

19th March 1928

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume II

(8th March to 27th March, 1928)

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1928



DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1928

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 19th March, 1928.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMPOSITION, ACCORDING TO COMMUNITIES, OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

447. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the composition of the clerical staff in the Government of India Press, Simla, according to communities?

RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

448. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) How many clerks were recruited to fill up permanent and officiating appointments in the Simla Press during the last five years? How many of them were Muslims and how many Hindus, Christians and Sikhs?

(b) What was the percentage of Muslim clerks in the aforesaid Press five years back?

PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIMS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

449. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Is it a fact that in the Simla Press the posts of Assistant Manager, Head Clerk and 85 per cent. of the posts in the clerical establishment are held by Muslims?

METHOD OF RECRUITMENT EMPLOYED IN FILLING CLERICAL POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

450. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) The method of recruitment employed in filling clerical posts in the Simla Press?
- (b) Whether any competitive examination is held? If not, why not? If it is held when was it held last time?
- (c) Whether the Government orders contained in Home Department office memorandum No. F.-176/25-Ests., dated the 5th February, 1926, in connection with the prevention of preponderance of one class or community in the clerical establishment are observed?

UPPERSESSION OF SENIOR CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA,
BY MR. ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN.

451. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. Abdul Ghaffar, clerk in the Simla Press drawing Rs. 89 in the 50—3—125 scale, was promoted to 120—8—200 grade in supersession of 13 other clerks who were senior in service and pay than the said gentleman? If so, is it a fact that great discontent prevails in the Simla Press on this account?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the reason as to why this supersession was allowed?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Sir, with your permission I propose to answer questions Nos. 447 to 451 together.

The information is being obtained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANT MANAGERS IN THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA PRESSES AT SIMLA AND ALIGARH.

452. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that two Muslim gentlemen have been temporarily appointed to the posts of Assistant Managers in the Government of India Presses at Simla and Aligarh? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the posts were advertised?

(b) Was any selection made out of the applications received for these posts?

(c) Did any competitive examination take place in this connection?

(d) What are the educational qualifications of the gentlemen appointed?

(e) Is it proposed to confirm the gentlemen in their appointments or will they be replaced by qualified probationers under training in England?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. These were cases of temporary departmental promotion.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) They have no special educational qualifications but have had long experience of the work in the Press.

(e) The question of their confirmation or of filling these posts otherwise can only be considered when the appointments become vacant permanently.

ABSENCE OF A FIRST AND SECOND CLASS WAITING ROOM FOR LADY PAS-
SENGERS AT HARDWAR.

453. ***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the absence of a first and second Class waiting room for lady passengers at Hardwar railway station?

(b) Is there a separate waiting room for first and second class European passengers at Hardwar railway station?

(c) Do Europeans travel in such numbers and so frequently to Hardwar as to necessitate special and separate waiting accommodation for them?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) There is a waiting room for first and second class lady passengers at Hardwar.

(b) Yes.

(c) No separate figures are maintained by Government showing the number of Europeans travelling.

TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICERS, CLERKS, ETC., IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

454. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government please state:

(a) the total number of officers, clerks, sub-heads junior and senior accountants, both temporary and permanent, in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and how many of them are Muslims, and

(b) the total yearly expenditure on the salaries of the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and how much of it goes to the Hindus and how much to the Muslims?

NUMBER OF HINDUS AND MUSLIMS APPOINTED AS CLERKS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

455. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government please state the number of Hindus and Muslims separately who have been newly appointed as clerks since the creation of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) How many clerks have been promoted to sub-headship in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office since its creation and how many of them are Muslims?

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNQUALIFIED ACCOUNTANTS EMPLOYED IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

456. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government please state the total number of unqualified accountants who have been employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and how many of them are Muslims?

(b) Will the Government please state how many clerks of the lower class taken from the North Western Railway Audit Office, were promoted to class I and II, and how many of them were Muslims?

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

457. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) What are the minimum educational qualifications fixed for employment as a clerk in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) How many Matriculates other than those of the first division were employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and how many of them Muslims?

(c) What are the regulations for promotion of clerks from a lower class to a higher one in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(d) Were the new vacancies in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office at the time of its creation, advertised for? If not, are the vacancies being advertised and applications called for now, as is the case in many other Railway Offices? If not, why not?

REGISTRATION OF APPLICATIONS FROM CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, ETC.

458. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please state if applications from candidates are registered in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? If so, how many Muslims applied for employment since the creation of this office and how many were actually employed?

(b) How many chaprasis and duffries were employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, and how many of them were Muslims?

GRANT OF ACCELERATED PROMOTION TO EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

459. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government please state how many men were given accelerated promotion in July 1927 in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and thus superseded their seniors?

(b) How many of them were Muslims?

(c) What were the reasons for these supersessions?

EXPENDITURE ON THE TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF CLERKS SINCE THE TRANSFER OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE TO DELHI.

460. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government please state how much money, besides the expense of the Inspection Section, has been spent on the travelling allowance of clerks since the transfer of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office to Delhi?

AMOUNT LYING OUTSTANDING IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE ON ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN OUTWARD GOODS MISSING RETURNS.

461. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government please state how much amount is lying outstanding on account of the Foreign Outward Goods missing returns from July, 1927 to October, 1927, in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICE BOYS IN THE CHIEF AUDITOR'S OFFICE AS CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

462. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Is it a fact that some non-matriculantes who were working as office boys in the Chief Auditor's Office were taken as clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? If so, will the Government please state the number of Hindus and Muslims among them?

TENDERS FOR FURNITURE AND STATIONERY FOR THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

463. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government please state whether tenders for furniture and stationery for the Railway Clearing Accounts Office were called for? If so, in which newspaper was the advertisement published?

TOTAL NUMBER OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT CLERKS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AUDIT OFFICE RECRUITED TO THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

464. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: 1. (a) Will the Government please state the total number of temporary and permanent clerks respectively who were taken from the North Western Railway Audit Office into the Railway Clearing Accounts Office before the 1st January 1927?

(b) What salaries were they drawing there and what at present?

(c) How many of them are Muslims?

2. (a) Will the Government please state the total number of clerks taken from the North Western Railway Audit Office into the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in January 1927?

(b) How many of them are Muslims?

(c) How many of them are clerks of class I?

(d) Was any memorial for allowance submitted by them to their officers? If so, what action was taken on that?

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN UNDER TRAINING AND IN RESERVE IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

465. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Government please state:

(a) The total number of men under training and in reserve in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) How many of them are Muslims and how many Hindus?

NUMBER OF HINDUS AND MUSLIMS RECRUITED FOR THE EXPERIMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY FOREIGN GOOD TRAFFIC IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

466. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Government please state:

(a) The number of Hindus and Muslims respectively recruited for the experiment of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Foreign Goods Traffic in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, and

(b) Whether those men were absorbed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office or settled up after the expiry of the date of the experimental period?

RECRUITMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT BY THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, ADMINISTRATION SECTION AT LAHORE.

467. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Is it a fact that a Board bearing "No Vacancy" was kept hanging before the door of the Officer-in-charge, Administration Section at Lahore? If so, what measures were adopted for recruitment?

COMMUNICATION TO THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE PREPONDERANCE OF ANY COMMUNITY IN ANY BRANCH OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

468. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Were the instructions laying down the Government's policy of not allowing any community to preponderate in any branch of the administration communicated to the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? If so, when was it communicated? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I propose, Sir, with your permission to reply to questions Nos. 454 to 468 and No. 478 together. I am having information, to enable me to reply to these questions, collected and hope to be able to communicate it to the Honourable Member in the course of this week.

REGISTRATION OF APPLICATIONS FROM MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE DELHI POST OFFICE.

469. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will Government be pleased to furnish the following information with regard to Delhi Post Office:

- (a) How many posts, both permanent and temporary, have been filled up during the term of office of the present Postmaster and how many of them were given to Muslims?
- (b) How many Inspectors are attached to the Delhi Post and how many of them are Muslims?
- (c) Have these Inspectors passed the prescribed test for qualifying themselves for appointment as Inspectors?
- (d) How is the recruitment of clerks made in this Department?
- (e) Is there a register kept for the enlistment of candidates who apply from time to time for employment?
- (f) If the answer to (e) is in the affirmative, what is now the number of Muslim and non-Muslim candidates separately?
- (g) Is it a fact that Mahbub Husain and Mohamed Ishaq applied to the Postmaster in December, 1927, for employment?
- (h) Is it also a fact that when these two candidates asked permission from the Postmaster to appear at the qualifying test in January, 1928, they were told that their applications had never been received?
- (i) What steps do Government propose to take to ensure that applications from Muslim candidates are duly registered in the Delhi Post Office and are given due consideration when vacancies are to be filled up?
- (j) Are the vacancies in the Delhi Post Office advertised for? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) 14 permanent and 55 temporary posts of clerks have been filled up during the term of office of the present Postmaster, Delhi. Of these 7 permanent and 18 temporary posts were given to Muslims.

(b) There are 3 Inspectors attached to the Delhi Post Office. None of them are Muslims. These posts are filled by promotion, not by direct recruitment

(c) No. The newly prescribed examination has not yet been held.

(d) Recruitment of clerks in the Postal Department is made according to rule 469 of the Post Office Manual, Volume II, a copy of which will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(e) In the Delhi Post Office all applications received are kept on record in serial order until a test examination for selection has been held.

(f) At present there are 8 applications from Muslims and 36 from non-Muslims pending in the Delhi Post Office.

(g) The Postmaster reports that no applications from the two persons mentioned have been received.

(h) The Postmaster reports that he does not remember the incident mentioned.

(i) Government do not propose to take any steps as they have no reason to believe that the claims of Muslim candidates have not been given due consideration in view of the fact that 50 per cent. of the permanent posts and 33 per cent. of the temporary posts have been given to Muslims during the term of office of the present Postmaster, Delhi.

(j) No; as there is a sufficient number of suitable candidates available without advertising.

**INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE
D. DIVISION, DELHI.**

470. *Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim: (a) Is it a fact that probationer Inspectors are being appointed in the R. M. S. D. Division, Delhi?

(b) If so, how many such probationers have been recruited since the introduction of this system and how many of them are Muslims?

(c) How many clerks, sorters and menials have been recruited in this Division during 1927 and how many of them are Muslims?

(d) Are the Government aware that the representation of Muslims in this Division is very inadequate?

(e) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to increase the proportion of Muslims in this Division?

(f) Are the vacancies in this Division advertised for? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Sams: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement showing the recruitment made from April, 1927, up to date is given below:

	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.
Sorters	15	12
Clerks	11	10
Menials	7	10

(d) The representation of Muslims is not "very inadequate" as stated by the Honourable Member, there being 103 Muslims as against 269 non-Muslims.

(e) A copy of the order on the subject of recruitment to the clerical cadre was supplied to the Honourable Member on the 24th February, 1928, in reply to his question No. 292.

(f) No, a sufficient number of suitable candidates of all communities is available without a resort to advertisement.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, RAILWAYS.

471. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will Government be pleased to furnish the following information about the office of the Accountant General, Railways:

- (a) When was the last additional permanent establishment sanctioned?
- (b) How many posts (i) temporary, (ii) permanent created, (iii) deputation, and (iv) regular leave vacancies occurred during the period from 1st January, 1927 to 31st January, 1928? What was the duration of such temporary, deputation and leave vacancies?
- (c) How many vacancies referred to in clause (b) above were filled in by Muslims and for what duration were such vacancies held by them?
- (d) What are the qualifications of the persons who have been appointed against vacancies referred to in clause (b)?
- (e) Were vacancies in clause (b) advertised for? If so, was such advertisement published in any Muslim newspaper? If not, why not?
- (f) How many Muslims (i) graduates, (ii) under-graduates, (iii) Matriculates, (iv) non-Matriculates applied for appointment in this office during the period from 1st December, 1926 to 1st January, 1928?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blckett: The information required by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be furnished to him as soon as it is received.

The same answer applies to questions Nos. 472, 473 and 474.

MUSLIM DUFFRIES AND PEONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, RAILWAYS.

†472. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) What is the essential strength of duffries and peons in the office of Accountant General, Railways and how many of these posts are held by Muslims?

(b) How many new peons have been recruited during the period from 1st December, 1926 to 1st January, 1928, and how many of them are Muslims?

MUSLIM SENIOR AND JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, RAILWAYS.

†473. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) How many posts of senior and junior accountants were created or fell vacant under the Accountant General,

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 471.

Railways, during the period from 1st December, 1926 to 1st January, 1928, and how many of them were filled in by Muslims?

(b) What are the qualifications required for senior and junior accountants, respectively?

(c) Have some posts of senior and junior accountants been filled in by the transfer of the services of some officials from other offices? If so, how many of them are Muslims?

(d) How many probationary accountants have been recruited in the Accountant General, Railways Office since the introduction of the competitive examination, and how many of them are Muslims?

RECRUITMENT BY THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, RAILWAYS, OF CLERKS FOR TRAINING IN AUDIT OFFICES.

†474. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: (a) How many clerks were recruited last year by the Accountant General, Railways, for training in Audit Offices and how many of them were Muslims?

(b) What are the qualifications of the non-Muslim recruits?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS EXAMINERS OF PAPERS FOR THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS EXAMINATION.

475. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: (a) Have Muslim officers ever been appointed as examiners of papers for the Railway Accounts Examination since its introduction? If so, when and of how many papers?

(b) If Muslims are not being appointed as examiners, why not?

(c) What is the total cost of remuneration paid to these examiners each year?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: As regards parts (a) and (b) of the question I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to unstarred question No. 239 on the 19th March, 1926. The information asked for in part (c) is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

TRANSFER OF THE RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY ACCOUNTANTS IN THE RAILWAY AUDIT DEPARTMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

476. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Has the recruitment of probationary accountants in the Railway Audit Department been transferred to the charge of the Public Service Commission as is the case in other Imperial and subordinate services under the Central Government? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: It is not contemplated in the rules relating to the functions of the Public Service Commission that the Commission should conduct examinations for any Services of lower status than Central Services, Class II.

PROMOTION TO HIGHER RANKS OF ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS UNDER THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, RAILWAYS.

477. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will Government please state how many officers of Assistant Accounts Officer's rank under the Accountant General,

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 471.

Railways, have been promoted to higher ranks and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The information required by the Honourable Member has been asked for and will be furnished to him as soon as received.

PAMPHLET ENTITLED "SURVEY OF RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE."

478. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please state if the Pamphlet "Survey of Railway Clearing Accounts Office" has been brought to their notice?

(b) Is it a fact that some clerks as mentioned in that pamphlet were appointed on high salaries in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? If so, will the Government please state the total number of men so appointed and how many of them were Muslims?

(c) Is it a fact that some clerks who did not pass the examination of clerk, class I, in the North Western Railway Audit Office, have been promoted to the post of sub-head? If so, will the Government please state the number of Hindus and Muslims so promoted respectively?

(d) Is it a fact that some Matriculate Hindus have been appointed on Rs. 60 or 80 while graduate and undergraduate Muslims have been appointed on Rs. 50 only? If so, why?

(e) Is it a fact that the contract for supplying furniture and stationery has been given to the Khosla Press, which has shifted from Lahore to Delhi with this office?

(f) Will Government please state whether stationery is not available from any other firm in Delhi at lower rates?

(g) Will the Government please state:

(i) How many men were appointed as Inspectors in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office up to the 31st December, 1927?

(ii) How many are Muslims among them?

(iii) How many men have been taken as Inspectors after the 1st January, 1928?

(iv) How many are Muslims among them?

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY THE FOREMAN OF THE VACUUM BRAKE SHOP ON MOHAMMED HUSSAIN, A WORKMAN OF THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS AT MOGHULPURA.

479. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that on the 26th January, 1928, one Mr. Mohammed Hussain a workman of the Carriage and Wagon Shops at Moghulpura was beaten and kicked by the Foreman of the Vacuum Brake Shop?

(b) Is it a fact that the said workman was sent to the Mayo Hospital where he stayed from 26th January to 2nd February?

(c) Is it a fact that he was not paid for the days of absence caused by the assault on him by the Foreman?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have made any enquiries into the matter? If so, will they be pleased to state the result of the enquiry?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Foreman who assaulted the workman was awarded any punishment?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). Government understand that the Foreman handled the man mentioned roughly, and that he was treated as an outpatient at Mayo Hospital.

(c) No.

(d) No; but the Agent made full enquiry.

(e) The foreman was punished.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, what is the reply to the last part of my question?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The foreman was punished.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know how he was punished?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I do not remember the exact details, Sir, but, when I obtained the information in order to reply to the Honourable Member's inquiry, I satisfied myself that the punishment was adequate.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know, Sir, what the punishment was in order that I may judge whether it was adequate?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Will the Honourable Member please put down a question?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I have put down a question, but unfortunately I have not received any exact reply.

PAY OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

480. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state what the present position is of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs' Office, i.e., whether it is a subordinate or an attached office or a Secretariat proper? If it is one of the three classes mentioned above, are the rates of pay of the clerical staff fixed accordingly? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, at present works in some respects like an attached office of the Government of India. The office, however, as a whole, does not move with the Government of India as attached offices do, and the clerical staff, therefore, do not receive pay on the scales fixed for moving attached offices. Suitable scales of pay have been introduced with effect from the 1st August, 1927, the date on which the transfer of the office from Calcutta to Delhi was completed.

LOCATION IN SIMLA DURING THE WINTER MONTHS OF THE WIRELESS BRANCH OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

481. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Wireless Branch is a part of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs

Office in all respects? If so, what is the reason or reasons for leaving that Branch in Simla during the winter months since its formation?

(b) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state the actual expenditure involved up to March 1928 by locating the Wireless Branch in Simla during the winter months?

(c) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state:

- (i) why the Wireless Branch also has not been located in Delhi along with the non-migratory portion of the Director General's Office if it is part of that office?
- (ii) what benefit the clerks of the Wireless Branch will get if they are transferred from Simla and located permanently in Delhi?
- (iii) why the Wireless Branch has so far been located in Simla and not transferred to Delhi?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The Wireless Branch is a part of the Director General's office in all respects. It has been retained in Simla during the winter months since its formation for reasons of administrative and executive convenience.

(b) The actual expenditure involved (under winter allowances) is Rs 9,200. If the Wireless Branch had migrated to Delhi every season, an expenditure of approximately Rs. 18,700 would have been incurred in travelling allowances; therefore a saving of Rs. 9,500 has been effected up to March, 1928, by locating the Wireless Branch in Simla during the winter months.

(c) (i) and (iii). The Wireless Branch has not been located in Delhi because it has been found to be more convenient from an administrative and executive point of view to retain it in Simla.

(c) (ii). Government are not aware that the clerks would derive any benefit.

REFUSAL TO CERTAIN CLERKS OF THE CONCESSIONS GRANTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NON-MIGRATORY PORTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS FROM CALCUTTA TO DELHI.

482. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it not a fact that 17 clerks have been deprived of the concessions granted in connection with the transfer of the Headquarters from Calcutta to Delhi of the non-migratory portion of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs' Office on the ground that they were recruited for service in Simla/Delhi only, i.e., in the migratory portion of the Director General's Office? If so, will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state what alternative concessions have been granted to these affected clerks and why they will not remain attached to the migratory portion of the said office so long they are so affected?

(b) Is it not a fact that most of the 17 affected clerks are non-Bengalees?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Altogether 19 clerks were not granted the special concessions, as the conditions on which these

concessions were given, were not fulfilled in their case. No alternative concession was justified nor was any granted to these clerks. The question of migration is not relevant.

(b) Yes.

ADMISSION OF OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE AND THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS TO THE STAFF COLLEGE AT QUETTA AND THE SMALL ARMS AND MACHINE GUN SCHOOLS AT PACHMARHI AND AHMEDNAGAR.

483. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje**: Will the Government be pleased to state if the Staff College at Quetta and the Arms and Machine Gun Schools at Pachmarhi and Ahmednagar are available for the training of the Indian officers of the Provincial and Urban Territorial Forces and the University Training Corps and if so, how many such officers are under training there at the present moment?

Mr. G. M. Young: Only regular King's commissioned officers are eligible for admission to the Staff College, Quetta. Officers of the Indian Territorial Force and the University Training Corps cannot, therefore, be admitted to this college. They are eligible for admission to the Small Arms and Machine Gun Schools, but none are actually under training there at present. Government do not propose to spend money on specialised training for officers other than those of the regular forces at these schools, before the non-regular forces have reached a standard which would make it worth while to do so.

MANUFACTURE OF UNDERFRAMES IN THE PENINSULAR LOCOMOTIVE WORKS RECENTLY PURCHASED ON BEHALF OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

484. ***Sir Darcy Lindsay**: (a) Will Government state what the present position is in regard to the Peninsular Locomotive Works recently purchased on behalf of the Railway Board?

(b) Is it the intention of the Railway Board to manufacture locomotives at these Works?

(c) If the answer is in the negative what is proposed to be done with the existing machinery and plant?

(d) Has any scheme been placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the conversion of these Works to other purposes?

(e) Is there any truth in the rumour that it is the intention of Government to expend a very large sum of money in extension of the premises and the purchase of machinery and plant for the manufacture of underframes and other parts for wagons and carriages?

(f) Have any recent orders been placed for machinery and plant and have any experts been engaged from England in connection with such manufacture?

(g) Are there any works in India equipped and capable of undertaking the manufacture of underframes?

(h) Will Government define the functions and power of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, and is it possible for the Railway Board to incur heavy expenditure on new works without previous examination and sanction of the project by the Finance Committee and subsequent confirmation by the Assembly?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The Works are being made ready for the manufacture of coaching underframes.

(b) No. The Works are not equipped for the manufacture of locomotives.

(c) That portion of the machinery and plant purchased from the Peninsular Locomotive Company which can be utilised for the manufacture of coaching underframes is being retained in the Works; the balance has either been transferred to other railway workshops or has been sold.

(d) No scheme for the conversion of the Works has been laid before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, though the Committee have been apprised of the position, and their approval has been asked and obtained to the superior staff which will be required when the manufacture of underframes is undertaken.

(e) No. But a 450 ft. extension to one erecting shop to carry 5-ton cranes is being undertaken at a cost of, I understand, about 8 lakhs, and an additional 150 ft. open gantry at a cost of rather less than 1 lakh. Some other minor alterations are also being carried out. New machinery costing about 5½ lakhs will be required for the economical manufacture of coaching underframes, and has been ordered. It is not proposed to utilise the Works for the manufacture of anything but coaching underframes including, of course, the component parts of coaching underframes.

(f) I have just given the information about machinery and plant. The Production Engineer—one of the appointments approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways—has been engaged in England.

(g) Yes. In addition to two firms in Calcutta, of whom the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, coaching underframes have for many years been built in railway workshops, particularly those of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the Burma Railways.

(h) The Standing Finance Committee is an advisory body whose functions are stated in clause 6 of the Resolution regarding the separation of railway from general finances adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 20th of September, 1924. It is the practice to place all large projects for new expenditure on Railways before them before they are undertaken, and to ask their approval to such projects, even though they may have already found a place in a Demand for a Grant passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: What was the necessity, Sir, for expending this large sum of money on fitting out the Peninsular Locomotive Works for the manufacture of underframes when on your own admission there are firms in the country capable of undertaking the work?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I think the circumstances in which the Government purchased the Peninsular Locomotive Company are known to most Members of the House and certainly to my Honourable friend. The reason for equipping them in order that they can manufacture underframes economically is that otherwise we could not use these Works to any benefit.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Have the Government explored the possibility of utilising these Works for the manufacture of locomotives for which these Works were started with a definite promise from Government?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government are satisfied that with the equipment of the Works as they were taken over it would be impossible to manufacture locomotives in them.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: The question I asked was a different one. Did the Government explore the possibility of manufacturing locomotives in India for which this Company was started with an assurance given by the Railway Board that it will receive its patronage?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think, if the Honourable Member will recall to his memory what has passed in this matter, he will remember that the Tariff Board in 1924 expressed the view that the manufacture of locomotives in India should not be encouraged. As a result partly of that recommendation the Peninsular Locomotive Company adopted their Works for the manufacture of wagons and underframes and at the time when the Government of India purchased the Works, the question of the manufacture of locomotives in these Works was no longer a practical proposition and therefore was not at that time considered by the Government.

Mr. H. G. Cocke: May I ask whether the Government, before they decided to manufacture underframes in these Works, went into the respective cost of doing so there as against the cost of obtaining similar underframes outside?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Yes, Sir.

Mr. H. G. Cocke: May I ask what was the result?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: They considered that at the price at which they were purchasing the Works, it would be financially to their advantage to manufacture underframes there, taking into account the price at which they had been obtaining underframes from the two firms which I mentioned.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Are the Government sure that the manufacture by them of underframes would not prejudice private enterprise?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Government, when they came to their decision, took into account all the relevant circumstances of the case.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government are not aware that this Assembly has passed a Resolution in favour of State management of Railways including the production of railway material under State control?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am afraid I am not conversant with the exact terms of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly. I am aware that this Assembly expressed a view in favour of the State management of Railways, but I was not aware that it committed itself to the full length of saying that the whole of the equipment should be made in railway workshops.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Do Government propose to put their estimates of the cost of production in the new factory before the Railway Standing Finance Committee within the next few months?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I had not intended to do so, Sir. It is not exactly within the functions of the Standing Finance Committee. But after I have a new Committee, if they show any desire to see the figures, I should be delighted to put them before them.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Do I understand that the Honourable Member has no objection to put the figures of estimates before the Standing Finance Committee if any member of that Committee expresses his desire to the Honourable Member?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: That is what I said, Sir.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Thank you.

CATALOGUE OF THE BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE.

485. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** Will Government be pleased to state, if a printed catalogue of the books and publications in the Central Library of the Council House, can be made available to each Member of the Central Legislature?

Mr. L. Graham: A catalogue with a subject index is under preparation. It is expected that it will be printed and distributed to Members of the Legislature before they return to Delhi.

ISSUE OF BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CENTRAL LIBRARY WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS NOT IN SESSION.

486. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** Will Government be pleased to state, if arrangements can be made for the issue of books and publications from the Central Library during the time that the Legislature is not in Session.

Mr. L. Graham: Books and publications can be issued from the Library when the Legislature is not in Session.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: Can they be had by writing to the Librarian?

Mr. L. Graham: That is the proper procedure. If the Government are in Simla, then a letter to the Librarian will effect the necessary purpose.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR SUPERIOR OFFICERS, ASSISTANTS AND CLERKS IN NEW DELHI, ETC.

401. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government please state the total number of quarters built at New Delhi up to 31st of October, 1927, for (1) superior officers, (2) clerks and assistants,—orthodox and unorthodox, separately? How many of these are set apart for the migratory staff of the Government of India?

(b) Will Government please state the total number of (1) superior officers, (2) superintendents, and (3) assistants and clerks of the Government of India who moved down to Delhi this year? How many of these under each head have been provided with quarters?

(c) Is it a fact that the Estate Officer is supplied with statements of the requirements of the Government of India migratory staff in July or August each year? If so, were any such statements prepared and sent to the Estate Officer in July or August last? Will Government please state the number of their requirements for the current season and the number of quarters (orthodox and unorthodox separately) actually allotted this season?

(d) Is it a fact that those who cannot be provided with quarters are given a separation allowance? If so, will Government please state the total amount paid and to be paid on this account this year as also during each of the last three years? Will Government please state what are the considerations for the grant of this allowance?

(e) Will Government please state what other allowances are given to those to whom residential accommodation is refused and who have to make their own arrangements outside New Delhi? What is the total amount paid and to be paid to these men this year in the shape of house rent and conveyance allowance?

(f) Will Government please state how many of the quarters 'at New Delhi are still occupied by the New Delhi P. W. D. men? At the time the plan of the quarters was finally made, was any provision made for the P. W. D. men? Is it a fact that quarters which are situated in places such as Clive, Cornwallis, Lawrence, Lake and Havelock Squares, as also in Park Lane, Talkatora Road, Asoka Road and Gurudwara Road which are within easy reach of the Secretariat Buildings are mostly occupied by the P. W. D. men?

(g) Is it a fact that there is no "D" type of unorthodox quarters and that "C" types are allotted to men entitled to "D"? If so, what was the amount of loss sustained by Government this year towards rent realized?

(h) Will Government please state the number of each of the "A", "B", and "C" types of quarters, both orthodox and unorthodox, available for allotment to the migratory staff, and the number of men entitled to these types of quarters, separately?

(i) Is it a fact that the unorthodox quarters of any one class are better as regards accommodation than the corresponding class of orthodox quarters? Is there any difference in rent between unorthodox and orthodox quarters?

(j) Will Government please state if it is a fact that the majority of the "B" and "C" class orthodox men have been refused accommodation this year as being "out of class", there being a paucity of these types of quarters?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) (1) Superior Officers.—218 bungalows and quarters, i.e., 198 bungalows and 20 quarters in Western Hostel. (The figure of 218 does not include 6 Honourable Members' bungalows, 2 Presidents' bungalows, 7 Viceregal Estate bungalows, and 2 A.-D.-C.'s bungalows.)

(2) Unorthodox clerks' quarters.—257 quarters including 72 single quarters.

(The figure of 257 excludes 23 Schedule B quarters of the Viceregal Estate not ordinarily available.)

Orthodox clerks' quarters.—1,213 quarters including 104 single quarters.

(The figure of 1,213 excludes 64 Viceregal Estate quarters not ordinarily available.)

No definite numbers of bungalows and quarters are set apart for the migratory staff as under the rules all Departments are allotted the same proportion of their demands with due regard to their liens.

(b) The following gazetted and non-gazetted migratory staff moved down to Delhi during this year:

—	Total number moved down to Delhi.	Total number provided with accommodation.
Gazetted Officers including Superintendents.	<p style="text-align: center;">394</p> (excluding 6 Honourable Members, 2 Presidents and including 134 officers of the Army Headquarters located in Old Delhi.)	<p style="text-align: center;">215</p> (excluding 6 Honourable Members, 2 Presidents, 6 officers accommodated in Viceregal Estate bungalows and A.-D. C.'s bungalows. 13 bungalows allotted to the Legislative Department for M.L.As. 3 bungalows allotted to Gymkhana Club and including 65 officers of Army Headquarters, etc., accommodated in Old Delhi.)
Non-gazetted staff .	<p style="text-align: center;">1,845</p> (including 427 brought down by Army Headquarters, etc., in Old Delhi.)	<p style="text-align: center;">822</p> (including 115 clerks of the Army Headquarters, etc., accommodated in Old Delhi and excluding single assistants who made their own arrangements with the caterers to whom the chummeries were leased.)

(c) The reply to the first and second portions of this question is in the affirmative.

The requirements and allotment for the current season are as follows :

....	Requirements.	Number of quarters actually allotted.
Gazetted Officers including Superintendents.	275 (including 98 officers of the Army Headquarters, etc., located in Old Delhi and excluding 6 Honourable Members and 2 Presidents.)	215 (including 65 officers of Army Headquarters, etc., accommodated in Old Delhi and excluding— 6 Honourable Members' bungalows. 2 Presidents' bungalows. 4 Viceregal Estate bungalows. 2 A.-D.-C.'s bungalows. 13 Bungalows allotted to the Legislative Department. 3 Allotted to the Gymkhana Club).
Non-Gazetted Staff, Unorthodox.	338 (including 93 quarters demanded by the Army Headquarters in Old Delhi.)	236 (including 47 quarters allotted to Army Headquarters, etc., in Old Delhi and excluding single assistants who made their own arrangements with caterers to whom the chumeries were leased).
Non-Gazetted Staff, Orthodox.	1,251 (including 242 quarters demanded by Army Headquarters, etc., in Old Delhi.)	586 (including 68 quarters allotted to the Army Headquarters in Old Delhi and excluding single assistants who made their own arrangements with the Imperial Secretariat Association to whom the chumeries were leased.)

(d) A separation allowance is given under certain conditions to those for whom married quarters are not provided and who leave their families behind at Simla. It is granted in view of the inconvenience and extra expense involved in maintaining two establishments.

(e) Conveyance and house rent allowances are granted.

The figures asked for in parts (d) and (e) will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

(f) (1) 286 quarters are occupied by the local staff including the Central Accounts Office.

(2) No separate provision has been made for quarters for the local Public Works Department staff.

(3) The majority of quarters in Clive, Cornwallis, Lawrence and Lake Squares and Gurudwara Road are occupied by the Public Works Department staff. The majority of the quarters in Havelock Square are occupied by the non-migratory staff of the Government of India. Park Lane, Talkatora Road and Asoka Road quarters are mostly occupied by the migratory staff of the Government of India.

(g) No D class unorthodox accommodation is provided or contemplated so far. In accordance with the rules, C class quarters are intended for men living in unorthodox style and drawing Rs. 324 p. m. and under; hence the question of loss does not arise.

(h) The demand and allotment in respect of A, B and C class quarters during the current season was as follows. Those who demanded the respective types of quarters were entitled to them :

	Demands.			Allotments.		
	A.	B.	C.	A.	B.	C.
Unorthodox clerks' quarters.	66 (includes 13-A, 17-B, and 42-C, demanded by the Army Headquarters in Old Delhi.)	63	154	45 (includes 32-B, and 1-C, allotted to the Army Headquarters and 4-A, and 13-C, Schedule B quarters.)	88	57
Orthodox clerks' quarters.	35 (includes 7-A, 11-B, and 67-C, demanded by Army Headquarters in old Delhi.)	82	305	16 (includes 4-B, and 60-C, allotted to the Army Headquarters in Old Delhi.)	18	218

(i) The unorthodox quarters are more commodious than the orthodox quarters and the former carry a higher rate of rent than the latter as shown below :

		Rs.
A Class	Unorthodox	56 per mensem.
	Orthodox	41 "
B Class	Unorthodox	41 "
	Orthodox	27 "
C Class	Unorthodox	52 "
	Orthodox	21 "

(j) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (h) of this question.

PAUCITY OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS IN NEW DELHI.

402. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling among clerks and assistants of the Government of India migratory staff owing to the fact that inability to secure quarters just on the eve of their move down to Delhi generally puts them and their families to great inconvenience? What steps do Government propose to take to overcome the hardships of their clerks and assistants in respect of paucity of residential accommodation at New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government are fully aware of the facts of the accommodation problem. They have already decided to build more orthodox clerks' quarters in New Delhi.

SCALE OF COURT-FEES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

403. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the scale of court-fees in the North-West Frontier Province is higher than that in the Punjab? If so, to what extent?

(b) Is it a fact that formerly the scale of court-fees was equal in both the Provinces, but when it was increased in the Punjab, the scale was also increased in the North-West Frontier Province; but subsequently the scale was reduced in the Punjab, but no reduction was effected in the North-West Frontier Province?

(c) Have any representations been received by the Government on this subject, and what action has been taken in the matter?

(d) Do Government propose to reduce the court fees in the North-West Frontier Province, and bring them down to the level of those obtaining in the Punjab? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) Yes, as regards suits of value below Rs. 500 only.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, the matter is under consideration.

(d) It is hoped that a decision will be arrived at during the course of this year.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR SUPERIOR OFFICERS, ASSISTANTS AND CLERKS IN NEW DELHI, ETC.

404. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government please state the total number of quarters built at New Delhi up to 31st of October, 1927, for (1) superior officers, (2) clerks and assistants—orthodox and unorthodox separately? How many of these are set apart for the migratory staff of the Government of India?

(b) Will Government please state the total number of (1) superior officers, (2) superintendents, and (3) assistants and clerks of the Government of India who moved down to Delhi this year? How many of these, under each head, have been provided with quarters?

(c) Is it a fact that the Estate Officer is supplied with statements of the requirements of the Government of India migratory staff in July or August each year? If so, were any such statements prepared and sent to the Estate Officer in July or August last? Will Government please state the number of their requirements for the current season and the number of quarters (orthodox and unorthodox separately) actually allotted this season?

(d) Is it a fact that those who cannot be provided with quarters are given a separation allowance? If so, will Government please state the total amount paid and to be paid on this account this year as also during each of the last three years? Will Government please state what are the considerations for the grant of this allowance?

(e) Will Government please state what other allowances are given to those to whom residential accommodation is refused and who have to make their own arrangements outside New Delhi? What is the total amount paid and to be paid to these men this year in the shape of house rent and conveyance allowance?

QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI OCCUPIED BY MEN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

405. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government please state how many of the quarters at New Delhi are still occupied by the New Delhi P. W. D. men?

(b) At the time the plan of the quarters was finally made, was any provision made for the P. W. D. men?

(c) Is it a fact that quarters which are situated in places such as Clive, Cornwallis, Lawrence, Lake and Havelock Squares, as also in Park Lane, Talkatora Road, Asoka Road and Gurudwara Road, which are within easy reach of the Secretariat Buildings, are mostly occupied by the P. W. D. men?

LACK OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION IN NEW DELHI FOR MEN OF THE "B" AND "C" CLASS (ORTHODOX).

406. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no "D" type of unorthodox quarters and that "C" types are allotted to men entitled to "D"? If so, what was the amount of loss sustained by Government this year towards rent realised?

(b) Will Government please state the number of each of the "A", "B" and "C" types of quarters, both orthodox and unorthodox, available for allotment to the migratory staff, and the number of men entitled to these types of quarters separately?

(c) Is it a fact that the unorthodox quarters of any one class are better—as regards accommodation—than the corresponding class of orthodox quarters? Is there any difference in rent between unorthodox and orthodox quarters?

(d) Will Government please state if it is a fact that the majority of the "B" and "C" class orthodox men have been refused accommodation this year as being "out of class", there being a paucity of these types of quarters?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I propose to answer questions Nos. 404 to 406 together. I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question No. 401 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

PAUCITY OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS IN NEW DELHI.

407. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling among clerks and assistants of the Government of India migratory staff owing to the fact that inability to secure quarters just on the eve of their move down to Delhi generally puts them and their families to great inconvenience?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to overcome the hardships of their clerks and assistants in respect of the paucity of residential accommodation at New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question No. 402 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

SUPERVISION OF THE RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR FOR THE TEA GARDENS OF BENGAL, ETC.

408. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is there any arrangement for supervising labour recruitment for the tea gardens of Bengal, and the tea, coffee, rubber and other plantations of the Madras Presidency?

(b) If so, what are they and what is their scope and character as compared with those of the Assam Labour Board and commissions for recruitment for Ceylon, Singapore, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). There is no provision for supervising the recruitment of labour for the tea gardens of Bengal. With regard to the tea, coffee, rubber and other plantations of the Madras Presidency, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to section 4 of the Madras Planters Labour Act, 1903. This Act will, however, cease to have effect from the 1st January 1929 when "labour contracts" will be abolished.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE ASSAM LABOUR AND EMIGRATION ACT.

409. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is there any annual report published by the Government of India on the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act?

(b) If not, why not?

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

(b) The Government of India do not consider it necessary to publish such a report. Copies of the annual reports of the Provincial Governments concerned are available in the Library of the House and the more important reports are also published by Local Governments. The annual report on the working of the Assam Labour Board is published in the Gazette of India.

INSPECTION OF TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM, BENGAL AND MADRAS.

410. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** What arrangements have the Local Governments of Assam, Bengal and Madras made to supervise the treatment meted out to the workers in the tea gardens and to find out whether they are provided with their due privileges such as their proper housing, medical assistance, wages, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: In Assam the Local Government have framed rules under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act providing for the inspection of tea gardens employing immigrant labour.

The Madras Planters Labour Act, 1903, contains provisions for the inspection of such estates. This Act will cease to have effect from the 1st January, 1929, when "labour contracts" will be abolished. In Bengal there is no legislation corresponding to the Assam Labour and Emigration Act VI of 1901 or the Madras Planters Labour Act, 1903.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON ACCOUNT OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES, DAILY ALLOWANCES, ETC., OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN RESPECT OF THE DELHI AND SIMLA SESSIONS OF 1927.

411. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing separately the amount of expenditure in holding the Sessions of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly in Delhi and Simla last year, noting under different heads the amount spent in halting allowance of Honourable Members, motor car haulage, and conveyance allowance?

Mr. L. Graham: A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

I. DELHI SESSION, 1927.

	Council of State.		Legislative Assembly.		Total.	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
1. Travelling allowance of Members	18,798	3	40,608	3	59,406	6
2. Daily allowance of Members	39,720	0	1,54,520	0	1,94,240	0
3. Haulage of motor cars	18,979	7	35,064	3	54,043	10
4. Conveyance allowance	3,032	6	20,305	8	23,337	14
Total	80,530	0	2,50,497	14	3,31,027	14

II. SIMLA SESSION, 1927.

	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
	A.		A.		A.	
1. Travelling allowance of Members	18,938	7	43,725	14	62,664	5
2. Daily allowance of Members	21,080	0	77,300	0	98,380	0
Total	40,018	7	1,21,025	14	1,61,044	5

REVISED SCALE OF PAY OF THE SORTERS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

412. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the causes delaying the publication of the revised scale of pay, with effect from the 1st March, 1927, of the sorters of the Railway Mail Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the pay of the sorters of the Railway Mail Service under the revised scale has not yet been drawn and disbursed to them even now (March 1928)?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, what are the causes of this abnormal delay?

(d) Is it a fact that such a delay is due to the delay by the Audit Office in returning the bills pre-audited?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The delay in issuing orders was due to the necessity for settling a number of subsidiary points before the revised scales could be announced.

(b) No. The available information indicates that the pay of the sorters of all Railway Mail Service Divisions under the revised scale was paid before the end of January.

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

EMPLOYMENT OF UNPAID PROBATIONERS IN THE POST OFFICE AND THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE DIVISIONS.

413. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** (a) Is it a fact that the system of unpaid probationership was condemned by the Postal Committee of 1920 and was abolished on 1923 and that it has again been revived in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service Divisions, specially in the Bengal and Assam Circle?

(b) Is it a fact that such probationers are recruited on the results of examinations held by the Divisional Superintendents, and are required to attend a Head Post Office or Head Record Office daily just like the paid regular officials of the department and have to work fully, although they are paid nothing ordinarily.

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that led them to reintroduce a system that was condemned and abolished not very long ago?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the examination at which candidates for employment in the department have to sit? Are graduates required to pass the same examination as non-graduate candidates in spite of their higher educational qualities?

(e) Is it a fact that the candidates who are recruited as unpaid probationers are employed to supplement the leave reserve, at least in the post offices and that they are made to work regularly as members of the permanent staff.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the last part in the negative.

(b) and (c). A copy of rule 469 of Post Office Manual, Volume II, which deals with the subject is being supplied to the Honourable Member. In order that the leave reserve sanctioned for post offices may be a trained reserve, candidates for employment are, after selection, permitted to attend a post office in order to learn work. They are not employed in performing the regular work of the office which is done by the sanctioned staff of that office. This system is not the same as that of unpaid probationers, as will be evident to the Honourable Member by a perusal of rule 469 now being supplied to him. The period of training does not exceed 3 months and when once a candidate has completed his training, he is not required to work in the office.

(d) Paragraph (3) of the Rule 469 of the Post Office Manual, Volume II, mentions the nature of the examination which is required of candidates who have not passed any University examination. Graduates are not required to pass any examination.

(e) No; as already stated, there are no unpaid probationers employed to supplement the leave reserve and it is distinctly laid down in rule 460 (1) (c) that no candidate should either before or after training be employed in filling the place of an official on leave.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President: The House will now resume further consideration of the motion moved by the Finance Member that the Finance Bill be now passed.

Sir Victor Sassoon (Bombay Millowners Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, in racing phraseology if you thrash a horse too much and too often, he is liable to turn sour, and I submit that the frequent trouncings that Government have received in the lobbies during this Session have only resulted in turning them sour. They have been beaten so often when they have done nothing wrong that they have ceased to realise or care when they are mistaken.

Lala Lajpat Rai (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Have they ever realised it?

Sir Victor Sassoon: And that is my reason for asking my friends not to follow Pandit Malaviya into the lobby, because, by now even the densest supporter of the Government must have some glimmerings at least that the administration of the Government of India Act of 1919 is not entirely satisfactory in the eyes of the Opposition.

To turn down the Finance Bill is only one more gesture of a type to which we have become accustomed lately and cannot add to any impression that has been made either on the Government or on the House or on the public outside.

My objection to these continued gestures is that they only result in the Government ceasing to care what this House thinks of them even in matters that do concern their administration and not merely in matters which only concern the authors of the Government of India Act or the Secretary of State or the British Legislature. For instance, some of us who devote a certain amount of time to specialising in particular subjects are finding that we do not even get a reply to our reasoned comments. The House will remember that in the general discussion on the Budget I pointed out where the administration of a Government department appeared to be faulty, and made at least one constructive suggestion which would have benefited both the citizen and the revenues of this country. The House was informed in reply that the criticism that was forthcoming was to be taken as a proof of the efficiency of the department and no attempt was made to deal with my points. Only the other day, I put forward a small amendment to a measure before the House dealing with super-tax on companies and not on individuals. The passing of that amendment would only have bound the House for one year. At the end of that year the matter would have come up to be reviewed, and, if the results had proved beneficial, Government could then have moved to put it on to the permanent Statute-book; if not, this House could have dropped it. But how was it dealt with by the Leader of

the House? It was opposed because it was not put forward as a permanent measure at the outset. It was opposed because it was alleged that the matter was *sub judice*, although I challenge any member of Government to show that there is any case before the court involving this question of company super-tax. It was opposed because it was maintained that this amendment was intimately concerned with a Bill now before the Select Committee. There are times when I wonder whether the Honourable the Leader of the House has not got bogus companies on his brain. Here we had a question of a tax to be paid by a company whether the profits were eventually distributed or not, and we were told that it had some relationship with a Bill dealing with bogus companies which do not distribute their profits to their individual shareholders. In my opinion, the amendment which I put forward and the Bill before the Select Committee were as analogous as the Simon Commission is to a dairy farm.

The point I wish to make is this, that no Government would treat Members of this House in this way if that Government had the slightest regard for the House or its opinion. Nor could any Government justify to the world this treatment towards the reasoned arguments of any Member of the House unless that Government could bring forward proof that the House had by its vote so often proved itself so completely indifferent to logic or facts or reasoned arguments that it was unnecessary for Government even to attempt to argue seriously. My Honourable friends on the Swarajist Benches have been urging Government to rule openly as autocrats without the help of the Legislature, and gestures of this kind are designed to hasten that end. They have at any rate found my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, an apt pupil. He has shown his capacity to non-co-operate with those Members who criticise, not destructively but constructively, the administration of the Government. He has shown his ability to follow the example of my Swarajist friends in walking out and also in walking in. In fact, it appears to me that he has proved a very promising neophyte to the Swarajist Party, should they wish to add to their ranks. But, Sir, in all seriousness, although I fully appreciate that carrying on the Government of India under present conditions must be at times rather like the labours of Sisyphus, and although the House, as a whole, shows itself only enthusiastic when it takes part in those continued sterile debates on constitutional questions—debates which remind me more than anything else of the weekly peregrinations of a leg of mutton in a sea-side boarding house—from hot joint to cold joint, from cold joint to hash, from hash to rissoles, but whatever the disguise always the same old mutton—although this House with some exceptions does not show any inclination to follow the actual administration of Government except perhaps when it brings up threadbare subjects like postcards and matters of that kind, I still feel that Government should encourage Members of this House to develop criticisms that leave the beaten track. I appreciate the fact that it would not be possible to expect Members on the Front Benches of Government to be experts in all subjects. As a matter of fact, I have an intense admiration for the way in which the Front Bench deals with the variety of subjects that come before it. I would, however, suggest that they should make use of the latent talent which I feel sure exists behind. I think it would be of great advantage if the Government were to delegate to nominated

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official Members behind them certain subjects and ask them to specialise in those subjects. It would enable reasoned arguments to be brought forward from the Government Benches against the reasoned arguments of non-official Members who attempt to specialise. I feel that it would add to the interest of the nominated official Benches. I feel that the lot of the nominated official in this House must be very dull. (*An Honourable Member*: "Why?") (*Another Honourable Member*: "He has only to vote.") There are times when I wonder whether if it were not for the gentle exercise that they receive in walking into the lobbies, there might not be a risk of complete atrophy of their physical as well as their mental powers. I do therefore put it forward as a subject worthy of mental note to whoever may happen to be the Leader of the House in the forthcoming session.

Now, Sir, before I resume my seat I should like to take this opportunity to wish good fortune and good luck to Sir Basil Blackett. It has been my fate to find myself in strong disagreement with his views at times, and I think it must be admitted that I have not failed to express myself as definitely opposed to him on those occasions. But, at any rate, I have realised to the full and appreciated what I feel sure other Members of this House must have realised and appreciated, and that is that, according to his lights, Sir Basil has acted as he has in the interests of India. We may not—some of us—have agreed with his action, but that does not mean that we are necessarily right or that he is necessarily wrong. Time alone will show that, and I do feel that Sir Basil Blackett cannot be termed by any means a sun-dried bureaucrat or a reactionary. In fact, I think that this country should appreciate the fact that in Sir Basil Blackett they have had a friend at Court, and those who agree that the constitutional freedom of India should be developed and advanced on constitutional lines, will feel that in that direction Sir Basil Blackett's departure from this country is a distinct loss to it. I do not think that India realises what a good friend she has had in that respect. Sir, I hope that Sir Basil will accept this my modest posy and place it amongst the floral tributes he has received. It is at any rate a sincere offering from one who has been his political opponent, but though I have been a political opponent I yield to none in my admiration and my regard for Sir Basil Blackett's attainments, for his abilities and for his charming individuality.

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan):

There are some Honourable Members in this House who for reasons of their own can never be happy without running the gauntlet of the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Department. While they have talked, Sir Basil Blackett has acted. Sir, an era of deficit budgets totalling 100 crores of rupees has been replaced by a period of surpluses. The provincial contributions which have been hanging over the provinces like the sword of Damocles have been finally and irretrievably extinguished. The cotton excise duty has been abolished. The exports and the imports of the country have increased except a falling off in raw cotton material due to bad harvests. The rupee has been stabilized. The Railway Budget shows the growing prosperity of India and will in turn stimulate activity in commerce and agriculture. In short India's commerce has been increasing steadily. If Sir Basil Blackett had done

nothing else but overthrown the provincial contributions, that would have been enough to give him credit and praise. In fact he has done much more than the Swarajists imagine. He has been working for the cause of India and India must be grateful to him for his wise and prudent policy of finance during a very difficult period indeed. Sir, Sir Basil Blackett has done all for India that he could do and India should be sorry that she is going to lose such an able Finance Member. We shall all miss him. I congratulate him sincerely on the excellent work he has done. That work was also praised by His Excellency the Governor General only the other day. Sir, he has been a better Swarajist than many of the so-called Swarajists.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Even better than yourself?

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz: Even better than yourself. There are some Members in this House who in spite of experience and their so-called ability indulge in these frivolous obstructions, and the Honourable Member who interrupted me is one of those. He knows perfectly well, at least he ought to know, that the finances of the country have been set on a very sound basis. He ought to know that Sir Basil Blackett has brilliantly displayed not only financial capacity of a very high order but a singular combination of political talents.

Lala Lajpat Rai: What do you know of finance?

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz: I know more than you who in spite of experience still remain ignorant. The Finance Member's ability has been admired both here as well as in England. The success of the recent sterling loan also adds to his credit. The commerce of the country has increased and he has abolished the provincial contributions which have been a thorn in the flesh of the provincial finances. In future the provinces can make their own programme for the progress of the nation-building departments. It is no good resorting to obstruction which has been the order of the Opposition Benches. The Finance Bill must be passed. We have discussed the Bill clause after clause. At its last stage it would be most improper to reject it. I submit that Sir Basil Blackett is one of those Englishmen who have done admirable work for this country and whose work will live in this House. He has every reason to congratulate himself on his achievements during his term of office as Finance Member.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I have listened to Mr. Shah Nawaz's complaint of frivolous obstruction; but I think even that kind of obstruction is much better than the frenzied funkevisism so characteristic of Mr. Shah Nawaz and the Benches which he adorns. I shall deal with him later. In the meantime I would like to congratulate the Assembly on the splendid work it has done on the Budget and I would request Honourable Members in all parts of the House to follow it up by throwing out this Finance Bill. Ink and pen seem to have been busy in the Viceregal Lodge during the last week; the considered judgment and the vote of the House have been flouted and the various items which we had cut down have been restored unceremoniously. Sir, what are these restoration, certification and veto? These are civil garments for despotic acts based on brute force. They are a thin veneer of constitutional respectability for what is downright and indecent autocracy. Behind the restoration, certification and veto is the power of coercion, the power of the bayonet and the power of bombing innocent people who dare

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to oppose despotic measures. The fact of the matter is that the Government of India Act has been shown up once more. It has been badly battered, beaten, and finally broken but the Benches opposite are not going to take any lesson out of the last week's occurrences. The problem before the Government is two-fold. They want to maintain in all essentials an unbending and arbitrary form of government but they want simply to clothe that government with the trappings of democracy. We have got an elected majority. We are supposed to vote the Budget, vote for the Finance Bill, but all our votes and all our advice are treated with the utmost contempt, even when arrived at after the most mature deliberation. The problem before the Government, as I was saying, is two-fold, to maintain in all essential principles an absolutely autocratic and despotic government and to clothe it with the outward garb of democracy. They play at constitutional government while carrying on what is in substance a perfectly archaic and despotic form of government. Those Honourable Members who have read the story of Gil Blas would remember that the doctor in Gil Blas knew only two remedies for all ills, namely, bleeding and hot water. No matter what the disease was, no matter what the ailment was, whatever the condition of the patient, the moment the patient came for consultation, hot water and bleeding were prescribed. And the Benches opposite are like the doctor in Gil Blas. They believe only in two methods for governing this country, namely, coercion and extortion. They will extort the money in the name of the Finance Act whether the House passes this Bill or not. They will collect taxes through sham constitutional forms and if we resist this 'bleeding' then there is the hot water course of treatment, *i.e.*, coercion by brute force. That, Sir, is the plain truth about the Government of India. Otherwise I cannot understand how any Government professing to respect public opinion could go on ignoring day after day the considered opinion and the vote of this House, as we are witnessing here.

I am sorry the Home Member is not present; take the Home Department. After an impartial survey of the work of that Department, can any Member say that it deserves to be run at the cost of the people of this country? The treatment of the Bengal detenus is sufficient to put Government out of court, Sir. Some figures were given last week by an Honourable Member on this side. They showed that after nearly five years there are still 16 men in jail outside Bengal, 25 men are domiciled in Bengal villages which are most marshy and malarious and they are left there to die of disease from insanitary surroundings.

Mr. W. A. Cosgrave: How many in their own villages?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am coming to that. I am more informed about it than the Honourable Member thinks. Only 9 are in their own villages; and they are in addition to the 25 mentioned above; these 9 are confined there and are practically prisoners in their own homes; 17 more are externed from Bengal and in all, Sir, there are nearly 70 people who have suffered in one way or other—men who have been accused of no crime, who have never been given a fair trial, who have never been convicted—70 of the very flower of Bengal; men who are in every way as fit for freedom as the people who tyrannise over them: these people are torn from their homes without any charge being made against them, from their

families, from their wives and children, from their parents—their families mostly unprovided for and their future uncertain, and they never know when they will again see the light of day. Sir, the health of many of these deportees and internees and ex-ternees is a matter of the gravest concern to their relatives. In particular, Sir, I will mention three cases. There is the case of Mr. Bepin Behari Ganguli. This gentleman was detained from the 9th March 1924, and his health has been officially reported to be indifferent, "has been under treatment for pyorrhœa and suffers from dyspepsia". As a matter of fact all his 32 teeth have been extracted and yet he is euphemistically described as suffering from pyorrhœa. Then, Sir, take the case of Professor Jotish Chandra Ghosh. This gentleman was the co-worker of Arabinda Ghose. To-day on account of the trials and tribulations through which he has had to pass he is practically a paralytic, and, if not usually at least often, has been forcibly fed. Then there is the case of Mr. S. M. Ghosh. He has been transferred from Burma to Bombay and is now in the Yeravada jail. Sir, his height is 5 feet 8 inches and normally his weight ought to be 150 lbs. To-day his weight, as reported, is only 98 lbs. and he is a physical wreck. Besides, these people are kept away at such huge distances that even if their relations want to see them it is impossible for them to do so on account of the distance and expense. The food which they get, being non-Bengali in character, never agrees with them, and that is the reason for the bad health from which they are suffering. I ask this House whether they can honestly lay their hands on their heart and say that a Government which treats 70 young men of Bengal—highly educated, coming from the best families, against whom nothing can be openly urged—in such a tyrannical and oppressive manner deserves to be financed. But it is not merely Bengal alone. There are other cases and I shall quote one, that of one Jan Khan Pathan. This gentleman has been expelled from his residence without any trial. Here is the order, dated 26th March 1926, of the Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills:

"Whereas Jan Khan Pathan is found to have been concerned in a murder case and to be involved in a hostile friction between Pathans and Panjabi Mussalmans at Kangan colliery and therefore appears to be a person whom it is undesirable to allow to reside in or to travel in the Naga Hills district, I hereby order that he be permanently expelled from the Naga Hills in accordance with the provision of Chin Hills Act V, 1896."

(*An Honourable Member*: "But was the man himself concerned?") I am coming to that. As a matter of fact the so-called charge of murder was disproved and he was released. He has very important and substantial business interests in the Naga Hills; but now all his property is gone. His debtors refuse to pay him money because since his deportation he has been unable to go there and recover it and his repeated applications to the authorities to allow him to return have been refused. Sir, he was asked to deposit a security of Rs. 20,000 before he could be allowed to go to his home, and the poor fellow cannot afford Rs. 20,000. He is therefore practically a ruined man without any remedy, without any relief for all the misfortunes and all the injustices to which he has been subjected.

Mr. K. Ahmed: What is the offence?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: No offence is necessary; he has been deported at the sweet will of the Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills. Do you

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know that the provisions of some of these Acts are like this. The will of the Executive is the law. Anything that appears to the Executive to be wrong becomes wrong. If it appears to the District Magistrate that on a Sunday there may be a Friday, it is Friday in that district. You cannot disprove it, you cannot challenge it, his word is law, and the moment it appears to him that a man is guilty, he becomes guilty. No offence is necessary.

Mr. K. Ahmed: What is the reference of the case?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have given you sufficient particulars. The name of the man is Jan Khan Pathan. This gentleman settled in India years ago, has business interests there, is a rich man, has obtained the best certificates from the officials, was supposed to have been a murderer for which he was discharged, and yet he has been permanently deported, his financial interests are ruined, and he can get no access to the debtors against whom he has claims.

Sr Walter Willson: Your case is that he is a jolly good fellow?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: He was accused and he was discharged. I know nothing more, but there are official certificates in his favour, officials after officials have said he was a good man.

An Honourable Member: Will you read the Notification?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I think I have read it.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Under what authority do they want security of Rs. 20,000?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I will read the order of the Deputy Commissioner. This is dated the 26th March, 1926, and reads as follows:

"Whereas Jan Khan Pathan is found to have been concerned in a murder case"—
—in which he was discharged—

"and to be involved in a hostile friction between Pathans and Punjabi Mussalmans"—
—there was some feud between these—

"I hereby order that he be permanently expelled from the Naga Hills in accordance with the provision of Chin Hills Act V of 1896."

Sir, I do not want to say anything more; it is not merely the Bengal deportees, the externees or interneers: wherever it is inconvenient for the Government, they adopt these extra-legal measures restricting men's liberty, and in this particular case they have ruined both the business and the liberty of an individual. Sir, I am sorry that a Bombay Member of the Civil Service is responsible for a department so utterly arbitrary.

Mr. T. C. Goswami: Are Bombay civilians of a special brand?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: There is a side issue to this arbitrary and despotic system. The perpetual domination of Europeans, not merely in the Home Department but in all departments, civil and military, is leading to the starvation and destitution of the masses. The other day I inquired of my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford as to the number of Europeans in this country and he very courteously gave me the following particulars. He said there were 60,000 soldiers. We all know there are 7,000 military

officers. Everybody knows there are 6,000 Europeans in the railway services and there are in all nearly 20,000 civilians and the rest of the population is non-official. Now, Sir, if you take 60,000 soldiers out and the number of women and children, you will have left 50,000 Europeans, official and non-official, foisted on this country simply on the ground of their colour,—and they get salaries ranging from Rs. 21,000 to something like Rs. 500. If you take the average salary of these 50,000 men at Rs. 2,000 a head, then, Sir, consider the consequences that follow. Rs. 2,000 will keep 200 Indians alive and every European, Sir, is therefore responsible for the death or starvation or destitution of 200 Indians (Laughter); and 50,000 Europeans living on 200 Indians apiece! Everyone of the Members on the Benches opposite who are forced on this country on account of its political subjugation is responsible for the death or starvation of 200 Indians, and I say, Sir, it comes to one crore of people every year. It is the direct result of the domination of Europeans in this country, and can any man say that a Government which is responsible for that state of affairs deserves to be put in funds?

Mr. F. W. Allison: May I ask the Honourable Member if that is the considered opinion of the economic experts of the Swaraj Party?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: This is a question of pure mathematics, Mr. Allison, it is merely an application of the rule of three. You can consider it at your leisure.

Then, Sir, I come to the Finance Department, and I am bound to observe that the fulsome flattery in which some Honourable Members have indulged on the Benches opposite about this five years' administration of the Finance Member can only be taken as sheer rubbish. My friend, Mr. Shah Nawaz, made himself responsible for the statement that under Sir Basil Blackett commerce had increased. Where he made this discovery from I cannot understand.

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz: Can you show that commerce has not made a steady progress during Sir Basil Blackett's term of office?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes; certainly. I am glad that Mr. Shah Nawaz is willing to listen to realities. He will find on page 2 of the Review of the Trade of India for the year 1926-27 the trade figures mentioned. He will find the total exports and imports stated as follows:

"The value of the total exports of merchandise amounted to Rs. 309 crores as compared with Rs. 385 crores in 1925-26, showing a reduction of 20 per cent."

It is stated then:

"On the export side the total value of raw cotton and cotton manufactures exported fell from Rs. 105 crores to Rs. 70 crores",

a reduction of 35 crores.

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz: That I pointed out was owing to bad harvests.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Don't take him seriously, what does he know? He only knows how to flatter.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If a figure which fell from Rs. 105 crores to 70 crores is to be called an increase, there is nothing which Mr. Shah Nawaz will not say. Then, Sir, raw cotton declined by 25 per cent.,—not increased.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Will the Honourable Member take a series of years and not one particular year which he knows is entirely false?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The Finance Member can take 1927-28. I am quoting the figures of 1926-27 because that is the latest available; in both cases I am right.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Why quote from 1924-25 as if that was a normal year?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Take the figures of the last few years and see whether there has not been a progressive decline. I say
12 Noon. that there has been a progressive decline in the total foreign trade of this country since your policy materialised.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Why take 1924-25? I ask the Honourable Member to take figures fairly over a series of years and not to take the figures for one exceptional year.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I take the figures for 1924-25 because before that you had not yet succeeded in bringing on the Statute-book that fateful measure of the Ratie. That measure was expected, so you said, to increase the trade and commerce of this country. It has done quite the contrary. I am going to quote an authority whose weight the Finance Member will himself admit. Here is the Annual Market Review of 1927 by Messrs. Premchand Roychand and Sons, an "authority" whose weight the Finance Member will not challenge. The representative of that firm was responsible the other day for making in this House a statement as wild and as false as that which Mr. Shah Nawaz has made.

Sir Walter Willson: Is the Honourable Member in order in accusing another Honourable Member of making a false statement? I think it is strong language.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is in order in saying that a statement is false.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: On page 1 of that Review,—it is dated the 1st January, 1928, and the Finance Member will admit that as the latest

Mr. K. Ahmed: How can you rely on the statement of flunkeys?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am saying that even flunkeys are forced to admit the truth. On page 1, the Review says:

"Lowered commodity prices brought about by conditions in other parts of the world destroyed much of the benefit that might have accrued from the comparatively favourable monsoon of 1926."

Opinions may differ whether there were world causes or local causes but it did destroy the benefit. Again on page 8 it is stated:

"During the year, many mills have secured cheap cotton, and provided an adequate demand develops,"

—the proviso is very big—

"there is no reason why the present dull conditions should not be at least partly dissipated."

There is the admission of duilness. Then, Sir, there is another statement :

"The favourable conditions which marked the closing months of 1926 did not, unfortunately, prove of a very lasting nature. Although the first quarter saw fairly satisfactory trade, a change began to appear directly afterwards. . . . World factors, including the Japanese crisis, served, more than purely local causes, to render trade comparatively dull and to displace the optimism earlier felt."

Finally, the review is summed up in a manner which leaves no room for doubt as to what the view of the writer was :

"A summary of all factors leads one to the conclusion that a successful fruition of the foregoing issues together with the favourable monsoon should bring about substantial economic advancements throughout the new year. *That this is badly needed no one can question.*"

I hope the Finance Member will not question the statement of his own pupil. So much about the so-called increase of trade. The other day I quoted figures to show that new flotations of industrial concerns had gone down by nearly 75 per cent. since 1914; let it not be said, as it has been said in some quarters, that this is due to world causes. There is at least an improvement in England as follows: In 1918 in debenture bonds the public invested £139 millions; in 1924, £153 millions; in 1926, £145 millions; in 1927, £228 millions, so that investment in England in industrial activities has increased from £139 to £228 millions since 1918. The amount invested in preference shares has gone up from 22 to 36 millions; in ordinary shares the amount invested have gone up from 33 to 89 millions. This shows that world causes do not seem to operate in England as they are supposed to be operating in this country. So much about the comparative industrial development in this country and in England since 1918.

Sir, the two outstanding measures of the regime of Sir Basil Blackett are certainly the Ratio Bill and the abortive Reserve Bank Bill. I do not want to speak at length on either of these, but I do want to say that in its effects the Ratio Bill, now the Act of 1927, has proved most disastrous. The other day Mr. Kikabhai said that since 1923 the quotations of Government securities had gone up in the market; that the credit of India has increased thereby suggesting that the prosperity of India under Sir Basil Blackett was real. Now, Sir, the Finance Member cannot have it both ways. If he floats a loan and succeeds he says, "How high is your credit; I can successfully float a loan." If the loan is not successful, then he takes credit for the failure as you will see in this year's budget speech; explaining away the failure of the loan he says:

"Consideration for the interests of the tax-payer induced us to make the terms less attractive, and therefore it was not a success."

If the loan succeeds, India's credit is high; if it does not, then he has taken care of the pockets of the tax-payers. The real cause of the high prices of Government securities is different. The 18d. ratio now on the Statute-book has driven out all confidence from the investing public. If the prices of Government securities are high it is not because of the flourishing condition of the country but because people have got no faith in any industrial concern where they can confidently invest a few thousand rupees. Amidst depression all round the only safe investments are Government securities and that is the real reason of the spurt in the Government securities. But barring Government securities and the Savings Bank there is gloom and disaster all round in trade and industry. Unemployment is

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increasing, One of the grounds on which that disastrous measure was carried was the appeal to the labouring classes that they would at least stand to gain. The falsity of that ground is being demonstrated daily. You find strikes after strikes reported in the *Labour Gazette* month after month; and if only those Honourable gentlemen who talk tall about the prosperity of India would take care to refer to these facts, they will find that month after month, whether the strikes were for higher wages, whether they were for better conditions, whether they were for fewer hours of work, in 75 out of 100 cases, the workmen are being beaten—very poor comfort to those who were made to believe that in supporting the Ratio Bill they were safeguarding the interests of labour. The totality of the loss and ruin which Sir Basil Blackett has brought on this country by the appreciation of the rupee reminds me of the calamity which Warren Hastings brought on this country. Warren Hastings' rapacious activities were complained of in the House of Commons by Burke. But to-day the House of Commons will inspire no confidence in India and I am modest enough to admit that I am not Edmund Burke. Hastings was open in his rapacity. Sir Basil Blackett's methods are more clever. The only difference is in favour of Warren Hastings. His activities were confined to the United Provinces and Bengal. Sir Basil's spread from Cape Comorin to Attock, from Dwarka to Calcutta, in villages and in towns alike. The bad effects of his disastrous administration are being felt and will be felt for years to come after Sir Basil Blackett has said good-bye to this country. Here I join Sir Victor Sassoon in wishing Sir Basil Blackett good luck and good fortune in his retirement. Forgiveness is in our blood; it is our second nature. Mahatma Gandhi has taught us to love even our enemies and in that spirit I wish him all the joys in his retirement in spite of all the wrongs he has done to this country. He said the other day that some Members make no attempt even to be polite or courteous. I ask him in all earnestness whether we come here for social amenities to smile and be smiled at? Do we come here for that frivolous kind of social intercourse which means nothing? Do we come here to pay each other those idle compliments which conceal the real truth or do we come here to tell the Government honest truth in an honest manner? Sir, I prefer to tell the naked truth rather than conceal facts under the mask of polite verbiage. If the Government were to get their deserts, they should get not compliments or commendations but curses; not bouquets but bombs. The Home Department, Sir, as you once very rightly said, is the place or rather the breeding ground for anarchy. The real bomb factory is in the Home Department and not in Bengal.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Chair never said that.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Not the Chair, Sir, but Mr. V. J. Patel did say that the Home Department was the real bomb factory. And that is perfectly true, Sir, and I really did congratulate you when you made that statement.

About the Military Department I have only one statement to make. People think that we can calculate the extent of our military burden by a reference to our revenues. Colonel Crawford suggested that we should add the provincial revenues. He is right and I have added that. But

that is not the proper criterion in judging of the real incidence of our military expenditure. India is not taxed like a normal country. It is taxed on the war basis. Therefore if you want to appraise our military expenditure right the central taxation should be reduced by 25 crores and the provincial by seven crores. It is only when you have this reduced taxation in the country to the level of a peace basis as in other countries that you can apply the criterion whether our military expenditure is 20 per cent. of the revenues. Judged in that light, the military expenditure is even heavier, more crushing, than it appears.

I do not want to say much about Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra's department, but I do say that he should not think that, because he has given a few allowances or concessions to the postal peons, there is a reason for maintaining postal rates at a higher level. They ought to be reduced to the pre-war basis. I was also surprised to find a sort of unholy conspiracy on the part of some Members interested in labour who seemed to think that, because some concessions have been extended to the postmen and the peons, the higher postal rates should be allowed to be maintained. I cannot accept that. Taxation is very heavy; postmen are paid very low; taxation must be lowered; and the wages of postmen must be increased. One cannot be made to depend upon the other.

Then, Sir, there is the Department of Education, Health and Lands. As it does not figure very much in this House, I do not want to make many observations about it except to say that so long as the condition of Indians in foreign countries still causes the greatest anxiety to people here, I do not think even that department can be said to deserve our support for financing it.

Then, lastly, I come to the Political Department. I do not want to discuss the administration of any particular State, but I do say that so far as peace and contentment of the people of this country are concerned—and the one excuse for foreign domination was that peace has been brought in this country—even that can be said to have been taken away. Look at the communal riots, look at the loss of property, and look at the very fanatical outbursts every now and then. The number of Masjids that were attacked during the last five years has been larger than the number during the whole history of relations between the Hindus and the Muhammadans. More temples have been destroyed in the last five years than in the whole reign of Aurangzeb. And yet the Government talks of having established peace in this country!

Mr. K. Ahmed: Whose fault is that?

Mr. Jarnadas M. Mehta: Government's and nobody else's.

Then, Sir, as regards the Indian States. I do not wish to refer to any particular State but I want to draw the attention of my friend Sir Purshotandas Thakurdas to the Virangam Custom Line once more. So far as that line is intended to prevent evasion of customs duties it is quite justified and he has my wholehearted and unqualified support. But let him not look merely at the money side of the question. Let him look also at its human side. We should pay more attention to the miseries of men who are being harassed. The other day my friend quoted the

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authority of Mr. Amritalal Seth and I want to quote the same authority. I will only read one sentence from Mr. Seth's paper *Saurashtra*.

"The outposts along the whole custom line have become responsible for the harassment of the residents of British villages for which there is no parallel, to which there is no end."

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): May I ask the Honourable Member to give me the date of the paper from which he has quoted?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: It is dated the 11th February 1928.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that I had another letter from the same gentleman subsequent to the one which the Honourable Member has just quoted in which he said that the matter has been set right?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I have also got a similar letter, and it is dated February 29, 1928.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: All that I can say is that private letters cannot be used to do duty for public statements. When Mr. Amritalal Seth will publish in his paper that what he complains of has been set right, I shall at once withdraw whatever I may have said.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: The report that my Honourable friend has quoted is not of the latest date. I am not challenging the accuracy of his report; it was correct on the date it was written. Since then however, the Government of India had inquiries made and I think if the Honourable Member will accept it from me when I say that Mr. Amritalal has written to me saying that his grievances have been removed, it will shorten the discussion.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I say, Sir, that what has happened once may happen again. Therefore, the House must be very vigilant and it is a question which must be constantly before the Government so that the harassment at Viramgam and the whole frontier may not be resumed or continued. Next, Sir, what about the religious liberty in Indian States? 12 lakhs of Jains cannot go to Palitana. I am not going to refer to Palitana State and the Finance Member need not rise in his seat. But I ask him if the Muhammadans are prevented from going to Mecca, will not the Government of India interfere? Supposing our Muhammadan friends were prevented by any foreign or international trouble from going to Mecca on pilgrimage, will it not be the duty of the Finance Member and the Home Member of the Government of India to come forward and assert and vindicate the right of our Muhammadan countrymen to go on pilgrimage to Mecca? In the same way, it is the duty of the Government to secure access to Palitana for these 12 lakhs of Jains in British India to whom Palitana is what Jerusalem was to the Christians and Mecca is to the Mussalmans. It is the bounden and the sacred duty of the Government so to act that the right of the 12 lakhs of Jains residing in British India to go to Palitana will be restored. I hope that this at least is a thing for which Government will plead no necessity of a political character.

Sir, these are grounds on which I ask the House to throw out the Finance Bill. You cannot show me one department of the Government which deserves to be financed by the free vote of this House. Government has restored the six cuts which this House made deliberately. We cannot agree to heavy taxation arbitrarily levied and irresponsibly spent. The policy is this: Those who have much shall have more; those who have little shall have less. That is the result of the administration during the last five years. I say therefore that on grounds of liberty, peace, prosperity, public conscience, religious freedom, and on every other ground, this Government stands condemned before the people of this country and before the world and it does not deserve a single copper to finance its nefarious activities.

***Mr. T. Gavin-Jones** (United Provinces: European): Sir, when I came to this House on Saturday, I expected that the Finance Bill will be passed very quickly and that there will be very little said about it. But I have heard one Honourable Member after another getting up and making use of the occasion for airing every kind of grievance, political, communal and racial, and if the House will bear with me for a moment I would like to reply to the main issues brought up by these Honourable Members. Before doing so, however, I wish to say one word about the Finance Bill. First of all I wish to tender with others my tribute to the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett for the work that he has done during his service in India. He has worked with an energy and enthusiasm which have not been equalled by other Finance Members. He has given his best for India. He has done all that he can for India and India owes him a debt of gratitude. It sounds perhaps churlish to adversely criticise a surplus budget which has followed a succession of surplus budgets. But these surpluses are intimately bound up with the policy which is proposed to be introduced by the Honourable the Finance Member. We who are the toads under the harrow are feeling the effects of that policy and we must say that we are disappointed with the Budget. When I say "we" I mean the producers, not only the manufacturers but also the agriculturists, the millions of tenants who sell their crops. Since 1924, since prices were forced down by means of exchange being stabilised at as high a ratio as possible, prices have steadily fallen and trade now is very depressed. Every industry, with the exception of jute and tea, in which the circumstances are exceptional, is having a difficult time. We are endeavouring to adjust ourselves to the ratio, that has tended to lower prices. I do not say that the ratio is entirely responsible for the lower prices but it is gratifying and there is no doubt about it that the fixing of the ratio at a high rate has assisted the Government to give us a balanced budget surplus and we are disappointed that the surpluses are not higher. What we want to see is a reduction in taxation. What we want to see in the Railway Budgets is a reduction in freights. This is practically adjusting yourselves to the higher ratio. And I would commend to the Honourable Member who will follow the Honourable the Finance Member to do all he can to reduce costs, to reduce expenses in every way and to bring down freights and taxation in order to help us to meet our difficulties.

Now, Sir, to deal with some of those arguments that were brought up on Saturday last, the Honourable Pandit Malaviya gave us a long speech.

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

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the burden of which was the Army estimates. Now, Sir, it is perfectly legitimate to criticise the Army estimates. They are high and there may be waste and extravagance in the Army. There may be many means of reducing that expenditure. But what I complain about is that the criticism is not constructive. The Honourable Member complained that the Army was too big. Well, Sir, Defence is a matter which requires careful consideration. I am afraid that the Honourable Members sitting opposite, who are so very keen to have responsible Government, do not realise the first responsibility of the Government, and that is Defence. (An Honourable Member: "Hand it over to us.") They say we must reduce our Army. But they forget what we have got to defend. It is all very well to compare percentages of expenditure in this country with those in Great Britain and other countries. That is not the way to compare expenditure, because conditions are absolutely different in different countries. If you were to compare this country or Great Britain with the United States, the disparity would be enormous, because the United States are in the very fortunate geographical position of not having any likely enemies close to them. Their expenditure on Defence is very small indeed. I would like also to mention that the expenditure per head in India works out to something less than Rs. 2 per head and in England it is over £1 a head. Of course, I know that is no fair comparison but, as I say, these statistics cannot be compared in that way. You have got to consider what the Army has got to deal with. Now, to start off, India has a very large seaboard which has to be defended. That is defended by the Navy for which India pays nothing.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: £100,000.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: That is a mere flea-bite. Then you have the Army, which has to defend a long frontier with a war-like people living in many of the hills who look with envious eyes on the soft warm plains of India. We have got a large nation in the north in the shape of the Russians, of whom we can never say what they will do. It is a matter for experts what we should spend on our Army. The main point Pandit Malaviya brought forward was that the British Army should be reduced and reduced almost at once, as quickly as possible. He said: "We do not want the British Army." Now, when the Honourable Pandit talks like that he is talking nonsense. The British Army is essential for the unity of India.

Lala Lajpat Rai: It is essential for your prosperity.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: It is essential for the unity of India. Do the Honourable Members, Hindus sitting there, imagine that they could rule India without the British Army?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Certainly.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: With the majority of the Army consisting of Muhammadans, Sikhs, Gurkhas?

Lala Lajpat Rai: They are all our countrymen.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: But they are minority communities.

Lala Lajpat Rai: India was ruled for thousands of years.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: Honourable Members know perfectly well that the British Army is essential to India.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Not a bit.

Lala Lajpat Rai: For you it is.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: Anyhow, Great Britain has her responsibilities

Lala Lajpat Rai: Yes, say that. There you are right.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: Great Britain has her responsibilities to the minority communities.

Mr. T. C. Goswami: For starting communal trouble.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: She has to protect the minorities to ensure the stability of her Government. To talk about removing the British Army is sheer nonsense. There may come a time when the British Army can be reduced but it will not be in our life-time; we know it is not practical politics and it is no use talking about it. Another thing which the Honourable Pandit Malaviya said was that the internal security troops were too many. This may be so, but that is a matter for experts to judge. I do not think the Honourable Pandit is a good judge of that matter. I know this. I have seen two communal riots in this country, one in Calcutta and another in Cawnpore and I know that both Muhammadans and Hindus were only too glad to see British troops in the streets to assist them. I can assure you that if there is one duty, as Colonel Crawford has already assured you, that they dislike, it is this duty of looking after the civil population.

Now, Sir, to deal with my friend Pandit Motilal Nehru. The burden of his speech was, "We are powerless; we may put forward anything, but we get nothing. This constitution is a farce. What we do in this House is a farce. Therefore we oppose everything. We obstruct everything." Now, Sir, I quite agree with the Honourable Pandit that it is a farce. (*Members on the Congress Benches:* "Hear, hear.") Yes, but who made it a farce?

An Honourable Member: The constitution.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: The Honourable Members sitting opposite.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Not a bit. It is the constitution which gives you power.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: Very well, then say the constitution. But who created the constitution?

An Honourable Member: The British Parliament.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: The British Parliament at the instigation of the late Mr. Montagu. Well, the late Mr. Montagu brought forward the reforms scheme, thinking no doubt it was a very good thing for India. But he did not know India.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Din't he?

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: He brought it forward and had it introduced, and Honourable Members sitting over there seem to think that he is a sort

[Mr. T. Gavin-Jones.]

of hero and that he is a great benefactor to this country. And yet they proceed to try and wreck his reforms.

Lala Lajpat Rai: It is already a wreck.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: And you have wrecked it.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: It deserves to be wrecked.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Moore, sitting behind me here, who has a genuine desire to see India progress politically, made a very earnest appeal to the Honourable the Leader of the Swarajists not to show how irresponsible this House can be, and not to wreck the reforms scheme entirely. Sir, I will not appeal to the Swarajists. They are hopeless. (Laughter). (*An Honourable Member:* "They are too many for you.") They are past redemption. But, Sir, I will appeal to the Honourable Members sitting on my right, the Independents and the Responsivists, to my friends Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. (*An Honourable Member:* "They are also hopeless") and Mr. Jayakar, men for whose intellect I have the greatest respect. I was extremely sorry to see them going into the lobby with the Swarajists over the Statutory Commission

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: We will do it every time.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: I am sorry to hear it, but that cannot be helped. But I hope

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: You cannot persuade us by your pious wishes.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: that in this case there is no reason for the Independents to be tied to the chariot wheels of the Swarajists . . .

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: You look after yourself, we will look after ourselves.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: . . . and that in this case they will show they are not going to brand this House as irresponsible by voting for the Finance Bill.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the Finance Bill with great reluctance, because the feeling that has been oppressing me for the last few days is, "What is the use?" An Honourable Member on the other side one day remarked that we were ploughing the sands. He was perfectly right. The Government has proved that all that we have been doing on this side of the House was nothing better than ploughing the sands. But I want to ask the other side what they have been doing? The Members of the Government have been, I say—and I say it with a profound sense of responsibility—showing an attitude which can only result in disaster. I give them a timely warning, Sir, that the conditions in the country are becoming rather very very serious. It is no question of laughter. It is no question of cutting jokes on either side of the House. It is a very serious condition that is developing in the country, and I submit that Government are not doing enough to avert the disaster which will inevitably come if the condition of things continues developing in the way it is developing. 19

days ago the Honourable the Finance Member introduced his Budget and made his speech explaining the same; Sir, for 2 days less than 19 days we have been discussing this Budget and the Finance Bill. We have heard many speeches on both sides, sometimes angry, sometimes conciliatory. Retorts and repartees have been freely exchanged. But the one thing which I would ask the Honourable Members on the Government side to answer is, "What have they done for the people of this country? What do they intend to do for the people of this country?" My Honourable friend the Home Member one day remarked that in connection with the Statutory Commission issue there was a fourth party in India besides the Government, the Opposition and the Statutory Commission itself that was interested in its labours. That was the only remark which fell from the Government Benches about the people of this country. That was the only regard which they showed for the people of this country. I wish to ask the Honourable the Home Member, "Who represents the people of this country? Does he represent them?"

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Do you?

Lala Lajpat Rai: No; Colonel Gidney does. We do not represent them.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Whom do you represent?

Lala Lajpat Rai: We have come here by the elected votes of at least hundreds of thousands of people, we do not represent the people. Very well. I again ask the question "Who represents the people of India in this House? Does the Honourable the Home Member represent them?" If he does represent them, will he point out to me one sentence in all his speeches here in which he showed any concern for the people of this country? Does the Honourable the Finance Member represent them? I listened to his speeches with great attention. I have listened to Budget speeches in other Parliaments in other countries. This House of course is not a Parliament. But in other places where the Chancellor of the Exchequer every year gives an account of his stewardship, there is not one speech made in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer or other responsible Ministers of the Government do not talk of the economic condition of the masses of the country. They deal with every possible question which affects the masses, their food, their health, their housing, their employment. But during all these talks here in this House not one sentence was uttered either by the Honourable the Finance Member or by anybody else as to how the people of the country were faring, what was the progress made in improving their economic condition, what was the condition of their food, what was the condition of their clothing, what was the condition of their housing and how they were going to solve the problem of employment. One solitary remark was made by the Finance Member in which he said that the returns of railway revenue were a sign of the prosperity of the people of this country. That was all, Sir. I say, the Railways may be prosperous but the people might be starving. There is a strong consensus of opinion amongst all competent observers whether official or non-official—of course officials are of two classes, (1) those who have some honesty of purpose left in them and (2) those who just carry on the red tape work and support their Government—that the people of this country are awfully poor. A number of competent non-official observers, Indian and European, have left it on record that the vast bulk of the

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people of this country do not get sufficient food. The late Lord Sinha put their number at 100 millions. Was there a word of sympathy uttered in this House, Sir, by any Minister of the Government or by any Member of the European Benches for these starving millions? Not one word.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Oh, yes.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Figures will tell you that the population of the country is increasing, the production of food-stuffs is increasing but the people starve. The production of food has increased, yet the quantity available for consumption per man has decreased. Just for the purpose of illustration I will refer to the statements of two gentlemen. One is that of Dr. Harold Mann, who was the Director of Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency and who recently retired from his office. When he was retiring from his office he gave an interview to the *Times of India*, in the course of which he said that the greatest problem for the bulk of the agriculturists of the Bombay Presidency was how to fill their empty bellies. He said, "You cannot improve the quality of agriculture, you cannot do anything in villages unless you fill the empty bellies of agriculturists first". In fact, that was the head line under which his interview was published. There is another evidence which has been very laboriously collected by one Mr. Lupton, an Englishman, in a book called "Happy India", in which he also proves that the bulk of the agriculturists in this country do not get sufficient food. It is very easy to make calculations. Take the total production of food, deduct the exports from it and divide the rest by the number of people in this country, and you will find that the quantity available for consumption to the people is growing less and less every day. From food you come to clothing. That is another test of the financial prosperity of the country, not the income of Railways, nor the armies, nor the navies. The easiest, the best and the most effective test of the financial prosperity of a country is to look at the life of its people, how they are fed, how they are clothed, how they live and how much they are educated. These are the four fundamental tests by which you can judge the prosperity of a country. That is the rock bottom test of the moral and material progress of a Nation. The Honourable Members on the other side leave that task to be done by the skilful pen of Mr. Coatsman, or still better, by the skilful pen of Miss Mayo. They do not think it their duty to refer to these things in this House. These are mere commonplaces for them. I have already said something about how the people of this country are fed. Now let us come to clothing. The schedule given in the Tariff Board's Report will tell you that the number of yards available to the people of this country for clothing is also steadily falling. Come to the housing problem. That never enters the brains of any Honourable Member on the other side. That is not their problem because they are not affected by it. But look at the millions of mud hovels, wretched thatched hovels, in which the people of this country live from one year's end to another year's end and drag on their miserable lives in disease, dirt and distress. Yet the Government has never shown the slightest possible anxiety for providing them with decent, sanitary houses nor does the European group ever think of that. From these three things let me come to education. Has the Education Member told us anything which would encourage us or make us hopeful that the people of this country would ever become literate and, if so, when and how? No one talked about it; the Government does not care; there is no need to say

anything about it. The matter is self-evident! A word, Sir, about the proposal that I made the other day about sanctioning a crore of rupees for the education of the depressed classes for whom so much political anxiety is being shown. We were lectured that day that education had been transferred to the Provincial Governments. But what does that mean? Do the Government of India maintain that they have entirely discarded their responsibility for the education of the people of this country? Well, Sir, we have not got a full-fledged federal system in this country, but even in countries where there is a federal system, where the States occupy an autonomous position, the federal Government never feels itself relieved of the responsibility of furthering the education of the people of the country as a whole. Look at the figures in the United States of America. Every State in the United States spends 39 per cent. of its revenue on education; every City Government spends the same amount; and yet the federal Government takes keen interest in furthering the cause of education in various ways. For a large number of years the Federal Government has been giving away more than a million dollars from Federal revenues in furtherance of the cause of vocational education. They have been doing so for years now. Have they ever pleaded that the States were autonomous, that the Devolution Rules prevented them from doing anything in the matter or that education in the States was no longer their concern or their duty? You talk of the people! Do not the depressed classes come within the definition of the word "people"? What has the Government of India done for these depressed classes or for their education? We have been told from time to time that my friend, Mr. Rajah, represents the depressed classes in this House. How many proposals of his for making grants for the education of the depressed classes have been sanctioned? The Member for Education has not told us at all what the Government have done for the education of the people. Then, there is the question of unemployment. I may tell you that there is one thing by which we feel very much oppressed. When we come to the Assembly, every time thousands of young boys, who have spent the last pie of their parents' income and property on the education which they have received, come to us and ask us, "What shall we do? How shall we live?" In the words of Miss Mayo, they say, "Give us office, or give us death". Yes, that is literally true because this Government has not made them fit for anything else. The Government does not feel any responsibility for them. Unemployment is no concern of the Government of India. How can they feed hungry mouths? How can they find employment for all? Yet the greatest modern Government in the world, the Government of Great Britain, even now feels itself responsible for providing food and clothing and shelter to over a million people every day of the week. They have been doing it for years and years. But the Government of India does not feel itself at all responsible for providing employment to the people or to look after their food, clothing, or housing. In the United Kingdom there is a Ministry of Housing and they have built lakhs of houses there with Government help for the purpose of providing proper sanitary houses. What has the Government of India done to remove unemployment or to provide good houses? Hundreds and thousands of boys come to us and they ask us to do something for them in the Assembly. We go back after three months and say, "We have made many speeches but we have not been able to do anything else for you". What can we do? We cannot do anything, we are absolutely helpless. My Honourable friend here mentioned.

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traders who have become absolutely bankrupt under the present financial policy, who have gone to the insolvency courts. There are millions of people who do not have two meals a day. Every chittack of their produce is taxed. There is not even a small particle of their food which is untaxed.

What reply are we to give these men every time we go back from the Assembly? All we can say is, "We cannot help you, we are helpless". I want to point out to the Government Benches that this helplessness, this resourcelessness, this lack of power on the part of the representatives of the people, is a great danger for them as well as for us. It is a live danger, Sir. The Honourable Members are sowing the seeds of Bolshevism. I am not particularly enamoured of Bolshevism, nor am I particularly afraid of it, but I tell you honestly with the best of motives, in all seriousness, and in all humility, that if you go on like this for a number of years, not even the height of the Himalayas can prevent the entry of Bolshevism into the plains of India. Nothing will prevent it. You are producing the very conditions, the very circumstances, the very atmosphere which breeds Bolshevism, and if it comes, as come it must, the responsibility will be entirely yours. We are giving warnings to you from time to time on the floor of this House. We are doing a very unpleasant duty. Sometimes we use invective. (*An Honourable Member*: "It is fully deserved.") but it is out of anger which comes out of despair. You on your side—what did you do during all these debates? I have been scanning the faces of the Honourable Members on the opposite Benches, their non-chalant air. They seem to be saying: "Do you want to throw out the Demands? We know what to do. We are secure in our power, we are absolutely safe in our posts and you cannot touch us". Almost two-thirds of the Budget is non-voted and the other one-third is votable. When we come and discuss and criticise the policy of the Government in the different departments and when we throw out certain items, the next day you come with a smiling face, practically mocking us, ridiculing us and laughing at us, to say that all these cuts have been restored by the Governor General in Council. We knew it beforehand. We were quite ready for it, not that we did not know it. But all the same, remember that all that you are doing is being debited to your account and that account is growing and some day you will have to repay it. It is a very serious situation and I respectfully beg of you to consider it. We have been talking of the Army. You have told us it is necessary for the defence of India—it is necessary certainly for the defence of the interests which my Honourable friend, Mr. Gavin-Jones, represents, absolutely necessary from the British point of view, but not from the point of view of the people of this country. What have our people to defend? Have they to defend their "empty bellies"? Have they to defend their nakedness? Have they to defend their illiteracy? Have they to defend their mud hovels? What have they to defend? What need they defend? A few vested interests in the country have property to be defended. But what of the generality of the people? Who is taking care of the interests of the bulk of the population who pay for the maintenance of this Army?

Sir, I want to warn the Government in all seriousness that the situation is developing rapidly and seriously. It was time that we did something to prevent this economic helplessness and the destitution which prevails

in the country. You may deny any political progress to us. You may abolish this House but if you really care for the security of your Government do something in time to remove this economic helplessness.

The Honourable the Finance Member has been telling us on the floor of this House as well as outside this House that he and many of his friends have been trying to build parliamentary institutions in this country, but that we are determined to commit political suicide. Is there any Parliament in the world which is so situated as this Assembly? I know of one Legislature that of the Phillipine Islands, in the constitution of which there is a provision that if supplies are refused the Governor General can take supplies on the scale of the previous year. The Phillipine Islands cannot be compared with India. India is a very big country and its revenues come to a huge figure. Leaving aside the Phillipine Islands, will my Honourable friend point out to me one parliament in the world worth the name, which is so absolutely helpless as we are here? Why then talk of it as a Parliament. You can abolish it if you think it is mischievous, as my Honourable friend Sir Victor Sassoon said that we on these Benches had made the Government callous. The Government did not care for any criticism. They did not even take the trouble to reply to criticisms made in this House by the Honourable Sir Victor Sassoon. He distributed his boquets of satire rather evenly and impartially, but the fact remains that the Honourable Members of the Government of India are entirely impervious and indifferent to criticism of any kind. They scoff at us, laugh at us and treat us with contempt. Perhaps they know that we deserve it because we are absolutely helpless. Sir, we may be perfectly unfit for the discharge of the duties for which we have come here. We may be anything which my friends may like to call us, but we are absolutely sincere in our love of our country and we maintain that no one on the opposite Benches can love this country better than we do. Who is going to teach us our duties? Are they going to teach us by scoffing at us, by restoring all the cuts by one stroke of the pen? Sir, give up this game. Abolish this House if you want and go back to your previous absolutism if you will. Even then you will not improve the situation unless you probe deeply into the economic problem which is the real problem of this country. It will not be solved by exchanges, it will not be solved by armies and navies, it will not be solved by the figures of trade in which these millionaires may be interested. It will be solved by doing something for the benefit of the people of this country, so as to enable them to get more food to eat, more cloth to wear, better houses to live in, to be better educated and to enjoy all those comforts which people in other countries enjoy. Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has been very kind to inform me that he has issued orders that I should not be under police surveillance any further. I am very thankful to him and I thank him on the floor of this House. But that does not affect me in the least. I have been a political suspect all my life and will not mind if I have to continue to be such till the end of my days. On no account however will I falter in the performance of my duty to my country fearlessly. Sir, the Members of the Government say they want to see constitutional progress in this country. Will anybody kindly tell me what is constitutional progress? You give us a certain franchise. We say it is very little and ask you to give us more, to enfranchise a larger number of people. You say, "We shall not give them the franchise. They are not fit for it". At the same time you go on taunting us that we represent nobody or only an infinitesimal fraction of the people of this

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country. Whose fault is it? On one hand you blame us for neglecting parliamentary institutions and on the other you refuse stubbornly to do anything to make it a real living Parliament representing the interests of the country. These debates will be forgotten in a day or two after the House is dissolved but the disease is there, the germ is there, the sore is open. That sore is widening every day. The country is getting more and more discontented and unhappy. The people are not interested in the least in the Simon Commission. The Commission is already showing its teeth. In Ferozepur members of the Statutory Commission applauded a loyal Sikh who had won a municipal election against an Akali. Is that the kind of impartiality they are going to show? The members of the Statutory Commission are going about saying "What a wonderful reception". At Lahore thirty thousand men greeted the Commission with black flags but the Commission thought it was a wonderful reception they received. The same thing happened at Gujranwala, at Lyallpur, at Gurdaspur and at Amritsar. Yet the Commissioners are reported to have been very much gratified by the wonderful official receptions they were accorded at these places. If this is the capacity of observation of the Statutory Commissioners, I think India is perfectly justified in placing no confidence in them. Cannot they see that it is a stage-managed thing? Cannot they see that most of those who come to receive them are flunkies who are anxious to get jobs or favours? Still they go on saying, "Oh! what a wonderful reception". Sir, this stage play is going to react very damagingly both on the Government and on us also.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blakett: What about the Punjab Council?

Lala Lajpat Rai: Yes. I am glad that the Honourable Member has reminded me of that. I will tell him what is the situation in the Punjab Council. You have so cleverly manœuvred things there that with 50 Muhammadans and 50 Hindus and Sikhs balanced together, the real power lies in the hands of the Government block. My friend Mr. Shah Nawaz comes here and praises the Finance Member. What does he know of commerce, of trade figures and of the conditions of the people? Has he ever taken part in any debate here in which these matters were discussed? All that he has done is to flatter the Government Members and to say that we are obstructionists. I tell him that it requires ability to be an obstructionist. It requires sense to be a successful obstructionist.

Mian Mahommed Shah Nawaz: Stop this fooling, Lala Lajpat Rai.

Lala Lajpat Rai: It is you, Sir, who are fooling the country. It is Shah Nawaz, led by his father-in-law, Sir Muhammad Shafi, who has fooled the whole of the Punjab. Whom does he represent here?

Mian Mahommed Shah Nawaz: Whom do you represent?

Lala Lajpat Rai: I represent nobody, if you please. You say you represent the country and the agriculturists and yet you come here and flatter the officials, without saying a word about the condition of the people. Is that true representation of the country? We know we are ploughing the sands, as my Honourable friend said the other day, but our ploughing the sands may prove fruitful some day. At any rate it is harmless; but the seeds which the Government is sowing are sure to bring forth a bitter harvest. You want to keep us in a state of perpetual bondage, if that satisfies you we are quite content. Sir, I beg to ask

my learned friend who talked of the Punjab Council why did he not talk of the United Provinces Council? Why did the Honourable Member not talk of the Madras Council? Why does the Honourable Member not refer to the Nagpur Council? (Applause.) And talking of Councils, why did the Statutory Commission want this House to appoint a Committee? Why not ignore this House? Why come before this House and ask us to give you so much money for its expenses? Why not go with your demand to the Punjab Council and let the Punjab Council give you the money to defray the expenses of the Statutory Commission? You may be proud of the Punjab Council, and I am also proud of it in a way because that is the one place where you can find any shelter. (Laughter and Applause.) But I say the hen will come home to roost some day. You say that the Akalis with black flags are seditionists. Of course they are seditionists. Have you left them any chance to be anything else? They do not count. There are Khilafatists and Congressmen, they do not count for anything. It is only men of the stamp of my friend Mr. Shah Nawaz who count. We do not count at all.

(At this stage several Honourable Members applauded and cheered, and Mr. Shah Nawaz who interrupted was inaudible.)

Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz: Do not tell untruths.

Lala Lajpat Rai: They are not untruths. These facts are every day reported by the Government subsidised agency of the Associated Press.

Mr. K. C. Roy (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I repudiate that charge.

Lala Lajpat Rai: What charge?

Mr. K. C. Roy: That it is subsidised. We do not get a single rupee by way of a subsidy.

Mr. J. Coatsman (Director of Public Information): Perhaps the Honourable Member will give some proof. He makes the assertion; let him prove it.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Prove what?

Mr. J. Coatsman: That the Associated Press is subsidised.

Lala Lajpat Rai: I stick to the statement that the Associated Press is a subsidised agency.

Mr. J. Coatsman: Give your proof.

Lala Lajpat Rai: The Associated Press would not be where it is but for the patronage of Government, and that is a form of subsidy. My Honourable friend should go and look up the word "subsidy" in a dictionary.

Mr. J. Coatsman: You go and learn the word "proof".

Lala Lajpat Rai: I never used the word proof. Subsidies are given in many ways. There is not one kind of subsidy.

Mr. K. C. Roy: I shall ask Lala Lajpat Rai to move a motion for a Committee on the subject and I shall place every fact before every Member of the House and ask them for a judgment. (Cheers.) I shall never be a party to any subsidised agency.

Lala Lajpat Rai: There is no question of your being a party, Mr. K. C. Roy. You need not get angry.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair.

Lala Lajpat Rai: Sir, I was saying there were various ways of subsidising. I do not know why Mr. Roy has become so very angry. We have been calling it a subsidised agency again and again. Tomorrow perhaps the Public Information Bureau will say that it is not a Government Department. There are ways and ways of giving subsidies. As for my friend's suggestion of making a motion—when can we carry a motion in this House, and who cares for it even if it is carried?

Mr. K. C. Roy: I shall care for it.

Lala Lajpat Rai: The usefulness of it depends on many things, the members whom Government appoints to the Committee, and altogether there are too many "ifs" and "buts". Really there is no use in doing anything through this House.

Before I sit down, Sir, I wish once more to warn the Government Benches that the situation is becoming very very serious; and in all honesty and in all humility I beg the Government to go into the matter of the economic distress of this country. The country will not be saved by the blue books issued by the Public Information Bureau; it will not be saved by speeches in this House. If the Government wants to do anything for the people of this country, let it frankly and openly improve the economic condition of the people of this country.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Before I say a few words on some of the general aspects of the Government of India administration which have not yet been touched upon in the course of the budget debate I would like to reply to a point raised by the Honourable Member from the Punjab, Mr. Abdul Aziz, regarding the so-called bonus, or deferred interest payable on post office certificates. The Honourable Member referred me, Sir, to Mr. Cocks's question on the 23rd February, 1925. I have not only looked at it but have studied it very carefully and I hold a copy of the question and answer here. There is nothing said there which gives any indication that Government were not making provision for the liability as it fell due from year to year, and that was my complaint. My complaint was not that the House did not know that the Government were raising money on post office certificates. My complaint was, and the complaint of several others similarly was, that the Government had kept a substantial sum uncovered of the liabilities which they were incurring from year to year in regard to interest due on post office certificates. I submit, Sir, that it is a very serious oversight, and I will show how that oversight may land the Government of India, and the Honourable the Finance Member's successor, in a very serious scrape. The face value of the post office certificates outstanding on 31st March, 1928, is roughly given at 40 crores. The amount the Government have received, if I remember correctly, was given at about 31 crores repayable in five years. The interest on this therefore amounts roughly to 9 to 10 crores. Now, Sir, correct accounting requires that the Government should make provision every year for the amount of interest that it would have to pay on these certificates should the post office certificates be tendered for payment. It would be difficult enough, in a crisis, for the Government to find the capital part of the money; but that is a risk which we know they take when they borrow on short term paper. But for any Member to try and defend the uncovered liability that the Government of India incur from year to year for interest payable—well,

that, Sir, can only be done by a nominated Member from the Punjab and by nobody else.

My friend Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, who I know is absent to-day owing to unavoidable reasons, said in the course of his speech that the unproductive debt of India had been "wiped out"—those are the words as he read them—to the extent of 81 crores. I am sure that when Mr. Kikabhai thinks over the words he has used, he, at any rate, financier as he is, will never stand by them. The unproductive debt, Sir, has not been wiped out to the extent of 81 crores. As I said on the general discussion of the Budget, if anything like 81 crores of the unproductive debt had been wiped out I would be the first to congratulate India and the Government of India. I admit that the unproductive debt has been reduced to the extent of 14 crores, the surplus in the last four years, and to the extent of 23 crores, the amount which we set aside for the reduction of debt, making 37 crores in all. We admit that. The rest, namely, the railway reserve and depreciation fund and cash balance reduction of 24 crores, those two items, Sir, cannot possibly be taken against the reduction of debt. At best one can claim that the Honourable the Finance Member has succeeded in presenting this in a new and original manner and nothing beyond that. Mr. Kikabhai said or rather talked of cheap money. I really wonder, Sir, if Mr. Kikabhai had consulted only his clients, the banks, the European firms, the Rajas and the clients with first class credit when he talked of cheap money; or whether he had consulted also his humbler clients, the Indian merchant, the Indian shroff and the Indian shopkeeper. If Mr. Kikabhai on his return to Bombay will consult the latter class, who, I submit, should really count for the purpose of assessing the cheapness or dearness of money, I am sure he will hear from this class, the class which matters to us here, that money has not only been dear for them but has been very scarce and at times even unavailable. Only one instance will I give, and I will give that instance from one of the latest moves of the Government of India. Very recently the Government of India has been borrowing on Treasury Bills for six months covering the slackest period in the money market of India, and at what rates? 5 per cent. Look at any of the years before the war, and during the monsoon period, the bank rate went down to 3 per cent., and in fact money was going a-begging at 2 per cent. and even less. When, therefore, the Government of India borrow over the monsoon period, the slack six months period, at 5 per cent. per annum, all the talk of cheap money appears to me to be nothing else but cheap praise. I therefore feel that in those directions at least Mr. Kikabhai's speech was very inaccurate and cannot be endorsed by any section of the commercial community if they will take cognizance of the facts as they are.

My friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Sir, warned me again about my support to the Virangam cordon. I again am prepared, Sir, to take my fullest responsibility, humble as it is, in having that cordon set up; and I repeat that whilst I rank next to none in my anxiety that passengers travelling on the Kathiawar border-line should not suffer, and I say that I am convinced that the same is the anxiety of the Central Board of Revenue and of the Finance Department, I repeat that no rumours or superficial complaints of the nature that we hear should lead the Assembly or the Government of India from the correct course which they have been forced into. I feel that we cannot afford to lose revenue from our customs of a crore or two crores, in fact there is no knowing whether it will not go to ten

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crores if this source of leakage is left open. I say that it is due to the tax-payer of India that that cordon should only be lifted if we can come to proper arrangements with the Indian States. Anybody who presses for the removal of the cordon earlier, I say in all humility, is neglecting the interests of the tax-payer of British India. But whilst I am so insistent upon these Indian States coming to proper arrangements with British India, I am convinced that the Government of India in the Finance Department will give every consideration to any complaint which may be put up. I warned the House last time against artificial efforts being made to have spurious agitation set up. That of course should not influence either Mr. Mehta or anybody else.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: What about the genuine ones?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I say the Government are attending to them; I have no doubt about it. There is just one more point and here I am very pleased, Sir, that I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. The decision of the Government of India or rather the policy adopted by the Government of India in the case which has resulted in 20 lakhs of peaceful Jains being prevented from paying their homage to the one place which they consider will get them access to Heaven is, Sir, a step which I am surprised the Government of India have tolerated till this year of grace 1928. Perfect freedom for everybody to follow his religion, Sir, should be secured and not prevented by artificial handicaps or legal technicalities. Surely, Sir, statesmanship in the Political Department of the Government of India is still at a sufficiently high level to get a satisfactory solution of this problem, and all that I will say is that as long as that is not reached the Jain community will stand by what they consider to be their rights and they at least will not yield. It is most desirable that their loyalty and law-abiding nature should not be put to any further test.

My friend, Mr. Gavin-Jones, Sir, chose to speak of the late lamented Mr. Edwin Montagu in a spirit and tone which I absolutely deplore. It is possible that Mr. Gavin-Jones and I differ about India's debt of gratitude to Mr. Montagu. But I will say this that if Mr. Gavin-Jones wishes to attack Mr. Montagu on the floor of the House, he will find that, whether it is a co-operator or a non-co-operator, in the year 1928 everybody is agreed that Mr. Montagu was the one Englishman who had exceptional foresight and statesmanship in Indian questions. If his reforms have not succeeded, it is because they have not been carried out in the spirit in which they were meant to be carried out. (Hear, hear.) There is no doubt about it. The civil services and the European commercial community in India did not, as we know, like the reforms, and we did not expect any consent or agreement from them about it. Their vested interests were, then, to that extent shaken. But to get up in the Legislative Assembly of India and try to run down Mr. Edwin Montagu is for Mr. Gavin-Jones like calling for very severe condemnation of his attitude.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: Sir, I did not run down Mr. Montagu.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I am very glad.

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: What I said was that the Swarajists had ruined the reforms scheme of Mr. Montagu.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: The Swarajists have not ruined the reforms scheme half as much as you on that side have ruined it by not carrying out the reforms scheme in the spirit in which it should have been. I make that deliberate statement here. I know that Sir Walter Willson may not like it.

Sir Walter Willson: Who will believe it?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Now, Sir, my friend, Mr. Gavin-Jones, whose advice I always cherish and try to follow, tried to warn me not to be tied to the chariot wheels of my Swarajist friends. Sir, I do not like to be tied to the chariot-wheels of anyone, and I think Mr. Gavin-Jones gratuitously assumed that anyone of us on this side were tied to the chariot wheels of any party. If, however, there appears at times that infection, it comes from that Bench. They are tied to the chariot-wheels of Government. (*Cries of "No," "no" from the European Group.*) Yes, and that is the greatest weakness of this House, that the European commercial community, the non-official European Benches, are tied inseparably to the chariot-wheels of the Government. If you warn me as a friend not to be tied to the chariot-wheels of the Swarajists, I will take your advice in the best of spirit. Will you also take my advice in a similar spirit and remember that if you want us to work with you

Mr. T. Gavin-Jones: I was with you on the question of the ratio.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Will you join us on the political questions also? We have finished with the ratio; we are glad of the assistance you gave us. Now, Sir, as I say, if you advise, and if you expect me to follow your advice

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must address the Chair.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I will, Sir. There is just one more point, and that is that it is not that anyone of us wish to see or even like to see the Members in our Party dwindle down. We all like, and we are all working for it, that more Swarajists would come and sit here with us. I am sure Lala Lajpat Rai and Mr. Jayakar would like that, and I am sure that Pandit Motilal Nehru would take it in a sportsmanlike spirit. The question is, is not the policy which you on the Treasury Benches and which you on the non-official European Benches follow, is not that policy one which makes it impossible for us to ask anybody to come over to our Benches? You are even driving us to the Swarajist Benches. The whole policy is one of driving everybody to desperation, to add to the ranks of Pandit Motilal Nehru and Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. (Applause.) What is the good of appealing to our common sense and our judgment? What is the good of talking of our culture and of our various other qualities which you may like. Will you look at the policy which you are following? Do you think over it? Will you persuade the Government Benches over which you are supposed to have some influence? If necessary, will you persuade your head offices in London and warn them that they are driving the Liberal, the Moderate, the Independent, the Nationalist and the Responsivist into the camp of the Swarajists and the Congress? I am afraid you will, if you persist, drive many of us into the camp of the Bolsheviks and even of the anarchists. Beware, if you wish

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to rise to the occasion, of the policy which you are advocating to-day, the reconciliation which you want . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is not addressing the Chair.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I am sorry, Sir. Why I did not address you was because you may say that you did nothing of the sort. However, I will not make the mistake, Sir, if the Chair will only take my remarks in the correct way. Now, Sir . . .

(At this stage some Honourable Member tried to prompt.)

Don't prompt me. I think I can recall myself. I therefore, Sir, wish to warn my friend Mr. Gavin-Jones, whose sincerity I fully respect, that if he is as much in earnest as we are on this side and if he wants additions to the ranks of my friend Mr. Jayakar and my esteemed friend Mr. Jinnah, let him persuade the European Association, the European commercial bodies and the Government Benches, and, if necessary, Whitehall, to change the policy, the latest proof of which has resulted in this that we all thought it our duty to close up and tell you that, whether Swarajist or no Swarajist we detest the composition of the Simon Commission equally and as well.

Sir, so much for the remarks which have fallen in the course of the speeches to-day. I now wish to take a very few minutes regarding a few points which I wish to touch upon. In paragraph 29 of his budget speech, the Honourable the Finance Member indicated good reason for regarding the present figure of 15 per cent. revenue tariff as unduly high. Sir, the Committee of my Chamber has expressed the following opinion regarding this indication:

"They do not agree with paragraph 29 which states that the revenue tariff wants revision, but they would favour a close examination of the entire schedule of customs with a view to remove anomalies which bear heavily on the industries of the country and with a view to the establishment of duties on a scientific basis."

This message has been conveyed to the Finance Member but I felt that I should to-day refer to it on the floor of the House. Now, I feel, Sir, that any question of reduction of the revenue duties is a very remote one. The 12½ per cent. bounty practically which Government gave to imports by putting the higher ratio on the Statute-book last year has already done enough harm to the industries to permit of a further blow by reducing the import duties. Whether they are revenue duties or not, there should be no reduction in import duties except after a full and exhaustive enquiry which may help us to put these duties on something like a scientific basis. I do hope that the Government of India will not make any further effort at encouraging imports from outside into India.

Sir, many have been the references in this House to nation-building departments of Provincial Governments. May I refer, Sir, to one direction in which the Central Government has till now failed to assist Provincial Governments in their most important nation-building department and where, I hope, the Central Government will now at least make a move. I refer, Sir, to the liquor excise revenue of the provinces. Practically every province that I know of has had their Ministers go into the question of decrease in their liquor consumption and corresponding decrease also in their liquor excise duty. But wherever this has been elaborately gone into and reported upon, the complaint has been that if the Provincial Government controlled the consumption of country liquor either by giving out less or by

making it more costly, they found that the imported wines and liquor were increasing in consumption. Now, Sir, this is a direction in which, I am sure, the Central Government owe a duty to the provinces and they should help them. I am not aware whether at the various Finance Members' conferences which have been held during the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett's term of office this question was ever brought up by any Finance Member from the Provinces. But even though it may not be so brought up, Sir, I am sure the Government of India do not overlook that this excise department is a transferred subject. The responsibility is of the Minister to the Council and not of the Finance Member; and I suggest that just as you have a conference of Finance Members every year you must have a conference of Ministers here with a view to devise a sound, sane and far-sighted policy regarding assistance to provinces in their goal of prohibition. Whether total prohibition is feasible or not, I am convinced that India must now stop either importing or selling any larger quantity of liquor than is done to-day. I know that various provinces find the problem difficult on the score of their budgets not being balanced. I have said before and I repeat that it is a disgrace to any Government that its budget should depend upon such tainted money as money coming out of the degradation and deterioration of its people. But there is a very sharp contrast, Sir. I hold in my hand a book by Mr. Pritchard dealing with the Administration of India from 1859 to 1869. I wish to read one or two short extracts showing how the opium revenue of India to the tune of very nearly Rs. 10 crores was sacrificed by the Government of India. For whose benefit? Not for the benefit of the sons of the soil, but for the benefit, Sir, of the Chinese, and even that benefit the Chinese do not get. The result has been that China did not get opium from India; they got it from Persia and other places. Sir, Sir Charles Trevelyan goes on to remark:

"The idea of the Chinese becoming independent of us by growing their own opium is a mere chimera. The cultivation has been permitted in China for several years, with the result that the demand upon India for opium has been continually increasing. India has been bountifully dealt with in the great division of labour established by nature. She has an advantage over all the world in producing indigo, saltpetre, opium, and some other things; the Chinese on their part are more likely to increase their cultivation of tea and silk than of opium. Even if the quantity grown in China was largely increased, Bengal opium is so much better than the native products, that it could still be sold as an article of luxury like Manilla and Havana cigars."

I do not grudge, Sir, any benefit which China may have got from this policy of self-denial of the Government of India. But I cannot congratulate the Government of India on this policy of theirs for reasons which I will state a little later.

Mr. President: What do you mean by "a little later"? That is, to-day?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Yes, Sir, within a couple of minutes.

I feel, Sir, that at least on this question of the liquor excise or the liquor policy of the Government of India, they are absolutely debarred from urging the question of finance. If they can sacrifice 10 crores for China, surely, Sir, they can devise a method in consultation with the Provincial Governments by which the liquor policy will be so regulated that we will be spared any further poisoning of our masses by liquor either imported or locally made.

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I wish to say a few words about the position of Indians in our Colonies and Dominions. I feel that as far as South Africa is concerned, the position appears to be fairly satisfactory, thanks to the efforts of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri. But I have a recollection that Mr. Sastri's term of office will expire very soon and I am sure I am reflecting the views of everybody in this House when I say that we hope that it will be possible for Mr. Sastri to accept an extension of his term of office, because we cannot possibly expect to get a better person than him, and it will be difficult to get an equally good person to represent India's interests in South Africa. I am sure the House will also note with appreciation the effort of the Government of South Africa in dropping the liquor clause in the Bill, for which we had an adjournment. The position regarding East Africa is, however, very disconcerting. There is a Commission there at the present moment on which there is no Indian representation at all. In this connection, I gratefully acknowledge the compliance of His Excellency the Viceroy with the wishes of the deputation that waited on him in Simla during the September Session. His Excellency accepted our suggestion that at least two officers of the Government of India should be deputed to East Africa to help the Indians there. Kunwar Maharaj Singh and Mr. Ewbank were so deputed and I have heard the very best reports about the great assistance which they gave to Indians in putting forward their case in East Africa. What the result of the Commission's report will be, it is difficult for me to say. But I very gratefully acknowledge His Excellency the Viceroy's compliance with the suggestion we made and the extremely useful work which both Kunwar Maharaj Singh and Mr. Ewbank have done in East Africa.

Regarding British Guiana, we have got conflicting reports. I do not know what information the Government of India in the Emigration Department happen to have, but if there be any truth in the report that we have got from non-official sources, I am sure that the Government of India in the Emigration Department would have convened a meeting of the Emigration Committee. But I think that it is very necessary that the Government should watch the position as far as the developments in British Guiana are concerned. I am rather concerned about the question of emigration as a whole because I see everywhere efforts being made to oust the Indians, if possible. To that end, I suggest that out of the nett income of very nearly 2 lakhs of rupees to the Government of India in the fees on emigrants recovered from countries which get emigrants from here we ought to have a stronger department in the Government of India to look after the affairs of Indians abroad generally. By this suggestion I am not making any reflection on my Honourable friend Mr. Bajpai's department or on his efficiency, but I feel that, whilst Indians are becoming so unwelcome in various Colonies, it is necessary for us to look after the Indians already there and I am very much inclined to feel that the Government of India ought to have somebody who should always be on the look-out for suitable places where, if necessary, emigration from India may be undertaken with all possible precautions. I do not think that it will entail any very great expense, but a department suitably started and efficiently manned is what I think is necessary for this purpose.

Sir, there is a heavy gloom at present over the trade, commerce and industry of India. Every one who has spoken regarding this, whether

he be the representative of a British Chamber of Commerce or an Indian Chamber of Commerce, has expressed the hope that India may have turned the corner as far as the depression is concerned. No one either from the Indian or the European commercial community has yet ventured to say that trade and commerce in India is well off.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: What about Mr. Shah Nawaz!

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I was thinking of the commercial men, not of the Member from the Punjab. It is a pious hope, but the prosperity of the grower appears to me to have gone. His buying power is at its lowest and my only hope is that the staying power of the grower is not yet completely undermined. I do not know what can be done to recoup the buying power of the masses. I do not think that is a thing which can be done or can even be suggested as feasible by a fiat or a decree in Council. The same process

Mr. President: Order, order. If the Honourable Member is going to take a long time, I shall adjourn the House.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I will take five minutes more. The same process by which this power was undermined, whether knowingly or unknowingly, intentionally or unintentionally, will be the process to build up this. In the meantime, our only hope and salvation is that nature will be kind to us although our Government has not been as kind to us as it should have been.

But there is a problem which requires immediate attention and that is the problem of unemployment in increasing numbers amongst the educated middle classes. I see from the various Provincial Council reports that the question has been put forward there only to be turned down with a sigh from the Member in charge that the Provincial Governments by themselves can do nothing. What the Government of India can do in this direction, I do not know, but I do feel that this debate will be absolutely incomplete without a reference to it and a substantial appeal made from this side of the House to the Treasury Benches to consider if anything is feasible immediately. I know that it has been customary to say that this unemployment of the middle classes is due to the educational policy that has been pursued till recently. Whether that is so or not, the fact is that to-day there are thousands upon thousands of people of the middle classes who are without employment.

A great deal has been said about our military expenditure. I will say only one sentence about it. There is nobody who dislikes the military expenditure as it stands at present in stronger terms than I do, but what we want is a change in the policy and not merely in the details of it. You may study ever so much the details of the military budget but it will not bring you anywhere near reduction to 50 or 40 crores which Honourable Members may have in view. What we want is a substantial change in the policy and that cannot be had until we have a substantial change in the outlook of Great Britain regarding India and the Government of India. I am convinced that no amount of tinkering with details can possibly help us and to that end I have felt and I still feel it that the greatest importance must be attached to the constitution and the powers of the Simon Commission. People lightheartedly say that our opposition is due to sentiment. There is no sentiment about it. Our position is based on sound common-

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sense and fully matured thought which are based upon the experience of the economical, commercial, industrial and financial administration of India till now; and we are convinced that, unless the Government allow us Indians to have a substantial voice in moulding our fate hereafter, we cannot possibly be a party to any Commission, whether a statutory one or otherwise.

Finally, Sir, I feel that we this time have shown our displeasure regarding the various actions of the Government in a manner which cannot be mistaken. The throwing out of the Finance Bill can only be one more gesture in that direction. It is known indeed to my Honourable friends on this side of the House that the Finance Bill is likely to be, or shall I say is sure to be, or may I go further and say must be certified. Why then insist upon it being thrown out? Have not we expressed ourselves sufficiently frankly, sufficiently sternly and sufficiently unmistakably to prevent us indulging in what after all is a mere additional gesture? We have given enough proofs of this. For that reason, Sir, I am not prepared to walk into the lobby of my friends here this time. But I do not propose to walk into the Government Lobby for the simple reason that I am convinced that the Government could have avoided our censure, but either they would not or they could not. If they could not, they must get the powers from Whitehall. If they would not, then they deserve all the censure that we gave them by throwing out their touring expenses.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, may I appeal to you to bring this debate to an end immediately after lunch, because it has gone on for some time and Government business has got into some gession.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to speak now?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I am afraid I shall have to speak at some length, for 20 minutes or so. If I might after lunch.

Mr. President: The Chair is prepared to accept a closure if any Member moves it.

Sir Walter Willson: I move, Sir, that the question be now put.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, am I not to speak? I have a right of reply.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will be entitled to reply after the closure. The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, we have had a long debate extending over more than a day on the third reading of the Finance Bill. I confess that I did not expect this long debate at this stage of the Bill

though I had expected it on the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration. The debate has covered a very large number of subjects and I am afraid that it is impossible for me, with the best will in the world and even if the House were willing to listen all the time, to cover any but a small proportion of the total number of subjects dealt with. I have to thank several Members again for kind things—sometimes too kind things—said about me, and I have had the usual castigation from Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. The subjects dealt with have been financial and political and economic. I want to begin first with one or two financial points and clear them out of the way. The Honourable and gallant Baronet, Sir Victor Sassoon, complained that owing to the debate taking a political turn, he did not get answers to the financial points that he raised. The particular case he instanced was my reply to his argument on the consideration stage of the Finance Bill in regard to company's super-tax. Now, I thought I had given a very effective reply which had reduced him to silence. But if I failed to answer his points I desire to apologise to him, though I feel convinced in my own mind that I succeeded in convincing the House that it was undesirable to accept his amendment. I do, however, wish to apologise to him for my reference to a case in the High Court. I was mistaken in that instance and I desire at once to withdraw any suggestion that the amendment had any reference to the case. Sir Victor made an interesting suggestion about finding employment for some of India's unemployed officials who sit on the Government Benches, which I must say appealed to me very much. It is a matter that has often been under consideration, but, as usual, there are considerable difficulties in adopting the precise suggestion that he has made. But I am sure the Government will note it with interest. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas referred again to the question of cash certificates. I have looked up the answer to the question in 1925 and to my mind it quite clearly conveys the information that the Government were providing only for the actual bonus that became payable and not for the liability. But that is not an important point and I can quite understand if he read it in a different way. But I have some complaint of the way the House has treated my frank statement in regard to the cash certificates. The position is that ever since these cash certificates were introduced we have provided yearly only for the amount that actually had to be paid in the year. In doing so we were following the normal budget practice of providing as a rule—not invariably but as a rule—only for sums that actually become payable during the year and not for accruing liabilities, and we were following a practice that was adopted from the beginning in the case of the corresponding War Savings Certificates, now the Savings Certificates, in the United Kingdom. The question of the liability that was accruing in respect of Savings Certificates in the United Kingdom was fully examined by the Committee on National Debt and Taxation, generally known as the Colvin Committee and they reported:

“After full consideration of the evidence we agree that no alteration in the present practice of budgetting only for actual cash requirements for interest payments is called for.”

They examined the matter and they decided that the system adopted in England, which is the system adopted here, was the best one to maintain. I drew attention to the accruing liability because it seemed to me that in

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India we were allowing a rather larger liability to grow up than was desirable, and I should have suggested some special provision for it this year had it not been that we had to provide over 80 lakhs specially for deferred interest on the 1918 war bonds maturing in 1928. It seemed to me, therefore, quite reasonable that we should continue the practice for another year, but I thought it desirable to draw the attention of the House to it, and I am very glad indeed that I did so, in view of the fact that it is evidently news to many Members of this House that this liability was accruing. I should not have liked to have had it said that I had left it to my successor to draw attention to it.

Another subject that has been raised is the question of sterling borrowing. I have already dealt with it at some length in connection with the debt position both here and in another place. In 1913 the proportion of our sterling debt to our total debt was 66 per cent. In 1923 it was 46 per cent. and on the 31st March, 1928, it is again 46 per cent. But between 1923 and 1928 we have purchased at a cost of well over £20,000,000 the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the East Indian Railway and the Delhi-Ambala-Kalka Railway as well as incurring some other liabilities in connection with the acquirement of railways. So that, really if you want to make a comparison between 1923 and 1928, you ought either to add the sterling debt that was then due by these railways to the debt of the Government of India in 1923 or to subtract a corresponding figure now. I maintain that the figures that I have given show that our policy in regard to sterling borrowing has been to avoid it as far as possible. I think it is something of an achievement to have avoided it except in the first year and in the last year of the five years with which I have had to deal, and I hope that the policy will always be wherever possible to incur not sterling debt, or not external debt, but rupee debt, for the purpose of our productive capital programme. But so long as we have a productive capital programme in the neighbourhood of 40 crores a year, I think it is probable that from time to time it will be necessary to supplement the resources of the Indian money market by borrowing from outside. I hope it will not be necessary to do it to any great extent, but if it does become necessary, provided the amount is reasonably small, I think it is preferable to adopt that policy rather than to curtail our programme of productive capital expenditure. If, on the other hand, it appears that the amount that has to be borrowed externally is growing unduly large, then I think it will be wise to reconsider the question whether we can afford a productive capital programme of the size that we at present go in for.

On the economic side a great many attacks have been made. Lala

3 P.M. Lajpat Rai complained that the budget statement had nothing to say on all sorts of subjects. I feel that it is rather an unkind return for a laudable effort on my part to make my budget statement as short as possible and as much as possible to the point. Nevertheless, I think if he will study earlier budget statements of mine he will find that these subjects have not been entirely neglected. The charge has been made that the Indian peoples are groaning under the burden of taxation, that they are becoming more and more impoverished, that everything is going

from bad to worse, and that the breaking point is being reached. I do not think anybody in this House or outside it can fail to realise the very great poverty of the masses of India, both urban and rural. It is patent that great poverty exists; nothing could be clearer. The difficulty is that while the existence of the poverty is clear the remedies are not so clear. Nevertheless, I think that Honourable Members, in dwelling on this aspect of the case, sometimes perhaps in their desire to throw bricks at the Government, are a little oblivious of the steps that are being taken and that have been taken to improve the economic condition of the Indian peoples. I was reading only a few days ago a very interesting book by the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon, called "Village Uplift in India", a study of which I commend to my Honourable friends. They will see there what a district officer and his wife are trying to do to improve the state of affairs in the district with which they are dealing. I do not want to be provocative, but I give it as my clear judgment that there are few countries in the world, if any, in which economic progress has been greater than it has been in India in the last two or three decades. Undoubtedly, the start is from a very low standard and that accounts perhaps for the pace at which improvement is taking place. Nevertheless, if Honourable Members will consider the condition of the Punjab, for example, now and 30 years ago, they cannot but be struck by the immense improvement in the economic condition of the people. (*An Honourable Member*: "The Punjab is not the whole of India".) Look at the canal colonies and remember that what has been done in the canal colonies will prove eventually to be only a small instalment of what is going to result if success attends the big projects of irrigation that are now well on the road towards completion,—the Sutlej project, the Sukkur Barrage scheme, the Mettur project in Madras and many others. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta quoted a good many figures at me. If he will allow me to say so, I am afraid that his anger with the present Finance Member has rather reduced the value of his speeches in the House. I hope when the present Finance Member is succeeded by somebody else less objectionable to him he will return to his earlier style of oratory which, though not quite free from vituperation, was more related to facts than the speeches that he has quite recently been making. He chose to single out one or two particular years and was quite unwilling to take the statistics over a series of years. I have got a few figures here which I hope Honourable Members will listen to, in order that they may not complain that Government has merely made statements rhetorically without giving figures. Lala Lajpat Rai asked what Government has been doing for education. The children undergoing primary education in British India in 1913 were 5,265,000 and in 1926 it was 7,799,000,—an increase of 48 per cent. The number is still very small. . . .

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: What is the percentage of school-going children at present in the country as a whole?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: As I was saying before the Honourable Member interrupted me, the number is still very small, but those figures are, I think, a refutation of the statement that the Government are not trying to do a great deal. Now as to the economic condition of the people—in 1913 there were no co-operative banks in existence. In 1923 there were 68, and in 1927 there were 127. Deposit—there were nil in 1913.

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8½ crores in 1923, and 18½ crores in 1927. Savings Banks deposits,—Rs. 20½ crores in 1913, Rs. 23½ crores in 1923, and Rs. 32 crores in 1928. That I think is rather slow progress, but one has to remember that in 1913 there were no cash certificates, in 1923 there were Rs. 4 crores (nominal value) outstanding, and in 1928 there were Rs. 40 crores. Taking the bank deposits, exclusive of Government deposits, of the commercial banks in India, in 1913 there were Rs. 92 crores, in 1923 Rs. 190 crores, and in 1928 Rs. 209 crores. In 1913 the production of iron ore was Rs. 371,000 tons, in 1923 821,000 tons, and in 1925, the latest year I have got, it was 1,545,000 tons.

Then, there is another subject in which I have taken special interest—the Security Printing Press at Nasik. Up till 1923 the whole of our stamps and the whole of our currency notes were imported from abroad at a cost in 1913 of about £200,000 and in 1923 of about £550,000. From this year, 1928-29 onwards, practically the whole of our stamps and the whole of our currency notes will be produced in India by Indian labour. I do not want to labour statistics. It is always possible to pick out particular ones as Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has shown us (*Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta*: "And as you are showing now") and as the Honourable Member thinks I have shown now, but at any rate I have not chosen one particular year against another. But I do maintain that my statement is well founded that the economic progress of India since the beginning of the twentieth century has been very striking and I hope it will continue.

An Honourable Member: How much does an average man eat and how much does he wear?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: This brings me I think from the economic to the political arguments that have been used. Pandit Motilal Nehru made a speech which I at any rate felt was the most clear statement that has yet been made in this House of the position of his Party, and if I may use the word of a speech that was essentially uncompromising, it was a most moderate statement. The thesis of Pandit Motilal Nehru is this. He began by quoting from Lord Birkenhead about the importance, political, economic and strategic, of India to the British Empire. He agreed I think with the Noble Lord in his statement of India's importance to the British Empire and I am entirely prepared to agree with Pandit Motilal Nehru in his agreement. I think it is possible to make out an equally strong case for the importance, economic, political and strategic, of the British Empire to India. But I pass that by. I accept the Honourable Pandit's first premise, that India is immensely important to the British Empire. Now, what was his deduction from that. His deduction from that was that, however honest their intentions and their professions, the British people simply cannot mean to do anything that will cause any risk of India becoming strong economically or likely to become sufficiently free politically to exercise judgment as to whether she will stay within the British Empire or not. He said that, human nature being what it is, it is out of the question that any British statesman should really mean to do this. I think that is a fair

statement of the case that he put. He concluded that, since it was out of the question to hope for anything from the British Government or the Indian Government as at present constituted, since indeed it would be treacherous act against the interests of the British Government or the Indian Government for any one connected with them to take any such action, it was hopeless to look for anything from co-operation with the Indian Government. He said that nothing was to be gained from co-operation. He claimed that in his conversation with people in England, on the Continent of Europe, and I suppose also in Russia, he had been confirmed in this view. They said that that was the view they would take—it was hopeless to co-operate with the British Government—but they went on to say, according to him, that the logical next step is that, since you cannot get anything by peaceful evolution, you must get it by revolution. Pandit Motilal then said that that might be so, but in present conditions it was hopeless for India to expect anything at the moment from revolution and that it was impossible for her to take that step. The position therefore reached by him is one of complete hopelessness for the time being. I do not know how this hopelessness is to be remedied, but I rather gather that in his mind was the idea that in some moment of danger and some moment of weakness the British Government might be forced to concede to India what India cannot get at other times or that revolution in such circumstances might possibly succeed. If that is his view, I do put it to him that he is profoundly mistaken. I first of all claim that the action that has been taken by the British Government, particularly the declaration of August 1917 and what has happened since, is proof that whether or not they are wise in their own interests they have been trying to help India to advance on the road towards self-government. Lala Lajpat Rai told us the other day "Oh, yes, that was a war measure and they did not really mean it". He was slightly wrong in his history, but I do not think that it was in any sense a war measure. It is possible that the announcement of August 1917 was accelerated by the war, and it certainly took place during the war, but if it was accelerated by the war or if it could in any sense be called a war measure, it was not, I maintain, a concession wrung from an unwilling British Empire by the Indian politician, but it was a generous recognition of the great services rendered by the martial races of India on the stricken battlefields of the world. But I also maintain that it was in no true sense a war measure. It was an expression of at least two factors which are fundamental in the British position towards India. The first factor is economic and the second is a political one. The economic factor is this. The greatest economic interest of Great Britain lies in an India which is economically strong and prosperous because she wants to trade with India. But there is a political motive which goes even deeper. Something was said this morning about the impeachment of Warren Hastings. From the beginning of the British connection with India, the British Parliament has been perfectly consistent in one line of thought. It has felt that there were dangers to the liberties of Great Britain in the existence of anything like an autocratic Government controlled by the British people—that ultimately the liberties of Great Britain would be endangered if something could not be done to limit the existence of autocracy in the Indian Empire. That was the motive behind Burke's speeches in the impeachment of Warren

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Hastings—I do not enter into the question whether the impeachment was right or wrong—and that was the fundamental motive behind the announcement of August 1917. I would maintain therefore that Pandit Motilal Nehru was quite wrong in his reading of human nature. I do not claim that the British motive has been altruistic. I do not put it on altruistic grounds. I say that her economic interests and her political interests make it necessary that she should try and secure an India that is economically strong and prosperous—and remember that a country that is economically strong and prosperous must soon be politically strong—and that it is necessary that India should somehow or other be helped to advance on the road towards self-government. And I think that I may claim sufficient knowledge of the British people to say that even if Pandit Motilal Nehru and his friends continue to insist on refusing to help the British people in their effort, the British people will continue with that effort. They will continue, because they must.

I have still one more quarrel with Pandit Motilal's reasoning. He said that it was useless to co-operate with the British Government or with the Government of India because of this human nature of which he spoke. But I put it to him that, even supposing all his arguments were correct and that he is right, it would be wiser, so long as it is impossible to go in for this revolution of which he is dreaming, to take part in the political evolution of India towards something which would take him one stage nearer self-government, so that when the opportunity arises it may be easier for India to make use of the opportunity, having already advanced to a certain stage along the road. I cannot see how Pandit Motilal draws from his premises the conclusion that, even if it is useless to co-operate in order to obtain eventually self-government, it is unwise to co-operate, while advancing along the road.

I would like to turn for a moment again to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. Something was said this morning by Mr. Gavini-Jones about the late Mr. Edwin Montagu. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya spoke of him as a great man and a great friend of India. I desire entirely to join with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in that expression of opinion. Mr. Montagu entered Parliament and the Treasury at the same time in 1906 and it was my fortune to work with him before, during and after the war in very many different circumstances. It was from Mr. Montagu's lips that I received Lord Reading's invitation to come to India and it was an interest in the constitutional problem that Mr. Montagu had set India and the British people that was one of the chief inducements to me to accept the post. But Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya having eulogised and rightly eulogised Mr. Edwin Montagu is surely not honouring his memory in the best way by not working or trying to work the constitution which owed so much to Mr. Montagu. I put it to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya that it would be honouring the memory of Mr. Montagu better if he would try to work the constitution, even if it is an unsatisfactory one, than by trying continually to obstruct. Pandit Motilal Nehru and you, Sir, entered this Assembly in 1924 with the avowed object of destroying the Assembly from within. In the spring of 1924 a good deal was done in that direction. No one I think on any side of the House,

certainly not on this side, doubted for a moment that it was possible to destroy the Assembly from within. I do not agree with one speaker this morning who said it required organization. All it required was a majority. Once you have a majority and so long as you keep that majority together using the ordinary forms of the House and the ordinary forms of the constitution, it is perfectly possible to make the constitution a mockery. And that is what seemed to be about to happen in the spring of 1924. Mr. Ranga Iyer, with whom I do not generally agree, said one thing with which I do agree, and that is that the best years of Pandit Motilal Nehru's life were spent in co-operation with the British Government. (Laughter.) And after the spring of 1924, for one reason or another, but I like to think partly because Pandit Motilal Nehru is a statesman, the effort to destroy the Assembly from within collapsed pretty well for the time being. It has been revived this Session in circumstances which are obvious. I adopt Mr. Chaman Lall's words—in circumstances which are obvious; and perhaps I may say, for reasons which are obvious. I confess that it seems to me that the wound has gone deeper this Session than it did in 1924. I may be wrong; I may be thinking under the emotion of the present moment. I hope I am wrong. I remember my predecessor in the position of the Leader of the House saying that his duty was to hear and to report to the question, "Watchman what of the night?", and he was longing for the moment when he could reply, "The dawn is at hand". I cannot report that the dawn is at hand, but it may be that the darkest hour before the dawn, when the human spirit is lowest, is that which is on us now and that it will be the fortune of those who succeed me at an early date to be able to report that the dawn is at hand.

I want to turn now for a moment to the motion actually before the House which is that the Bill do pass. It has been suggested that the Bill should be thrown out. Pandit Motilal Nehru says that if he can obtain a sufficient amount of support he will try and throw it out. Now it is I think peculiarly inappropriate at this stage to turn round and throw out a Bill which has been taken into consideration without a division, every clause of which has been examined and every clause of which has been accepted by the House. Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar said a constitutional deadlock had been reached. It is not quite true that a constitutional deadlock has been reached, because those responsible for the constitution have provided a means for dealing with the situation that would arise. Nevertheless, Honourable Members, and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in particular, seemed to be very anxious, if not themselves to vote for the rejection of the Bill, to instigate the Congress Party into voting for its rejection. Indeed, as I listen to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Lala Lajpat Rai speaking for a party whose second name is the Responsivist Party, I sometimes think that they regard the main object of existence of their party to be to keep the Congress Party up to its professions by threatening to outbid them. I hope that is not going to be what will happen in this case. I have a good deal of sympathy with the position taken up by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. What he says is that you ask us to vote the whole of the ways and means although a large part of the supply is withdrawn from our vote, and even if we have voted against a certain part, it is restored. There

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

is a good deal of exaggeration about the amount of supply that is withdrawn from the vote of this House. 52 per cent. of the expenditure of 1928-29 is votable. But I will give the Honourable Member another argument, which, though a narrow one, has I think some relevance. This Bill provides for the imposition of taxation totaling about 24 crores, and it also provides for the running of the Post Office without loss or profit. I take it that Honourable Members have every desire that the Post Office should continue to run. They are asked in addition to vote for a Bill which will impose taxation to a total of 24 crores. The total of supply actually voted by this House, excluding anything that was rejected and restored, is about 26 crores. Therefore they are voting in this Bill less than the total amount of ways and means necessary to finance the supply which they have actually voted. I have said that the argument is a narrow one, but it is valid within its limits. If you take it that the Army and the other non-votable items are financed out of the taxes and other forms of revenue which are not under discussion in this Bill, you are not being asked in this Bill to do more than supply the additional taxation required to finance the amount that you have voted in this House for expenditure during the coming year. I put that argument to Honourable Members because I know they are anxious not to lead the House into a false position; and I do suggest that even if Pandit Motilal Nehru is not willing to resume his co-operation with the Government, even for a few moments at any rate to the extent of not voting against this Bill, other Parties in this House will be wise to think twice about voting for the rejection of this Bill at the third reading. It is very different from rejection at the consideration stage. At the third reading you reject a Bill the whole of the contents of which you have already fully considered and discussed and approved. And therefore you put the Governor General in the position of deciding whether to do without the additional taxation that he desires and whether to do without a Post Office or bringing before this House a Bill the whole of the contents of which have already been fully approved at the consideration stage by this House. I suggest that however desirable it may be—and I quite understand what moves Honourable Members in feeling dissatisfied with the present constitution—however desirable it may be to make another gesture of dissatisfaction with the Government and all its works, a gesture of this sort will be something of a boomerang. It cannot really hurt the Government so much as it must hurt the Assembly. I do not want to be provocative in that argument. But at this stage that surely is the effect of rejection of the Bill and I hope in these circumstances Honourable Members will allow the Bill to pass in the form in which they have already adopted it without a division at the third reading. (Prolonged Applause.)

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the Bill to fix the duty on Salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, and to fix rates of income-tax, be passed.”

The Assembly divided:

AYES—61.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Kabul Singh Bahadur, Captain.
Abdu Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.	Keane, Mr. M.
Abdullah Haji Kasim, Khan Bahadur Hajj.	Lamb, Mr. W. S.
Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Nasir-ud-din.	Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Ahmed, Mr. K.	Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.
Alexander, Mr. William.	Mohammad Ismail Khan, Haji Chaudhury.
Allison, Mr. F. W.	Moore, Mr. Arthur.
Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr.	Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Lieut. Sardar.
Ashrafuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada Sayid.	Mukherjee, Mr. S. C.
Ayengar, Mr. V. K. Aravamudha.	Parsons, Mr. A. A. L.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.	Rahimtulla, Mr. Fazal Ibrahim.
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.	Rainy, The Honourable Sir George.
Bray, Sir Denys.	Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Chatterjee, The Revd. J. C.	Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed.
Chatterji, Rai Bahadur B. M.	Rao, Mr. V. Pandurang.
Coatman, Mr. J.	Roy, Mr. K. C.
Cocke, Mr. H. G.	Roy, Mr. S. N.
Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.	Roy, Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan.
Couper, Mr. T.	Sams, Mr. H. A.
Courtenay, Mr. R. H.	Sassoon, Sir Victor.
Crawford, Colonel J. D.	Shah Nawaz, Mian Mohammad.
Crerar, The Honourable Mr. J.	Shamaldhari Lall, Mr.
Dalal, Sardar Sir Bomanji.	Shillidy, Mr. J. A.
Gavin-Jones, Mr. T.	Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.	Sykes, Mr. E. F.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J.	Taylor, Mr. E. Gawan.
Graham, Mr. L.	Willson, Sir Walter.
Hussain Shah, Sayyed.	Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.
Irwin, Mr. C. J.	Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ismail Khan, Mr.	Young, Mr. G. M.
Jowahir Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.	

NOES—41.

Acharya, Mr. M. K.	Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Aiyangar, Mr. C. Duraiswamy.	Misra, Mr. Dwarka Prasad.
Aney, Mr. M. S.	Mitra, Mr. Satyendra Chandra.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. S. Sesha.	Moonje, Dr. B. S.
Bhargava, Pandit Thakur Das.	Mukhtar Singh, Mr.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.	Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.	Naidu, Mr. B. P.
Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chunder.	Nehru, Pandit Motilal.
Das, Mr. B.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Das, Pandit N'akantha.	Rang Behari Lal, Lala.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.	Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
Dutta, Mr. Srish Chandra.	Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Goswami, Mr. T. C.	Shafee, Maulvi Mohammad.
Iswar Saran, Munshi.	Singh, Kumar Rananjaya.
Iyengar, Mr. S. Srinivasa.	Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Jorjiah, Mr. Varahagiri Venkata.	Singh, Mr. Narayan Prasad.
Ke'kar, Mr. N. C.	Sinha, Kumar Ganganand.
Kidwai, Mr. Rafi Ahmad.	Sinha, Mr. R. P.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. Dharendra Kanta.	Sinha, Mr. Siddheswar.
Lajpat Rai, Lala.	Yusuf Imam, Mr.
Malaviva, Pandit Madan Mohan.	

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, in order to vest in the Governor General in Council the control of matters covered by that Act, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

Apart from one or two small drafting changes, Sir, only one modification has been made in the Bill in the form in which it was introduced. It was felt by the Select Committee, as explained in their Report, that when the control of matters relating to merchant shipping passed from the maritime Local Governments to the Government of India, it was desirable that means should be provided by which the Government of India could get in touch with mercantile opinion generally. At present the maritime Local Governments have their headquarters at the great ports and are always in a position to ascertain what mercantile opinion is, and the representatives of the commercial community can approach them at any moment. The Government of India have not that advantage. It was thought that the want might be supplied by the constitution of an Advisory Committee, or Committees, in connection with merchant shipping matters, which the Government of India could consult about the framing of rules and the scales of diet, equipment, etc., which have to be laid down. That view is entirely accepted by the Government of India. It is important that they should be kept in constant touch with commercial opinion, and they think that this Committee will serve a very useful purpose. The Select Committee also considered, as will be seen from their Report, whether it would be possible at present to provide in the Bill for the functions and constitution of the Committee or Committees. It was felt, however, that it would not be possible to do this at the present stage. It is a matter in which it is very desirable that commercial opinion should be fully consulted before a final decision is reached; and that consultation has not yet taken place. One important question is whether there should be only one Committee, dealing through sub-committees with various aspects of merchant shipping, or whether there should be a series of Committees. Then, again, it will be necessary to consider what interests exactly ought to be represented on the Committee, and, finally, it will be necessary to consider what exactly the functions of the Committee are to be. The Government of India propose, as soon as the Session is over, to take up the question and to invite commercial opinion on these matters. When these opinions have been obtained, the Government of India will consider whether it is desirable that a specific provision should be embodied in the law regulating the functions and constitution of the Committee. It may be found better, in order that procedure may be elastic, to leave these points to be dealt with by rules or by executive action; on the other hand, it is conceivable that it might be thought right to include a provision on the subject in the Act itself. On these matters the Government of India retain an open mind. But when we have elicited commercial opinion on the subject, we will take the whole matter into consideration. That covers fully, Sir, I think the only change made in the Bill by the Select Committee, and I do not think I need add anything further about the rest of the Bill.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muham-
 madan Rural): Sir, I welcome the announcement that has just been made
 by the Honourable the Commerce Member in connection with the Ad-
 visory Committee which is to be instituted, a Committee which will be
 able to bring for the benefit of the Commerce Department and the better
 administration of our marine system the experience of those who have
 direct contact with the problems that will come before the Department
 for discussion and final sanction. With regard to the Committee, Sir, as
 the Honourable the Commerce Member has pointed out, the subject
 was discussed in the Select Committee and it was agreed on all sides that
 the Government should invite the opinion of commercial classes in this
 country before setting up a Committee or a series of Committees as may
 be found desirable. With regard, however, Sir, to the composition of the
 Committee, I should like to make it clear that if we try to follow in this
 country the system that is adopted in England with modifications that
 may be necessary in view of the particular conditions prevailing in India,
 it would be the best for the administration of the Act we have under
 review. In England, Sir, there is a statutory Merchant Shipping Ad-
 visory Committee on which the following interests are represented, name-
 ly, (1) shipowners, (2) underwriters, (3) naval architects, (4) pilots, (5) deck-
 officers, (6) engineer officers, (7) wireless operators, (8) seamen, firemen,
 stewards, cooks, etc. Following this composition of the English Commit-
 tee, I beg to suggest that, when the composition of this Committee comes
 under consideration of the Government, they should consider whether it
 would not be a good thing for India to have a Committee or Committees,
 as the case may be, having on it representatives of ship-owners, deck and
 engine staffs of the steamers concerned in the trade, seamen, firemen,
 stewards, cooks, etc., serving on the steamers, the underwriters concern-
 ed with the insurance of the vessel and the cargo, the pilots and port offi-
 cers and other interests that require representation. But I hope, Sir, that
 it will be borne in mind that just as in England the Merchant Shipping
 Advisory Committee consists of the nationals of that country, similarly I
 trust our Advisory Committee, whose members are to be nominated prob-
 ably by Statute or, it may be, by an executive order, will consist of
 Indians only; and if the Government are not agreeable to that sugges-
 tion, I hope at least on that Committee there will be a clear and definite
 majority of Indians, because in the composition of this Committee I trust
 it will never be forgotten that the interests of India must always be con-
 sidered first and last; and if any representation is given to non-Indian
 interests owing, as I said before, to the particular conditions prevailing in
 this country, it should be made clear that that representation is only
 temporary in character and the Government should always bear in mind
 the desirability of having in time a Committee composed fully of Indians
 representing various commercial and other interests by their presence on
 that Committee.

There is one other point which was referred to in the Select Com-
 mittee to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. That is
 the reference to the personnel of our mercantile marine administrations.
 Under the new scheme which the Government proposes to constitute it
 is desired to have a principal officer who will be responsible to the Govern-
 ment of India, and the point that I wish to suggest refers to the method
 of recruitment so far as this principal officer and his assistant officer are
 concerned. Sir, the position to-day is that in India we have got port

[Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji.]

officers, deputy port officers, engineers and ship surveyors, but we have not got nautical surveyors. Now, I understand that it is the intention of the Government of India to supplement this long standing defect in the administration of the ports and I welcome the changes they propose to make. But I trust—and I hope the Honourable the Commerce Member will confirm my suggestion—that in recruiting their officers, particularly for the posts of port officers and deputy port officers, they will pay full attention to the claims of the officers of the mercantile marine, which class has so far been excluded from representation in these posts. It has been found that as a result of the policy so far adopted by the Government, the interests of the shipping and the shipping communities are not properly safeguarded. Up till now the practice has been to recruit the higher officers from the members of the Royal Indian Marine. And it has been stated that on these officers, admirable as they doubtless are in so far as work of the Royal Indian Marine is concerned, an undue strain is put whenever they are asked to work in a semi-naval or a semi-commercial capacity. In this connection, I wish to refer here to the opinion of the India Merchants' Chamber given in connection with the recruitment of these officers from the Royal Indian Marine. The opinion runs as under:

“My Committee desire to lay special stress on this point because it is found by experience that officers of that service, that is the Royal Indian Marine, do not possess the requisite knowledge of merchant shipping laws or of the working of cargo and passenger ships and have not also the previous training necessary for the discharge of their duties.”

This commercial opinion is strengthened by opinions received from various similar bodies, and I shall thank the Honourable the Commerce Member to confirm my statement, or at least he will agree to give an undertaking on behalf of the Government, that the claims of the merchant service men will be considered in that connection. Of course, we will be told no doubt that the claims of the senior men in the Royal Indian Marine must be considered first of all because they are the men who are entrusted with the naval defence of the Indian coast and it is necessary that there should be certain high posts carrying fat salaries that should be kept open for members of this service. It is not our intention to render the administration unnecessarily costly, nor is it desirable that these officers should not be utilised if it is in the interests of the country at large. But, Sir, in taking the men for the port administration, I think the Government will do well not only to bear the interests of the Royal Indian Marine in mind but also the interests of the shipping and ship-owning community in India. The Royal Indian Marine would no doubt have enabled us to get Indian officers in those posts which have been reserved for the Royal Indian Marine, if the Royal Indian Marine had been open to Indians in practice as, I know, it has been open in theory. It was stated at the time of the discussion on the Indian Navy Bill that there was no prohibition against Indians applying for these posts in the Royal Indian Marine, but as every one who knows anything of the subject is well aware it was not possible for Indians to apply for these posts because there were no proper facilities for their training either in the nature of a training ship as is the case to-day or by way of apprenticeship on merchant ships. As I showed on another occasion, British shipping companies in this country refused right down to 1924 to take Indians as apprentices on

the definite anti-Indian plea of a colour bar. But I do not want to dilate on this subject at the moment. My position would be sufficiently served if I could get an assurance from the Honourable the Army Secretary that all that the Government intended to do with regard to Indianization of the Royal Navy would be done now with regard to the Royal Indian Marine, and that the various offices which are now vacant in the Royal Indian Marine will be entirely filled up by Indians as soon as the opportunity arises. To-day, for example, in the cadre of the engineering officers and subordinate staff, there are 8 vacancies for Sub-Lieutenants. Now, in view of the fact that there are already 42 Europeans among the engineer officers and as this is a branch of the service where a sufficient number of qualified Indians could be easily made available if the Government will take the trouble to find them out, may I suggest that all these 8 vacancies, or as many of them as it is proposed to fill, should be filled by Indians and Indians alone? Even if you do that, there will be a sufficient number of Europeans in the service and I maintain that no objection could be taken to it on the ground that it will lead to an adverse effect upon the *esprit de corps* of the service. That much, Sir, with regard to the engineering officer's branch of the Royal Indian Marine which could have given us many Indians capable of working the Port Trust if the Royal Indian Marine offices had been made practically available to the people of this country at an earlier date. Now that attention has been drawn to it, I trust that Government will not take long to rectify the error in which they have continued for the last so many years.

Now, Sir, if we have Indians in the Royal Indian Marine, it would give us an avenue by which we could get Indians in the Port Trust administrations. There is no doubt that this process of Indianisation will take time. It is therefore necessary that other avenues should be

4 P. M. exploited, namely, the admission of men from the merchant ships into these posts which are concerned with the administration of the ports. That is why, if I may, I would like to suggest that, in view of the necessity of keeping some prize posts open for the present-day officers of the Royal Indian Marine, the majority of posts in port administration should be thrown open to the merchant service men. And may I also suggest, with that end in view, that out of the 6 proposed posts of principal officers, 2 be reserved for Royal Indian Marine men whose claims when they get into a particular seniority have got to be considered, and the other 4 should be kept available, by competition preferably and, if necessary, by selection, only to the men of the mercantile marine. With regard to the posts of deputy principal officers it is not necessary that there should be a definite reservation for the Royal Indian Marine except perhaps in so far as some posts are required by which the Royal Indian Marine men could be trained and afterwards be promoted to the higher grade, and I trust, Sir, that, if we set apart, say, about 2 posts in the second grade cadre, it will suffice for the purposes the Government have in view. All the rest should be kept open for the merchant service men in order that the deficiencies of the present-day port administrative service, to which I drew the attention of the House a little earlier, may be obviated in the future administration of the ports.

There is just one other point to which, with your permission, I would like to make reference, and that is the administration of the Act under

[Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji.]

which the deck passengers are carried along the coast of India. Now that the Government of India have undertaken a policy of revising the whole of the administrative system in this regard, it is desirable that a subject to which their attention was drawn as early as 1921 by the Deck Passengers Committee should be taken up for serious consideration and that final conclusions thereon be put before the Indian public.

'So much, Sir, with regard to the details of the subject. As regards the general principle underlying the Bill, I have nothing more to say except to add just one word in the sense of repeating what I said before, namely, that in all these new administrative organisations and the central Committees and the local committees proposed to be appointed to advise the Government of India, the Government will bear in mind the necessity of keeping all these Committees Indian in character, and in the allotting of their powers will bear in mind the principle that in all these matters it is the interests of India and India alone that should be considered, and if there are non-Indian interests which have got what they like to call vested rights in this country, then the consideration extended to them should be temporary in character and should be withdrawn at an early date.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Labour Interests): Sir, I am not against the principle of this Bill, namely, that certain powers so far exercised by the Local Governments should now be transferred to the Government of India. But, Sir, I was very glad to hear from my Honourable friend Mr. Haji, that the Advisory Committee that should be appointed under the new clause inserted by the Select Committee should not only consist of the mercantile interests but should include representatives of Indian seamen. When I heard the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of the Department and when I found that he thought that it is only the interests of the merchant that are important, as regards the administration of the Merchant Shipping Act, I became very apprehensive. I thought, Sir, the Honourable Member had forgotten that that important legislation contains a very large number of sections which deal with Indian seamen. But, Sir, the Honourable Member has now got opportunities of dealing with this legislation and also with the administration of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act more fully than he had before. In this House several times before I have suggested that the Indian Merchant Shipping Act requires amendment and modification. The Government of India have ratified certain Conventions of the International Labour Conference which require the modification of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act. The Government of India must also modify the Indian Merchant Shipping Act as regards the sections regulating the recruitment of Indian seamen. Thirdly, the Government of India will have to take into consideration the racial distinction that exists in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act as regards the scales of wages and the scales on which living accommodation and food are supplied to the seamen. The Indian Merchant Shipping Act makes a distinction between Indian and European seamen as regards both wages as well as the room and the rations given to Indian seamen and European seamen. Sir, it is the policy of this House and perhaps of the Government of India to remove racial distinctions at least in their legislation. I hope the Government of India will look into their Indian Merchant Shipping Act now

as they have got full powers and amend the Act so as to remove that racial distinction. I hope also, Sir, the Government of India have now got full control over the administration of the Merchant Shipping Act and will amend the Act so as to remove the difficulties as regards the recruitment of Indian seamen. I hope they will also amend the Act so as to accept the recommendation of the Committee appointed by them for creating an Advisory Committee for the Shipping Master for the recruitment of Indian seamen. There is nothing in the clause to prevent the representatives of Indian seamen being included, but, Sir, from the speech of the Honourable the Commerce Member, I thought that he requires a little reminder that it is not only the interests of merchants that are important for the Indian Merchant Shipping Act but there are other interests more vital perhaps than the interests of the merchants which ought to be taken into consideration when the Advisory Committee is formed. I hope, Sir, the Honourable Member will remember this point.

Sir Walter Willson (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, a few words fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Haji, with which of course I am bound to find myself in complete opposition. He so perfectly, frankly and definitely represents a particular interest in this Assembly and is at all times so racial and so definitely anti-British that he cannot expect me to endorse his remarks about the composition of this Committee. The House, Sir, is a very empty one and therefore I do not propose to detain its "emptiness" very long.

Mr. President: There will be no interruptions.

Sir Walter Willson: The only point, Sir, I wish to make is this.—that so long as British shipping interests—and when I use the word "British" I mean residents in this country who pay their taxes in full and who contribute to all the expenses of this country—so long as they have their interests in this country, just so long are they entitled to full representation on every Committee that may be set up. Into the proposal which he made in regard to the various appointments I do not propose to enter because that is a Government matter. But in general, Sir, all we claim is this, that the best men should be appointed for the posts, and I am tired of hearing all this claim of fat salaries for particular individuals on purely racial grounds

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I do not propose to speak at any length in reply to what has been said by previous speakers, but there are a few points on which I have to say something. Mr. Haji referred to the Merchant Shipping Committee in the United Kingdom which is, as he said, a statutory body. But I should like to point out in what sense it is a statutory body. It is not a fact that in the British Merchant Shipping Act, the functions and constitution of that Committee are laid down. On the contrary, the position is exactly the same as it will be if this Bill is passed into law, and the new clause that the Select Committee added to the Bill follows closely the British model. I mention that because it brings out the point that in Great Britain at any rate it has been thought better not to attempt to lay down too much in the Act and to have an elastic procedure. The British model, however, does not necessarily bind us, and as I have already said, we retain an open mind on that point. Then my

[Sir George Rainy.]

Honourable friend went on to express the hope that as the ultimate goal we should aim at having a Committee of Indians only, and that from the very start we should have a Committee with a majority of Indians. He also said that he hoped it would be remembered that in this matter, as in other matters, it was the interests of India that had to be considered first and last, and all the time. I have no difficulty whatever in agreeing with the latter statement. That is the constant policy of the Government of India that our action must be determined by the interests of India. But I do regret that my Honourable friend put forward his suggestion in precisely the form he did. After all, this is an extremely practical matter with which we have to deal under the Merchant Shipping Act. We want to get the best advice we can so that our rules may be framed so as to secure the safety of the lives and property conveyed on merchant ships, and so as to secure reasonable and fair treatment for the seamen employed in these ships, and other practical matters of that kind. In order to obtain that advice our Committee ought to contain representatives of all the interests likely to be affected, and I think it would be a thousand pities if the Government of India were to be deprived, as they might be deprived during the next few years while the Indian Mercantile Marine has still not made very much progress, of the advice we really need, owing to racial theory about representation. I deprecate the question being raised in that form.

Mr. Sarabhai Nemchand Haji: Not racial, but national, Sir.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I accept the Honourable Member's correction, Sir. I should have said "national." But I do not believe when it comes to the point that this question will give nearly so much difficulty as it may when it is raised in an abstract and academic form. What I am prepared to say is that we are anxious, and shall always be anxious, to see that all Indian interests are fully represented on the Committee, so that their views may be brought fully to the notice of Government. But I am not going to go on to say that steps will be taken to prevent other points of view also being brought to the notice of Government. For I must remind the House that what we contemplate is an Advisory Committee and not an administrative body.

Next, as regards recruitment to the administrative staff. I have a word or two to say. It is undoubtedly part of the scheme which the Government of India contemplate for the reorganisation of the service which will look after mercantile marine matters that the principal appointments at the ports should be filled by officers of the Royal Indian Marine or, as I hoped to say, by officers of the Royal Indian Navy. For the moment the latter phrase is taken from me, but I have every hope that it is not taken from me for very long, and that in a comparatively short time it will be open to me to refer to that service as the Royal Indian Navy. There are several reasons why the appointments should be filled in this way and one of them is this. If this service, the Royal Indian Marine, is to be developed into an Indian Navy, one of the difficulties in the early years of that service will be the absence of an adequate number of senior appointments to make recruitment to the service run evenly. That is one reason. I do not say it is conclusive in itself, but it is important, and I should be very sorry if it became necessary in the interests of merchant

shipping to make a change in the Navy scheme which might imperil its success. On the other hand, we recognise that it is desirable that the principal officers should have a much better training than their predecessors have had in the past in such matters as nautical surveying, and should be in a better position to discharge the duties which fall to them, and it is an essential part of the scheme that officers of the Royal Indian Marine who are appointed principal officers should have a course of training under the Board of Trade in the United Kingdom which will make them much more competent to deal with certain matters that come before them. The Government of India recognise also that there is a lot to be said for the filling of a proportion of these appointments, if possible, from the Mercantile Marine. We are engaged at present in considering to what extent that can be done without endangering other interests. I am not in a position to make a final statement on that point to-day, but I can assure the House that the matter will not be overlooked. I think it is quite possible that we may be able to arrange for a certain proportion of the Surveyors' appointments and also of the principal officers—I cannot give the exact proportions—to be recruited from the Mercantile Marine. My Honourable friend Mr. Haji put a question to my friend Mr. Young, the Army Secretary, which he has asked me to answer. He has asked me to say that the recruitment plans which were outlined in dealing with the Bill for the Indian Navy remain entirely unaffected by the rejection of the Bill; that is to say, the scheme for the recruitment of Indians will go on exactly as if that Bill had not been rejected.

Then my Honourable friend mentioned the Deck Passengers' Committee as a matter which required very early attention. I entirely agree with him, and I should like to mention that we have obtained the services of an expert ship surveyor from the United Kingdom who is now on special duty in this country, associated with an officer of the Royal Indian Marine who has been trained under the Board of Trade, and they are examining the whole question with the object that it may be possible for us to deal with it before very long.

My friend Mr. Joshi, with his usual doubt as to the alertness of the Government of India in keeping their eyes open to labour subjects, expressed the hope that the point of view of Indian seamen would not be overlooked. It is obvious I think that our scales of rations and the rules dealing with the employment of Indian seamen are very important matters on which our Advisory Committee will have to give us a good deal of help. Therefore the Committee must, in one form or another, contain representatives of Indian seamen. I cannot commit myself as to the manner in which that ought to be done, but that their point of view must be represented I for one have no doubt whatever.

I think I have dealt with all the points of substance that were raised in the discussion, and I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, in order to vest in the Governor General in Council the control of matters covered by that Act, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

As I pointed out to the House when I introduced the Bill and when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, the proposals included in it are a collection of particular changes none of which is closely connected to another. It is difficult, therefore, to say what exactly the general principle of the Bill is. Only one very small change—hardly more than a drafting change—was made by the Select Committee in the Bill as introduced, and I do not think that it requires any special mention. Certain other matters will come up for discussion in connection with proposals that were considered in the Select Committee, but I think it will be more convenient to refer to them after Honourable Members have moved the amendments standing in their names.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That this be the Schedule to the Bill.”

Mr. Mukhtar Singh (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

“That in the Schedule to the Bill, in amendment No. 5, the word ‘and’ be inserted after the word ‘cotton’ and the words ‘and canvas ply’ be omitted.”

Sir, the Bill, as it emerges from the Select Committee, provides a duty on canvas ply. This sort of belting is used mostly in Burma in rice factories. The Tariff Board in their report on page 5 say:

“Canvas ply belting is used for conveyor belts mainly in rice mills. From the evidence which we have received, it would appear that the industry is of small importance. Messrs. Birkmyre Brothers state that the demand for this class of belting is so limited that any enquiry into the matter would be a waste of time, while though they manufacture such belting in small quantities in their canvas department, they do not press for any relief in respect of duty on canvas used in such manufacture.”

Further on, they say :

"We inspected the factory of Messrs. Tyabji and Company, the only applicant for relief, at Rangoon. The method of manufacture is simple. Imported cotton duck is folded over into the requisite number of plies, which are then stitched together by means of a sewing machine. After the belting has been stitched, it is dressed with red oxide and linseed oil and is then hung up to dry. At the time of our inspection four men only were employed at the factory, though we were informed that when working fully the number of employees was ten. In these circumstances, we doubt if the manufacture of canvas ply belting can be regarded as an industry at all."

The Tariff Board considered that it was not an industry at all and need have no protection. Then because they did not want to have an invidious distinction they proposed that an import duty should be levied on this article also. I ask why, simply on account of an invidious distinction, you should penalise all the rice factories in Burma and elsewhere, who use this sort of belting? Canvas ply belting is not such an article that it cannot be distinguished at the port. There would be no difficulty at all in distinguishing when these articles enter the customs house. Therefore I submit that it is quite unnecessary to penalise those factories which are using this sort of canvas ply belting. We were told in the Select Committee that there are factories which are using this sort of belting to a great extent, and when we are not in any way helping the industry—as we are told by the Tariff Board itself that it is not an industry at all—I would submit that there is no case to include canvas ply belting too in the Schedule.

With these words I beg to move my amendment.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think it is plain from the Report of the Tariff Board itself that they do not attach very great importance to this proposal to impose a duty on canvas ply belting. That is evident from the extract from the Report read by the Honourable Member. If the question of canvas ply belting had been the only one placed before them it is quite possible that they would not have made any proposals. But the difficulty they felt, I think, was this. They had made up their minds as regards cotton belting and hair belting that it was necessary to redress the tariff inequality which existed and they made certain proposals to that effect. The manufacture of canvas ply belting in India being subject to exactly the same kind of handicap under the existing tariff as the manufacture of cotton and hair belting, they felt it would be extremely difficult to exclude from the scope of their proposals the manufacture of canvas ply belting. I submit, Sir, the Tariff Board were right in the view they took. Since canvas ply belting is made in India and is subject to this handicap as the result of the existing tariff, I think it would be unfortunate if we were to omit canvas ply belting from the scope of the duty which has been proposed by the Tariff Board and accepted by the Government of India. That, Sir, is how the case stands. I do not think it is necessary to multiply words about it and I leave it at that.

Mr. President: The question is :

"That in the Schedule to the Bill in amendment No. 5 the word 'and' be inserted after the word 'cotton' and the words 'and canvas ply' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. W. S. Lamb (Burma: European): I rise to move the amendment* which stands in my name. Perhaps, Sir, we might take Nos. 5 and 15 together. They are connected. Before I begin my argument I should like to say that I did not send in a note of dissent owing to circumstances which I need not describe. I had not the time to do so. That is no embarrassment to my Honourable friend the Commerce Member because he knew that in the Select Committee I was opposing this duty on belting—cotton and hair belting. I am against this duty because it is a tax imposed on machinery, because cotton belting and hair belting are used wherever power of any kind is used. I do not think it should be necessary for me to plead here that machinery be admitted free of duty. Honourable Members will remember the attitude of Government during the Simla Session. They told us that they proposed to take off the 2½ per cent. on machinery which embraced all kinds of belting. They said that they were very happy to effect this deliverance because they believed that the encouragement given to industries justified the contemplated loss in revenue to the extent of 40 lakhs a year. Now, Sir, at the time when this became law, the Tariff Board were on the point of giving birth to this report. It might be said that it was a nine months embryo and the Honourable the Commerce Member could not possibly have been unaware of the impending birth. Actually I think with a little effort this report and the inquiry might have been put out of the way before Government came to us with the final recommendation. The firm Birkmyre & Coy., which is mainly concerned in this matter, started their representations in the year 1911. They continued them right down to 1923 and 1924. The Government Resolution concerning this matter of tariff equality is dated March 1925, so that I put it to Honourable Members there is no reason why Government should not have made this inquiry and disposed of the matter before the Simla Session. I would ask Honourable Members whether it is conceivable that if this report had been before Government they would have come to us and said that all machinery is to be admitted free of duty, with the exception of cotton and hair belting, and that in the matter of this belting the duty should be increased from 2½ to 5 per cent. I ask Honourable Members to feel whether Government would have come to us with such a proposition, that of excluding belting any more than they would have made an exception of piston heads, grate bars or other essential parts of machinery. I would put it to the House that if this report had been in their hands they would have considered alternatives and of course there are alternatives. I would now come to this question of tariff equality. So far as I can see, and I have searched through the Library here, this is the first report of this nature. That being so, I think we might have a statement from the Commerce Member giving us a little more of what is in the mind of the Government in this matter of tariff equality, than you find in this Resolution of March, 1925. We users of belting will get nothing out of this proposal, and as usual in Bills of this nature, the province from which I come, Burma, is the worst sufferer. There is nothing in this report to show that this industry will profit by the 5 per cent. duty. If you look at page 29 you will see that you will require a bounty instead of a duty if it is to do any good. Actually an industry of this nature is not entitled to a bounty because the cotton and hair belting is entirely imported—practically none of the raw materials are secured in this country. Government on a calculation ought to get Rs. 1,30,000

*In the Schedule to the Bill amendment No. 5 be omitted.

out of it. There is a calculation somewhere that this duty will cost the jute mills 0-2-6 per ton on jute manufactures. That sounds a very small and negligible amount but it represents to Bengal about Rs. 1,30,000. I might equally apply this to the 2½ million tons of machine rice exported from Burma and then you would get something over 3 lakhs, and altogether a sum in the region of 5 lakhs, which is being paid by the consumers of belting. At least we know that they are going to pay Rs. 1,30,000. I would suggest to this House that a rebate be given of the duty on the cotton yarn and hair yarn and other things. According to the figures of 1926 that would amount to Rs. 45,000. I suggest to the Honourable Member that it is very much better for the country as a whole that it should lose that Rs. 45,000 rather than that it should put a tax on industries up and down India by putting on this 5 per cent. Now, with regard to this question of a rebate, in the Report of the Tariff Board regarding the grant to the Printers' Ink industry, which was presided over by our Honourable friend Sir George Rainy, he wrote :

"A system of rebates can be most easily and safely worked when the finished product of the industry is a single commodity of a definite and ascertainable composition."

Now, it seems to me that belting is exactly the article he would look out for if he were considering rebates. I put it to him that it is, and further I would note that in this Report of the Indian Tariff Board on the question of tariff equality, the Collector of Customs in Calcutta, on being approached in the matter, said there would be no difficulty whatever. He did not like very much to add such identification to his work, but he said there would be no difficulty whatever in identifying the cotton yarn and hair yarn that may come to them. So that actually from the point of view of the industry I suggest that it is absolutely proper that instead of putting on this duty they should give a rebate, particularly as there seems to be no difficulty whatever in operating it practically.

I commend my amendment to the favourable consideration of the House.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: My Honourable friend Mr. Lamb, Sir, is of the opinion that he has caught the Government out in an inconsistency, because in September last we asked this House to remove the duty on all kinds of machinery, and now we are asking them to impose a duty of 5 per cent. on a particular kind of machinery. I do not know whether my Honourable friend has studied deeply the record of the debates that took place in the Assembly at that time. But if he will do so he will find that I distinctly and definitely stated that it was part of the Government of India's intention, in asking the House to approve of the removal of the duty on machinery, to be ready to place before them, when suitable cases occurred, proposals, either for the protection of the manufacture of particular kinds of machinery in India, or for what is called the removal of inequality of tariff treatment. It was therefore put fairly and squarely to the House, when I moved for the removal of the duty on machinery, that cases of the kind now before us were likely to occur, and that the Government of India would in that case be prepared to ask the House to re-impose such rate of duty as might be necessary, either for protective purposes, or to remove inequality of tariff treatment. My Honourable friend also said that he could see no reason why the Government of India should not have

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brought this proposal forward and got it put through in time for legislation during the autumn Session of the Assembly. But there was this difficulty. Until the Tariff Board knew whether the Legislature were going to remove the duty on machinery they could not formulate their proposals as to the duty required to produce equality of tariff treatment, for their recommendations would vary according to the decision arrived at by the Assembly. And I believe it was for that reason that they did not formulate their proposals finally until after the legislation of last September had been passed by this House and by the other House.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: Sir, I would like to point out that in this report there is a reference to the effect that Government simply have not come to conclusions about the cotton yarn. So that it does not appear that they were waiting for this legislation.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am not speaking from any inside knowledge of what passed in the Tariff Board. What I was putting forward was merely my own view of what probably influenced them; and from my own recollection of the position in which the Tariff Board is placed, I think it would have been my view, had I still been a member of the Tariff Board, that it was necessary to know what was going to be done about the duties on machinery. The fact that the Government of India intended to propose the removal of these duties was published as far back as June 1927, and was therefore known to the Tariff Board. And for that reason it seemed to me probable that that was what had influenced the Board. But the main point is the one I have already made, that I definitely and distinctly drew the attention of the House to the possibility that we should have to bring forward proposals of this kind; and it was in the face of that knowledge that this House passed the Bill for the removal of the duty on machinery. Now, my Honourable friend has said that this is the first occasion when equality of tariff treatment has been proposed by the Tariff Board and that he would have liked to have had a clearer explanation of what that mystic phrase may mean. I do not think he is right in the facts because my recollection is that there is a 5 per cent. duty on Printers' ink, which is now in the Statute-book

Mr. W. S. Lamb: May I point out, Sir, a difference in the two cases. The one case dealt with "The Report of the Tariff Board on the grant of protection to the Printers' Ink industry"; while the other was "The Report of the Tariff Board on the question of tariff equality in respect of the manufacture, etc." So that in the one case it was protection and in the other tariff equality.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Is my Honourable friend to be guided solely by the exterior of the Tariff Board's reports? (Laughter.) I at least who have spent some time and labour in the compilation of the interior, can hardly accept that criterion; and if my Honourable friend will read that report he will find there is quite a lot of interesting material on the subject of equality of tariff treatment. What the phrase means is merely this, that if it appears that under our existing tariff a particular manufacture is worse off than it would be under a system of absolute free trade then inequality of tariff treatment exists. What it usually means is that the

industry has to pay a higher duty on the raw materials it uses than the duty on the finished article which it manufactures. In every case of that kind you have to consider whether it is in the national interest that the inequality should be removed. That question always arises, but once you have proved that the inequality exists, then there is a *prima facie* case for redressing the matter. That is all that is proposed in the present case. We want as far as possible to put hair belting and cotton and canvas ply belting in the same relative position as they would be in if there were no duty on the raw materials and if there was no duty on the belting itself. We are not asking the House to approve a measure of protection in this case. Had we been doing so, the proposal would have been included in a separate Bill. We are merely asking the House to put the manufacturer in as favourable a position as he would be if all duties were removed. Finally, Sir, my Honourable friend said that what Government desired to do might have been done in another way, and he suggested that it might be done through a system of rebates,—a rebate on the cotton yarn and other imported materials used. I am a little doubtful whether in fact it would have been possible to give all the relief necessary in that way, but there was one great obstacle which made that course impossible, namely, that it would have been necessary to grant a rebate of the duty paid on the cotton yarn, and that would be definitely against the interests of the manufacturers of cotton yarn in India. I do not think, Sir, that the Government of India would have been justified, after taking steps at the last Session of the Assembly, to have a specific minimum applied to the duty on cotton yarn for the express object of protecting the industry in India from unfair competition. I do not think it would have been right if they had dealt with this matter on the basis of paying a rebate of the duty on cotton yarn to the manufacturers of belting. If that was out of the question, then there was really no other way of dealing with the matter except by imposing a higher duty on belting and that consideration we regarded as conclusive.

I think, Sir, I have dealt with all the points raised by my Honourable friend, and I trust that the House will not accept his amendment.

Mr. President: The question is :

“That in the Schedule to the Bill amendment No. 5 be omitted.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Mukhtar Singh: Sir, I beg to move :

“That in the Schedule to the Bill amendment No. 14 be omitted.”

I am extremely thankful to the Honourable the Commerce Member for supplying me with all the information that I needed to study this point. But I am extremely sorry that even after studying the details supplied to me I do not consider that this amendment should be made. The first complaint against this is that as a matter of fact the import duty has already been reduced by a Notification, dated the 25th September, 1926, as we all know. The Government did not make a statement at the Simla Session that they had made this amendment, and even before that, when they agreed to have that amendment, and wrote to the Government of Greece, even then they did not take the Assembly into their confidence. It was

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a matter which affected the customs duty and which affected in a way an Act which was already on the Statute-book. It was but necessary for the Government at least to make a statement in the Assembly that they were going to take a certain step and were going to agree to an amendment of this nature. We are asked, Sir, now to give effect to that notification. I do not submit that the notification is illegal in any way. The power was there, and the Governor General has exercised the power quite legally, but the point is simply this, that the Assembly was not taken into confidence at the time when the commitment was made. Further, Sir, let us see whether it is really in the interests of the country that this amendment has been made.

Mr. President: Order, order. Is the Honourable Member going to make a long speech on this?

Mr. Mukhtar Singh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: The House stands adjourned till to-morrow morning at Eleven O'clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1928.