at the end of 9 years or have they been retained and given a higher rate of pay during their service and promoted ?

(e) Is it a fact that in place of these discharged 23 temporary I. M. S. officers 24 new junior temporary officers were engaged ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) The annual contracts of 23 officers lapsed on or about the date mentioned and were not renewed. These officers had served altogether for 9 years on annually renewed contracts.

(b) Yes, Sir. Except that the document referred to by my Honourable friend was a memorandum and not an Army Order.

(c) No, Sir. As I have stated on previous occasions these officers were originally engaged on annual contracts, subject to renewal at their option as well as that of Government for further periods of a year at a time. They have therefore no vested interests beyond what is represented by the annual contract. They were entitled to such notice of non-renewal of their contracts as is laid down in the terms of the contract. That notice was duly given to all of them.

(d) Europeans have been recruited as temporary I. M. S. officers on the same terms as Indian temporary I. M. S. Officers, but I cannot say whether any of them were actually recruited in India. The second part of this question does not arise.

(e) The temporary officers whose contracts were not renewed were replaced by the same number of newly recruited officers with temporary commissions. As I have informed the House, Government are re-examining this question, though they can give no undertaking that the 9 years' rule will be modified.

GRANT OF GRATUITY OR SOME FORM OF PENSION TO TEMPORARY INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE WHEN THEY ARE DISCHARGED.

117. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : (a) Is it a fact that temporary I. M. S. officers engaged in England receive £1,000 as a gratuity on the completion of 5 years of temporary service, and that this gratuity is increased if further temporary service is rendered ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state if there is any difference in the duties performed by the European and the Indian temporarily engaged I. M. S. officers ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) is in the negative, will the Government please state the reason for this difference in treatment ?

(d) Are Government prepared to sympathetically consider the granting of a similar gratuity or some form of pension to Indian temporarily engaged I. M. S. officers when they are discharged ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) No, Sir. As I have explained fully in my reply to Diwan Chaman Lall's question No. 806, no temporary I. M. S. officers are engaged in England, but the terms of appointment to permanent-commissions in the I. M. S. now include the option of retiring after 6 or 12 years service with a gratuity of £1,000 or £2,500 instead of pension. Indian officers recruited to the permanent service now have this option equally with Europeans. No temporary officer, whether Indian or European, whether recruited in England or in India, is entitled to a gratuity under the terms of his contract.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

THE GOLD STANDARD AND RESERVE BANK OF INDIA BILL.

Mr. President : I have received the following notice of a motion for adjournment of the House from Diwan Chaman Lall :

“ I beg to give notice of the following motion of adjournment to discuss a matter of recent and urgent public importance, namely, the affront offered to the Legislative Assembly by the Government in withdrawing this Session the Gold Standard and Reserve Bank Bill before the Assembly had had an opportunity of discussing the remaining clauses of the Bill.”

The matter proposed to be discussed seems to me to be in order, and I have to ask whether the Honourable Member has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment.

(No member stood up to object.)

As no Honourable Member takes objection I intimate that leave is granted and that the motion will be taken up at 4 P.M.

APPOINTMENT OF MUNSHI ISWAR SARAN TO THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. President : I have to inform Honourable Members of this House that I have appointed Munshi Iswar Saran to the Library Committee in place of Diwan Bahadur R. Ramchandra Rao who has ceased to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION *RE* INDIANISATION OF HALF THE CADRE OF OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

Mr. President : The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Dr. B. S. Moonje on the 25th August 1927, and also the amendment moved thereto by Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. The Resolution is :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that as a beginning in the direction of preparing India for self-defence immediate steps be taken to bring about the Indianisation of half the cadre of officers in the Indian Army, un-animously recommended by the Sken Committee, within a period of fifteen years, and to carry out the unanimous recommendations of the Committee with regard to the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst and the recruitment of Indian officers in those arms of the defensive forces, paid for out of Indian revenues, from which they are at present excluded.”

The amendment of Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar is :

“ That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

‘ Subject to the revision of the whole scheme of the defence of the country in any future constitution for India acceptable to the people of India, and while feeling that the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee, specially relating to the continuance of British recruitment, do not satisfy Indian public opinion, this Assembly is of opinion that the acceptance of the unanimous recommendations of that Committee will mark a definite beginning in the Indianisation of the Army in India, and it therefore recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to accept those recommendations and give immediate effect to them ’.”

Rai Sahib Har Bilas Sarda (Ajmer-Merwara : General) : Sir, I do not intend to speak on the military situation of Asia as affecting India, nor how, as time passes, the awakening of China, Persia and Afghanistan

and their gradual evolution as powerful military states have darkened the prospects of people of this country living peaceful lives, nor, how the increasingly estranged relations between Russia and England are rendering the military and political outlook so far as this country is concerned less and less satisfactory. That has been done by my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje. I wish to say a few words as to the alleged difficulty in the way of the Indianisation of the Army ; but before I do so I wish to say a few words with regard to what my Honourable friend, Colonel Crawford, said the other day with regard to the Skeen Committee. He said that the Skeen Committee was a failure because it mistook its task. Instead of concerning itself primarily with the efficiency of the Army, it concerned itself with the question as to how many Indians should be appointed to it. He also said in rather an apologetic tone, as if he was telling a truth which was unpalatable but which must be told, that, the efficiency of the Army was not compatible with the increasing Indianisation of the Army, for British officers were unwilling to serve under Indians because of differences of social life.

As to the first point, I believe nobody here thinks that the Skeen Committee, which was presided over by such a distinguished soldier as General Skeen, the Chief of the General Staff, and on which there was also an eminent officer like Mr. Burdon, Secretary to the Government of India in the Army Department, did not pay heed to the question of efficiency. The fact is that my Honourable friend, and gentlemen of his way of thinking wish to keep the Army in India as a close preserve for Britishers, and whenever any proposal is made to give the Indians their due share in the defence of their country, the cry is always raised, " efficiency in danger." But, Sir, it is time that Colonel Crawford realised that this cry " wolf, wolf " no longer deceives anybody now.

As regards the second point, my Honourable friend is mistaken if he thinks that Indians believe in the danger which he tries to foreshadow. The English are a very practical people, and no people in the world know how to bow to the inevitable with greater grace. So long as they know that they can dictate their own terms, they will do so, but the moment they come to know, that they cannot have things all their own way, they will fall into line and accept the situation. When they know that they cannot have all the prizes in the Army, they will be content with what they can get and serve India. But, Sir, if the worst comes to the worst, and if when Indians are placed in command of battalions and regiments, the English officers refuse to have anything to do with the Army, though we shall be very sorry, we shall not be dismayed. We shall regard this as one of the ills which the body politic of India is heir to. We are anxious to enlist in the service of our country all the assistance that we can get from British officers, but if they still do not come, we shall not go into mourning ; we shall not sit in ashes and sack-cloth mourning our fate. They will not find us with tears in our eyes and hands folded beseeching these so many achilles sulking in their tents to come and command us. Sir, we Indians, Hindus and Muhammadans and Anglo-Indians, have sufficient suitable material in this country which, when trained, will help us to create an army which would be quite sufficient for the defence of our country. I wonder if my friend Colonel Crawford knows that General Sir Ian Hamilton says in his Scrap Book on the first part of the Russo-Japanese War :
 - " Why, there is material in the North of India and in Nepal sufficient and fit, under good leadership, to shake the artificial society of Europe to its foundations'".

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Another military writer writing in the *Contemporary Review* a few years ago, said :

“ If the Prussian conscription were applied in India, we should, without counting reserves or land'wehr or any force not summoned in time of peace, have two and a half millions of soldiers actually in barracks, with 800,000 recruits coming up every year—a force with which not only Asia but the world might be subdued.”

Now, Sir, when we have got such material, and if we can get trained officers, there is no reason why we should not be able to have an army adequate for our purposes. Perhaps Colonel Crawford knows that it was not with the help of British officers that the Indian Army put a stop to the ever victorious march of Alexander the Great and later inflicted the disastrous defeat on the celebrated Greek King and General Seleukus and wrested half Western Asia from him, was it because the army was led by British officers that it hurled back the untold legions of Semaramis the Great of Assyria and inflicted a defeat on the Assyrian army from which it never recovered, or again when King Sobhogsen defeated Antischus the Great. The nation that achieved such brilliant triumphs may be safely taken to possess suitable material for an efficient army. We have also got amongst us here descendents of those who founded in India an empire in the 16th century which was the strongest of its time. Thus we have got material for officering the army in this country which, when properly trained, would be quite adequate for the defence of our country.

Now, Sir, the chief difficulty alleged to be in the way of Indianization of the Army is the paucity of suitable youngmen who could be trained as officers for the Army. As I have said, there were in India, before the English came to this country, large armies commanded by Indians who showed great powers of command and who achieved great military feats which throw lustre on the history of India. It is only since the British Raj has been established that armies in India have ceased to be commanded by Indians, not because sufficient and suitable officers have not been forthcoming, but because it has been the policy of the British Government to train Indians for military service or to give them even the smallest control over the Army. It is perfectly true, Sir, that military science has made wonderful advance in these days and that a person has to undergo long training before he is fully equipped to be an efficient officer. But when Europeans who commanded European armies before these developments took place are now able to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances and are able to command modern armies, there is no reason why Indians who are regarded as a highly intellectual race should not also be able to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances. When India can produce good soldiers, there is no reason why with proper training she should not be able to produce officers to command the army. Are there any countries with large armies where the armies are officered exclusively by foreigners. Is human nature then so radically different in India from that in the rest of the world that it can produce only soldiers but not officers even when training is available ? Sir, I think there is sufficient material present in Rajputana to furnish a large part of the Army with officers ; so is the case with the Punjab, Maharashtra, Oudh and other provinces. We must not judge of the capacity of Indians for military service from the students who go up for the Sandhurst examination. Even Sir John Maynard, formerly Member of the Executive Council of the Punjab, who served for

40 years in India has assured us—I read from the Skeen Committee's Report :

“ in the Punjab alone there are many boys who do not appear for the Sandhurst examination but are of better quality than the accepted Sandhurst candidates, whom he himself had seen ”.

It is only because the people do not think that Government is anxious that youngmen in India should take to the profession of arms that there is this alleged paucity. If the people of India are convinced that it is the genuine desire of Government that Indians should take their proper share in the defence of their country, the military colleges and schools which would be established for the purpose would be flooded with young men who will be found to be able to hold their own against young men of any other country.

Sir, the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee are neither generous nor liberal. And even if the recommendations in their entirety are given effect to, it is very doubtful if half the officers of the army will be Indians even after 25 or 30 years. We can well understand the caution and hesitation of Government in the matter, considering the great stake that England has in the country, for England's world position depends upon India not breaking away from her. And, Sir, when it is the avowed policy of Government to give self-government to this country, is it not wise and prudent that Government should win and retain the good will of Indians by conceding to them the right of defending their own country and by training them to do so. What is therefore important at the present time is that a real beginning in a right earnest spirit be made and, though the recommendations of the Skeen Committee are far from satisfactory, still the country accepts them as a proof of the genuine desire of Government to set the country on the road which will lead to the position when Indians will be able to defend their own country.

Two things, however, are necessary for the success of this scheme. The system of recruitment which has been recommended is over-cautious and in fact unsatisfactory. The scheme laid down in pages 29 and 30 of the Report appears to aim at securing what in present-day political parlance may be called “ safe men ”. Government should show greater trust in the people if the scheme is to have a chance of success. Secondly, Government should lose no time in moving the universities and other educational authorities suitably to modify the courses of study so as to enable young men so inclined to take to the profession of arms. And Government will find that in ten years' time suitable material would in a much larger degree be available than they would be able to make use of.

One word more and I finish. I hope Government will not give undue weight to the interested protests of people who profess to be representatives of the so-called martial classes against the intellectual classes entering the Army. They declaim against the intelligentsia, against the nimble-brained people as if brains were at a discontent in the Army. The equipment of officers, Sir, is not the same as that of soldiers serving in the ranks. Ire, grit, nerve and character are the essentials of military life, but they are not the monopoly of those who have learnt to use a bayonet or a rifle when commanded to do so. It is no use concealing the fact that the present paucity of suitable candidates fit to be trained as officers in the Army is due solely to the fact that the doors of the Army are

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closed to the intellectual classes. This bar to keep the intellectual classes from entering the Army is, I fear, another way of keeping the Army reserved for Britishers, for they will always be able to say that young men of sufficient education with sufficient brain power to be able to compete with English boys at the Sandhurst examination are not forthcoming. Sir, I support the amendment proposed by Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar.

Mr. H. G. Cocke (Bombay : European) : Sir, I confess that I approach this subject with some diffidence because I realise that we in this House are mainly amateur soldiers or no soldiers at all. And it is obviously a subject which is very complex and a subject upon which we can only come to a decision after hearing the very best advice possible. We are attempting to build a structure and it is absolutely essential that the foundations to that structure should be well and truly laid. If a mistake is made in the initial stages it may re-act against the whole problem we are out to solve. And as my Honourable friend says, the whole building might fall down. We agree that the problem is one that should undoubtedly have been faced much earlier. It is easy to be wise after the event and it is very little good discussing that aspect of the matter now. History to some extent will possibly help us in this matter. At the same time, I do not consider that delving into the past, as the Honourable Member did who has just sat down, will help us very much. Armies are changing very rapidly and conditions are changing, and in building up our structure we have got to consider the future much more than we have to consider the past. Undoubtedly, to some extent this subject is one which will have to be tackled by the Statutory Commission because it is not a local problem, it is not merely an Indian problem, it is an Imperial problem and it is for that reason that we on these Benches feel that, much as we admire and sympathise with the recommendations of the Skeen Report, we feel that, until that Report has been discussed and advised upon by those who are expert in the creation and maintenance of armies, particularly with regard to the Imperial aspect, we on our side are not inclined either to approve or condemn the main recommendations of the Report to-day. We wish to hear further views on the subject and to frame our own opinions later. Undoubtedly, we have got to visualise the prospect in the future of the Indian Army having to stand not perhaps entirely alone, but in the main alone, and that situation has got to be worked up to. My Honourable friend who has just sat down referred to Colonel Crawford's speech made some little time ago in this House in connection with this Resolution and he said that Colonel Crawford desired to keep the Indian Army a close preserve for British officers. Colonel Crawford attempted to correct the Honourable Member but he did not give way. I wish to point out that the Honourable Member said the exact opposite of what Colonel Crawford said in his speech, and considering the speech was made some weeks ago and the Honourable Member has had time to peruse it, I think he might have been rather more careful in referring to it. Colonel Crawford said :

“ I believe entirely that we must concentrate all our energies on the building up of an Indian Army of all arms officered entirely by Indians if we are ever to make this country capable of Dominion self-government.”

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : May I just correct the Honourable Member. I will read his words from the official report of his speech. He said :

“ We will concentrate, not upon the question of efficiency but upon the question of how many men are we going to take in. That is really what the Report does.”

Mr. H. G. Cocke : The Honourable Member said that Colonel Crawford had stated that he wished to keep the British Army a close preserve for British officers and I have corrected him on that point.

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : No, I did not say that he said so.

Mr. H. G. Cocke : We here are absolutely at one on that point that the Indian Army will have to be Indianised and remoulded but, as I have already stated, it is a very large problem and not a local one and a problem on which we wish to have further advice before committing ourselves to any details. You cannot deal with the British Army and the Indian Army in water-tight compartments. You have got to consider the whole problem of Imperial defence as a whole, and the terms of reference to the Skeen Committee were undoubtedly limited. That Committee was not in a position to review the whole situation from top to bottom. The Army Council and the authorities in England have got every right to participate in this matter and their advice is recognised to be a matter of importance. The statement of the Report at page 41 is to the effect that :

“ apart from any consideration which might influence ourselves, the Army Council must have the right to decide what standard of training and qualifications is to be regarded as adequate in the case of an army officer who is to hold the King's commission.”

Don't let us be in a hurry in arriving at a decision on this Report. It will be noted that the original Resolution and the amendment before the House at the present moment both include the word “ immediate ”. In the Resolution we are to take “ immediate steps ”, and in the amendment to give “ immediate effect ” to the recommendations. I say that both those words are unfortunate and this House is certainly not in a position to adopt any Resolution which includes the word “ immediate ”.

One of the great problems which has got to be solved is the question of the improvement in the supply of the British officers. We have already been told that there is a shortage under ordinary conditions to-day. If the remoulding of this Army is going to make the problem more difficult, then, in the very words of the Report, the scheme will break down. Therefore, one of the first difficulties that has to be got over is that the scheme should be such that it will be more acceptable to the British officer than the present scheme is likely to be.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : That is your main point.

Mr. H. G. Cocke : It is not merely or mainly a question of the terms upon which these officers are induced to come out to this country, but I venture to think it is mainly a question of getting at the heart of the Britisher whom we want to attract. In other words, if the scheme is well laid on a sound foundation, it is likely that you will get men to come out because they will realise that they are helping to create efficiency in the Army. If from the first it is considered that the matter is being tackled on wrong lines, you will be much less likely to get the required number and stamp of the British officers.

[Mr. H. G. Cocke.]

I have already dealt with the question of the training of Indian officers. We all realise that they have got to be trained. It is only a question of the best method. A military college will undoubtedly have to be formed and we on this side will be only too glad to welcome that step.

Sir, we do not consider that the time has arrived for going into detailed proposals. If the scheme propounded by the Skeen Committee were adopted by this House in its entirety to-day I think it will be a misfortune. I notice that Mr. Roy said on the previous occasion that it would be an economic, social and political misfortune if the scheme were not adopted. I should like to quote his exact words. He said that :

“ if the entire recommendations of the Skeen Report were not accepted, it will mar political, economic and social progress.”

I have a better opinion of India than that. When he says that, if the Report is not adopted entirely, it will mar the progress of India, I do not at the moment believe him.

As regards the domiciled community of India, we realise that there is excellent material in this country and we sincerely hope that that will be made use of. There are many schools in this country which turn out a very good class of boy who will be very useful in the future moulding of the Indian Army.

The scheme outlined in the Skeen Report is full of safeguards, and if we adopt this Report without any change whatever, it is liable to break down. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief read out an extract from the Report on the previous occasion pointing out that this scheme or any scheme would depend on the requisite material being forthcoming and on the state of efficiency to be obtained. Another quotation is this :

“ Our main scheme will ultimately stand or fall by the quality of the material which it succeeds in producing and which has yet to be produced in the numbers constituting the basis of our primary proposals.”

And again, on the subject of education, which, as we all know, hits the very root of the problem, the Report says :

“ We would make it a condition that Indian boys seeking to enter Woolwich or Cranwell should be required to pass the same qualifying tests as British boys.”

That recognises at once the very high standard of education which has got to be attained and which cannot be attained to-day. I therefore suggest to the House that neither the present Resolution nor the amendment should be pressed, and that the matter can be discussed again on a later date when we have more information before us and when we should be in a better position to argue and discuss most of the foundations of the structure we are all anxious to build.

Lieutenant Sardar Muhammad Nawaz Khan (Punjab : Land holders) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to move the amendment which stands in my name.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The amendment which now holds the field is the amendment of Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar. If that amendment is defeated—the Honourable Member must make every endeavour to defeat it if he wants to move his own—then he will have an opportunity of moving his amendment. What the Chair proposes to do is to allow discussion

on the original Resolution and the amendment of Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar to proceed, and then put Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's amendment to the vote, and if that is defeated, to take up the next amendment.

Munshi Iswar Saran (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I wish to assure the House that I listened with such attention and respect to the speech of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief as is due to his exalted position, and since its publication in the Official Report, I have read and re-read it with very great care, but I am constrained to say with all respect that the speech is utterly disappointing and unsatisfactory. The speech of His Excellency can be divided into two parts ; in the first part His Excellency has asked the House to wait for the result of the communication that is in progress between the Government of India on the one hand and the authorities in England on the other, and in the other part His Excellency allowed us to have a peep into the mind of the Government of India when His Excellency dealt with the question of efficiency and our defective system of education, and so on. With your permission, Sir, I shall deal first with the first part of His Excellency's speech.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has 15 minutes only.

Munshi Iswar Saran : I shall do it in less time, Sir. Now, it would appear to a man who is not familiar with the proceedings of this House and with the history of India that this question about the Indianisation of the Army was brought up before the Government of India and the authorities in England for the first time, and, therefore, they did not know what conclusion to come to as they had not time enough to study the question in all its various aspects. But, Sir, is that so ? I submit that if you look to the past history of this question and if you keep in mind the agitation that has been going on in the public press and on the public platform, you will find that this question has been prominently before the Government of India and the authorities in England at least for 30 to 40 years. In view of the reminder which you, Sir, were pleased to give I shall be very brief and give one or two facts only. It will be remembered that on the 28th March 1921, while the debate on the Report of the Esher Committee was in progress in this House, I had the honour to move an amendment which ran as follows :

“ As soon as funds be available, steps should be taken to establish in India a Military College, such as Sandhurst, and the desirability of establishing in India training and educational institutions for other branches of the Army should be steadily kept in view.”

You will notice, Sir, that His Excellency, the then Commander-in-Chief, accepted this amendment after it had been incorporated in the Resolution itself. Then, Sir, you will find that on the 24th January 1923, that Mr. Yamin Khan moved a Resolution on this question. It was then that His Excellency Lord Rawlinson said :

“ The Government are well aware that Members of the Legislature, and indeed and even wider circle of political opinion in India, are deeply interested in this very important problem. I can assure you that the Government have taken, and are taking, an equally keen interest in the matter.”

His Excellency hoped that he would be able to make an announcement soon after the decision of the authorities in England had been arrived at. We then find that on the 4th July 1923 Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer moved a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly that effect be given to certain

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Resolutions which had been passed by this House in connection with the Report of the Esher Committee. On the 19th February 1925, Mr. Venkatapati Raju moved a Resolution and it was then that the Home Member moved an amendment which incorporated a suggestion that a Committee should be appointed to go into this question and submit its report. I am inclined to think that the Indian Sandhurst Committee was the result of the amendment moved by the Honourable the then Home Member. Again, you will find that in 1921 a Committee called the Military Requirements Committee presided over by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and consisting entirely as far as I recollect of official representatives was formed. (*An Honourable Member* : "Not entirely.") My Honourable friend says not entirely. That is my recollection and therefore I said as far as I recollect. I remember that the then Law Member, the then Finance Member and my Honourable friend, Sir Denys Bray were members. From 1921 to 1927 this report of the Military Requirements Committee is engaging the attention of the authorities. It was early in 1922 that I put a question and the answer given was that the Report of that Committee was receiving the attention of Government. In 1923, again, in answer to a question the Government said that they had not received the views of the authorities in England. Now, Sir, I submit that this question has been before the Government in India and before the authorities in England at least since 1921, and now to say, "Please wait till we have considered this question in all its bearings, please wait for the decision of the authorities in England", is putting too much strain on our credulity.

What do we find? The Report of the Sandhurst Committee was issued in 1926, and wellnigh one year has elapsed, and what have the Government done? (*An Honourable Member* : "Nothing.") Government have not sent up their final proposals. What the Government have done according to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is that they have submitted only provisional recommendations to the authorities in England, and we were told by His Excellency that after the views of this House are known, a full despatch will be sent to the authorities in England. Why, Sir, this differential treatment between the Report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee and the Report of the Lee Commission? We find that within six months of the issue of the Report of the Lee Commission, the then Home Member brought forward a resolution in the Legislative Assembly incorporating the recommendations which he expected this House to accept. Why, may I ask—with all respect,—why did not the Government of India wait and say, "Oh, let us know the views of the Legislative Assembly about the recommendations of the Lee Commission". No. Instead of doing that, they formulated their proposals and they put them before the House and expected the Assembly to accept the recommendations made by Government. Then, Sir, may I ask, if this debate was initiated by Government? I would have understood the desire of Government to know our views if Government had said to the Assembly : "Here is the Report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee. Before we make up our minds finally, will you express your opinion about it?" They did nothing of the kind. It was left to the

non-official Members of this House to bring forward a motion on this question.

There is one thing in this connection which I shall beg the House to remember. When Sir Alexander Muddiman, the then Home Member, brought forward his Resolution in connection with the Report of the Lee Commission, he laid stress on two points, one was the personnel of the Commission, and the other was the unanimous character of the Report and also that the conclusions of the Commission were conclusions arrived at after a compromise. I claim, and I am sure no one will be able to contradict me, that the Report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee has the same virtue as was stated to be possessed by the report of the Lee Commission. Here is a Report which is unanimous—officials and non-officials, military men and public men, they are all unanimous, and in the words of Sir Alexander Muddiman, it has got the great virtue of being the product of a compromise. Why not accord to it then, the same treatment as you have accorded to the recommendations of the Lee Commission ?

Mr. B. Das : Because it concerns Indians only.

Munshi Iswar Saran : Now, Sir, I submit that the Government for reasons best known to themselves are not prepared at this moment to tell us on the floor of this House what they wish to do in connection with this Report. If they wish to do so, there is nothing to prevent their doing it. Don't we know that in 1914 there was a conference appointed by the South African Government in order to go into the troubles in Natal and the report of that Conference was placed on the table of the House in South Africa. It was here that Lord Hardinge in 1914 got up and expressed his own views about the report that had been submitted in South Africa only that very day. I submit, Sir, if you want to express your opinion about the Sandhurst Committee, you can do so. There is nothing to prevent you from letting us know what conclusions you have arrived at or what recommendations you have made to the authorities in England. Sir, in this connection one should very much like to know the attitude adopted towards this question by the distinguished Indian gentlemen who are in the cabinet of the Government of India. Sir, I submit, that in view of all these and other circumstances the conclusion is irresistible that the Government of India is not so keen about the recommendations of the Skeen Committee as it was keen about the recommendations of the Lee Commission, and I hope the House will forgive my saying that there is a great deal of force in what people generally say. Some have the courage to say it publicly, others say it privately—that the Government will not move unless it is forced by circumstances to move. You may resent the statement, but I am saying it publicly, and there are thousands and thousands of people who say the same thing, that Government will not move unless there is something to force it. I say, Sir, we are feeble, we are weak, we are helpless. There is no doubt about it, but I do resent our being treated like children. Treat us as people who are disunited but do not treat us as children. I say to Government—Play the game. If that is your intention, tell us plainly that you are going to throw this Sandhurst Report on the rubbish heap and that you will have nothing to do with it. We shall then know where we stand. Or say that you will give effect to such and such part and not to others. Please tell us

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where we stand. This negotiation and this correspondence will go on, as it has been indeed going on for some considerable time. Did you not think of all this when you appointed the Committee ?

As soon as the Report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee was published, a foreword was attached to it. My Honourable friend Mr. Jinnah and other busy men, (?) are we to understand, have been engaged in preparing the report which will supply material to Government to enable them to explore other avenues which were not within the purview of the Committee. The Sub-Committee consisting of busy men visited Canada, France and other places, and made their recommendations. You have the result of their labours and I say to Government, come to a conclusion. It does not matter what your conclusion is. I only beseech you not to continue to say that this matter is still engaging attention. Surely Government can come to a conclusion if only they care to.

There are two points which I shall with your permission make clear. It has been said by my Honourable friend the Mover that in a time of trial or difficulty it is possible the British Government may not be able to help India in her defence. I would not base my claim for Indianisation on that ground. I shall assume that England will ever be willing and will ever be able to defend India. I shall further assume that England will not charge us a single penny, that she will defend us out of pure love and out of sheer generosity. In spite of these assumptions, I still say that it hurts our national self-respect not to be able to defend our country and for our defence to depend upon foreigners. Sir, self-government may come, self-government may not come, but we desire to have the power and the capacity to defend our hearths and homes and to defend the honour of our women. Before I proceed further I shall say one other word and it is this, that there is a great deal of confusion of thought—I shall not use a stronger expression—about the capacity to defend being a condition precedent to the acquisition of self-government. I submit that this capacity is not and has not been a condition precedent so far. If you look to the history of the self-governing Dominions you will find that in no case was the capacity to defend itself a condition precedent to the grant of self-government. If you refer to the book called "The Empire at War" by Sir Charles Lucas, in Volume I, page 69, this is what you find :

"... it may be summed up that at the time of the mid-century wars, between 1850 and 1860, as far as the Colonies were concerned, Imperial partnership was mainly limited to gifts of money for relief, or at most, to elementary preparations for self-defence in the event of the removal of the Imperial garrisons. In other words, a little more than sixty years ago, the overseas provinces of the Empire, with the exception of India, so far from being prepared to fight the battles of the Empire beyond their own shores, were not prepared in any effective sense to defend those shores. Defence was still looked upon as the charge of the Mother Country."

Sir, may I now turn to the second part of the speech in which His Excellency was pleased to refer to the question of efficiency. Now, Sir, there is no time otherwise I should have invited the attention of this House to the testimony borne, not as my Honourable friend Mr. Cocke said by ancients, but by modern authorities. I shall quote only a few words from Lord Rawlinson. He said :

"The Indian Army has a traditional reputation for efficiency and reliability which is I think universally acknowledged. It will be unnecessary for me to dilate on

their endeavours, their self-sacrifice, for Honourable Members all know the great achievements of the Indian Army before the great war, during the great war and since the great war, both in India and overseas."

Sir, it passes my poor intelligence and comprehension how the question of efficiency arises. When did you give our men a chance of working as officers and when did they fail? Did they ever fail? If not, then I submit the onus lies heavily on you to prove that if you give a chance to our young men to work as officers in the Army they will not prove as efficient as anybody under the sun.

Turn we now to the question of education in this country. I do not suppose the framers of this Indian Sandhurst Committee Report ever thought what use would be made of their harmless remarks on the question of education. If you look at the history of education in this country.....

Mr. President : The Honourable Member must now conclude his remarks.

Mushi Iswar Saran : Now I must conclude. I wish I had the opportunity to say a few words about the provocative speech of Colonel Crawford.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member should have done it in the beginning. Will he now conclude his speech?
1 P.M.

Munshi Iswar Saran : Very well, Sir, I shall then resume my seat.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I am glad to have been given this opportunity of speaking on his subject in which I am greatly interested—perhaps not so much as my friend, Dr. Moonje is interested; but I can say that I am interested in the subject a good deal. Sir, I admire the way in which he has put the subject before the House. He has gone very thoroughly into it, and I think he well deserved the appellation of "Colonel" hinted at in this House the other day. Sir, there were certain matters in his speech which are really fundamental and which ought to be more clearly brought before the House, and though I do not command a knowledge of the English language to such an extent as to do full justice to the subject, still I shall try to explain my views, Sir. Before proceeding to the points on which I should like to speak at some length later on as regards India, Indianisation, national spirit and such things, I think the House will be expecting from me something on the Skeen Committee's Report itself, of which I was one of the signatories. I thought, Sir, that we had compiled a very short and sweet report, and we hoped that the Report would meet with the approval and satisfaction of both the Government and the public; but when I returned from Bombay after having signed the Report, the first question which was put to me in my part of the country was, what we had done for the martial races! I tried to utter a few smooth words, but I was afraid that when the Report was published, it would give no satisfaction to the martial races in the north—and so it happened. I now see that deputations are waiting on His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and are parading the lobbies of this House, and I am sure more so the lobbies of the Council of State, which has some leaders of the martial races, asking the Members of both the Houses to safeguard their interests, and I do not know what can be done for them now. As regards the Report itself,

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Sir, I think it is a very simple measure. All that we want for the present is simply to double the vacancies now open to Indians in the Army. There is a provision for an Indian Sandhurst later on in 1933. We have also suggested that half the number of officers should be Indians in 1952. Beyond that we could suggest or recommend nothing. We could not say as to when it would be possible to eliminate the British element from the Army. We also provided for a revision of the whole scheme after ten years. We thought that with so many safeguards the Report would be acceptable to Government, and I do hope that it is not unacceptable to Government. The only thing that occurs to me is that, having regard to the Imperial nature of the question or something connected with the Imperial policy of the defence of the Empire, it is being gone through more carefully and more cautiously. I think it is well that this scheme is brought before the House and is being discussed and debated. The opinion of the House will go before the authorities at home and will give them an idea of what the country wants. I do not think that the Mover of the Resolution should press his Resolution to a division just now; there is every hope of its being carried, but something which is just the reverse of it, has happened in the other House. I am sure we shall get another opportunity of discussing it in the Delhi Session and perhaps that will be the more appropriate time for us to come to a definite decision on this subject. But whether the Mover takes it to a division or not, does not concern me; it is his own look-out. I should only like the Government of India to know the views of the House on this subject and that, too, in detail.

Sir, when I was listening to the speech of the Mover of the Resolution I heard such expressions as "India, Indian, national aspirations, martial spirit" and things of that sort a good deal. I am really anxious to know, not as a critic, but as a real inquirer, what "India" really means? As at present constituted, it comprises the countries of Burma, Baluchistan, British Afghanistan (in other words, the North-West Frontier Province), the tribal area, Chitral, etc., etc., and God knows how many more countries are to be conquered by the British and brought into the sphere of the Indian Empire.

Does my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje really mean that he is going to arrange for the defence of these vast countries comprising the Indian Empire? Is he trying to make provision for the defence of all the Hindu Kush passes leading into this huge continent of India. (*An Honourable Member*: "Yes.") Quite so. If that is the idea then bring all these countries under the lap of your reforms and civilization. It is the biggest of all questions and requires more thought than what has so far been paid to it by the Honourable Members, who have spoken on the subject. I should like to know what similarity of ideas, races, thoughts, civilisations or customs there are which form the nationality of a country!! I am as much an Indian and wish to be so, as anybody on that side of the House (Laughter). As a matter of fact when I was in America, I readily responded to the call of a Hindu; when anybody asked me whether I was not a Hindu, I said that I was a Hindu. (Laughter.) Every man going from India to a foreign country is a Hindu, but when he comes back to his own home, he gives up that word and calls himself a Bengali, a Burman or a Punjabi, and so on! I do not mean that we should not Indianise the Indian Army. But what I should like is that we should first Indianise our minds. We should

change our thoughts, our minds, our ideas and various other things. We should first get over the various differences that exist in the country, not the climatic differences, but differences of nations of nationality and of languages and thoughts and various other things, not to speak of communal differences ! It is rather dangerous to talk of communal differences nowadays, because we are now engaged in a conference where we are trying to remove those communal differences and we hope that we shall succeed soon. So, before I proceed further, I should like to have a definition of the words " India " and " Indian ".

Mr. President : Order, order. The question of definition of " India " or " Indians " does not arise. The question before the House is that the recommendations of the Skeen Committee be accepted by the Government. (Laughter and Hear, hear.)

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : But, Sir, the recommendations of the Skeen Committee are based on the Indianisation of the Indian Army. I want to know the meaning of the words " Indian " and " Indianisation ".

Mr. President : The Honourable Member must put this question to himself. (Laughter.) He has put his signature to the Report.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : I have put this question in this manner to myself but I cannot make out a satisfactory reply. Perhaps my Honourable friends on the other side will deal with the question more thoroughly. Those of my Honourable friends who have studied the question more thoroughly and who have tried to master it will I believe, do better credit to this question. I must confess that with my poor abilities I have not been able to solve it or to come to any definite conclusion over it.

Sir, I will not dilate on this subject any further, but will revert to the Report itself. The Report was signed in November last and we were then in a somewhat better position than we are now. We have not got a huge army with which we can afford to make experiments ! The Army that we have got is just enough to guard our frontiers and keep internal peace. That is all that we have got so far. We had two other means of keeping the peace within the country, one was by the influence of the leaders and the other was by means of the police force, but I am sorry to say that the influence of the leaders has of late deteriorated, so much so that they can hardly get out of the communal bias. As regards the police, I have not seen a single case of riot enquiry, Sir, where the police have not come in for criticism, either from one or the other community. The confidence of the country is practically lost in the police and it is now of no great value to us. Now the only thing left is this well disciplined Indian Army, which has shown itself fire-proof against communal bias and influences. If the Army is also affected or tampered with, by the introduction of not very highly disciplined officers, I think we shall soon lose confidence in the Army also. At present, as I have said before, we want the Army only for the internal safety of the country ; because I am not one of those who are ever afraid of the foreign invasion bogey. I think India has not had a more stable or safe time than she at present has. It is because we have now got an independent neutral country between us and the inimical Russia, to which my Honourable friend Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarada has referred. That neutral country is not likely to allow, if it is in its power, the Russians to pass

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through their country whether as friends or foes. It would be practically ruining their own country if the Afghans were to allow the Russians, even as friends, to pass through their country. Things were rather different when the Government of India had the responsibility of defending the so-called Indian borders on the Oxus. At that time we were responsible for the safety of the Afghans but now they are a free people and if able to look after themselves, they will not be so foolish or unwise as to allow even a friend to pass through their country. There is a proverb in Pushtu, my mother-tongue, which says that a lashkar of even friendlies is not to be allowed in one's house, because if you allow them they will surely plunder your house. As to the Afghans themselves invading India they are unable to do so and their attempt in 1919 was, to my mind, mainly due to an invitation from certain Indians, chiefly non-Muslims, to help them in their troubles with Government.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has already taken twenty minutes. I hope he will now bring his remarks to a close.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : Thank you, Sir. The speech of the Honourable the Mover has brought in so many delicate questions of nationality and nationalisation that I could not avoid the temptation of saying a few words on those points. One of the remarks—and this will be my last word—one of the remarks, which the Honourable the Mover made was that the British Government had not done much towards creating a national spirit in the country, as he would like to have seen introduced in the country. I should have thought that the British had done most of all. They have tried their best to introduce nationalism, unity and uniformity of laws and customs, into a country like India, which before their arrival was divided into small communities and principalities. The first step they took was to do away with the Sati and various other customs. But a foreign Government cannot go so rashly as Lenin in Russia and Kemal in Turkey and bring about very fast nationalisation. Have they not encouraged the Boys Scouts movement and allowed Sangatons and Tanzims to prosper? But they are naturally anxious not to disturb the feeling of any section of the community—not even by Dr. Gour's Bills. Dr. Gour has been introducing many social Bills but even there the Government have been always anxious not to hurt the feelings of any community. The whole lot of Honourable Members on the other side are the products of the nationalisation and national spirit of the present regime; and we can boast of men like Mr. Jinnah whose whole community cannot divert him an inch from his national ideals, however strong may be the efforts of those who try to persuade him the other way. Similarly, I have got great admiration for Mr. Jayakar, who is ready to send all religious cranks to the lunatic asylum, since they are an impediment to the progress of the country. Not to speak of Honourable Members over there who, I am afraid, are a little too far advanced, even beyond nationalism and will go precipitously down-hill!

To come to a conclusion, Sir, I think a good deal has been done by the British Government in making up a nation of all the races of India, bringing them into one line of action (*Cries of 'no'*) but I am sorry to see that the goal before them, they think, has to be reached

through European clothes and European education. If this is going to be the way by which they are to reach the goal, they must wait patiently for centuries before all these various kinds of dresses are changed into one uniform suit and before the thirty crores of people adopt one uniform language. That surely will bring about a nation, but if they can settle upon one language and upon one dress for the whole country all at once, things will go on much faster.

Sir, as I have said, the Army should be the last thing to be meddled with. Go on faster with Indianisation in other departments but not in the Army itself. You have got another scheme before you—the Territorial Forces scheme or the Auxiliary Forces scheme ; go on with those schemes province by province ; raise the tone of those Forces and make them a second line of defence and you will have learnt the art of soldiering and the art of defending the land. But this little army is too precious to be played with. Do not weaken it by bringing faster Indianisation into it.

My final recommendation is this : send your youngsters across the seas, to heaven or hell wherever you wish, but keep them away from the present very dirty atmosphere in the country ; they should be free from your own present day sentiments, so that when the time comes the new Hindu element in the Army may prove itself as reliable against its own coreligionists on the North-East Frontier, as the Muslim element has invariably proved itself on the North-West Frontiers of India and elsewhere.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Mr. Rajivaranjan Prasad Sinha (Patna *cum* Shahabad : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, I am grateful to you—I am very grateful indeed—for allowing me, a new Member, an opportunity of taking part in this very important debate. Before I proceed further, I should like to congratulate the Indian Sandhurst Committee on the valuable Report which they have produced. I congratulate them, Sir, not merely because the Report is flattering to Indian self-respect, but because the Report vindicates that self-respect. It vindicates Indian public opinion which has always held that if Indians have been debarred from taking up the defence of their country it is not because of any inherent inferiority which attaches to them, but because of the policy of distrust and deliberate exclusion of Indians from the higher ranks of the Army which the British Government have pursued in the past, and which they are pursuing even to-day, in howsoever modified a form. Sir, the Committee rightly observe that there is no lack of good potential material for the army in this country, and if the Government have not succeeded in reaching it or in utilising it, it is because of the defects in the method of selection, lack of publicity and suitable propaganda, and also because of the defects in the educational system of India which—the Committee might have added with truth—the Government have shown no active desire to remedy or

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rectify. And why ? Because the Government have deliberately followed the policy of exclusion of Indians from the higher ranks of the army of their country.

Sir, when the War broke out and Government found themselves in a difficulty, they created ten vacancies for Indians at Sandhurst. Mind you, Sir, they did not do it at the beginning of the War, in 1914 or 1915. That would have been too premature. They took full four years to do even that. When the difficulties of the War increased and they were faced with a critical situation, they hastily set up a number of military colleges in India and reserved ten seats for Indians at Sandhurst. When the war was over, the military colleges disappeared, but the ten seats reserved for Indians remained and they remain to this day. Sir, the ten vacancies are still there, and there has not been a single addition to that paltry number during the nine years which have elapsed. Government think, Sir, that they have made a great concession to the people of India in reserving these ten seats for them. They gravely complain that the people of this country have not shown a proper feeling of enthusiasm over this great concession, that young men have not come rushing from all parts of the country to compete for these ten prizes. I am afraid, Sir, there is something seriously wrong with the mentality of the Government. They betray the same mentality when they set up the sham of a responsible Government and call upon Indians to declare that it is real and not sham. Sir, some of us are hypnotised into believing that it is the real thing, while others stoutly refuse to take the shadow for the substance and Government, Sir, are surprised. They are surprised at our lack of enthusiasm for the sham commodity and insist that unless we took that for the real thing they would not give us the real thing. Sir, Government may have succeeded in effacing their sense of humour or, at any rate, in subordinating it by some miraculous process to their imperialistic instincts, but they should not be surprised if they find that Indians have still got some sense of humour in them. Therefore, Sir, I am glad that the Committee have come to the right conclusion that the real reason why Indians have not exactly enthused over these ten seats at Sandhurst lies in the extremely limited and narrow scope of the scheme for Indianisation which has been put into operation. Sir, the Committee proceed to make certain definite recommendations for remedying this state of affairs. They recommend that ten vacancies should be further reserved for Indians at Sandhurst making a total of 20 vacancies available for Indians and they recommend that this number should be progressively increased till by 1952 half the total cadre of officers for the Indian Army are Indians. They further recommend that an Indian Military College should be established in India in 1933, and they make other subsidiary recommendations. Now, Sir, there may be differences of opinion in regard to the details of the scheme, but I think I am not wrong in saying that Indians of all shades of opinion are agreed that the main recommendations of the Committee should be accepted and duly carried out. Sir, I am aware that there are many amongst us who feel that the pace of Indianisation recommended in the Report is too slow—I myself feel that the pace is exceedingly slow—but we hope, Sir—it may be a vain hope—but nevertheless we are hoping—that by the time the whole scheme comes up for review in 1928, circumstances—which we cannot

foresee at present—may have shaped themselves in such a manner that Government may be willing, nay, even eager, to accelerate the pace of Indianisation. That is our hope, Sir, and inspired with this hope we are prepared to accept the recommendations of the Sandhurst Committee. And there is a further reason also. We do not wish to give Government the excuse for saying that the unanimous recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee have not been acceptable to the Indian people themselves. This, then, is our position with regard to the main recommendations of the Committee. I do not wish to deal with the subsidiary recommendations. Honourable Members who have given notice of certain amendments will deal with them and I dare say more comprehensively than I can.

Now, let us see, Sir, what the Government have got to tell us in regard to the main recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee. They have already attached a foreword to the Report, an ominous foreword which, if anything, is meant to damn the Report in anticipation. They tell us that the problems of recruitment and training of King's commissioned officers are essentially an Imperial concern and any proposals reacting on them must be closely scrutinised by His Majesty's Government and their Military advisers. The Noble Lord, our brilliant Secretary of State, further tells us that the whole scheme must be examined by a Committee for Imperial defence. Sir, Government, when they tell us these things, expect us, I fancy, to be impressed—to be properly impressed—by these weighty observations. But, Sir, we fail to get impressed—we may be stupid—but we cannot feel impressed by such pronouncements. And for this reason, the Indian Sandhurst Committee have made no revolutionary proposals. They do not seek to upset the existing organisation of the Army. They do not propose to reduce a single unit of the Army or for the matter of that, a single commissioned officer or non-commissioned officer. The strength of the Army remains untouched; the number of commissioned and other officers remains the same; the number and strength of the troops remain the same as at present. All that they propose is that a certain number of duly trained and duly commissioned Indian officers should take the places of European officers, and the number of such Indian officers should be progressively increased till a certain proportion is reached. Now, I take it, Sir, that a commissioned officer is a commissioned officer, whatever be the pigment of his skin. It is not proposed to put in untrained Indians. It is not proposed to make a certain number of commissions available to the Members of the Indian Legislature who are unfortunately fit only for politics and for nothing else. The proposals of the Committee simply mean that Government should allow a certain number of Indians to receive military training to qualify themselves for service in the Army of their country. They mean that the Government shall not keep the door shut in their faces, that they shall open it—not very wide but just a little bit wide—and allow Indians to enter and receive military training—to submit themselves to whatever rigorous tests of training Government might be pleased to impose, keeping the standard of efficiency as high as they please—not lowering it by an inch, by an iota—and when the Indians have been so trained, when they have successfully passed all the tests of efficiency, then they should be commissioned and allowed to serve in the Army of their country. That, Sir, is the proposal of the

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Indian Sandhurst Committee in a nutshell and yet, Sir, we are treated to all this talk about Imperial defence, to the necessity of gauging the exact extent of the reaction, the repercussion, which these revolutionary proposals are likely to have on problems of Imperial defence. Sir, Indians are not lacking in ordinary intelligence and can see through this maze of empty and high-sounding words the real hitch, the real difficulty which is troubling the Government here as well as in England. The real difficulty is that Government are unable to make up their minds to allow Indians to qualify themselves in increasing numbers for the higher military service of their country. They are unable to shake off their distrust and prejudice so as to allow limited a very limited, number of Indians to qualify themselves for military service and serve in the higher ranks of the Army of their country. Sir, this is the real hitch and no other. And yet, Sir, and yet, the British people aspire to remain an Imperial power, to maintain their supremacy over numerous races and communities inhabiting this vast Empire. Let me tell them, Sir, that racial prejudice and Imperial ambition cannot go hand in hand—cannot subsist together. Sooner or later, they will have to give up this prejudice or Nemesis will surely overtake them. Sir, they have simply got to make up their minds and not go on eternally fencing with words which deceive nobody. I hope that they will make up their minds without undue delay and accept the recommendations of the Committee. Let them accept the inevitable with a good grace, but if they do not do that, I know what the verdict of history will be. The inexorable verdict of history will be that the great British nation, in a moment of stress and difficulty, promised India to set her on the road to responsible government, but when they had emerged from the crisis, they faltered and wavered: they had not the courage to carry out all the implications of the policy which they had announced with a flourish of trumpets. Sir, this will be the verdict. because after all, Sir, it is really a question of moral courage. It does not require much courage to subdue a nation, to disarm and emasculate and reduce a great nation to a helpless condition. But it requires far greater courage—at any rate, it requires courage of a very high order—voluntarily and willingly to remove the shackles, the disabilities which you have imposed upon that nation. I hope, I fervently hope, that the British nation, the great British nation, will not be found lacking in this high moral courage. Sir, I support the amendment moved by my Honourable and esteemed friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. (Cheers.)

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City : Muhammadan Urban) : I really do not know how I should start to deal with this question. But to begin with, I congratulate His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; at the same time, I sympathise with him and I share his regret. Sir, I congratulate him for the statement which he made in his speech, and I am very glad that he made the position clear, with regard to one matter at least. That statement was this :

“ They are prepared to face those issues, and they are prepared to give information regarding their policy after having due time for consideration.”

In other words, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief made it clear that the question of the appointment of the Statutory Commission had nothing whatever to do with the consideration of the Report of the Sandhurst Committee. The Government of India are, therefore, prepared to face the

Report and deal with it. Well, Sir, I congratulate him ; to that extent it is a matter of some satisfaction. But may I ask His Excellency that he will do his utmost and not swerve from the statement which he has made on the floor of this House, and that he will pursue the matter vigorously and earnestly and leave no avenue unexplored until he has got the decision on the Report of the Sandhurst Committee ? Sir, I sympathise with him and I share his regret, because he himself says in his speech as follows :

“ I had hoped that to-day I might have been able to give this House some information as regards the policy of the Government in this matter. It is to me a matter of great regret that I am unable to do so.”

And we all know, and he made it very clear at the end of his speech, why he is unable to do so. He said :

“ The Home Government, as I have already said, have not yet had time to formulate their opinions, and surely it will be best if they are not asked to do so in hostile atmosphere.”

Then he proceeded to say that he would certainly welcome the opinion of the Members of this House. He concluded as follows :

“ I trust that this Resolution may not be pressed. If pressed, the Government of India will have no other recourse than that of opposing it for the reasons I have given. But I am rather hoping that the present event may be regarded more as an opportunity for Members to state their opinions than as an attack upon Government.”

I am glad that he recognises that the Members of this House should express their opinions. At the same time he asks us not to put this Resolution to the vote. May I appeal to His Excellency to consider how any House, any organisation, and particularly the Legislature, is to express its opinion except by votes recorded on a division ? Therefore I cannot understand why the Commander-in-Chief says that we should not press this motion to a division. Sir, the opinion of this House can only be ascertained collectively by recording votes. I will therefore urge upon the House that it should take a division on this question and let us express our opinion whether we are in favour of Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's amendment or not.

Having said so much, I come to my next point and it is this. The Government position is a *non possumus* one. They say : “ We have not come to any decision and we can therefore say nothing ”. Therefore as one of the signatories of this Report, what can I say ? I can only say to the House that in the absence of any ground or any reason which may be put forward against this Report you must accept this Report. What is the objection to this Report ? The only objection I can see has come from Colonel Crawford. I was amazed at the speech he made. Not only was I amazed but I wondered, when I was listening to him, whether he was really representing the better mind of the Europeans even in this country. Then came the speech of the leader of the European group. He came to his rescue and his pronouncement, I may say, has regained to a certain extent the shattered reputation of the European party in this House. The leader of the European group spoke not only his mind and that of his party but of his people outside who belonged to his race or community or caste ; I don't know which. It was somewhat halting, hesitating. It lacked spirit. It had no enthusiasm of any kind and it merely said : “ Well, the Report is there. The Government have not come to any decision as to their policy. Therefore Europeans in this country must cease thinking

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until the Government have made up their minds". He had no opinion to express. Sir, the Europeans express their opinions strongly, loudly and vociferously when their particular interests are concerned, but this is to them a matter of no consequence at all. The other criticism that came from any quarter at all was a suggestion, "Don't play with the Army" — a fine phrase indeed which conveys many things. But may I ask whether the Government wishes to continue to play with the people of India? Now, Sir, the policy of the Government has been laid down as far back as 1918. The Government of India laid down the policy of admitting Indians to the King's commissions in the Army in India and Indianisation of the officer ranks. The Army in India, as the House knows, is not an Indian army at all. They are His Majesty's Forces stationed in India. The policy was first initiated in 1918. That policy has never been repudiated, but on the contrary, over and over again, it has been affirmed in this House and even in Parliament by the Secretary of State. That policy was that you must Indianize the officer ranks of the Army in India. And, Sir, as my friend Munshi Iswar Saran pointed out, the question was raised in the first Assembly in 1921 and again in 1923. Then, as he pointed out, Resolutions were accepted by the Government. One of the parts of one Resolution was with regard to the establishment of a Sandhurst. Since 1924 I have had the honour of standing on the floor of this House and addressing the Government. I had pointed out in the very first year, in 1924 to Lord Rawlinson, that giving us 10 vacancies at Sandhurst is not playing with the Army but playing with the people of India. To say that 350 millions of people in this country cannot give you 10 boys who can be considered suitable and fit for King's commission is, I say, an insult to the intelligence of this House. What was the plea in reply put forward? "We cannot get suitable candidates". Well, how is that matter to be decided? We pressed and we pressed, and in 1925 this House passed a Resolution for the appointment of a Committee and it was after great pressure had been put upon the Government by the non-official Members on this side that Sir Alexander Muddiman made a declaration in March 1925 that the Government would appoint a Committee. The policy was—and I do not want the House to forget it—to accelerate the Indianization of the officer ranks of the Army in India. Those were *inter alia* the terms of reference to the Committee. The next question was whether we should supplement the British Sandhurst or whether we should establish a Sandhurst in India. The Committee therefore proceeded to investigate. And what is the position now? The position is this. You have got this report consisting of 64 pages. And may I ask the Commander-in-Chief what justification there is for him or the Government he represents suppressing and not making available to this House and to the public the materials collected by the Sub-Committee in England, in France, in America and in Canada. May I ask him on what ground he can justify it? I may say on the floor of this House that, barring the evidence of the Indian cadets, no witness claimed any privilege or stated that he would give his evidence in camera. No such stipulation was made by anybody, either by official or other witnesses, nor by any of the authorities concerned, and I cannot understand on what ground the Government can justify the suppression of those valuable materials which were collected in those four countries. Sir, it is not doing justice to this House to ask this House to deal only with this Report without placing the materials before them on which it is

based. The findings in this Report are entirely based on the materials and the evidence which were collected both in this country and in those four countries that I mentioned. Even the evidence recorded in this country of numerous witnesses that were examined is not placed before the Honourable Members. I am sure if the Commander-in-Chief would kindly read the evidence recorded—I mean the evidence of educational authorities—if he had read it he would not then have said as he did say that Mr. Das, the Law Member, was engaged in establishing a public school which would help us a great deal to solve the problem. I will read his words. The Commander-in-Chief said :

“ In this connection I would like to refer to the efforts being made by one of my Colleagues, the Honourable Mr. Das. Mr. Das, as I think the House probably knows, is making the greatest efforts to establish in India a really fine public school. I sincerely trust that his efforts will meet with the success they deserve. He is working wholeheartedly in the matter, and, should he succeed in his efforts, I honestly believe we should have overcome the first of the many very great difficulties in the problem.”

Now, Sir, I do not want to be misunderstood. I wish my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, every success, and I do not want to be misunderstood. But, Sir, is this problem going to wait until Mr. Das establishes a public school, and then only it will be solved? Is that the interpretation, is that the reading, of the voluminous evidence of the educational authorities and the Sandhurst Committee's Report? Surely, Sir, it is obvious: you have only got to see what the recommendations are. The recommendations are shortly these. At present you have got ten vacancies. The recommendations are that they should be doubled; and mind you, even the Army Council is not opposed to it. They say “ 5 per cent. of the establishment ”, which means 20 per year. Now we want 20 suitable boys—we want only 20 suitable boys—in the year 1928: and does the Commander-in-Chief suggest, do the military authorities suggest, that you cannot get 20 boys in the year 1928, and that you must wait until Mr. Das establishes his public school? (Laughter.) Then what is the revolutionary change that we suggest later on? “ Increase it by four per year ”: and we get to 38—mind you—in 1933. In 1933 we only get as far as 38 vacancies. You mean to suggest that you cannot get 38 suitable boys in the whole of this Continent? And must we wait for Mr. Das's public school? Sir, the Committee, remember, were considering the development of the educational system, the co-ordination of the educational system and the co-operation of the educational authorities and the educational organizations, with what object and effect? A Sandhurst which will be established in India, because, when you establish a Sandhurst or a military academy in India, the Committee then were considering that this military academy of yours, when established in India, will meet with much greater success, and there will be a greater competition, and the finest material will come up for admission to this institution in India; and it was in order to spur, in order to give the impetus to that object in view that the Committee have made those recommendations. You can, by developing your educational system in this country on the lines laid down in their Report, produce the finest material that you can find anywhere in the world. It does not mean that we have not got sufficient material now or that it would not be forthcoming. Therefore, Sir, Colonel Crawford and probably the Commander-in-Chief, have in mind the system of public schools. I know the conservative British mind, and I do not blame them if they

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cannot get rid of it from their heads, that the only method in this world by which you can get suitable boys for a military career is the public school system. Now let me tell the House, Sir, that there is no public school system either in America or in Canada or in France or in Germany or any other country that I know of. Now this is a matter which was very carefully considered, and an enormous amount of material was collected on this point, which of course neither the House nor the public has before them.

Now, Sir, this is one part which is made much of and not correctly represented. If you look at the scheme, what will happen at the most will be this : that in 1933 we get as far as 38 vacancies. Later on, no doubt the number goes on increasing, but even then the highest number, recommended as detailed in the Appendix, will not be more than 125 Indians after 25 years in 1952.

Now, Sir, we come to the question of British recruitment. We are told by Colonel Crawford who seems to be a great authority on the subject—I do not know how he gets all this information, probably he gathered this information at some club when he was in London last—that the British youth refuse to come out or will refuse to come out if the recommendations are given effect to. Colonel Crawford, Sir, is the messenger of the British youth and he has brought this message to this House and to India that the British youth refuse to work either in co-operation with or under Indian officers in the Indian army on their merits. Is that a message of the British youths to India ? What does he mean by saying that birds of the same feather flock together ? What did he mean by suggesting that we should start a Dominion Army which will be entirely Indian ? What did he mean by championing the 8-unit scheme ? With regard to this 8-unit scheme, if he had read our report—unfortunately, of course, it is true that due to the Government's wrong attitude he has not got all the material before him—, he would have found that it was not only the Indian commissioned officers who objected to this 8-unit scheme, but every British officer commanding the regiments condemned it altogether. (Applause.) There was not a single witness who did not condemn it. When we went to England, the War Office even could not give us any convincing reason why this 8-unit scheme was brought into force. It was due to the decision arrived at by the British Cabinet and the Cabinet, I am informed, consults what is called the "Imperial Defence Committee." Now, Sir, we have fully dealt with the 8-unit scheme and our objections are to be found in the Report. But how was this 8-unit scheme exploited ? It is to be found in the kind of lectures, a specimen of which we have annexed to this Report. Who gave this lecture ? It was given by an officer. And who is this officer ? He is an officer in the India Office and he goes to Sandhurst and tells the British youths that they will never have to serve under Indians and that is why this 8-unit scheme was started. It was a misrepresentation ; it was misleading ; it was poisoning the minds of the British youth. And Colonel Crawford is now the messenger who says that you cannot expect the British officers to accept your social conditions. What does he mean by social conditions ? What has the army officer got to do with social conditions ?

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal : European) : Live in a mess and see.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Live in a mess and drink ! (Laughter.) What do you want him to do, to have a drink ? Well, he is quite capable of that. Have you not got 44 Indian King's commissioned officers in the Army to-day ? Even Sandhurst—do they not share mess life ? Sir, I again say : read the evidence and I ask the Government to produce that evidence. Publish it.

Why did you not publish it ? If you read the evidence, you will find that there was not a single European officer to whom this question was not put. Every European officer was asked whether he was getting on well with his colleagues the Indian commissioned officers. There was not a single European officer who said that he was not getting on well with his colleagues or with his subordinates. They had nothing to complain of. Then the Indian commissioned officers are on the most friendly terms with the British officers and get on very well with them. They have got the greatest affection and love for some of their colleagues. What is the good of saying, segregate the Indian officers from the British in the Army ? I am surprised that we should be told to-day on the floor of this House by no less a person than my Honourable friend that he has a brand new scheme which would solve this problem. I ask my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford where was he when the Sandhurst Committee was sitting in India for 8 months and recording the evidence and views of various people ? Colonel Crawford was in India. Sometimes he was next door to the room in which the Committee sat. (Laughter.) Sometimes he even came into the room in which the committee was sitting. (Laughter.) Where was he then ? Why did he not come forward with his magnificent scheme which he has now put forward before the House ?

Colonel J. D. Crawford : I addressed a letter to the Skeen Committee.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Why did he not put forward the scheme that he brought before the House in his speech the other day ?

Colonel J. D. Crawford : I was not allowed to do so.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Who prevented the Honourable Member from doing so ? Well, Sir, this is the spirit of some which really brings discredit to the Europeans in this country. (Applause and Hear, hear.) Well, Sir, you have a man of the position of Colonel Crawford, a Member of this House, connected with the Military, a man with very wide experience, and yet he never came before the Sandhurst Committee, never cared to attend any of its meetings, but he now comes up here with his wonderful scheme. (Laughter.) What is his scheme ? I say that his scheme is absurd and impracticable. I know I shall be told that I am a lawyer and what do I understand about military matters ? I admit I am a lawyer. But, Sir, may I draw his attention to the paragraph in the Report which certainly bears the signature of one of the greatest soldiers in India, Sir Andrew Skeen. Certainly there were on that Committee two commissioned officers holding the rank of Major, and there were also two Viceroy's commissioned officers on that Committee. What do they say about this ? They all agreed to the proposals made in the Report. My Honourable friend Colonel Crawford says : ' Why don't you train up Indian officers ' . He says that by that means the Viceroy's Commissioned officers can become

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

King's commissioned officers. What does my Honourable friend mean by that? I have great admiration for the Viceroy's commissioned officers; they are brave men, they are heroic men, they have shown their mettle in many a battle front. I must not be misunderstood when I say that there are inherent difficulties in the way of Viceroy's commissioned officers becoming King's commissioned officers. Generally, a man becomes a Viceroy's commissioned officer at the age of 40 or 45. He generally has to rise from the rank of a sepoy who has no education.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : Sometimes.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : No, Sir. It is only now that we are making an effort to have them more or less educated to a certain extent, but it is merely elementary education with which they are equipped. Most of them can hardly read or write. We are making efforts just now to import men with some education. What is the Scheme of my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford? To prepare these men for King's commissioned officers. Think of a man at the age of 45 being prepared for the King's commission? Are we to send him to school? By the time he gets out of the school and is able to get the King's commission, he will be 50. By the time he becomes a Captain, he would have come to the fag end of his service and would be made to retire from the army. He will never have an opportunity of becoming a Major or a Colonel, and certainly never a Lieutenant-Colonel which takes over 26 years of service.

Colonel J. D. Crawford : My exact words are these :

“Instead of taking the men from the ranks at a very late age in life after 15, 16 or 17 years' service, I think I would have taken them after about 4 years' service.”

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : My Honourable friend Colonel Crawford forgets how old a sepoy will be when he is recruited. He is perhaps assuming that he will be 16 or 18 years of age when he is recruited as a sepoy. Why should he assume that? Even granting that he would be 18, here is the absurdity which I would point out to my Honourable friend who claims to be the military authority. Whom will you get? A poor sepoy's boy. No man is going to join as a sepoy on a paltry pay of Rs. 17 if he has any guts in him and better prospects. You will get a man who is the son of a poor man, you will get a man who cannot find a paying occupation anywhere else. How can you expect a boy of eighteen who is a matriculate to join as a sepoy? What kind of boy would you get then? What education can you give that boy? Then this boy is to remain in the Army as a sepoy, according to Colonel Crawford. He enters the Army at the age of 18. Then after 5 years you give him the Viceroy's commission. Why? What will he do with the Viceroy's commission? For 5 years he has to remain as a sepoy before he gets a Viceroy's commission; and what has he to do thereafter? To prepare for his studies to qualify himself to obtain a King's commission. It is the most fantastic, absurd and ridiculous scheme to be proposed by anybody.

And, Sir, what is more we have dealt with the idea which is not new. If you turn to page 32, paragraph 28. We have shown in our Report the greatest solicitude and the utmost consideration for the soldier class and their sons. We have provided for them in various ways. Sir, one of the provisions comes under the heading of Grant of King's Commissions

to Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. This is what we say: you have non-commissioned officers in England who are occasionally imported into the commissioned ranks for their exceptional merits. Similarly, we say that Viceroy's commissioned officers should stand on the same footing as non-commissioned officers, and we recommend that Viceroy's commissioned officers should be given opportunities of qualifying for King's commissions analogous to those afforded to non-commissioned officers in the British Army. We considered this to be feasible and have laid down how a certain class and a certain number, selected for the purpose, may be given that opportunity. And we say that we recognise that at the present time the number of officers holding Viceroy's commissions who would satisfy the above conditions is small, the reason being that direct Viceroy's commissions are now seldom, if ever, granted, and that the standard of education prevailing among the classes which enlist in the ranks of the Indian Army is, as a general rule, very low.

Mr. President : I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member at all because I know this is his special subject and he is entitled to much greater latitude than others ; but if his desire is that the Resolution should be pressed to a division to-day, he must conclude within five minutes ; otherwise the Resolution must go on to the next day.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : I am much obliged, Sir. I have really practically finished. I have dealt with education ; I have dealt with Colonel Crawford's scheme ; then I have dealt with British recruitment. These are the three matters with which the House is really concerned at present.

Now, Sir, I will only say this. I have got two more points which I want to put to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The first, Sir, is this. I ask the Commander-in-Chief what has he done with regard to the question of the official guardianship at Sandhurst ? Question No. 1. Question No. 2. I ask him what steps have the Government of India taken with regard to the question of admission of Indians to the Officers Training Corps at the universities ? Sir, those are two matters which have nothing to do with high Imperial policy and they do not require, I take it, the consent or the approval of the Imperial Defence Committee. At any rate, so far as the guardianship is concerned, Sir, the House knows already that we have dealt with it. The present guardian, Colonel Stooks, is a man who has been proved beyond all doubt to be a hysterical, unsuitable and incompetent person. Now, the Committee have said that the present arrangements with regard to the guardianship are highly unsatisfactory. Of course it is put in very polite language. But if you could look into the record, which is still suppressed, you would have realised what sort of guardian Colonel Stooks is. It is not merely that the Sub-Committee discovered it there. Let me tell His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that complaints about him came before the main Committee before the Sub-Committee started, which have affected the good name of Sandhurst in India, and they were so serious that the main Committee actually formulated express instructions in writing for us on this matter, and when we went there the reports and information we already had were fully confirmed beyond doubt ; and I would like to know what steps the Government of India have taken with regard to that matter.

As to the Officers' Training Corps also you know that no Indians are allowed or admitted to the Officers' Training Corps of the universities there.

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

It was pointed out that it was not fair and we have not yet got a reply to it. It is dealt with in our Report also—that this works the greatest possible hardship. In the first place the Indian who is at the university if he wants to get a King's commission, will not be allowed to claim an ante-date because, unless he has had training in an Officers' Training Corps, an Indian is not admitted and then refused the ante-date. So it comes to this that he is not admitted into the Officers' Training Corps, he is not allowed to claim an ante-date. Therefore you go round and round. That is one handicap. The other handicap is that when you have a boy of a particular age, at the university, that is the period of his life when this training is most useful and most valuable ; he happens to be young and at the university and he is not allowed to enter the Officers' Training Corps. Therefore, when he comes back to this country at a maturer age, he cannot possibly then go in for the training with the same advantage and with the same valuable results and cannot avail himself of the Indian Territorial Force which exists. It was said that the Officers' Training Corps is intended primarily for the British Territorial Army, but no Indian would care to be in it because I think there is hardly any Indian youth—there may be an exception here and there—who would stay on in England ; most Indian boys who go there come back.

These are the two points which certainly do not require either the approval or the consent of the Imperial Defence Committee or of the Cabinet ; and I think the Government might give us some information with regard to those two points.

In conclusion, Sir, I would say this : I am aware that a certain clique exists in England. The India Office is surrounded by it and the only place that we went to and that had its atmosphere fouled by this clique was Sandhurst. At every other place we were received and treated with every consideration ; Sandhurst was the only place which was sought to be spoiled by this clique ; and I say to the better-minded Europeans who are in this country and to the better-minded Englishmen in Great Britain. " If this is your message from your youth, that they are not willing to co-operate, if they are not willing to work and take their rank according to their merits in this country, tear up the Declaration of August 1917, tear it up now and here and say to the people of India " We are here to rule and nothing else." Sir, I find there may be some difficulty because it may be said after all you have got to deal with young men. But who is responsible for poisoning their minds ? It was the same old story when the Indian Civil Service was being Indianised, when we were told in this country by many who now sit on the Treasury Benches " If you are going to Indianise the Civil Service, we shall tender our resignation ; we are not going to be your servants ". It was the same story when the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were introduced. We were told by many Englishmen that they would leave this country rather than submit to these reforms as they could not work the Reforms. But we find, Sir, we have survived those threats. (Laughter from the Swarajist Benches), and I find that the Treasury Benches are full of those gentlemen some of whom probably had threatened to resign, but they probably thought better of it. (Laughter from the Swarajist Benches). But, I say, Sir, let us not be carried away by these threats.

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member must thank himself if this debate goes over to another day.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : After that, Sir, I will say nothing more, and I will once more appeal to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief not to swerve from the assurance which he has given on the floor of this House and not to play with Indian people any more.

(At this stage several Honourable Members rose to speak.)

Mr. President : Is it the desire of the House that the debate should go over to another day ?

(Several Honourable Members moved : that the question be put.)

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary) : Sir, on the first day of this debate His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, when concluding his speech in words that have just been quoted by my friend Mr. Jinnah, expressed the hope that the occasion might be regarded more as a means of eliciting the opinions of Honourable Members of this House than as one for an attack on the Government. With all deference to my friend Mr. Jinnah, I venture to repeat that hope to-day. If the Honourable Member who has moved this Resolution presses it to a division, Government will have no option but to oppose it, and that for reasons which are not connected with the merits of the Indian Sandhurst Committee's Report. It is true, Sir, that Government have already sent to England their own provisional recommendations on the Report. They did this as soon as they could, partly in order to initiate the discussion with His Majesty's Government as soon as possible, but more particularly in the hope that they might be able to put definite proposals before this House during the current Session. They realised that Honourable Members would be in a better position to make their own views clear and to offer constructive criticism, if they had, so to speak, something to bite on. That hope was not, however, fulfilled, because His Majesty's Government were unable, in the short time available before Parliament dispersed, to examine sufficiently the tentative proposals of the Government of India. As a result, Honourable Members have been able to offer opinions on the subject-matter of the Report only, and merely to conjecture the attitude of Government towards it.

As the House has already been informed, these opinions will be very carefully considered by the Government of India, who will then forward to His Majesty's Secretary of State a despatch conveying the proceedings in this House and in another place, and setting forth at length their own views in the light of the opinions now expressed.

Many of the speeches, Sir, have contained constructive criticism, which is likely to be of help to the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in reaching their conclusions. But the Government of India cannot be expected to reach their conclusions here and now, or while the division bell is ringing. Until they have had reasonable time to consider the speeches made in this debate, they cannot commit themselves to the expression of any opinion on the specific recommendations in the Report. They will have to oppose the motion simply and solely because they have not come to their decisions. At the same time, as His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has indicated, it will be a great pity if the Government of India and His Majesty's Government

[Mr. G. M. Young:]

conduct their further examination of the Report in the difficult atmosphere which a defeat or even a victory for Government in the division lobby is bound to create. It cannot be denied, Sir, that the Report, thorough as it is in many respects, has raised almost as many problems as it purports to solve. It is the Government of India and His Majesty's Government that have to work out these further problems; and they will be glad of all the help that they can get from Honourable Members in the Indian Legislature. They will not obtain that help from the mere passing or rejection of this Resolution. I would, therefore, suggest to my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje, who has moved the Resolution, that he has served a most useful purpose in moving it, by providing the Government with his own views and with those of others who have taken part in this debate, that in effect his object has been attained and that nothing more will be gained by pressing it to the vote.

I should like to refer here, Sir, to a matter which I know has occasioned a good deal of criticism and disappointment and has been referred to at length by my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah, just now, namely, the decision of the Government of India not to publish the Report of the Sub-Committee that visited Europe and America.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : My point was not in reference to the Report of the Sub-Committee only, but the report and the material which they had collected.

Mr. G. M. Young : I will deal both with the report and the material. I will confess at once that there is nothing in this report which need embarrass the Government of India in formulating whatever policy they may ultimately adopt. There are other reasons for not publishing it.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : What are they ?

Mr. G. M. Young : At a very early stage the question arose whether certain of the proceedings of the Sub-Committee should be published. Part of these proceedings consisted of conversations which took place between representatives from the War Office and the India Office on the one hand and the members of the Sub-Committee on the other. It is not usual, Sir, to publish such conversations, and in any case His Majesty's Government intimated to the Government of India some time before the main Committee's Report was completed.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Sir, I beg to contradict that. There were no conversations at all and taken down as such.

Mr. President : I cannot allow the Honourable Member to interrupt unless the Army Secretary gives way.

Mr. G. M. Young : I said, Sir, in any case the Home Government intimated to the Government of India that they were unwilling to consent to the publication of any of the material voluntarily laid before the Sub-Committee by the War Office and the India Office. The Report of the Sub-Committee makes extensive use of this material, and could only have been published after so much excision that much of its value as an informative document would have been lost.

There was another reason to which I should not have referred if it had not been made public by a member of the Sub-Committee speaking

in another place, and also by my Honourable friend Mr. Jinnah just now. The Sub-Committee passed certain strictures on the personality of the retired officer who is the appointed guardian to Indian cadets at Sandhurst. These strictures appear to have been based on statements made in camera to the Sub-Committee by Indian cadets. The Sub-Committee were, of course, at liberty to put forward any personal opinion, and to refer to any evidence taken in camera when they reported to the main Committee. But the Government of India do not consider that these matters could properly be published in a State paper. The main Committee took the correct course. They pointed out defects in the system, and explained their view of what an ideal guardian for Indian cadets at Sandhurst should be. Their recommendations were fully considered by the Government of India, and the Government of India have forwarded their own provisional recommendations on this subject to the Secretary of State. But the main Committee did not on this occasion quote from the Sub-Committee; and they refrained altogether from personalities.

There are other passages which the Government of India did not wish to include in a published paper; but I need not detain the House with them. My point is that, while the Sub-Committee's Report was an able document and admirably served the purpose for which it was compiled, namely, to assist the main Committee in the preparation of their report, the main Committee themselves, though they desired the publication of the Sub-Committee's Report, evidently recognised that there might be objections to doing so.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: No, Sir. May I point out to the Honourable Member that the main Committee at two sittings, after careful deliberation, decided that the report of the Sub-Committee and the proceedings should be published. Then the Secretary of the Committee was directed to so communicate the decision to the Government of India.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I have already stated that the main committee desired the publication of the Report, and I have seen the minutes of the proceedings of the main committee to which my Honourable friend refers. But the main committee neither appended the Sub-Committee's Report as one of the annexures to their Report, nor did they invite reference to it. On the contrary, they quoted from it extracts long enough to weary the reader, if he also had the Sub-Committee's Report by him. (A Honourable Member: "I hope you have read them.") I have read them, both Sir, the whole report and the extracts. Still, if there had been no positive reasons in the body of the Sub-Committee's Report against its publication, Government might have published it, even though it would have seemed superfluous to do so.

There is one other passage in Sir Phiroze Sethna's remarks which requires correction. He said that I had stated that only one member of the Committee had desired the publication of the Sub-Committee's Report, and that I afterwards corrected that statement. I wish to place on record the fact, known, I think, to Honourable Members of this House, that I never made the statement, and consequently never had to correct it. This misstatement was made, not by me, but by the correspondent of one newspaper, which corrected its own mistake some days before Sir Phiroze Sethna spoke.

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

Well, Sir, I have perhaps detained the House too long over this topic. My excuse must be that it has attracted a great deal of attention and criticism.

Sir, as I said before, Government are not in a position to meet this Resolution except by a formal negative ; but if Honourable Members still entertain any suspicion that the Government of India are merely playing for time and that their object is to shelve the Report, I would once more call attention to the fact that Government have already made considerable progress in their examination of it, and that their own tentative proposals will be most thoroughly re-examined in the light of the opinions expressed and the suggestions put forward in the Indian Legislature.

Lastly, I would invite Honourable Members to consider a passage in the much criticised " Foreword " with which the Report was published by the Government of India. With your permission, Sir, I will read it now :

"The Government of India, when called upon to deal with any scheme of increasing Indianization extending over a number of years must leave themselves free to consider whether the basis of that scheme offers the sure stable line of advance towards the creation of a Dominion Army, or whether alternative methods, which did not fall within the Committee's terms of reference, might not more profitably be explored."

Now, Sir, here is an explicit statement that the Government of India are setting themselves to deal with a scheme of increasing Indianization. They leave themselves free in one respect—to explore alternative methods : alternative *methods*, not alternative *subjects*, as the Honourable Member, Munshi Iswar Saran, said this morning. He may have left himself free in his speech to explore other subjects, but the Government of India intend to stick to the point. Surely, Sir, the passage which I have just quoted is a very significant pronouncement. It shows, if any further proof were needed, that the Government of India are in earnest in this matter. At the risk of repetition, I will emphasise again the two main considerations which must accompany the elaboration of this or any scheme. One is that the system employed for conferring commissions in larger numbers upon Indians must be comprehensive and sound in its working: it should leave no factor out of account: it must be safeguarded, as far as is humanly possible, against failure. The other consideration is one the necessity for which was amply illustrated by my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje in his speech when he moved the Resolution, namely, that during the process of development, and after, the efficiency of the Army as a fighting machine must not in any way be impaired. One may introduce experimental reforms, Sir, in the constitution, or in a branch of the civil administration, and trust to experience and to public criticism to bring to light any defects that there may be. A Royal Commission, perhaps, will come along in due course and make recommendations to remedy those defects. But if one makes a faulty experiment with the fighting forces, on which the very life of the country depends, one may wake up one morning to find that it is too late to put things right. I do not think, Sir, that on the fundamental principle there is any real difference between the aims of the Honourable Mover of this Resolution and those of the Government.....

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar : Then accept it.

Mr. G. M. Young : and that is why I ask him not to press his Resolution to the vote.

(Several Honourable Members moved : that the question be put.)

Mr. President : The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum : On a personal explanation, Sir. I hope I am not misunderstood that I am trying to go back on the signature that I have put to the Report. I fully support the Report.

Mr. President : I am sure the House has fully understood the Honourable Member.

(At this stage Dr. B. S. Moonje rose in his place.)

Mr. President : I hope the Honourable Member realises that there is yet a reply by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and that this debate must terminate at 4 o'clock.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I shall be very brief. I am very sorry that there is no time. So many points have been raised that certainly require explanation and yet I am hard pressed for time. . . .

Mr. President : The Chair has no objection if the Honourable Member wishes to make a long speech.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : I know the risk of prolonging my speech and therefore I will not take that risk. I am prepared to say that I am willing to accept the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. He lays emphasis upon revision. The Report also provides for revision. The amendment says that the recommendations of the Committee are not satisfactory. I do not think there is anybody here—except perhaps amongst the European Members I do not know, but amongst at least the Indians—who will be in a position to say that the recommendations of the Skeen Committee are really satisfactory. (An Honourable Member : “ They also say that.”) But they say so for quite another reason. Their point of view is diametrically opposed to ours. There is ample reason for us to be dissatisfied with the recommendations of the Skeen Committee. The Indian Sandhurst is schemed to cater for only 100 Indian boys; while the English Sandhurst caters for more than 600 English boys. Besides the Skeen Committee do not recommend the establishment of an Indian Woolwich and Cranwell. But we Indians are in this helpless position that we have to be satisfied with half a loaf even though that half of a loaf may not be enough to satisfy our hunger. I do not know whether even that half a loaf will be given to us.

The recommendations of the Skeen Committee can be divided into two groups, one regarding the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst, and the other regarding making provision for training a certain number of Indian boys in Woolwich and Cranwell in England, and both the groups of recommendations have been accepted by the Government at one stage or another previously. I am really surprised to-day that the Government should fight shy of those very recommendations. If I had time I could have proved it by quoting from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 1921, 1923, and

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

1925. In this House there are three groups of people—the Indians, the Europeans, and perhaps the group which is represented by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Qaiyum.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is introducing a very debatable matter now.

Dr. B. S. Moonje : As I have said in my opening speech, this is a question of life and death to us. There is no knowing what is going to happen in the next 10 or 15 years. There is a country which is known as the tribal country, and there is another country known as Afghanistan, and if at any time connection between Britain and India be broken up in any future great war or be suspended, there is no knowing what will happen to the Indians of India. When the invasion comes what will be our position I shudder to think. History has told us and we should take a lesson from history as to what that position will be. I am quoting from the History of Great Britain by the Rev. Robert Henry, D.D., first Volume page 120 and then I will close. When the Britons were invaded in 416 A.D. by Scots and Picts, history records that the conditions of Britons at the time was much the same as ours is at the present moment. History says :

“ By the policy of the Romans (who were then ruling over Britain as the English are doing to-day over India) they (Britons) had been long deprived of the use and exercise of arms ; that they now remained a timid disorderly multitude ready to become an easy prey to the first bold invader ”.

That was the condition of the Britons at the time. I do not think any Indian in this House would agree to be reduced to the same position and therefore we are anxious that the recommendations of the Skeen Committee, halting, unsatisfactory and inadequate as they are, should be given effect to.

Lieut.-Colonel E. A. J. Gidney (Nominated : Anglo-Indians) : On a point of order, Sir. May I ask for a ruling from you, as to whether you would be prepared to divide the amendment into two parts and put them separately to the vote of the House. The first part is the preamble to which some of us cannot subscribe. The second is the operative part for which some of us may want to vote.

Mr. President : That is not a question of any ruling. It is entirely within the discretion of the Chair, and the Chair is not prepared to exercise that discretion in the manner suggested.

Mr. President : The original question was :

“ That the following Resolution be adopted :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that as a beginning in the direction of preparing India for self-defence immediate steps be taken to bring about the Indianisation of half the cadre of officers in the Indian Army, unanimously recommended by the Skeen Committee, within a period of fifteen years, and to carry out the unanimous recommendations of the Committee with regard to the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst and the recruitment of Indian officers in those arms of the defensive forces, paid for out of Indian revenues, from which they are at present excluded ’.”

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

“ That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

“ Subject to the revision of the whole scheme of the defence of the country in any future constitution for India acceptable to the people of India, and while feeling

that the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee, specially relating to the continuance of British recruitment, do not satisfy Indian public opinion, this Assembly if of opinion that the acceptance of the unanimous recommendations of that Committee will mark a definite beginning in the Indianisation of the Army in India, and it therefore recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to accept those recommendations and give immediate effect to them."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : Diwan Chaman Lall.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I am not moving my Resolution. With your permission I wish to withdraw it.

Mr. President : Sir Victor Sassoon.

(Sir Victor Sassoon stood up but did not move his Resolution next on the agenda).

Mr. President : Mr. Duraiswamy Aiyangar.

(Mr. Duraiswamy Aiyangar nodded his head, intending to convey that he did not want to move his Resolution No. 4 on the List).

Mr. President : Mr. Ram Narayan Singh :

(At this stage there was laughter and considerable confusion in the House.)

RESOLUTION RE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF KHADI.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division : Non-Muhamadan) : Sir, I beg to move the Resolution which stands in my name and runs as follows :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to start Khadi (hand spun and hand woven clothes) depots in each provincial capital with branches in each district therein for the manufacture and sale of Khadi under the entire management of the local Provincial Congress Committee and to set apart at least a sum of one crore of rupees for the purpose in the next annual Budget "

Sir, this is a very simple Resolution but it deals with a subject that vitally concerns the very existence of the people of this country. In support of this, I shall submit but a few arguments containing very simple reasons. Sir, we Indians, as a nation in the world, want to be capable to clothe ourselves as a result of our own efforts. Sir, how long are we to depend for our clothes upon foreign countries. The very idea that we have to depend on foreign countries, that we cannot hide our shame, and that we cannot clothe ourselves is very galling to us. The point I wish to impress upon the House is that we Indians in the past have been able to clothe not only ourselves but also a large proportion of the people of other countries. But now the position is that we have to depend upon imports from foreign countries in order to clothe ourselves. During the last European war, when imports were reduced, a large number of families had to remain shut up for all the 24 hours because they lacked clothes. Who knows that such a state of affairs may not arise again ; the probability is that such occasions will arise always. I submit, therefore, Sir, that the House should carry this Resolution unanimously and that it be given effect to by the Government.

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

Now there may be some who will say that with the advent of machinery of an advanced type there is no use of talking about handlooms, *charkas*, etc. But the point is that this country is not in a position to purchase any more modern machinery to meet its demands. If it had been, we should, by now, have got all the machinery we need for the purpose and more mills would have been set up. So this argument to have more mills really falls to the ground.

Then it may be said what is the use of having *charkas*, and looms, when we can get the cloth at a cheaper cost from foreign countries? Sir, I would say in reply that till the end of the 18th century, this country used to send its Khadi (cotton fabrics) even to European countries. Why not revive that and make the country economically free? Besides, even if we had the resources to purchase machinery and set up more mills, that would mean an extension of the factory system, and that system is a much worse thing than the cottage industry systems which produce Khadi. Another point is that Khadi can in fairness excel any mill made cloth. We know that even now one can spin yarn of about 500 counts by means of the *charka*, whereas mills cannot produce yarn of more than 200 counts. We know from history that in the time of Aurangzeb a Princess wore Khadi of seven folds at a time and even then she appeared naked, so fine was the fabric. Not only that; in matters of Khadi, whatever we spend goes to the village itself. The village blacksmith supplies the spindle, the village carpenters supply the *charka* and loom, and so on and so forth. Every pice, every penny, which is spent in regard to Khadi goes to the village, whereas in the matter of mill-made cloth, a vast sum of money has to be spent first as capital, and that money goes to a foreign country. Moreover, as regards the profit, much of it is every year spent in purchasing new parts to replace the old ones which are no longer fit for any further use and this too goes to foreign lands. Thus only a little of it remains in the country. Let us take another argument. Sometimes there is internal trouble in the country also, and it is not possible that we may have mills in every province, in every district. In times of internal trouble, the part of the country dependent on other parts thereof will thus have to suffer, but by means of Khadi, all provinces, even districts can be made self-supporting and independent. What to speak of provinces and districts, I can say, every thana, every village and even every family can be made self-supporting and independent. It is therefore, Sir, that Khadi should be introduced throughout the country.

But there are people who might ask, if Khadi has so many advantages and, if it already existed in the country, why is it not prospering in the country to-day, why has it failed at all, why has it not succeeded in competition with the foreign mill-made cloth? Sir, everybody knows that in this country the Khadi industry has not died out, nor has it failed in competition with mill-made yarn. Everybody knows that it was the foreign capitalist, it was the East India Company that killed the Khadi industry in the country. Sir, those who do not know this are requested to read the history of the country of the 18th and 19th centuries, and I request them specially to read the evidence of Warren Hastings, Dr. Monro and other great people that they gave before the House of Commons' Committee.

Mr. President : Order, order. Khadi must give way to the motion
4 P.M. for adjournment. Diwan Chaman Lall.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

THE GOLD STANDARD AND RESERVE BANK OF INDIA BILL.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, after the speech in support of one home industry (the Khaddar industry), I beg leave to speak in support of another home industry, namely, motions for adjournment. (Laughter). Sir, my motion for an adjournment reads as follows :

“ to discuss a matter of recent and urgent public importance, namely, the affront offered to the Legislative Assembly by the Government in withdrawing this Session the Gold Standard and Reserve Bank Bill before the Assembly had had an opportunity of discussing the remaining clauses of the Bill.”

Sir, I speak on this motion as one who desires to uphold constitutional practice, and as one who has no desire in any way to cast any reflection upon the Finance Member as an individual. I realize the difficulties of the Finance Member ; and it is because I realize those difficulties that I want the House to support the Finance Member in any action that he might take in order that this Bill should be brought before the House....

Mr. President : Order, order. If that is the Honourable Member's object, he should not have moved this motion at all. This motion is a direct vote of censure on the Finance Member. If he desires to move it, he might proceed with a knowledge of the full implications of his action.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The censure is the censure of the Secretary of State and of the Government of India.

Mr. President : Order, order. The Secretary of State does not come in at all. The Honourable Member by this motion calls into question the decision of the Governor General in Council. The Honourable Member will not therefore be entitled to refer to the Secretary of State in his speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, in this dose of poison that I am going to administer to the Finance Member, there is a little bit of honey in it. (Laughter.) If it is constitutionally held that it is a censure of the action of the Finance Member, let it be so held. But I am going to explain that even if it is held constitutionally that it is a motion for the censure of the Finance Member's action, nevertheless we intend to support any strong action that the Finance Member may take in bringing this Bill before the House.

Now, Sir, the question is this. When the Currency Commission was appointed, it was never the intention that a simple Reserve Bank should be instituted in this country. The questionnaire was to the effect that measures should be adopted for modifying the rules and changing the constitution of the Imperial Bank in order that that Imperial Bank should be empowered to be put in charge of the note issue. That was the original intention. But when the Currency Commission reported it was discovered that the disadvantages accruing from that procedure far outweighed the advantages that might accrue if the Imperial Bank was so

[Diwan Chaman Lal.]

empowered. (*Several Honourable Members* : " No, no ".) Naturally, the matter came up before this House and we had an opportunity of discussing it. Sir, I heard a little while ago, some of my friends saying " No, no ". I take it that the Noes come from those gentlemen who represent Bombay. (*Several Honourable Members* : " No, no. ") Even at that time Bombay was against this principle of setting up the Central Reserve Bank and they have continued their opposition consistently.

Mr. President : All references to the merits of the Reserve Bank Bill or anything of that kind are out of order on this motion. The Honourable Member must confine himself to the constitutional question, namely, the affront offered to this House by the action of the Governor General in Council in withdrawing this Session this particular Bill without giving an opportunity to the House to discuss and decide on the remaining clauses thereof.

Diwan Chaman Lal : With due deference to the Chair, what I am trying to do at the present moment is to detail very briefly the history of this Bill in order to show that it is important that this Bill should not be withdrawn.

Mr. President : I thank the Honourable Member for showing due deference to the ruling of the Chair, but he must accept and act upon it. He must confine himself to the constitutional issue which he has raised.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Sir, I bow to your ruling. The constitutional issue that I have raised is this that, when this Bill has been before this Legislative Assembly, when it has been discussed in the Joint Committee, when it has been before the country for several months, when so much time of this Legislature and of Honourable Members who sat on the Joint Committee has been consumed in discussion of this Bill, the Government have all of a sudden for reasons best known to themselves thought it fit to withdraw that Bill from the Legislative Assembly, and I consider that this action of theirs certainly deserves the censure of this House. That, I take it, Sir, is the real constitutional issue which is in point, and it is because of this constitutional issue that I want now to state the reasons why we consider that not only this Bill should not have been withdrawn from this Legislature because of its importance but also because.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member is now discussing the merits of the Reserve Bank Bill. I cannot allow the Honourable Member to do so.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Sir, I have no intention of going into the merits of the Bill.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member says that the Bill should not have been withdrawn because of its importance. This is going beyond the constitutional question raised by the motion.

Diwan Chaman Lal : I merely want to discuss the importance of the issue that we have before us, namely, that the constitutional issue that has been raised now has been raised because of the Bill having been withdrawn. We want to tell the House that this Bill should not have been withdrawn. This House has certain privileges of its own and the

Government of India should in due deference to the wishes of the Legislature take the sense of this House and not withdraw in this summary fashion any Bill that may have been brought before it.

That is the main point at issue. Here we have Standing Order 4 (1) which says :

“ On the termination of a session all pending notices shall lapse and fresh notice must be given for the next session.”

Now, the action of the Government of India in withdrawing this Bill from the Legislative Assembly means that this motion that has been placed before the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable the Finance Member will lapse if the Bill is not re-introduced. (*An Honourable Member* : “ No ”) I hope my Honourable friend who cried out, “ No ”, will have the patience to listen to what I am going to say further. Let me turn to Standing Order 4 (2) which says :

“ On the termination of a session, Bills which have been introduced shall be carried over to the pending list of business of the next session :

Provided that, if the member in charge of a Bill makes no motion in regard to the same during two complete sessions, the Bill shall lapse, unless the Assembly, on a motion by that member in the next session, makes a special order for the continuance of the Bill.”

Sir, now I hope that the Honourable Member over there who cried out “ No, no ” will, in view of what I have read from the Standing Orders of this Assembly, realise that when a Bill has been withdrawn by the Honourable Member in charge of the same without giving this Assembly any specific date on which he intends to bring it back to the House, we must take it that it is not his intention to bring back that Bill to the Assembly. We take it that the Bill will lapse, all the motions which he made in regard to the Bill will lapse. All the efforts of the Honourable Members of the Assembly who have been apprised of the various clauses of the Bill, who have discussed the various clauses at length, who have been given some time to come to a compromise with the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to this Bill and who have shown a spirit of accommodation unknown in the history of this Legislature, I say all the efforts of the Honourable Members will have proved fruitless. I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member that under these circumstances it was up to him to have consulted the wishes of non-official Members of this House before he took the step that he did.

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Who will suffer the cost of the Committee ? (Laughter.)

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not know what Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din Ahmed is referring to when he says who will suffer the cost. Certainly it is the Honourable the Finance Member to whom he should apply (Laughter). The question before us is simply this. Should the Government of India not act on its own initiative in matters of this nature.

Mr. President : That again is not the question at issue. There is no reason to suppose that the Government of India have not acted on their own initiative. The Honourable Member has merely called into question the decision of the Governor General in Council.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I know we have nothing before us. We have also heard a rumour and it has also found a place in the Press. If you, Mr. President, will pardon me for mentioning it, it is rumoured that the

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

Honourable the Finance Member did actually tender his resignation, (Hear, hear.)

Mr. President : Order, order. I must rule references, to rumours out of order.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What we have before us at the present moment is this. This Bill having been withdrawn, there must be some cogent reasons for the action of the Government. At the present moment, I want to know what those cogent reasons are which have compelled the Government to withdraw this Bill from the purview of the Central Legislature ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member will hear that presently.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If the Government have withdrawn this Bill for any cogent reasons, I submit these cogent reasons should have been placed before us and we should have been apprised of them. As it is at the present moment, all that we have is a statement by the Honourable the Finance Member that he does not intend to proceed with the Bill *at present*. That is the guarded statement that he has made. I consider that this is an affront to the Central Legislature. I consider that this is an affront not only to the Central Legislature, but to all those Members and to all those leaders of parties who have co-operated so strenuously with the Honourable Member. I consider it to be an affront also to the members of the Joint Committee who have given of their very best to this measure and who have done everything in their part in order that this measure should be brought on the Statute-book. I consider that under those circumstances, the action that has been taken by the Government of India is an action which ought to be condemned. At the risk of being called to order, I do not intend to say one harsh word in this matter about the Honourable the Finance Member himself personally. (Laughter). I will say everything there is to be said about the Government of India. I consider this is a matter of long standing grievance. It is a matter which has exercised the ingenuity of many a Secretary of State and many a Viceroy in this country right down from 1870 and 1874. We have heard the same story, namely, decisions being taken by the Government of India in regard to business brought before the Legislative Assembly and then suddenly that business being dropped, we do not know why. History shows that very often in the past legislation has been stopped because of the action of the Secretary of State for India. We have got evidence that in 1870, one Secretary of State did this, and so on right through Indian constitutional history we have the same story repeated. I am indebted to my Honourable friend Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar for such constitutional facts as are contained in this valuable book of which he is the author. And I would advise Honourable Members to read this book most carefully.

Now, Sir, the question, as I have already stated, is not only that the action of the Government of India was wrong in having withdrawn this Bill from the purview of the Legislative Assembly, but but I consider that morally it could not be defended. Here are we who have met here in this Assembly at great inconvenience to many Members, who have met for one special purpose apart from various other small matters that were likely to come up this Session, and that was to see that this Bill was put on the Statute-book.

Mr. President : All that is beside the point. The merits of the Reserve Bank Bill and the desirability or urgency of putting it on the Statute-book have absolutely got nothing to do with the question which the Honourable Member has raised. If the Honourable Member has nothing new to add to what he has already said, he had better give an opportunity to other Honourable Members who might wish to speak on the motion.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If the measure was bad, what was the point of my moving the adjournment of the House ?

Mr. President : According to the Honourable Member's motion for adjournment, Government had no business to withdraw the Bill at that stage without consulting this House, apart from the question whether the Bill was good or bad.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I quite accept that, Sir. The Government have no business to withdraw this measure and I have said so. I am now simply adding to my reasons for thinking so, and if I am not allowed to add to the reasons I have already given, I will confine myself to the one narrow issue which the President wants me to confine myself to, namely, that it is indefensible constitutionally.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is only repeating himself.

Diwan Chaman Lall : No doubt lawyers on the other side will turn round and say that whatever has been done is perfectly within the purview of the Government of India. They are perfectly right in doing so. I do not say that legally they are not right in doing what they have done, but morally I say they are wrong. And I consider that their action should be censured by the House.

Mr. President : I very much regret to have to point out again that the Honourable Member is repeating himself. If he has nothing new to add, he had better allow other Members an opportunity of speaking.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not intend to allow this discussion to turn into a duologue between myself and the Chair.

Mr. President : That is just what the Honourable Member is doing.

Diwan Chaman Lall : But I do consider, Sir, that this matter is of such vital importance that some sort of latitude ought to be allowed in a matter like this when we are discussing a constitutional issue.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member must realise that the Chair is determined to keep this debate strictly within the bounds of order. The Chair will not allow any Honourable Member to refer to the merits or demerits of the Reserve Bank Bill.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not intend now, Sir, to refer either to the merits or demerits of the Reserve Bank Bill. What I do say is this matter being narrow as it is, being confined to that one constitutional point, we have a right to refer to this question, whether in the past the Government of India have done what they are being charged with doing to-day and how constitutional practice has grown up.

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City : Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, the question before the House is really a vote of censure upon the Government of India. The vote of censure upon the Government of India is based on the following grounds. It seems, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member has not withdrawn the Bill technically. (*An Honourable Member* : "Hasn't he?"). No, he has not ; you have not understood it. Under Standing Order 50 he cannot withdraw the Bill because Standing Order 50 says he can withdraw the Bill only by leave of the House. He did not resort to that procedure at all, but what he has done is this, that he has flouted this House, the Government have shown an affront to this House by adopting a procedure which raises a very grave constitutional issue and it is this. The further consideration of the Bill happens to be Government business ; and under Standing Order 7 you will find that that business is arranged by the Secretary. I will read out the Standing Order.

The Standing Order is as follows :

"On the days allotted for the transaction of Government business the Secretary shall arrange that business in such order as the Governor General in Council may direct."

The Finance Member was only a little courteous to the House by previously announcing that on Monday, that being a day for Government business, this item would not be placed on the List—I think I am correct in saying that—and thereby he has deprived this House of further consideration of this Bill. Now, Sir, I should like to know on what ground this procedure was adopted ? What are the reasons ? We feel that really it is the grossest discourtesy to this House. At what stage were we ? We were at this stage : the Finance Member said that he was willing to proceed with the Reserve Bank Bill on the understanding that it should be a State Bank, provided on this side of the House we did not insist upon this Legislature or any Legislature being formed into an electorate for the purpose of representation on the Board of Directors. That part of the Bill, namely, that it should be a State Bank, was passed. Then we came to the stage of the Board of Directors. The Finance Member stated on the floor of this House—he will correct me if I am wrong, I am speaking only from memory—that he would be prepared to consider any scheme for the constitution of the Board of Directors provided it did not contain any element of representation of the Legislature, and if that scheme was acceptable to the majority of the Members of this House he was willing to consider it. He therefore said that it was up to the non-official Members on this side to put before him a scheme on that footing. That was under consideration ; I will not go into the details, but since then he put forward a scheme which is known now all over the world as the stockholders' scheme. I think it must have reached London also by now. Now, he was good enough—and I am extremely grateful to him for showing that courtesy to us—to take us into his confidence and discuss with us his stockholders' scheme ; and the Bill was to be taken up on Monday, as it was understood. Well, the stockholders' scheme also was under consideration of all the parties ; but before we got anywhere near Monday,

on Thursday evening a bomb shell was thrown on the floor of this House ; and what was that ? An intimation that this item would not be put on the agenda for Monday. (*An Honourable Member* : " Or during the Session.") (*Another Honourable Member* : " He said he withdrew the Bill for the Session.") No, Sir. He cannot say that : he can only withdraw it with the leave of the House. Therefore once you had this Bill before you, I am not aware of any practice, constitutional or otherwise, by which he could do it. Under our Standing Orders it is quite clear that this Bill cannot be withdrawn except with the leave of the House.

This is what the Standing Order says :

" A member who has introduced a Bill may at any stage of the Bill move for leave to withdraw the Bill, and if such leave is granted, no further motion may be made with reference to the Bill "

Therefore, Sir, until that leave is granted, the Bill must be proceeded with. (*A few official Members* : " No, no,") (Mr. K. Ahmed also made an interruption which was inaudible). I do not want the advice of my friend Mr. K. Ahmed. (*An Honourable Member* : " Why not ? ") Because I think I can get along quite well without his advice.

Now, Sir, whatever interpretation you may put upon the action of the Honourable the Finance Member, I say that the Government are guilty of showing a great affront to this House. I say that this cannot be tolerated, and I think, speaking on behalf of Members on this side of the House, that there is no justification for the conduct of the Government in this matter ; and I therefore support the vote of censure without hesitation.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself, on behalf of the Nationalist Party, with the motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lall. In doing so, I shall strictly confine myself to the constitutional issue involved in this motion, and not import into my speech anything of what one hears in the lobby,—and one hears so many things, good, bad and indifferent. The constitutional issue is, as stated by my Honourable friend Mr. Jinnah, that the procedure adopted by the Government of India in withdrawing from the consideration of this House a Bill on which Members on this side had worked for several months and at the last stage of which they had laboured for three or four days to consider a specific proposal, is very wrong. The Honourable the Finance Member at the last stages of the negotiation put before us a specific proposal, and I must congratulate him on that account, in so far as he tried his best to meet the wishes of this Section of the House on some important points. After having undergone all this worry and all the trouble which some Members took in going from Bombay to Calcutta, from Calcutta to Simla, party meetings being held nearly every evening and some of us being deprived of our luncheons and dinners on that account, after all this trouble, I say the Honourable the Finance Member, as the spokesman of the Government of India, suddenly comes forward and in a very short speech—of excellent shortness if I may say so—merely announces that he does not want to proceed with the Bill. In social life, Sir, such a discourtesy would be grossly resented. Supposing a friend of mine wrote to me saying that he was going to pay a week-end visit, and I got a bed room ready for him, secured a special cook and made

[Mr. M. R. Jayakar.]

everything ready for him and at once I get a wire merely saying that he did not want to come, without offering the least apology or even an explanation of the reason why he did not want to come, I should never invite him again. (Laughter.) Unfortunately, we have not the power to retaliate on the Government of India by treating them with the same cold aloofness ; if I had it, I would deal with them precisely in the same manner. May I warn the Government of India that the exchange of courtesy to the Opposition in this House will make them stronger, and that any discourtesy shown to this side of the House will certainly in the long run recoil on them and make them weaker and weaker. I am one of those, Sir, who are desirous that conventions should grow up in this House between the Government of India and the Opposition Benches which will mutually strengthen one another. I would warn the Government of India that if they do not wish to reduce themselves to the position of what a statesman in England once described—the Government of India to be, *viz.*, a mere subordinate branch of the British administration, let them be careful; say that if they do not want to reduce themselves to that pitiable position, there is only one way, and that is, to trust the Opposition Benches more and more and secure their support. Therefore, Sir, taking that view of our relative positions here, I am practically anxious that we should convey to the Government of India our strong resentment in this matter. By their discourtesy and affront they have rendered us impotent, and in the same measure, they are also rendering themselves impotent as against outside dictation. I have therefore great pleasure in supporting this motion for adjournment.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi (Dacca Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I associate myself with what my Honourable friend, Mr. Chaman Lall, has said to-day. Sir, we feel it a great insult to us the way the Government of India has treated this House. After the assurance that was given by the Honourable the Finance Member that he would go on with this Bill in this Session, and after all of us at great discomfort have come here to attend this Session in good time, to our extreme surprise it was only on last Thursday we were quietly told by the Finance Member “ I am not going to proceed with this Bill. ” Is that the way to treat this House, Sir ? Is that the way you, the Finance Member, want to treat the Members of this House ? What did he say to the reply of the Swarajist leader, when he asked him “ Are you going to proceed with this Bill in the Delhi Session ? ” He said “ I will not add one word more to the statement that I have made. ” We all know that he has not withdrawn the Bill. But from what he said it struck us that he was not going to proceed with the Bill at all, and if that was the case, surely he should have consulted the House before making a statement of that kind.

Sir, there is one thing more. The Joint-Committee on this Bill was formed of Members of both the Houses in last March. The first meeting was held in Bombay in May last. Then the whole of that Committee was taken down to Calcutta in July last. They had deliberations there for about ten days, and after that they came to certain conclusions. After these expenses were incurred, after all the troubles the members of the Joint-Committee had taken, and after all that had been done before, the Bill came before this House, we thought the Government was anxious to

go on with this Bill and we too were equally anxious to go on with it. We wanted to have a full opportunity in this House of discussing the merits of the Bill ; and if the wreckers had wrecked the Bill, well, we could have gone to the country and said " It is not our fault, but the fault of the wreckers who have wrecked the Bill ". The Government have not given us the chance to prove to our constituency that we have done our best, but have practically given the wreckers what they wanted. And this is very unfair to us.

With these few words, Sir, I associate myself with what the preceding speakers have said, and I desire strongly to protest against the action of the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, the referee's whistle has been so much in evidence during the course of this game that I am a little bit afraid of the ground on which I may tread in an effort to make a speech in dealing with the motion now before the House. The Honourable Member from Bombay, Mr. Jayakar, commented on what he described as the excellent shortness of my explanation of the position last Thursday evening. I confess that I should be very glad to have been able to practise the virtue of excellent silence on this occasion (Laughter). The motion, I think, is a little overstated. The adjournment of the House is being moved to call attention to the affront offered to the Legislative Assembly by the Government in withdrawing this Bill this Session before the Assembly has had an opportunity of discussing the remaining clauses of the Bill. Well, Sir, I maintain with due deference that, so far as any intention on the part of the Government of India is concerned, there has been no affront to this House, and that the Government have not withdrawn the Bill.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member knows that the Government have no power to withdraw any Bill without coming to this House.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I entirely agree that the Government have no right to withdraw the Bill without coming to this House. If Members of this House are of opinion that an affront has been offered to the House, I can only say on behalf of the Government of India that no such affront was desired or intended and that I am very sorry that any impression of that sort should have gone abroad. As regards the withdrawal of the Bill, what the Government have done is to come to the conclusion that, in view of the time available during this Session and the complexity of the problem still to be solved, it was not desirable to attempt to complete the Bill this Session. They have come to no other conclusion and any further conclusion that may be drawn from the action of the Government in this matter is unauthorised and possibly inaccurate. I cannot help thinking that the Honourable Member who had so much difficulty with you, Sir, in moving this motion, was under the impression that he was moving a motion on some other subject, shall we say, for example, what is happening at Kharagpur at the moment ? He imagined himself complaining that the Government of India in the person of a Railway Company had locked out its employees in the persons of this Assembly and refused to go on with them until they would work. That is not what is happening at all. Surely it is reasonable, when the original plan of an important portion of the Bill before the House has been considerably modified, that the Government and the House and the

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

country should ask for time to consider the exact bearing and implications of any alternative plan for arriving at the results desired. I must not, Sir, dwell on the merits of the Bill. I confess that sometimes, in listening to the debate, I was reminded of a variant of the poem quoted by my Honourable friend, the gallant Baronet from Bombay, about the dissembling of love, and I thought of the variant—it is not so poetical—“ If you love me, say so, but don't spoil my patent leather shoes.” (Laughter). I must say that some of the expressions of love that were shown towards me and my Bill seemed to me to spoil the patent leather shoes of my Bill. But after all, we are merely asking for more time to deal with the matter. I cannot add anything to what I said last Thursday in regard to the position. Government require time to consider the full implications of any alternative plan. Surely, it is within the rights of the Government, and it is no affront to the House, that when difficulties arise in the course of discussion of a Bill, they should not, as is complained in this case, withdraw the Bill—that is not what the Government have done—but postpone consideration until a later Session in order that when it comes up it may be discussed, if it is discussed, (*An Honourable Member* : “ Will it ever be discussed ? ”) in an atmosphere when progress is likely to be made, instead of under conditions in which there is a possibility of a break-down and the complete failure of the Bill owing to absence of a sufficient measure of agreement between the various conflicting view points which have to be considered in arriving at a final conclusion. I repeat once more that the Government have not withdrawn the Bill and they are not guilty of any intention of affronting this House or of having really done so if all the circumstances of the case are considered. This is variously described as a vote of censure on myself, on the Government of India, or on some one else. The Government of India may at times be incomprehensible, it is at any rate one and indivisible, not by confusion of persons but by unity of substance. We have to consider in full any proposal that we may commit ourselves to supporting in this House for the purpose of legislation. We do claim that we have a full right in this matter to consider with great care the full implications of the several alternatives all of which involve very complex considerations. I hope the House will, after what I have said, realise that this motion is really not fully justified. There is not, I maintain, sufficient reason for censuring the Government of India for their action in the matter of the Reserve Bank Bill. Their action, I maintain, has been taken in the interests of ultimately arriving at a successful bit of legislation and not hurrying too fast in a way that may lead to a premature failure.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : I want to ask the Honourable the Finance Member a question. There were two courses open to him, either to withdraw the Bill or to move the adjournment of the consideration of the Bill. Why did he adopt this arbitrary and autocratic course which he has adopted ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I think my only answer to that is that it was for the convenience of the House that they should know on Thursday evening rather than on Monday morning what the position was likely to be.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Mr. President, I had no desire to add to the observations which

I made on the last occasion. I waited to hear what explanation the Honourable the Finance Member was going to make, because, Mr. President, you ruled, if I may say so with all respect, rightly the other day, that a debate should not be raised. To-day when the debate is raised on the point, I find the Honourable the Finance Member gives absolutely no reason whatever for the course which he has chosen to take. We have been taught that language is given to conceal thought, and I feel that the English language conceals thought more than any other language. If ever there was an occasion for me to realise that truth in its fulness, in its completeness, and in all its vividness, it is to-day after listening to the carefully modulated speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. I am no wiser after he has spoken than before he spoke. This is not the way to treat the House. I consider the explanation which the Finance Member gives adds injury to the insult which has already been offered to us. We want to know plainly and squarely what are the reasons really why the Government of India did not proceed with this business? Why is there this mystery, this darkness? Is the business of the Government of India to be transacted in twilight or is it to be transacted in broad daylight? Once a Bill of this description comes before this House I say you cannot circumvent the spirit of the rules. You may claim to comply with the letter of the rules, but you should not circumvent the spirit of the rules. The action of the Government is tantamount to a temporary withdrawal of the Bill under the pretext that they are arranging the Government business on days allotted for Government business. When once Government business is taken up, though the matter is one for you to decide and not for me, the spirit of the rules does require that, unless there is any very great difficulty which compels the Government to suspend the normal course, a Bill which is taken up on Government days must go on from day to day. That is the usual procedure. I submit that whether Government had technically the right to do it or not, it is certainly unconstitutional and amounts, as I said the other day, to trifling with what ought to be the convention of this House. The Finance Member did not really give any satisfactory reason. He said that the motion for adjournment is not fully justified. Does he mean that it is justified to any extent? He said that the Government is one and indivisible. I cannot understand the divinity about it. I am not a theologian. The Finance Member used many other phrases which simply cloud the issue and do not lay bare the truth. A Bill has been actually taken up and some important clauses have been discussed. We had come to the crucial clause, clause 8. That was being discussed. The amendments were there. Suddenly the Government discovered that they required an indefinite adjournment for the purpose of coming to a conclusion. What is the agreement that was wanted? I have seen no evidence of any desire on the part of the Government of India to come to any agreement with the popular party in this House. I do not desire on this occasion to express my opinion on this Bill and it would not be in order. I do not want to say whether the Bill should be of a particular kind or of some other kind. I have nothing to do with it or its merits. We stick to our demand. Our demands have been before the country and before this House. Speaking for my part and for the Congress Party, the reason why we did not think it necessary to bring this motion is because we had already expressed our resentment, and we did not think it necessary to bring up another motion before this House.

Mr. President : Does not the Honourable Member belong to the Congress Party ?

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar : That is, Sir, domestic politics. When once a motion of this description is brought before this Assembly, there is not the slightest doubt that the Congress Party will support, as it has decided to support, this motion, because it is simply repeating what I said on behalf of my Party and, if I may say so with all respect on behalf of the other non-official Members of this House on the last occasion. If a formal vote of censure was required I do not see the slightest harm in having such a vote of censure. For it does strengthen the hands of the popular elements in this Assembly to have a vote of censure of this description formally passed against the Government. We are, however, not here for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the Finance Member or the Government of India. We are here for the purpose of asserting our own rights and liberties, and they require that the ordinary normal procedure of this House shall not be interfered with by any extraordinary action which is taken on behalf of the Government of India. I have nothing to do with the apportionment of responsibility. I am not an inquisitive person and I do not want confidences which are not given to me voluntarily. Therefore, Sir, whilst I associate myself with the censure that has been moved, I must say that I do not agree with my friend Mr. Jayakar or others in thinking that there was any great accommodation or any great deal of co-operation. My Party stands and will stand for certain principles, and it is only if the Government comes down to those principles and agrees with our Party that we will agree to co-operate and we shall not do so in the case of any Government measure or Bill which does not satisfy the fullest demands of the Party which I have the honour to represent. With these words I cordially support this motion for censure.

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz (West Central Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I support this motion for censure, not on the ground given by my esteemed friend Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, but on the ground that the consideration of the remaining clauses of the Reserve Bank Bill was postponed against the wishes of this House. The reason given by the Honourable the Finance Member that the consideration of the Bill was deferred because the Government wanted more time with a view to consider the pros and cons of clause 8 of the Bill are not conclusive and convincing. Probably there are some other reasons which the Honourable the Finance Member does not wish to give on the floor of the House. Now, Sir, the hard facts of the situation are these. The Reserve Bank Bill emanated from the Joint Committee in a form which raised certain controversial matters. The Finance Member was forced to fall back on the shareholders' bank, but, in order to inspire confidence of all the parties in this House, he gave up the shareholders' bank in favour of a State Bank. That shows honesty of purpose on the part of the Finance Member who is also the Leader of the House. A dispute arose with regard to the composition of the Directorate. There is one scheme which is embodied in clause 8 of the Bill and which empowers the Legislature to elect as many as 6 Directors to the Board. I do not wish to enter into the merits or demerits of this scheme, but obviously it was opposed by the Government and a large number of the Members of this House.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is not right in assuming that a large majority of the House was opposed to a particular scheme. Will he confine himself to the constitutional issue ?

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz : Sir, I am not going into the merits of the scheme. I am simply stating facts. The other proposal of which the Honourable Member, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, had given notice to move was that the provinces should elect a College of Electors consisting of 300 members and the College of Electors in turn should elect 6 members to the Board of Directors. Well, Sir, I do not know what would have been the fate of this proposal. Then again, Sir, Raja Ghazanfar Ali tabled another amendment, namely, that two seats should be reserved for Muslims through election on the Directorate. That did not meet the wishes of the Government. We all know that the Honourable the Finance Member refused to agree to the introduction of the principle of communal representation and racial distinction in a banking institution. Finally, there was a proposal for a stockholders' scheme. Everybody knows what that scheme is. It obviously gained the support of all parties in this House. But all of a sudden the Finance Member next day tells the House that the Bill cannot be proceeded with. I do not know what the real reasons are. If the Government wanted to have time the Finance Member could have stated on the floor of the House that he wanted time. There are probably certain other reasons which perhaps it is not advisable on the part of Government to state before the Assembly. Personally, I think these reasons must be strong which forced the Finance Member to postpone consideration of the measure to a fresh date. It is somewhat unfortunate that even in respect of a banking institution the Government of India has not a free hand and its liberty of action is controlled by higher authorities. The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett whose ability and integrity we all admire is not to be blamed. The object of this motion is to show to the Governments in India and in England that this House desires to resume discussion of the Bill at an early date and pass it in a form acceptable to the Government of India and a substantial majority of the House. The consideration of the Bill has been deferred contrary to the opinion of this House, and for this reason, Sir, I support the motion for censure.

Mr. H. G. Cocke (Bombay : European) : Sir, I merely want to say on behalf of these Benches that we do feel in this particular case that the House has not been quite reasonably treated. We realize to the full that there may be Government measures with which it is not desirable to proceed and under our Standing Orders it is possible for these Bills not to be proceeded with in the course of two Sessions and then they drop, but in this case we feel that while there were amendments on the paper which attempted to deal with the problem, it was somewhat premature to refuse to proceed with the Bill further this Session. It is quite possible that the Government of India, in taking that line, have made themselves good prophets. It may be that the solutions which were under consideration would have resulted in further deadlocks, in which case possibly Government would have been right, but on the narrow constitutional point we feel that the Government of India should not withdraw, or rather refuse to proceed with, important measures of this sort at very short notice without further discussion.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, when I came to this House, I was inclined to support the Honourable the Finance Member in the action he had taken, because I felt that so far as the affront to the House was concerned, my Honourable friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, had made it clear on the day the announcement was made that the House resented the action of the Honourable the Finance Member ; and I thought that it might be possible to show on behalf of the Government that the Finance Member, finding that he was not willing to accept the scheme which found favour with a large section of the House, and that a large section of the House was not willing to accept the scheme which the Finance Member wanted it to adopt, might justifiably have thought it the part of wisdom not to take up the time of the House any further with the Bill and to let it drop. But having heard the Honourable the Finance Member to-day, Sir, I feel more strongly than I did before that the House has every justification for feeling that it has been treated with an affront. I cannot understand why the Finance Member should not have realized all that his action meant, but bad as it was, for him now to get up and say to-day that he has not withdrawn the Bill, that he may still proceed with the Bill, is, I submit, to add another insult to the one that has been already offered to the House. I feel, Sir, that if the Finance Member felt that in view of the differences of opinion the Government should not proceed with the Bill, it was perfectly open to him to say to the House that that was so and not to proceed with the Bill. But having given the impression to the House on Thursday last that he had come to that conclusion, for him now to seize this opportunity of a motion for adjourning the House to declare to this House that he has not withdrawn the Bill, that it is still intended to go on with the Bill, and in particular....

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : May I, in the interests of accuracy, point out that I have said to-day exactly the same as I did on Thursday. I have no power to withdraw the Bill, as my Honourable friend knows ; what I said to-day is exactly what I said on Thursday.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya : I submit the question of the Honourable Member having no power to withdraw the Bill stands on a different footing ; there is no power under the Standing Orders which can compel a Government Member or any other Member to proceed with a Bill. He may not withdraw the Bill without the leave of the House ; he cannot do so, but there is no power to compel him to proceed with the Bill, and I submit that when the Honourable Member made his statement on Thursday last, he gave the impression to the House, at least to a large section of the House, that he did not intend to proceed with the Bill. I do not wish, Sir, to dwell any longer on this subject. Government treat us as if we are here to register their decrees, to accept their decisions, or to be treated in the manner in which we have been treated. After many months of labour have been spent on the Bill, after the long discussions that have been held, for any Government Member to get up and say to the House what the Finance Member said is, I submit, extremely—I will not use a stronger word—extremely discourteous. Now, Sir, I wish to make one suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Member or rather to the Government of India. They have shown discourtesy to this House. Will they now save this House the further discourtesy of asking it to

consider this Bill further ? Let the Bill drop and lie where it does. (Some Honourable Members : No, no.) After all.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member is now introducing a debatable matter.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya : I submit, Sir, that I am not going to enter into the merits of the Bill. I only want to establish the principle that when the Government have acted in this fashion in regard to a measure like the Bill before us, the least courtesy that they can show and the most sincere regret that they can express for having taken that action is that they should not ask the Members of this House to spend any more time upon the Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, we all know the history of the Bill as it has been discussed in this House. Different speeches were made in the House and different decisions were arrived at but they have all been thrown out. We knew, Sir, as a matter of fact, that a substantive scheme was after all coming before the House with regard to which we were all trying to arrive at a unanimous decision. For this purpose we had laboured long both in this House and outside it. We had the debates postponed for several days. Now, Sir, all of a sudden we find that this Bill is dramatically dropped in this Session. The two statements which the Honourable the Finance Member has made to-day seem to me to be striking at the very root of the whole matter. He has said that the Government of India have not offered an affront to this House in any way and that they had no desire or intention whatsoever of doing so. The second statement that he made was that the Government of India have not withdrawn this Bill. We must accept both these statements as quite correct. I think, Sir, the very first statement that the Government of India had no intention whatsoever to offer an affront to this House explains the whole thing. To my mind, there is a lurking suspicion that if the Government of India had no intention to withdraw this Bill and that they have not withdrawn it, then certain other influence has probably prompted them to take the action which they have taken in regard to this Bill. Whatever that influence may have been and wherever the dictation might have come from, we do not know, unless it had been explained plainly to this House by the Honourable the Finance Member. But, Sir, the dignity of the Leader of the House who speaks on behalf of the Government is certainly lowered when he lays down a specific suggestion before the House to come to an agreement and when a settlement is going to be reached very soon, that all of a sudden he is thwarted in this matter. It has been shown to the House that the Honourable the Finance Member who speaks on behalf of the Government and who was talking as a responsible officer has been thwarted in his scheme.

Mr. President : I cannot allow the Honourable Member to proceed in this strain. He must accept the statement made by the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House had never even insinuated that he had been thwarted by any other authority.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : The Finance Member has said in very guarded words that the Government had no intention of withdrawing this Bill and that they have not offered any affront to the House. I take them at their face value and I accept his statement as it stands.

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

This very statement has to my mind revealed the whole state of affairs. (Laughter.)

Mr. President : The Government of India have taken the fullest responsibility for their action and the motion before the House calls into question that action. The Honourable Member is not entitled to go outside the terms of that motion.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : I accept that the Government of India have taken the fullest responsibility upon themselves. Of course, they could not do anything else. (Laughter.) To my mind, it appears that the action of the Government of India is a very undignified one. This leads the Honourable the Leader of the House to a very precarious plight. This action of the Government of India will lower the Leader of the House in the eyes of the world. If in future the Government of India should place any suggestion before the House, Honourable Members would not take them at their word, because they would not be sure whether the Government of India were speaking with authority on the matter or not. Therefore, I submit that this unconstitutional method requires condemnation by support of this motion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That this House do now adjourn ”.

The motion was adopted.

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