

Tuesday, 24th September, 1935

THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME II, 1935

*(16th to 28th September, 1935)*

TENTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1935

Chamber Fumigated. 8/10/35



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# CONTENTS.

PAGES.

**Monday, 16th September, 1935—**

Address by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly . . . . .	1—13
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**Tuesday, 17th September, 1935—**

Members Sworn . . . . .	15
Questions and Answers . . . . .	15—61
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> despatch of troops to Abyssinia—Leave to move, granted . . . . .	61—62
Statements laid on the table . . . . .	62—70
Message from His Majesty the King Emperor . . . . .	70
Message from His Excellency the Governor General . . . . .	70—71
Committee on Petitions . . . . .	71
Congratulatory to recipients of Honours . . . . .	71—73
Governor General's Assent to Bills . . . . .	73
Message from the Legislative Assembly . . . . .	73
Deaths of Mr. P. C. Desika Chari, Sir John Thompson, Sir Basil Blackett and Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary . . . . .	73—76
Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the table . . . . .	76
Motion for the election of one non-official Member to the Standing Committee on Emigration, <i>vice</i> Mr. B. K. Basu . . . . .	76
Motion for the election of one non-official Member to the Standing Committee for Roads, <i>vice</i> Sir Ernest Miller . . . . .	77
Resolution <i>re</i> reduction of the import duty on carbon blocks—Adopted . . . . .	77—78
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> despatch of troops to Abyssinia—Withdrawn . . . . .	78—86

**Wednesday, 18th September, 1935—**

Member Sworn . . . . .	87
Questions and Answers . . . . .	87—122
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> unsatisfactory terms and constitution of the Special Tariff Board on the Indian textile industry—Leave to move, not granted . . . . .	123—24
Message from His Excellency the Governor General . . . . .	125
Criminal Law Amendment Bill laid on the table . . . . .	125
Statement of Business . . . . .	125
Resolution <i>re</i> initiation of early measures to implement the conclusions of the Report of the Drugs Inquiry Committee—Adopted, as amended . . . . .	126—44
Resolution <i>re</i> removal of sex disqualification and enfranchisement of women qualified to vote at Council of State elections—Adopted . . . . .	144—46
Resolution <i>re</i> recruitment of 100 British Service officers for the Indian Army—Withdrawn . . . . .	146—52
Indian Milch Cattle Protection Bill—Motion for reference to Joint Committee, negatived . . . . .	152—59
Resolution <i>re</i> provision for a separate whole-time Secretary to the Government of India in charge of "Indians Overseas"—Withdrawn . . . . .	160—66

**Friday, 20th September, 1935—**

Member Sworn . . . . .	167
Questions and Answers . . . . .	167—86
Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the table . . . . .	186
Nomination of non-official Members for election to the Standing Committee on Emigration . . . . .	186
Election of a non-official Member to the Standing Committee for Roads . . . . .	186—87
Resolution <i>re</i> glass industry—Negatived . . . . .	187—203
Resolution <i>re</i> flotation of sterling loans—Negatived . . . . .	203—16
Resolution <i>re</i> proposed reservation of the highlands in Kenya for Europeans—Withdrawn . . . . .	216—22
Statement of Business . . . . .	222

**Saturday, 21st September, 1935—**

Statement laid on the table . . . . .	223
Motion for the election of one non-official Member to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department—Adopted . . . . .	223
Motion for the election of one non-official Member to the Central Advisory Board of Education—Adopted . . . . .	224
Indian Army (Amendment) Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	224—25
Central Provinces Courts (Supplementary) Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	225
Provincial Small Cause Courts (Amendment) Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	225—26
Provincial Insolvency (Amendment) Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	226—27

**Monday, 23rd September, 1935—**

Questions and Answers . . . . .	229—37
Criminal Law Amendment Bill—Motion for consideration— <i>not concluded</i> . . . . .	237—86

**Tuesday, 24th September, 1935—**

Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the table . . . . .	287
Nominations for the election of one non-official Member to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department . . . . .	287
Nominations for the election of one non-official Member to the Central Advisory Board of Education . . . . .	287
Election of one non-official Member to the Standing Committee on Emigration . . . . .	288
Resolution <i>re</i> contribution by His Majesty's Government towards the maintenance of the British Army in India—Withdrawn . . . . .	288—92
Madras City Hindu Temples Bill—Motion for reference to Joint Committee, adopted . . . . .	292—301
Resolution <i>re</i> increase in the number of cadets admitted to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun—Negatived . . . . .	301—08

**Wednesday, 25th September, 1935—**

Questions and Answers . . . . .	309—12
Criminal Law Amendment Bill—Motion for consideration, adopted; Consideration of clauses— <i>not concluded</i> . . . . .	312—63

**Thursday, 26th September, 1935—**

Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the table . . . . .	365
Statement of Buainess . . . . .	365—66
Parsi Marriage and Divorce Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee . . . . .	366
Durgah Khwaja Saheb Bill—Motion to introduce, adopted . . . . .	366—67
Resolution <i>re</i> improvement of jail libraries—Adopted . . . . .	367—71
Resolution <i>re</i> purchase of gold—Negatived . . . . .	371—84
Criminal Law Amendment Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	384
Resolution <i>re</i> employment of women during the night—Adopted . . . . .	384—85
Factories (Amendment) Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	385
Repealing and Amending Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	385—86

**Saturday, 28th September, 1935—**

Questions and Answers . . . . .	387—401
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	401—03
Statements laid on the table . . . . .	403—04
Indian Coffee Cess Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	404—09
Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions (Divorce Proceedings Validation) Bill—Considered and passed . . . . .	409—12
Ballot for the election of one non-official Member to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department . . . . .	412
Ballot for the election of one non-official Member to the Central Advisory Board of Education . . . . .	413
Result of the election to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department . . . . .	413
Result of the election to the Central Advisory Board of Education . . . . .	413
Farewell address to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief . . . . .	413—17

## COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Tuesday, 24th September, 1935.*

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

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### 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 a copy of the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund for the promotion of the cultivation, manufacture and sale of Indian coffee which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on Monday, the 23rd September, 1935.

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### NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF ONE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBER TO THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have now to announce that the following Honourable Members have been nominated for election to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department:

The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra and  
The Honourable Srijut Heramba Prosad Barua.

There are two candidates for one seat and the election will therefore take place on Saturday, the 28th September, 1935.

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### NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF ONE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBER TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have also to announce that the following Honourable Members have been nominated for election to the Central Advisory Board of Education:

The Honourable Sir Ramunni Menon,  
The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú and  
The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam.

There are three candidates for one seat and the election will therefore take place on Saturday, the 28th September, 1935.

## ELECTION OF ONE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I have to inform the Council that the Honourable Sir David Devadoss has since withdrawn his candidature for the election to the Standing Committee on Emigration. I therefore declare the Honourable Mr. P. N. Sapru to be duly elected to that Committee.

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## RESOLUTION *RE* CONTRIBUTION BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan):** Sir, I rise to move:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to request His Majesty's Government in Great Britain to contribute to India the cost of at least two divisions of British troops maintained in India."

Sir, the Resolution which I commend to the House is an innocent one. It neither condemns the Government of India for any sins of omission or commission, nor does it ask the Government to reconsider a decision already taken in any matter. It simply wants the Government of India to act as a sort of post office and forward our demand with a word of recommendation, if possible, to the authorities concerned. Inasmuch as the Resolution is both inoffensive and wants to put something into the pockets of our Honourable colleague the Finance Secretary, I hope it will have the support of both the non-official and official sides of the House. It is within the knowledge of the House that I have had my differences with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief about the Army Department. I have even now many differences and do not see eye to eye with him on many matters. But on this particular question I am very happy to say, Sir, that he is himself almost the father of my Resolution. It has not yet been realised what great services His Excellency has rendered to the cause of India in the matter of payments by the British Government to the Indian exchequer. Sir, I regard it as an unfortunate decision that was taken in regard to not showing to the public at large what our representatives did at the Garran Tribunal. If the whole of the case presented by India, in which His Excellency had the chief part, had been published a great deal of misconception which now exists in the country would have disappeared. While I say this, I must also admit that when I had the privilege of reading the note of the eminent Chief Justices of India who were members of that Tribunal, I agreed with the decision of Government that there were parts of that note which could not see the light of day on account of foreign and military policy. Nevertheless, if those notes had been edited instead of being abridged and published, they would have gone a long way to bring the popular demand into line with the Government and we would not have heard so much about the mismanagement of our case in connection with the Tribunal.

Sir, it is well known that the Garran Tribunal was formed to adjudicate on the entire case between the Government of India and the War Office. The Tribunal divided its terms of reference into five parts, and it was only on one, and even there partially, that they succeeded in giving a definite decision. I

refer to the question of the capitation grant. Again, I have to say that I differ from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in this matter. Our case as placed before the Tribunal about capitation was that we should be absolved from all payment, but even so we went into the question of the period of training for which the charges should be fixed on the Indian exchequer. The terms of service in India and in England were partitioned, but it was unfortunate that the particular items that made up the capitation charges were not discussed or decided upon by the Tribunal as a whole. Be that as it may, we are at present concerned with Head 2, referred to in paragraph 14 and downwards in the Tribunal's report, in which the contribution from Imperial revenues to the Indian military defence expenditure has been discussed.

Sir, I regret that the Tribunal as a whole failed in its duty of coming to any decision on the most contentious part. The Tribunal came to the conclusion that

“None of these formulæ appears to the majority of us to have any satisfactory foundation in principle, or to afford any guidance as to the amount of the contribution. We can only suggest—”

This is what I object to, Sir,—

“We can only suggest that the amount of the contribution should be fixed in relation to the grounds on which we have recommended that it should be paid. Sir Shadi Lal and Sir Shah Sulaiman consider that the contribution should have some relation to the cost of the British troops in India, and Sir Shah Sulaiman further thinks that another suitable basis of its assessment is by fixing a maximum percentage of the Central revenue, for which there are historical precedents”.

Mr. President, when I say that I am not satisfied with this decision of the Tribunal, I do not impute partiality to it; I simply say that it did not realise the difficulties under which we are labouring. After all, the Government of India is but a subordinate department of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. You cannot have an equitable settlement as you can have between equals between a master and a servant. If we look at the India Office, and the decision made by the India Office and the War Office, we must not forget the fact that after all the India Office is a part of the British Government and owes allegiance to the suzerainty of Britain, and as such it is only right that it should work in the interests of England; and if it did not, it would be failing in its duty. I admit, Sir, that when the interests of India and England do not clash, the India Office can fight for us and has fought for us; but when they have to deal with their own kith and kin, with their own colleagues, I do think that full justice is not done to India. Had it been possible to decide this matter amicably between India and the War Office, there would have been no necessity of having a Garran Tribunal. The reason why we have persistently demanded a payment from the Imperial exchequer to India is exhaustively dealt with in this Tribunal's report and I need not dilate on it. Suffice it to say that being a part of the British Empire and not having an independent existence like other Dominions, I claim that it is incumbent upon the Imperial authority to shoulder a part of the cost of the defence of India. If, Sir, we had an independent existence like that of the Dominions, the British Government would be perfectly justified in asking us to pay for our defence. If we had a quasi-independent existence, the responsibility of the Imperial Government would be proportionate to the degree of

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

independence which we had ; but in the case of India where the Government has no independent existence, the power of the British Parliament is supreme. Equity and justice demand that the Government of Great Britain should take a part of the cost on their shoulders. There are, Sir, historic precedents for my demand. None of the Colonies maintain an army or a force adequate to safeguard them when attacked by a first class power. This I say is the right thing. Then, Sir, in the British Empire no country pays any capitation charges. Thirdly, we have the unique feature of Egypt where an army of 10,000 strong is maintained by the British War Office at the cost of the British exchequer. And, Sir, what is still more, we have on the highest authority the following statement :

“ The army in India serves an Imperial purpose, because it is unquestionable that the British garrison in India is of incalculable value to the British Government and the Empire generally in addition to the services it renders to India in particular. Without it ” (that is, the British army in India), “ either the Imperial garrison in the East would have to be increased or an Imperial reserve would have to be located in the East at the expense of the Home Government ”.

This, Sir, is the military opinion on the subject and, as I said in the beginning, the military part of the Government of India has done all that it could do ; but it is the civil side which did not follow up the lead and in a way bungled the matter. Sir, my idea in bringing forward this Resolution was that it should not be thought that the petty sum of £1½ millions granted by the British Government as alms to India should be the last word on this question. It may not be possible for us to get what we demand now, but we should not forget our demand. We should keep the flag flying and whenever we get an opportunity we should go on until we succeed in getting equity and justice from the Government. Sir, I need not dilate more on this subject, as it is one in which I think I can say that I have a great deal of sympathy from both sides of the House.

Sir, I move.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :** Sir, I hope the Honourable mover and the House will not think if I formally oppose this Resolution that I do so because I think in the least that the Honourable mover is wrong in bringing it forward. On the contrary, I think it is a very good thing that this very important matter should be aired occasionally and the House will recollect that so far from the Government of India or myself opposing this contribution from England at any time during the time it has been mooted we, on the contrary, not only supported it but we did our best by briefing counsel to appear before the Garran Tribunal and put forward every possible argument that we hoped might influence that Tribunal and we actually did our best to get more ; and when a similar discussion took place in this House a year ago—I think it was in March, 1934—I said on behalf of the Government that we thought India had only obtained bare justice in the award which she had got. But there are two reasons why I formally oppose it. One is the form in which it is couched and that is that you ask for the cost of two divisions. And another reason is that I think the moment is again inopportune. The House will remember that when the discussions took place last year in this House I pointed out that we in putting forward our case had found it impossible to place a cash value on the benefits we considered the Government of the United Kingdom gained by the upkeep



of the troops in India. We said that it was impossible to assess an actual cash value. We could not say that it was worth the cost of one division or two, and you will also remember that when the award came out we found that the Garran Tribunal itself had also found it impossible to put a cash value on the services rendered to the United Kingdom by India in keeping up the troops she does. You will remember that the Garran Tribunal left it to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to assess that cash value and we have never found out on what principle they did so. It was impossible for us to ask the Cabinet and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to tell us exactly how they arrived at the figure of a million and a half which they did. But I suggested that the reason why they gave us something like a million and a half was possibly because India had supplied troops for use by the United Kingdom overseas something like seven times in the last fifty years and that on no occasion except during the Great War, when India was obviously fighting as much for herself as for the United Kingdom, had she ever sent abroad more than the equivalent in units of one division. And therefore I urged in the debate last year that India, if you looked at it in that way, was not badly paid by getting a million and a half a year because that was considerably more than the cost of one division, to say nothing of the fact that whenever the British Government had used Indian troops overseas who had, from the moment they left Bombay, paid the whole of their cost. I also said during that debate that I thought it was a singularly inopportune moment even a little more than a year ago to ask His Majesty's Government for a greater contribution than she then made towards the cost of the Army in India. Her head was only just emerging over the surface of the tragic sea of financial difficulties and commercial difficulties which the war years had thrown her into, and in that war she herself, the United Kingdom, had paid by far the largest share of all the Allies of the cost throughout. And I said that I thought that it was hardly the moment when she had not only done that but was still continuing to pay by far the largest share of the cost of the whole of the defence of the Empire, to ask her for more than she gave us under the Garran award. Well now, if that was the case then, Sir, I suggest that this moment is even more inopportune. What is happening at this moment? The Government of His Majesty in the United Kingdom has since the war done its very best to induce the nations of the world to disarm and to refer their quarrels to a common court at Geneva. And at this very moment when you ask her to pay more towards the cost of the Indian forces she is confronted with a whole series of treaties, pacts, arrangements and such like, which she had taken part in bringing about and that she hoped would effect the disarmament of the world brought to nought. All those treaties and pacts look as if they have shared the fate of the scrap of paper about which we went to war for the defence of Belgium. His Majesty's Government is, I suggest, confronted now with the old suicidal competition among the nations to arm. She is confronted with what seems to be a world madness, and already we have seen the announcement that she has had, against her will, to more than double her air force and, for all we know, she may have to do the same with her army and navy. And again I suggest to the House that if that happens she would be bearing by far the heaviest burden of the defence of the whole Empire, and I would suggest that, while she is doing that India must hold her own with the million and a half she gives us and maintain her defences on land. If His Majesty's Government were beaten in war, India

[His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.]

would lie completely defenceless on the sea. If the British Empire was beaten you would have nothing to meet the naval situation with. You pay one hundred thousand pounds sterling a year to His Majesty's Government and for that you get the whole British Navy, if it is necessary, to use in your waters. If all this is the case,—and I think it is,—I venture to suggest to the Honourable mover that since, as I said, not only I but the Indian Government have the fullest sympathy with the hope that eventually Britain should pay more, I trust, though I think he was perfectly right in bringing forward this Resolution and keeping the question alive, that he will see fit to withdraw it.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA** (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to thank His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for the sympathetic reply he has given to the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Hossain Imam. I am very glad to hear that His Excellency as well as the Government of India did their best and tried to place the views of this country before the British Government for increasing the capitation charges. Sir, we are convinced that the amount fixed by the Capitation Tribunal is not enough and India ought to have got much more. But, Sir, as His Excellency has just said that this is an inopportune time and my friend may not press the demand at present but bring it up again after some time when the question of the present situation is settled, I quite agree with him and I shall request my friend, the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam, not to press this Resolution, but to withdraw it and bring it forward again after some time.

**\*THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have just two words to say on this Resolution. I am quite sure that the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam is not going to press his Resolution but I hope His Excellency will forward the proceedings of this Council on this subject to His Majesty's Government and the War Office.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**: I certainly will, Sir.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM**: Sir, I wish to have the leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

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

#### MADRAS CITY HINDU TEMPLES BILL.

**THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTY** (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

“That this Council do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that the Bill to provide for the better administration and governance of Hindu Temples in the City of Madras and the endowments attached thereto be referred to a Joint Committee of this Council and of the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 Members.”

It is unnecessary to say more than a very few words in commending this Motion to the acceptance of the House. The Bill is intended to provide for the better administration and governance and closer supervision of the large

number of temples in the City of Madras and to safeguard the proper application of their income. As Honourable Members are aware, prior to the year 1842, the administration of the Hindu and Muhammadan religious endowments in British India was carried on by the Government itself. Efficient and stringent control over the management of the temples and mosques was exercised through the instrumentality of the officers of the State and there was no general satisfaction that the income was properly appropriated. But in 1842 the Government entirely divested themselves of the control and supervision of religious endowments owing to the result of an agitation in England that it was not the function of a Christian Government to administer or control Hindu and Muhammadan endowments. As a result of such relinquishment of control and the withdrawal of supervision, trustees were in a position to do as they pleased and mismanagement prevailed everywhere. This was considered to be a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and as a remedy, the Religious Endowments Act of 1863 was passed. By this Act, local committees were appointed to exercise a form of supervision vested formerly in Government. One very serious defect in the Act was that it did not apply to temples, the trustees of which were before 1842 not directly appointed by Government and so there was no provision therein for the exercise of any supervision over an important and large class of temples of which the trustees though not appointed by Government had no hereditary rights at all. Also, the powers and duties of temple committees were not defined with precision; the committee had no power to enforce their orders except by means of filing suits; the committees had no funds for the purpose of carrying out the duties; the members of committees were to hold office for life and the provisions of the Act were not adequate to safeguard the interests of the trustees. These defects in the Act resulted, as far as the Madras Presidency was concerned, in the trust funds being grossly misapplied and wasted. Opinion was unanimous that the provisions of the Act were not sufficient to check maladministration. Various attempts were made from time to time to introduce suitable legislation and finally the Government of Madras, during the Governorship of the present Viceroy, His Excellency Lord Willingdon, introduced the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill in the Madras Legislative Council. The Bill was passed by that Council and it extended to the whole of the Madras Presidency including the presidency-town of Madras as it was undoubted that the evils in the system obtaining in the rest of the presidency were present in the city also. But His Excellency the Governor remitted the Bill to the Council for consideration suggesting certain modifications. One of such modifications was that the Bill should not be made applicable to the presidency town as it was not competent to the Local Legislature to pass any measure which would affect the ordinary civil jurisdiction of the Madras High Court. His Excellency, in paragraph 2 of his message, stated that he was advised that the provisions of the Bill seeking to make it applicable to the city amounted to affecting the jurisdiction of the High Court. The message further stated :

“ It is not permissible in an Act of the Local Legislature to include any provision having this effect ”.

His Excellency therefore suggested the exclusion from the Bill of the territory subject to the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the High Court, that is, the City of Madras. Accordingly, the Bill was amended excluding the city from

[Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetty.]

its operation and when the need for that measure in respect of the city temples also was pointed out, the Government Member stated as follows :

“ When this Bill is placed on the Statute-book, the next step will be to move the Indian Legislature to enact a law which would bring the presidency-town within the ambit of the measure ”.

Sir, the Bill became law ten years ago and nothing else has been done in the matter. This shortly is the reason for the introduction of this Bill in this Honourable House. I may say, Sir, that there is no principle in, or reason for, excluding the endowments in one particular part of the presidency from the operation of a measure applicable to other parts in which the same conditions prevail. The reason for passing the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act in 1926 providing for effective supervision of temples in the Madras Presidency hold good with greater force in the City of Madras today and I, as the President of the Hindu Devasthanams Committee in that city, unhesitatingly state that the management of the temples and their income need to be immediately placed under proper control. The Bill which I have the honour to move for reference to Joint Committee will, I expect, attain that object.

I shall now briefly refer to the main provisions of the Bill. To Members of this House unacquainted with the state of affairs in my presidency, I may state that the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926, the general supervision of all Hindu religious endowments is vested in a Central Board consisting of a president and four commissioners appointed by the Local Government. They are full-time officers. Under the Bill now under consideration, it is this Board that is given the power to supervise the administration of the temples in the city, to appoint non-hereditary trustees, to remove them for breach of trust, misappropriation or other proper cause, to order the audit of temple accounts and to see that the various objects with which the endowments were made are properly carried out. Care has been taken to enforce that no lawful usage or *mamool* obtaining in the religious institutions is altered or interfered with. No provision has been made in this Bill for the constitution of a temple committee as it is not necessary or desirable that for the small area over which it would have force there should be composed of honorary members besides the Board itself which has its headquarters in the City of Madras. Another important provision is that on the coming into force of this Act, schemes of administration settled for the temples by the Courts under section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure should cease to be operative. The reason for this is that those schemes settled a long time ago are not suited to the present conditions and contain many provisions which would render nugatory the various provisions of the present Bill in regard to supervision and that they are defective and have filed a large number of cases to effectively safeguard the interests of institutions. These schemes can be modified only by means of suits which would involve the trusts concerned in protracted litigation and heavy expenses. The course suggested in the Bill is cheap and speedy and has been adopted almost unanimously in a measure recently passed by the Madras Legislative Council. The Bill also provides for paid and full-time executive officers being appointed in suitable cases as experience has

shown that honorary trustees are not able to bestow the attention and time necessary for discharging the onerous responsibilities of the management of trusts getting enormous income. This practice has been adopted in a large number of instances under the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act with considerable benefit to the institutions concerned. The Bill generally follows the lines of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act in other particulars also with suitable modifications. The proper utilisation of funds endowed by the public for various services in public religious institutions is of paramount importance to the public and I hope that this Bill will be an effective measure to secure this end.

I may also state, Sir, that the Government of Madras is whole-heartedly in agreement with the principle of this Bill. The Bill, after introduction, has been circulated to various provinces. The Honourable the Advocate General of Madras is in agreement with it, and even many of the High Courts, though they do not know the conditions of the City of Madras, are not against the provisions of the Bill. I do not know what the Madras High Court have said. I am told that the Madras High Court are in general agreement, with certain modifications which they propose. These could be considered by the Joint Select Committee.

With these words, Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. SLOAN (Home Secretary): Sir, I should like to explain at the very outset of the discussion what the attitude of Government to this Bill is. It is unfortunate, we feel, that this Bill has had to be introduced in the Central Legislature. My Honourable friend has explained the reason for that, namely, that the Bill affects the jurisdiction of a High Court, and under the present Government of India Act, any legislation affecting the jurisdiction of a High Court can only be taken in the Central Legislature. But, Sir, that is a feature of the present Constitution which will be altered in the New Constitution and under the Government of India Act of 1935 the Madras Legislature will itself be competent to deal with this measure. My Honourable friend has said that it is ten years since the original Madras Religious Endowments Act was passed and he is perfectly correct in saying so. It is only now after a lapse of ten years that this Bill is brought in the Central Legislature, and Government feel that that in itself shows that there is no very great urgency about this Bill, and for that reason as well as for another reason which I shall explain Government feel that they themselves are not justified in supporting the Bill. At the same time they will do nothing to put difficulties in the way of the Honourable Member proceeding with it. Official Members will not take any part in the division if this Motion is put to a division but will remain entirely neutral. I have said, Sir, that one reason for taking that attitude is that the matter is not very urgent. Another reason is that the Bill is of a somewhat complicated nature and we feel that its provisions can much better be discussed in detail in the Local Legislature than in the Central Legislature. It is perfectly true, as my Honourable friend has said, that the general opinion elicited by circulation is in favour of the Bill. At the same time circulation has shown that the Bill is susceptible of amendment in certain important particulars, and such amendments can in our opinion best be discussed and considered in the Local Legislature. For these reasons, Sir, we on

[Mr. T. Sloan.]

this side of the House will remain neutral and leave the matter entirely to the non-official Members.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Will you please tell me when you expect Part III of the new Government of India Act regarding Governors' provinces to be put into operation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. SLOAN: Perhaps the Honourable Leader could say?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL (Leader of the House): I regret, Sir, I am unable to give any undertaking in the matter at present.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I support this Motion. The mismanagement of some of the Hindu temples is a blot on the fair name of Hinduism in general and Sanatan Dharma in particular, and it is the sacred duty of every Sanatanist to see that the temples are made ideal places of worship. Such a measure therefore is most welcome and is in my humble opinion long overdue. But, Sir, I have one or two suggestions to offer for the consideration of the Select Committee. I am of opinion that the members of the Board should be elected and not nominated and that only such persons as are Sanatanists, believing in the doctrine of *Murti Puja*, should have the right of franchise for this purpose. Then it should be provided that no person will be appointed or will continue as a member of the Board, trustee, executive officer or any other employee in any temple who is not a Sanatanist Hindu believing in *Murti Puja*. Such a provision is essential because the term Hindu is a very wide term and includes within its scope persons who are non-believers in this form of worship and it will not perhaps be in the interests of temples to appoint non-Sanatanists in connection with their administration and management.

Sir, this is the only criticism I have to offer at this stage and I support the Motion for the Bill being referred to a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I also have much pleasure in supporting this Motion. When the Madras Act was first brought in the Local Council people wanted that the temples of the City of Madras should also be brought under the control of this Board but, as stated in the statement of objects and reasons, there was some difficulty in getting over some of the powers of the High Court under their original jurisdiction, and it was due to this technical reason that the operation of the local Act could not be extended to the temples in the City of Madras. We have found that under the operation of the Act outside Madras City a great improvement has been effected in the management of temples outside the City of Madras. Of course under a new enactment of that kind which brings institutions under its control for the first time some difficulties were bound to be experienced and objections raised by some members of the public who are leaders of opposing factions in a temple. And it is also to be expected that people like this may object to the City of Madras being brought under such an enactment. It is but proper that the Act which applies to the whole

Presidency of Madras should be applied also to Madras City for the better administration and control of the temples situated in the City of Madras.

As regards the remarks of the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad about the constitution of the Board, there was some difficulty experienced with regard to the election of members of the Board. In the first instance, an electorate has to be prepared and that was found to be a very difficult and a very costly affair, but so far as nominations are concerned, with some exceptions, there is not much to complain of. In course of time it may become necessary that the members should be elected. No doubt some complaints and some general public dissatisfaction also is found in the constitution of the boards. Much depends upon the Minister in charge of the department in the matter of making the constitution suitable to public opinion. If care is bestowed upon it I do not think there will be any difficulty in constituting boards. If election is to be done, it will add to the factions and troubles and will mean going to law courts and consequent expenditure. At present the constitution of the Board with nominated members cannot be changed and hence the Motion made by my Honourable friend is necessary for the administration of temples in the City of Madras.

Sir, I support the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, if I rise to intervene in the debate, it is simply because the reasons that have been advanced by the Government to justify their attitude of neutrality have failed to convince me. Sir, the two reasons that have been stated to be the justification for this attitude are, firstly, that there does not seem to be any case for hurry and this opinion is based on the fact that it took nearly ten long years to introduce this Bill in this House after the original Act, Act XXVI of Madras, was passed. It was argued that if there was really any immediate need for such legislation, an attempt should have been made in this House much earlier. To this, Sir, I would reply that if there has been this delay it was not because of the fact that its necessity was not felt in Madras but simply because of the hope on the part of non-official Members here that the Madras Government which had undertaken to move the Central Government to take this step would implement this undertaking; but since all these years the Madras Government, for some reason or other, possibly because of more important and pressing business, did not move the Central Government, my Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Narayanaswamy Chetti has thought fit that he should take the initiative in the matter. As regards the power which the Madras Government itself would have to legislate in this matter, we have—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Not at present.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR : This power is not yet within sight.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : In other words, you want this Bill to be indefinitely postponed or shelved ?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR : That is why I feel that I am not convinced by the argument that the Madras Government would have in the remote future the power to legislate in this

[Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.]

matter and that we should be debarred from proceeding in this matter. I should have been perfectly satisfied if the Government had justified its attitude of neutrality on the ground of non-interference with religion. If they had said that it was a matter concerning Hindus and therefore Government would not like to interfere in any religious matter—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Apparently you have not understood the Honourable Mr. Sloan. He has stated that the Government proposes to remain entirely neutral and to leave Honourable Members to decide the question whether they will proceed with this Bill or not.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR: I have understood him perfectly well. I have been saying that the reasons given for adopting this attitude of neutrality were not quite convincing. The neutrality should have been based on non-interference with religion. I am one of those who feel that the Central Legislature, or for that matter, any Legislature has no business to interfere in matters of religion when similar legislation was before the Madras Legislative Council in 1922. When the Religious Endowments Act was passed I happened to be a member of that body but I refrained from taking part in the debate or in voting since I thought that not belonging to the Hindu religion I could not interfere in this matter. It might be asked, Sir, why I have changed my attitude. It is because I find ever since the Act was passed and ever since the Board was constituted under the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act much of the dissatisfaction which was felt in Madras regarding the administration of these Hindu temples and *mutts* has now disappeared. I feel that the management is more efficient and that this Act has tended to improve the control and management of those institutions. That is the reason why I now stand to speak in support of this measure. It was by a mere technical flaw that the Madras Religious Endowments Act could not be applied to the temples and religious institutions in the City of Madras. That was because anything affecting the original jurisdiction of the High Court of Madras could not be enacted by the Local Legislature and only the Indian Legislature had the power to do it. I feel that inasmuch as the whole Madras Presidency is now within the orbit of that Act, there is no reason why Madras City should be deprived of the benefit of the same efficient administration.

Sir, I support the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated: Indian Christians): Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House. I will only make a few remarks. Act XX of 1863 is a most unsatisfactory Act. From my experience at the Bar and on the Bench, I can say that it has been a source of endless litigation. When I was at the Bar I had the benefit of *ittoo*. But if anybody takes the trouble to read some of the Madras papers, he will see what amount of litigation the few temples within the City of Madras are the cause of. The time of the High Court is wasted over a number of unnecessary suits—trustees are appointed and objection is taken to their appointment and the suit drags on for months if not years. And I know, Sir, from experience that the time of the High Court is being wasted by unnecessary litigation on account of the unsatisfactory nature of Act XX of 1863, under which these temples in the City of Madras

12 NOON.



are being administered. It is therefore very necessary that a better provision should be made for the management of temples and the Religious Endowments Act has done much good to the temples in the districts. The only temples that are excluded from its operation are the temples within the so-called original jurisdiction of the Madras High Court. Sir, it is unnecessary for me to go into all the reasons why these temples were excluded from the operation of this Act and it is high time that they were brought under some sort of better management than can be had under Act XX of 1863. The only possible course to take is to extend the Madras Act. But as has been pointed out the Madras Legislature has not the power to interfere with the original jurisdiction of the Madras High Court, and therefore the only Legislature which can deal with it at present is the Central Legislature. The Honourable the Home Secretary stated that there is no urgency about it and that the New Constitution will be able to provide the remedy. Sir, even if the New Constitution comes into being within say, a year or two, the Local Legislature will have plenty of things to attend to in the beginning and I do not think it will be able to spare the time for legislation of this kind. Unless we have no time, I should think the Government would be well advised in allowing this measure to be passed through this House as well as by the other House.

With these few remarks, Sir, I have much pleasure in supporting the Motion of my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Chetty.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion made by my friend, the Honourable Dewan Bahadur Chetty. The management of temples all over India, generally speaking, is going from bad to worse, and no time should be lost in putting the management right. As far as the Punjab is concerned, I am sorry to say that the mismanagement of the temple has now reached a climax. Instead of temples being generally used for worship, they are being run for various other irreligious purposes. The Honourable Mr. Sloan has observed that when the New Constitution comes into being each province can have its own legislation for the control of its temples. I might remind the Honourable the Home Secretary that some time back a request was made by one of the Honourable Members of the Punjab Legislative Council asking permission to move a Bill for the better control and better management of Hindu temples, and I am sorry to say that the Government permission enabling the Honourable Member there to move the Bill was refused.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Perhaps this was because the temples are under the original jurisdiction of the Punjab High Court ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAMSARAN DAS : Well, Sir, as far as I am aware no such or any other reason was given. If, Sir, your conjecture is correct, that is all the more reason why this House should pass an all-India measure since legislation at the centre will be more useful and for various other reasons the permission for such will not be refused as was the case in the Punjab. In case, Sir, it should be necessary, I would request the Honourable Member to alter this Bill and make it an all-India Bill, and in case the Honourable Diwan Bahadur is not prepared to do so, I will take the responsibility on myself.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion and I ask leave that an all-India legislation as regards the better control and management of Hindu temples ought to be made to avoid breaches of the peace and to bring about a sound, good, and up-to-date administration of Hindu temples.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I am in general sympathy with this Bill and also with the suggestion of the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das that there should be an all-India legislation to deal with the administration of Hindu temples. Sir, the reason why the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Chetty has brought this Bill in this Council is that it is the only Indian Legislature that can over-ride the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court, and I think that disposes of the objection that this Bill is of a local character and ought to have been moved in the Local Legislature. In the statement of objects and reasons he has explained the reason why it was necessary for him to move the Indian Legislature very clearly. I think, Sir, there is no harm if this Bill goes to a Select Committee. Assuming the New Constitution to come into being some time next year, our provincial ministers and provincial legislatures will be occupied with more important matters and delay is not desirable in a matter of this kind. I would, therefore, with these few words support the Motion that this Bill be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTY : I would only like to say one or two words with reference to the objections of my Honourable friend Mr. Sloan. His first objection was that the measure is not very urgent. But if it is not taken in hand now, it will have to wait till the New Constitution comes in which may take another two or three years, and meanwhile the state of mismanagement of the temples will continue. Many of the trustees fail to submit their accounts to the Temple Committee, who are the agents of Government. The Madras temples were managed by the Board of Revenue and they handed it over to the Madras Temple Committee and they are now functioning with great difficulty and trouble. Some of the Trustees fail to submit the accounts of the temples they manage, the Committee have not got sufficient powers under the Act to enforce their orders. I may tell you my own experience, Sir. I am the President of the Temple Committee of the City of Madras. The moment this Bill comes into force I will be out of office, and I hope I may be very soon out of office because the troubles with which the Temple Committee is confronted is unimaginable. The Honourable Mr. Sloan said that the Madras Government had been considering the matter for ten years. But there were change of ministries, and their life is not very enviable, and under these conditions you cannot expect legislation of this nature to go through. Even when the new Provincial Government begins to operate it will be another four or five years before the matter is taken up. As a matter of fact, the Madras Government are very anxious that this measure should be passed. I do not see why the Government of India should hesitate to support a measure of this sort. I should have thought it was the duty of the

Government of India to support it when the Local Government and the Advocate General of Madras are strongly in favour of it. I do not see why they should not support the Local Government in this matter. Whenever the Government of India want to pass measures, they quote as an argument that Local Governments are in favour, but here, when the Local Government want it, they object to it. Sir, I do not think Government have any case. I do hope that they will support the Motion for the reference of this Bill to a Joint Committee. I have brought this Bill as a private measure and it is up to the Government of India to support it. I thank all non-official Members who have supported me, and I do hope that this Motion will be passed.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Motion made :

“ That this Council do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that the Bill to provide for the better administration and governance of Hindu Temples in the City of Madras and the endowments attached thereto be referred to a Joint Committee of this Council and of the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 Members.”

The Question is :

“ That that Motion be adopted.”

The Motion was adopted.

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### RESOLUTION *RE* INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CADETS ADMITTED TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, DEHRA DUN.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR** (Central Provinces : General) :  
Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name runs as follows :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the number of cadets admitted in the Military Academy, Dehra Dun, be raised from 60 to 120.”

Sir, the Defence Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference recommended to the Government of India the constitution of a Military Expert Committee to go into the question of the establishment of a Military College in India where cadets in all arms will be trained with a view to accelerating the pace of Indianization of the Indian Army, and they stated that when new reforms are to be given to India, it should be the increasing concern of the people of India to manage their army and not of the British Government alone. Sir, I do not want to read the Resolutions of the Defence Sub-Committee and take up the time of the House unnecessarily, but I want to submit, Sir, that the Committee which was constituted by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Resolution of the Defence Sub-Committee failed to take into consideration two vital matters about the pace of Indianization and the annual intake of cadets. Sir, I do not think this is an occasion to lodge a protest against the decision of the Government of India not to allow the Committee to fix the annual intake in the Military College. Views on that point have been very clearly stated in the Minutes of Dissent to the Chetwode Committee by the non-official Members. The Government decided that the non-official members of the Committee had no power to fix the number of the intake as they had already decided in consultation with the British Government to take only 60 cadets annually. I want to say a few words only from the point of view of the young Indians who aspire a military career in this country. I put a question on this point to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and if my calculations are correct, I believe

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar.]

that since the Indian Military Academy was established, only 235 cadets have been taken both by open competition and from the Indian Army, while according to the number fixed, 60, there ought to have been 240 cadets. If I am incorrect, I hope His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will correct me on that point. To make this point more clear, I will read out the question and answer. I had asked :

“ Will Government be pleased to state the number of cadets admitted to the Indian Military Academy since it was started ? ”

and the answer was :

“ By open competition 114 and Indian Army Cadets 121 ”.

That comes to 235. According to the number fixed by Government, namely, 60, the total number ought to have been 240. So I assume—I may be wrong, but I assume—that there might be some wastage and that is why only 235 cadets have been admitted. I therefore submit that there is some wastage and Government are not in a position to commission even the fixed number of 60 officers per year. In answer to a question of mine, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief said that in December, 1934 and June, 1935, only 47 cadets were commissioned to pass out of the Military College. Taking this into consideration, there is a deficiency of 13 cadets. I leave the question of accelerating the pace of Indianization because that question has been debated so many times here, and various authoritative pronouncements from official and non-official sides have been made on that point. But I want to submit that Government have not been able to turn out and give commissions to even as many cadets as they had fixed beforehand. For that purpose, Sir, I make a very, very moderate request in my Resolution that the present number, which is 60, should be increased to 120. I find from the proceedings of the Interview and Record Board of 1933 that the candidates who came for the open competitive examination were found not to have the necessary qualifications which would make them successful in the open competitive examination and so gain admission to the College. At the same time I am very glad to find a remark made by them to the effect that some of the candidates they examined were found quite capable of standing the test and of carrying out their training in the Military College successfully. They say :

“ In the present case the Board had the satisfaction of having before them a small number of candidates whom they regard as exceptionally suitable and to whom they award the maximum of marks ”.

Further, they say :

“ Following these came a considerable number of first class candidates, the best of them not much inferior to the best ones, and thereafter a somewhat smaller number who might be described as second class ”.

I further find in the report of the Board of 1934 that there were some candidates who were not much above the border line, but they say some of them who were young may improve if they persevere. Then they stated that some of the candidates who have appeared before them do not get the facilities of attending regular parades in the University Training Corps or on account of their being required to attend course in their Colleges. This is exactly what they said :

“ A considerable number of candidates of course had no opportunity of rendering any service of this kind being either ineligible to join the Auxiliary Force (India) or

having been at a college or school where there was no Cadet Corps or University Training Corps. Many candidates who had taken science subjects said they were unable to join the University Corps because the hours fixed for laboratory work did not leave them free to do so".

I also find that the Indian Sandhurst Committee said that if proper facilities are given to Indian youths and if Indian youths are encouraged by Government as well as by the public to take to a military career, there will not be a dearth of young men ready to enter the Indian Military College and to adopt a military career. From my own personal experience of students I find that there is a growing tendency nowadays to look to a military career for their future avocation. We all know, Sir, how those who pass out of our Universities find every avenue crowded and no employment offering. It is perhaps not a healthy sign but at the same time I appreciate the idea that young men have now begun to take an interest in military affairs. They read books; they willingly join University Training Corps; they attend parades and they really want to take up a military career. So my humble request is that it is for us, for the public and for the Government to encourage these youths in our country to qualify themselves so that they may be able to take part in the national defence of their country.

Lastly, Sir, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is shortly leaving India. He has taken, I know, great interest in accelerating the pace of Indianization, though he has not been successful to the extent which we would have liked. We know his limitations. But I would request that, in the event of any catastrophe occurring to which the war clouds hovering over us seem to point when the Government may not be in a position to start a temporary school as they started in Indore during the Great War, they should be ready from now. And if they increase the number of cadets as I have suggested, then they will be in a position to turn out more officers. I may submit here also that I have recommended substantially the same number as that recommended by the Shea Committee of 1922. The Shea Committee enunciated proposals to Indianize the whole personnel of the Indian Army within 30 years and recommended also the establishment of a Military College in India with an average annual output of 81 cadets during the first period of Indianization of 14 years, 182 cadets during the second period of Indianization of nine years and between 88 and 106 cadets during the third period of Indianization of seven years. I know, Sir, that the Skeen Committee, that is the Indian Sandhurst Committee, decided upon this number of 60. But after the report of the Skeen Committee was published the resolutions of the Defence Sub-Committee were passed; and therefore, Sir, if Indianization is really to be increased, from that point of view also I calculate that the figure which has been fixed by the Government is too low and therefore they should increase it to 120. I therefore, Sir, request the House to accept my Resolution.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** Sir, I think I may be permitted to wonder why this Motion, or motions similar to this, are brought up almost every session. It does seem curious that some Honourable Members think that the fact of bringing motions like this and making speeches on this subject will cause His Majesty's Government and the Government of this country to alter or increase the rate of Indianization, which rate was settled by them after the most earnest and serious consideration of all the points involved. It was a fundamental issue—the Indianization of the Indian Army—and it is

[His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.]

impossible to think that responsible Governments can be moved from a well considered and carefully thought out policy before the first fruits of that policy have had time to prove themselves. This annual intake of 60 young men is governed entirely by the number of officers that are required to fill the officer cadres of the units which have been told off for Indianization—15 fighting units and the commencement of an artillery brigade and the commencement of the services and departments. So far from being able to accept a Motion like this and being able to advise the Government to increase the rate of Indianization to the abnormal amount the Honourable mover suggests, I go so far as to say that if I was asked by the Government now I should have to tell them that I did not feel at all sure whether the rate of Indianization could be increased very much as things are going now. This is the last time probably that I shall have the privilege of addressing this House before I finish my military career. I have taken the deepest interest in the teething stage of the new Indianized army. (Applause.) I have done my best for it and I have started it on its way with I think one of the most efficient (Applause) military colleges that I have ever seen either here or abroad. But I do not disguise from you and from this House, Sir, that I am not altogether happy about the progress we are making in regard to young Indian officers. May I say with all the emphasis at my command that the whole success of Indianization depends on the class of young men we get to lead the Indianized army. We have no doubt whatever that the material from which we find non-commissioned officers and sepoy of the Indian Army is good, as good as you can get anywhere, but I cannot say that I feel the same confidence about the young men who are coming forward for commissions. I hasten to say that the ones we have got and have turned out and are in process of turning out from the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, are universally acknowledged to be as good specimens of young Indian manhood as it would be possible to find, but we are not getting enough of them. We military authorities are only able to get the bare minimum we want and the 15 we get at each examination for the open competition and the 15 we get from the Indian Army are just about all we can get of the stamp we really want, while those candidates who come from the Indian States are getting less every year and their quality is not improving. Now, it is not too much for me to say that a very large proportion indeed—I am choosing my words very carefully—a very large proportion indeed of the young men aspirants who come before the Interview and Record Board before they sit for the examination are absolutely unsuited ever to be officers and to lead men; and yet, Sir, I know such young men exist in India, but they are not coming forward. The country does not appear to appreciate what is really wanted in an officer. There is a large number of parents who seem to think that the army is merely a well-paid profession which will increase the social status of their sons. Some candidates, I understand, are even run by syndicates. We have only found one so far and he very naturally disappeared very quickly.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): May we know who it was, Sir?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** No, that would not be fair. The public do not seem to have a proper idea of what are the essential

characteristics of an officer and many of those young men who present themselves for our examinations have no idea whatever of what life in the army is really like. We find that the education of both the open candidates and the Indian Army candidates is not at all what we really should have in the case of young men presenting themselves as candidates for officers. We in the army have done our best to rectify that. We have got the Prince of Wales' School at Dehra Dun and we are taking the greatest trouble to make what we call the King George's Schools at Jullundur, Jhelum and Ajmer into efficient places where primary education is given especially to the sons of our own sirdars; but the education is so bad among the candidates who present themselves at the examination that, setting aside the marks of the Interview and Record Board, we have been compelled to pass candidates who obtained only 43 per cent. of the aggregate marks. Now, Sir, that standard is not enough; it is not enough for an officer who will have to undergo examinations during the whole of his career. Certain people in India seem to think that if a young man can pass so easy an examination as that and learn a little drill he is fit to be responsible for the training of men in peace and to lead them in war. Again, we have had Indianization going now ever since 1923 and only two candidates have passed into the Staff College. It is no use thinking that you will Indianize your army by merely producing regimental officers; you must produce staff officers and leaders as well and they are not coming forward. There are some people who are inclined to suggest that the Indian Army cadets whom we admit do not come up to the standard of the open cadets and that therefore the open cadets should be increased at the expense of the army cadets. If we in the King George's Schools and in our regimental schools do what I hope to do I feel that in the end the army cadets may prove to be the best. But we are not getting the class of young men coming forward for commissions in the army that we get in Europe. We are not getting young men who are the natural leaders of this country. We are not getting the sons of the sirdars and big zemindars and leaders and we are getting practically nothing from the States. Why, I do not know. The Indian Army protects the States just as it protects British India. But for some reason or other, young men of the princely or noble families or sirdars in the States seem to think that it is not worth coming to serve India in the army. And in British India it is the same. We do not get the same class presenting themselves for officers as we get in other countries. I can at any moment in England get hundreds of candidates all of the right class from families who have been accustomed for generations to offer their sons in the service of the country. I do not seem to be able to get them here. I beg of you to realise that that is very serious and that, if we do not get more of the right class of young men, Indianization will not be the success we hope it will.

May I also, Sir, for one minute, refer to a rather serious matter with reference to Indianization, and that is the amount of communal, religious and political influence that people are endeavouring to exercise on me and my officers in questions affecting the discipline and the careers of young officers. This year and last year I was unfortunately forced to get rid of a certain number of young cadets who were at the Indian Military Academy. They were given every chance, some of them a term extra, and they failed, and it was

[His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.]

not the slightest use offering commissions to young men who were inefficient. In two cases I was absolutely bombarded—that is the only word to use—with requests from religious dignitaries and politicians of the class to which the cadet happened to belong to “remedy these injustices”. Now, Sir, we have a rule in the British Service, which I emphasised when I first took over command, that if any communication whatever is received by the War Office, the Army Council, or by me or any of my officers, trying to push the claims of any officer in the Service for advancement or to push his claims if he happens to be in trouble, that officer will be held to know that that communication has been sent on his behalf and he goes down to the bottom of the list. Now, I have no hesitation in saying that for the two months that I am in command now before I go, and on behalf of my successors, this rule will be rigidly enforced in the case of all officers in the Indian Army. I suggest, Sir, that if there was the slightest suspicion in this country that an officer or man could escape from the consequences of misbehaviour or inefficiency by invoking political or religious influence, Indianization would be dead—I will go so far as to say it would be dead and damned. It is bad enough in England where we are more or less of one religion, but if officers or non-commissioned officers or men thought that they could escape from the consequences of any trouble they had got into by appealing to communal or political influence in this country, it would simply ruin your army.

I am sorry, Sir, to have to make my last speech before this House on a note of pessimism but I do so because I have a deep and sincere interest in the future of the Indian Army. I know you have got these young men in India. They are there. They are fit to lead your army but they are not coming forward, and I can only hope that what I have said today may be taken note of throughout India and that you will get them.

Sir, I feel compelled to oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I would remind the Honourable Members that we have an important engagement today and I would like to conclude the work of the Council before one o'clock.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. Whatever His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has said is true, but I would ask His Excellency what remedy he suggests for improving the quality of cadets who offer themselves. After all, it is the duty of the Government to see that the right sort of education is given to the youth of India. As far as I know, Sir, after the establishment of the Ministry of Education in the Government of India, education has been going from bad to worse. The kind of boys produced by our schools have not been at all satisfactory. I know that the batches of students who had bad education in the earlier times were totally different from the batches that are turned out now. I am not only talking about the education of our young men but also of their training so as to make them fit as good countrymen of this great country of ours. I would, therefore, Sir, suggest that, as His Excellency has also given his testimony that the product of these schools is defective and is not of the right kind, Government should make an endeavour to improve the standard of education. You are now



turning out students who for want of proper education do not care for their parents, do not care for the Government and do not care even for their God. Therefore, Sir, it is very urgent that serious steps should be taken to mend matters. The Punjab Government was good enough to establish a Mechanical Engineering College at Lahore for mechanical training and after a few years of its working the Railway Board said that the product of that College was not up to the mark and they were not going to employ passed students from this College, the Maclagan College, Lahore. Sir, as I have been taking a keen interest in mechanical education, I approached the authorities concerned and I impressed upon them that when the Punjab Government has incurred more than a million rupees in capital expenditure towards the establishment of that College and as the Government was maintaining the College at the expense of over a lakh of rupees every year, it did not seem right that after all the product of that College should be rejected for lower qualifications. The railway authorities said so though they themselves (the railway officers), were in a majority on the College Board of Management. I requested the then Chief Commissioner of Railways to consider that when there was a majority of railway officers on the Board of Management of the Maclagan College, there was no reason whatsoever why the Railway Board should reject the product of that College in railway service. The Punjab Government was good enough then to meet the demand of the Railway Board and the syllabus of that College was improved a great deal. I wish His Excellency to kindly move in right earnest and to suggest some practical methods how and in what manner the product of various schools can be made to meet requirements. After all, Sir, we want more and more young men to enter the army and to qualify themselves for being eligible for selection. Our passing this Resolution will help His Excellency in this matter.

(The Honourable the President then called upon the Honourable Mr. V. V. Kalikar to reply.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadan): I would like to speak, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: This question has been argued times out of number in this House and it is in the President's discretion to allow or not allow further debate on this question after the complete and lucid speech made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. I therefore called upon the Honourable the mover of the Resolution to reply.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: Sir, I was very glad to hear certain remarks made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The first remark that he made is that parents are taking pride that their sons should adopt a military career as they thought that a military career will be paying. I am extremely glad to hear that remark. The other remark made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is that there is fine material, but the material is not coming out. I was extremely glad to hear this remark also that there is fighting material in my country, but there are certain difficulties. Certain facilities are not afforded to that fighting material and therefore the required number is not coming forward. I therefore suggest, Sir, to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Government that if the present method of intake,

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar.]

is hard, or if the test fixed for competition is hard, they should mend it or find out ways and means or appoint a committee so that the fighting material which is shy and which is not coming forward should do so. They should devise ways and means for that. I understand that the cadets who used to be sent to Sandhurst and Woolwich up till now have been stopped. If my information is correct, then my case becomes much stronger for increasing the number of cadets admitted into the Military Academy. I understand that about 26 cadets used to be sent to Sandhurst and Woolwich and if that is so, then I submit that at least that number should be added to the annual intake, if His Excellency is not willing to accede to the request made in my Resolution. They will then find more commissioned officers passing out of that College, even making allowances for wastage. I therefore request the Government seriously to consider the situation and find out ways and means or appoint a Committee to devise means for taking more cadets into the Military Academy.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Resolution moved :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the number of cadets admitted in the Military Academy, Dehra Dun, be raised from 60 to 120."

The Question is :

"That that Resolution be adopted."

The Motion was negatived.

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The Council then adjourned till Half Past Ten of the Clock on Wednesday, the 25th September, 1935.