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**PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE INDIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

VOL. LVII

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ASSEMBLED UNDER
THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1915.
(5 & 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61.)

The Council met at the Council Chamber, Imperial Secretariat, Delhi, on
Friday, the 21st March, 1919.

PRESENT :

His Excellency BARON CHELMSFORD, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., G.C.M.G., G.C.B.E.,
Viceroy and Governor General, *presiding*, and 53 Members, of whom 45
were Additional Members.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent:—"My Lord, I lay on the table a statement giving a list of publications proscribed under the Indian Press Act, 1910, which was promised in reply to a question asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Patel on the 10th September, 1918." 11 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair:—"My Lord, I lay on the table a copy of a report on the influenza epidemic in the North-West Frontier Province, which was promised in reply to a question asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. D. Shukul on the 1st March, 1919."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur asked :—

1. "What steps have been taken to encourage the establishment in India of the pulp industry for the manufacture of paper, and what are the prospects of that industry in India?" The pulp industry in India.

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill replied :—

"I would invite the Hon'ble Member's attention to the reply which I gave to his question on the same subject in this Council on 20th February 1918. With regard to the prospects of the industry I would refer him to the pamphlet, which I understand he has seen, on the work of the Forest Department in India and to paragraph 64 of the Report of the Indian Industrial Commission."

[*Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur*; *Sir Thomas Holland*; *Mr. V. J. Patel*; *His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.*] [21ST MARCH, 1919.]

The Hon'ble Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur asked :—

Parcel postal rates:

2. "(a) Is it a fact that the parcel postal rates in India have been considerably raised ?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, are Government aware that this change has seriously affected the trade of the country, and do they propose to revise the rates at the earliest possible opportunity ?"

The Hon'ble Sir Thomas Holland replied :—

"(a) The rates for inland postal parcels were raised with effect from the 1st November 1918 for the reasons given in the Press Communiqué of the 24th September 1918, a copy* of which is laid on the table.

(b) As the main trade channels are and ought to be other than through the parcels post, Government are not aware that the change has seriously affected the trade of the country. As, however, the conditions which made the increase in rates necessary are now easier, the question of reduction is being considered."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

Bungalows taken up by Government under the Defence of India Act in Poona.

3. "(a) Will Government be pleased to give a list of bungalows in Poona taken up by Government under the Defence of India Act, if any ?

(b) Were any objections received by Government from the owners of such bungalows alleging loss in rents in the matter of any of such bungalows ? If so, from how many owners ?

(c) Has any compensation been awarded or promised to any owners ? If the answer is in the negative, how were the objections dealt with ?"

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief replied :—

"(a) The list required by the Hon'ble Member is placed on the table.

(b) No objections have been received from house-owners. One representation has been received from leasees.

(c) No compensation has yet been paid.

Claims have been submitted by owners in respect of fifteen out of nineteen houses affected. It is proposed to submit them to arbitration, as provided for under the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, 1915."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

Clerks' quarters at Raisina.

4. "(a) With reference to the reply given on the 19th February last to my question regarding clerks' quarters at Raisina, will Government be pleased to state whether the Indian clerks memorialised Government objecting to the designs and asking for the same type of quarters as in the case of Anglo-Indians and Europeans, and will the memorial be laid on the table ?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the representatives of the Indian clerks who were consulted by the Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill were dissatisfied and disapproved the designs of quarters for Indians ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the respective costs of quarters for Indians and for Anglo-Indians and Europeans ?

(d) If there is any difference in the capital cost between the two, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for it ?

(e) If there is no appreciable difference, do Government propose to consider the question of allocating the same type of quarters to Indians as are allocated to Europeans with a view to meet the wishes of most of their Indian employés ?

(f) With reference to paragraph 2 of the reply to my question referred to, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of clerks, Indians and Anglo-Indians, located at Raisina, the number

*Not included in these Proceedings.

†Vide Appendix A

[21st MARCH, 1919.] [*Mr. V. J. Patel; Sir Claude Hill.*]

of Indian clerks entitled to superior types who have been lodged in inferior types, and the number of Anglo-Indian clerks entitled to inferior types who have been put into superior types ?

(g) Is it a fact that some types superior to D and E that have been built have not been made available to Indians who are entitled to them ? If so, why ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the furniture allowed to Indian and Anglo-Indian clerks respectively, showing the cost of each article ?

(i) Are Government prepared to treat both the classes equally in the matter of furniture, whether supplied free of cost temporarily or as a permanent measure ?

(j) Is it a fact that hitherto the different scales of house-rent, travelling allowance, etc., to be allowed to their employes by Government have been based on the salaries drawn and not upon the nationality ?

(k) Will Government be pleased to say on what grounds they are now making a departure and creating distinctions in the matter of accommodation ? "

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill replied :—

" (a) The reply is in the affirmative and a sample copy* of the memorials received is laid upon the table.

(b), (d), (e), (k). As already stated in my reply to the Hon'ble Member on the 19th February, representatives of the Indian clerks were consulted by me after the memorials referred to above had been received, and before the designs of the Indian clerks' quarters at Raisina were approved, and suggestions made by them were adopted as far as practicable. A copy of the note recorded at the interview which I granted to the clerks' representatives on the 7th June, 1916, is placed on the table. In view of the main facts explained to the clerks' representatives as set forth in the note, namely :—

- (i) that no racial discrimination was implied or intended,
- (ii) that the differences in the cost of the quarters for European and Indian clerks were due solely to different types of houses being necessary to suit the manner of living and habits of the two races,
- (iii) that Government desired to provide quarters of a type best suited to the needs of the clerks themselves as a class, and
- (iv) that there was evidence to show that Indians generally would not prefer to have quarters built in European style,

Government do not propose to take any action in the matter of providing exactly similar accommodation to both European and Indian clerks in Delhi. But I may explain that, as a result of the interview, alterations involving considerable additional cost, were introduced into the designs.

(o) *A statement is placed on the table comparing the estimated cost of each type of quarters for European and Indian clerks in New Delhi.

(f) *A statement is laid on the table giving the information asked for.

(g) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, and I may explain that at the time the distribution of quarters was made types 'B' and 'O' had already been earmarked for use by the Military authorities in connection with the additional units recruited for war purposes and located in New Delhi, as it was not thought that the accommodation would be required for clerks.

(h) A statement of the furniture allowed for Indian and Anglo-Indian clerks, respectively, is laid on the table with cost of each article. I may explain that the scale of furniture provided for the Indian quarters is the same as has hitherto been provided for quarters at Timarpur, and that provided for European clerks was based on the scale of furniture which has hitherto been provided in camps in Old Delhi, with certain additions required to complete the essential furnishing of the bungalows. I have already, in my reply of the 19th February, stated that the provision of furniture free of charge is a

*Not included in these Proceedings.

[*Sir Claude Hill*; *Mr. V. J. Patel*; *Sir Thomas Holland*.] [21ST MARCH, 1919.]

temporary arrangement made with a view to encourage clerks to reside in Raisina. Proposals are under discussion to charge rent on the basis of its cost. This will result not only in classes but in individuals being treated equally, as the charge will vary according to the value of the furniture in use. Any existing inequalities, the result of past practice, will thus be redressed. If, under these conditions, any particular clerks desire furniture on payment on a higher scale than is provided, Government will be willing to consider the matter sympathetically.

(j) The answer is in the affirmative.

(k) Government have no intention of making any departure from past custom. Their endeavour has been to provide accommodation of a character best suited to the needs of their clerks."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

The Hide Industry.

5. "(a) Is it a fact that the hide industry being at present under Government control, tanned hides are bought up by Government at a fixed rate in the Bombay Presidency ?

(b) Are the tanned hides so purchased shipped to England, and after meeting the requirements of the War Office is a very considerable quantity left over which is sold in the open market in London at a huge profit on Government account ?

(c) Is the rate paid by Government to tanners in the Bombay Presidency very low as compared with the rate paid by the Government of Madras ?

(d) What is the rate of purchase of tanned hides by Government in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies since Government took up the control of the hide industry of the country ?"

The Hon'ble Sir Thomas Holland replied :—

"(a) Government exercises indirect control over the tanning industry by means of export restrictions and by the control of the distribution of the principal tanning materials in certain localities.

Subject to the restrictions on export, tanners in the Bombay Presidency are at liberty to dispose of their tanned hides either to Government or to any private purchaser. If tendered to and accepted by Government, the hides are purchased at certain rates which vary according to the quality of tannage and standard of selection.

(b) The tanned hides tendered to and purchased by Government in Bombay have, for the most part, been shipped to the War Office. A certain quantity, however, have been sent to the Government Harness and Saddlery Factory, Cawnpore, and for about a year previous to last August to Messrs. Cooper Allen and Company, Cawnpore, for the manufacture of army boots. Government has no authoritative information as to the quantity of tanned hides used by the War Office, or as to the prices realised for hides which are unsuitable for munitions purposes. It is understood, however, that relatively small quantities of non-army selections have been sold by the War Office at rates higher than the purchase price. It is not possible to say whether these prices will yield any profit as suggested by the Hon'ble Member ; for in consequence of the lack of shipping, a large fraction of the tanned hides purchased by Government, being of non-army selections, had to be retained in India, and the interest on the purchase price, as well as the storage charges, had to be met by the Imperial Government.

(c) No purchases are made on War Office account by the Government of Madras ; the hides are purchased by the Government of India in Madras as in Bombay. As regards rates, in view of the fact that the hides are selected and packed differently in Madras and Bombay, the only comparison possible is one between the average prices received by tanners for the hides tendered by them. The range of prices in each place has been designedly fixed so as to result in the same average price to the tanner for similar qualities of hides.

[21ST MARCH, 1919.] [Sir Thomas Holland; Mr. V. J. Patel; Sir William Vincent.]

(d)* A statement is placed on the table showing the prices now in force for the purchase of tanned (cow) hides in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. If the Hon'ble Member desires information regarding previous scales of prices, this will be furnished to him."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

6. "Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the following papers connected with the Poisons Bill :—

- (i) proposals made by the Government of the United Provinces in 1910 and 1914, suggesting certain radical amendments in the Poisons Act of 1904, and
- (ii) replies of all Local Governments to whom the proposals of the Government of the United Provinces were referred for opinion?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"Government do not propose to publish the correspondence referred to in the question. Any opinions received after the Bill has been published will be circulated to all Hon'ble Members in accordance with the ordinary practice."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

7. "What was the total expenditure to the State on account of (a) the Rowlatt Committee, and (b) the Industrial Commission?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"The total expenditure in connection with the Rowlatt Committee is Rs. 87,020 and that on the Industrial Commission is Rs. 8,89,559. The first mentioned figure does not include charges incurred in connection with the President's voyage from London to Bombay and back. Precise information is not available as to the expenditure under this head."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

8. "Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence that may have passed between the Government of India or His Excellency the Viceroy on the one hand and Mr. M. K. Gandhi on the other in connection with the Rowlatt Bills?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"There has been no official correspondence. It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member's question does not refer to private letters."

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

9. (a) "Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that complaint has been made to the Secretary of State regarding the non-receipt of the newspapers the *Hindu*, *New India*, *Bombay Chronicle*, and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* by their addressees in England for considerable periods of time, particularly for the period in which the report of the proceedings of the Special Congress in Bombay were published in the said papers?"

(b) Is it a fact that copies of the *Bengalee*, the *Leader*, the *Servant of India* and the *Social Reformer* were allowed at the same time to reach England regularly to their subscribers or addressees?"

(c) Have any inquiries been made at the instance of the Secretary of State or otherwise into the causes of this exclusion and differentiation and, if so, will Government be pleased to state the result of such inquiries?"

[*Mr. V. J. Patel ; Sir William Vincent.*] [21ST MARCH, 1919.]

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether, after the cessation of hostilities, the censorship restrictions on the despatch of newspapers and other correspondence have been removed fully, and if not, whether the Government will now consider the advisability of immediately doing away with all censorship restrictions on the despatch of news and newspapers ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state (1) whether, in consequence of the cessation of hostilities, any relaxation has been made of the restrictions relating to the transmission of telegraphic messages between India and the United Kingdom as well as the rest of the Empire, and if so, (2) the nature and extent of such relaxation, (3) whether the Government of India propose immediately to recommend to His Majesty's Government the removal of all restrictions by way of censorship or otherwise on the sending of telegraphic messages between the different parts of the Empire and with the countries not actually in a state of war with Great Britain ?”

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

“(a) The attention of Government has been drawn to the complaint made to the Secretary of State regarding the non-receipt, by their addressees in England, of the newspapers mentioned, during the period May to December 1918.

(b) No complaint of the non-receipt of the papers mentioned in this part of the question has reached the Government of India. It may therefore reasonably be assumed that these papers were allowed to pass by the Censors in the exercise of their discretion, as explained in my answer to the question by the Hon'ble Mr. K. K. Chanda on February 6th last.

(c) Inquiries were made at the instance of the Secretary of State regarding the non-receipt by addressees in the United Kingdom of some of the newspapers mentioned in part (a) of the question. The result of these inquiries is given in my reply to part (c) of the Hon'ble Mr. Chanda's question of February 6th. When the Armistice with Germany was signed, the general question of the cessation of censorship of the United Kingdom mail was taken into consideration. In anticipation of the decision to cease censorship of the United Kingdom mail, the effect of which was to stop examination by the Censors in India of all postal matter passing in either direction between India and the United Kingdom, it was decided to exempt from examination by the Censors in India all Indian newspapers intended for export from India to the United Kingdom, without any exception : and orders to this effect were issued to Censors on November 23rd, 1918.

(d) Censorship restrictions in India on the despatch of all postal matter to the United Kingdom were withdrawn on December 19th, 1918. Further exemptions in respect of postal matter addressed to British territories and the territories of the Allies were made on January 10th, 1919 : and still further exemptions in respect of postal matter addressed to certain neutral nations were made on March 1st, 1919, in each case after reference to the Secretary of State. Such postal censorship as still remains in force in India is retained in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State, and will not be abolished except on his instructions. So far as can be foreseen, it is likely to be retained until the final conclusion of peace.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative : so that the contingency, suggested in the second part, has not arisen. As regards the third part, the Government of India are satisfied that the possibility of a relaxation of censorship over foreign telegrams has been fully considered by His Majesty's Government, and they do not therefore propose to make any recommendation in the sense suggested.”

The Hon'ble Mr. V. J. Patel asked :—

10. “What stage has the question regarding the construction of the Wasad Kathana Railway reached ? Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the opinions of the Bombay Government on the scheme and also on the objection of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda against it ?”

[21ST MARCH, 1919.] [*Sir Arthur Anderson; Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi; Sir William Vincent; Sir James Meston.*]

The Hon'ble Sir Arthur Anderson replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to part (c) of the reply given to his question by the Hon'ble Sir Robert Gillan at the meeting of the Council on 5th September, 1918. It was then stated that the extent to which the traffic of the Anand Cambay Railway would be affected was under discussion between the Railway Board and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company, and that a revised proposal made by the Baroda Durbar for a modification of the Vasad Borsad Kathana scheme had recently been referred to the Agent of that Company for opinion.

The Company's opinions on these questions have now been received, and the Railway Board propose to hold a meeting between all parties interested with a view to arriving at a final settlement of the issue.

Government is unable at the present stage to lay on the table the correspondence referred to."

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

11. "Will Government be pleased to state—

Persons interned under State Prisoners Regulations and the Defence of India Act.

(a) the total number of persons interned under the State Prisoners Regulations and under the Defence of India Act during the progress of the war,

(b) the total number of persons still under confinement under those enactments, province by province, and

(c) the number of persons released during the last six months in each province?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"I lay on the table a statement* giving the information desired by the Hon'ble Member."

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

12. "(a) Have Government received any representations from the clerical staff of the office of the Chief Auditor, Eastern Bengal Railway, regarding the question of permanent improvement of the scales of pay and system of promotion obtaining in the said office?"

The clerical staff of the Office of the Chief Auditor, Eastern Bengal Railway.

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what, if any, action has been taken thereon?

(c) Is it a fact that the clerical staff of the other Departments of the Eastern Bengal Railway have obtained a permanent increase in their scale of pay in addition to a temporary war bonus, whereas the clerks of the office of the Chief Auditor have not been given any permanent increase as yet?

(d) How do the scales of pay of the clerical staff of the office of the Chief Auditor compare with those obtaining in other Departments of the said Railway, and in the account offices under the Government of India?"

The Hon'ble Sir James Meston replied :—

"(a) Yes.

(b) Orders sanctioning an improved scale of pay will be issued shortly.

(c) Yes.

(d) A statement† giving the information required is laid on the table."

*Vide Appendix C.

† Not included in these Proceedings.

[*Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi; Sir Thomas Holland; Mr. Malcolm Hogg; Sir James Meston; Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur.*] [21ST MARCH, 1919.]

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

New Joint-Stock Companies started by Europeans and Indians in 1919.

13. "Will Government be pleased to state the number of new Joint-Stock Companies started in India by Europeans and Indians, respectively, during the last six months for industrial purposes giving in detail their objects and amount of capital?"

The Hon'ble Sir Thomas Holland replied :—

"I place on the table the monthly returns* for the six months ending the 31st of January 1919, giving the names, registered offices, objects and authorised capital of each company registered during that period.

I have had compiled a summary showing the nationality of the promoters of the new companies from returns sent in by the Provincial Registrars of Joint Stock Companies in answer to a telegraphic reference made to each. In the absence of any prescribed system for the registration of partnerships or business names, there may be some doubt as to nationality in some cases, and objection might be made to the publication of a classified list of the companies' names.

The summarised results, though not absolutely accurate for the reasons just given, probably represent very nearly the relative numbers. The numbers thus estimated of new Joint Stock Companies started in India during the six months ending the 31st of January 1919 is 65 by Europeans, 41 by Indians and 3 by Europeans and Indians together. The total capital of each class of companies registered during the six months, and according to the classification given by the Registrars, is—

	Rs.
European	4,92,65,000
Indian	96,30,000
Partly European and partly Indian	11,00,000 "

The Hon'ble Mr. Malcolm Hogg asked :—

Removal of restrictions on the export of pearls from India.

14. "Will Government say when they expect to be able to remove the restrictions on the export of pearls from India?"

The Hon'ble Sir James Meston replied :—

"These restrictions are now being removed."

The Hon'ble Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur, asked :—

Prohibition of intoxicating liquors.

15. "(a) Are Government in receipt of a copy of the resolutions passed at the fifteenth session of the All-India Temperance Conference held at Delhi on the 30th of December last ?

(b) Is it a fact that the United States of America have adopted prohibition as their national policy in regard to intoxicating liquors ?

(c) Do Government propose to adopt the ideal of prohibition as the goal of their Excise policy ?"

The Hon'ble Sir Thomas Holland replied :—

"(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) I have no official information, but I understand from the press that the answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the speech of the Hon'ble Sir George Barnes on the 20th February, 1918 in the Imperial Legislative Council, on a Resolution moved by the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma, in which the policy of Government was explained."

[*His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya; The President; Sir William Vincent.*] [21st MARCH, 1919.]

(b) The information is not available and could not be obtained without a lengthy and detailed examination of the accounts for the past five years and a reference to the India Office and the War Office. The Government of India do not consider that the labour involved in such an investigation would be commensurate with the results.

(c) All officers were Europeans except the following :—

At the end of 1917 and of 1918 nine Indian gentlemen held regular commissions in the Indian Army."

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:—"My Lord, may I ask a supplementary question?"

His Excellency the President:—"Yes."

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:—"With reference to the answer to clause 2, will the Government be pleased to collect the information at leisure and supply it at a later period to this Council?"

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—"I can make no promise of that character at the present time. The work involved would be so great and our clerical establishment is so very hard-worked at the present time, that I can give no undertaking of that character now."

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya asked :—

18. (a) Since when has the Indian Medical Service been in existence ?
- (b) What was the percentage of Indians in the total cadre of the Indian Medical Service in 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1914, 1918, respectively ?
- (c) How many Indians have been appointed on the civil side of the Indian Medical Service—
- (i) on the staff of the Director General, Indian Medical Service,
 - (ii) in the Sanitary Department,
 - (iii) in the Chemical Examiner's Department,
 - (iv) in the Assay Department,
 - (v) in the Bacteriological Department,
 - (vi) in the Foreign and Political Department,
 - (vii) to chairs in Medical Colleges at Calcutta, Lahore, Bombay, Madras and Lucknow,
 - (viii) as first class Civil Surgeons at places like Lucknow, Delhi, Allahabad, Lahore, Cawnpore, etc.,
 - (ix) to the Medical Stores,
 - (x) as Inspector-General of Jails, and
 - (xi) as Inspector-General of Hospitals."

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"(a) The Indian Medical Service is regarded as a continuation of the Bengal Medical Service which was constituted in 1764. No other definite information is available.

(b) The percentages were as follows :—

1880	Not available.
1890	6.7 per cent.
1900	5.8 " "
1910	5.2 " "
1914	7.6 " "
1918	9.8 " "

[21st MARCH, 1919.] [*Sir William Vincent; Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya; His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda; Sir James Meston; Mr. W. A. Ironside.*]

(c) Information as to how many Indians have been appointed on the civil side of the I. M. S. cannot readily be given without an exhaustive search through old records. In 1918 there were 22 I. M. S. Indians in civil employ.

At the present time, the answer to Nos. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (viii) and (ix) is *nil*. As to (vii), (x) and (xi) one Indian I. M. S. officer holds a professorial appointment and there is one Indian I. M. S. officer as Inspector General of Prisons and one as Inspector General of Civil Hospitals.

No Indian I. M. S. officers have applied for employment in the Assay Department. Three applications have been received for employment in the Sanitary Department, two in the Chemical Examiner's Department, two in the Medical Stores, one in the Bacteriological Department, and three for Professorial appointments."

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya asked :—

19. "Is it a fact that in a speech delivered at Cambridge on the 28th July, 1918, Mr. Montagu said that one of the most successful military hospitals in Mesopotamia was in charge of an Indian Medical Service officer? If so, will Government be pleased to state the name of the said military hospital and of the officer referred to?" Military hospital in Mesopotamia.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief replied :—

"The speech referred to has not come to the notice of Government.

In any case it would not be possible, without further particulars than are contained in the Hon'ble Member's question, to say what hospital and officer Mr. Montagu had in view."

The Hon'ble Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda asked :—

20. "(a) Is it a fact that the Government of India in 1892 urged that a system of independent audit should be introduced in India?" Introduction of a system of independent audit in India.

(b) Did Lord Cross revive the proposal about six years later and transmit a despatch on it?

(c) Will Government lay on the table the papers, including the despatch of Lord Cross, bearing on the proposal?"

The Hon'ble Sir James Meston replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member probably has in mind a despatch dated the 1st October, 1881, in which the Government of India made certain proposals to the Secretary of State with the object of securing greater independence of audit. This and the subsequent correspondence with successive Secretaries of State on the subject was reprinted in Appendix I to the Report on the Administration of the Expenditure of India, dated 1896, and is therefore available to the Hon'ble Member. In these circumstances it is not considered necessary to place the papers on the table."

The Hon'ble Mr. W. A. Ironside asked :—

21. "(a) Have all military hospitals, dispensaries, surgeries, etc., both for European and Indian troops, officers and men, in all Indian and Mesopotamian cantonments and depôts been equipped :—" Military hospitals.

(i) with all modern surgical, medical and nursing and hygienic appliances?

(ii) with modern sanitary appliances and arrangements?

(iii) with electric power for light and fans?

(b) Have all such buildings been brought up to date in constructional features?

[*Mr. W. A. Ironside ; His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief ; Sir James Meston.*] [21ST MARCH, 1919.]

(c) If all hospitals, surgeries and medical institutions for the treatment of sick and wounded men have not been so equipped—

(i) how many are properly equipped ;

(ii) how many are still defective.

(d) If any defective institutions do still exist, what are the reasons for same ?

(e) Can Government give an assurance that no further time will be lost or expense spared to bring all institutions such as have been outlined for the care of sick and wounded soldiers to a condition of complete modern efficiency and comfort ?”

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief replied :—

“ Notice of the Hon'ble Member's question was received so recently that it has been found quite impossible in the limited time available to give detailed replies to his very comprehensive questions.

All I can say is that the improvement of military hospitals, both British and Indian, is engaging the close attention of Government. A great deal has been done in this direction during the past two years, and I can assure the Hon'ble Member that the importance of the subject is fully appreciated.”

BUDGET, 1919-1920.

11-24 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir James Meston :—“ I present the Budget of the Government of India for 1919-20. The preliminary estimates laid before Council on the 1st March have been revised in the light of our latest information. The Financial Secretary's explanatory memorandum has also been checked and brought up to date. The final figures of the Revised estimates for 1918-19 and the Budget estimates for 1919-20 are given in separate formal statements which are or shortly will be placed in the hands of Hon'ble Members.

“ The broad results as regards the Revised estimates for 1918-19 on the Imperial side are that we now expect our total revenue to stand at £85,298,000 and our expenditure at £89,866,000, leaving a deficit of £4,568,000 as compared with £4,350,000 previously estimated. The deterioration of rather over £200,000 is due to a number of variations of which I need only mention a falling-off in the customs revenue of £200,000 and in the land-revenue of £50,000, set off by some small improvements under other heads. We also expect to spend more on famine relief, but this will be found from the Famine Insurance Grant and does not affect our surplus or deficit.

“ For the coming year, the revenue is now expected to amount to £86,375,000, and the expenditure to £85,706,000, leaving a surplus of about £669,000, against £868,000 taken in the Financial Statement, or a reduction in the surplus of £200,000. This is mainly due to increased famine relief outlay in Bombay and the Central Provinces. In this case our surplus is affected, as the famine relief grant for next year is already exceeded. We have also included in the Budget, as I promised Hon'ble Members during the course of the debate on the Financial Statement, a sum of £33,000 to form the nucleus of a new public health fund. We fully appreciate the importance attached by non-official Members of this Council to the necessity of strengthening the equipment of Government for dealing with epidemic diseases, such as the recent disastrous outbreak of influenza ; and we consider it desirable to emphasise, by a small initial grant, our acceptance of the principle that our central machinery for dealing with these matters should be developed.

“ I need not trouble Hon'ble Members with details of modifications in the Provincial Budgets. The net result is that there will be a slight reduction in

BUDGET, 1919-1920; HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S 1275
SPEECH AT THE CLOSE OF THE DELHI SESSION (1919)
OF THE IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

[21st MARCH, 1919.] [*Sir James Meston; The President.*]

the collective surplus of the provinces anticipated during the current year from £1,073,000 to £979,000. For 1919-20 their estimated drafts on their balances will be increased from £1,641,000 to £1,918,000, mainly due to increased provision for civil works expenditure in Burma and Bombay.

"In our ways and means estimates, the most important changes are due to the fact that the Secretary of State is expecting to make rather larger purchases of silver, with the result that his payments in the two years on this account will be increased by £1 million, while as the result of the increase in our remittances to him necessitated by this and other causes, we are increasing our estimates for Councils next year by £2 millions, making a total provision of £12½ millions for this purpose. As far as our Indian position goes, there have been heavy sales of our Treasury Bills during the course of the last two or three weeks, which will enable us (though we are reducing the discount under which we sell them) to close the current year with a balance of £12½ millions, against the previous figure of £10 millions. We expect, however, during the course of next year to be able to reduce the amount of outstandings of Treasury Bills to the level which was forecasted in the Financial Statement.

"There is one small item on the ways and means side to which I can refer with particular gratification, and that is the remarkable increase in our postal savings bank deposits in the course of the last few months. The net deposits, which had averaged about 20 lakhs a month during the months of October to December, amounted in January to 42 lakhs, while in February they reached 73½ lakhs, which is an absolutely record figure for any single month. This large receipt is the more striking, coming as it does at a time when a considerable part of India is suffering from scarcity."

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S SPEECH AT THE
CLOSE OF THE DELHI SESSION (1919) OF THE
IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

His Excellency the President:—"It now only remains for me 11-28 A.M.
to close the Session and wish Hon'ble Members good-bye.

"We have had a strenuous Session and a controversial Session, but throughout our debates have been marked by good temper, and on matters with regard to which agreement has been impossible there has been an agreement to differ.

"We have had on one occasion to sit after midnight in order to get our work done. This experience has given Hon'ble Members a foretaste of what is in store for them with larger Legislative Councils and a greater number of keen debates.

"Work has to be got through and it is not, I think, a rash prophecy that the hours of debate will, in the future, be longer and therefore necessarily later.

"I now come to what are popularly known as the Rowlatt Bills. In my opening speech, after referring to the undoubted existence of definitely revolutionary organisations, I said—'There are facts which can neither be denied nor explained away, and the Government of India would be failing in its duty if it did not make preparations to deal with them.' I went on to say that after the most anxious consideration of the subject, I had come to the very clear conclusion that special measures were essential, not only to the maintenance of His Majesty's Government in this country, but to the safety of the lives and property of its citizens. These special measures have now passed through this Council, and on Tuesday last during the final debate I was asked to withhold my assent to the Bill. In other words, I was in my position as Viceroy to withhold my assent to

[*The President.*]

[21st MARCH, 1919.]

measures which in my capacity as Governor General I had regarded as essential, not only to the maintenance of His Majesty's Government in this country, but to the safety of the lives and property of its citizens. I think Hon'ble Members will see what an impossible position they would have me take up.

" Gentlemen, certain pledges have been given by the Home Member. Those pledges I accept. And let me repudiate the idea that this Bill is a slur on India's good name. It is nothing of the sort. The Rowlatt Committee were at pains to point out that it was a small section of the community which was affected; speakers on the Government side have time and again repeated the same, and for myself I repudiate the idea that this Bill affects any but the smallest fraction of the population, and that only in the interests of the safety of the lives and property of the remainder.

" I have every hope that its mere existence in the Statute-book will be sufficient, and that, when the three years for which it has been enacted have passed away, it will be found that the crime against which the Act is aimed has passed away also.

" I can assure Hon'ble Members that it was with the very deepest regret that we found ourselves in this matter at variance with the views of our non-official Indian friends, and it was only because we were convinced of the imperative necessity of passing such a measure, that we felt constrained to introduce and pass it.

" In the matter of Reforms the Southborough Committees have made their reports which should, in the course of the next few days, be in the hands of His Majesty's Government.

" We, as the Government of India, have forwarded to the Secretary of State all the various criticisms which have been passed on the Reforms Scheme by Local Governments and others, along with our own views upon such criticisms, and we are grappling with all the various points which will have to be dealt with in any legislation to carry out the Reforms policy. It will then only remain for His Majesty's Government and Parliament to decide the exact form in which effect shall be given to the announcement of August 20th.

" Before Hon'ble Members separate to-day, I should like them to do—what it is not perhaps very easy for them to do—to obliterate for a moment from their minds all thoughts of the domestic business, the processes of agreement and disagreement which have occupied us so fully this Session, and to cast their minds back to the 21st of March last year.

" A year ago to-day Germany initiated her stupendous offensive on the Western front. Its weight and momentum were such that we all knew instinctively that for our Empire and its Allies the hour of destiny had sounded, and the appeal went forth to every man—yes, and to every woman—to help with such power as in them lay to strengthen and sustain our threatened lines of defence.

" You will remember that in India I summoned to this Chamber the leaders of the people, that India again responded generously and wholeheartedly to the Empire's appeal and rose to the height of her opportunity. That fateful chapter of the war which opened with such grave menace, closed in glory. It proved to be the last chapter, and India to-day can proudly claim her full part and lot in the Empire's triumph.

" India now stands on the threshold of a new dispensation. There will be difficulties, differences and disagreements, such as are inherent in all processes of political development. But I hope the spirit of friendship and co-operation which brought us together here at that supreme crisis will continue to exercise its influence over our public life. There is a glamour and an inspiration in the

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S SPEECH AT THE 1277
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[*The President.*]

memories I have touched upon which mere domestic differences will, I feel sure, be powerless to destroy. It was brought home to us last year that we were all members one of another. Let us then part to-day feeling the truth of the old Latin saying '*Amantium irae amoris reintegratio*' 'The falling out of faithful friends renewing is of love.'

"Now, gentlemen, I bid you good-bye and a safe journey to your homes."

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

DELHI, }
The 3rd April, 1919. }

H. M. SMITH,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,
Legislative Department.