

Wednesday, 19th February, 1930

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EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE

SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1930



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, 19th February, 1930.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FILLING UP OF APPOINTMENTS OF ACCOUNTANTS AND HEAD POSTMASTERS.

1. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Are postal officials declared successful in the open departmental examination held throughout India and Burma since 1925 eligible to fill the appointments of Accountants and Head Postmasters under rules 275 and 276, Volume IV, Posts and Telegraphs Manual ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The fact is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member, provided that the Lower Selection Grade examination is passed.

QUALIFICATIONS, NATURE OF DUTIES, ETC., OF ACCOUNTANTS IN DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

2. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Will Government be pleased to furnish a comparative statement showing (a) the qualifications, (b) nature of the duties, and (c) the scale of pay and allowances sanctioned together with their conditions of drawal fixed for (i) Accountants in the Post Offices, (ii) Accountants in Head Record Offices of the Railway Mail Service, and (iii) Accountants in Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Divisions ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The comparative statement required by the Honourable Member is being sent to him separately.

PAY OF ACCOUNTANTS IN THE POST OFFICES.

3. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Have all Accountants in the Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Divisions and almost all Accountants in the Head Record Offices of the Railway Mail Service been placed on higher scales of pay whereas in Post Offices, with very few exceptions, Accountants are on the clerical scale and paid only a special pay of Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 as the case may be ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

**PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE SANCTION OF SELECTION GRADE ACCOUNTANTS
IN POST OFFICES, ETC.**

4. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Have Accountants been placed in the selection grades only in General Post Offices and a few large first class Head Post Offices ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the principles governing the sanction of selection grade Accountants in Post Offices and also furnish a statement showing the qualifications as well as the duties required of such selection grade Accountants and other Accountants in other Head Offices ?

(c) Do Accountants in all Head Offices throughout India and Burma perform practically all the duties of the Postmaster in matters concerning administrative and accounts work ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : (a) Yes.

(b) The allotment of selection grade Accountants in Head Post Offices is decided in each case on its merits. For appointment as time-scale Accountants or as selection grade Accountants, men who have passed the Accountants' examination are given preference. The duties of Accountants whether in the time-scale or in the selection grade, are the same, but in the case of Accountants in the selection grade, the work is larger in volume and of greater complexity. Such Accountants have supervisory duties and a greater degree of responsibility.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

**PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENTS IN THE POST OFFICE CARRYING SPECIAL
PAY.**

5. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Will Government be pleased to give the particulars of all appointments in the Post Office, whether in superior or inferior service for which the system of granting special pay is or was in force and the conditions imposed and the qualifications required for the drawing of such special pay ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : It would be impossible within the limits of an answer to a question to give all the particulars asked for by the Honourable Member. Special pay is given in the Post Office, as in other Departments of the Government service, in appropriate cases with reference to the definition of the term "special pay" in Fundamental Rule 9 (25).

**NUMBER OF POSTS OF ACCOUNTANTS AND HEAD POSTMASTERS IN INDIA
AND BURMA, ETC.**

6. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Will Government be pleased to furnish separately the number of Accountants' and Head Postmasters' posts in the whole of India and Burma, the number of selection grade posts in each and the number of such selection grade posts held by qualified Accountants of Post Offices ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The required information corrected up to the 31st December, 1929, is furnished in the statement which I lay on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy's question No. 6 on the 19th February, 1930.

-----	Total No. of posts.	No. of selection grade posts.	No. of selection grade posts held by qualified Accountants of Post Offices.
Accountants (including Assistant Accountants).	270	15	10
Head Postmasters (excluding gazetted Postmasters).	224	224	<i>Nil.</i>

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN THE CADRE OF HEAD POSTMASTERS.

7. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Are officials who are declared successful in the examinations held for the appointments of Superintendents, Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks appointed to these posts irrespective of their positions in the gradation list ?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the same principles are not made applicable in the matter of filling up of vacancies in the Head Postmasters' cadre including the selection grade Accountants' and Assistant Accountants' appointments in respect of those who have passed the Accountants' examination and who thereby become eligible for Head Postmasters' appointments ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY: (a) The names of the departmental candidates who are declared successful in the examination held for the appointments of Superintendents of Post Offices are arranged in a separate list according to the marks secured by them in the examination and appointments are made according to seniority in that list.

This procedure is also followed in some circles with regard to the appointment of passed departmental candidates to the posts of Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks, while in others the names of candidates who pass in the same year are arranged in a special list in order of their seniority in the general gradation list and promotions are regulated accordingly.

(b) For the appointments referred to by the Honourable Member in part (a) of his question, it is imperative to disregard seniority in order to select the best men of the Department for what are considered to be picked appointments. To fill the posts referred to in part (b) of the question the same necessity does not exist and if the senior men in the time-scale are proved to be suitable, they are not passed over for promotion.

ACCOUNTANTS' POSTS IN THE SCALE OF Rs. 250—350 IN GENERAL POST OFFICES, ETC.

8. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: Are Accountants' posts in the scale of Rs. 250—350 in General Post Offices and Head Postmasters' appointments ordinarily required to be made from among passed Accountants as laid down in rules 275 and 276 of the Posts and

Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV (Establishments), first edition, which has been issued by the Director-General corrected up to the 1st February, 1928, and which supersedes all previous rules and circulars on the subject ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : No. Rule 275 (b) of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV (Establishments), does not apply to the posts of Accountants on Rs. 250—350 (of which there are at present only three, namely, at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras) since appointments to these are not made by the authorities mentioned in the rule.

With respect to Head Postmasters on Rs. 250—350 it was not contemplated by rule 276 that a senior official in the grade of Rs. 160—250 should be superseded for promotion to the scale of Rs. 250—350 merely because he does not hold an Accountant's certificate. The rule is intended to apply to appointments on the scale of Rs. 160—250 only, and even in that case it is not intended that promotions to Head Postmasterships should be made only from among passed Accountants irrespective of seniority. The rule will be redrafted so as to make its meaning clearer.

PROMOTIONS TO THE LOWEST SELECTION GRADE OF RS. 160—250 IN THE
POST OFFICE.

9. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Are promotions to the lowest selection grade of Rs. 160—250 in the Post Office dependent upon the passing of a departmental examination like the Subordinate Accounts Service examination ?

(b) Was an understanding to this effect given to the Standing Finance Committee at their meeting held at New Delhi on the 28th January, 1927 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : (a) and (b). Yes.

SYLLABUS OF THE EXAMINATION FOR INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND
HEAD CLERKS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

10. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Will Government be pleased to state the syllabus that was in force for the examination for appointment of Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks of Superintendents of Post Offices ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : This examination was conducted by the Heads of the different Circles and the syllabus prescribed, though not identical, were practically the same. They were, generally speaking, as follows :—

1. English Composition.
2. Post Office Manual, Volume I (in 2 parts) and Branch Office Rules.
3. Post Office Manual, Volume II and Post Office Act—in some Circles Telegraph Act and Savings Bank Act in addition.
4. Fundamental Rules, Supplementary Rules, Postal Account Codes and Civil Service Regulations (selected chapters and rules).
5. Post Office Manual, Volume V and Post and Telegraph Guide.

Besides the above there was a *viva voce* examination in some Circles.

PROMOTIONS TO THE LOWEST SELECTION GRADE IN THE POST OFFICE.

11. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Have promotions to the lowest selection grade in the Post Office been made according to seniority and has selection in the circle gradation list been subject to the official so selected being required to pass the selection grade examination ?

(b) Has this examination ever been held ?

(c) Was it postponed *sine die* recently ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, in December last.

(c) No.

APPOINTMENTS OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND HEAD CLERKS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

12. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Were those who passed the examination prescribed for Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks' appointments exempted from passing the selection grade examination and promoted as Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks in the selection grade of Rs. 160—250 irrespective of their positions in the gradation list ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of the question, promotions are made in order of seniority in the list of passed candidates.

QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES AND SCALES OF PAY OF HEAD RECORD CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE AND CERTAIN OTHER CLASSES OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

13. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Will Government be pleased to state the qualifications, duties and the scales of pay of head record clerks in the Railway Mail Service as well as those of Head Postmasters and selection grade Sub-Postmasters or selection grade clerks in the lowest selection grade of Rs. 160—250 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : An oral reply would be inconveniently long. The information asked for by the Honourable Member is therefore being furnished to him by letter, a copy of which will be placed in the Library.

STRENGTH OF THE MINISTERIAL STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS IN 1924 AND 1929.

14. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Will Government kindly state the number of permanent third, second and first division clerks, stenographers and superintendents, community by community, in the Department of Education, Health and Lands in 1924 and their number likewise in July, 1929 ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBU LAH : A statement containing the necessary information is laid on the table

Statement showing the number of permanent appointments in the ministerial staff of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, community by community, as it stood in 1924 and at present.

Posts.	1924.					1929.						
	Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Other communities.	Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Other communities.
Superintendents . . .	4	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...
Assistants . . .	10	11	9	2	...	...	8	14	7	3	...	...
Clerks, II Division . .	3	22	9	3	...	...	2	19	10	2	...	...
Clerks, III Division . .	1	4	5	...	...	...	...	8	2	...	...	...
Stenographers . . .	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	1

NOMINATION OF MUSLIMS TO THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE.

15. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Did the Public Service Commission in 1927 and 1928 recommend to the Department of Education, Health and Lands the nomination of a Muslim candidate for appointment to the Indian Forest Service?

(b) Did that Department suggest the name of a non-Muhammadan candidate for nomination to the Indian Forest Service?

(c) If so, will Government kindly state the reasons for the above?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question together. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement made by the late Sir Alexander Muddiman in this House on the 2nd March, 1925, on the subject of the representation of the minority communities in India in the all-India Services. The Honourable Member will observe from that statement and from rule 14 of the Rules made to regulate recruitment for the Indian Forest Service that provision has been made for the selection to the Public Service, in order to redress communal inequalities, not of representatives of any one particular community but of the minority communities generally. The decision as to which minority community should be given preference in any particular year depends upon a variety of circumstances which cannot be rigidly defined or followed. The Honourable Member is perfectly correct in stating that the Public Service Commission was asked both in 1927 and 1928 to recommend the nomination of a Muslim candidate for appointment to the Indian Forest Service. In 1927, the Muslim candidate nominated by the Commission was duly appointed. In 1928, as in 1927, the Commission were asked to submit the name of a

Muslim candidate at a time when there was no certainty, either that a Muslim would be among the three candidates who secured the first three places in the competitive examination, or that among candidates, who did not secure the first three places, the representative of some other minority community would secure a substantially higher place than Muslim candidates who competed in the examination. In the event, among those candidates who secured positions lower than the third, a member of the Anglo-Indian community secured the 5th place as compared with the 24th place which was the next highest position secured by a Muslim candidate. Ever since the inception of the competitive examination for the Indian Forest Service in India no member of the Anglo-Indian community had been recruited direct to the Indian Forest Service, while one Muslim candidate had been nominated in 1927 and another had secured a place in the open competitive examination held in that year. In the circumstances, the Government of India decided that it would be only fair to give the vacancy to be filled by nomination in 1928 to the Anglo-Indian candidate who had stood 5th in the competitive examination. I may add that in the year 1929 also another Muslim candidate was nominated to the Indian Forest Service.

PROMOTIONS OF MESSRS. MUHAMMAD YAKUB AND ZIA-UD-DIN TO THE UPPER DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

16. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Will Government kindly state when Messrs. Muhammad Yakub and Zia-ud-Din, lately second division clerks in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, passed the upper division examination of the Staff Selection Board ?

(b) Are there any assistants who passed their upper division examination before these clerks but have been promoted to the upper division before these two clerks ?

(c) Will Government kindly state how they determine seniority for the promotion of second division clerks to the upper division in the Government of India Secretariat, whether from the date of their entrance into Government service or from the date of their passing the examination ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) Mr. Muhammad Yakub passed the upper division examination of the Staff Selection Board in 1920 and Mr. Zia-ud-Din in 1922.

(b) I presume the word " before " where it first occurs should be " after ". The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) Seniority for promotion is ordinarily determined by the date of permanent appointment to the particular grade or division to which the employee belongs, and not by the date of passing the examination for the upper division.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE CASH SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

17. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Are Muslim clerks banned from the Cash Section of the Department of Education, Health and Lands ?

(b) Is that section the recruiting agency for peons, etc. ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
(a) No.

(b) The list of applications for appointment to the staff of inferior servants in the Department is maintained by the Cash Section. The actual appointments are, however, made by the officer in charge of the establishment of the Department.

**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. DHAMA, SUPERINTENDENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY,
DELHI.**

18. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY :** (a) Is the Department of Education, Health and Lands the controlling and administrative Department for Archæology in India ?

(b) Do nearly all or most of the protected monuments in Delhi belong to Muhammadans ?

(c) Is a Mr. Dhama, Superintendent of Archæology, a Hindu gentleman, in charge of these monuments ?

(d) Did this Mr. Dhama remove most of the Muhammadan chowkidars of these monuments, replacing them by Hindus ?

(e) If so, has his action resulted in the desecration of these monuments ?

(f) Have the Muhammadans of Delhi made representations to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and the Director-General of Archæology both in person and in writing ?

(g) Will Government kindly state whether they made any inquiry into these representations and took any disciplinary action against the officer concerned ?

(h) If not, will Government kindly state reasons ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
(a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Mr. Dhama was until recently in charge of protected monuments in Delhi.

(d) No. All appointments of chowkidars to protected monuments in Delhi are made either by the Public Works Department or by the Horticultural Department of the Delhi Province.

(e) The question does not arise.

(f) Representations were received by the Director-General of Archæology in India and by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, from certain Muslim bodies and individuals.

(g) Yes. The Director-General made careful enquiries into the charges brought against the officer referred to and found them to be wholly devoid of foundation. Allegations against Mr. Dhama were due to his objecting to encroachments upon, and disfigurement of, certain monuments protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.

(h) The question does not arise.

HOLDING BY NON-MUSLIMS OF POSTS CARRYING SPECIAL PAY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

19. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Is it a fact that all the posts carrying with them allowances or special allowances of Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 are held by non-Muslims in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, four by Hindus and one by a Parsi gentleman. Will Government kindly state how many Muhammadans are senior to persons holding such posts carrying special pay in the same class ?

(b) Is it a fact that there are three sections in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, *i.e.*, the Cash Section, Issue Section and Record Section which are superintended by second or third division clerks ?

(c) Is it a fact that while the superintending clerks of the former two sections, *i.e.*, the Cash Section and Issue Section, are Hindus and are in receipt of an allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem, there is no such allowance attached to the post of superintending clerk of the Record Section ? Is the latter a Muhammadan ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :

(a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. There are seven posts carrying special pay, namely :—

- (1) Four stenographers. There is one Muslim stenographer and he is in receipt of a special pay of Rs. 50 a month.
- (2) Assistant in charge of the General Section. No Muslim is senior to him.
- (3) Second Division clerk in charge of the Cash Section. No Muslim in the Second Division is senior to him.
- (4) A Second Division clerk in charge of the Issue Section. Only one Muslim in the Second Division is senior to him.

I may add for the Honourable Member's information that seniority alone cannot automatically give any claim to a clerk for appointment to a post carrying special pay.

(b) All the three sections are under the supervision of second division clerks.

(c) Yes. The work of the clerk in charge of the Record Section is not of such a nature as would justify the grant of special pay.

CLERICAL STAFF OF THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

20. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : (a) Is it a fact that under the Department of Education, Health and Lands a new office—the Agricultural Research Council—has been formed ?

(b) Will Government kindly state how many posts are held by Hindus and how many by Muhammadans in the cadre of superintendent, assistants, clerks and stenographers. What amount of Indian revenue is spent on the salaries paid to Hindus—superintendent, assistants, clerks and stenographers—and how much on salaries paid to Muhammadans in the Council—superintendents, assistants, clerks and stenographers ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
 (a) That is so, except that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is not under the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

(b) The following statement gives the information required :

—	Superinten- dent.	Assistants.	Clerks.	Stenogra- phers.	Total salaries per mensem.
					Rs.
Hindus . . .	1	1	3	2	1,785 0 0
Muslims . . .		1	3	1	745 0 0
Sikhs . . .	..	..	..	1	262 8 0

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI.

21. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY :** (a) Will Government kindly state the total number of members of the Court of the University of Delhi ?

(b) Will Government kindly state how many of the members are nominated by Government ?

(c) Did the Muslim Association of Delhi represent that nomination of members is meant to secure adequate representation of minority or backward communities ?

(d) Was the result of the representation of the Muslim Association that the number of nominated Muslims on the Court of the University was further reduced by one ?

(e) If so, will Government kindly state to whom this one nominated seat went ?

(f) Was this community, otherwise represented on the Court ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
 (a) 108.

(b) None, but the Governor General in his capacity as Chancellor of the University nominates fifteen members of the Court.

(c) Yes.

(d) The number of Muslims nominated by the Chancellor to the present Court is eight against nine nominated to the last Court, but I need hardly say that the reduction of one was not the result of the representation of the Muslim Association.

(e) The Secretary to the Arya Samaj and a woman representative took the place of a Muslim and a Christian.

(f) There were already women representatives and Arya Samajists on the Court.

AWARD OF INDIAN TITLES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

22. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY: (a) Will Government kindly state how many Indian titles have been awarded to the employees of the Department of Education, Health and Lands since its reconstitution in 1923, and how many of these Indian titles were awarded to Hindus and how many to Muhammadans?

(b) Were the recipients of these Indian titles in the Department assistants, second division clerks and stenographers?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH: (a) 23—16 Hindus, 6 Muslims and 1 Parsee.

(b) Not all.

GRANT TO HONORARY KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF DOUBLE PENSIONS WHILE RE-EMPLOYED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

23. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer): (a) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) the number of King's Commissions awarded under A. I. (I.) No. 690 of 1920 to Viceroy's commissioned officers re-employed during the days of the Great War;

(ii) how many of them were holders of the disability pension;

(iii) whether all of them were given double pensions during their re-employment;

(iv) if not, the number of those who were given double pensions and of those who were not given double pensions;

(v) the reason why differential treatment was given to some of them?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place on the table copies of orders A. D. No. H. S. 264 of 24th December, 1915, and A. D. letter No. H.-2760, dated 6th January, 1925, and A. I. (I.) No. 990 of 1918?

(c) Were these orders given full consideration before refusing double pensions?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a)—(i) and (ii). 344 Indian officers were granted Honorary King's commissions under the orders quoted by the Honourable Member. Government are unable to say at this date how many of these officers were re-employed officers or had been granted disability pensions.

(a)—(iii) to (v) and part (c). I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member means by "double pension". Honorary King's commissioned officers are now eligible for pension at double the rates admissible to officers of their rank who have not been granted Honorary King's commissions. But this concession has only been in force since July 1920 and no Honorary King's commissioned officers could, therefore, draw pension at double rates during the war. On the other hand all pensioned officers who were re-employed during the war drew pay in addition to the pensions that they had already been granted, and if they qualified for a disability pension during the period of their re-employment they received an addition to their service pension representing the disability element. As far as Government are aware, there has been

no exception to these rules. If the Honourable Member knows of a case in which these orders have not been applied, I shall be glad to look into the matter.

(b) I will furnish the Honourable Member separately with copies of the letters quoted by him, but the date of the second letter is the 6th January 1915, and not 1925. Copies of Army Instructions are in the Library.

NAMES OF INDIANS APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OR SECRETARY OF THE RAILWAY BOARD AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

24. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY** (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer) : (a) Will Government be pleased to give the names of the Indian gentlemen who have held the posts of Members of the Railway Board, Secretary to the Railway Board and Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research after the 1st January, 1919 ?

(b) Which of these posts carry the rank and salary of a Secretary, Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary to the Government of India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) Mr. A. M. Hayman, a Statutory Indian, officiated as Financial Commissioner, Railways, from 7th March 1926 to 2nd April 1926. He was appointed a Member of the Railway Board with effect from 2nd April 1929.

Mr. P. R. Rau officiated as Financial Commissioner, Railways, from 3rd March 1929 to 29th September 1929.

The late Mr. J. Kaul officiated as Secretary, Railway Board, from 5th November 1926 to 21st November 1926, and from 1st January 1928 to 31st May 1928.

Diwan Bahadur Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research with effect from the 15th September 1929.

(b) Members of the Railway Board, the Financial Commissioner, Railways, and the Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, have the pay and status of a Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary, Railway Board, has the status of a Deputy Secretary.

NAMES OF INDIANS APPOINTED AS SECRETARY, JOINT SECRETARY OR ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

25. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY** (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer) : Will Government be pleased to give the names of Indian officers who have held the posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary to the Government of India after 1st January, 1919 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : A statement giving the information desired is being placed in the Library.

INDIANS APPOINTED TO SECRETARIAL POSITIONS WITH THE INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION AND THE INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

26. **THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY** (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer) : (a) Will Government be pleased

to give the names of the Indian officers appointed from time to time in secretarial positions with the Simon Commission and the Nair Committee ?

(b) Is it a fact that no Muslim has yet been appointed to any such post ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

Statement of Indian officers appointed to secretarial positions with the Indian Statutory Commission and the Indian Central Committee.

INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION.

- (1) Mr. J. W. Bhore, C.I.E., C.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary.
- (2) Mr. B. Rama Rau, I.C.S., Financial Officer attached to the Commission.

INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. S. N. Roy, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary. On his transfer to the Home Department Mr. Roy was succeeded by Mr. H. K. Kirpalani, I.C.S.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISHURDI-PABNA RAILWAY.

27. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy each of the reports of the Engineer-in-Chief, Construction, and the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, regarding the re-investigation of the Ishurdi-Pabna or Bera Railway project ?

(b) Has the line been reported to be a good business proposition ?

(c) Did the net financial prospects of the line work out at a dividend of over 6 per cent. on the capital outlay ?

(d) Will this project be taken into active consideration in April, 1930 ?

(e) If so, when is it proposed to sanction it and take up the construction ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) A copy of the project report which contains the individual reports of the Agent and the Engineer-in-Chief, Construction, Eastern Bengal Railway, has been placed in the Library.

(b) Yes.

(c) From the report it will be seen that a return of not less than 6 per cent. on the capital outlay is anticipated by the Agent six years after opening.

(d) and (e). It will not be possible to devote funds either in 1930-31 or immediately after for the construction of this line.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE EXTRA PONTAGE CHARGE LEVIED OVER THE HARDINGE BRIDGE AT PAKSEY, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

28. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : (a) Will Government be pleased to state (i) when the Hardinge Bridge at Paksey, Eastern Bengal Railway, was opened to railway traffic ; (ii) the cost of construction of the bridge ; (iii) whether the cost of construction has been recouped by this time, and (iv) if so, when ?

(b) Is an extra charge for 20 miles made for this bridge on every ticket of passengers travelling by the northern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway and crossing the bridge ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the amounts realised—(i) annually from coaching and goods respectively; and (ii) since the opening of that bridge up to 31st March, 1929, by the extra charges levied on account of this bridge?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is proposed to discontinue the levying of the extra charge mentioned in (b)?

(e) If so, when?

(f) If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) (i) In 1915.

(ii) Approximately 350 lakhs.

(iii) No.

(iv) Does not arise.

(b) An extra pontage charge for all traffic, equivalent to a charge for 18 miles, is charged over this bridge.

(c) The approximate receipts from the pontage charge have averaged 14½ lakhs per annum since the opening of the bridge, and during the last four years have averaged 19 lakhs per annum. Separate figures for coaching and goods traffic are not at present available.

(d), (e) and (f). Interest on the original cost of the bridge at 5 per cent. per annum amounts to Rs. 17½ lakhs annually. A further additional charge of Rs. 3½ lakhs is incurred annually on account of depreciation and maintenance charges so that, even with the present annual receipts of 19 lakhs from the pontage charge, there is an annual deficit. There is therefore no present prospect of the pontage charge being reduced or discontinued.

AMOUNTS SPENT IN INDIA AND ABROAD BY THE PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT
OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

29. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) the amounts that were spent in India and abroad respectively by the Publicity Department of the Railway Board;
- (b) the names of individuals, firms and printing concerns with whom their orders were placed in India;
- (c) the names of all individuals, firms and presses in India that have solicited orders?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) During 1928-29 Rs. 6,02,119 were spent by the Central Publicity Bureau in India and Rs. 1,16,401 abroad.

(b) Orders have been placed with the following firms and printing presses in India during 1928-29:

- (1) *Times of India* Press, Bombay.
- (2) British India Press, Bombay.
- (3) Calcutta Chromotype Company, Calcutta.
- (4) Claridge and Company, Bombay.
- (5) Calcutta Printing and Publicity Company, Calcutta.
- (6) *Hindustan Times* Press, Delhi.
- (7) Liddell's Press, Simla.

In addition, advantage has been taken of the services of a large number of individuals and firms in connection with the purchase of photographs, supply of articles for the Indian State Railway Magazine, Railway Publicity Exhibitions, etc., during the year.

(c) No record has been kept of all the individuals, firms and presses in India who have solicited orders during the year but a large number have done so and quotations have also been invited from certain others.

REMOVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY
FROM ALLAHABAD TO CAWNPORE.

30. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there has been a proposal to remove the administrative offices of the East Indian Railway from Allahabad to Cawnpore ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative—

- (i) what are the special reasons for adopting that course ;
- (ii) what particular offices or establishments will be removed ;
- (iii) what will be the probable expenditure for the removal ;
- (iv) what time does it take normally for a letter to reach Cawnpore from Allahabad now ;
- (v) will correspondence with the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce be in any way accelerated by the proposed removal ?

(c) Were some administrative railway offices once located in Cawnpore ?

(d) What were the special reasons for the removal of those offices ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) It is proposed to make Cawnpore the Headquarters of the Division of the East Indian Railway which has been temporarily placed at Allahabad since its formation in 1925.

(b) (i) For administrative convenience, Cawnpore being a very important commercial centre and geographically near the centre of the Division.

(ii) The office of the Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway.

(iii) No permanent office and only a portion of the quarters required are in existence at Allahabad. An office will have to be built somewhere and this will be done cheaper at Cawnpore where the old Junction Station building will be available and can be altered to form a suitable office. The probable cost of the office and additional quarters at Cawnpore is estimated at about Rs. 9½ lakhs. No estimate has been made of the cost which would be involved in the construction of an office and quarters at Allahabad.

(iv) One day.

(v) Yes, by facilities for telephonic and verbal discussions.

(c) No : a District Traffic Superintendent was posted at Cawnpore some years ago.

(d) His office was removed to Tundla as being more centrally situated for the area comprising the District.

ANNUAL GROSS EARNINGS OF BUKHTIARPUR JUNCTION ON THE EAST
INDIAN RAILWAY, ETC.

31. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) the annual gross earnings of Bukhtiarpur Junction on the East Indian Railway ;
- (b) the number of passengers usually travelling to and from Bukhtiarpur Junction ;
- (c) the nature and capacity of waiting accommodation for all classes of passengers at Bukhtiarpur Junction ;
- (d) the number of the normal congregation at the Rajgir Mela ;
- (e) what special arrangements are made by the railway authorities for the pilgrims during the Rajgir Mela at the junction station ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) The approximate gross earnings from the 1st April 1929 to the 31st January 1930 amounted to Rs. 1,28,578.

(b) During the year ending 31st March 1929, 1,74,407 passengers travelled to and 1,35,367 from Bukhtiarpur Junction.

(c) One waiting room for first and second class passengers 24 by 19 feet in area, one ladies' waiting room for first and second class passengers 24 by 19 feet in area, and two waiting halls for third class passengers, one 24 by 19 feet and one 36 by 16 feet in area.

(d) This mela is held at Rajgir, a station on the Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway, every third year. It was held in 1928 and the number of passengers interchanged between the East Indian Railway and the Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway at Bukhtiarpur during the Mela period, which lasts for one month, was 1,43,384.

(e) Special trains were run. Extra staff was posted at Bukhtiarpur station and a special booking office was opened. Six high power lamps were erected to illuminate the station compound and premises, and police and medical arrangements were provided.

ANNUAL GROSS EARNINGS FROM AZIMGANJ CITY STATION.

32. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) the annual gross earnings of Azimganj City station ;
- (b) whether Azimganj City station is provided with raised platforms and a third class waiting hall ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) For the financial year 1928-29 the earnings of Azimganj City station were Rs. 83,735.

(b) No.

ROAD-MAKING SCHEME STARTED BY THE HARBOUR AUTHORITIES AT
VIZAGAPATAM.

33. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether the harbour authorities of Vizagapatam started a scheme of road-making known as the Trunk or Grand Trunk Scheme?
- (b) What was the object of that scheme and how much money was spent on it?
- (c) Has the scheme been given up?
- (d) If so, when and why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) No scheme of road-making was started by the Harbour authorities at Vizagapatam known as the Trunk or Grand Trunk Scheme.

In 1925 at the instance of the Madras Government a scheme of town planning of the swamp area lying between the Harbour and the existing town was prepared by the Municipality of Vizagapatam and submitted to the Local Government. This scheme comprised amongst other features a road connecting the Harbour and the town.

In 1928 the Advisory Committee of the Harbour represented to Government the urgent need of an early start being made with the carrying out of this town planning scheme or at least the construction of the main connecting road. Their views were communicated to the Madras Government.

Since then Government have no further information.

(b) The object of the town planning scheme was the reclamation of the swamp area and its utilisation as an extension to the town on a well laid out plan. Government have no information regarding the amount, if any, spent on the scheme, which is one which concerns the Local Government alone.

(c) and (d). Government have no information.

ANTI-MALARIAL MEASURES TAKEN BY THE HARBOUR AUTHORITIES OF
VIZAGAPATAM.

34. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) What anti-malarial measures, if any, have been taken by the harbour authorities of Vizagapatam?
- (b) Were they subsequently given up?
- (c) If so, why?
- (d) What was the total sum spent by the Government on these measures?
- (e) What opinion, if any, did the present Chief Engineer express upon these measures?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 34 to 40 and 42 and 43 together.

The information is being obtained and will be furnished to the Honourable Member on receipt.

EXPENDITURE ON THE DRY DOCK AT VIZAGAPATAM.

*35. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The total amount spent so far on the dry dock at Vizagapatam ?
- (b) From where was the concrete requisitioned for the dock brought ?
- (c) Was not enough concrete available on the spot suitable for the purpose ?
- (d) Was the locality where the dry dock has been constructed full of rocks ?

GROYNE WALLS IN THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

*36. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The object of making the Groyne walls in the Vizagapatam Harbour ?
- (b) The depth of water at the mouth of the Creek at ebb and flood tides respectively before and after the Groyne walls were made ?
- (c) Whether there is a second Groyne wall by the side of the first ?
- (d) If so, the object of making the second Groyne wall ?
- (e) Has its construction been subsequently stopped ?
- (f) If so, why ?
- (g) The total amount spent on the two Groyne walls ?
- (h) What has happened to the first Groyne wall ?
- (i) Is it still being proceeded with ?
- (j) If so, with what results ?
- (k) If not, why has it been stopped ?

EXPENDITURE ON THE QUAY WALL AT VIZAGAPATAM.

*37. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The total amount of money spent on the quay wall at Vizagapatam and how much of it has been paid to the masonry contractor ?
- (b) Whether the specification stated in the tender for constructing the quay wall required coarse rubble work with rubble from certain specified quarries ?
- (c) Whether the work was done according to specification ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether the specification was altered by substituting random rubble work for coarse rubble work and why the clause relating to rubble from specified quarries was not insisted upon ?
- (f) Whether additional facility was given to the masonry contractor by allowing him to open a quarry at what is locally known as Church Hill ?

* For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 34.

- (g) Whether the quality of work accepted by the harbour authorities was up to the standard required in the tender ?
- (h) If not, why was it accepted ?
- (i) Whether the contractor was paid at any reduced rate ?
- (j) If not, why not ?
- (k) Whether any objection was raised by the audit authorities on the above ground ?
- (l) If so, was any action taken upon such objection ?
- (m) What opinion, if any, has been expressed by the present Chief Engineer upon the above works ?

CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNNEL AT YARRADA HILL IN VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

***38. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING:** Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The necessity for constructing a tunnel at Yarrada Hill in Vizagapatam Harbour ?
- (b) Whether it has anything to do with the waterworks scheme of the Harbour ?
- (c) Who prepared the scheme ?
- (d) Whether it has been accepted by Government ?
- (e) Whether the harbour authorities have purchased the water right of the streamlet above the Hill ?
- (f) If so, what was the consideration money paid by the harbour authorities ?
- (g) Whether Government have been satisfied with the supply of water from the stream ?
- (h) What will be the maximum delay of supply of water from this scheme ?
- (i) What will be the total expenditure on the scheme ?

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC PLANT IN THE QUARTERS OF OFFICERS OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

***39. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING:** Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether any electric plant has been installed in the quarters of any officer of the Vizagapatam Harbour for the supply of electricity for his own private use ?
- (b) If so, whether Government paid the cost of this electric plant ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to instal electric plant in the quarters of all officers ?
- (d) Whether electric plant has been installed in the quarters of the Chief Engineer ?
- (e) If not, why ?

* For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 34.

ANNUAL REVENUE OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

*40. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state the present total annual revenue of the Vizagapatam Harbour and the expenses of its collection ?

INSPECTION OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR BY THE MEMBER (ENGINEERING) OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

41. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether any high official of the Railway Board made an inspection of the Vizagapatam Harbour in the course of the last six months ?
- (b) If so, are Government prepared to publish his inspection report ?
- (c) Whether all works in the Harbour excepting dredging operations have been suspended ?
- (d) If so, why ?
- (e) When Government started construction of the Harbour at Vizagapatam and when Government expect to finish it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) and (b). The Member (Engineering) of the Railway Board inspected the Vizagapatam Harbour Construction during the course of his tour last monsoon. He submitted no report.

- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The construction of the Harbour was sanctioned in October 1925. It is hoped that it will be possible to berth ships in 1932.

EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

*42. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The total expenditure up to date on the construction of the Harbour at Vizagapatam ?
- (b) The total amount spent by Government as salary to the officers, clerks and all employees of the Vizagapatam Harbour construction every month and the average amount actually spent on works every month ?

CONSTRUCTION OF A MANGANESE JETTY OR WHARF IN THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

*43. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The total amount spent on the construction of a manganese jetty or wharf in the Vizagapatam Harbour ?
- (b) Whether it formed part of the Harbour scheme ?
- (c) If not, what was the object of constructing a temporary jetty ?
- (d) Whether any work was done in this jetty ?
- (e) Why and how was the jetty totally wrecked ?

* For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 34.

BREAKDOWN AND DAMAGE TO THE DREDGER HIRED FROM THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

44. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether the authorities of the Vizagapatam Harbour Construction purchased or hired a dredger from the Madras Government ?
- (b) If so, what consideration is paid to the Government of Madras ?
- (c) Whether the present Chief Engineer inspected the dredger before it was brought to Vizagapatam ?
- (d) Whether he was satisfied that the dredger which the Chief Engineer purchased or hired would serve the purpose for which it was proposed to be used ?
- (e) Whether the dredger was a part of India's share of reparations paid by Germany ?
- (f) If so, whether the Chief Engineer was aware of this before he engaged it for the Vizagapatam Harbour Works ?
- (g) Whether it was used at Vizagapatam at all ?
- (h) If so, for how long ?
- (i) Whether the dredger went wrong as soon as it arrived at Vizagapatam and could not be used ?
- (j) Who was responsible for the failure of the dredger, what was the cost of the repairs and whether the Government of India paid it ?
- (k) Whether Government held any enquiry and are prepared to publish the report of the Chief Engineer regarding the dredger ?
- (l) Whether Government are prepared to publish the correspondence that passed between the Government of India and the Government of Madras regarding the dredger ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) Yes.

(b) A dredger was hired from the Madras Government with the option of purchase should it prove satisfactory. No actual payment has been made.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes.

(h) For 15 minutes.

(i) Yes.

(j), (k) and (l). The question of responsibility regarding the breakdown and damage to the dredger has been referred to arbitration and pending settlement of the arbitration proceedings I regret that I cannot give a reply to these portions of the Honourable Member's question.

RENT PAID BY THE CALCUTTA TURF CLUB FOR THE USE OF THE MAIDAN.

45. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: With reference to the reply to question No. 81 asked by the Honourable Srijut Rama Prasad Mookerjee on the 25th September, 1929, regarding the rent paid by the Calcutta Turf Club for the use of the Maidan, will Government be pleased to state the result of their inquiries into the matter ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: With your permission, Sir, I lay on the table a statement containing the answer.

Statement.

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The right of the Calcutta Turf Club to use a portion of the Maidan as a race course is believed to have been granted by Government some 70 years ago, and has been exercised for at least the last 65 years. A grand stand was erected in 1880. This was a temporary structure of wood and iron, capable of being removed at short notice. In 1907 a lease was granted to the Club, and the present permanent structures were erected under this lease.

(d) and (e). The Calcutta Turf Club pays a nominal rent of one gold mohur a year under the terms of its lease. Before 1907 there was no lease, and no rent was paid. The lease was granted to the Club in consideration of its making improvements to the course and erecting better stands. The Club was naturally unwilling to effect these improvements unless its title were placed on a proper footing. A nominal rent only was imposed, presumably because the Club had been in occupation of the area for approximately half a century without payment of rent.

OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES.

46. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: With reference to the reply to question No. 82 asked by the Honourable Srijut Rama Prasad Mookerjee on the 25th September, 1929, regarding the opening of new Post Offices, will Government be pleased to state the result of the inquiry into the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY: A final reply was sent to the Honourable Babu Rama Prasad Mookerjee on the 31st December, 1929. Copies of the reply and statement sent therewith has been placed in the Library of the House.

NUMBER OF STANDING COMMITTEES, ETC., ATTACHED TO THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

47. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: With reference to the reply to question No. 83 asked by the Honourable Srijut Rama Prasad Mookerjee on 25th September, 1929, regarding the number of Standing Committees, etc., attached to the different Departments of the Government of India, will Government be pleased to state the result of the inquiry into the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. G. HAIG: The information was supplied to the Honourable Babu Rama Prasad Mookerjee and a copy of the statement, which is a long one, is also being sent to the Honourable Member.

LIBRARIAN OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

48. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) the ordinary and special qualifications of the Librarian of the Imperial Library at Calcutta ;
- (b) his present pay ;
- (c) his pay just before he was appointed to the post ;
- (d) all the appointments he had held under Government prior to his appointment to the post ;

(e) the names and qualifications, ordinary and special, of all the candidates who applied for the post ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH :
 (a) Mr. Mohammad Asadullah, the officiating Librarian of the Imperial Library, Calcutta, is a graduate of the Punjab University and obtained a certificate of training in Library science from that University. He also passed all the examinations for librarianship conducted by the Library Association, London, preliminary to obtaining the Diploma of the Association. Since 1913 he has been working as Librarian in different libraries in India.

(b) Rs. 750 per mensem.

(c) Rs. 395 per mensem in the scale of Rs. 200—15—500.

(d) Before his present appointment he held the posts of :

(1) Librarian, Government College, Lahore, and

(2) Librarian, Imperial Secretariat Libraries, Simla and New Delhi.

He also worked for a short while in the Imperial Library, Calcutta.

(e) A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Statement showing the names and qualifications of the candidates who applied for the post of Librarian, Imperial Library, Calcutta.

Serial No.	Name.	Qualifications.
1	Mr. A. T. Halder . . .	Fellow of the Institute of Commerce, Birmingham.
2	Mr. Heera Lal Chatterjee . .	M. A. Has been a teacher since 1915 and has done some library work.
3	Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah	M. A. (Calcutta University), 1912. B. L. (Calcutta University), 1914. Doctorate de l'Universite de Paris, 1927. Research Assistant in the Department of Comparative Philology of the University of Calcutta from 1919 to 1921, and since then a Lecturer in the Department of Sanskrit and Bengali in the University of Dacca. Knows Bengali, Assamese, Oriya, Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Tibetan, Arabic, Persian, English, French and German.
4	Dr. Irach Jahangir Sorabji Taraporewala.	B. A.—(Bombay University), 1903. Ph. D. (University of Wurzburg, Germany), 1913. For some time was on the teaching staff of the Benares Hindu University, and is now Professor of Comparative Philology at the Calcutta University. Knows Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, English, French, German, Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Avesta, Greek and Persian.

REVENUE REALISED FROM EXCISE IN 1927, 1928 AND 1929, ETC.

49. **THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING :** Will Government be pleased to state

(a) the amounts realised from Excise in 1927, 1928 and 1929 in the several Indian provinces ;

(b) what attempts, if any, have been made to restrict the revenue from Excise ;

- (c) what the specific recommendations were of the League of Nations with regard to the production and sale of certain excisable articles in India ;
- (d) how far those recommendations are being carried into effect ;
- (e) the general policy underlying the Excise Administration ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) and (e). Under the Devolution Rules Excise is a provincial transferred subject, and the powers of intervention of the Governor General in Council may be exercised only for the specific purposes mentioned in Rule 49 of the Devolution Rules. Excise policy in the Governors' provinces is therefore not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council. In the areas directly administered by the Central Government the policy of Government has been to discourage the excessive consumption of excisable articles while providing reasonable facilities for moderate refreshment.

(c) and (d). By the " specific recommendations of the League of Nations " the Honourable Member is doubtless referring to International Conventions to which India is a party. There are no International Conventions in regard to alcohol. I presume therefore that the Honourable Member's question refers to the sale within India of raw opium and hemp drugs, and to the production of opium and hemp for such sale within India. The International Conventions relating to these articles are reproduced in the pamphlet " International Opium Conventions, 1912-1925 " (published by the Government of India Press), of which copies are to be found in the Library. A statement is laid on the table showing the detailed provisions of the Conventions in so far as they relate to the production and sale of raw opium and hemp drugs and the action taken by the Government of India thereon.

There are elaborate provisions in the International Conventions regarding international trade, for example, import into and export from and transit through British India, but I gather that the Honourable Member's question does not relate to these provisions.

Statement showing net revenue (excluding refunds) realised from Excise in 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29 in the various provinces.

(In lakhs of rupees.)

Provinces.	Net Excise revenue.		
	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
Madras Presidency	510·53	534·37	558·76
Bombay Presidency	409·39	396·21	392·26
Bengal Presidency	225·17	224·31	224·91
Burma (including Shan States)	133·13	124·74	134·65
Bihar and Orissa	197·35	196·40	189·27
United Provinces	131·00	140·97	130·86
Punjab	124·31	117·73	121·35
Central Provinces	135·45	120·67	122·76
Assam	71·93	70·94	66·38
India General	30·35	30·45	32·82
Baluchistan	5·90	6·28	6·37
North-West Frontier Province	4·89	15·41	11·66
Coorg	3·30	3·67	3·77

The figures for the year 1928-29 are provisional.

Provision.

Action taken.

HAGUE CONVENTION, 1912.

Raw Opium.

- Article 1. The enactment of effective laws of regulations for the control of the production and distribution of raw opium. Adequate laws already in existence.

Prepared Opium.

- Article 6. To take measures for the gradual and effective suppression of the manufacture of, internal trade in and use of prepared opium. The manufacture of and internal trade in prepared opium are prohibited in British India. As regards the use of prepared opium, *i.e.*, smoking, the following restrictions have been, or are about to be, imposed. All the provinces restrict possession of opium to a limit of between $\frac{1}{4}$ and 1 tola.
- Madras will soon prohibit opium smoking altogether.
- Bengal will introduce registration and rationing.
- Bombay will introduce registration and rationing.
- Burma has registration and rationing in force.
- United Provinces—Smoking in company prohibited; propose to prohibit smoking except by *present* addicts.
- Bihar and Orissa prohibits smoking except by registered addicts.
- Punjab—Smoking in company prohibited; propose prohibiting altogether.
- Central Provinces—Registration and rationing in force.
- Assam—Smoking prohibited.

First Opium Conference 1925 Agreement.

- Article 1. This Agreement relates to the control of opium smoking. The information given against Article 6 of the Hague Convention may be referred to.

Second Opium Conference, 1925 Convention.

- Article 2. Enactment of laws and regulations to ensure the effective control of the production, distribution and export of raw opium. Laws already in existence.

Indian Hemp.

- Article 11. The provisions relate to export only and do not cover internal consumption.

AMOUNT OF THE GOLD STANDARD RESERVE IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

50. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) the exact amount of the Gold Standard Reserve lying in the hands of the Government;
- (b) the recommendations of the Royal Currency and Finance Commission with regard to the disposition of such Reserve;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to accept those recommendations; if so, when?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS: (a) £40 million; *vide* the Controller of Currency's memorandum, dated the 13th February 1930, published in the Gazette of India.

(b) The recommendations, which are contained in paragraphs 75-82 and 117-124 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, were bound up with the general recommendation for the creation of a Reserve Bank.

(c) As the Honourable Member is aware, a Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission was not passed. As regards the re-introduction of a similar Bill, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by Sir George Schuster in the Legislative Assembly on the 6th February 1929 to starred question No. 418 by Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.

RESOLUTION *RE* ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ON THE SUBJECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS IN INDIA.

THE HONOURABLE SIR SANKARAN NAIR (Madras: Non-Muhamadan): I move, Sir,

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to convey to the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government its thanks for the announcement of the 31st October 1929, that 'the natural issue of India's constitutional progress is the attainment of Dominion Status is implicit in the declaration of August, 1917'; that the goal of British policy is the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire; and that before the stage of a Joint Parliamentary Committee is reached His Majesty's Government propose to invite representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as the representatives of Indian States to a Conference for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement in regard both to British Indian and all-Indian problems, so that it may be possible for them eventually to submit to Parliament such proposals on these grave issues as may command a wide measure of general assent."

Sir, this motion I believe is necessary, on account of what took place in Parliament when strong objection was taken to the announcement which has been made by the Viceroy. There are three important statements here to which I would draw the attention of the Honourable Members. The three matters are, first of all, that Dominion Status is the goal of the British Government in India; secondly, that they propose to invite what they call a Round Table Conference; and thirdly, that the scheme to be submitted to Parliament is a scheme which would command a wide measure of general assent.

I shall briefly refer to them now. The words in the Declaration of 1917 are "progressive realisation of responsible government as an integral part of the British Empire". The declaration of the Viceroy is that in that term "responsible government" is included the attainment of Dominion Status. What Dominion Status is is apparently known to all Honourable Members here, but as I have been asked the question "What do you mean by Dominion Status?", I would read this statement from the Report of the Imperial Conference of 1926. It means :

"They are autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

Now, Sir, that is the meaning of Dominion Status. There were strong reasons for announcing that this is included in the Declaration of 1917. If the British Government had now announced that the policy of the British Government is the attainment of Dominion Status, then that would be taken to be an announcement of a new policy ; this is not possible now, because it is included in the Parliamentary Statute of 1919 which can be altered only by Parliament, after the Simon Commission has made its Report ; whereas if it is now declared that it is included in the Declaration of 1917, the whole thing assumes a different aspect. It means that it is only the carrying out of the old policy and nothing new is intended thereby. Now, that it is so included may now be taken to be accepted. Mr. Baldwin accepts it. I will not read all his declarations, but those who want to verify that statement for themselves may refer to the report of the discussion in the House of Commons of the 7th November, page 1312. Lloyd George accepts it on behalf of the Liberals. I would not read his words, because they are pretty long. They may be found in the report of the debate of the 7th November at page 1316 ; so that all the Parties now accept that Dominion Status is implicit in that Declaration. Now, Sir, great importance is to be attached to it. That will appear from this. I think it is necessary to read the words of Lloyd George himself, who was the head of the Government at the time when the Declaration was made. This is what he says :

"These Declarations were considered carefully, not by a British Cabinet ; they were considered during the War at Imperial Cabinets where there were representatives of every Dominion in the British Empire. India was also represented. They were made in the name of the King Emperor."

So that the Declaration of 1917 was a declaration made by the British Empire, a declaration to which India was a party, a declaration to which all the Dominions were parties. As between the British Government and India itself, a breach of faith would be immoral considering the position of the parties. But this was a declaration to which the Dominions were also parties, so that India would be entitled to appeal to the Dominions to enforce that Declaration if they think that there was anything like a breach of faith. Therefore that may be taken to be sacrosanct now, not to be interfered with in any way by the British Government so far as that Declaration goes. His Excellency also states that it is now placed beyond doubt. I will only refer to one part of the speech where he says :

"There can no longer be any doubt that, whatever the means by which that policy is brought to fruition, Great Britain can never have any other purpose for India than to bring her to a place of equal partnership with the other self-governing Dominions."

Now, there it is settled. Then the question may be fairly put—and that is the question put not by one but by many leaders of parties in the House of

[Sir Sankaran Nair.]

Commons and in the House of Lords—and that is the main reason why I have come to this Council—what was the reason for this Declaration, what was the necessity for it and why was it made without waiting till Parliament had considered the expected report of Sir John Simon? The reason is this. The spokesman of the British Government here on the 8th February 1924 denied that this was the meaning. His words are remarkable. This is what he said :

“ If you analyse the term ‘ full Dominion self-government ’ you will see that it is of somewhat wider extent, conveying that not only will the executive be responsible to the legislature, but the legislature will in itself have the full powers which are typical of the modern Dominion. I say there is some difference of substance because responsible government is not necessarily incompatible with a legislature with limited or restricted powers. It may be that full Dominion self-government is the logical outcome of responsible government, but it is a further and a final step.”

That is to say, Dominion Status is a further step itself to come after we have attained responsible government ; that responsible government in itself does not mean the supremacy of the Legislative Council. Now, that is going very far, and if that full Dominion Status was implied in the Declaration of August 1917 that would be absolutely wrong. There can be no doubt about it. But that is an authoritative declaration, the only authoritative declaration which we have had by the spokesman of the Indian Government before the Legislative Assembly. Naturally the moment the statement was made it was impeached at once by the popular leaders. They said, “ It is going back on the Declaration ; that is not the meaning ; it implies Dominion Status ”. Now, what happened afterwards ? Then they started agitation saying that Dominion Status is what they always wanted and nothing less than that. In November 1927, the Simon Commission was appointed. Now, what is the attitude taken up by the Legislative Assembly and by the popular parties in India ? I can speak freely on that question, because I myself co-operated with the Simon Commission. The argument advanced on the other side, in the Legislative Assembly, was : “ What is the use of this Commission ? What is the use of our going into the Commission, because we cannot believe a word of what the British Government says ? There has been a breach of faith ”. Throughout the country it was said “ Dominion Status was assured to us. We want Dominion Status. Government say that we are not going to get Dominion Status. We are going to get only something less by the appointment of the Simon Commission. What has been promised by the Declaration of 1917 does not, the Government say, include Dominion Status, then what is the use of our going before that Simon Commission ? We stand out. They would not appoint an Indian to represent the view of Indians on the Commission and we are even unable to present a minority report before Parliament ”. That is the attitude taken up by them. I co-operated with them because, in my opinion, there were considerations of greater weight ; there were many of us who co-operated with the Commission.

We know the reception which the Simon Commission and we members of the Central Committee received in India. That agitation went on and we were in a way boycotted. That was towards the end of November 1927. In August and September 1928 the All-Parties Conference met. It included most of the leading political leaders in India, and they put in the forefront of their attack this fact that though in the Declaration of 1917 the Government of India said that this Dominion Status would be allowed to us, yet the Government of India now say it is not Dominion Status, it is only something less than that. That was again said in the Congress Report, and page after

page is devoted to the refutation of that statement in connection with Dominion Status. All the while the Government remained silent. There was no utterance by them though the Indian political leaders are right in their contentions. They now say it is included in the Declaration of 1917. They might have cleared up the matter at once by saying that it was so included. What followed then? This was in 1928. Then there was a fierce challenge in the Calcutta Congress at the end of December. They said: "Give us Dominion Status at the end of this year. If you won't, we will begin civil disobedience". And they may be from their point of view right because they had been claiming Dominion Status all the time and the Government had been saying that what you are entitled to is only what you are entitled to under the Declaration of 1917, which does not go so far as Dominion Status. Naturally they said: "We have been promised this Dominion Status, if you do not give it, well then we will do what we like"—and we know what they have threatened. Well, now, we know that this Declaration was made in October, we know the reception it met with, we know the change of atmosphere. Now, let us consider this question. Supposing the Government instead of making this declaration now in October, supposing they had made this declaration at the beginning of the year in January as they ought to have in reply to the Congress: supposing they had said, "You say you want Dominion Status within the year: very well, so far as Dominion Status is concerned, we have promised it to you in 1917 as our goal and the only thing that remains to be considered is, are the conditions fulfilled which alone would justify us in granting Dominions Status? For that matter we must have the report of the Simon Commission." What a change there would have been! It would have been a fair answer to the Congress demand. But there was no reply. The agitation went on throughout the country and now this declaration is made by the Government and whether it has come too late is the only question. But that it was absolutely necessary there can be no possible doubt. They made this declaration on the 31st October 1929, and we know the response it met with. It changed the whole atmosphere. Everybody is now agreed that the position in India is entirely changed by that. Now, why is it that we are met here to render our thanks to the Viceroy and to the Cabinet? I will only read one sentence, then you will understand why we are so thankful to His Excellency. I am reading what Lord Reading said in the House of Lords. What he said was this:

"After that there were various interviews, to which I need not refer except quite briefly, between the Viceroy and myself, between the Viceroy and Mr. Lloyd George and myself, and between the Secretary of State and myself. Throughout the same questions were raised and the same arguments were adduced. We discussed it perfectly courteously and temperately, as I am sure would be expected. We parted good friends, but nevertheless in complete disagreement. There was no room for doubt as to the attitude which we had adopted."

For a Viceroy to take up this attitude after all the pressure that was thus brought to bear upon him by his own predecessor, by Mr. Lloyd George, and by all these men, shows great moral courage and it shows great conviction and I say we are bound to render our thanks to that Viceroy for having taken up that attitude. What I read relates to the Liberal Party and the previous Viceroy.

So far as his own Party was concerned too, Mr. Baldwin, for instance, says:

"I called together the *ex-Secretaries of State for India* from amongst my colleagues, together with Lord Salisbury, and it was at once decided to write to the acting Prime Minister, referring to the terms of the Prime Minister's letter to me of 19th September, and pointing out that in the altered circumstances I and my party could not agree to support the publication of the Note."

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His own chief, his own Party, disowned his note, and yet he held on. So far as the Cabinet is concerned, it is just the same thing. Mr. Benn says he had the Conservative Party against him, he had the Liberal Party against him, he had the ex-Secretaries of State against him. Yet they came to the conclusion that this thing was necessary. It is only meet, therefore, in the circumstances of the case that we should render our thanks to him. That is so far as the declaration of Dominion Status is concerned.

Then as to the Joint Conference. That is really long overdue. From 1924 the Legislative Assembly has been asking for it. All India generally has been asking for it. It has become indispensable after the announcement to enable those who have stood aloof to prove their claim. There can be little doubt that the Joint Conference must affect the prestige and influence of the Simon Commission and the Central Committee's report. We know that through the country everywhere, when you ask the question "Have you read the report?" they say: "What does your report matter now? What does it matter what you have said: what does it matter what the Simon Commission report says? We are going to deal with the whole matter in Joint Conference ourselves." That is the impression throughout the country now, that, so far as the Simon report and the Central Committee's report is concerned, they may be laid aside. It has affected the prestige and influence of our Committee and the Simon Commission. And as the official chief of the Central Committee I had a momentary hesitation whether I should welcome the appointment of the Joint Conference, which puts us in the background. But on considering that there was a strong national demand for it and the reasons for the appointment, of course I do heartily welcome it. And now, what is that Conference for? As His Excellency stated before the Legislative Assembly—Indian politicians will be

"free to advocate any proposals for the realisation of Great Britain's professed policy that they may desire to advance. They will do this, if I may repeat the words of my announcement—'in the light of all the material then available.'.. the definition is purposely drawn wide enough to ensure to the Conference every latitude and assistance in the responsible task upon which it will be engaged. It is surely no small thing that the claim of India to take a constructive part, without restriction and without prejudice, in the evolution of the new constitution, should have been thus recognised by those on whom the final constitutional obligation must rest. The action of His Majesty's Government may indeed fairly be said to have created a new situation."

Now, it shows very great moral courage to throw overboard practically this Commission and this Committee—Committees which have
12 NOON. been appointed by his own Party and by his own chiefs—rather to relegate them to a subordinate position. I submit, therefore, that he deserves very great thanks for it. It was what the country demanded and it was what we wanted.

The next thing for which we have to thank him is the fact that the measure which they propose to bring forward before Parliament is a measure for which they seek general agreement; that is to say, if India is opposed to any scheme which they might put forward, if India as a whole will not have the scheme which alone Government is prepared to grant to us, it is very doubtful whether they will put forward any such scheme. At any rate, they will really seek by means of this Joint Conference a general agreement.

Now, Sir, it is essential that at this particular time we should pass this Resolution. I could only word the Resolution in the form in which I have worded it as a recommendation. We do not know what the future may bring.

The horizon is rather menacing, but we can be assured now that whether the weather be fair or foul, the destinies of India during the coming months are in the hands of statesmen who are in full sympathy with our demand for Dominion Status and the passing of this Resolution then will be our message so far as we can do it—a message by the Council of State to the people of India that they may be assured that so far as our claim for Dominion Status is concerned, whatever the Government of India might be forced to do, whatever the officials might be compelled to do, they are in full sympathy with this demand and so far as they are concerned, on their part, as well as that of Mr. Benn, there will be no weakening of any attempt to solve the constitutional problem.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYAN PRASAD ASTHANA (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to move the amendment that stands in my name, namely :

“ That all the words and figures after the word and figures ‘October, 1929’ be omitted and the following be substituted therefor, namely :

‘ and it further recommends that he be pleased to represent to His Majesty’s Government that Indian public opinion will only be satisfied if Dominion Status is granted forthwith with proper safeguards and that at the proposed Round Table Conference the representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as representatives of Indian States are invited to discuss the necessary safeguards during the period of transition and to evolve a scheme for Dominion Government in India ’.”

Sir, in moving this amendment my purpose is two-fold. The first is to bring out the essential points of the announcement for which we are so grateful and which has been acclaimed throughout the length and breadth of the country, and secondly, to focus the opinion of this House upon the *modus operandi* of the Round Table Conference and the objects for which it is being summoned. If anything, the speech of my esteemed friend the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair has made it clear that the amendment is only a corollary to the Resolution which has been proposed. It was because I thought the words after “ October, 1929 ” were merely surplusage and only reiterated what the announcement contains and that the Resolution does not express the considered opinion and advice of this Council that I have brought forward this amendment. One thing which has been made clear by the speech of the Honourable Mover is this, that in doing everything, the words “ too late ” are written upon the policy of the British Government so far as it relates to India. The Honourable Mover has said that this announcement could have been made in November, 1927, and then the co-operation with the Simon Commission might have been much better. He has also drawn the attention of this House to the fact that if this announcement of a Round Table Conference had been made in 1924 when the Legislative Assembly passed the Resolution, the affairs of India would have taken a different turn. The announcement of Dominion Status and the announcement of the Round Table Conference have come too late. People have become discontented. They have attributed motives to the British Government. They have said that the British Government does not mean to do what they profess to say. It is for this reason that I have tabled this amendment so that I may draw the attention of the Honourable Members of this Council as well as of the British Government to the fact that even in legislating for Dominion Status they might not be too late. Sir, I have used the word “ forthwith ” and I have used it intentionally. It need not scare those who are slow in their movements and who think that things will come when India is fit for Dominion Status. Sir, this brings me to the question of the

[Mr. Narayan Prasad Asthana.]

fitness of the country for Dominion Status at once. Owing to the growth of political education and political sense in India I think the time has come when India should be granted full Dominion Status with such safeguards as might operate during the period of transition. His Excellency the Viceroy, when addressing the Assembly, said :

“ The demand for Dominion Status that is now made on behalf of India is based upon the general claim to be free from that control, more especially in those fields that are regarded as of predominantly domestic interest. And here, as is generally recognized, there are real difficulties internal to India and peculiar to her circumstances and world position that have to be faced and in regard to which there may be sharp variation of opinion both in India and in Great Britain. The existence of these difficulties cannot be seriously disputed and the whole object of the Conference now proposed is to afford opportunity to His Majesty's Government of examining in free consultation with Indian leaders how they may best, most rapidly and most surely be surmounted.”

Sir, I place special emphasis on the words “ most rapidly ”. I say that what His Excellency means by them is that the Round Table Conference will meet and will formulate proposals for Dominion Status to be granted to India within the shortest possible time. Now if you are going to give a thing, give it with a good grace. Do not stretch out your hand and then withdraw it, or keep it stretched out without paying. If the goal is there it should not be kept there to tantalise us ; it should not be something in the air out of our reach. It must be within our reach at least and the country must be told when the goal is to be reached. Therefore the word “ forthwith ” which I have used means that the legislation in this connection should confer Dominion Status upon India, and during the period of transition there may be certain safeguards provided. We know, and I admit, that there are difficulties, which have been hinted at by His Excellency. I admit that there are communal differences, and the question of minorities and the depressed classes is to be solved ; but these would be covered by the safeguards to which I refer. The safeguards might also relate to foreign relations and the Indian States, as well as to the services which have vested interests and the commercial and other interests which have to be duly considered. These safeguards would operate only during the period of transition and there ought to be automatic provision in the Statute so that the safeguards may disappear in course of time or be substituted by fresh Indian legislation, and it should not be necessary to go to Parliament again for the removal of these safeguards. Sir, the communal question has been made an excuse for not granting Dominion Status at present. But I submit that if Dominion Status is granted or legislation pending that grant proceeds, the communal trouble will come to an end and all the parties concerned will come to an amicable settlement and settle down at home. I am very glad that the minority communities have now called a conference and their mutual discussions should rub off the angularities and they should come to a satisfactory solution very shortly. I welcome this opportunity and hope that the minority communities will not be unreasonable in expecting that the majority community should be treated as a minority community. Sir, the discontent in India is due mainly to economic difficulties. There is large unemployment amongst the middle classes, and what India wants is freedom from economic bondage. That cannot be attained till we have attained full Dominion Status as we interpret it. I have therefore submitted this amendment in the hope that the Council will take into consideration what is the immediate demand of the Indian public and how it can be satisfied ; for if Indian public opinion is not satisfied, we have a foretaste of their discontent in the shape of the Independence Movement and the preaching of Communistic

doctrines. Communism is a seed which cannot germinate in India. It cannot find congenial soil. The traditions of thousands of years cannot be swept away in a short time, and the landed interests and the aristocracy of India cannot disappear in a few years. Therefore Communism and the Independence Movement have to be somehow met; they are only the repercussions of that discontent to which I have referred. My submission is that if the British people would take their courage in both hands and generously give Dominion Status to India, this element in the body politic would disappear of itself. Sir, I think the British people, who love freedom and who are a free people themselves, will not grudge freedom to a nation which has been bound to them by Providential bonds. I think it is very necessary for the success of the Round Table Conference that an atmosphere of goodwill and peace should be promoted in the country. That can only be done by an expression of the British peoples' desire that they are willing to give Dominion Status in as short a time as possible to this country, with, as I have said already, the necessary safeguards. Sir, Indians cherish their old traditions and are not unmindful of the numerous benefits that they have derived from British rule. You can if you like reconquer India by love but not by hatred. I repeat that the heart of India is sound and there is still time to win it. I move the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I take it that in the Honourable Member's amendment the word "are" which occurs in the phrase "the representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as representatives of Indian States *are* invited....." should be "be".

THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYAN PRASAD ASTHANA : Yes, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Amendment moved :

"That all the words and figures after the word and figures 'October, 1929' be omitted and the following be substituted therefor, namely :

'and it further recommends that he be pleased to represent to His Majesty's Government that Indian public opinion will only be satisfied if Dominion Status is granted forthwith with proper safeguards; and that at the proposed Round Table Conference the representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as representatives of Indian States be invited to discuss the necessary safeguards during the period of transition and to evolve a scheme for Dominion Government in India.'

I propose to confine the debate to this amendment until the Council has arrived at a decision on the amendment; that is to say, the subject of the debate which will now follow will be the demand for Dominion Status forthwith with proper safeguards to be devised by the Round Table Conference.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH (Leader of the House) : Sir, I have no intention at this stage of analysing the Honourable Member's speech or of trying to meet any of the arguments which he might have advanced in support of his amendment. In a word, I do not intend to discuss the amendment on its merits. I take it that he is as anxious as we are that we must have as far as possible a harmonious decision on the Resolution which has now been brought before the House, thanks indeed to my Honourable friend Sir Sankaran Nair. If I am right in my assumption, I will venture only to utter one word of advice to my Honourable friend Mr. Narayan Prasad Asthana. It is that he forbear pressing his amendment. The suggestion that Dominion Status be granted forthwith with proper safeguards is—he will excuse me if I say so—one for consideration by the Conference. The statement of His Excellency the Viceroy, to which I am glad he has himself

[Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habibullah.]

made reference in the course of his remarks, is sun-clear as regards the scope and purpose of the Conference. My Honourable friend must, I am sure, know that those who think with him will have full opportunity at the Conference to present and press with all the arguments at their command the view that he now puts forward. To-day our clear duty, if I may venture to say so, is to support the Resolution and not attempt to make amendments or additions to it, for I repeat that questions of the nature that have been raised by the Honourable Member in his amendment and other questions of more or less similar nature which may be germane to the whole discussion before the Conference should be left for discussion and settlement by the Conference. Our attempt now will be, I take it, in the words of the Resolution, to endorse the action taken by His Majesty's Government in formulating that announcement and expressing our whole-hearted co-operation in the efforts that His Majesty's Government are making for the purpose of giving to India that constitution which she deserves. (Applause.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE (Berar Representative): Sir, I wish to support the main proposition and oppose the amendment that has been proposed, for this reason that the amendment says Dominion Status should be given forthwith with due safeguards, which really means that it need not be given at once, but by stages. So, after all what the Government propose and what my Honourable friend means by his amendment come to one and the same thing; it is half a dozen and six, it may be six and half a dozen. The proper thing is the main proposition that has been brought forward, and I have a little bit of affection for it, for this reason that this Declaration which Parliament made was preceded by the War Conference here and I believe many of the Honourable Members were present then. Then I put forward a proposition and it was rejected, because it was a Conference not only of British India but also of Indian India and others. But when this Declaration came out, I was immensely delighted to see that parts of my Resolution were repeated in that announcement as it was made; and since then I feel always a sort of affection for it, and I like to oppose anybody who wants to interfere with it. It is like this. It is like a person travelling in a ship and especially in the Bay of Biscay. The sea is stormy and the ship leans this side and then that side. He always has the idea that he is swinging and going this way and that, but he does not know that, notwithstanding the swinging, the ship is going ahead all the time and he is astounded to reach the destination, because he was always thinking that he was being cradled to sleep in his own bunk; that is not so. Political progress is also similar. You always find that you are leaning this way and that way. At the end of five or ten years you will discover that you have reached the shore. It is not correct for a passenger in a ship to think that because he is swinging this way and that that the ship is at a standstill; it is progressing; and from the date of my Resolution to this date, we have made a great deal of progress. I said nothing because we are progressing—one might say without my help at all. I therefore support the main proposition and not the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROOM (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, on much the same grounds as the Honourable the Leader of the House I oppose this amendment, and I oppose it with very few words, inasmuch as it seems to me that the amendment in itself conveys some sort of mandate to the Round Table Conference as to one or two points which they should discuss at that Conference. It may not be regarded as a direct mandate,

but it certainly takes a very lively form of a strong suggestion. I should prefer that the Round Table Conference should have an entirely free hand. If we accept an amendment like this, implying that an agenda for the Round Table Conference should be drawn up with the suggestions in the amendment on the list of the agenda, what would happen? We would have other suggestions and we would have an agenda for the Round Table Conference of enormous length and I think that would be most unfortunate. Sir, I oppose the amendment for the reasons I have given and I think it would be much more preferable and it would be much more befitting for the Round Table Conference to have a free hand entirely as to what it should discuss and what it should not discuss. (Applause.)

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : I rise to support the main Resolution so ably moved by my friend the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : If the Honourable Member has nothing special to say about the amendment, he might reserve his speech until the amendment is disposed of. I said I was confining the debate for the moment to the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : As far as the amendment is concerned, Sir, I fully agree with the Honourable the Leader of the House in the advice given to the Honourable Mover of the amendment not to press his amendment, and I think he will be well advised to leave the matter of details for the consideration of the Round Table Conference. For that reason, I oppose the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The original question was :

“ That the following Resolution be adopted :

‘ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to convey to the Viceroy and His Majesty’s Government its thanks for the announcement of 31st October, 1929, that ‘ the natural issue of India’s constitutional progress is the attainment of Dominion Status is implicit in the declaration of August, 1917 ’ ; that the goal of British policy is the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire ; and that before the stage of a Joint Parliamentary Committee is reached His Majesty’s Government propose to invite representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as the representatives of Indian States to a Conference for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement in regard both to British Indian and all-Indian problems, so that it may be possible for them eventually to submit to Parliament such proposals on these grave issues as may command a wide measure of general assent ’ .”

Since which an amendment has been moved :

“ That all the words and figures after the word and figures ‘ October, 1929 ’ be omitted and the following be substituted therefor, namely :

‘ and it further recommends that he be pleased to represent to His Majesty’s Government that Indian public opinion will only be satisfied if Dominion Status is granted forthwith with proper safeguards and that at the proposed Round Table Conference the representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as representatives of Indian States be invited to discuss the necessary safeguards during the period of transition and to evolve a scheme for Dominion Government in India ’ .”

The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was negatived,

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal : Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name and which runs as follows :

“ That all the words and figures after the word and figures ‘ October, 1929 ’ be omitted and the following be substituted therefor, namely :

‘ and it further recommends that he be pleased to represent to His Majesty’s Government that

(a) Muslim public opinion will only be satisfied if proper and adequate statutory safeguards for Muslim rights, interests and religion are provided in the future constitution for India,

(b) at the forthcoming Round Table Conference

(i) such Muslims only should be invited or deemed to be representatives of Muslim India as are truly reflective of Muslim opinion as expressed at the All-India Muslim Conference, held in Delhi in 1928-29 under the presidency of His Highness the Aga Khan, and

(ii) Muslims should be given equal representation or equal weight and voice with representatives of other parties and interests adverse to them .”

Sir, the Viceregal announcement of October was welcomed by Muslim leaders of all shades of political opinion as well as by important Muslim political organisations, and we therefore at the outset express our thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Majesty’s Government for this historic announcement which has been acclaimed by all thoughtful Indians as a wise and statesmanlike announcement. Now, Sir, as Dominion Status is declared to be the goal of British policy in India and the ideal to be attained, whether in the distant or the near future, the first part of my amendment invites the attention of His Majesty’s Government to the paramount necessity of providing adequate and proper statutory safeguards for Muslims as to their rights, interests and religion in the future constitution for India.

Beginning with what is popularly known as the Sarda Act—the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929—there have been so many attempts, of late, at interference by legislation with the “ Shariat ”—and I need hardly tell the House that Muslim law is part and parcel of Muslim religion—that Muslims are filled with apprehension and alarm and they will only be satisfied and their apprehensions allayed if proper and adequate safeguards for their rights, interests and religion are expressly provided in the Statute, preventing the possibility of the Legislature, manufacturing such engines of tyranny and persecution, heresies and innovations as the Sarda Act.

Sir, the House I am sure will concur with me when I say that we Musalmans have got a history of our own and traditions of our own, quite different from those of other communities. It is therefore natural for the Musalmans to claim for themselves special safeguards to protect them from the tyranny of a majority different from them in civilization, culture and their general outlook on life.

Secondly, Sir, if the proposed Round Table Conference be packed predominantly with representatives of a particular school of politics, the Conference is foredoomed to failure and is sure to meet with the most strenuous opposition from Muslim India. For history will repeat itself and as in the Assembly, the tyranny of the majority will emerge triumphant from the Round Table Conference riding roughshod over religion and the political rights of the Muslim minority.

Thirdly, Sir, it is a matter of serious consideration for this House as to whether Muslims should not claim equal representation in the Round Table Conference with non-Muslims and that only through their own chosen and accredited representatives and not through such nominal Muslims as are denounced as political heretics and apostates by Muslim public opinion. Therefore, Sir, it is our duty to point out to His Excellency the Viceroy that Muslim India will welcome only such Muslim representatives as are truly reflective of Muslim opinion as expressed at the All-India Muslim Conference held in Delhi in 1928 and 1929 under the presidency of His Highness the Aga Khan.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of this House.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : Sir, I am sure my Honourable friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, will give me credence if I confess that he has my whole-hearted sympathy in regard to the safeguarding of the interests of the community to which he and I have the honour to belong. But at the same time he will pardon me if I say that his amendment does not stand for the time on a different footing from that which we considered a little while ago and on which the House has reached a decision. I may be permitted to invite my Honourable friend's attention to the fact that, so far as clause (a) of his amendment is concerned, that question has already been debated upon on the other amendment and the House has expressed its views. In regard to clause (b) I can only assure him that he need have no misgivings or compunctions in this matter, for I take it that he is in touch with the happenings in India in regard to the activities of the Muslim community, and I take it also that he must be aware of the fact that the Muslim Federation presented an address to His Excellency the Viceroy in Bombay the other day where they expressed, I think, more or less similar views to those which my Honourable friend has given expression to this morning, and in regard to which His Excellency the Viceroy made the position sufficiently clear in the course of his speech to the following effect :

“ You will not expect me to pronounce any view at this stage on the particular safeguard of your position which you have in mind but as you realise, the Round Table Conference will provide an opportunity for thorough discussion of all difficulties and apprehensions and it will be the earnest hope of His Majesty's Government that, as a result of those deliberations, it may be possible to reach conclusions which will be acceptable to the Muslim community as to all other communities and interests. For that purpose, it is essential that various interests should be represented at the Conference by those in a position to speak with authority on their behalf and who will therefore be best fitted to adjust the claims of the several communities to the achievement of the wider purpose of Indian unity.”

After that assurance of His Excellency the Viceroy I need hardly say that it will not be at all desirable for my friend to labour that point any longer on the floor of this House but to accept His Excellency's assurance and be prepared to follow the advice which I gave that he need not press this amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : I thank the Leader of the House for reminding me of His Excellency's assurance given to Muslims, but I should like that the debate on my amendment should remain part of the debate on the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair's Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The original question was :

“ That the following Resolution be adopted :

‘ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to convey to the Viceroy and His Majesty’s Government its thanks for the announcement of 31st October, 1929, that ‘ the natural issue of India’s constitutional progress is the attainment of Dominion Status is implicit in the declaration of August, 1917 ’ ; that the goal of British policy is the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire ; and that before the stage of a Joint Parliamentary Committee is reached His Majesty’s Government propose to invite representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as the representatives of Indian States to a Conference for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement in regard both to British Indian and all-Indian problems, so that it may be possible for them eventually to submit to Parliament such proposals on these grave issues as may command a wide measure of general assent ’ .”

To which an amendment has been moved :

“ To omit all the words and figures after ‘ October, 1929 ’ , and to substitute therefor the following :

‘ and it further recommends that he be pleased to represent to His Majesty’s Government that

- (a) Muslim public opinion will only be satisfied if proper and adequate statutory safeguards for Muslim rights, interests and religion are provided in the future constitution for India,
- (b) at the forthcoming Round Table Conference
 - (i) such Muslims only should be invited or deemed to be representatives of Muslim India as are truly reflective of Muslim opinion as expressed at the All-India Muslim Conference, held in Delhi in 1928-29 under the presidency of His Highness the Aga Khan, and
 - (ii) Muslims should be given equal representation or equal weight and voice with representatives of other parties and interests adverse to them ’ .”

The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Council has now come back to the original Resolution of the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH : Sir, I welcome the Resolution on behalf of this side of the House. (Applause.) The announcement to which my Honourable friend refers will rank among the great declarations of history. In the annals of India, it will occupy an unique place for two reasons. It constitutes recognition of India’s right to assist His Majesty’s Government in determining the system of Government under which she should live hereafter. And for the first time it enunciates a truth which must have become increasingly evident to all of us that no system of Government in India would be complete which failed to provide for co-operation in matters of common interest between the political units known as British India and the entities that are comprehended in the phrase “ Indian States ” . The conception of India underlying His Excellency’s announcement is, therefore, an ideal of noble perfection. It envisages an India associated of her own spontaneous will with the British Commonwealth of Nations and united within herself by a new solidarity, born of quickened devotion to a common purpose, and of an assurance of opportunity to all the members of the body politic for harmonious endeavour to pursue its fulfilment.

Our gratitude to His Excellency the Viceroy and to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, without whose united efforts the approval of His Majesty's Government to the statement of policy, over which we rejoice, could never have been secured, is, therefore, profound.

That we in this House are not isolated in our appreciation of the declaration of October 31, is amply evident. Rarely in recent history has a political pronouncement had such instantaneous and far-reaching effect. Every political party in the country—the subsequent secession of one political organization does not affect my generalization—received it with satisfaction. The Princes of India welcomed it. The unfortunate controversies of the two preceding years were allayed, at least momentarily, with magical effectiveness. Despite the dissent of the Congress to which I have alluded, the first impressions have tended to sink deeper. Rational opinion throughout India, regardless of community or sect, seems conscious of the unfolding of a great opportunity and anxious to use it for the national good.

The baneful will-o'-the-wisp of independence, which a school of politicians are seeking to represent as a beneficent goal, may mislead a few for a while, but cannot secure the support of the great majority of reflective men and women. Its call is a call to suffering for the seeker, with no result but disaster for the community. There is growing realization that independence not only involves strife with those with whom we in India ought to be friends, but economic and social chaos. Our discussions to-day will be a reminder to the country, both of the dangers of the creed of independence and of the fruitful promise of what I have ventured to describe as the great opportunity afforded by the offer of a Conference by His Majesty's Government.

One of the doubtful privileges of office is reticence on the political controversies of the day. I will permit myself a partial breach of that reticence to-day, because of the vital importance of the issues raised by this debate and my approaching emancipation from the restraints of office. Speaking as an Indian, who, before entering the service of the Crown, devoted the greater part of an active life—albeit a life spent in a modest sphere—to public causes and who loves his country with a quiet but intense and steadfast love, I say that it is the duty of every patriotic countryman of mine to work for the success of the Conference which His Majesty's Government have decided to convene.

The goal of Dominion Status is, in a sense, higher than the goal of independence. It will bring India all the freedom that independence can give, with the strength and inspiration and opportunity for service to humanity that association with a group of free nations such as those included in the British Commonwealth of Nations alone can offer. The world to-day is moving in the direction of international co-operation. Isolation is not only undesirable but retrograde and dangerous. It is an ill-wind that seeks to blow India away from the broad, tranquil stream of ordered progress in line with friends with whom Providence seems to have linked her destiny into some backwater of stagnation or bitter internecine strife. Wisdom lies in following those who, like my Honourable friend the Mover of this Resolution, seek to profit by the statesmanship which inspired the pronouncement we are all welcoming to-day, and bring nearer the attainment of Dominion Status. May it be vouchsafed to all my countrymen. (Applause.)

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR CHARANJIT SINGH (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I rise to second the Resolution which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend Sir Sankaran Nair. We are grateful to His

[Sardar Charanjit Singh.]

Majesty's Government and to His Excellency the Viceroy for the timely and statesmanlike declaration of the policy of His Majesty's Government. As I have just said, it is a most timely and statesmanlike pronouncement. The cordiality and enthusiasm with which it has been received all over India are a clear indication of India's feelings in this matter. It has re-affirmed the faith in British intentions of even those who at one time appear to have lost it, and in the course of one night it has killed the boycott movement. It has accomplished above all to portray in unmistakeable colours the united wish of the overwhelming majority in India that she believes her future destiny and prosperity lies in her remaining an integral part of the British Empire and that her ambition is no other than to find for herself that status and position which is enjoyed by His Majesty's other Dominions. I have purposely used the word "overwhelming majority". In saying this I do not forget that for the last six weeks one Party has ceased to proclaim it, but it must not be forgotten that until six weeks ago this was the well-considered goal of that Party also. I think I am justified in concluding that the foundations of a policy cherished and nurtured for years are stronger and more lasting than those hastily laid on the shifting sands of unsound and enormous assumptions a short six weeks ago. In the name of the Punjab Chiefs who have the largest stake in the country and whom I have the honour to represent in this House, I heartily welcome the proposal of the Round Table Conference. I hope this Conference will be fully representative of all the varied interests of the country and will be composed of men who will show the "real team spirit". We are about the process of what is called "making history", and I earnestly trust that this Conference will succeed in elucidating and harmonising opinion, because the best security to the constitution is ever found in the united energies of a united people and not by running a dishonourable rivalry in their endeavours to tear their country into tattered fragments. It is only in this way that we can expect to make the people happy, to make the nation great and to find for India a place of equal partnership with the other Dominions of the British Empire.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution so ably moved by my esteemed friend the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair. Sir, the all-British composition of the Statutory Commission had given offence to all self-respecting Indians. The interpretation given by the Government of India to the meaning of responsible government was a matter of the greatest disappointment. The question of non-co-operation with the Simon Commission was regrettable. The advocacy of boycott prevented many of the bright luminaries of the political firmament from shedding their lustre on the deliberations of the joint conference. It is a pity that there is some recrudescence of the old spirit even now, though not with the same vigour. His Excellency Lord Irwin in his announcement of the 31st October last, backed as it is by the authority of the British Cabinet, has to a very great extent cleared the political atmosphere in India. We now definitely know that England stands by its word of honour given in August, 1917. We are now assured that responsible government as used in the Government of India Act, 1919, and Dominion Status as applied to the system of Government prevailing in Canada, Australia and South Africa means the same thing. A Round Table Conference has been demanded by the moderate political leaders of India, and it reflects great credit on the statesmanship and wisdom of His Excellency the Viceroy and the Home Government that an announcement inviting a

Round Table Conference has been made where Indians and Britishers can on terms of equality meet, discuss and consider the constitution and scheme of Dominion Status. I hope it will receive a wide response. I have the honour to belong to a province certain sections of the population of which have been unable to receive a proper hearing on the Central Committee. Whilst all important minorities were represented, the Hindu minorities of the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province had no representative. I hope the interests of this section of the population in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province will not be disregarded as far as the composition of the Round Table Conference is concerned. There are certain schools of political

1 P.M. thought which are not properly represented in the Central Legislature. So their representatives will have to be selected from outside the Central Legislature. The Home Government and the Government of India will have thus a wide field for selection and I hope therefore that no school of thought will remain unrepresented.

As to the attitude adopted in December last by the Congress in my city, the name of which I did not like to go down to posterity as associated with the extreme step taken, the less said the better. I am unable to form any reasonable conception of the two diametrically opposed ideas put before the people, "Independence and non-violence". If independence means complete isolation from the Empire and subversion of the present rule, I do not know any instance in the history of the human race in which this has been achieved without recourse to violence. When therefore independence is preached by the advocates of non-violence, independence has been interpreted by some persons as the independence which the Dominions enjoy. But it will be extremely difficult to discriminate between the two kinds of independence, also to prevent its lapse into violent methods for which there may be another confession of a "Himalayan blunder". I am fully confident that it is of the greatest advantage for India to be a member of the British Commonwealth and to be an equal partner with other members in all the advantages that such connection gives. I have not the least hesitation in saying that the complete independence propaganda now launched is fraught with disastrous results to the best interests of India.

With these words, Sir, I strongly support the Resolution of my Honourable friend the Mover.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The question is :

"That the following Resolution be adopted :

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to convey to the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government its thanks for the announcement of 31st October, 1929, that 'the natural issue of India's constitutional progress is the attainment of Dominion Status is implicit in the declaration of August, 1917'; that the goal of British policy is the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire; and that before the stage of a Joint Parliamentary Committee is reached His Majesty's Government propose to invite representatives of different parties and interests in British India as well as the representatives of Indian States to a Conference for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement in regard both to British Indian and all-Indian problems, so that it may be possible for them eventually to submit to Parliament such proposals on these grave issues as may command a wide measure of general assent.'

The motion was adopted.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 20th February, 1930.