

11th March, 1921

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1921



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Legislative Assembly

The President

THE HON'BLE MR. ALEXANDER FREDERICK WHYTE.

Deputy President

MR. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA, M.L.A., BAR-AT-LAW.

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SIR LOGIE PIRIE WATSON, M.L.A.

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Assistant's of the Secretary

MR. W. T. M. WRIGHT, I.C.S.

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR-AT-LAW.

MR. G. H. SPENCE, I.C.S.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 11th March, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock.
The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN :

Raja Bahadur Partab Bahadur Singh, C.I.E., of Qila Partabgarh, M.L.A.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INCOME-TAX ASSESSEES.

435. **Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu:** Will the Government be pleased to state, for each province separately, the number of persons assessed to income-tax in the last class of assessee since the taxable minimum was raised to Rs. 2,000 and similar information for a similar period immediately preceding the said enhancement?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: A statement is being sent to the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the number of persons assessed to Income-tax during the years 1918-19 and 1919-20 at the rates specified below.

Provinces.	1918-19 (FINAL).		1919-20.*
	At 4 pies in the rupee.	At 5 pies in the rupee.	At 5 pies in the rupee.
Madras	21,713	19,736	22,594
Bombay	19,649	14,697	16,259
Bengal	39,450	16,064	15,307
United Provinces	27,513	15,685	16,877
Punjab	27,058	14,210	15,962
Burma	15,395	4,828	5,975
Bihar and Orissa	8,552	6,776	6,176
Central Provinces	8,156	4,706	4,573
Assam	3,225	1,958	2,761
Total	170,711	98,660	106,484

* These figures are preliminary estimates.

FORM AND DESIGN OF CURRENCY NOTES.

436. **Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu:** With reference to the Government's reply to letter No. 261, dated 24th December 1918, from the Godavery District Association, Madras Presidency, stating that the question of improving the form and design of the currency notes—especially of the Rs. 50 and Rs. 10 denominations—was under the consideration of Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether a decision has been arrived at on the subject and when the issue of notes of an improved pattern may be expected?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: It has been decided to improve the form of Currency notes. The main features of the new design have been approved and a final specimen from England is now awaited. It is expected that the new ten-rupee notes will be ready for issue in the early part of next year.

HARDSHIP OF PENSIONED SEPOYS.

437. **Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu:** (a) Is the Government aware that the rule whereby a pensioned sepoy loses the right to ricemoney while in receipt of a salary or pension from a Civil Department, operates as a hardship on those pensioners in these days of high prices?

(b) Do the Government propose to revise the rule in favour of the pensioners?

Sir Godfrey Fell: Ricemoney is a form of compensation for dearness of food. The concession is applicable only to a limited class which is rapidly disappearing. The rules for its issue, which are rather complicated, will be found in Appendix VI to Volume I, Army Regulations, India.

Only pensioners who were enrolled before the 1st September 1888 are allowed, in certain circumstances, to draw ricemoney in addition to pension. Ricemoney is not admissible when a pensioner is employed in a civil capacity. Government do not consider that any hardship is involved by withholding ricemoney in such cases, as the mere fact that he is employed in a civil capacity shows that the pensioner is still able to supplement his pension; whereas the issue of ricemoney, in addition to pension, was intended merely to mitigate the effect of high prices upon those who are unable to supplement their pensions. Government are not prepared to revise the rule.

ORIYA PORTION OF THE GANJAM DISTRICT.

438. **Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu:** (a) Is it under the contemplation of Government to transfer the whole or any part of the Oriya portion of the Ganjam District in the Madras Presidency, to the Province of Bihar and Orissa?

(b) If so, do the Government intend to give an opportunity to those interested in the question, to represent their views before the Government arrives at a decision?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the debate on a Resolution moved by Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha at a meeting of the Indian Legislative Council on the 20th February 1920, regarding the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts under one administration. This is the only proposal which is before the Government. In accordance with the

promise given by the Honourable Sir William Vincent Local Governments were addressed on the 22nd May 1920, and were asked to ascertain the wishes of the people affected in the matter. Their replies are awaited.

SEPARATE UNIVERSITY FOR ANDHRA DISTRICTS.

439. **Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu:** Do the Government propose to take early action for the establishment of a separate university for the Andhra or Telugu Districts in the Madras Presidency.

Mr. H. Sharp: Should the Government of Madras submit any proposal for the establishment of such a University, it will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu: Will the Government be pleased to forward my question and the answer just given to it, to the Government of Madras?

Mr. H. Sharp: I think there will be no objection to that course.

DISCONTENTMENT IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

440. **Dr. H. S. Gour:** Is Government aware of the great discontentment prevailing in the Ordnance Factories among the leading hands and Indian Service mechanics due to the non-revision of their pre-war rates of pay when all the remainder of the staff have been in receipt of substantial increments for some time; and is it the fact that these men were promised, as early as 1918, by the Heads of their Department, that they would receive enhanced rates of pay along with the Home recruited men, *viz.*, Foremen and Assistant Foremen, and that while the latter were given an increase of pay ranging from 35 to 40 per cent. in September 1919, the former have up to date received nothing more than the temporary war allowance sanctioned for both in June 1918?

Sir Godfrey Fell: The leading hands and the Indian Service mechanics in Ordnance Factories were given as a temporary war measure an increment in 1918 of 20 per cent. of their pre-war pay. In January 1921, their pre-war pay was increased by 25 per cent. in lieu of the temporary increase of 20 per cent. The Head of the Department was, of course, not in a position to commit Government by giving any promise of the nature suggested in the Honourable Member's question and Government are not aware that any such promise was given. The increases given to Assistant Foremen and Foremen are stated correctly in the question.

ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

441. **Dr. H. S. Gour:** Will the Government please state the approximate additional expenditure involved in the granting of increased rates of pay to the following grades of the Ordnance Factories since 1918 and also the percentage of the said increase over old rates:

- (a) Foremen and Assistant Foremen.
- (b) Supervisors (non-pensionable establishment).
- (c) Clerks.
- (d) Artificers and labourers.

Sir Godfrey Fell : A statement is laid on the table which gives the information required.

	Extra expenditure per annum.	Percentage of increase.
	Rs.	Rs.
(a) Foremen	86,000	40
Assistant Foremen . .	1,00,000	34
(b) Supervisors	The number of Supervisors employed varies with the work, and no reliable figure can be given of the additional expenditure entailed by granting increased rates to this class.	
c) Clerks	1,66,000	85 per cent.
(d) Artificers and labourers .	The number of artificers and labourers varies according to the work, and here again no reliable figure can be given. Speaking generally, increases have been on the scale of 33 per cent. upwards.	

OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

442. Dr. H. S. Gour : Will the Government please state :

(a) If it is the fact that the Home recruited men in Ordnance Factories, viz., Foremen and Assistant Foremen, have been granted a further increase of an overseas allowance thereby raising the percentage of increase on their pre-war rates of pay to approximately 60 per cent.?

(b) If it is the fact that the artificers and labourers in certain Ordnance Factories are in receipt of grain compensation allowance in addition to enhanced rates of pay giving a percentage of approximately 60 per cent. on their pre-war rates of pay?

(c) What additional expenditure would be involved if sanction were accorded to the new scale of pay proposed by the Director General of Ordnance and submitted to Government for the existing staff of leading hands and Indian Service mechanics in the Ordnance Factories?

Sir Godfrey Fell : (a) The answer is in the negative. The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Grain compensation or dearness allowances are from time to time granted to the establishments of certain factories on the scale and under the conditions laid down by the Local Government of the Province in which the factory is situated. In order to calculate the percentage of increase on pre-war pay resulting from the grant of such allowances it would be necessary to collect detailed figures from each of the factories and this will be done if the Honourable Member desires to pursue the matter.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his Question No. 440 which has just been answered. The 25 per cent. increase of pay given to the class in question entails additional expenditure of approximately Rs. 20,000 per year.

PETITION OF INDIAN SERVICE MECHANICS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

443. Dr. H. S. Gour : (a) Is the Government aware that in one Ordnance Factory alone 6 petitions were submitted to the Heads of their Departments

by leading hands and Indian Service mechanics praying to be treated like their brother workmen by increasing their rates of pay, and pointing out that except for a temporary war allowance they were the only ones who were working on pre-war rates of pay, and that owing to the increased cost of living they were being put to great hardships?

(b) If the statements in the petitions are correct, will the Government please state the cause for such differential treatment being meted out to these men and do Government propose to recompense them for the hardships and loss they are being put to by early sanctioning for them a new scale of pay, making the new scale retrospective to September 1919, and basing it on a time-scale?

Sir Godfrey Fell : (a) A number of representations have been received from leading hands and Indian Service mechanics and the decision arrived at has been stated in reply to the Honourable Member's Question No. 440, which has been answered this morning.

(b) As the Honourable Member has just been informed, an increase of pay has already been sanctioned, but it is not intended to give retrospective effect to an earlier date than 1st October 1920. The class in question had previously received an increase of pay in 1918, and there has been no differentiation of principle in the treatment of the various classes of employees in the Ordnance Factories. I may add that Government have under their consideration the Report of the Committee on the Ordnance Factories, which has recommended *inter alia* the adoption of new scales of establishments and new rates of pay.

TEA CESS.

444. Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala : (a) In what way is the money realised as Tea cess expended?

(b) Is it a fact that the said money is partly spent not only in permeating the country with tea stalls, but also in alluring people to collect at tea stalls by means of providing free entertainments, in the nature of vocal and instrumental singing and music? Is the allegation true that many people who have never used tea are entrapped into the tea drinking habit in this way?

(c) Will the Government kindly collect information and lay on the table a statement showing the number of (a) tea consumers, (b) tea vendors, and (c) tea consumed in a year before the introduction of Tea cess and also at the present day?

(d) Is it the policy of the Government to encourage the tea-drinking habit and to adopt extraordinary means and ways to increase the same?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the proceedings of this Assembly dealing with the Tea Cess Act Amendment Bill. The object of this cess was then explained.

(b) The Government of India have no information as to the detailed methods used by the Tea Cess Committee in advertising the use of tea and have had no complaints from the people who are supposed to have been entrapped into tea drinking either by the two classes of singing, vocal and instrumental, which the Honourable Member distinguishes or even by music.

(c) The inquisitional efforts of the Census Commissioner have produced no information as to the number of people who have taken to drinking tea during the last 20 years; nor do we know the number of additional people who have taken to selling tea. It is not possible to form a definite estimate of the consumption of tea in India before the cess was introduced as the figures for production of Indian tea at the time were based on very incomplete data. We have now more satisfactory data, and it has been estimated that in 1919-20 the amount available for home consumption was about 30 million pounds or 7·9 per cent. of the production during 1918.

(d) The Government of India are satisfied that tea as ordinarily made is safer to drink than unsterilised water, and its use has probably resulted in saving many thousands of lives in addition to the fact that it has reduced the temptation to take drugs and intoxicating liquors. If the methods adopted to spread knowledge regarding the value of tea are really those described by the Honourable Member, they appear to resemble very closely those pressed on Government independently by temperance reformers.

ITARSI-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

445. **Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) When was the Itarsi-Nagpur Railway projected?

(b) When did the work of its construction commence?

(c) What is the present stage of its progress?

(d) By when is it likely to be completed?

(e) Do the Government propose to see that its construction is accelerated?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn: (a) The line was projected in 1901.

(b) The work on the line was commenced in 1908.

(c) The length from Itarsi to Purassia 134·38 miles has been opened for traffic, but the construction of the remaining sections of the line has been delayed due to shortage of permanent way and other materials as a consequence of the war.

(d) and (e). Government are making every effort to complete the line as soon as conditions permit.

NAGPUR RAILWAY STATION.

446. **Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Is the Government aware that great inconvenience to the public is caused by the delay in the construction of the remodelled Nagpur Railway Station?

(b) Do the Government propose to see that its construction is taken in hand without further delay?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn: (a) and (b). Government are aware that the accommodation provided in the existing station building at Nagpur is insufficient, but they are not aware that it is such as to cause great inconvenience to the public.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration have already been authorised to proceed with work on the new station building.

PROPOSED UNIVERSITY AT NAGPUR.

447. **Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Has the Government received any communication from the Central Provinces Government on the subject of the proposed university at Nagpur?

(b) And, if so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the communication so received?

(c) Is the Government aware that a university at Nagpur is understood to have been recommended by the Education Commission in 1882; and that it was definitely promised by His Excellency Lord Hardinge's Government some eight years since and that except the University of Nagpur most if not all the universities then proposed to be started have been brought into existence?

(d) And do the Government propose to take steps to see that no further avoidable delay occurs in redeeming its promise?

Mr. H. Sharp: (a) Yes.

(b) It is understood that the most important papers on this subject have already been published by the late Administration of the Central Provinces. The question of further publication is primarily one for consideration by the Government of the Central Provinces.

(c) The possibility of a University for the Central Provinces was mentioned in the Report of the Education Commission of 1882. The definite promise referred to by the Honourable Member is presumably a passage in the Government of India's Resolution of the 21st February 1913, in which the Government of India said that they contemplated the establishment of Universities at Rangoon, Patna and Nagpur. It is a fact that the other universities, to which specific allusion was made, have been brought into existence.

(d) In view of the statement made by the Honourable the Member for Education in a debate which took place in the Indian Legislative Council on the 16th September 1919, it cannot be admitted that the delays in regard to the institution of the University at Nagpur have been avoidable. Education is now a transferred subject and it is for the Local Government to take the next step.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTERS.

448. **Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** (a) Are the Government aware that clause 4 of the Government of India Bill, 1919, was amended by the Joint Select Committee so as to recognise the collective responsibility of Ministers?

(b) To the knowledge of the Government is any departure from the principle of collective responsibility of the Ministers intended or proposed in any of the provinces and, if so, for what reasons?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: (a) Yes.

(b) Under section 51(2) of the Government of India Act, the Governor may make rules for the transaction of business with his Ministers, provided that the rules so made are not repugnant to the provisions of any other rules made under the Government of India Act. The Government of India can see no departure from the principle of the collective responsibility of Ministers as recognised in the Act and in the report of the Joint Committee, in any of the rules which they have seen.

DEPOSITS IN THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

449. **Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala:** Will the Government be pleased to collect information and lay on the table a statement showing the latest figures available as to the amount deposited in the Imperial Bank of India (a) by Europeans, and (b) Indians, as also advances made to Europeans and Indians separately sub-divided into heads detailing secured and unsecured dates with rates of interest in each case?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: The Imperial Bank of India is not a Government concern and Government are not entitled to call upon them to disclose details of this nature. Nor would it in any case be easy for the Bank to give the information, as they would find it difficult to classify companies and firms of mixed partnership either as European or Indian.

RACIAL DISTINCTION IN THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

450. **Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala:** Is there any distinction of race or colour made in practice or theory in the Imperial Bank of India in regard to the filling up of responsible posts or dealings with customers in the said Bank.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: The questions of filling posts and of dealing with customers in the Imperial Bank of India are entirely the domestic concerns of the Bank and are not within Government's control. I may add, however, that it has been ascertained privately from some of the Governors of the Bank that it is the settled policy of the Central Board to employ more Indians, but that before this is possible, they must be trained, and the Governors are now formulating a scheme with this object in view. With reference to Mr. Agarwala's question regarding customers, I may refer him to the answer which I gave to his previous question.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

The Honourable the President: I think it will be for the convenience of the Assembly if Government were in a position to make any statement regarding the business they propose to take up after the Budget has been disposed of, i.e., on Thursday, the 17th March.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: Sir, in respect of the legislative business for the 17th March, we propose to make a motion for reference of the Indian Finance Bill to a Joint Committee of both Chambers. Similar action is proposed with reference to the Indian Factories (Amendment) Bill.

In the next place it is proposed that the following Bills be taken into consideration, and, if the Assembly agree, that they be passed:

(i) The Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

This is a short Bill dealing with section 55 (3) and (4) and was passed by the Council of State on the 28th February. Copies were laid on the table in this House on the 1st March.

(ii) The Bill to facilitate the enforcement in British India of Maintenance Orders made in other parts of His Majesty's Dominions and Protectorates and *vice versa*.

This Bill was also passed by the Council of State on the 28th February and copies were laid on the table in this House on the 1st March.

I understand that these two Bills are being circulated for the information of Members to-day.

- (iii) There will probably be a motion that the Bill to amend the law relating to the Calcutta University, which was introduced in this Assembly on the 1st March, be taken into consideration, and if the Assembly so pleases, passed.

It is further proposed, Sir, that the discussion on the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which was introduced on the 19th February, be continued.

A further motion will also be made in regard to the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, regarding compensatory costs in fraudulent suits, which was introduced in this Assembly on the 1st March.

Lastly, Sir, it is hoped that a Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, will also be ready for introduction on the 17th March.

THE BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Expenditure from Revenue—contd.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,30,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for Interest on 'Miscellaneous Obligations'.'

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,30,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'.'

Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations—*contd.*

The motion was adopted.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : Sir, I beg to move :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'General Administration'.'

General Administration.

Honourable Members will observe that the figure I have mentioned is Rs. 43,000 in excess of that shown in the Blue Book which they have in front of them. The reason for that is this. It is desired to increase the provision for the sumptuary allowance of the Governor General from Rs. 21,000 to Rs. 40,000 and the provision for expenditure from the contract allowance from Rs. 1,32,000 to Rs. 1,56,000. The existing allotments were fixed as far back as the year 1911-12 after very careful examination at the time by the Finance Department. Recently the accounts have been examined by an officer deputed by the Finance Department and that officer has certified that as might have been expected that owing to the great rise in the price of articles since the year 1911-12 the existing provision is insufficient to cover the necessary expenditure. I regret that it was not possible to give earlier intimation of the change of figures. But the examination of the accounts has only just been completed.

[PROVISION FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.]

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Sir, the Resolution, which I propose to move now, runs as follows :

‘ That the provision of Rs. 60,000 under the head of ‘ Executive Councils ’ on page 60 be omitted.’

Perhaps, to avoid misapprehension, I may say at once that this is not a motion intended to cast any slur upon any of the Executive Council Members, because they are all true and good men and they are trying to do their level best. Nor have I any particular object in depriving them of their tour allowances or hill allowances or other allowances amounting to Rs. 60,000. My object, Sir, is this. It is known that Sir George Barnes is leaving this place before the end of this month, and there will then be only 6 Executive Councilors. Sir, I am not asking for the reduction of the salary provided for 7 Members, for we cannot do it. My only point is, when there are only 6 Members, why should they provide for 7 Members? Therefore, I have taken an opportunity of asking Government to cut down the travelling allowances so that we might know why they have provided for 7 when there are only 6. Besides, Sir, we know from the Joint Committee Report, that whenever they want to increase the number of Members hereafter, there will be an increase of Indian Members. There are now 3 Civilian Members, and any additional Member should be an Indian Member. Therefore, I want to know what the object of the Government was in providing this extra sum. We have not heard it said anywhere else that a successor is being appointed in place of Sir George Barnes. With that object in view, Sir, I raise this point in order that Government may have an opportunity of expressing their opinion.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: Sir, the Honourable Member began in a very considerate spirit. He said: ‘ Don’t throw stones at the musicians. They are doing their best ’. And I am grateful to him even for that consideration. The actual proposal before the Council is that Rs. 60,000 should be reduced from the travelling allowances granted to Members of Council. The effect of accepting that of course would be that there will be no provision at all for Honourable Members’ tours. I think that some of us might welcome such a state of affairs. I am sure, the Honourable the Finance Member would often be very glad to be spared constant journeys in the hot weather. But the fact is, that constant complaints are made that we Members of Council do not go round enough to the large centres of commerce and do not keep ourselves sufficiently in touch with Calcutta, Bombay and Madras—that we remain on the Olympian heights too long. I fear it would not be in accordance with the wishes of this Assembly that Members of the Executive Council should abandon all touring and spend their time half the year in Simla and half the year at Delhi, never moving at all.

The only reason given by the Honourable Member was the suggestion that the number of the Members of Council was being reduced, and there was some reference also to Indian Members being appointed. I can assure this Assembly that when he goes on tour, my Honourable friend, Mr. Shafi, costs exactly the same as I do. There is no racial discrimination at all. Nothing of the kind. We do not draw any travelling allowance. Our railway accommodation alone is paid for. The Honourable Member also said that there are three Civilian Members. That is an error. There are only two Members of the Indian Civil Service in the Executive Council. But the real fact is, that you cannot

reduce this vote unless you wish to curtail the tours of Members of the Executive Council, and I am quite sure, that Honourable Members of this Assembly will feel that if possible they ought to travel freely and more often than they do at present. Finally, I may say that I am informed that there is no present intention of filling Sir George Barnes' place by a new Member.

The Honourable the President: The question is that the reduction* be made.

The motion was negatived.

INSPECTOR OF OFFICE PROCEDURE.

Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur: Sir, I propose :

'That the item 'Inspector of Office Procedure—Rs. 27,450' on page 64 be omitted.'

Sir, the Imperial Secretariat has a host of officers beginning from the Ministers or Members down to the clerks. You have got Executive Council Members, then you have got Secretaries—highly paid officers at Rs. 4,000 a month—then Deputy Secretaries on Rs. 2,500, then Under Secretaries, then Registrars, Superintendents, and Clerks. Thus we have already a host of officers in the Secretariat, and one fails to understand why a new post should be created. I find, Sir, that his salary is Rs. 2,560 rising to Rs. 2,500. I do not know how a progressive scale can rise from Rs. 2,560 to Rs. 2,500. However, there is that figure. Of course, I think some new procedure has already been introduced by the higher figures rising to lower figures. It matters not. I think that is a mistake. I believe, these high officials are as efficient as any officers in any other Secretariat and have been managing office procedure from time immemorial since the Government of India was created. I do not see why therefore all of a sudden it should be said that they are all incompetent and that they are unable to manage their own office procedure. I do not think my Honourable friend, the Home Member, will say that he has all of a sudden, in his old days, become ignorant of office procedure. Nor do I believe that his Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries have all of a sudden become ignorant of office procedure as soon as they have come from Calcutta to Delhi. I think there is nothing particular in the climate of Delhi which makes efficient men inefficient as soon as they come here. I submit, Sir, that this post is wholly redundant. There is no necessity for it. I do not know what is meant by 'office procedure,' whether that officer is going to suggest that some small tables—my learned friend here says that that is perhaps what is done—should be provided and that they will save space; and that means saving the cost of buildings which will run into lakhs. Is he going to recommend some reduction of some superfluous clerks? I think these are things which the Finance Member, the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, Registrars, Superintendents are competent to do. I have nothing to do with the person who fills the office. I do not know him, I have not heard his name. What I am concerned with is, why these posts should be multiplied, to the great disadvantages of the taxpayer who has to pay the piper, and if he has to pay the piper he must call for the tune. What is this new office procedure that he is going to introduce in the Secretariat?

Then, Sir, I am also in rather a fix, because I find that he has been translated into what I should say, 'the heaven of the untouchables', not in the

* Vide page 916 of these Debates.

[Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur.]

sense that my Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar, from the Madras side, used it, but I say, he is enshrined in the 'Holy of the Holies', *Sanctum sanctorum*, non-votable. We cannot approach it, we poor mortals cannot vote for his salary. He has been entered as non-votable. Who is responsible for this mistake? Whose is the fluke which was responsible for putting this post into the safe pocket of the Secretariat billiard table, so that we cannot hit it? I want to know why this post has been put down as non-votable. I submit, Sir, this is rather queer. I am not going to inquire into the antecedents of the officer.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: I am responsible. It is a misprint, and the officer is votable.

Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur: I am sorry for the Honourable Finance Member that he was mistaken, and I really sympathise with him, that such an important thing should not only escape his notice, but escape even the notice of the Inspector of the Office Procedure.

This post, if the House will kindly excuse me, reminds me of the story of a Killer of King's Rats. In days of yore, there was a King whose name was Habla Chandra, that is, Dull Moon, and he had a Minister named Subudhisuraj, *i.e.*, a 'super-intelligent sun.' In those days, they were all sun or moon or descendants of sun and moon. There was no human being in those days. So, the super-intelligent Minister, in his heated imagination, thought that the King's interest would be promoted by the employment of a 'Killer of King's Rats.' He thought that there were Dacca Muslins, Murshidabad Silks and Kashmir Shawls which might be destroyed by the rats, and that the rats might also attract serpents; further, that the King's personal safety might be jeopardised, and that the rats might also bring in what is called 'plague.' So he proposed a special appointment, named, 'Killer of King's Rats.' There was the Lord Chamberlain, there was the household establishment, and there was a host of domestic servants to look about the rats. I do not want to point out to this House who the King Habla Chandra, that is, King Dull Moon, is, and who the Minister Subudhisuraj, that is, the super-intelligent Minister is in the parable. I shall only say, that this multiplication of offices should be avoided to save the taxpayer from further taxation. I find that 'an officer of suitable experience and standing should be appointed Inspector of Office Procedure and that the post should be either a permanent one, or should continue at least for ten years,' has been recommended by a Committee and a suitable officer, by some fluke I believe, was transferred from the billiard table of the Calcutta High Court to the safe pocket of the billiard table of the Imperial Secretariat. What have judicial procedure or judicial records to do with the office procedure of the Secretariat? The Honourable the Home Member is an expert in judicial procedure and also in Secretariat procedure, because he has adorned the High Court of Calcutta also and he knows that the sheristadar of a District Judge's Court is, perhaps, a better master of office procedure than even many Chief Justices of High Courts. Therefore, why should the Government not have appointed a sheristadar of a District Judge's Court? Why should the claims of all the Secretariat officers who have devoted their whole lives to office procedure be overlooked, and a new man be brought from the Calcutta High Court to fill this post? I believe, that was another fluke. I do not wish to enter into the question as to whose fluke it was, but that, however, I maintain, was a fluke. I do not wish to inquire whether this man had special experience of any merchant's office,

or the office of Rice Controller or a typewriting agency or any other office? So far as I know, merchants keep their records in an altogether different way to the Secretariats. I have nothing to do with the man personally. I am concerned with the office, with this redundant office and it should not be further entertained here.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : Sir, the appointment, to which Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadar has taken objection, was made on the recommendation to the Government of India of the Secretariat Procedure Committee. That Committee made a very careful and detailed examination of the procedure in the Government of India offices, and they found that this procedure which had gradually grown up in course of time was defective in many respects and that it required simplification and modification in order to bring it up to date and adjust it to modern conditions. They recommended accordingly a series of detailed changes in procedure. I need not trouble the Assembly with their detailed recommendations. They are concerned with technical matters and are all set out in a Resolution which was published a short time ago. I notice, however, that the Honourable Member who moved this Resolution made no attempt to show that the recommendations of the Committee were in any way wrong. That perhaps was natural, because he opened his speech by saying that he had no knowledge of office procedure. The Committee, however, in making these recommendations regarding changes in procedure made one stipulation. They said that the full benefits of this new procedure would not be secured unless provision was made for the appointment of an officer specially charged with supervising office procedure and ensuring its progressive improvement and adaptation to changing conditions. Well, Sir, the Government of India accepted that recommendation and appointed Mr. Watson. I have no quarrel with the Honourable Member because he has come to a different conclusion from that of the Committee. But I should like to point out that this Committee was an exceptionally competent Committee. It was presided over by Sir Llewelyn Smith, who had had an unrivalled experience of office work in England, and it contained a number of other members who had also great experience of the working of Secretariats in this country and of commercial offices also, and I venture to suggest to the House that the recommendations of a body of that kind, a body which made a careful and detailed investigation of existing methods are not lightly to be set aside.

It is true that the procedure recommended by the Secretariat Committee has not yet been introduced, to any very great extent. That is due to purely temporary causes. It is due in part to the lack of mechanical appliances such as card indexes. It is due also to the fact that the Inspector of Office Procedure has been engaged on other duties in connection with the reorganisation of certain Departments of the Government of India and we have already had ample proof that in Mr. Watson we have secured the right man for the post, because the economies which he has already effected in the Departments which he has been reorganising, amount, I believe, to over 5 lakhs of recurring expenditure. I think that any business firm would agree that an appointment of this kind, an appointment on Rs. 2,250 a month, which had already in a few months secured economies to the extent I have mentioned, was a very sound business proposition.

Sir, this appointment has been challenged on the ground of economy, but the whole object of our proposal is simply economy. If we had done as the

[Mr. S. P. O'Donnell.]

Honourable Member, I suppose, would have desired us to do, if we had simply introduced the new procedure and made no arrangements for having this procedure continuously overhauled and adjusted to modern conditions, we should have made precisely the same mistake as was made in the past. The procedure would have become stereotyped, mechanical, dilatory and wasteful. The result would have been not economy but extravagance. I think that in a matter of this kind all Government offices would do well to take a leaf out of the book of America. In that country continuous efforts are made to adjust methods and systems of work to modern conditions, because the acute business man in that country realises that improvements in method mean a saving of time and saving of time means saving of money. The truth that time is money is just as applicable to Government work as it is to the work in commercial offices. It stands to reason that if the procedure in an office is dilatory, if it involves an unnecessary number of references, if it is cumbrous and out of date, the result is not economy but waste of money.

Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally : May I inquire whether the post of Inspector of Office Procedure is temporary or permanent or if temporary for how long?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : It is on a permanent basis.

Mr. Eardley Norton : I hope the House will reject this amendment. The main offence which the Inspector in question seems to have given my Honourable friend, the Mover, is apparently that the latter has never heard of Mr. Watson before. I think the House will generally agree with me that there are many men of respectability and virtue whose names have not yet reached the ears of my Honourable friend from Jessore and it is possible, I do not suggest by way of imputation, that the officer in question may have had to overhaul, much to the discomfort of the Honourable gentlemen, some of his own office procedure in that somewhat remote township whence he comes. I speak with some little knowledge on this point, because I have seen the work of the Inspector in question in Bengal, and from what I know of him, he is an able, willing and efficient official, and I am ready as well as glad, to testify that his work has resulted in great economy in Bengal. I believe his transfer from Bengal to the Imperial Government will result, as we are assured it has already resulted, in equal economy. The only doubt I had upon this point was whether the officer in question, who is no doubt a heavy man in more ways than one, pulls his full weight. As we have got an assurance that he does this, I think it would be improper for us to reject the certificate given to him both by his own past work and by those who are competent to appraise his services the present and the future, and, from that point of view, I ask this House to reject this amendment.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju : After the eloquent speech made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Norton, I think it necessary that I should rise to say a few words, because the Committee proposed that the appointment of an Inspector of Office Procedure should, as soon as possible, after the introduction of the reformed procedure in the Civil Secretariats, be taken into consideration.

Now we see in the Budget there are several appointments of Under Secretaries which, according to the recommendations of the Committee, should have

been abolished. That has not been done. It was also suggested that the posts of Registrars should be abolished. They have given the concession to the present incumbents that they might be allowed to continue. If the post is useless according to the Committee's recommendation, why should you not employ the Registrars elsewhere. Sir, on this question, I think the Government might do well to adopt all the proposals which go to economise the administration and not add up the figure just wherever they want to add, without effecting reductions wherever the Committee suggested that reduction should be made. I, therefore, suggest that Government might do something in the matter of reducing posts which were recommended by the Committee for abolition, before they add up. The Committee say, that the present post must be filled only after the reformed procedure is adopted.

Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar : Before I open my mind upon this Resolution I would like to premise at the outset that my observations should not be misconstrued as being said in support of the motion, but that whatever I say, is prompted by the desire to elicit information from Government. Now, if my information is correct, and I hope it is, I understand that when Lord Curzon was Viceroy, he made some rules to simplify the Secretariat procedure. I want the Government to throw some light on the question as to whether this is a fact.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : It is a fact that such rules were made in Lord Curzon's time.

Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar : If it is a fact, that Lord Curzon made some rules with a view to simplify the Secretariat procedure and if those rules are in vogue now and if they are useful, then I do not understand the necessity or justification for the continuance of the appointment of this officer. Another argument, I would mention, is this, namely, that in the Local Governments, we do not see any appointment of this sort. I think, therefore, it is quite unnecessary for this Council to sanction the appointment unless the Government adduces some convincing reasons as to the utility of continuing this office.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, my excuse for intervening in this debate is that I am largely responsible for recommending Mr. Watson for this post. I have had previous experience of his work in Bihar. I was a Judge at that time and I know that Mr. Watson, by his intimate knowledge of office work and procedure, was able to save Government both initial and recurring expenditure in my office. He has been of the greatest assistance to me personally on more occasions than one and I know other officers have found him equally helpful. The last speaker told us that no other Local Government employs an officer of this kind. Well, I may say, that Bengal and Bihar Governments did do so, and, as a matter of fact, it was with the greatest difficulty at one time that we secured the services of Mr. Watson, because the Bombay Government were anxious to secure his services to examine their Secretariat office system. The Government of India have constantly been accused of being wooden and antidiluvian in their methods and the Secretary of State himself, in his pre-official days, did not spare us in this matter. He it was who recommended the appointment of this committee in the hope that we may bring our methods more up to date and we have now done the best we can in this direction in accordance with the recommendations of that committee which

[Sir William Vincent.]

was presided over by a man of very great reputation throughout Great Britain, Sir Llewelyn Smith. I think he was in the Board of Trade for many years and he really is an expert at this work. That Committee also included one or two business men.

There is another aspect of this case which I want to touch and that is the extreme value of Mr. Watson's services in the selection of men for appointment as Assistants in the Secretariat. I do not think that Members of this Assembly can appreciate our difficulties in this matter. I have been a Secretary myself and I know them and the great danger there is of constant nepotism, of one family getting into an office and bringing in all its relations one after another. That has been a constant cause of trouble. We on the other hand want to get the best men and we believe that by having an Inspector of Office Procedure, who is also Chairman of the Staff Selection Board at the present moment, we have been able to secure that every candidate now gets what my friend, Dr. Gour, called the other day 'a fair field and no favour'. I have not the time, and no Secretary in the Government of India has the time, when there is a vacancy in his office to make the selection with the same care as is exercised by a regular Board, and we believe that in this way we have secured a very fair method of obtaining the best candidates for our work.

Further, new methods of doing office work are constantly being invented and I am sure, that every merchant from Bombay and the other side of India is ready to adopt them and use them for his own purpose. We, in the Government of India, are, I think, rather slow in taking up new ideas and it is advisable that we should be encouraged to do so by the advice of a practical expert. And Mr. Watson really is an expert on this matter. I may say this myself, and I am quite sure, that my Honourable Colleague, Mr. Hailey, will support me in this. As to saving money, I may say I worked with the Honourable Mr. Hailey in connection with the question of reduction of establishment in the Army Headquarters. We were able there, with Mr. Watson's advice and help, to recommend to the Honourable Army Member a very large reduction indeed of staff, to which he gave effect, thus saving the State large sums of money.

In these circumstances, I believe, if this Assembly rejects this vote, they will really be doing a disservice to economy.

Babu K. C. Neogy: Sir, I think it was I who first of all drew the attention of this House to this camouflaged item in the demands and I expected, that in reply to my Budget speech, Government would have had something to say in explanation as to how this item appeared in italics—privileged italics as I may call it. However, the only reference which the Honourable the Finance Member made to this question was that he was surprised that a Member from Bengal should have questioned the utility and ability of the officer selected for this appointment. I have no desire to enter into any disagreeable details of a personal nature, but I think, after what has fallen from several Members to-day, I may as well tell this House that it is because I come from Bengal that I happen to know something about the antecedents of this officer and how he began his career in Bengal. Without going into further details I may say, that I do not at all agree with Mr. Norton in what he has said about the merits of the changes that have been introduced on the recommendation of this officer. To my information, the Government of Bengal, the High Court of Calcutta

and the Government of Bihar and Orissa, where also this officer was employed for some time, have not adhered to the changes that were introduced on his recommendation, and, when he was found there to be altogether redundant, he was dumped on the Government of India.

Sir, it has been claimed that this officer has been instrumental in effecting great economy. I think the Honourable Mr. Hailey on the 8th of March put the amount of economy effected by this officer at 2½ lakhs and in these three days the amount of economy has gone up to five lakhs.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: I rise for a personal explanation as the Honourable Member is quoting a statement of mine. I said 'in one Department'.

Babu K. C. Neogy: In one Department! Well, I thought the Finance Department kept itself informed about the economies effected in all the Departments. However, when this question of economy has been raised, I say it was not for the purpose of effecting economy that the appointment of such an officer was recommended by the Llewelyn-Smith Committee. The Llewelyn-Smith Committee recommended the appointment of such an officer because they thought that a fair trial should be given to the scheme that was adumbrated in their report. It was not for the purpose of effecting economy that that suggestion was made, and I should have thought that the Finance Department was competent enough for the purpose of suggesting economy to the different administrative departments.

Now, Sir, I put some questions with regard to this officer and in reply it was stated by Mr. O'Donnell, that owing to various circumstances a trial to the procedure recommended by the Llewelyn-Smith Committee had not yet been given, but 'Mr. Watson has, however, been very fully employed in examining and reporting on the organisation of certain Departments of the Government of India and of certain attached offices and has already effected economies in the recurring expenditure of these offices which amount to sums many times in excess of his annual salary'. We want more specific details, and I challenge Government to appoint a committee of non-official Members of this House to go into the marvellous work that this officer is alleged to have accomplished in this short period of time. Mr. O'Donnell, I believe, did not quite realise the effect of his argument when he stated that this officer has been instrumental in rescuing us from a course of extravagance to which we have been committed so long. I cannot conceive of a greater self-condemnation than this. If that is so, I tell you, that we can have no confidence in the Government. Let us look into the whole thing and find out how you have been extravagantly spending our money in this matter of the Secretariat establishment so long.

A good deal has been said about Sir Llewelyn-Smith's qualifications. It is said, 'Oh! he was in the Board of Trade'. That does not very much matter. Sir Llewelyn-Smith may be the greatest expert going, but the question is, did Sir Llewelyn-Smith recommend this particular officer for the appointment?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey (and others): Yes.

Babu K. C. Neogy: He did! Well, if so, I stand corrected. But we forget that he was himself a Member of that Committee.

[Babu K. C. Neogy.]

Reference has also been made to this officer's work in connection with the Staff Selection Board. I am prepared to admit that Government have done all that they could do to manufacture some work for this officer.

Mr. H. E. Spry : Sir, my intervention in this debate is caused by the speech to which we have just listened. I have a great suspicion that my friend, Babu K. C. Neogy, has as little knowledge of office procedure as my friend, the Rai Bahadur from Jessore. Mr. Neogy has introduced, it seems to me, a somewhat personal element into this debate in that not only does he object to the post which is under discussion, but he objects also to Mr. Watson being its incumbent, and, if I understood him aright, he went so far as to say that he was in a position, apparently from his own personal knowledge, to say that Mr. Watson's work in Bengal was either not satisfactory at all or, at any rate, was not so satisfactory as to justify him being dumped on the Government of India. The picture of the Government of Bengal dumping anything on the Government of India is refreshingly new to me. But, on the point that I am discussing, the fitness of Mr. Watson for this post and the character of Mr. Watson's work in Bengal, I am prepared to join issue with Mr. Neogy at once. And I emphatically deny that, as he says, Mr. Watson's work in Bengal was not satisfactory and that it did not result in considerable economies. I know from my own personal experience that it was both satisfactory and did result in very considerable economies.

Mr. Manmohandas Ramji : May I rise to a point of order? We are not discussing the personality of a certain officer. The question before us is one of principle.

The Honourable the President : Order, order, Mr. Spry.

Mr. H. E. Spry : The work of this officer in Bengal resulted in material economies, not only in the High Court but also in the Secretariat; and I hope the House will take it from me that Mr. Neogy's statement in respect of Mr. Watson's fitness for this post is misleading.

Mr. S. C. Shahani : Sir, I rise to protest against this manner of criticism. It is only fair that Mr. Neogy should come out with the antecedents of the officer in question to which he has referred. Insinuations would not do credit to anybody. The point under consideration is whether or not we should improve the office procedure, which has been recognised to be somewhat antidiluvian. The Government has sought to improve its office procedure. I fail to understand how Mr. Neogy argues that the Government of India is on that account not fit to enjoy the confidence of this House. I should be ashamed to make insinuations against the Government with regard to any proposal that comes before us.

Munshi Iswar Saran : Sir, I am afraid some of us have fallen into an error in taking up the question, whether this particular gentleman who has been appointed by the Government of India is a fit and proper person to hold this post or not. My submission is, that our function in this Assembly is to discuss questions of principle, and only in grave and serious cases should we sit in judgment on the conduct or qualifications of individual officers. For aught I know to the contrary, this gentleman, Mr. Watson, may be a very good man for the post that he has been given, and I am really sorry that in his zeal, my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has

permitted himself to say things which I am perfectly certain he will regret in his calmer moments.

Sir, I entirely agreed with the Honourable Sir William Vincent when he referred to the Government of India and its characterisation by Mr. Montagu before he became Secretary of State. I do not wish, Sir, to repeat those most elegant, choice, and just expressions that were used by Mr. Montagu. Everybody here remembers them, and having that characterisation in view I do not think many of us will be tempted to disagree with the Honourable Sir William Vincent that an officer like the one we are discussing now is needed to make the work of the Government of India a little more expeditious, systematic, modern and up to date. But there is one thing, Sir, which I am afraid I have not been able to understand. I find that constant appeals are made to us by the gentlemen who occupy the Government benches to look at things from a business point of view. Well, in commercial concerns you get a man to overhaul your entire machinery, and I suppose, after the overhauling is done, you ask the man to go. His work is finished. The post is only temporary and is not made permanent. I listened to the speeches of the Honourable Sir William Vincent and Mr. O'Donnell, and I am afraid—I speak with diffidence—I did not feel convinced that this post should be made permanent. As regards the temporary appointment of an officer to set right the procedure of the Government of India, I can understand that; but I do not understand, Sir, I confess candidly, why this gentleman should be made permanent. Let him look into the work; let him set it right, and let this post be abolished after that. With the particular officer who fills the post we, as Members of this Assembly, are not concerned. But I submit that as long as a more satisfactory explanation is not given by either the Honourable Sir William Vincent or Mr. O'Donnell, I am afraid I must stick to my opinion that the post is needed but that it is needed only temporarily.

Mr. E. L. Price: Sir, I suggest that an answer to the Honourable Member's question is very easy. When there shall appear in the world a private business as large as the business of the Government of India, I am perfectly certain then, that a business of that size will require a permanent and not a temporary officer of this kind.

Sir L. P. Watson: Sir, I am not connected with any business, so large as the Government of India, but I happen to be associated with a fairly large business, and we have found it necessary to engage an officer permanently to supervise and keep our accounts system up to date. He was employed by the Government of India. The Government of India, in my opinion, did not recognise his value. But at any rate when he came to us, he received Rs. 400 more a month than he was getting from Government and it is our intention to keep him in the business with which I am connected as long as he cares to stay with us.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: Sir, I feel after what Mr. Iswar Saran has said, and very rightly said, that we also on this side of the House ought to treat this discussion as relating to an appointment, and not to a person. I should, I must say, have welcomed an opportunity for repudiating those personal charges which Mr. Neogy has brought against the officer in question. I should have welcomed an opportunity of proving, what I will now only deny, that this officer was dumped on the Government of India. So

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much I must say, because the charge is a stigma on all of us. I should again have been glad to take the opportunity of disproving what I can now only repudiate with scorn, the suggestion that we have purposely manufactured work for him. We are sometimes charged with being knaves, but I have always found in my experience of this world that it is unsafe to charge a person with being at the same time both a knave and a fool. Yet this is what the charge amounts to.

Now I pass from the question as to the merits of the officer himself to the general charge against Government, the charge that we have been guilty of gross extravagance in appointing a staff in which so many reductions were subsequently found necessary by this officer. That we have effected these reductions is true. We can certify the fact that very considerable reductions in establishments have been made owing to the creation of this post of Inspector of Office Procedure. When my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, demands that a committee should be appointed to examine into the truth of the statement we have made on the subject, I say, that he insults us. Does he suppose we come down to this House—we who have been responsible for years for the executive government of this country—that we come down here and tell a deliberate untruth? However, if the House so desires, I am perfectly willing to put the facts before the Standing Committee.

(Cries of 'No, No'.)

Well, at all events let me explain the facts about the reductions referred to. During the war large numbers of temporary establishment were added to the Secretariat; and necessarily so, for in very many branches the work had largely increased. When the war came to an end, it became a question between the Finance Department and the various Departments in which these temporary hands were employed as to how many of them were needed and how many could be dispensed with. It is then that you need an expert who can go into the office, to sit there, to go through its daily tale of receipts and issues and give you advice which because it is expert you can accept without further question, as to what reductions can be made. It is in consequence of such an inquiry that reductions have now been made. And if reductions of this class have been made, so far from our being charged with gross extravagance we ought to be complimented on a due sense of economy and responsibility towards the public finances.

Now, Sir, I desire, at the expense of detaining the House still further, to refer briefly to the work of the Llewelyn-Smith Committee. I was a member of that committee, and I beg, that my Honourable friends here will not attempt to throw further doubt on the selection of Sir Llewelyn-Smith as chairman of this inquiry. He was a man of unique capacity for it. It was Sir Llewelyn-Smith's constant advice frequently expressed to us, that the hard work that we had put in as members of the Secretariat Procedure Committee should not be allowed to be wasted. It is, I am afraid, a not unusual habit with Governments to appoint an expensive and expert committee and then either to delay giving effect to their recommendations or even to allow their recommendations to be pigeon-holed. I have often heard it alleged that we are in the habit of consulting a very expensive physician and then fail to send the prescription to the chemist. His recommendation was that if possible an officer should be appointed to continually supervise the routine work of our offices at the point it was being done, a thing which no officer otherwise busily

engaged can find time to do, that he should see to the introduction of the card index system, that he should see to the introduction of a revised system of printing up our notes, that he should see to innumerable other steps which were recommended by that committee in order to expedite work and to save money. Unless an officer is continually engaged on this work, the new system would lapse back into the old. It is perfectly true, as Mr. Iswar Saran says, that that appointment has been made permanent, though I may remind him that the officer in question cannot hope for a permanent life; but we are discussing the Budget of the present year, and if at any time this House considers that the work has been finished and that the Inspector is no longer necessary, it is always possible for the House to cut the post out of the Budget. If the House wishes to decide at any time whether the continuance of the post is required or not, I need not say that we should welcome the visit of any Member of this Assembly to see the work that is being done and judge of its necessity or otherwise.

But there is a larger question, Sir, and again I apologise, Sir, for detaining the House in order to explain what appears to me to be the main purport of the Llewelyn-Smith Committee. It was this: We have had for a long time here in the Government of India Secretariat a highly-devoted body of ministerial officers to whose work we are all under the very greatest obligation, to whose sense of loyalty and of devotion I myself cannot express sufficient gratitude. But, Sir, that body of men had not always been judiciously chosen, and the first point that we had to arrange for was the selection of new recruits in such a manner that its upper grades should be of practically the same class and the same capacity as the Provincial Civil Services. This was necessary if, as we intended, our Secretariat Staff should gradually take the place of many of the superior and more highly-paid officers who now come to us from the Provinces; not only would this be an economy, but we always expect to find officers coming up from the provinces to serve in the Government of India since in the future the provinces, with their own increase of work, are not likely to let them go. We want to train our ministerial staff in a way that they shall be able to take all the routine work and much also of our more responsible work off our hands; there is no reason why our ministerial staff should not take the place of our Under Secretaries and in time of our Deputy Secretaries. That is my own belief, and that is what we put forward in the Llewelyn-Smith Committee. Now, if you are to have that, you need first of all a selection committee, such as was recommended by Sir Llewelyn-Smith, a body which could choose your staff from all over India and not from a single centre only, which can choose it, as the Honourable Sir William Vincent said, with impartiality and with an expert knowledge. Then, having improved the class and capacity of the staff we need to re-organise the office work so that the purely routine work can be done by purely routine hands, and the upper office staff left to develop that sense of responsibility and independence which is essential if they are subsequently to take up the higher grades of work. That was our aim, Sir, and I have detained the House in order to justify our claim, that it is absolutely necessary, if you utilise this expensive body of men—for they are now expensive—to the best advantage, you must have a proper office procedure that will set them free from purely routine work and drudgery and let them exercise their brains, in the right direction. Sir, in justification of my belief that this office staff properly handled, and given proper responsibility, can eventually take a far larger share of work off our hands, I can only refer to my personal experience of some members of that staff. I have in mind now

[Mr. W. M. Hailey.]

an officer who began on, I think, on a low scale of pay in one of our offices. He has passed through a brilliant career in almost every branch of our accounts office; he has been Accountant General; he has been the confidential adviser of the railways in regard to the reorganisation of their own staffs. As a matter of fact, his services have now been asked for by a company—mind you, a commercial undertaking—on a sum of Rs. 3,500 a month to reorganise and revise their office staffs and their working. I have in mind another officer who came to us as Assistant Secretary, who is now filling a very high post in the Government of India. I have in mind yet another officer who was never, it is true, a ministerial officer, but who was an Assistant Secretary in our department—and it is the class of efficient Assistant Secretaries which we wish to create in the first place by this re-organisation—of whom it is only necessary to say that he has for some time been the guide, philosopher and friend of our department and is now a Member of this Assembly.

Bai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur : Sir, I am very sorry that personal topics have been introduced in a matter which had nothing to do with any particular person. The whole of my motion was, that the post of Inspector of Office Procedure should be abolished as being not necessary, and I do not know why any of my Honourable friends on the Government side should have introduced the personality of the officer who has been appointed to this post. I think it was that which gave rise to the discussion on the merits of the particular person. I am utterly ignorant of the present incumbent of that post; I do not remember even to have seen him at all. He may be a very good officer, or he may be a very bad officer; that has nothing to do with the case at all; but from the testimonials that have been already given to him by my Honourable friend, Sir William Vincent, I am quite sure, that he is quite fit for the post to which he has been appointed, and I think in fact he deserves something higher and that he should one day aspire to higher posts. I have nothing to say to that. My point is, why should this new office be created at all? That is my point. My Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, of course, had something to say against my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, on account of the introduction of personalities; but I think he is himself to blame to a certain extent on account of bringing up personalities in reply to the discussion of the Budget on this point to Mr. Neogy. He said, that the officer was an excellent officer and that any one from Bengal should not question the ability of that officer. I think that was a challenge offered to some of the people from Bengal who knew that officer to say what they thought about him; and, therefore, after inviting that challenge I do not think my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has acted in a very wise or calm or cool manner, as he should have done; he should not have been so irate against an Honourable Member who only accepted his challenge. My blood, Sir, is cold like that of a fish in water; and I do not seek to rouse the indignation of this House or ask them to be indignant against the Honourable the Finance Member or against my friend, Mr. Neogy. What I say is this: Leave aside this question of personalities. The estimable gentleman who has been appointed to this post may be a very good officer, and I hope and I pray to God that one day he may become a Finance Member or even Prime Minister of England. But that has nothing to do with me. What I say is, that in every Department you have Secretaries enjoying Rs. 4,000 a month. My Honourable friend, Sir William Vincent, says, that he himself has been a Secretary and that he knows the difficulties of the office.

But all that difficulty has been there all these years and it has not been necessary to create this post. It was a war difficulty. During the time of the war some new offices were created and I think that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, as well as my Honourable friend, the Home Member, whom I have known for many years, have brains enough to see that such posts as were no longer required after the war should be abolished.

It was not necessary to appoint a new man for the purpose of abolishing new posts in the ministerial establishment or for the purpose of examining what the needs of the various Departments are. If the Secretaries are too busy,—of course they are all too busy now a days,—they have their Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Registrars and Superintendents, all enjoying, I should say, princely salaries, who can as well do the work of this officer as in the past. But, I confess, Sir, with all my eagerness to co-operate with my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and the Honourable the Home Member, I cannot see my way to support them in their arguments to justify the continuance of this officer's post. I have always tried my best to support the Government, but when I find that the Government is obviously wrong, I certainly cannot see my way to support them. There is no question of the personal element in this matter at all, but there is a great question of principle involved in this. There are so many responsible officers, so many highly educated men in the Government of India who have passed the Indian Civil Service Examination, who have been performing the functions of this newly created officer all these days, and if they are not competent to find out how many hands are required for a permanent Department, I say, it will be pleading guilty to inefficiency. Either the present officers are efficient or they are not. If you say, they are efficient, then certainly they can perform this simple function for which this new post has been created. If you say, they are not efficient, then it requires overhauling.

Well, Sir, I know there is something like a Manual of Office Procedure, a Manual of Practice and Procedure. Is there any such Manual of Office Procedure for the Imperial Secretariat? Let me see, Sir, what that Manual is. Let me know who compiled this Manual, whose duty it was to regulate the office procedure all these years. The Imperial Secretariat has not come into existence from the blue heavens all of a sudden; it has been in existence for many years. Was there any Manual of Office Procedure in this Secretariat all these years or not? If there was any, I should like to know how the Manual of Office Procedure has been found wanting, and in what respects it has been found defective, necessitating the creation of a post on such a high salary. As I said, there are many officers, all enjoying princely salaries, and I should like to know if all these people have been unable to cope with the work which the new incumbent has been called upon to perform. These are questions which everybody feels should be asked, and if they cannot be satisfactorily answered, I think every one in this House, official or non-official, would say that this is a post which has been created without any justification and perhaps by a mistake. Of course, mistakes sometimes do creep in, just as my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, has committed a mistake in including this post among what is called non-votable items, and I think this mistake too should be rectified at the earliest opportunity. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will be frank in this matter, as he always is whenever he commits a mistake and I hope, now that we have pointed out his mistake, he will readily rectify it.

[Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur.]

Of course, it has been said, and rightly too, that many new posts had to be created during the great war to cope with increased work in the various Departments, but the war is now over, there is no fear of any invasion anywhere, and so I do not see any reason whatever why we should have this new post now.

The Honourable the Finance Member says with the shrewdness with which he is naturally gifted, that though the appointment has been made permanent, this House can abolish it whenever it thinks that the post is not necessary. Is that a very easy thing to do? Sir, if this post is made a permanent one, we all know how very difficult it will be to abolish it. If, say, after a year we make a suggestion to abolish this post,—I do not know how we could do it,—the Honourable the Finance Minister will come down on us with his thunder and say, ‘Oh, you people do not know how to manage offices; we know everything, and you should not interfere.’ One of my Honourable friends just now said, that we have no office experience. But, Sir, I have some office experience and I know how very difficult it is to abolish a post when once it is made a permanent one. Therefore, Sir, I rise to the height of my full sense of responsibility, and appeal to all my Colleagues in this House, official as well as non-official, to see that this is a superfluous post, and that the tendency of the Government of India is to be too extravagant, and unless it is checked I do not know what we are coming in for. We are already going to be taxed, and we do not know what sort of future we have before us. Therefore, I say, that though the sum provided for is a small amount, Rs. 27,450, still at this time we should not be extravagant.

Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy : Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally : I rise to a point order, Sir, with your permission. As soon as the Honourable Mr. Hailey sat down, my friend, Mr. Majumdar, rose to speak and he was behind me when I rose at the same time to say a few words, I could not see him. However, before I could say a few words, the President allowed Mr. Majumdar to speak in reply and I have lost my right to speak. Of course, I have given up my right this time, but I want a ruling, Sir, if a Member wishes to speak on the original motion itself, will he not be allowed to do so before the Mover of the original motion rises to reply?

The Honourable the President : The Chair will do everything in its power to preserve the rights of Members who wish to speak. The Honourable Member has chosen a peculiarly unfortunate case to raise a point of that kind.

I would like to point out to the Assembly, that if matters are debated at this length, they will find, at the end of the time allotted, many important subjects remaining for debate and they will, then, no doubt be labouring under a sense of grievance at the exclusion of questions they wish to discuss. I say that now, in order that Members may consider, in the time that remains, which of the various demands are the most important, and, within those demands, which of the motions for reduction are to be regarded as raising questions of substantial merit.

The Honourable the President: The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable the President: The question is :

'That the item 'Inspector of Office Procedure—Rs. 27,450' on page 64 be omitted.'

The motion was negatived.

Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur: Sir, I call for a division.

The Honourable the President: Will those who wish to claim a division on this motion kindly rise in their places.

(Only Rai J. N. Majumdar Bahadur rose.)

The Honourable the President: I would call the attention of the Assembly to the fact that this is a gross instance of a frivolously claimed division.

TEMPORARY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Bhai Man Singh: Sir, the motion which stands in my name is :

'That the provision of Rs. 15,600 for the pay of two temporary Superintendents be reduced by Rs. 7,800 (page 64).'

The Honourable the President: Order, order. The Honourable Member must address the Chair, and will he kindly speak a little louder ?

Bhai Man Singh: Sir, a large number of subjects have now been allotted to Provincial Governments. Honourable Members of this House have, even in this short time, on many occasions heard the official replies that such and such subjects concern the Local Governments, and sometimes on very important subjects the Government Members have told the House that the matter is the concern of Local Governments.

The Honourable the President: Which reduction is the Honourable Member moving.

Bhai Man Singh: I am moving No. 3 in to-day's agenda. This being the case, Honourable Members can see that the Secretariat staff should be relieved of a lot of work they had formerly to do. With the decrease of work, the staff should naturally be decreased ; but we find that absolutely no reduction has been made. On the other hand, we find further on that certain new posts have been created, to which I will refer later on. But the whole reason of my argument in proposing this reduction, as well as several others, is, that with the decrease of work, when so many subjects have been transferred, there is absolutely no reason why there should be no reduction in the staff. I hope, that Honourable Members of this House will see the reasonableness of my contention which does not need any long argument. With these remarks, I put the motion.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: Sir, I should like to point out, to begin with, that the word 'temporary' which appears on page 64 is a mistake. The number of Superintendents which we have in the Home Department at present is 6, and we have had that number since the year 1914. I think any one who realises what the growth of the work of the Department has been will understand that it is quite impossible to make any reduction. So far from it being possible to make a reduction, the only question will be whether it will be possible for the Department to continue to cope with the additional work which will fall upon it owing to the introduction of the reforms. I think every

[Mr. S. P. O'Donnell.]

Honourable Member will realise that the creation of the Indian Legislature, the fact that the work of the Departments is now being done in close touch with the representatives of the public, means a very large addition to the work falling on the Departments. That was the view taken by the Joint Committee based, no doubt, on their experience of the working of a constitutional Government in England, and all the experience which we have had at this session tends to confirm that view.

Bhai Man Singh : Sir, the reduction which I have suggested is in the two posts of temporary Superintendents. If we go on repeating all these posts every year, it means that they are no longer temporary. At the time they were introduced, they were temporary posts and I want them reduced by one, which is a very modest request.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That the provision of Rs. 15,600 for the pay of two temporary Superintendents be reduced by Rs. 7,800 (page 64).'

The motion was negatived.

OFFICERS ON SPECIAL DUTY.

Bhai Man Singh : The second motion that I propose, Sir, is :

'That the provision of Rs. 18,000 for the salary of two officers on special duty be omitted (page 65).'

I submit, Sir, that I have got in the new Budget the complete staff of one officer on special duty. The total expenditure on this staff comes to Rs. 95,000, or practically a lakh. The pay of the officer on special duty is given in bold type and appears to be non-votable.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I shall raise no objection if the Honourable Member includes that item in his amendment. It is down in italics, but I am quite prepared to face the music on it as well.

Bhai Man Singh : Seeing the letters in bold type, I have not in this particular motion included the officer on special duty for whom Rs. 24,000 had been allotted, and further on, I find large amounts for his establishments. As regards the lump provision for establishments, it having been agreed upon amongst ourselves that these lump provisions should be left to the Finance Committee, and the Finance Department having given us an undertaking that they will be spent in consultation with, and with the concurrence of, the Finance Committee, I have not touched these amounts myself. I take objection, really speaking, to all these new establishments being allowed. I cannot understand, Sir, why absolutely no reduction is being made and we are asked to vote more and more and more for quite new officers with their full establishments. I would request this House to be strictly economical and see that while we are going to place on the poor tax-payer such high taxes just now, we exercise the strictest economy and reject these demands.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, I should have been quite glad if the vote for Rs. 24,000 to which the Honourable Member referred, had been included in this amendment, but the principle I can illustrate equally well on the vote for Rs. 18,000 as on the other vote.

Now, one of the accusations that is constantly brought against the Government of India ~~and~~ against all bureaucratic Governments is, that it

adopts a policy of secrecy. I do not know how often I have been attacked in this Chamber, and in the predecessor of this Chamber, on this very account, and I believe that one of the first symptoms of increasing democratic power is taking the people into your confidence. This is done in every civilised country in the world. In England, the Government takes the greatest care to put forward and publish for the information of general public its views and the reasons for its policy. The new era in this country will be one of Government by discussion. If that is so, surely it necessitates some machinery for the information of the public. For if not, you have that fatal result of an ill-informed public opinion deciding questions of policy without knowing what the facts are. It has been well said by an author of a book I was reading the other day :

‘ We are just perhaps beginning to realise that half educated opinion is dangerous when brought to bear on public affairs, as also that it is a creative and stabilising influence when it is informed.’

Now, if that is true of an ordinary form of Government how much more true is it of a Government such as the Government of India so far removed from many parts of the country? Is it not true that sometimes people refer to our Government as a rather great and soulless machine unapproachable, unsympathetic. If so, it is only when Government can get a chance of speaking to the public that the public can gain in regard to our policy the impression that Government is a thinking and feeling entity, which really is working for the public welfare.

Now, as to the functions of these two officers, one is Mr. Bajpai, I am introducing no personal question because as a matter of fact he is admittedly a young Indian of great ability and has worked with conspicuous success. I may mention the fact to show that this is not a racial question at all. Both he and the other officer in subordination to whom he works, are used to inform the public of Government policy, to publish the views of Government for the information of the public on various points. To state what our policy is, explaining what we have done and what we have not done, I believe these efforts at distributing information serve a double purpose for, in addition to giving the public information, it exposes Government to very useful and searching criticism. They explain what we are doing, and the more we are criticised and public opinion differs from us, the more we shall be compelled to modify our views.

Let me take a subject like non-co-operation which is a very pressing danger before the country. Are we not entitled as the Government of this country to use every means we can, to show up the dangers and evils of that movement? Is it our duty to let this unfortunate country go on to her ruin without even informing the public of the dangers into which it is running? Take the question of Bolshevism again. Is it not our duty to give the public all the information we have and to take every opportunity we can of informing the public of what the dangers of the movement are? Is it not fair that the Government policy towards movements of this kind should not be made known to all the people of this country? That is really what we are seeking to do by the use of these officers employed for the scientific distribution of information. Besides this one officer of the Department, Professor Rushbrook Williams, writes for us the Moral and Material Progress Report, of which many Members of this House have undoubtedly heard, and which has proved a work of the greatest value both here, in Europe and in America. We send it everywhere and it sells like hot cakes. Well, we

[Sir William Vincent.]

found that this officer could not do the whole of the work of his Department alone and it was necessary to employ an assistant to help him in the various duties he has to perform. I may say he has to do work for the Army Department, the Finance Department, the Home Department, the Education Department and every other Department; and his services can always be employed in connection with some new projects for forest work or irrigation. He is the channel through which all information about the work of Government can be disseminated. We found that it was quite impossible for him to manage alone and particularly as he often has to go on tour so we were obliged to appoint an assistant, a young Indian gentleman who, I am glad to say, is doing the work extremely well. His appointment covers Rs. 12,000 out of the Rs. 18,000. The odd 6,000 is for an additional officer we may require to employ for six months. This Department of Information—or whatever you like to call it—is doing an immense amount of good and we are very anxious to extend our activities in this direction as much as possible.

I hope I shall have the support of the Assembly over this demand. We have no subsidized newspapers, but we must make efforts to push information regarding the policy of Government to every corner of India, if only to avoid unjust misrepresentation.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, I hope I am right in thinking that what the Honourable Sir William Vincent is referring to is the publicity campaign which is being carried on by the Government of India. As a Member of the Madras Publicity Board, I shall not consider that I am doing my duty unless I complain that the provision for publicity under this head is totally inadequate for the purpose.

Sir, if Madras can afford a large provision for publicity purposes, I think they are setting a good example to the Government of India and one which should be copied. Their publicity campaign is not carried on solely by an official of Government but by a very able officer, called Mr. Gwynne, who is an Irishman. He is a very sympathetic Civil Servant and is controlled in his work by the non-official Board of which I have the honour to be a member. The Board consists of about four Europeans, six or seven Hindus, three or four Muhammadans, and one Indian Christian.

One matter which came up before the Board for sanction was regarding the question of the non-co-operation movement. We issued leaflets by the thousand and I can say that Madras can take credit for sending their electors to the polling stations in larger numbers than any other Province.

Meanwhile, we hesitated before we acquainted the public with the dangers of Bolshevism. I well remember a communication coming from Delhi or Simla urging the Madras Publicity officer to carry on a campaign against Bolshevism and we were restrained from teaching the public about the dangers of Bolshevism because we were of the opinion that we should be doing more harm than good, and our view prevailed over that of the Government of India in that connection. We have done useful work, and I can safely say, without infringing any ideas of modesty that we are carrying on campaigns, not only in reference to political matters but we are dealing with questions of health, industrial questions, and imparting a knowledge of scientific subjects not merely relating to Government policy, but we are imparting useful knowledge to the public generally. We are spending over a lakh of rupees in that direction and if Madras can afford to do that, then, I think, the Government of India

should spend even more. Another complaint I have to make is, that I do not know why the Government of India have not followed the practice of Madras and appointed a Board for this purpose. But, if they did, it must be entirely a non-official Board and free from suspicion, because much of the objection to this Department is that it is not controlled by any non-official. If the Government of India constituted a Board like we have in Madras and had, say, a monthly meeting at which everything could be brought up and discussed, then nothing would go on without the knowledge of the Board under whose control the present officers would be, and I think this would be a very useful step in the right direction, and much of the suspicion that is now felt would disappear. If, Sir, such a Board could be established and information sent out to people in different parts of the country in the vernacular, then the Government will have done good work. It is no use merely trusting to your own officers and mistrusting the non-officials.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas: Sir, I do not want to detain the House on this question more than I can possibly help. I value, Sir, the advice that you were good enough to give to the Assembly to save time so that we may be able to go through all the important business that is before us. But, Sir, I cannot help making a few observations against the motion for reduction that has been made by my Honourable friend, Bhai Man Singh.

I endorse, in doing so, every word that has fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar, and I join with him in complaining that instead of bringing in a motion for reduction, he did not find it possible to bring in a motion for increasing the allowance that is made to this Department. I want my Honourable friend, Bhai Man Singh, and other Members of the House to remember that the number of voters in the whole country now is I think a little more than 6 millions. It used to be 33 thousand; it is more than six millions now. We are living in times when our representative character in this Assembly and the representative character of the Members of the Provincial Councils is brought into question by those who do not believe in the present Government and who are anxious to destroy the Government altogether. I ask whether, for the purpose of protecting our interests, it is not necessary that we should help Government in scattering correct information among the people, among the voters whose representatives we claim to be and to whom we shall have again to go at the end of three years to render an account of the work that we have done and to claim their vote again for admission into this Assembly? It has been pointed out already, Sir, that ignorance is the worst calamity that can betake the country and, if we did not help this organisation which spreads correct information throughout the country, I think we should be encouraging the work of keeping our masses ignorant and we should not be doing our duty by those whom we claim to represent here.

I claim also to have had some knowledge of this kind of work when I was intimately connected with the work of the Home Rule League, and I assure you, that if we were successful in popularising the Congress League Scheme and in getting a declaration made by the Secretary of State, it was by spreading all the available information in every possible corner of every district in the Bombay Presidency. To-day, the non-co-operators are doing the same thing. They are going round and they are spreading all possible information that they can get, whether it is right or wrong, by means, foul or fair, among every class of people. They are able to approach all classes

[Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas.]

of the people. We used to accuse the Government of being unable to approach the people and say that they remained at a distance from the people, that they did not take the people into their confidence, and now, when an honest attempt is being made to make the position of Government clear before the people, to lay before the people openly what the policy of Government is in regard to the various important questions, when Government are helping us, representatives of the people, who share the responsibility to a certain extent of the Government with them, in making our own position clear among the people, by making our work known among the people at a time like this, to come out and to ask for a reduction of this grant is, I think, a disservice to the country, a disservice to ourselves, and a disservice to the cause that is dear to us all. I hope this motion for reduction will be rejected.

Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha : Sir, my only justification for intervening in the debate is that I strongly feel that the Assembly will make a great mistake in accepting the motion of Bhai Man Singh. I have taken for some years past a certain amount of interest in the work of the Publicity Bureau, and I have put from time to time questions to elicit information. I am quite satisfied that at the present moment the Publicity Bureau is doing essentially good work, and its abolition or the curtailment of its staff will go a great way in hampering the Government in placing before the country correct and accurate information of which we are so badly in need at present. In ordinary times, Sir, it would have been possible for us to contend that the existence of a Publicity Bureau was superfluous, but we know that at the present moment a very hostile and bitter propaganda is being carried on against the Government, and against those who stand by the Government, in the name of Swaraj and in the name of the attainment of self-Government within this year. There are people in that movement who are sincere and honest and who act within the bounds of propriety. At the same time, a large number of people masquerading under the name of non-co-operators are indulging all over the country, in writings and speeches, which are not only inflammatory but which are absolutely false in the statements which they make about the Government. It is, therefore, incumbent upon all discriminating supporters of the Government to strengthen the hands of the Government in this matter by asking, if possible, for a larger fund, for the purpose of placing before the public accurate and correct data on which we can form our own opinion. I, therefore, feel that if the motion of Bhai Man Singh is accepted, it will hamper the Government to a large extent. It is not a personal question about Mr. Rushbrook Williams or Mr. Bajpai. It is a principle which is at stake and I hope, therefore, the Assembly will endeavour to persuade Bhai Man Singh to withdraw his motion, but if he persists, that the Assembly will reject it.

Bhai Man Singh : Sir, when I proposed the motion, I had absolutely no data before me as to what purpose the creation of this new post would serve, or what this new Department was made for. Now that I find most of my friends are in favour of having this Department, I have no objection to withdrawing my motion, but I would like to say two things about it before I finish with the subject. One is, that personally I have had some experience of the work of the Publicity Bureau in the Punjab and I might say that I am not in favour of it. Whatever good may have been intended, I think a great deal of harm was done in one form or another, because the facts were not wisely handled and even went to help the prosecution. I can only remark that we are not speaking in our own interests as

private individuals but we have come forward as workers for the public. I personally would be the last man to wish even to spend a single pice out of the public funds to clear my position. If my constituents are satisfied that I am justified in standing up before the Assembly or that I am justified in working there or that I have done some service, I am satisfied. We may find many other means for doing it but I would be the last person to provide anything from public funds for the purpose.

With these remarks I beg to withdraw the amendment.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Two of the Clock. The Deputy President was in the Chair.

VISIT OF AN AMERICAN LECTURER.

Mr. B. S. Kamat: I beg to move, Sir:

'That the provision of Rs. 25,000 for charges in connection with the visit of an American Lecturer be omitted.'

Honourable Members will find this item on page 66, somewhere about the middle of the page, under 'Special Charges'. My object in moving this small omission is to elicit from Government an expression of opinion why it is necessary this year to provide for this visit of an American lecturer, and secondly, to induce them also, if possible, to omit this item entirely. We have seen, Sir, that this year is a year of deficit, and I believe, as we have enough of lecturers in this country, we should be spared the luxury of an American lecturer to come and lecture to us. I wish, therefore, Government will give us some explanation about this item, and also omit it entirely so that the money thus saved may go for some other necessary expenditure.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: Sir, this is not a matter of the same importance as the last demand. At the same time it is a matter of some moment, and I hope that the Assembly may find themselves able to support Government over the motion which has been made by the Honourable Mover. The real position is this. We have found for many years that the ignorance in America regarding Indian affairs is perfectly abysmal. Mr. O'Donnell told me just now a story of an Indian official who went a few years ago to America and had an interview with a newspaper reporter there, the result of it being a paragraph with a startling headline: 'Interview with an Indian Official. There is a Railway in India. Such a thing exists'. But it is not merely a question of ignorance regarding this country. In recent years a large number of reports, which are injurious to India as a whole, to Indian culture, to Indian education, to Indian intelligence and also—I am interested in that subject—to the Indian Government have been widely disseminated in America by the extremist class of politicians—revolutionary politicians really—which exist there. I have here one or two of the leaflets which I myself have seen. Here is one. Last year, as Honourable Members may remember, proposals were put forward by the Calcutta Improvement Trust to move the Mint from one site to another in Calcutta. This is what was reported in a News Leaflet published in America by the Friends of Freedom for India on this matter:

'Bolshevist revolution breaks out in India. Calcutta, the seat of Government, convulsed by rebellion. British remove Mint to shelter of guns of Fort'.

[Sir William Vincent.]

Now, in any ordinary country, that would not matter. But, as I have said, it is dangerous in America because the ignorance of Indian affairs is so surprising. In the same number, there was another statement that the Government of India, owing to strikes on the Railway, had been unable to transfer its headquarters from Delhi to Simla. This was equally untrue. Still more damaging perhaps to the status of India is the frequently reiterated assertion that the whole of Indian constitutional aspiration is revolutionary and Bolshevik in tone. I cite here from an article in another paper inspired by the Ghadr party. I suppose all Honourable Members of this Assembly know, and certainly Honourable Members from the Punjab will know, what the Ghadr party is.

‘ Moderate political leaders throw in their lot with revolutionaries ’.

That is, of course, only the heading. Here is another one which I think casts a serious reflection on Hindus. Perhaps many Honourable Members of this Assembly will remember the assassination in very cruel circumstances of Mr. Willoughby last year. It was done by Muhammadan fanatics. But the News Leaflet issued by the Ghadr party describes it thus :

‘ Hindu Sinn Feiner shoots oppressive English official to eternity ’.

This is the kind of thing that is being disseminated throughout the United States where many of the people are absolutely ignorant of any of the facts about India. And following our policy of disseminating both inside and outside India correct information as to what the state of education and intellect of India is, what Indian culture is, what the constitutional position is, what our irrigation policy is, what our Railways have done, what the educational system is, and so on, we thought that we must take some steps to provide facilities to secure that some more accurate information was published in America, and for this reason we invited Dr. Clark, an American lecturer, to visit India, to deliver a course of lectures in Indian Universities, which I think will be very valuable, to study India's conditions, to study Indian culture, to study the whole social and economic position of India on the spot, and then go back to inform the American people, and to spread there accurate information about this country the greatness of which is entirely unappreciated in America by that people. We believe that this ignorance of Indian affairs is really injurious not only to the Government, but to Indian prestige, and that it is prejudicial to all commercial and social relations, and we desire to remove it. It is of course equally injurious to the Government. Last year I had the opportunity of meeting a very interesting non-official from America at the house of my Honourable Colleague, Mr. Hailey, and I asked him as to whether we need be apprehensive that our work in India was being misrepresented in America. He said that he thought that we need not fear misrepresentation much, but that it was desirable that we should take steps to spread information about this country in America that they might learn to appreciate not only what the Government were doing, but also what the people were doing, and what stage had been reached in political and social progress. For that reason we thought it advisable to take steps to secure this object. Accordingly we in the first place sent a lecturer across to America to lecture at the Harvard University on Indian conditions generally. That is not the subject of this Resolution, but I should like to mention the fact. Further, we invited Dr. Clark, whose lectures attract thousands, as I am informed, to come to India at a cost of Rs. 25,000 in

order that he might see for himself what the position here is. We are not going to attempt to influence in any way his opinion. He can appeal to anybody he likes in order to learn the facts. After completing his inquiries he will go back to America and put the information he has gathered before the American people, so that this country may not at least be discredited by the misrepresentations now prevalent. If the Assembly think that it is a waste of money we shall have to give up the proposal, but I myself believe it to be a project likely to be of much benefit to India. We are, however, quite willing to give up this sum if the Assembly think that it is not our duty to spread accurate information of what this country really is in a foreign country where there is abysmal ignorance of the true state of affairs.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar: I admit, Sir, with the Honourable the Home Member, that there is a great deal of misconception about India not only in America, but even in England. I believe it has been said in some of the English papers that the Secretary of State for India is himself ignorant with regard to many matters appertaining to India. But the way in which the Honourable Member is setting about to remove this misconception is very peculiar. If we are going to get a lecturer from America to come to India to lecture first of all to us, and to get first-hand information regarding our habits, our manners, and the mode of government in order that he might go back and inform the American people of what we are and what we do, then we shall be obliged to get a man from Belgium, to get a man from France, to get a man from Germany, to get a man from Japan, China and every other country so that he might come here and know something about our ways and means in this country and then go back to his country and tell his people how we are and what we do in order that the misconception may be removed. I think, Sir, that this is a mode of procedure which is altogether unheard of. First of all, I would suggest to the Honourable the Home Member that he should send somebody to go to England and enlighten the English people regarding ourselves. If he could get the English people to know everything about India, I think the people of America would become much better acquainted with all that is going on here than by getting lecturers from America to come here. I understand that the Honourable the Home Member does not attach much importance to the lecture which Dr. Clark is to deliver. He has not said anything about it. No doubt, the Honourable the Home Member said that he was a very eloquent lecturer who would be able to attract large audiences. I believe you will be able to find a large number of people here who can attract large audiences. The purpose is not to get a person to enlighten us, but to get that man enlightened so that he may go back and spread correct information about India. If once this Assembly commits itself to a procedure like this, there will be no end to missionaries being invited and sent back with information upon India. This is an incorrect procedure and ought to be discouraged.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, what I wanted to say has been said by my friend Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar. But one point which I wish to press upon the Honourable the Home Member is this. How long is this American gentleman going to stay with us, and is he going to be a globe-trotter at our expense and pass from city to city? How many of you English gentlemen know about India—those of you who have been here 20 years, 30 years? I put it to you really, that embarking on such a thing is absolutely useless in my opinion. I am sorry I could not go in great detail into the matter; the

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time of the Assembly is very precious. I was travelling with an English gentleman the other day who said he had been in Bombay for 30 years, and he asked me coolly whether I was a Muhammadan. So much knowledge English people themselves who come in contact with us possess about us! Then, as regards ignorance, well, was there any serious attempt made when Lord Sydenham and his friends went about saying in England that India was in a revolutionary state and that Indians were not fitted for reforms? That would have been a more useful work to have done at the time of the reforms. I think any money spent in England to educate the people there that we are an ancient and civilised people and not revolutionary, as some people would wish the English people to believe, would be much better spent than getting an American to come to us, spend a few weeks at our expense and then go back with a true knowledge of India. I would not trust him to expound me and my countrymen to the Americans. If men like Vivekananda would not give a true knowledge of India to Americans, I hardly think that an American coming here for a few weeks is going to take back a real knowledge of the real condition of affairs here. I think it is money wasted, and I would therefore urge upon the Government of India not to embark upon this plan.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I think the idea underlying the appointment of an American lecturer is rather fantastic. The number of people who are spreading information, correct or otherwise, can be counted by hundreds, and I cannot see how this one gentleman who is quite new to India, by coming here and learning something about India, is going to counteract by lectures the impression which these hundreds of people are creating in America. Besides the Indians resident in America, hundreds of Christian missionaries give lectures in America, and in order to get the sympathy of the American people tell stories about India which are also often incorrect. Moreover, I think there is something in the climate of America which makes people exaggerate and invent rumours and news. Sir, I came back from America in the month of April last, and after a few days, the Inspector-General of Police, Bombay, called me to his office and asked me whether I had delivered a series of lectures under the auspices of the Indian Home Rule League in America. I asked him what made him think so. He said, 'I have received news from America.' I only told him that he should change his agents in America.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Mr. President, believing as I do that half truth is nothing but the blackest lie, and believing, as the Honourable the Home Member has shown to us, that the mission of this American gentleman is to find the whole truth about India, whether it be to our advantage or not, and convinced as I am that a good deal of the world not excluding England, knows only half the truth about this great country, I consider that the entertainment of this American gentleman at a small sum of Rs. 25,000 will be well spent.

Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava: Sir, I support this reduction as I think that the expenditure provided for charges in connection with the visit of an American lecturer is quite unnecessary and not at all called for. I hope this Assembly will vote for the reduction.

Rai Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lal: I also support the motion for reduction.

Babu J. N. Mukherjee: I rise to support the amendment, because, in my humble judgment, if the demand means the initiation of a new policy, we cannot expect to have any return for the money that we may spend in this direction. There are newspapers and other agencies which are spreading news in America and other parts of the world. There are also learned societies in America established by the followers of Swami Vivekananda, also societies for the study of the Vedanta philosophy who do something about India, and in fact, there are temples, if I may say so, Vaishnava temples and other temples in America which help towards disseminating knowledge about Indian civilisation and different other things. So that, if all these agencies could not make any impression upon the Americans, it cannot be expected that the proposed appointment of an American lecturer in India will be of any help to us in informing the American people more thoroughly about this country. It seems to me, therefore, Sir, that the money will not be worth spending, and I beg to support the amendment.

Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally: Instead of getting a lecturer from America for a study of the conditions here and asking him to go back to America to lecture there, I think our first duty should be to send out a lecturer to Afghanistan, our neighbour, to inform the Amir what we are and what we do. I say this. A little while ago we learnt that the Amir of Afghanistan was going to invade India and conquer it because the people of India were going to have another mutiny, and I think that my proposal would pay better than spending this Rs. 25,000 upon an American lecturer.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas: Sir, I am afraid the Government of India will be landing themselves in a good deal of trouble and complications if they create this precedent of paying for a lecturer in America. As has just been pointed out by my Honourable friend here, questions will be asked of the Government why lecturers should not be sent out to Afghanistan, or to this place or that place where there is rank ignorance about India and is doing harm to India. Besides, who is to determine as to the fitness of the lecturer to give correct knowledge about India? I think that the work had better be left to the various learned societies that exist in America, and I can assure you, Sir, that I know of one or two societies particularly which are trying their best to spread correct information about India, and certainly these societies do not want any help from the Government. I can speak with some knowledge about the work of the Theosophical Society in America which has been recognised in many quarters, and this Society has been spreading most correct information about the art, the culture and the religion of India and general information about the Indian people. I think, therefore, Sir, that Mr. Kamat's motion for reduction should be accepted by this Assembly and this precedent ought not to be created.

Mr. B. S. Kamat: Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has justified this item on the ground that there is colossal ignorance in America about Indian conditions, and he thinks it would be a great advantage if an American lecturer were brought here and sent back to lecture to the Americans. The House will permit me to explain my own personal impressions. I was in America 18 months ago and happened to be the guest of a Professor in the Harvard University. Some journalists came to me for an interview, and I know perfectly well that their ignorance about Indian matters was really

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colossal. But there are two sides, Sir, to this question. While, on the one hand, the ignorance in America about Indian conditions is so great, it will be practically hopeless to overtake that ignorance by the employment of one lecturer. Just as in England, so also in America, the ordinary man in the street, who does not read, knows absolutely nothing about India's civilisation, its Government, or politics, but there is also, on the other hand, in America, as also in England, a class of people who have studied about India and who know the conditions about Indian social matters, her politics, her religions, her Vedantic philosophy, and her astrology, in fact, everything Indian. As a matter of fact I was surprised to see in the general library at New York every blue book that the Government of India has issued, and the man who cares to read of the doings of the Government of India will find any volume he wants in this library regarding conditions in India. On the other hand, even the most well-informed person in America may not know what a Hindu is and what a Muhammadan is, and I really think, Sir, that the employment of one lecturer who would be brought out at the expense of the Government of India and go back to America could do nothing to overtake all the misrepresentations and the bad rumours that have been spread in that country. I think, therefore, that this item is absolutely futile to meet the object in view. I know there are several societies which are spreading correct knowledge about the conditions in India, but my own experience there was that to one lecturer who may give facts and correct impressions, there are perhaps a hundred others who are spreading exaggerated, and sometimes false, notions about the political conditions in India. Therefore, as my Honourable friend Mr. Seshagiri Aiyar observed, it is a novel procedure to invite a man to a foreign country, to coach him up in Indian conditions, to bring and send him back at our own expense to speak for the Government of India. People in America will never believe such a man because he has been sent at the expense of the Government of India and holds a brief for them. I therefore move that this item be omitted.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: I fancy that the feeling of the Assembly is against me on this item. But I should like to explain why we propose this experiment and why we began with America. America is a great English-speaking republic to which we are, Great Britain is and the British Empire is and will for many years to come be, more closely drawn than to any other country in the world, and for this reason it is important that America should be well informed on Indian affairs. In the second place, we have in America a very large number of these Indian Ghadrates, Indian revolutionaries, who are perpetually spreading false news about the country and it was to counteract that that we thought of employing this lecturer. The person whom we proposed to appoint is a man of very scholarly attainments, but in no sense an official. We had no idea of influencing him or getting him to take the Government view. Our idea was that he should come out to this country and get for himself accurate appreciation of the situation. That was what we thought was the most reasonable way of proceeding in this matter. He was not to be a Government nominee, and it was not our intention to get hold of a man who might be a suspect. However, as I have said, this is not a matter of vital importance and if the Assembly thinks that the money is not well spent, the Government will have to accede to their wishes in this matter.

The Honourable the President : The question is that this provision* be omitted.

The motion was adopted.

DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Bhai Man Singh : Sir, most of the amendments of which I had given notice have been rejected. The only other point about which I have any objection is that of a Deputy Secretary in the Home Department. Under the new budget we are asked to vote for two Deputy Secretaries instead of one. The item itself is non-votable, but we have to see in granting the whole amount whether this is justifiable or not. The work is bound to decrease under the new arrangement, and I cannot understand why we should be asked to vote for a new post of Deputy Secretary. It would mean about Rs. 23,000 yearly.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I could not hear the Honourable Member, but if I understood him correctly he complained of our entertaining two Deputy Secretaries in the Home Department. I must point out first of all that the item for two Deputy Secretaries (in italics) is not votable. But I am quite willing to explain that for some time the work in the Home Department has been increasing, and for some years I was pressed to employ additional staff. In consequence of this we had at one time to appoint an Additional Secretary, the superior staff then being a Secretary, an Additional Secretary and one Deputy Secretary. We then abolished the post of Additional Secretary and put on an extra Deputy Secretary at half the cost to save money to Government, and that is the explanation for the Additional Deputy Secretary, which item is not votable by this Chamber.

Bhai Man Singh : The other items have been also rejected and there is no use of my pressing this motion. I withdraw this motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEPUTY FINANCIAL ADVISER.

Bhai Man Singh : The next amendment that stands in my name is :

'That the provision of Rs. 16,200 for the pay of one Deputy Financial Adviser be omitted.'

Last year we find that under the head of Financial Adviser, Military Finance, we had one Deputy Financial Adviser. This year we have three instead of one. These are non-votable, but I say that if we are going to have three Deputy Financial Advisers, there is absolutely no reason why we should not reduce the one post in question. I think the House will see the reasonableness of my motion.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I have some difficulty in answering the Honourable Member, Sir. Up to the present he has not given any reason that I can understand for making a reduction of the post he proposes. I assume, however, that his argument is that, because we have added two posts

* Vide page 937 of these Debates.

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which do not come within the purview of the Council, he has good ground for suggesting that we should reduce one junior post.

Now, Sir, the reason why we have added, or propose to add, two Deputy Financial Advisers to the Army is this. We found that the Financial Adviser to the Army, expert and energetic as this officer may be, is nevertheless unable to scrutinise in person all the multitudinous details involved in the recent great increase of Army activities. When I say increase of Army activities, I do not mean to refer to the fact that the Army is paying more to the various components of its service; but we are now feeding and clothing the Army by direct arrangement instead of giving grants to the men or to units. We are now keeping up an Air Force; we are now keeping up a great deal of mobile transport. These are all new activities within the Army itself, and I think the House will very easily understand that, when you add a large commercial or semi-commercial transaction of this nature to the Army, it is necessary that the operations, if you are to secure economy, should be very carefully watched and scrutinised on the financial side. Members of the House who have read the Esher Committee's Report will remember that this particular measure, the addition of Deputy Financial Advisers in each of the major branches of Army work, was recommended by that Committee. But the scheme is not due in the first place to the recommendations of the Esher Committee. As the result of somewhat searching investigations that were carried on last year by a sub-committee of the Executive Council into the whole arena of Army finance and financial arrangements, we had already decided that it was necessary to give the Financial Adviser support and assistance if he was to undertake properly the examination of modern and exceedingly ramified financial transactions of the Army.

Now, I beg that the House will not be misled by the use of the term 'Financial Adviser'. The function of the Financial Adviser and his staff is not merely to give advice to the Army regarding financial matters. They are the representatives of the Finance Department within the Army; to this extent they represent a system of 'expenditure control'. The result of the increase of Army activities means that they must keep themselves thoroughly informed of all the facts regarding the purchase of grain, the purchase of food, clothing and the like; they must watch carefully the figures of recruitment and demobilisation to see that strengths are not exceeded; they must keep themselves informed as regards the operations in the Ordnance factories, and must apply in practice the results of the costing account system which we have now applied in those factories. Those are operations which are essential to the economical working of the Army. We, ourselves, in our scheme of financial control within the Army, have gone far below what has been thought necessary in England, and I do not think that, if the House examines the circumstances and realises the work which these officers have to do, it will think that we have been unduly extravagant in our scheme of Army financial control. I claim that we have put in the minimum number of officers possible, and I am fully persuaded that, if we do not keep up within the Army itself this system of expenditure control, the result will be a loss of economy. The Army, though it may contain many business men and men of administrative talent, does nevertheless need constant check, constant advice and constant control in its financial affairs, and it is to assist this object that we have appointed these two extra Deputy Financial Advisers.

Bhai Man Singh : Well, Sir, I do not deny the fact that we do need financial control in the Army, but the question is, whether all these new posts are absolutely necessary and whether we are to allow that. This really means so much additional burden upon the Army, though of course it is put under the Finance Department head. So it is for the House to say whether we should allow all those items or make any reductions.

The Deputy President : The question is :

‘ That the provision of Rs. 16,200 for the pay of one Deputy Financial Adviser (page 69) be omitted.’

The motion was negatived.

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL ADVISER.

Bhai Man Singh : Sir, the motion that I have to put before the House is :

‘ That the provision of Rs. 37,920 for the salary of 3 Assistant Financial Advisers (page 69) be reduced to Rs. 15,800.’

Here again, the question is the same that, instead of one Assistant Financial Adviser during the last year, we require to have three others, and to my mind that is quite extra.

The Deputy President : Does the Honourable Member withdraw the motion ?

Bhai Man Singh : No, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I understood the Honourable Member to say that the increase was ‘ quite natural ’ and I was, therefore, expecting him to withdraw the motion.

I have nothing further to say to the House on this subject. Deputy Financial Advisers are necessary in the larger branches of the Army, such as the Quartermaster General's Branch and the Adjutant General's Branch. Assistant Financial Advisers are necessary in regard to the smaller branches of the Army, and exactly the same argument applies. I do not honestly believe that it would be economical on the part of this House to refuse us this assistance in carrying out the expenditure control of the Army.

Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally : May I inquire, Sir, why all this expenditure on finance should not be debitable to the Army ? Why is it given under the head of ‘ General Administration ’ ?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I hope I may have the indulgence of the House to speak again in reply to this particular question. It would be an entire inversion of the proper procedure if we were to allow the Army to superintend the control of its own finances. The House will realise that the effect of having financial control under the Finance Member, and therefore under the Civil Government, is to place within the Army itself a guardian that is appointed, superintended and controlled from outside. What the Honourable Member apparently desires is this, that the Army should pay for its own Financial Advisers ; if it pays for them, it will also apparently superintend and control them. In both cases, of course, their pay comes out of the

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finances of the country and would simply mean a transfer from one page to another ; but if the House will take my advice, it will leave them exactly where they are instead of transferring them to Army control.

The Deputy President : The question is :

' That the provision of Rs. 37,920 for the salary of 3 Assistant Financial Advisers (page 69) be reduced to Rs. 15,600.'

The motion was ^{lost} negatived.

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES' PAY.

Bhai Man Singh : Well, Sir, about the Commerce Department, I find that there are two Assistant Secretaries newly introduced whose pay is about Rs. 24,000. They are quite new posts and they should not be allowed. I therefore move :

' That the provision of Rs. 24,000 for pay of two Assistant Secretaries (page 70) be omitted.'

Mr. C. A. Innes : Sir, I should like first to explain that the Commerce Department, through no fault of its own, has been laid open to attack by a misprint. In the Budget for 1921-22 we are shown as going to have three Deputy Secretaries. That is a misprint. We are to have two, which is precisely the same as we have now.

I now turn to the exact question which has been raised by Bhai Man Singh, namely, whether the provision for two Assistant Secretaries should be omitted ; and I should like to explain how my office is organised. It is divided into the following branches :—

1. Shipping Branch.
2. Special Branch, which deals with Emigration, the German Peace Treaty and other matters of that kind.
3. Posts and Telegraphs Branch. •
4. Commerce Branch.
5. Customs Branch.
6. Insurance Branch.

Now the Honourable Mr. Hailey explained this morning the general reasons why these appointments of Assistant Secretaries were created last year. We have in the Department of Commerce two of these Assistant Secretaries. The first one is employed in the Emigration Branch, and he also deals with shipping cases. Now there has been recently in India—and I think quite rightly—a demand for a more active policy on the part of the Government of India in regard to emigration matters. We have been accused—possibly rightly—of allowing things in the Colonies and in foreign countries to drift until we have got into a mess and then of devoting ourselves to getting out of that mess. It has been suggested that we should have a much more live policy, and should keep in touch with Indians in the Colonies and in other places, and by taking these precautions, prevent things from drifting too far. Only a few days ago with this end in view, a motion was brought up in the Council of State that a new Department, entirely devoted to emigration, should be

created in the Government of India. What have we got at present to deal with emigration matters? We have half the time of an Assistant Secretary, half the time of a Deputy Secretary, part of my time and part of the Honourable Sir George Barnes' time. Considering the importance of the question, considering how large it looms in the public mind, I ask the House whether they think that there is room for reduction, and whether the Assistant Secretary is an extravagance.

I now turn to the Posts and Telegraphs Branch. Here we have a whole-time Assistant Secretary. He sends up cases to a Deputy Secretary, who also deals with emigration, and, as in the case of emigration, Posts and Telegraph cases are dealt with by an Assistant Secretary, and occupy part of a Deputy Secretary's time, part of my time and part of the Honourable Sir George Barnes' time. Now, Sir, we are accused of being too extravagant in the Government of India. In the Postal Department in London, I find that they have a Postmaster General, an Assistant Postmaster General, a Private Secretary to the Postmaster General, a Secretary to the Post Office, a Private Secretary and Second Secretary to that Secretary, and seven first-class Assistants drawn from precisely the same class, as we Indian Civilians are drawn from. Out here, on the contrary, we deal with this immense Department which employs over 100,000 men, by means of an Assistant Secretary, part of the time of a Deputy Secretary, part of my time and part of my Honourable Member's time. I ask the House, Sir, with great confidence whether we are extravagant, and I am quite sure that in the light of this explanation Bhai Man Singh will withdraw his motion.

Bhai Man Singh: Sir, I withdraw my motion *; and I do not intend to move the next two motions, on the List of Business.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

COST OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, my motion is:

'That the Demand under head General Administration (No. 14) be reduced by 20 lakhs.'

Honourable Members will notice that this is not a very modest request. I quite admit that, but, at the same time, the rate of progress at which expenditure has been getting up in this Department has not been modest. That is my excuse for making this immodest request. I notice that in 1916-1917 General Administration cost about 39 lakhs, and it rose to 46 lakhs and again 47 lakhs last year. Honourable Members will note that at page 64 the accounts show 74 lakhs; so between 1916-17 and 1919-20, the expenditure rose from 39 lakhs to 74 lakhs. Now, Sir, if again you look at the budget estimate for 1920-21, the last but one column on page 60, you will find our friend the Finance Member is responsible for a lot of increase. He budgetted very modestly for Rs. 6,20,000 for his Department, but the actual expenditure grew up to Rs. 10,51,000 in 1920-21. That was in the Finance Department. Similarly, my Honourable friend interested in the Home Department (Sir William Vincent) will find that he budgetted for 14 lakhs and spent about 17 lakhs in

* Vide page 946 of these Debates.

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1920-21. And similarly in other Departments also, Honourable Members will notice there has been considerable increase. I know one Department was transferred last year—the Department of Munitions—to General Administration, and that accounts for, I believe, 6 lakhs. But on the whole this tremendous increase within this year is a matter which requires close scrutiny. I should not have asked for such a scrutiny if the terms of reference of that Committee to which reference was made this morning had embraced this question also, but I am afraid I do not find among the terms of reference that the Committee is to make any report as to where retrenchment can be made and in what directions retrenchment can be effected. I was glad to hear that this Inspector of Office Procedure has been able to show some improvement in economy, and that already in the course of a very short period he has been able to effect a saving of 5 lakhs. If that is so, I gladly welcome his acquisition to the Government, and I hope that during the year we are going through he will be able to so examine the procedure in offices as to point out to the Finance Committee sitting in the course of the year where retrenchment can be effected.

I do think that with the devolution of powers to the various heads of Departments with the decentralisation which is in vogue and also with the transfer of subjects which has been effected very largely to the Provinces, the work in the Central Government Departments should diminish. I quite agree that the Legislative Department has got added work; but I have not touched the Legislative Department although there are really two departments, the Legislative Body, and the Legislative Department, both of which show an increase. But even the Legislative Department cannot account, or rather our activities cannot account, for all this large increase in the expenditure. After all the Legislative Bodies sit only for two or two and a half months between January and March and again for two months perhaps in August and September.

I may also point out that the recommendations made by this Procedure Committee which was referred to this morning have not been carried out. They recommended that Under Secretaries—I shall stand corrected if I am wrong—should be abolished in the several departments, except in one department, either Home or Finance, I forget which now—the Finance Department. Then they also recommended the abolition of Joint Secretaries. I find, Sir, that provision has been made in the Budget for Joint Secretaries and for Under Secretaries. If the recommendations of that Committee are so sacrosanct as they have been made out to be by such eminent people as we have heard this morning, how is it these recommendations have not been carried out? Of course, it is impossible, as a man who always takes the practical view of things, to say all at once 'You shall cut down the Budget under this head by 20 lakhs'. But that is the only way in which I could bring before this Assembly the extravagance which I see rampant in this general administration. Has it been investigated by anybody? With all this transference of powers to Local Governments and other heads of Departments, how is it that the expenditure on the Central Government goes on multiplying like this? The Central Government should set an example in economy to Local Governments. I find that the cry everywhere, in all the local Councils is 'Oh, this extravagance'. In every budget debate, in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, in every Province you will find the cry of Honourable Members is the same. How has

this administration grown so enormously? Here, Sir, there is ample justification for scrutiny, and I hope there will be considerable scrutiny during the current year; and if the Honourable the Finance Member will put this gentleman, the Inspector of Office Procedure, to that task first, I shall be most grateful and the country will be most grateful if some way could be found to reduce this expenditure. My object in doing this is simply to draw the attention of the Assembly to this growth in expenditure in all these years.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: Sir, the Home Department is on very safe ground on this occasion, I am glad to say; because, if Honourable Members will look at the estimates, they will see that the estimate for 1920-21 was only Rs. 14,67,700, or less than last year: the expenditure last year was, it is true, Rs. 17 lakhs and exceeded the estimate, but the increase was due really to three causes: (1) revisions of pay of establishment. I think everyone knows that prices have gone up and it is quite impossible to keep the wages of your establishment at previous rates. There has, however, been no rise in the pay of any of the superior officers in the Department. I think it is correct to say that no extra pay has been given to any of the superior officers, Secretaries or Deputy Secretaries. Secondly, we have the officer employed in the Information Bureau, Mr. Rushbrook-Williams, to whom attention has been drawn, and his pay has to be met out of the Budget. Thirdly, there was a small increase under Reforms, but that was only a small item. If Honourable Members will look, however, at the Budget for the present year, it is reduced from Rs. 14,67,700 to Rs. 14,11,000, that is, three lakhs less than the expenditure of last year; and I do not think that Honourable Members really expect us to take off 20 lakhs from this reduced grant. I shall leave it to other Members of the Government to explain for their own Departments.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: Sir, I understand the complaint of the Honourable Member to be that the figures placed in the Budget for the coming year largely exceed those of the revised estimate for the present year. The facts are of course that the revised estimate for the present year is approximately Rs. 95 lakhs, and the Budget estimate for the coming year is Rs. 97½ lakhs, or an increase of 2½ lakhs of rupees. Well, Sir, the greater part of the addition in cost is due to a cause which I do not in any way regret, and the Assembly is hardly in a position to regret; for, if the Members of the House will scan the items on page 60, they will see that, whereas in the revised estimate of 1920-21 the legislative bodies are responsible for Rs. 1,69,000, in the Budget estimate for 1921-22 they will be responsible for very nearly 8 lakhs; that is to say, there will be an increase of very nearly 6 lakhs in the case of legislative bodies. The total increase in this head of demand being only 2½ lakhs, there has obviously been a considerable decrease in the claims of the Departments for expenditure. I think, Sir, that explanation should in itself be sufficient for the House.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Sir, on this question there are four amendments; and instead of taking up the time of the Assembly by speaking separately on each amendment, I may request the President to allow the question to be discussed generally so that all Members who have given notice of amendments may speak one after another instead of having separate discussions on all these amendments. The question, Sir, is this: there are suggestions for reduction of this grant by Rs. 2 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakhs, Rs. 6½ lakhs and Rs. 20 lakhs. The object evidently of all these motions is that the

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju.]

proposers are not satisfied with the abnormal growth which we see in the estimates. Whatever may be the rise in wages, Sir, is there any explanation either from the Home Member or the Finance Member as to why there is an increase in five years of something like 250 per cent? Is there any justification for it? I have glanced through the report of the Secretariat Procedure Committee; and, though I find here and there a strong remark that it would be helpful in the reduction of expenditure, there is nothing to indicate that they have directed their attention at all with reference to this point of how to reduce this expenditure. The expenditure has grown 250 per cent. or two and a half times in five years, and I think it is high time we looked into it. I would ask whether the revenue of the country has grown, or whether the wealth of the country has grown, to that extent. Whether our treasury be full or empty it does not apparently matter—this grows on like sin, adding one after another and rising up to any figure. Therefore, Sir, I appeal to Members of this Assembly just to direct the attention of the Government to the fact that after all economy is a virtue which ought to be practised early by the Government. In America, during the presidency of Mr. Taft, they appointed a committee specially to look into their administration, and the committee was able to reduce the expenditure by several millions. No committee has been appointed here, with special directions to try to reduce the expenditure, because nobody seems to be anxious to reduce the expenditure. Therefore, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that we should express our disapproval of this enormous growth by asking for a reduction of this grant by whatever amount—5 or 6 lakhs. The proposals for reduction only show that we cannot at all look with equanimity and keep silence over such an abnormal increase from year to year. It may be that the increase is only Rs. 2½ lakhs as compared with the previous year, but it is much more when compared with previous years. It is now only that we have the right of reducing these figures when we think it is necessary to do so and, therefore, we are emboldened to put forward concrete proposals for reduction.

In previous years the members have expressed their dissatisfaction by pious
 3 P.M. Resolutions and by pious requests, but now we have the power, let us exercise it, not to paralyse the Government, but to show our dissatisfaction at the way in which our expenditure is rising by leaps and bounds.

Mr. E. L. Price: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member compared the present figure only with the revised figure for last year, but I asked him to compare the figure with the Budget figure for last year and the actual accounts for 1919-20. There is an increase from Rs. 74 lakhs to Rs. 94 lakhs in these two years, and that shows the rate of progress which requires to be examined. Further, the Honourable Mr. Hailey has not given me any assurance that he is going to have these matters investigated. If he had given that assurance, it would have meant something—but, so long as he does not give it, I think I must press my motion.

Mr. Piyari Lal Misra: Sir, after Mr. Raju's motion my motion comes but, fortunately or unfortunately, all the previous items have been rejected. I have, however, noted some items on which I should like to have some information from the Government benches. At page 74 there is a post of Assistant

Secretary in the Public Works Department on Rs. 800 per mensem or Rs. 9,600 per annum. This is entirely a new post.

Then, Sir, there is a bonus of Rs. 25,000 granted to one Mr. Brebner. I should like to have some light thrown on this, as to why this gentleman has been granted the bonus, and whether he has been given merely the bonus and also a pension.

Then, again, on page 66, in the Legislative Department, there are two Solicitors appointed. My submission is that one Solicitor would be quite enough, and if my suggestion is accepted a saving of Rs. 30,000 could be effected. This is so far as votable items are concerned. But may I have the permission, Sir, to ask for some information from the Honourable the Home Member regarding an item on page 66? It relates to one Assistant Examiner of Questioned Documents. We want only information; we know it is not votable. The figure given is Rs. 9,120. We want some light thrown on this.

(At this stage the Honourable the President resumed the Chair.)

Then, at page 72, another new appointment of Assistant Secretary, carrying a salary of Rs. 18,780 per annum has been made in the Railway Board. That is a new appointment, and I should like to have some information on all these appointments.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : I want to suggest for your consideration, Sir, that I am prepared to accept item No. 19 on the agenda as an amendment to my Resolution.

The Honourable the President : Does the Honourable Member say that he wishes to accept the reduction of two lakhs if Mr. Neogy moves it?

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Yes, Sir.

The Honourable the President : Did the Honourable Member (Mr. Neogy) move his amendment?

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Not yet.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

‘That the demand under head ‘General Administration (No. 14) be reduced by 20 lakhs’.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar : Sir, may I make an appeal to the Members on the Government benches to give us an assurance that they will take steps to retrench expenditure.

There is a general discontent regarding the growth of expenditure in General Administration. This Assembly would not be sorry if the increase of expenditure were on productive works, but when money is being spent upon departments and offices are being multiplied, which do not bring us any return, there is a legitimate feeling that the money might be spent better in other directions instead of being wasted on the creation of offices. Under these circumstances, there is a very widespread feeling among the Members of this House that some attempt should be made to retrench expenditure, and if the Government will give us some assurance that they will take steps to see that the expenditure on officers is not being unduly increased, I think most of the Members will withdraw their motions.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: Sir, more than one Member of the House has complained that expenditure on the officers of the Central Government has mounted, and is mounting, and ought to be retrenched; they have asked for some assurance that efforts will be made to effect such retrenchment. The best method which I can devise for the present would be that the state of the staff should be examined by the Standing Finance Committee and recommendations on the subject put forward by them. I do not think myself that it would be of any particular value to discuss here across the floor of the House one small retrenchment or another, for the work of one branch of an office is linked to that of many others. If we have hitherto shown some reluctance to accept any large or sweeping reductions in the central staff, it must be remembered that the gradual trend of affairs has led to greatly increased work in our Central Secretariat. I have myself some hope that when the Reformed Constitution is in full working, we may be able to effect some reductions in those departments which deal with transferred subjects. But, meanwhile, the late years have placed a great additional burden upon the departments of the Government of India. There has been a growing complexity of public business; there is an insistent demand for the early despatch of business that comes before us; and it must be realised that the constitution of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State has in itself led for the present to a very considerable increase of work, and work of a very urgent type. I give this to the House as a matter of practical experience; and I do not think that my Honourable Colleagues here will fail to support me in my statement. We have to do our best with the means we have at our disposal and, where we have made additions, it has always been (I can certainly say this from the point of view of my own department) with the greatest reluctance. I should be quite prepared, and so are my Honourable Colleagues, to place the matters of their departments before the Standing Finance Committee. If they can suggest reductions to us and, if we do not effect those reductions, they can report the matter to the House. But I would not suggest at present, until we know better what the course of our work is going to be through the coming year, that any formal committee be appointed to go into the matter.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, after that statement from the Honourable the Finance Member that the Standing Finance Committee will be allowed to go into the matter and report on the various departments, I shall not press my motion. I did not think that it was one of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee, but, since it has been made clear by the Honourable the Finance Member, I shall not press my motion, and I daresay that my Honourable friends too will not press their motions.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Honourable the President: The question is:

* That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 for 'General Administration'.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : Sir, I beg to move :

- 'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 in respect of Audit.'

The Honourable the President : The question is :—

- 'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 in respect of Audit.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : Sir, I beg to move :

- 'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1922 for the Administration of Justice.'

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Mr. Eardley Norton : I move, Sir :

- 'To reduce the vote for Civil Justice by the sum of Rs. 10,000 and the vote for Criminal Justice by an equal sum of Rs. 10,000.'

I have absolutely no feeling of animus or malice against the administration of justice with which, or with the converse of which, I have been so long as so intimately myself concerned. But I have been obliged, by the nature of the procedure of this House to assume a method of attack which is foreign to my nature, for by nature I am an honest man, I should like to be able to stand up and honestly ask for Rs. 20,000 instead of asking for it as I do under cover of this somewhat curious attack—for a Library for the purposes of this Assembly. But the rules of the House preclude my making that straightforward request in that straightforward fashion, and I have, therefore, been compelled to see how I could bring this question before the notice of the members of this Assembly. Apparently the only method of doing that was to attack somebody. I have, therefore, been compelled, much against my wish, to lend my name to an attack which, before I move it, I wish entirely to repudiate. My first inclination was to attack the Bishop. But when I turned to the Ecclesiastical Department (a Department which, I trust, in the years to come, and that not very long, will be at once and for ever removed from the Budget of the Indian revenues), I found that there I was confronted with large italic letters and across the portals of the sacred edifice was written in official language the word 'Verboten.' Unable to attack His Lordship the Bishop and his dependents, I looked elsewhere for relief. I thought I had found it in the household of His Excellency the Viceroy; but although I might have attempted to deplete his crockery and his bed-linen, I felt that that was not a courteous method of greeting the arrival of the coming Viceroy who might possibly think that we were disposed to make things uncomfortable for him even before he arrived here.

In my despair I turned to the earliest of the sequences printed here and found that I was to attack the administration which has for so many years nurtured me. I regret it. But I want that library, and the only possible method at present of getting it is to ask for a reduction of Rs. 20,000 from my foster-mother.

[Mr. Eardley Norton.]

I think this House will probably agree with me—I think that the other side of this House also will agree with me—that it is necessary that we should have books to which we can make reference for purposes of fortifying our own arguments or of annihilating the arguments on the official side of this House. I know from hearing and also from reading him that the Honourable Member for Finance has beneath his official pachyderm a strong literary strain, and I feel sure that I shall at any rate enlist his sympathies although he is in charge of that Department which is disposed, as a matter of principle, to say ‘No’ even to the accumulation of law books. I wish to appeal to his better nature, the literary and cultured side of his nature, when I ask him to provide us with the instruments for attacking him and his Department hereafter. It is unnecessary to say much more about this. I think we are all agreed that books are necessary, if only for the purpose of consoling ourselves by reading in the interval of our leisure conflicting judgments which no one can reconcile. Books are necessary, but we want them not merely on law; we want a general library, we want a Parliamentary library, we want a statistical library, we want it in this House, and we want attached to it two things; we want a librarian, and we want a catalogue. We want also a much larger room than is at present assigned to us. I do not wish to be eclectic; I do not wish to be too democratic; but when the members of the Council of State invade that room at the same time as we are there, there really is no space for us to pursue our studies in that state of absolutely quiescent reflection with which alone we can come prepared to this House. I am not suggesting that the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the other House should have separate rooms to themselves. On the contrary, I think we shall be able to procure a great deal of information by consultations between both Houses of the Legislature, provided we can have a room sufficiently large in which to meet without inconveniencing ourselves and our atmosphere too much.

I would, therefore, make an appeal, in attacking the administration of justice, to the Honourable Member in charge of the Department, or to the Finance Member as he is here, that he will receive this appeal *in forma pauperis* with a certain amount of latitude, of charity and of benevolence. This is a universal want felt by all of us excepting by the few who are themselves walking encyclopædias of knowledge in this House (I am referring particularly to my vakil friends behind me), but to us very common folk who cannot carry the erudition of centuries in our minds and who feel that we must refresh ourselves by reference before we make quotations, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a well-arranged library to which we can appeal before we appeal to the living members in possession of the books themselves. I trust that the Honourable Member in charge of finance will see his way, before we meet again, to give us what we want.

This raises one other question, a question of some difficulty with me, and that is whether we are going to use this library throughout consecutive meetings in Delhi alone or only for a portion of our meetings. It is not yet decided, although I understood the official leader of the other side of the House to say the other day that he was quite prepared for a full dress debate upon the question as to whether or not we are to meet here for the second meeting or at Simla. I understood him to say—he will correct me if I am wrong—that he was prepared himself to abide by the decision. If we are not to meet here continuously as I trust we shall not; if we are to meet partly in Simla and partly here, I should like to know, as I am not acquainted with Simla, whether in that event

we are to have two libraries ; whether we are to have a library here for purposes of reference whilst this House meets here and also a library in Simla for the purposes of discussion there. If I correctly interpret what the Honourable Sir William Vincent said and if we are to be constitutionally terrorised into meeting perpetually in this House during the hot as well as the cold weather, then it seems to me that possibly we shall require even a larger grant than the Rs. 20,000 with which I have suggested the starting of this library. I do give my Honourable friend notice that this is the thin end of the wedge.

I am familiar with libraries. I have been collecting libraries all my life, and it is only quite lately—owing to certain circumstances into which I need not enter now—that I have been obliged to part with my books. I would ask the officer in charge to let me have some guiding voice as regards the class of books which it is necessary we should have ; and also in regard to the way in which catalogues should be prepared for the purpose of making these books really useful to the members of this House. I have nothing further to say except to appeal in as chastened a mood as I can—to the Honourable the Finance Member to give us some assurance that this appeal of ours will meet with a kindly reception at his hands so as to enable us to go back with a knowledge that we shall be even better prepared to-morrow than we are now to enforce our arguments of to-day.

The Honourable the President : By the exercise of what the Honourable Member has called 'charity and benevolence,' I have turned a deaf ear to the Honourable Member's speech which has been out of order from the first word to the last. I am aware that I am setting a bad precedent from the Chair ; but as he was raising a question of great interest to every member here, I allowed him to proceed. I shall not be able to allow the same latitude to other members who must address themselves to the subject of Civil and Sessions Courts if they wish to discuss this motion for reduction. Turning to the *head* 'General Administration,' *sub-head* Legislative Department, I find an item for the 'purchase of law books.' That was the proper place for this question to be raised. I suppose it escaped the eagle eye of the Honourable Member, so I allowed him that latitude, and I am prepared to allow it in relation to a very brief reply similarly actuated, I hope, by 'charity and benevolence' on the part of Government. But I cannot allow other members a similar latitude.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, the position of the Honourable the Finance Member during these debates is a somewhat curious one. All through the year he poses to us administrative departments as a Cerberus guarding the public Treasury with his satellites, and if you ask his Department for money for any object, you usually come back sore and defeated. In this Chamber his attitude is different and he has to justify demands though he is sometimes afforded a little satisfaction when one of our demands is turned down. - I saw him just now when a demand of the Home Department was refused give a sardonic smile of satisfaction, and I felt he was rather pleased at the result, and there is, I think, some excuse for him. But in this case I propose to turn the tables on him, and myself side with the Honourable Member who moved this Resolution. There is really a great need for this library though I think the sum which is proposed is quite inadequate. We will, however, combine to bring pressure to bear on my Honourable Colleague, and I am hopeful that out of one of those 'lump sum grants' which he always keeps up his sleeve, we shall be able to secure a reasonable amount for the purpose that the Honourable the Mover has in view. I hope, however, that it will not be

[Sir William Vincent.]

necessary on this account to reduce the salary of these unfortunate Judicial Officers. The Honourable Mover has hitherto been known to them as a great advocate and a man of light and leading, learned in the law. And I should not like to see his reputation injured or to have him regarded as a peculiarly malicious person, something worse than the Accountant General who cuts their pay for no reason. It would spoil his reputation in the many Courts in which he practises. If, therefore, I give an assurance that I will certainly myself—and I am quite sure my friend Dr. Sapru will join me—that we will put any pressure we can on the Honourable the Finance Member to secure an adequate grant for this library, I hope the Mover will withdraw the Resolution.

Mr. Eardley Norton: I withdraw.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: I only want to say one word more in answer to a question asked me about Simla. There is, as a matter of fact, an excellent library in Simla which is quite close to the place which is proposed for the site of the Chamber.

The motion* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: I will not move No. 22, Sir, *i.e.* :

'That the demand under head 'Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 11,480.'

The Honourable the President: The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for the 'Administration of Justice.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: Sir, I beg to move :—

Jails and Convict Settlements. 'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,26,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for Jails and Convict Settlements.'

HIRE OF STEAMER.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, I beg to move :

'That under this head the demand be reduced by Rs. 2,12,000.'

In addition to the lump sum proposed already which I will not repeat, I find an item on page 96 entitled Hire of Steamer. I think, Sir, it has gone up from Rs. 2,27,500 to Rs. 5,37,000. I cannot understand how such a large jump should have been made, and I therefore move that this sum be reduced, that the demand under the head Jails and Convict Settlements be reduced by Rs. 2,12,000.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: Sir, I am not surprised that the Honourable Member found some difficulty in understanding the figures for the hire of this steamer. The facts are these. This steamer was from 1916 to the end of August 1919 an impressed steamer. And it was run by Government and the payment made to the owners was at the rate of Rs. 14 per gross ton. This was the blue-book rate, and I think it is well known that blue-book rates were decidedly below what could be obtained in the open market. In September 1919, a temporary

* *Vide* page 953 of Debates.

contract was entered into at the rate of 30 shillings per ton of dead weight, and then the contract was renewed for a period of five years in September 1920 at the same rate. Before renewing the contract, the Government made every possible inquiry. They inquired whether they could get a steamer which they could own and run themselves. They found that to be impossible. They invited tenders and they only received one tender. Eventually they entered into the contract on the advice of, and after the case had been examined by, the Shipping Controller, Mr. Storey. There has, therefore, been no change in the rate paid for this steamer since September 1919. As a matter of fact, for the period from April 1920 to the end of the year, Government made the handsome profit of two lakhs of rupees. How the accounts will work out during the period of the contract depends of course upon the rate of exchange because the contract is on a sterling basis. But, assuming that the rate of exchange gradually improves, as we all hope, there is every reason to suppose that the contract will prove profitable to Government.

Now, as regards the variations in the figures, in the first place, the figure Rs. 2,27,550 in the accounts for 1919-20 appears to be a mistake. The actual figures are Rs. 3,59,000. Of course this represents the expenditure for a year during a considerable portion of which the steamer was an impressed steamer. Then it will be seen that there is an estimate of Rs. 3,66,000 for 1920-21. That was based on the three years' average during the greater portion of which period the steamer was impressed at the blue-book rates. The actual expenditure was Rs. 5,66,000, then a simple calculation will show that the estimated expenditure for 1921-22, *viz.*, Rs. 5,37,000, is insufficient. The actual payments that have to be made month by month are £5,000 odd. The Chief Commissioner in sending up this estimate made a mistake in the basis of his calculations. He calculated on gross tonnage and not on dead weight tonnage. When that mistake was discovered, he sent up a fresh estimate, and this lump provision of Rs. 2,00,000 at the bottom is intended to adjust the accounts under that head. The position therefore is, that there has been no increase whatever in the rate which is paid for the charter of this steamer, and that, as I have said from April 1920 to the end of December 1920, Government had made a very reasonable profit of Rs. 2 lakhs on this contract, because Government gets all the freights and rates paid by passengers. As regards the future, of course it is impossible to say exactly how the account will work out, because the contract is on a sterling basis. But assuming that exchange recovers, there is no reason to suppose that this contract will not prove a profitable one. It has been made after the most careful examination, after every possibility has been explored, and after expert advice had been taken.

Mr. Eardley Norton : May I inquire where and for what the steamer is being used ?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : It is used for carrying passengers, freight and mails to the Andamans.

Mr. E. L. Price : Sir, it is extremely interesting, after the Honourable Mr. Hailey's condemnation of the action of those merchants who failed to cover their exchange, to hear that the Jails and Convicts Settlements Department has also failed to cover their exchange and have speculated like the merchants—we will hope, however, with happier results ! But, Sir, the point I want to raise

[Mr. E. L. Price.]

is not that. It is this that this demand covers the Andamans Administration, and I think that before we vote this money, we ought to have some assurance from Government that the conditions of the 'hell on earth' that has been revealed there will be ameliorated during the coming year.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: I am extremely glad, Sir, that I have been afforded this opportunity of stating the policy of the Government in regard to the Andamans Settlement. Honourable Members are aware that I promised recently to lay the Report of the Jails Commission before Members of the Assembly and to publish it. As soon as I obtained the permission of the Secretary of State, namely, on the 8th March, we issued orders for its publication, and I believe that the report was placed in the hands of all Honourable Members on the 9th. Before that date, however, we had already come to certain provisional conclusions regarding the Andamans, intending at first to reduce the Settlement from its present numbers to a Settlement where about 1,500 or 2,000 of the worst criminals only would be detained. We have now after consultation with the Secretary of State decided, subject of course to any advice from this Assembly, because this is a matter on which the influence of the Legislature may very properly be exercised, to abandon the penal Settlement altogether. For some years we have had misgivings about this Settlement. Although I think some of the statements in the report are overcoloured, at the same time we have been under misgivings regarding conditions there. It is at a very great distance from the Headquarters of Government, and it is impossible for us to control or supervise work effectively, and the Settlement is also unamenable to outside influences. In 1913, Sir Reginald Craddock, my predecessor, made a careful inspection of the Settlement and he formulated his views in a report which is now on the records of the Government of India. Partly, as a result of that visit, the Government decided, on a motion of Mr. Rayaningar in the Indian Legislative Council, to appoint a Committee to examine the whole of our jail systems. Owing to the war, we were unable to appoint that Committee at the time. It was impossible to do so, and we received instructions to defer the establishment of the body. We were, however, never unmindful of this subject and immediately the war was over, we appointed this Committee. It has completed its inquiries and submitted the report which is now before Honourable Members.

When we received that report, we immediately also formulated our views on the various recommendations. Most of them, however, as Honourable Members will see, affect Local Governments mainly, but this Chapter of the Andamans was one which directly affected the Government of India; it is directly under our control. I ought to have mentioned that before this and after Sir Reginald Craddock's visit to the Settlement, a number of reforms such as we could carry out then were immediately done, not in my time, I think, but before I came in. Among these may be included the abolition of chain gang sentences, the systematic reclamation of salt swamps which is in progress. A large amount of money, more than four lakhs, has been spent on the removal of certain barracks beyond the radius of infection. Additional allowances for food have been sanctioned for convicts engaged in labour at a distance from their station, such as forestry or fuel-cutting. The system of local marriages has been regularised as far as possible. Allowances paid to married self-supporters have been increased, and marriages between convicts and free men are no longer permitted. The productive capacity of the Settlement has been developed; convict labour is being withdrawn from forest camps and being

replaced by free labour. All the same, we viewed the information contained in this report with very grave concern, and I am sure this Assembly will support us entirely in the view we are taking, namely, the decision that the time has now come to end this penal settlement altogether. Of course, there must necessarily elapse a considerable time before this proposal can be carried out completely, because we have to deal with 12,000 to 15,000 prisoners, and they have to be accommodated somewhere as obviously they cannot be released forthwith. But we are taking certain steps in this direction immediately, and we are also impressing upon Local Governments the necessity of adding to their jail accommodation without delay.

The actual Resolution which the Government of India propose to issue on this Andamans Commission is now before me. We have refrained from issuing it mainly because we thought it would be in accordance with what was promised the other day that we should first ascertain the views of this Assembly in regard to it, although I am quite certain we shall secure their abundant support for the course we now propose. Further, I am glad to say that we have issued orders that all political prisoners shall be immediately returned from the Andamans, that female convicts not married locally shall be returned immediately, and we are taking steps to prevent further criminals being sent to the Andamans in so far as the Local Governments are able to find accommodation for them here. We shall press Local Governments in this matter to restrict the numbers as much as possible. In the meantime, we are giving effect to the recommendations contained in the report for the amelioration of conditions there so far as may be possible and providing so far as we can for the classification of convicts, their complete separation at night, and as far as possible, at labour, a substantial reduction in the number of convict officers and the recruitment of an additional number of well-paid jailors and warders. We are also improving the arrangements for medical treatment, and in other directions we are in consultation with the Chief Commissioner as to what improvements are possible. With the consent of the Honourable the Finance Member we have provided a lakh for the temporary improvement of the administration of this Settlement this year. The difficulty in giving immediate effect to the recommendations of the Committee is that eight or ten new jails will be required to accommodate the prisoners, our jails are at present overcrowded and Local Governments may not be in a position to undertake the construction of a number of new jails immediately. But I can assure this Assembly that this report has caused us the greatest concern, and we will do everything possible that we can to remedy the defects that have been pointed out, and I hope that in a few years, this blot on the administration may be removed altogether.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Sir, I am glad that my innocent motion has been productive of one good effect, namely, that, at any rate, one hell is going to be put an end to although it may not be possible to put an end to the other hell. But this hell was man's creation, and therefore man can put an end to it, and I hope it will soon be put an end to.

And I am very grateful indeed for the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member in that connection and I daresay this Assembly welcomes that announcement.

As regards the particular item I do not understand why the Government should not contract to pay in rupees. Why should they contract to pay in sterling knowing all the difficulties we have about exchange. When they enter into a contract, why should they enter into this contract to pay in

[Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar.]

sterling'? Then the Government say 'Oh, this loss is due to this and that and the other'. I wonder why that was done. On the whole, having regard to the explanation given by the Home Secretary I do not think any useful purpose will be served by my pressing my present motion to a division, and I hope that in future when a contract is entered into, it will be paid in rupees and not in sterling and it will not subject us to this loss.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: May I ask one question? I am very anxious to know in connection with this question of the Andaman Settlement whether the action proposed by Government has the approval of the Assembly.

(SEVERAL HONOURABLE MEMBERS: YES.)

The motion* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Honourable the President: The question is:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,26,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for Jails and Convict Settlements.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: I beg to move:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for Police.'

Police.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: I wish to draw the attention of the House to page 98 of the Demand for Grants where there is an item of War Allowance for Rs. 50,250. I wonder what war that is and why a war allowance should at all be provided for 1921-22. Again, in the same page, under 'Travelling Allowance' we have provision for 1,10,300 and for 'House Rent and other allowances' 2,80,530, and again on page 99 for 'Contingent expenditure' Rs. 29,880. There are other items but I will not trouble the Assembly with them. It appears to me that these are items which have to be justified to the Assembly before they can pass them.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: I should like to point out that the demand under this, head relates to a large number of Administrations including Ajmer, Baluchistan, Indore, Coorg, Delhi, Rajputana. It has therefore to be borne in mind in considering the various items that every item is probably divisible by about 8. As regards the particular items referred to by Mr. Rangachariar, it will be observed that there is no increase of travelling allowances. This sum of Rs. 1,10,300 is intended for all these Administrations that I have mentioned. Then he referred to the question of war allowance. These war allowances are simply allowances which were granted to the subordinate staff during the war pending the revision of their pay. The intention is that as soon as the revision of pay is effected, the allowances shall be merged in pay.

As regards house rent allowances, these are allowances which are paid to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. That is the standing practice all over the country. These Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police either get houses rent free or they get allowances in cases where Government is unable to provide houses.

* Vide page 956 of these Debates.

For the rest, any increase in expenditure which is a very small increase if you take it per province, is simply due to revision of pay which is as necessary and indeed more necessary in the case of the police than in that of other services. There was a case mentioned by the Honourable the Finance Member where we had to sanction an increase of pay for the police in Bombay, because, if that increase had not been sanctioned, there was every reason to believe that a particular section of the force would have ceased to function. At the present moment, as Honourable Members know, in one province, Bihar and Orissa, the police have actually gone on strike.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : I do not press the motion.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the 'Police'.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. C. A. Innes : I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of Ports and Pilotage. 'Ports and Pilotage'.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. Hullah : I move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the Survey of India. 'Survey of India'.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. Hullah : I move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of Meteorology. 'Meteorology'.'

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Meteorology'.'

PROVISION FOR WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer : Sir, I beg to move :

'That the provision for weather telegrams (page 119) be reduced by Rs. 40,000 (Rs. 44,000, as shown in the agenda, is a mistake).'

The charge for weather telegrams is Rs. 84,000. In the next year it is proposed to raise it to Rs. 1,40,000. I know Sir Gilbert Walker to be an eminent scientist, but I do not know whether he can guarantee the accuracy of his weather forecasts with the addition of this expenditure. If he could guarantee the truth of his prophecies of weather, I for one would not mind it,

[Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.]

but I am afraid he will not be able to do so. It seems to be an excessive charge, and I move that it be reduced by Rs. 40,000.

Mr. J. Hullah : Sir, without giving any guarantee that we shall improve the accuracy of our weather forecasts, I hope I shall be able to explain to the satisfaction of the House that there is really no increase in the charges which the State will have to bear on account of these telegrams. Honourable Members will see that in the accounts for 1919-20 in the last budget and in the revised estimate the figure has been constant—Rs. 84,000. That has simply been a conventional figure adopted between the Meteorological Department and the Telegraph Department, as representing the cost of the telegrams. Since that figure was fixed some years ago, when it represented approximately the actual cost, the rates for telegrams have doubled, and the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs has asked us to pay for our telegrams in future at current rates. We have, therefore, put down the sum which we expect them to cost and which they would actually have cost this year had we been charged full rates by the Telegraph Department. There is no point in cutting out a single rupee of this provision, because if you do you must cut out another rupee from the receipts of the Telegraph Department. It is simply a book account between two Departments, and we have now to put in what we believe will be actually debited to the Meteorological Department. I can assure the House that there is no real increase in expenditure whatsoever.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : It is a mere question of book entries?

Mr. J. Hullah : Yes.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : Then I do not wish to press my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

‘That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for ‘Meteorology’.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland : Sir, I beg to move :

‘That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the ‘Geological Survey.’

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. Hullah : I move, Sir :

‘That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for the ‘Botanical Survey.’

FREIGHT AND OTHER CHARGES.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : Sir, I move :

‘That the provision for freight and other charges (page 123) be reduced by Rs. 20,000.’

The cost of this in the current year will be Rs. 10,000. It seems to have gone up suddenly to Rs. 32,000 in the estimates for the next year. It is

difficult to understand why there should be this big jump from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 32,000. I move that it should be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

Mr. J. Hullah : I may explain, Sir, that this provision is made on account of importing supplies of quinine from abroad. The demand for quinine in India is growing very rapidly indeed, and the Bengal and Madras plantations are unable at present to meet that demand. As the Assembly was informed a week or two ago by Mr. Sharp, we have started in Burma a very large plantation which, we believe, will supply the full quinine needs of India and, we hope, the needs of the Empire as well. But meanwhile we have to import quinine from abroad. It has been pointed out that in the revised estimates the amount on account of freight and other charges is only Rs. 10,000. As a matter of fact, the last budget provision made was Rs. 25,000, but that does not appear because in the column 'budget estimate' several items have been lumped together. But the quinine has not come forward, or rather very little of it has come forward, and therefore the budget provision of this year has been reduced from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 10,000 in the revised estimate. We expect to get not only the arrears of this year, but also increased supplies next year. We have a contract for 750,000 lbs. of quinine in the bark, and another for 40,000 lbs. of quinine sulphate. It is for that reason alone that a provision of Rs. 32,000 has been made in the budget, and I may mention that we asked a hard Finance Department to give us a provision of Rs. 40,000. I hope that the provision of Rs. 32,000 will be allowed to stand.

Mr. E. L. Price : I should like to know, Sir, whether the Botanical Survey is also speculating in exchange like the jalls, or whether they have covered themselves?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I can answer the question of the Honourable Member, Sir. There does not appear on this Budget any demand for payment for quinine. That appears in the Home charges. Therefore that will not arise in this particular connection.

Mr. E. L. Price : What made me ask that question, Sir, was because in the case of the Andamans there was an item for which exchange was uncovered, freight, charter or steamer hire; and the same word appears here.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : I do not press my motion,* Sir.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for the 'Botanical Survey'.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Sharp : Sir, I beg to move :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922, for the Zoological Survey.'

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Sir, I beg to move

'That the Demand under this head be reduced by Rs. 22,800.'

[Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar.]

My reason for it is to be found on page 124, where there are two lump provision items, which will come under the general provision we have made already. But as zoology is a very interesting subject, other Members may have an opportunity of saying what they have got to say about it.

Mr. R. A. Spence : Mr. President, it is usually considered a good thing if one's interpretation of rules is the correct interpretation. I regret that in this instance my own interpretation is, I believe, correct, for I do not believe that it would be in order to ask that a demand for a grant should be cut down in order that that demand should be used for some other purpose.

Motions for reduction of grants are presumably the result of the Mover's belief that the sum demanded is more than is required for the efficient service of the Department, and if this were the case I should like to see the sum objected to transferred to the credit of the Mammal Survey undertaken by the Bombay Natural History Society.

But, unfortunately, for this country the demand made on us for the work of the Zoological Survey of India is not merely not in excess of its requirements but is greatly in defect.

There must be many in this Assembly who are interested in the wonderful natural life of this great country, and I would appeal to them to do all that they can to remove the reproach on India of starving science. If one wants to know what can be done to increase the knowledge of the natural life of a country, one should look to the United States of America, one of the great democratic countries of the world, and the difference between what America does and what India does is not to the credit of India.

We have pressed in this Assembly that we should not cut down expenditure that is of a remunerative character. There is no question that expenditure on science and scientific research is of a most remunerative nature. It must be in the knowledge of many that the tea industry of India owes its inception to the experimental work undertaken by the Botanical Gardens of Calcutta. The important work of the Forest Department and the Agricultural Department is greatly helped by the work undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India, and on this ground we should decline to reduce the grant.

The Scientific Departments dealing with Meteorology, Geology, Botany, Zoology and Archæology are Departments in which Indian scientists have already made a great reputation, and the Departments offer increasing opportunities for Indian gentlemen of scientific attainments to serve their country with advantage and benefit to the country.

Mr. H. Sharp : Sir, after what Mr. Spence has said, there is really very little left for me to say. Indeed, in one matter he rather took the wind out of my sails in mentioning the Mammal Survey carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society. I was going to specify that as an instance showing that we have a private society here doing a very important piece of work which we might expect to be done by our Archaeological Survey. But the fact of the matter is that our surveys cannot be properly carried out. For, whatever be the reason, why it is proposed to make this reduction, I would point out that this is an absolutely starvation budget, and it has just occurred to me that possibly I might ask the Members of the Assembly—I do not wish to strain their arithmetical faculties at this stage on a rather sultry afternoon to turn the total into sterling—it is not difficult to do so at £.

2 shillings rate of exchange. Even at that rate, it is incredible that you can properly run the Zoological Survey of a country like this, which is teeming in fascinating fauna, on this absolutely paltry sum. The pay of the men in the department is also extremely small. We had put before the Secretary of State proposals for raising their pay. The Secretary of State has not accepted them, not because he thinks them too high, but because of administrative reasons; but he is granting them a percentage increase. This accounts for one of the lump provisions.

The only other considerable lump increase that I can find is for provision of certain special items, that is to say, to meet the cost of microscopes, of scientific instruments and also printing and so on, because of the very large increase of cost of all those things. I can only say that this Budget has already been pared down to the utmost. I trust my Honourable friend opposite will not press for a reduction.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir I did not want to press this motion. I merely wanted to give an opportunity to my Honourable friend to speak on the subject, and I therefore withdraw my motion.

The motion* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Honourable the President: The question is:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st of March 1922 for 'Zoological Survey'.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Sharp: Sir, I beg to move;

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'Archæology'.'

CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: Sir, I beg to move:

'That the sum of Rs. 8,70,000, appearing on page 126 against Conservation of Ancient Monuments, be reduced by Rs. 1,000.'

My object in proposing this small reduction is simply this, to bring it to the notice of the Government that the Madras Presidency has been very shabbily treated in the distribution of this Rs. 8,70,000. I see that Provinces nearer the Capital, like the United Provinces and Delhi, have got much larger slices of this Rs. 8,70,000, and that Madras, where we find the largest number of ancient temples and archæological monuments is allotted a sum of Rs. 54,000. That, I should have thought, was altogether inadequate to the needs of Madras. I may also mention another thing I have heard, and that is that in one of the Provinces the archæologist in charge refuses to carry out any work for the preservation of monuments which he personally would not be permitted by the authorities to enter. I do not know how far it is true, but I take this opportunity of bringing the information I have received to the notice of the Government. I do not think it is a correct principle to adopt that simply because a particular officer may not be permitted by the temple authorities to enter all

* Vide page 963 of these Debates.

[Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.]

parts of the temple, therefore it should not be the subject of preservation and care.

Another point I should like to bring to the notice of Government in this connection, is the need for regard for congruity in the restoration or preservation of ancient monuments. I have often found that ancient stone buildings have been repaired with iron and cement and a lot of stuff which was altogether inconsistent with the character of the building. In one place a stone lion was plastered all over with cement and painted over black or white. Attempts at restoration of this kind excite nothing but ridicule. I hope that the Department which is under the administration of a distinguished archæologist like Sir John Marshall will pay more attention to the need for the restoration and preservation of monuments in accordance with their original character and design.

There is one other claim which I wish to bring forward and press upon the attention of the Government, and it is this. In the Madras Presidency the Epigraphical Department has been at work for a large number of years and has collected an enormous number of inscriptions which have been deciphered and are all safely stowed away in the archives of the Department. It would be of great use to the public if a serious attempt were made to publish those inscriptions. Something has been done in that direction—a beginning has been made, but we would like to see the large mass of material which is in the possession of the epigraphists in the Madras Presidency, placed at the disposal of scholars and antiquarians. It is for the purpose of drawing attention to those needs of the Madras Presidency, and the importance of putting the inscriptions which have been collected with great pains, and the importance of preserving the numerous monuments which exist in the country, that I have felt it my duty to bring this motion before the House.

Mr. H. Sharp : Sir, when I first saw this Resolution, I thought it possible that there had been some slight misapprehension regarding this apparently large increase of Rs. 8,70,000. As a matter of fact, this only represents the expenditure which has, in the past, been paid by Local Governments. Archæology has become a central subject—though it always has been to some extent a subject under the care of the Government of India. As it is now declared a central subject, the Government of India has to pay for these things. This fact will perhaps interest the Assembly and it has some bearing on this Resolution. As soon as this arrangement was made we asked the various Local Governments to disclose the expenditure which devolved on them for the preservation of monuments, etc., and to let us know what it came to. The bill which they sent up came to Rs. 12,66,000 or slightly over. Knowing that we had a bad year before us, we cut it down to Rs. 8,70,000. This was very carefully done, each item being examined, and though it is possible that some little inconvenience may be caused by this cutting down for this year, I hope it will not have any serious effect and that it will not have to be continued in other years, when the effect on some of the monuments certainly might be serious.

But my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, has brought up his Resolution merely in order to point out how very little Madras is getting out of this.

Well, I cannot here and now go into the details of these estimates that were sent to us—these demands from the Local Governments. But I think

it probable that the Local Government considered carefully their demand before sending it up; and its dimensions are such that, even if Madras along with the other Local Governments, had its demands proportionately cut down, I do not think that its demand can have been anything like so large as that, say, of the United Provinces, and I would suggest that my Honourable friend might perhaps take some opportunity of pointing this out to the Local Government.

I was very glad to hear those other criticisms made by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer and the Department will certainly see that notice is taken of them. I do not know anything about the case which he cites regarding the officer entering all parts of a temple. That I can inquire into and I shall make a note of the fact. As regards the second point—the covering of certain statues over with incongruous cement, that is a matter about which the Department knows—I do not mean to say the particular instance which perhaps he will give me later—but it is a matter of general complaint that these things sometimes do happen owing to the men who are actually charged with the work of conservation not having any archaeological training. Now, I should like to point out that we are taking steps—at present on a purely experimental basis—to cure that kind of thing. An item will be found on page 125—Conservation Assistants Rs. 7,200. That is a new charge. This experiment, which is going to be made in the United Provinces, in order to train men in charge of the actual operations and to secure that deserving lions are not plastered over with the wrong sort of plaster and so on. As regards the inscriptions, I cannot say exactly what is going to be done with the inscriptions in Madras or where they are going to be placed; but I can assure my Honourable friend that we are quite alive to the fact that epigraphy in Southern India has not had sufficient attention lately, and part of the lump provision for increase is, as a matter of fact, going to give us a better and more efficient body, a larger body, of officers to look after inscriptions, especially in Madras, and we have just received the sanction of the Secretary of State to that portion of the scheme.

That is all I have to say, Sir.

Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu: Sir, an Honourable Member of this House remarked this morning that Madras is having more than its share of the time of the House. I do not say that he has not got some good grounds for making that charge but I plead entirely innocent and not guilty of any complicity in that offence. I have so far saved the House the trouble of listening to any speech of mine. It is true that I made an attempt to speak the other day but that attempt failed, though through no fault of mine. If I wish to say a few words now, Sir, it is because I do really take great interest in the subject of this motion. The great epigraphist, Dr. Hultzsch, when he was the Government Epigraphist for India, used to ask his assistants when they returned from their annual tours whether during their tour they had come across any persons who were so mad as to take an interest in archæology and epigraphy when not paid for it.

I plead guilty, Sir, to being one of those mad men and my regret is that the number of my fellow lunatics is not much larger than it is.

Now, coming to the subject, Sir, I feel greatly relieved by the speech of the Honourable Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. I find that what he meant was really to plead for larger expenditure on Archæology and not to cut it down. I admit that I felt somewhat uneasy when I found not less than three motions on the

[Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu.]

subject, all apparently intended to cut down the expenditure on the subject. I think, Sir, that if there is one Department more than another, in which excess of expenditure can be overlooked, that is Archæology. And that is for this reason. There is now a very strong feeling in the country that we should have very rapid national progress and we hear it discussed in newspapers, lectures, and platforms and we have evidence of it in this House as well as outside. Now, to ensure proper national progress, I think it is necessary that we should first have an adequate sense of national self-respect. I can conceive of nothing which would promote an adequate sense of national self-respect than a proper study of the history and the antiquities of the country. We, Sir, have hitherto neglected the subject far too much. Thanks to the partial, incomplete sort of education that we have been receiving, for a long time past, we have been too much accustomed to look to the West for light and leading in all matters, although we ought to have known that light more often comes from the East than from the West. Now, Sir, if we properly study our own antiquities and our own history which are written on stones and on metal plates, a good deal of which are buried under ground, I have no doubt that we will rapidly gain national self-respect. For these reasons, Sir, I am glad that no attempt is seriously made to cut down the expenditure on this subject. There is, however, one point on which I should like to have an explanation from Government. There is an item of Rs. 3,000 for purchase of antiquities. I hope, Sir, that this is not meant to be spent upon removing articles of archæological interest, such as are inscribed or sculptured slabs from their proper setting and their proper environment to any central place such as museums. I know this has sometimes been done, and I strongly object to that. Articles of archæological interest when removed from their original environment and setting lose a great deal of their historical and even their artistic value. We know that the great part of a Buddhist *stupa* at Amravati in the Guntur District, Madras Presidency, was long ago removed to England. I believe those slabs are now in the British Museum. They are known as the Elgin marbles, because they were removed during the time of the first Lord Elgin, Governor General, and they are known by his name. I have also seen several slabs from the same *stupa* and several other inscribed and sculptured stones removed from various places exhibited in the Madras Museum. If one desires to study these articles of archæological interest, he will be at a great disadvantage and will not really understand the historical value or the historical meaning that those articles were intended to convey, because they have been torn off from their proper places. I hope, Sir, that this money, though small in itself, is not intended to be spent upon any such act of vandalism as I have described, but is meant only for the purchase of copper plates which are sometimes discovered with private individuals.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar: Sir, I should like to say a word on this question of the way in which Madras has been treated. My friend, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer has referred to it; I take it that with its usual modesty the Madras Government asked for about Rs. 20,000, and a proportionate reduction was made when the Honourable the Finance Member found that as much as was asked for could not be given. Bengal perhaps asked for 2 lakhs, Bombay 3 lakhs, Madras for thousands, and then there was apparently a proportionate reduction in making the grant. That is what I expect to have happened. As a matter of fact, the largest amount of work has been done in Madras in this direction. There is a History Professor whom the University has appointed

as regards Ancient History, and in consequence of many of the plates not being printed he is unable to make much progress with his work on the history of India, and especially of Southern India. I think I am correct in saying that most of these plates, which have been copied from inscriptions in temples, have been stored in Ootacamund lest they should deteriorate. They were placed in a cold place so that they might not deteriorate; there are a large number of these plates still awaiting to be printed. Yet no money has been granted by the India Government for their printing. As I pointed out, it is very likely that because the Madras Government has not asked for as much as it should have asked, or has not been as immodest as the other Presidencies, it has been given only Rs. 54,000 as pointed out by Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer. I hope in making the reduction the principle of proportionate reduction has not been applied by the Government of India. I take it that if the Madras Government had asked for a big amount, and has not been given that sum, we may have no complaint, but if the Madras Government asked for a small amount, and even of that small amount a percentage reduction has been made, I must say that it is not fair to Madras; I want to make this point clear to the Honourable Mr. Sharp.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri: Sir, I should be very sorry if the grant in respect of this department should in any way be curtailed. I may say for the information of my Honourable friend, Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar what we have been doing in Bengal is that we have been encouraging research students to do a great deal of voluntary work in this line. As a matter of fact, we find no provision here in this Budget, especially with regard to Bengal. What is being done in Bengal is to encourage graduates who have taken up historical studies to carry on their research work out of private funds, and they have now done a lot of very useful work. There is a society called Varendra Research Society in the constituency I represent, which receives help from our indigenous resources from the educated classes of the country, backed by a very cultured zamindar who is now unfortunately dead. These research students have made excavations and have unearthed very valuable relics, and if any gentleman is interested in archaeology he might go and see the Museum at Rajshahi. If the Government of India would only give encouragement to our research students in every province that would not throw any appreciable burden on the Central Government, and a lot of archaeological work might thus be done through voluntary agency, and very economically too.

I ask my Honourable friend in charge of the department to encourage this spirit of research amongst the educated classes of Indians. That will obviate much of our financial difficulties in this direction. I thoroughly support the demand made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sharp, under this head and feel confident that it will be more largely utilised to promote research work in this line.

Mr. Wajid Hussain: I am afraid I cannot understand why my respected colleague, Sir Sivaswamy, and the other gentlemen from Madras have proposed a reduction in the grant under the head 'Archæology' simply because in their opinion Madras does not get as much as other provinces do. An explanation of this has been given by no less a person than an *ex-Judge* of the High Court, but perhaps there may be another explanation, that is to say, perhaps Madras does not possess as many monuments worth preserving as other parts of the country do.

(Cries of 'No.')

[Mr. Wajid Hussain.]

Or it may be that their claims were not properly put forward before the Imperial Government. Whatever may be the reason I do sincerely hope that there is not going to be a reduction of any kind under the head 'Archæology', because I am not the only Member of this House who feels very strongly that this is one of the most important departments of the Government of India. It is a department which is important not only from the antiquarian point of view and the æsthetic point of view, but also from the educational, artistic and historical points of view. It is important from the educational point of view because by reminding us of the glories of our ancestors and of their lives the protected monuments help to grow and foster what is beautiful and sublime in the lives of our young men. In this respect this Department is one of the most powerful machines for promoting the moral welfare of our young men. It is important from the historical point of view because the monuments help us to solve several riddles. It is important from the artistic point of view because this department helps the preservation of the ancient art of this country, and I should be very sorry indeed if any reduction were made in the budget for this department. There is no doubt that the antiquarian point of view is not regarded as the most important point of view in this matter-of-fact age when a great deal that is beautiful in Indian life and in Indian Art has been allowed to perish beneath the dull weight of Western institutions. But the rank and file of the Indian community still attach great importance to ancient monuments, and I hope that the point of view of the general public will be taken into consideration in deciding the matter and that a few gentlemen from Madras will not be allowed to have the matter decided as they want to have it decided. Sir, I do not think any advocacy from me or from anybody else is needed to impress upon the House the importance of this department. I think several Indians feel that by creating this department the Government have strengthened the ties of affection between them and the Government. Personally, I believe that, if all the marks which have been made by the British Government on the moral and material progress of this country were to be wiped off, this Department of Archæology alone would entitle the British Government to the everlasting gratitude of the Indian people. Under the new Reforms this department has been entrusted to this Assembly, and I should like the Assembly to realise its responsibilities in the matter. We are now the custodians of our archæological possessions, and, I think, we should rise to the height of our task and do something more than propose reductions in the Budget.

There is a feeling that the Department of Archæology can be treated with indifference. The obvious reason is that the crumbling walls of our monuments, the slabs of stone, the inanimate pillars of brick and mortar, have no voice and no votes. But it must be remembered that posterity, which will be vocal when we have ceased to be vocal, will have a verdict on our decision in this matter. As time rolls on and we are succeeded in this House by our children, and our children's children, they will learn with regret that the very first Parliament of a Government which is largely Indian thought of cutting down the expenditure under archæology. As a matter of fact, I think there are several monuments which should be brought under the Act, and which have not yet been brought under the Act, and I was looking forward to a large increase in the expenditure under the head Archæology. There is, for instance, the tomb and the temple of the great Baba Kabir Das, a

saint respected equally by Hindus and Muhammadans, which, I am sure, we would like to bring under the Ancient Monuments Act if funds permitted.

Anyhow, I do sincerely hope that the gentlemen from Madras will not be allowed to decide this matter, which is a matter of vital importance to our history, to our literature and to our civilisation.

Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas: I now move that the question be put.

The Honourable the President: I understand from the Honourable Member that he does not desire to press his motion.*

- The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. B. S. Kamat: Sir, I beg to move :

'That the provision of Rs. 8,70,000 for the conservation of ancient monuments be reduced to Rs. 6,00,000.'

I refer to page 126 of the Budget, somewhere on the middle of the page.

Unlike my friends from the Madras Presidency my object in moving this amendment is really to have a reduction of something like Rs. 2,70,000 in the item to provide for the conservation of ancient monuments.

Under ordinary circumstances, I would not have taken more than a minute over this item, but as a good deal has been made by my friends from the Madras Presidency about the value of archæology, I think it is necessary for me to detain this House for a couple of minutes. Sir, in normal times I would be the first man to support expenditure on the preservation of ancient monuments, and I really believe that the Government of India, as well as the Local Governments, are doing very good work indeed in trying to spend money in preserving the various monuments of this country. But what I feel is this: My friends from Madras, and even the Finance Department, seem to have forgotten that we are passing through times of economic stringency, and it is purely on those grounds that I am moving for a reduction of Rs. 2,70,000. The Members from the Madras Presidency have made it a complaint that they have not been well-treated in the matter of their temples and other monuments. But I take the liberty of controverting that statement by pointing out to them that in the year 1919-20 the expenditure on archæology in the Madras Presidency as shown in this Budget was Rs. 48,000 odd. This year, if this Budget is passed, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, they will get Rs. 62,000, as will be seen from the grand totals given at page 55; and out of this Rs. 62,000, Rs. 54,000 are earmarked specially for the conservation of monuments. Now, my objection to this particular item of Rs. 8,70,000 is this. If you scan the different columns, you will find this is a totally new idea this year. There is no corresponding item during the previous two years. Now, I believe that in an exceptional year like this and in a year of deficit there should not be introduced a new item of something like Rs. 8,70,000. I am unable to understand what this deputation of Sir Aurel Stein is. If it is anything like the visit of the American lecturer, then I think we can wait for the deputation to do its splendid work till better times come. I would also ask my friends from Madras to hold themselves in patience for twelve months.

* *Vide* page 965 of these Debates.

[Mr. B. S. Kamat.]

There is one more point—a point which is in my favour and which I wish to lay before this House. I am not asking for the total omission of these Rs. 8,70,000. I wish to retain in the Budget something like Rs. 6,00,000 under this head, and if this is done then I believe it will satisfy my friends from Madras if this item of Rs. 2,70,000 which I wish to reduce could be spread over expenditure for the various Provinces. If this reduction of Rs. 2,70,000 is effected and the Madras people still want to go on with the preservation of their ancient monuments, surely it could be devised that their item of Rs. 54,000 should not be cut down; other Provinces, *e.g.*, the United Provinces, which is getting two lakhs odd—might be cut down instead. The reduction of the amount by Rs. 2,70,000 might thus be spread over the other Provinces and Madras could be satisfied. I therefore hope that the Assembly will accept my motion and give this deputation only six lakhs while also giving something to Madras.

Mr. J. R. Pantulu Garu: Sir, I hope the House will reject the Honourable Mr. Kamat's motion. I have already said that if there is one department where some excess expenditure or expenditure which some Members may consider to be in excess of actual requirements, may be overlooked or condoned, it is the department of archaeology; and my friend from the major provinces has very strongly supported this view, and I hope that it will have due weight with the Members of this House. Well, Sir, the Honourable Member seems to think that we Members from Madras want to plead for a larger grant for Madras as if we think that the antiquities of Madras are more useful to the Madras people than to the rest of India. Antiquities, whether they are in Madras or in the United Provinces or in the Punjab or in Rawalpindi, are of equal importance to the whole of India, I should say, the whole of the civilised world. The antiquities of Taxilla and Nalanda, are they not quite as useful to the people of the Tinnevely District as they are to the Punjab? And are they not as valuable to the people of England, Europe and America as they are to the people of the place where they are situated? It is not a Provincial question at all, it is a question of great importance to the whole of India, I should say the whole of the civilised country. That being the case, I hope this House will not take the view that we plead for more money for the preservation of monuments in a certain part of the country, that we do it because we belong to that particular part of the country.

I shall avail myself of this opportunity to say a word or two about the publication of inscriptions collected in the Madras Presidency, on which Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer made some remarks earlier in the debate. I was one of those persons that pressed this point, I mean the need for greater publication of inscriptions that are collected in the epigraphical department of the Government when the late Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer was an executive Member of that Government; and he took special interest in the subject and they went at some length into that matter, and I believe they have made some arrangements by which these inscriptions that are collected by the Madras Epigraphical Department will be published in larger numbers hereafter than has been the case hitherto. I believe the great difficulty with them is to secure competent persons to transcribe the inscriptions of which records have been taken. I know the Madras Presidency has done much more in the way of collecting inscriptions than any other part of India. That was probably because the Government Epigraphist has all along been in the Madras Presidency. We

have got, Sir, an enormous number of inscriptions collected from different parts of the Presidency, and several of them have been transcribed, but the greatest difficulty in the matter of publication of inscriptions is to prepare correct transcripts. Very often the inscriptions that have been taken by the department are not always reliable; they have very often to be compared with the original inscriptions, the stone inscription at site. I know about a year ago my friend, Rao Bahadur R. Krishna Sastri who, I am glad to say, has now been appointed the Government Epigraphist for the whole of India, he spent a whole month or two at Dharaksharama in the Godavari district, verifying his transcripts by reference to the original inscriptions on the walls of the great temple there. So, I believe the great difficulty in pushing on with the publication of these inscriptions is to get properly trained men to prepare correct transcripts. The most scientific method of publishing inscriptions is that which was adopted in publishing them in the "Epigraphica Indica" which is the journal of the Epigraphical Department. I believe that method cannot be improved upon. If we do not follow this method, I believe we will have to wait for a century or more before we can see those inscriptions published. So what has been suggested in Madras is that a sort of interim publication of inscriptions should be made, i.e., only correct transcripts with rough translations of those inscriptions should be published on the lines of the "Epigraphica Indica" series which the Mysore Government have issued. I hope, therefore, now that the subject has come under the notice of the Government of India, they will do their best to help the Government Epigraphist to push on the publication of his inscriptions, of which he has got several thousands in his office.

Mr. H. Sharp: Sir, may I, in the first place, take the opportunity of assuring the Honourable Member opposite, whose interest in archæology I rejoice to see, that there is no intention of committing any vandalism under the purchase of antiquities. It is true that certain interesting relics have had to be removed from the place where they lay; but that was long ago and that was done simply to preserve them from being looted by the people round to build houses, etc. I could give instances, such as the rail of the Amaravati *stupa*, which is in the Madras museum, and the famous Barhut rail which is in the Calcutta museum. May I also assure the Honourable Member that the purchase of antiquities is probably for the purpose of copper plates and manuscripts, and I dare say small objects of value which are found lying about in obscure places and have to be brought in to central museums and so forth so as to secure their preservation.

I can assure Mr. Sheshagiri Iyer that I shall speak to Sir John Marshall about what he says regarding inscriptions. I should like to point out here, as I have already said, that we are doing everything possible to improve the epigraphical work in Southern India, which is most important; and it has not been disregarded. Though I admit that owing to the war we could not do much in the past, we are going to try and do better now.

With reference to what Mr. Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri said, the Government of India also have given money to research students, or rather for training students and bringing them up to research. I know that the Rajshahi Society is doing the most excellent work, but I do not know that it has approached the Government of India for scholarships. Possibly it would be a matter for the Local Government. But any way I would like to make one general remark in that matter, and that is, the Government of India have not got second sight and they cannot see all the requirements in the Provinces.

[Mr. H. Sharp.]

As regards both Bengal, and also to some extent Madras, it is necessary that people should make themselves heard and that we should get estimates of the required expenditure in proper time. At the same time, I welcome all the remarks that have been made by the previous speakers.

Now to turn to Mr. Kamat, I do not think from the tenour of the speeches that we have heard to-day from my Honourable friend Chaudhuri Wajid Hussain and from the Madras Members, that his Resolution is going to meet with very much support. Moreover, I do not know whether he was here when I explained the matter as plainly as I could. Possibly he was not. But I repeat that this figure of Rs. 8,70,000 is a reduction by nearly Rs. 4 lakhs on the figures which were disclosed to us by the Local Governments. There is not a pice of new expenditure here. In fact, it is a reduction in the demands disclosed.

Can we possibly go further than reducing this by 4 lakhs? Were we to do so, I must point out that we should run the gravest risk. These monuments, many of which within the memory of those of us here, were in a most lamentable state and were lying open to the depredations of villagers as well as of the climate, have now for some years been properly preserved with very great care and at considerable price. Are we, by one or two years' neglect of these various monuments, to throw away the labour of all these years and all the money that Government, and private endeavour too, has spent upon them? Why, it would be throwing away the priceless national heritage which India possesses in these most magnificent monuments. Is there a country in the world which has such splendid monuments as India possesses? It would be a most grievous thing, and India as a whole would lay herself open to well deserved criticism if such a thing were done. I do not think that I need say more upon that matter.

There is a second point—that about Madras; and that, Sir, seems to be a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Kamat which I will try to make clear. The fact of the matter is that the Madras figures, as put down here, refer to establishment and contingencies. The Madras and the Burma establishments used to be paid by the Madras and the Burma Governments. It is now, as part of the reforms, intended to pay for them from central revenues. But, owing to the lateness of this arrangement and the fact that they had been already budgetted for in the Provincial Budgets, it was not thought worth while to disturb the arrangements; so the establishment and the contingencies are put down there, but not the conservation. The conservation is put down on page 126, not on page 127 nor 128, so that so far as that is concerned, there has been no increase.

There was one other point that he spoke about, and that was the deputation of Sir Aurel Stein. Well, that as a matter of fact, is Sir Aurel Stein's pay. It is called deputation allowance because he is on special duty, and therefore it is put down as deputation. That, I quite admit, was liable to some misunderstanding, but everyone here, I am sure, knows the distinguished name of Sir Aurel Stein, who has such a world-wide reputation and who has just brought out his new great book upon his discoveries among the desert cities and wild places of Central Asia. He is an officer of the Department and has been so for many years.

There was one other little point. It was suggested that Madras might still get their money if the amount for the United Provinces were reduced.

I think if that were seriously pressed, we should have a very strong outcry from my friend Chaudhuri Wajid Hussain and from various other representatives of the United Provinces. What about Agra? What about the Taj, Fatehpore Sikri, Benares, Sarnath and many other places in the United Provinces? The United Provinces are rich in monuments, in archaeological remains which require the most careful keeping up and which are visited by thousands and tens of thousands of people, both Indians and also people who come to this country specially to see them. I do not think that that would be acceptable at all either to the United Provinces Government or to its representatives here.

Well, Sir, I do not think that it is necessary for me to say anything more on this subject. I believe fully that the sense of this Assembly will not be in favour of any reduction, and I trust that I have now made things clear to Mr. Kamat and that he will not press his motion.

Mr. B. S. Kamat : I think, Sir, that it is the wish of almost everybody in this House that I should withdraw my motion, and with your permission I will do so in deference to my friends.

The motion* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Sir, having regard to what my Honourable friend, Mr. Sharp, has told us, I think the best thing will be for me not to press the motion I had in the List of Business.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

* That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1922, in respect of 'Archæology'.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland : Sir, I move :

* That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1922, in respect of inspection of mines.

Mines.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Sharp : Sir, I beg to move :

* That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1922, for other Scientific Departments.

Other Scientific Departments.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Sharp : Sir, I beg to move :

* That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1922, in respect of 'Education'.

Education.

The motion was adopted.

* Vide page 971 of these Debates.

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: Sir, I beg to move :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,24,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1922, for 'Medical Services'.

GRANTS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Sir, I beg to move :

'That the provision for grants for medical purposes of Rs. 6,28,300 under head Medical Services be reduced by Rs. 6 lakhs.'

My Resolution may appear extraordinary but I have moved it in order to meet an extraordinary procedure adopted by the Government. Time after time in the old Imperial Legislative Council the question of the Ayurvedic system of medicine has been discussed : Even so recently as last year the Council passed a Resolution that a grant be made to a very useful college here—the Tibbi College in Delhi. And my recollection is that that Resolution was passed by the Council last year. But I find a number of grants made to the various institutions imparting relief on the Western system, but not a single pie is provided for any of those institutions giving relief under the Yunani and Ayurvedic systems. I think, Sir, we have a very legitimate ground of complaint against the department in this matter. They have been quite unsympathetic in respect of these systems of medicine. I do not know why, along with the grants made to these institutions for encouraging Western systems of medicine, these were not encouraged. I should like to know why such grants are not made. I think, Sir, the population of this country is too large for providing medical relief to the people on the Western system. On the other hand, it is our duty to take advantage of the ancient systems of medicine and encourage them, and I do hope that some effort will be made, at least now that we are in the majority in this Assembly, to give effect to our wishes in this matter.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: Sir, the Honourable Member has chosen, if I may say so, a somewhat drastic remedy in regard to this demand. He proposes, if he had his way, that the medical grants should be cut down by Rs. 6,00,000. But, knowing him, I am quite sure that what he intends really to do is to draw attention to the necessity of Government's giving some encouragement to the Yunani and Ayurvedic systems. And here I would like to correct one statement about our action last year. What happened last year in the Imperial Council was this. I was asked, I think, by Mr. Haroon Jaffer whether we would give a grant for the Ayurvedic and Tibbi Medical Institution in Delhi, and, having secured the reluctant consent of the Honourable the Finance Member, who was willing enough to give what he could, though not anxious to spend anything unnecessarily, I said that I would do so if a proper scheme was put before me—that is a scheme which I could submit to the scrutiny of the experts and of the Finance Department. And as I said in another place and say again now no man who was in any way responsible for the expenditure of public money could have demanded less than that. Well what happened after this? I waited a whole year and was quite prepared to make good my promise. It is not my fault that nothing was given. The head of the Ayurvedic and Tibbi Institute here—Hakim Ajmal Khan—for some reason or other refused to come up and ask me for any grant,—owing, I suppose, to his having joined the non-co-operation system. Well, I am not to be blamed if the Government does not offer to support with a grant of money an

institution which is managed by persons who regard us as a Satanic Government and I am not at all sure whether, if I had offered the money, Mr. Ajmal Khan would have taken it. It is very doubtful to my mind whether he would; probably he would have refused it. Am I to be held to blame on this account? I hope that the Honourable Member, so far as this statement is concerned, will acquit Government of any blame. In so far as the merits of these systems are concerned, I hesitate to make any observations. I am told that in practice they prove very beneficial to many persons, whatever be the scientific basis for the treatment, and I know that the medicines and methods of these practitioners are much appreciated by Indians.

This grant, however, to which the Honourable Member referred, comes very largely from five minor administrations. We undertake no direct administration ourselves at all, and, if Honourable Members will look for one moment at this Demand on the table before them they will see that the Central Government, except the provision for the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, have little to do with the expenditure of the grant. The other demands come from Delhi, Ajmer, Baluchistan, and various small places. The amounts are mostly small.

However, I give an undertaking that if any of these Local Administrations come up to us with a reasonable scheme for a grant for medical treatment according to the systems under discussion, the Government of India will be quite ready to consider it sympathetically.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : With that assurance, Sir, I do not press my motion.

The motion* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,24,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Medical Services'.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Sharp : Sir, I beg to move :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1922 for 'Public Health'.'

Public Health.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal : Sir, on page

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : May I rise to a point of order, Sir? This motion is not printed on the agenda for to-day.

The Honourable the President : The time-limit for notices of motion was deliberately suspended by the Chair for the convenience of the Assembly. In accordance with the decision given by the Chair, the Honourable Member whom I have called upon gave the necessary notice, but owing to the fact that the Assembly desired a relaxation of the rules, we have not had time to circulate the motion in a printed form. I leave it to the Assembly to settle with the Finance Member how far they are prepared to go to-day. .

* Vide page 976 of the Debates.

Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy: I do not see why notice is required, Sir. All these amendments are on the same lines, and if the Honourable Member will move it now, we will be in the same position as if it were printed and placed on the table.

The Honourable the President: The motion that the Honourable Member has to move is:

'That the provision of Rs. 88,500 for Local Funds, Delhi, on page 149, be reduced to Rs. 44,250.'

LOCAL FUNDS, DELHI.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal: Sir, I beg to move:—

'That the provision of Rs. 88,500 for Local Funds, Delhi, be reduced to Rs. 44,250.'

For Local Funds, Delhi, a sum of Rs. 88,500 has been provided. It was Rs. 29,850 in 1919-20. In 1920-21 it came to Rs. 55,000. The Revised Estimate for 1920-21 came to Rs. 1,18,000. But though that Revised Budget figure has not been asked for it has been kept at Rs. 88,500. No doubt, in my humble opinion, Public Health is a most important subject, over which money can be spent; it is at least as important as the military item, if not more important than that. What can a strong army do if the people are swept away like flies by epidemics, as is the case, almost every year, in India?

The Honourable Members must be aware that the Ministry of Health, London, has furnished a grave warning that there is a fear of an epidemic of influenza again just like what it was in 1918 and 1919, and this was the subject of my question, before this House, the other day. In reply it was said that, for want of money, nothing worth the name could be done. Instead of making any provision for such a serious matter, I am sorry to find, that more provision has been made here, than in previous years, under this head. I hope that the Honourable Members will agree that this item should be kept as it was in previous years at least. I have moved a motion:

'That it should be half the amount, that is, instead of 88,500 it should 44,250'.

Regarding the indigenous treatment, it has been already dealt with by an Honourable Member in connection with the other subject (that is, Medical). I have to say only one word about that. The Ministry of Health has said that influenza is a mystery disease according to allopathic doctors, therefore, it is a fit case in which the Unani and Ayurvedic doctors and experts should be put to the test whether in their own country, according to their own systems, they can do anything to save their people or not. I hope that the Honourable Members will support my motion.

Mr. H. Sharp: Sir, while I was listening to the speech of the Mover of this Resolution I really was not quite sure whether he was supporting his motion or going against it. I rather thought the latter, because he definitely seemed to be calling for larger grants for sanitation in India. Because we are giving some money to Delhi, that is no reason why we should be cutting down the general provision for India, nor certainly are we doing so. We have made such provision as we can against a fresh attack of influenza and in other directions.

The Honourable Member brought in the question of Ayurvedic and Unani medicine. I am not quite sure whether it was quite in order with reference to

this Resolution and I do not propose to touch on it. I propose now merely to address myself to the actual Resolution as put forward, that is, the cutting down of this provision of Rs. 88,500 for Local Funds, Delhi, and its reduction to a lower sum. In speaking about Delhi, I naturally feel some diffidence, because I am dealing with local matters, with the details of which one is not always fully familiar. If I go wrong, the Honourable Mr. Hailey, who has great knowledge of this subject, will be able to correct me. Delhi is one of those cases where we have to support a small administration which is not fully able to support itself.

It may seem to some that we are giving too large an amount to Delhi. If that is so, all I can say is that it is so because the Government of India are very solicitous for the welfare, health and comfort of this Assembly and of the Council of State and of the other distinguished personages who occasionally come to Delhi. But I doubt, Sir, whether the sum really is so very large. I must go into a little detail, but it will not take me very long. This sum of Rs. 88,500 consists in the first place of normal grants—Rs. 50,000 for general purposes of sanitation and Rs. 5,000 for rural sanitation. But last year the Chief Commissioner came up with a very large number of special schemes, many of them being of an extremely urgent nature. The cost of these schemes totalled over 3 lakhs of rupees, namely, Rs. 2,55,000 for works under the municipality and Rs. 51,500 for special works of rural sanitation. I can assure my Honourable friend that we did not treat the Chief Commissioner nearly so kindly as he had hoped. We cut out a lot of these schemes and we gave him only Rs. 80,500, of which we are giving Rs. 50,000 this year and we propose, if this Assembly does not stop us, as I hope it will not stop us, giving Rs. 30,000 next year. Well, the Honourable Member drew a comparison between the accounts of 1919-20 and this very large sum apparently of Rs. 88,500 during the current year. But it has to be remembered that this large item to which I have just referred is of the nature of a special grant for special works and it will not be a recurring grant, at least so far as I am aware. Now as regards these works, I can show them to the Honourable Member. I have got a list of them. I am not going to trouble the Assembly with them, because, if I merely read them out, I should far exceed the time-limit. But I will show them to the Honourable Member some time if he desires it. These works are of an emergent nature; and moreover, as they have already been begun, it surely would be an unbusinesslike proceeding, if, having given part of the grant this year, we were to shut them down and stop them and probably waste a lot of the work that has been done during the forthcoming year. I hope that possibly in the light of these explanations the Honourable Mover will not press this amendment. I think that it is really not too much to give; and I might just mention that the sum below, Rs. 24,000, which is put down for sanitary improvements in Delhi is not correctly described. It does not belong to Delhi. A part might go to Delhi but it goes to other municipalities as well.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal : After what has been said on behalf of the Government and seeing also that the sum budgetted is less than the estimated revised estimate of last year, I shall withdraw my amendment.

The motion* was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

* *Vide* page 978 of these Debates.

CENTRAL HEALTH BOARD, DELHI.

Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal : Sir, my next motion is :

'That the provision of Rs. 50,000 for the Central Health Board, Delhi, be omitted.'

On page, 149, Honourable Members will find a provision for Rs. 50,000 for the Central Health Board, Delhi. This is entirely a new item. We are dealing with a very bad year, a year of huge deficit leading to heavy fresh taxation which will not fail to touch the pockets of the poor dumb millions who do not know how to make both ends meet. No doubt there are many ambitious schemes before the Government and before this House, but the question is whether, in such a year, when the Budget itself is based on the hope that the future monsoon may prove more hopeful and more favourable, we, Sir, as practical men in pecuniary questions should trust the future, however pleasant it may be, it is just possible that, if we go on initiating new schemes, we may be put to further difficulties, which we are not foreseeing. So, in my opinion, this new scheme should not be started and may be safely postponed for this year. Whatever I have said before in regard to the other motion, applies, *a fortiori* to this also ; but I should like to curtail my speech because I am asking the Government to curtail the expenditure.

Mr. R. A. Spence : Sir, in view of the importance of this subject to Delhi, I move :

'That the consideration of this question be adjourned until such time as the Member for Delhi can be present and speak about it.'

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : Sir, if I am in order, I beg to move an adjournment of the House till 11 A.M., on Monday, the 14th. At this time we are hardly in a condition to resist the demands of Government.

The Honourable the President : Seeing that the Honourable Member has shown the weakness of his position, he had better come to terms with the Honourable the Finance Member before making his motion. I do not know whether he has already done so.

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey : I am willing to do anything to meet the convenience of the Houses the more so, as I am glad I think we have now made sufficient progress to enable us to get through our remaining work in time without undue haste.

Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas : I move that the question be now put.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That the provision of Rs. 50,000 for the Central Board, Delhi, be omitted.'

The *motion was negatived.

The Honourable the President : The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'Public Health'.'

The †motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Monday, the 14th March 1921.

* Vide page 979 of these Debates.

† Vide page 977 of these Debates.