

Thursday, 8th December, 1932

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

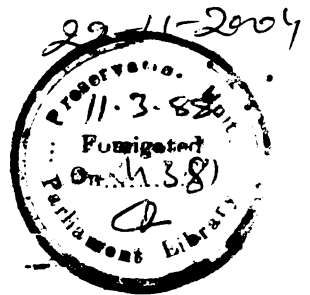
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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Thursday, 8th December, 1932.

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

MEMBER SWORN :

The Honourable Mr. Ram Chandra, M.B.E. (Government of India : Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RESTORATION OF THE CUT ON SALARIES FROM 1ST APRIL, 1933.

165. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state whether they intend to restore the cut on salaries of various services with effect from 1st April, 1933 ? If so, will Government give their reasons ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : Government are not at present in a position to make any statement on the subject.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, PUNJAB, ON KHAN SAHIB KARAM DIN MALIK.

166. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state whether the allegations contained in detail in my question No. 122, asked in this Council on the 30th September, 1932, were, on enquiry, found to be correct ? Will Government kindly lay the copy of the relevant report made by the Postmaster General, Punjab, and also state how many verbal warnings have already been given to Khan Sahib Karam Din Malik, and what action Government have taken on this occasion ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The allegations contained in the question No. 122 were found to be generally correct but Government are not prepared to place on the table of the House copies of departmental communications. The official in question was once warned in a previous case and has again been warned that any future offence will be more severely dealt with.

LEVY OF A SURCHARGE ON THE IMPORT DUTY ON WHEAT.

167. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state whether surcharge on import duty is being levied on imports of foreign wheat ? If not, why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : No surcharge on the import duty on wheat is levied. The Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Act, which was passed by this Council, did not provide for the levy of surcharge on the special import duty on wheat.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE EDUCATED CLASSES.

168. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state what action they propose taking to solve the question of unemployment particularly among the educated classes? If none, why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The question is primarily one which concerns Local Governments and, as the Honourable Member may be aware, some of them have devoted considerable attention to it in recent years.

FURTHER RETRENCHMENTS.

169. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state whether they propose to make any further retrenchments? If so, will they lay a detailed statement on the table of this House?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : Government, while they believe that the major economies possible have already been secured, are still actively considering what more can be done. No details can usefully be given at this stage.

ALLEGED FREIGHT WAR BETWEEN THE BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY AND INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

170. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : With reference to question No. 99 answered on the 23rd September, 1932, will Government kindly state what action they are taking to stop the freight war between the Indian indigenous shipping companies and the British India Steam Navigation Company in coastal shipping?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions relating to the Commerce Department, as the Honourable Mr. Drake is unavoidably delayed elsewhere.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Sir Alan Parsons.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : The matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : How long will it be under consideration? Further delay might result in collapse of indigenous shipping concerns.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : I am afraid I am unable to tell my Honourable friend.

CAPACITY IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THE COMMUNAL DECISION.

171. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government kindly state whether the Communal Award given by the Premier was given by him in his official capacity on behalf of the Cabinet ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Communal Decision of 4th August, 1932, which was made by His Majesty's Government and to the statement of the Prime Minister issued with it.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARRACKS FOR BRITISH TROOPS STATIONED AT DACCA.

172. **THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total cost of the construction of the barracks for the British soldiers now stationed at Dacca ?

(b) Who have contributed to the cost and in what proportions ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total strength of the Dorset Regiment at Dacca ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) It is estimated that the provision of accommodation for British troops at Dacca will cost about 4½ lakhs of rupees.

(b) The entire cost will be charged to Army Estimates.

(c) On the 1st November the effective strength of the battalion was 798.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Were they deputed on Army requirements or on the demand of the Bengal Government ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : At the request of the Bengal Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member inform the House why the Central Government is being saddled with the cost if they have gone on the demand of the Bengal Government ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : In pursuance of the general policy of the Central Government, with reference to the state of affairs in Bengal.

INDIAN REGIMENTS STATIONED AT DACCA.

173. **THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Indian regiments are now stationed at Dacca and what are their names ?

(b) Is there any Volunteer Company permanently stationed at Dacca ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) There are no Indian regiments stationed at Dacca.

(b) The Headquarters of the Eastern Bengal Company of the Auxiliary Force are located at Dacca. The total enrolled strength of the Company is 172, of whom only 21 are actually in Dacca.

REASONS FOR BILLETING BRITISH REGIMENT AT DACCA.

174. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (1) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for billeting a British regiment at Dacca when there is already a detachment of Indian soldiers permanently stationed in the city ?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state how long the British regiment will remain at Dacca ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (1) There was no permanent garrison stationed at Dacca. Additional troops have been sent to Bengal in furtherance of the general policy of the Government in connexion with the terrorist movement.

(2) No period has been fixed.

REMISSION TO BENGAL OF A PORTION OF THE EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE.

175. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (1) Is it a fact that the Central Government and the Government of Bengal are in negotiation over the matter of remission to Bengal of some portion of the jute export duty obtained from Bengal ?

(2) Are Government considering the question of surrendering any portion of jute export duty to Bengal ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: It would not be correct to say that negotiations are in progress, but the Government of Bengal have made representations that under the new constitution the jute export duty should be a provincial tax.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL: Are the Government of India aware that a memorial signed by most of the principal associations in Bengal, irrespective of nationality, creed or political views, was recently forwarded to the Secretary of State demanding the immediate revision of the financial settlement of Bengal and the allocation of the jute export tax to provincial revenues ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: I am aware that such a representation was made. I will take it from my Honourable friend that there was a reference in it to the jute export duty ; I have not myself read it recently.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL: Did Government observe in the morning's press with reference to the Round Table Conference proceedings a statement to the following effect: "General agreement was expressed with the Percy Committee's list of revenue sources" and, if so, do they interpret that to mean that the settlement proposed for Bengal is accepted by the Round Table Conference ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: This particular official of the Government of India, Sir, observed that statement in the press, but I have not placed any interpretation on it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL : Is the Government aware that in the opinion of the people most interested no reforms are likely to be successful in Bengal without a revision of the financial settlement in Bengal's favour ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : I should not like to commit myself on that point.

IMPORTS OF NON-BRITISH PIECE-GOODS.

176. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
(1) Will Government be pleased to make a statement on the import of non-British piece-goods, especially Japanese piece-goods, since the recent imposition of the *ad valorem* duty on non-British piece-goods ?

(2) Has there been any rise or fall in the customs revenue since the imposition of the said duty ?

(3) Will Government be pleased to make a statement on the position of Japan in the Indian market in respect of piece-goods ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (1) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the recent increase in the duty on cotton piece-goods. The increased rate of duty only came into force on the 30th August, 1932, and the Government of India do not consider that sufficient time has yet elapsed to enable them to judge the effect on the import trade.

(2) I lay on the table a statement showing the receipts from the import duty on cotton piece-goods during the period April to October, 1932, inclusive.

(3) Without knowing more precisely the nature of the information which the Honourable Member desires, it would not be possible to make such a statement in reply to a question.

Statement showing the receipts from the import duty on cotton piece-goods during the period April to October, 1932, inclusive.

(In thousands.)

—	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Of British manufacture.	27,63	25,51	27,27	27,73	31,26	30,67	19,54
Not of British manufacture.	20,83	18,22	25,27	33,19	36,74	39,65	33,19
Total	48,46	43,73	52,54	60,92	68,00	70,32	52,73

ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE " AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA " IN THEIR ISSUE OF THE 28TH OCTOBER, 1932, UNDER THE HEADLINES " REGIMENT IN DACCA " AND " PANIC IN DACCA ".

177. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news items under the captions " Regiment in Dacca " and " Panic in Dacca, " published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 28th October, 1932 (dak edition) ? If so, what action have they taken with reference to the allegations contained therein ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I have seen an article with the heading mentioned by the Honourable Member but with a different sub-heading. If the article which I have seen is the one which the Honourable Member has in mind, I would refer him to the answer given on the 29th November to part (b) of his question No. 125.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is it a fact, Sir, that the public of Dacca are being subjected to such indignities as assaults, being kicked and violently pushed from the bicycles and their open umbrellas being forcibly closed by the members of the Dorset Regiment now stationed at Dacca?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I have certainly no information of that sort, Sir. If the Honourable Member will supply me with any details, I shall go into the matter.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will Government have first-hand information from me, Sir? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to put a stop to such happenings in Dacca in the future?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I could not quite hear what the Honourable Member said.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think the Honourable Member's supplementary question is not entirely in order. If I understand it rightly, he says, "If His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will take my assurance that these are the facts, what steps do Government propose to take?" The question in fact is based on a hypothetical proposition and therefore does not seem to be in order.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: May I ask whether Government will have the first-hand information from me on this point?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid I do not myself quite understand what the Honourable Member means by the question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Government have the first-hand information from me on this question that I have asked?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I am afraid I did not hear the Honourable Member, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: His Excellency may understand the question if I repeat it. I do not quite understand it myself. "Will the Government have first-hand information from me on the points which I have mentioned in my supplementary question?"

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Does the Honourable Member mean, will they accept his first-hand information? If that is the case—no, Sir. We should want full proof of it.

ASSAULT ON A STUDENT OF THE DACCA UNIVERSITY.

178. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(1) Is it a fact that Mr. Kali Pada Barman, a B.A. student of Dacca University attached to Jagannath Hall, South House, was severely assaulted by a British soldier on his back by a bamboo rod and, when it was broken to pieces, by severe blows on his chest, on the 28th October, 1932, on the Fuller Road, Ramna, Dacca, near the University buildings ?

(2) Is it a fact that the House Tutor of the Jagannath Hall wired the matter to the Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University who was then at Darjeeling and that a copy of the application of Mr. Kali Pada Barman was sent to the Officer Commanding the Dorset Regiment ? If so, what action was taken ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : A complaint more or less to the effect stated was made, and has been the subject of an enquiry by the Officer Commanding the Battalion in conjunction with the Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University. I will communicate further with the Honourable Member as soon as the result of the enquiry is received.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DISTRESS OF THE EDUCATED MIDDLE CLASS.

179. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh) : Will Government be pleased to indicate what measures they have been taking or propose to take towards mitigating the evils of educated middle class unemployment and economic distress ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I have already given to question No. 168 asked by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.

CONVERSION OF WAR LOAN.

180. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM :

(1) Will Government now reply to parts 4—6 of my question No. 90 of the Simla session in connection with War Loan conversion ?

(2) Will Government state the date on which the first communication on this subject was addressed to the Secretary of State for India by the Government of India ?

(3) Have Government made any payment to the British Government on account of interest on War Loans since the expiration of the Hoover moratorium ? If so, on what date, and when is the next payment due ?

(4) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the note of the British Government to the Government of the United States of America on the subject of repayment of War Loans ? Has Government taken any steps to get from His Majesty's Government the same concessions ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (1) The matter is still under consideration.

(2) The question was taken up for consideration soon after the results of the British conversion loan were announced.

(3) The next payment is due in December, 1932.

(4) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the later developments as reported in the newspapers.

METAL PASSES ISSUED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD AND STATE RAILWAYS IN 1931.

181. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM :

(1) Will Government state the number and kinds of metal passes issued by the Railway Board and each of the State Railways in 1931 ?

(2) Will Government state the number and kinds of upper class passes, other than metal passes, issued free of charge by the Railway Board and the different State Railways ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (1) The Railway Board issue gold passes to the Members and Directors of the Railway Board available over all Class I Railways and silver passes to certain principal officers of Class I Railways. Such of these passes as are in possession of State Railway officers permit the holders to travel over all State-managed Railways, whilst those in possession of officers of Company-managed lines permit the holders to travel over the State-managed Railway or Railways in immediate connection with the railway to which that officer belongs. These passes are current from the original date of issue so long as an officer is holding a post which entitles him to the use of such a pass. The revision of the rules for the issue of metal passes being at present under the consideration of the Railway Board, the issue or replacement of such passes during the last three years has been suspended and in lieu the Board have issued card passes available for six months at a time. On the State-managed Railways, metal passes, either silver, bronze or nickel, are issued to all permanent superior officers. These passes are available for use over the railway on which they are issued. Government are not aware of the number issued on State-managed Railways in 1931.

(2) The number of passes other than metal passes issued by the Railway Board during 1931 is as follows :—

(a) Card passes (1st class)	89
(b) Cheque passes (1st class)	540

Government are not aware of the number issued by the different State-managed Railways in 1931, but if the Honourable Member will indicate for what purpose this information is desired Government will consider whether it should be collected.

PERSONS ALLOWED TO IMPORT GOODS FREE OF CUSTOMS DUTY.

182. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM :

(1) Is it a fact that certain persons (*ex officio*) can import goods free of customs duty at British India ports ? Will Government give a complete list of such persons ?

(2) Is it a fact that the personal effects of certain persons (*ex officio*) are passed free of customs duty at British India ports? Will Government state the authority under which this is done and lay a copy of it on the table of the House? Will Government give a complete list of such persons?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: (1) and (2). I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to items 11 and 12 of Part I of Schedule II to the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, and to items 23 to 36 of Notification No. 14-Customs of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), dated the 9th April, 1932.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM: Will the Honourable Member lay that Notification on the table, Sir?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: The Notification is very long, Sir, and copies of it are already in the Library of the House.

TOTAL IMPORTS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES INTO INDIA AND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

183. **THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM** (1) Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement giving the following information about the items mentioned in the new Tariff Bill:

(a) the customs duty in force on 15th January, June and November, 1931;

(b) the total imports into India (1929) of each item from the United Kingdom, the rest of the British Empire and the rest of the world?

(2) Will Government kindly give the following information about Schedules A, B and C of the Trade Agreement between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India:

(a) the total imports of each item in the United Kingdom in 1929;

(b) the total imports of each item in the United Kingdom from India in 1929;

(c) the total imports of each item from the rest of the British Empire (1929)?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: (1) (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Indian Customs Tariff (Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Issues), copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

(b) The information required by the Honourable Member is contained in Volume I of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, a copy of which is also in the Library.

(2) I lay on the table a statement containing the information asked for. The information has been extracted from the Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom, copies of which are not in the Library of the Legislature.

Statements showing imports into United Kingdom in 1929 of articles mentioned in Schedules A, B and C of the Trade Agreement between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India.

Article.	Total imports into United Kingdom (a).		Imports into United Kingdom from British India (b).		Total imports into United Kingdom from rest of British Empire (c).	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
<i>Schedule A.</i>						
Wheat in grain (cwts.)	111,767,398	57,784,498	141,169	78,134	40,144,178	21,078,786
Rice, husked including cargo rice and cleaned whole, but not including broken rice (cwts.)	1,380,842	1,217,453	447,848	317,893	5,282	6,160
Castor oil (tons)	3,696	155,016	1,615	67,060	1	82
Linseed oil (tons)	31,046	1,048,122	..	..	7	710
Cocconut oil (tons)	64,998	2,362,090	820	33,052	10,634	368,341
Groundnut oil (tons)	22,333	832,216	..	..	1	24
Rape oil (tons)	4,708	178,699	..	..	16	1,342
Sesamum oil (tons)	10	500	..	..	..	3
Magnesium chloride (Magnesium compounds including chloride and sulphate) (tons)	140,086	147,593	70,183	1,596,798	289	1,565
Linseed (tons)	284,413	4,949,110	..	..	230	5,238
<i>Schedule B.</i>						
Coffee (cwts.)	558,286	3,763,491	23,502	168,052	180,785	1,132,037
<i>Schedule C.</i>						
Tea (lbs.)	559,167,758	37,558,282	306,734,835	20,082,540	155,887,640	12,179,543
Coir Yarn (cwts.)	483,050	706,498	427,616	619,031	46,322	70,834
Coir mats and matting (sq. yards)	6,135,629	604,005	4,571,909	437,949	13,874	1,057
Cotton yarn, unbleached up to No. 40 count (lbs.)	11,471,415	921,579	257,356	11,961	1,498	103

Cotton manufactures	..	9,583,397	..	189,578	..	79,382
Leather undressed hides other than sole leather (cwts.)	388,887	3,151,873	249,628	2,336,784	6,795	56,031
Leather undressed skins (cwts.)	173,608	3,585,785	116,463	2,755,106	10,401	134,268
Jute manufactures	..	3,624,765	..	2,797,675	..	120,613
Oil seed cake and meal (tons)	493,476	4,548,975	108,806	1,106,104	10,644	105,636
Paraffin wax (cwts.)	1,500,626	1,741,025	666,496	909,531	619	732
Spices (cwts.)	311,832	2,382,182	57,678	411,665	149,210	1,192,150
Teak and other hardwoods, whether hewn or sawn (c. ft.)	38,836,929	9,599,829	1,973,493	1,043,368	8,386,068	1,612,465
Woolen carpets and rugs (sq. yds.)	3,247,142	4,030,267	761,130	545,718	54,913	29,837
Bran and pollard (tons)	108,404	229,413	260	1,686	5,974	145,112
Rice meal and dust (tons)	280,745	1,873,221	205,517	1,388,297	781	5,527
Tobacco—						
Un-manufactured (lbs.)	240,026,107	17,187,434	9,180,662	334,408	22,350,265	1,516,996
Manufactured (lbs.)	1,475,173	1,311,097	48,929	12,779	35,619	13,428
Castor seed (tons)	34,768	600,660	29,684	510,165	12	175
Magnesite—						
Crude (tons)	11,590	34,104	..	..	197	1,272
Calcined (tons)	27,315	189,485	..	4,870	4,512	34,562
Sandalwood oil	..	..	..	..	..	..
Granite setts and curbs (tons)	117,224	293,726	..	..	8,809	20,038
Groundnuts—						
Undecorticated (tons)	49,727	751,494	2,197	44,721	10,651	158,989
Decorticated (tons)	84,603	1,644,761	73,254	1,410,952	9,958	202,572
Lead ore (tons)	3,976	49,644	538	5,488	2,951	36,929

VALUE OF INDIA'S TRADE WITH THE BRITISH COLONIES.

184. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will Government state the items and the total value of Indian trade with the British Colonies mentioned in Notification No. 780-T. (12) ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : The Honourable Member is referred to Schedule H of the Trade Agreement made between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and to Table 13 of Volume II of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature. To assist the Honourable Member in making use of this Annual Statement I lay on the table a statement giving the numbers of the pages in the volume on which are to be found details of India's trade with each of the British Colonies.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Sir, will the Honourable Member give the names of the Colonies at least ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member will find that the names are given in the statement laid on the table, of which the Honourable Member has provided me with a copy.

Statement giving the numbers of the pages in Volume II of the Annual Statement of Sea-borne Trade of British India, 1931, on which are to be found details of India's trade with the British Colonies.

	Page Nos.
Ceylon	422—436
Straits Settlements	437—458
Hongkong	475—482
Colonies in West Africa	517—518
Zanzibar	533—538
Kenya	538—543
Tanganyika Territory	544—546
Uganda Protectorate	547
Nyasaland Protectorate	547
Somaliland	550—551
Mauritius and Dependencies	555—558
Seychelles	559—560
West Indies	588
Honduras	590
British Guiana	593
Fiji Islands	607—608

Note.—The imports from Northern Rhodesia into India are not shown separately from those from South Rhodesia.

COMMODITIES OF BRITISH ORIGIN WHICH RECEIVE PREFERENCE UNDER THE INDIAN TARIFF ACT, 1894.

185. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will Government give the names of the commodities which at the moment receive preference under the Indian Tariff Act, because of their British origin ? Will Government state the amount of preference given to each item ? Will Government also give the value of the imports from the United Kingdom of these items in 1929 ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: No commodities at present receive preference under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, on the ground that they are of British origin. The Honourable Member* is presumably referring to the lower duties imposed in the interests of consumers in India, on certain articles of iron and steel and on cotton piecegoods of British manufacture by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1927, and the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930. I lay on the table a statement showing the differences between the existing rates of duty applicable to these articles when of British and non-British manufacture, respectively, in which the value of the imports of these articles from the United Kingdom in 1929 is also given.

Imports of Iron and Steel articles and cotton piecegoods of British manufacture from the United Kingdom into India in the year 1929.

No. in statutory schedule.	Articles.	Existing difference in duty between articles of British and non-British manufacture (including surcharge).	Value of imports from the United Kingdom in 1929.
	<i>Iron and Steel.</i>	Per ton. Rs. a.	Rs.
142	Coal Tubs, tipping wagons, etc.	18 12	1,52,000
143	Iron Angle, Channel and Tee— (a) fabricated, etc.	18 12	21,000
	(b) not fabricated, etc.	13 12	15,000
144	Iron, Common bar	13 12	23,000
146	Iron or Steel pipes and tubes, etc.— (b) not galvanised— (i) not under 1/8" thick	18 12	..
	(ii) under 1/8" thick	32 8	14,000
147	Iron or Steel plates or sheets, etc.— (a) fabricated, etc.	18 12	88,000
	(b) not fabricated, etc.	20 0	32,11,000
148	Iron or Steel sheets, etc.— (a) fabricated— (i) all sorts (except galvanized)	32 8	79,000
	(b) not fabricated— (ii) all sorts (except galvanized)	30 0	31,67,000
150	Iron or Steel Railway Track Material— A. Rails, etc.— (b) Rails under 30 lbs., etc.	13 12	77,000
	B. Switches and Crossings, etc.— (i) for rails under 30 lbs.	15 0	3,000
	D. Spikes and tiebars	13 12	74,000
151	Steel, angle and tee, etc.— (a) fabricated	18 12	18,63,000
	(b) not fabricated	13 12	82,52,000
152	Steel, bar and rod, etc.	13 12	43,30,000
153	Steel structures, etc.	18 12	50,05,000
	Total		2,63,74,000

Difference in the rates of duty levied on cotton piecegoods of British and non-British manufacture.

(From 30th August, 1932)—

When assessed *ad valorem* 25 per cent.
When assessed to specific duty 7/8 anna per lb.

Value of the imports into India from the United Kingdom in 1929 Rs. 35,10,65,000

VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORT DUTY LEVIED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON INDIAN TEXTILE GOODS.

186. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM :

1. Will Government kindly state the import duty now fixed by the United Kingdom on Indian textile goods ? What was the duty in 1931 ? What was the value of India's export to the United Kingdom in 1929 ?

2. Will Government state the rate of duties imposed now and in 1931 by the United Kingdom on Indian silk goods ? What was the value of silk goods exported to the United Kingdom in the years 1928 to 1931 ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : No duty is at present imposed on textile goods from India other than silk goods. The general rate of duty in the United Kingdom is 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on cotton, jute and wool manufactures and 10 per cent. *ad valorem* on cotton, jute and wool yarn, and imports of these articles from all countries of the Empire, including India, are exempted from the whole of these duties. In 1931 no duties were in force in the United Kingdom on any of these articles, whatever their origin. The value of the textile goods imported into the United Kingdom from India including the Indian States in the year 1929 was, according to the United Kingdom Trade Accounts, £3,580,000.

The rates of duty on silk manufactures from India in force in the United Kingdom range from 1s. 2d.—1s. 6d. to 6s. 5½d. per lb. according to their class, as compared with corresponding duties on goods of non-Empire origin ranging from 1s. 5d. to 7s. 9d. per lb. These duties have not been changed.

The value of the silk manufactures imported into the United Kingdom from India including the Indian States in each year from 1928 to 1930 was, according to the United Kingdom Trade Accounts, as follows :—

	£
1928	6,346
1929	10,440
1930	4,502

DATE OF TERMINATION OF OTTAWA CONFERENCE AND TRADE AGREEMENT WITH UNITED KINGDOM.

187. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) on what date the Ottawa Conference terminated its sittings ;
- (b) on what date the Agreement arrived at was signed by the respective parties thereto ;
- (c) on what date the members of the Indian Delegation appended their signatures to the Agreement ;
- (d) on what date the Report of the Indian Delegation reached the Government of India ;
- (e) on what date the Report was sent out to the Members of the Legislative Assembly ;

(f) on what date the Report was sent out to the Members of the Council of State ;

(g) whether full proceedings of the Conference have been published ;

(h) if so, whether printed copies of such proceedings are available to the Members of the Central Legislature ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (a) The 20th August, 1932.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Trade Agreement made between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India. This Agreement was signed by Mr. Stanley Baldwin on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and by the Leader of the Indian Delegation, Sir Atul Chatterjee, on behalf of the Government of India on the 20th August, 1932.

(d) The 2nd October, 1932.

(e) and (f). Copies of the Report of the Indian Delegation were despatched to Members of both Houses between the 10th and 13th October so as to reach them, as far as possible, on the 13th October, the date fixed for the publication of the Report.

(g) and (h). An official Report of the Conference was prepared and published in two volumes by the Government of Canada, and a Summary of Proceedings was presented to Parliament by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. A sufficient number of copies of the last-named document were obtained by the Government of India to enable them to supply each Member of the Indian Legislature with a copy. Copies of it have recently been distributed to Members of this House and copies of the other publications have been placed in the Library of the Legislature.

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUALS, FIRMS AND COMMERCIAL BODIES WITH REGARD TO THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT.

188. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have received representations from individuals and representative bodies in India with regard to the Ottawa Agreement ;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, the names of such individuals and bodies ;

(c) the names of those individuals and bodies that have supported the Ottawa Pact ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (a) Yes.

(b) I lay on the table a list showing the names of the individuals, firms and commercial bodies from whom representations on the subject have been received since the Agreement was published.

(c) It is not possible to give a categorical reply to this part of the Honourable Member's question because, while certain bodies have expressed disapproval of the Trade Agreement, a great many of the representations have not stated either approval or disapproval of it but have only made requests in regard to the rates of duties to be levied on particular articles as the result of the Agreement.

List of individual firms and commercial bodies.

Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
 The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.
 Mysore Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore.
 Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
 Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.
 Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad.
 Karachi Indian Merchants' Association, Karachi.
 The Baroda Millowners' Association, Baroda.
 Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
 Aluminium Manufacturers' Association, Calcutta.
 The Deccan Merchants' Association, Bombay.
 Northern India Chamber of Commerce, Lahore.
 The Karachi Chamber of Commerce, Karachi.
 Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bombay.
 The Karachi Iron Merchants' Association, Karachi.
 Motor Industries Association, Calcutta.
 The Calcutta Paper Import Association.
 Gwalior Chamber of Commerce.
 Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
 Indian Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.
 Glass and Bangles Association, Ferozabad.
 The Punjab Aluminium Works, Amritsar.
 Indian Hume Pipe Company, Limited, Calcutta.
 Kirloskar Brothers, Limited, Bombay.
 Dyer Meakin and Company, Solon.
 The Tata Iron and Steel Company, Bombay.
 The Indian Steel and Wire Products, Limited, Tatanagar.
 The Tata Oil Mills, Limited.
 The Cement Marketing Company of India, Limited, Bombay.
 Kamroodien Rasoolji, Bombay.
 Balraj Company, Lahore.
 Mr. Balaram Kurup, Managing Agent, Techno-Chemical Industries, Limited.
 The Mirrless Wayson Company, Limited.
 Ramington Rano Inc.
 The Cawnpore Woollen Mills Company, Cawnpore.
 Photo Service, Limited, Bombay.
 The Punjab Oil Machinery Store Company.
 W. H. Deeth and Company, Bombay.
 The Land Development and Engineering Corporation, Delhi.
 Shan and Company, Baroda.
 Mr. Karimjee Esmailjee, Bombay.

REFUSAL OF SANCTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA TO A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE CUT ON SALARIES.

189. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Secretary of State for India has refused sanction to further extension of the 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of the members of Imperial Services ;

(b) whether he has asked the Government of India to frame their future year's budget on the basis of no cut in the pay of all servants in the employ of the Central Government ;

(c) whether he has issued similar instructions with regard to the pay of all Government servants in the different provinces ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : The answer to all three parts is in the negative.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESON : Sir, is there any correspondence going on between the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India with regard to this question of the 10 per cent. cut ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : As far as my recollection carries me, not at the moment, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESON : Do I understand from it that, though not at the moment, correspondence was previously carried on ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : There certainly has been previous correspondence, Sir, with regard to the 10 per cent. cut.

REPRESENTATION OF LANDHOLDERS AT THE THIRD ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

190. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representative of the land-owning interests has been selected and sent to the Third Round Table Conference to watch landed interests particularly ;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, the name of such representative and the class of landed interests that he will represent ;

(c) if the answer is in the negative, the reason or reasons for which they did not think it proper to send such a representative this time ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : (a) and (b). One of the Indian delegates, the Raja of Khallikote, is the representative of landed interests.

(c) Does not arise.

CONVICTIONS UNDER SECTIONS 21 AND 25 OF THE SPECIAL POWERS ORDINANCE AND THE CORRESPONDING PROVISIONS OF THE EMERGENCY POWERS ORDINANCE.

191. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : (1) Will Government kindly state the number of cases instituted and convictions secured under sections 24 and 25 of the Ordinance No. X of 1932 ?

(2) Will Government state the sections of the earlier Ordinances corresponding to sections 24 and 25 of the tenth Ordinance ?

(3) Will Government state the number of convictions under the earlier Ordinances for offences similar to those created by sections 2 and 3 of the Bill to Supplement the Criminal Law ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (1), (2) and (3). The figures of convictions are as follows :

(a) Under section 24 of Ordinance X of 1932 and the corresponding section 23 of Ordinance II of 1932	71
(b) Under section 25 of Ordinance X of 1932 and the corresponding section 24 of Ordinance II of 1932	1

I regret I have no information as to the number of cases instituted.

PAYMENT OF GRATUITIES TO THE FAMILIES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS WHO DIE BEFORE RETIREMENT.

192. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHEI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT : (a) With reference to the question of the Honourable Mr. Khaparde No. 53 of 20th September, 1932, will Government be pleased to state whether the Provincial Governments have approved the scheme ? If not, how long do Government intend to keep it pending ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay the scheme on the table with the replies so far received from the Provincial Governments ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (a) None of the Provincial Governments whose replies have been received have supported the scheme, and the Government of India have decided not to go on with it.

(b) I will consider laying papers, or, as they are very voluminous, a full résumé of them, on the table.

GRANT OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TO THE STAFF OF CURRENCY OFFICES.

193. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHEI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT : With reference to the reply to question No. 53 of 9th July, 1930, will Government be pleased to state whether the general principle, which was communicated by the Controller of the Currency in 1921 to the Calcutta Currency Officer, has now been communicated to the other Currency Officers ? If so, what public or sectional holidays are granted to the Currency staff by retaining only part of the staff to deal with urgent work in different Currency Offices in India ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part it is a matter entirely within the discretion of the head of the office.

OIL MINES IN ASSAM.

194. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : (1) Are there any oil mines in Assam ? If so, how many and where ?

(2) Are any of them being worked now ? If so, where, by whom and for how many years ?

(3) Are these mines in Government lands or in permanently settled areas ?

(4) Does the Government of the province or the Central Government derive any profit from the mines in the permanently settled areas ? If so, in what way and how much in each case ?

(5) Who gets the duties from the mines, the Government of Assam or the Central Government ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : (1) There are no oil mines in Assam but oil is obtained from oil wells in different areas such as Digboi, Badarpur, Masimpur and Patharia.

(2) and (3). Assuming that the Honourable Member is referring to oil wells and not to oil mines, the answer to the first part of part (2) is in the affirmative. I regret that the remaining information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available.

(4) and (5). Royalties on minerals and dead and surface rents accruing from mines generally are credited to Provincial Governments. Ordinarily speaking, neither the Central Government nor the Provincial Government derives any direct profit from minerals extracted from permanently settled areas.

DUTY RECEIVED DURING LAST TEN YEARS FROM KEROSENE AND PETROL.

195. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT :
(1) What were the amounts of duty on kerosene and motor spirit received by Government during the last ten years ?

(2) Does the Government of Assam get any share of the duty ? If so, what are the amounts which were received by the Government of Assam during the last ten years ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (1) The information is given in the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the years concerned. I think the Honourable Member will find it in Account No. 14.

(2) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise. I do not think the Honourable Member is referring to the share of the proceeds from the additional duty on petrol payable to the Local Government for road development.

ESTIMATE OF THE FEDERAL FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO ASSAM'S DEFICIT.

196. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT :
Has Government examined the estimate of the Federal Finance Committee that Assam's deficit during the next five years is likely to be Rs. 65 lakhs a year ? If so, with what result ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : The Federal Finance Committee estimated that the deficit of Assam would be Rs. 65 lakhs in the earlier years of the Federation under more or less normal conditions. In the opinion of the Government of India there is no ground which would justify their questioning the figure arrived at by the Federal Finance Committee after prolonged study and examination of provincial witnesses.

DECISION ARRIVED AT WITH REGARD TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERAL FINANCE COMMITTEE.

197. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT :
Has Government come to any decision with regard to the recommendations of the Federal Finance Committee ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : No.

ANNUAL AVERAGE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF ASSAM FOR THE YEARS 1921-22 TO 1931-32.

198. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT :
(1) What is the annual average revenue of Assam from the year 1921-22 to the year 1931-32 ?

(2) What is the annual average expenditure per year during that period ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : The information for which the Honourable Member asks can be obtained from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the years in question. I think he will find it in Accounts Nos. 8 and 9.

FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

199. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT :
(1) Who is to make financial adjustments between the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments ? If the Government of India, does it propose, in making the adjustment, to devise means to make up the deficit in Assam ?

(2) If the adjustments are to be made by the Round Table Conference or the British Government, does Government propose to recommend to the authority concerned the desirability of devising means of making up the deficit in Assam ?

(3) Has Government received any representation from the Government of Assam on the question of Assam's deficit ? If so, has the representation been disposed of ? If not, by when does Government expect to be able to dispose of it ?

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINANCING OF THE FUTURE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCES.

200. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : Has Government set up any machinery to go into matters relating to the financing of the future autonomous provinces ? If so, what is that machinery and when was it set up ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 199 and 200 together. The financial arrangements under the new constitution have been under consideration for some time. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the Committees which have reported on this matter. The Round Table Conference now sitting will also deal with it. I think my Honourable friend may rest assured that the position of Assam will receive due consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF ASSAM AT THE THIRD ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

201. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : Is Assam represented on the Third Round Table Conference ? If not, why not ? Has anybody been charged with the duty of looking after Assam's interests, constitutional and financial ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : The representation sought in the Round Table Conference personnel was not of provincial units as such but primarily of important general Indian interests and views. Consequently, though a considerable degree of provincial representation has in fact been achieved it was not possible, consistently with the need for restricting numbers, to include persons directly representative of Assam. No delegate can be said to be charged with the duty of looking after any particular province's interests ; all will take part in the general discussions on constitutional and financial matters and it may be taken that Assam will not lack consideration in these discussions.

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY OR MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ASSAM.

202. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : Has the present Viceroy or any Member of his Executive Council visited Assam during His Excellency's term of office ? Has His Excellency or any Member of his Executive Council any intention of doing so in the near future ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : His Excellency the Viceroy has not so far paid any visit to Assam. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief visited Assam in April, 1931 and the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore in December of the same year. I cannot say at present whether His Excellency or any Members of his Council will be able to make tours there in the near future, but I understand that if the public interest permits some Honourable Members contemplate doing so.

APPROXIMATE DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

203. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : (1) Is Government in a position to state when the next constitution is likely to be introduced ?

(2) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the recommendation of the Select Committee on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, now before the Assembly, that the operation of the Bill should continue for three years from its commencement in order that it might remain in force till after the next constitution was brought into being ?

(3) Has Government any idea as to when the deliberations of the Third Round Table Conference are expected to be concluded ?

(4) Can Government state the approximate time when the Joint Parliamentary Committee is expected to meet, when the Government of India Bill is expected to be finally prepared, when the Bill is expected to be introduced in Parliament, and when it is expected to be passed ?

(5) Is Government in a position to state whether it will be possible to introduce the next constitution in 1934 or before 1935 ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : (1), (3), (4) and (5). I regret I am not in a position to give any definite information on the points raised. But according to press accounts the Secretary of State is reported to have said at the opening of the Third Round Table Conference that he hoped the Conference would end about the 20th December, and added that if they were to get ahead with the Joint Select Committee at the next session of Parliament it was essential that His Majesty's Government should have time to consider the proposals of the Conference at the earliest possible moment.

(2) Yes.

EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF THE ASSAM AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

204. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : (1) Is it a fact that the life of the Assam Legislative Council has been extended by His Excellency the Governor of Assam for one year with effect from 7th September last ?

(2) Does Government intend further to extend the life of Provincial Legislatures in case it becomes impossible to introduce the new constitution before 1935 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (1) Yes.

(2) Under sub-section 1 (b) of section 72B of the Government of India Act the matter is one for the Provincial Governors to deal with.

GOVERNOR'S PROVINCE RANKING NEXT ABOVE ASSAM IN POINT OF REVENUE.

205. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: Which is the Governor's Province which comes next above Assam in respect of its revenue and what is its annual revenue?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: It appears from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the year 1930-31, the latest year for which the Accounts have been published, that the Central Provinces comes next above Assam. Its revenue in that year was Rs. 4,70 lakhs.

CONVICTIONS UNDER THE ORDINANCES IN FORCE IN ASSAM.

206. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: What Ordinances are now in force in Assam? How many persons have up to now been convicted under the Ordinances there? Has any political offender received pardon on giving an undertaking not to take part in any movement against Government? If so, how many, with particulars as to the districts they come from?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: Sections 58—63 and 65—73 of Ordinance X of 1932 are now in force in Assam, in addition to those sections which are in force in all British India. 616 persons have been convicted under the Ordinances in that province up to the end of October, 1932 and 213 have been released on apology out of the total convicted, both under the Ordinances and the ordinary law, up to that date. I have no information as to the names of the districts from which they come.

ALLOTMENT OF A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE STATEMENT IN REGARD TO THE WORKING OF THE CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT OF 1927.

207. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad): With reference to the statement made in the Council of State by the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands on the 5th April, 1932 regarding the working of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, the desire of the House for a separate day being allotted for the discussion of the statement and the assurance given by the Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain in response to that desire, will Government be pleased to state if it is their intention to allot a special day during the current session for the discussion of the question?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Sir, my promise was that, if Honourable Members wished to discuss the statement after studying it, a day would be allotted for this purpose during the Simla session. That session is over. The present session is an emergency one and presently there will be plenty for the Council to attend to, so Government regret that they cannot allot a day for this discussion in course of it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Are the Government of India aware of the very serious agitation which is now being pursued by Indians in South Africa against the provisions of the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Act and the fact that they have also refused to give evidence before the Feetham Commission? Having regard to the interest now aroused in reference to this matter will Government at least consider the desirability of issuing a Communiqué on the present situation?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Government are in very close touch with the developments that are taking place in South Africa and when there is anything to be communicated to the public in India, a suitable opportunity will be taken to communicate it.

APPOINTMENT OF THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU TO THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The resignation of Sir Dinshaw Wacha created a vacancy on the Library Committee. I am glad to inform the House that the Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu has accepted my invitation to fill that vacancy.

BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table copies of the Bill to Supplement the Criminal Law which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 7th December, 1932.

RESOLUTION *RE* DRAFT CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE AGE FOR ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO NON-INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW (Government of India : Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

“That this Council having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its sixteenth session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation.”

It is a matter of regret to me that this recommendation should be couched in the negative form that it takes. The subject of the Convention is one which I am sure will appeal to all Honourable Members of this House. It represents one of the now numerous efforts to ensure that childhood shall be really childhood and not an anticipation or an aggravation of the toils of adult life

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

As Honourable Members may have observed, the Convention contains provisions specially designed to meet the case of India, which makes it the more unfortunate that we are not able to accept those provisions. I hope, however, to be able to convince the House that the ratification of this Convention is impracticable, indeed impossible, in existing circumstances.

In September last, the Department to which I belong circulated to Honourable Members copies of the Report prepared on this Conference by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee who represented the Government of India there, and appended to that Report were copies of the Draft Convention and the Recommendation. As all Honourable Members possibly have not brought their copies, a few spare copies of the Convention will be found in front of them. The Recommendation, to which I do not propose to refer again, is partly an amplification of the Convention and partly a guide to the methods which the Conference thought were best suited to the enforcement of the Convention.

I think it will assist the discussion of the subject if I indicate very briefly how the Convention came to take its present form. When these proposals were first mooted, the Government of India consulted Local Governments, and the information they received indicated that it would probably be very difficult to make any progress along the lines that the Conference desired. But in view of the great importance of the subject—the importance properly attached to it in international circles—they felt that they should make an effort to try and meet the Conference half-way, and they therefore instructed their delegates to press for certain special conditions for India. I would refer only to two of these—the first, and perhaps the less important, was that the age limit should be fixed at 10 years instead of at 14 which the Conference was contemplating generally and the second, the vital condition, that the Convention in respect of India should apply only to certain specified occupations. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra put these points forcibly before the Committee which considered the question and he received support from a most valuable quarter. M. Albert Thomas, the Director of the International Labour Office, a dynamic personality, whose death immediately after the Conference was a loss, not merely to Geneva, but to Labour throughout the world, came to the Committee and urged on it strongly the acceptance of the Indian proposals. He warned the Committee that the acceptance of those proposals offered the only chance of ratification by India, and the Committee agreed to the proposals. But when they came to the full Conference, they were met by a certain amount of criticism and after some confused debate, different proposals were put before the Conference by a lady from Spain. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra protested, but the Spanish lady's proposals were carried by a small majority and, as a result, the Indian Government delegates and the Indian Employers' delegate, Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, found themselves unable to support the Convention by their votes. I might add that they shared that position with a number of other Government delegates, including the Government delegates from Great Britain and from Japan.

Now, I would ask Honourable Members just to consider what the Convention does. I am not going through the provisions in detail, because there are really only two articles that apply to India, article 1 and article 9, apart from certain formal and supplementary propositions. Article 1 defines the scope of the Convention and article 9 contains the special provisions for India. The Convention, as the preamble and the title and article 1 indicate, applies to non-industrial employment, and it is proposed that in India three things shall be done. In the first place, much the most important, children

under 10 should be excluded from all non-industrial employment. In the second place, older children should be excluded from certain street and itinerant occupations; and in the third place, children under 14 should be excluded from occupations involving certain dangers and risks. I would ask Honourable Members to concentrate particularly on the first point, which is the exclusion of young children from all non-industrial occupations, and I suggest that they put to themselves a question which I have put to several of my friends of different communities. If this Convention were accepted, what children in India would be affected? In other words, what children under 10 are employed in non-industrial occupations? They may find that question at first a little difficult to answer. Some of those to whom I spoke thought of tennis courts and golf courses where very young children are sometimes employed in getting tennis balls and in looking for golf balls. Undoubtedly that would come under the Convention. More than one Local Government which was consulted indicated that so far as was known there was no substantial non-industrial occupation which would come under these provisions. I think most Honourable Members would agree that there are probably a small number of children scattered over various occupations, casually employed, under ten, and there is at least one occupation of importance in which, in some provinces at least, probably a considerable number of young children are employed. I refer to domestic service. I need not remind Honourable Members that we are dealing with non-industrial employment only; that is, all industry and all agriculture is excluded, and perhaps the most important of the remaining occupations is, I suggest, domestic service. Now that affords a good example of the main, indeed the only reason why this Convention cannot be ratified. It is not that we want to see children under 10 employed. Far from it. It is not that their labour is in any way essential or that India would suffer if they ceased to work tomorrow. It is simply the difficulty of enforcing the Convention. Remember that these children employed in domestic service are not concentrated in towns. They are scattered throughout the length and breadth of India. How are we going to enforce in the various houses, one child here and one child there, a Convention of this kind? I do not think I would get much support here or in any Provincial Council if I suggested, even if we could find the money, that the police might be strengthened and granted powers of entry into private houses for the purpose of enforcing the Convention. The other alternative would be the employment of special staff; and I must leave it to Honourable Members to form some picture of the size of the staff that would be required for excluding what is probably on the whole a very small number of children from certain occupations in which at present they find comparatively light work.

In conclusion, I would remind the Council that the proposals in this Convention are not the only proposals recently made for stopping the employment of young children. These proposals relate to non-industrial employment, but there are a large number of young children engaged in certain forms of industrial employment. The Whitley Commission in their Report called special attention to the case of children who are employed in what are known as unregulated factories, that is, in workshops where such occupations as weaving carpets, splitting mica, making *biris* and things of that kind are carried on, and they suggested that the first step should be to exclude children under 10 from that kind of workshop and to limit the hours of elder children. India is a country of very limited resources and that makes it the more important that any resources we can find should be devoted where they are most needed. I have no doubt personally that the needs of children employed in industry are far greater than those of any children coming under this Convention speaking

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

as a whole. I cannot attempt to prophesy in the present difficult circumstances at what rate progress will be made ; but I would put it to the Council that whatever steps we are able to take should be directed first towards those children who are employed in industry. If Local Governments, owing to the acceptance of this Convention, found themselves obliged to deal with non-industrial employment they would find, I think, Sir, that such resources as are available for progress in protecting child labour would be mortgaged for years to come, so that progress in other directions would be impossible. Not only is the need greater in industry, but the possibilities of enforcement are very much greater, because there you are dealing with children employed frequently in comparatively large groups and generally in the bigger towns. In suggesting that it is along that direction that we ought to move as soon as we can move, I think I can claim the support of the International Labour Conference itself. This is a supplementary Convention. It is intended to supplement several Conventions relating to industry, to agriculture and to maritime employment. The Conference itself dealt with industrial employment in the year 1919, whereas this Convention was only framed last year. It seems to me therefore that we should tackle that question first. If and when we have been able to make some progress with the difficult question—for even that is not going to be easy—of children in industry, it will be time to turn, if we still have resources left, and consider what can be done with the very much less important and very much more difficult question of children in non-industrial employment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU (Bengal : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, the question involved in this Resolution can be looked at from two different points of view and I only want that the Members who represented this Council on the Committee when they considered this question will extend to us the courtesy of giving some sort of lead in this matter because they had the opportunity of discussing this matter in the Committee. The question involved is very difficult from both points of view, the point of view that was placed before us by the Honourable Mr. Clow and also the point of view that we feel, namely, that children under a particular age should not be employed but should be left to do some other work so that they may be more useful to the country after they become youths. Before we make up our minds I would ask the Honourable Members who represented us on the Committee to give us the benefit of their discussion there.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce) : Sir, I think the Honourable Mr. Clow has made it abundantly clear that he and the Government are in full sympathy with the protection of child labour. We know Mr. Clow's efforts in this direction and that he has very great sympathy for anything of that nature. I think he has made it quite clear that this particular proposed reform is impractical because it cannot be enforced and for that reason I support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to speak on this motion with some temerity because I am not very conversant with the subject, but I wish to enter a protest against the manner in which the Government is utilising this House. This Resolution could have been moved in the other House as well. It is not necessary that this should be ratified by the Upper House.

Because they find that they can have an easy time and can get through any measure according to their own desire they bring forward this sort of Resolution in this House simply to lower the dignity and the regard in the public esteem for this House. This Convention is not being ratified because the Government does not find itself able to do so. The Honourable Mr. Clow stated that India was prepared to accept the Convention if certain amendments were made in it, but he failed to inform us when the Government intend to bring forward a measure on the lines which they suggested to the Conference; but if they had come forward and said that they would introduce in this House a measure according to their own lights, we would have seen no reason to oppose it, because I quite agree with the Government in thinking that it is impossible to give effect to all these provisions in the Convention. But when the Government have accepted that certain steps could be taken, unless we have the assurance from the Government that they are going to bring forward a measure on the lines suggested by the Indian delegates, we cannot, Sir, support this measure.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : Sir, in view of the modest silence of members of the Standing Committee attached to the Department of Industries and Labour, I think I ought to explain to the House that the Resolution which stands in my name was put forward after consulting them and represents their views.

I would just like to say in reply to what has fallen from the Honourable Member who spoke last that I was very greatly surprised to hear his suggestion that the dignity of this House was in any way being infringed by the present Resolution. The Resolution is put before this House in consequence of a Treaty obligation. Government are obliged within a year or 18 months of the conclusion of the Conference to put before the competent authority Conventions of this kind. The competent authority in this case is the Indian Legislature and a Resolution in identical terms has been tabled in both Houses. I do not think that Government can be blamed if the other House has found itself somewhat preoccupied and has been unable as yet to find time to deal with this Resolution. I am surprised that the Honourable Member should have made a charge of this kind and I hope he will realise on reflection that it is entirely unjustified.

He went on to say that India was prepared to accept the Convention if certain modifications were made in it. If I conveyed that impression, I misled the House. What I said was that the Government of India suggested certain special provisions, but I did not say that India would accept the Convention if those special provisions were embodied. I do not attempt to disguise from the House the fact that we should have been faced with by no means an easy problem if our original proposals had been accepted; but it would have rested with the Legislature to consider whether anything was possible along those lines.

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

“That this Council having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its sixteenth session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation.”

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to propose that Wednesday next the 14th instant—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : If the Honourable Member would wait a moment I think the Honourable Leader of the House is going to make some remark on that subject.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House) : Government, Sir, have no occasion to suggest that the Bill which has been laid on the table this morning should be proceeded with before the expiration of the ordinary period of notice, and I would suggest that the Council might meet for the consideration of the Bill on Monday next and from day to day thereafter until the Bill has been disposed of. If this course is adopted there is a possibility that further business may reach the Council before the sittings devoted to the Bill terminate.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Sir, I propose that Wednesday next the 14th instant be fixed for the consideration of the Bill to supplement the Criminal Law. Sir, some of us will be going to Dehra Dun to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Military Academy there and it will be rather difficult for us in particular to consider well and put in the amendments within the time limit. Besides this, Sir, this Council has still to dispose of other legislative measures which are now under consideration and discussion in the Assembly and it is not likely, Sir, that those measures will be decided there before Wednesday next. There seems no hurry therefore in the matter, Sir, and so I beg to make this proposal.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : May I enquire, Sir, from the Leader of the House when the Ottawa Bill is likely to reach this House ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : Much as I should like to possess the capacity to see into the future, especially where the Assembly is involved, I am afraid I do not possess that capacity yet ! However, from lobby gossip it appears that there is a possibility of the other House passing the Ottawa Bill towards the end of the next week as it is understood from lobby gossip that the Members have now developed a keen desire to leave Delhi before Sunday week.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY : Sir, I do not know what is the general opinion of the House on this subject, but speaking for myself I think Monday next would by no means be a very early date for the discussion of this Bill. My Honourable friend, Lala Ram Saran Das, has mentioned that many Members are going to Dehra Dun to attend the opening of the Military College and it might be difficult for some of them to put in their amendments. Today is only Thursday and if the amendments can be lodged by tomorrow the Bill could be easily brought for discussion on Monday next ; especially if the other Bill is likely to reach this House next week, it will be much better that the debate on this important Bill should be finished before the other Bill comes to this House as many people here are equally anxious, as the Honourable the Leader of the House has told us the Members of the Assembly are, to go away from this place. However, if it is the general opinion of this House that the Bill should be taken up on the 14th, I shall not oppose it.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, speaking for myself, it is a matter of indifference whether this Bill is taken up for discussion on Monday or Wednesday, but in view of the fact that we have not been doing anything for nearly a week and that it is very difficult for the Members here simply to mark time while the Assembly is having these elaborate discussions of things in the other House, I urge that it is desirable that the discussion may be taken up on Monday. Sir, the only objection that could be taken to this course is the want of opportunity for the Honourable Members of this House to study the provisions of the Bill. As regards this, Sir, I may bring to the notice of the Honourable Members of this House that, though the Bill has been tabled today it was published in the Government of India Gazette in September, 1932 ; consequently sufficient time has been afforded to the Members of this House to consider the provisions of this Bill and make up their minds as to what they ought to do. Therefore, Sir, if my own view was consulted I would urge that the discussion be taken up on Monday.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL (Bengal Chamber of Commerce) : Sir, I support the last two speakers. Some of us have been waiting here for some considerable time for work and I am sure the Honourable Mr. Hussain Imam would agree that it would not be in accord with the dignity of the House that when work is put before us we should appear to run away from it. The only possible reason why there should be any delay is that the House may not have had sufficient time to examine the Bill : the Bill has been public property during two sessions and during the last few days of enforced leisure every Member should have had sufficient time to consider any amendments he wants to move. I therefore suggest that the Bill be taken up as early as possible.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : There seems to be a majority view in favour of taking the Bill up on Monday. I have to say that I am somewhat impressed by the reasons advanced by the Honourable Member from Lahore for a little further delay in considering the Bill. I do realise that in the circumstances, as some Honourable Members have to be away in the course of the next few days, they may possibly be handicapped to some extent in the framing of amendments to the Bill and putting those amendments in with due notice. If the Bill is taken up on Monday the amendments must be tabled on Saturday. However, I think the general view is that we should proceed on Monday and therefore I adjourn the House till that day, which will be the 12th of December.

The House then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 12th December, 1932.