

*Saturday,
10th March, 1917*

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Council of the Governor General of India,
LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Vol. LV

March 1917

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF
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ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING
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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
Saturday, the 10th March, 1917.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble MR. G. R. LOWNDES, *Vice-President, presiding*, and 52 Members
of whom 46 were Additional Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

1. "Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each province year by year from 1911 to 1916:—
- (a) the names as well as the number of copies of newspapers, journals, magazines and other periodicals (if any), English and Vernacular subscribed for or subsidised by Government ;
- (b) the total amount of subsidy or subscription paid to such Indian and Anglo-Indian papers, respectively ?"

Newspapers
subscribed
for or sub-
sidised by
Govern-
ment.

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied:—

"The information asked for, so far as it is available to the Government of India, is embodied in the statement* which is laid upon the table."

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

2. "(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article in the 'Mussalman' (Calcutta) of the 29th December, 1916, regarding the dismissal of employees in the Drawing Department of the East Indian Railway at Dhanbad ?
- (b) Will Government be pleased to inquire into the matter and redress the grievances (if any) of such employees ?"

Dismissal of
employees
in the Draw-
ing Depart-
ment of the
East Indian
Railway at
Dhanbad.

* *Vide* Appendix A.

[*Sir George Barnes; Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia; Sir C. Sankaran Nair; Major-General Bingley; Nawab Saiyed Nawab Ali Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur.*] [10TH MARCH, 1917.]

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied:—

“An extract from the ‘Mussalman’ (Calcutta) of the 29th December, 1916, which is the leading article referred to, has been obtained and the complete papers in the case furnished by the Agent of the East Indian Railway for the perusal of Government. From these it appears that a full inquiry was held into the case by the Government of Bihar and Orissa. The result of the inquiry was to show that the Mahomedan clerks were allowed to absent themselves from office up to 11 o'clock on the day of the festival to say their Id prayers, the concession having been granted on their application and after the Head Clerk (himself a Mahomedan) had been consulted by the Resident Engineer, and that there was nothing in the circumstances of the case to indicate that the Resident Engineer was actuated by any religious bias towards his Mahomedan staff. The three Mahomedan clerks seem to have deliberately misrepresented facts, and to have made an entirely false accusation against their superior officer. The Agent of the East Indian Railway, therefore, gave instructions that they should be dismissed for insubordination. In these circumstances, Government cannot admit that there is any grievance to be redressed”

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia asked:—

Government of India Scholarships awarded to Sikhs.

3. “Has any of the Government of India scholarships tenable abroad been awarded to a Sikh? If the reply be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to consider the claims of the Sikh community to these scholarships?”

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied:—

“No Government of India scholarship has as yet been awarded to a Sikh.

The Government of India are naturally anxious that all communities should benefit from their scholarships. They will consider, along with other nominations, any applications from Sikhs which may be recommended by Local Governments, but the present principle of awarding the scholarships to the best qualified and most suitable candidates must be maintained.”

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia asked:—

Percentage of recruits from the Punjab.

4. “With reference to the reply to a question put by the Hon'ble Mr. Shafi on the 21st February, 1917, that the percentage of recruits drawn from the Punjab since the war was 61 per cent. of the total, will the Government be pleased to state the ratio of the percentage of the different communities, Hindus, Mohamedans and Sikhs that comprise this total?”

The Hon'ble Major-General Bingley replied:—

“The percentages by communities of the number of combatant recruits obtained from the Punjab are:—

	per cent.
Musalmans	48
Sikhs	30
Hindus	21
Others	1”

The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyed Nawab Ali Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur asked:—

Railway Schemes for Bengal.

5. “Will the Government be pleased to state what Railway schemes for the Presidency of Bengal are under the consideration of the Government of India at present, and which of them have been given or are proposed to be given to private Companies for execution?”

[10TH MARCH, 1917.] [Sir Robert Gillan; Captain Ajab Khan, Sardar Bahadur; Major-General Bingley; Mr. K. V. Rangaswamy Ayyangar.]

The Hon'ble Sir Robert Gillan replied:—

"A statement* furnishing the information asked for by the Hon'ble Member is placed on the table."

The Hon'ble Honorary Captain Ajab Khan, Sardar Bahadur asked:—

6. "Is it a fact that the funeral expenses of Indian soldiers who die in Regimental Hospitals or at Regimental Head-quarters are not defrayed by the State? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the matter?" Funeral expenses of Indian soldiers.

The Hon'ble Major-General Bingley replied:—

"Government do not defray the cost of the funerals of Indian soldiers who die in Regimental Hospitals in India, unless they die from the result of wounds or disease contracted on field service. The funeral expenses of men who die while on colonial service are borne by the State.

The Government of India are not prepared to express any opinion as to the merits of the Hon'ble Member's proposal, but the matter will be examined."

The Hon'ble Honorary Captain Ajab Khan, Sardar Bahadur asked:—

7. "Is it a fact that the families of Indian soldiers who are on the authorized married establishment of their regiments and become non-effective through death or pension are not provided with a passage home by the State? If so, will the Government be pleased to remedy this?" Families of Indian soldiers.

The Hon'ble Major General Bingley replied:—

"A statement† showing the existing rules on the subject is laid on the table. Free passage to their homes is not at present authorised for families of Indian officers and soldiers who become non-effective while serving in India.

The point raised by the Hon'ble Member will, however, receive consideration."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. V. Rangaswamy Ayyangar asked:—

8. "(a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the reply of the Bombay Government to a question put at the meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council on the 4th December last regarding persons against whom orders are passed under the Defence of India Act, that 'in view of the desirability of speedy action in such cases it is not possible to ask for formal explanation before orders are passed'?" Case of Mrs. Besant under the Defence of India Act.

(b) Is it a fact that Mrs. Besant was given no opportunity for explanation before orders under the Defence of India Act were issued against her by the Bombay Government?

(c) If so, will the Government of India, having regard to the answers given by them to question No. 45 in this Council on the 27th September last, be pleased to suggest to the Bombay Government the desirability of affording Mrs. Besant a real opportunity for explanation by stating the facts, allegations and grounds on which that Government made the said orders, and of cancelling the said orders should they be no longer justified in the light of any explanation she might offer, or should the grounds on which they were originally based be found no longer to exist?"

* Vide Appendix B.

† " Appendix C.

[*Sir Reginald Craddock; Sir Claude Hill.*] [10TH MARCH, 1917.]**The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock** replied:—

“(a) Yes.

“(b) Yes, so far as Government are aware.

“(c) The answer is in the negative and the Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply given to a similar question by the Hon'ble Mr. Clunda on the 1st March.

The attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to the fact that the replies in the Bombay and Imperial Legislative Councils to which he refers dealt with cases of so-called internments.”

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1917-18.

SECOND STAGE.

11-10 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill opened the second stage of the discussion on, and introduced the following heads of, the Financial Statement for 1917-18:—

<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
Land Revenue.	Land Revenue.
Provincial Rates.	Provincial Rates.
Forest.	Forest.
Agriculture.	Agriculture.
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.
Irrigation.	Famine Relief.
Civil Works.	Protective Works, Irrigation.
	Irrigation.
	Civil Works.
	Capital Outlay on Irrigation.

“Sir, in introducing the Budget heads which stand against my name, namely, Land Revenue, Provincial Rates, Forest, Agriculture, Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments, Famine Relief, Protective Works, Irrigation, Civil Works and Capital Outlay on Irrigation, I do not propose to amplify the remarks made already by the Hon'ble the Finance Member in regard to Land Revenue and Famine Relief seeing that I have, I am afraid, some lengthy remarks to offer on the subject of preparation for future development. I wish, however, to take this opportunity to thank my Hon'ble friend Sir William Meyer for the co-operation which he has always shown in forwarding the preparation of such schemes as I was able to justify on administrative grounds for the future development of Agriculture, Forests and so forth.

“First of all, however, I should like to mention that I have recently had the assistance of certain Additional Members of this Council in considering certain forest, revenue and agricultural matters, they having kindly consented to form a sort of conference whom I was able to consult on various points. We have already had one meeting, and I may say that I have had the greatest possible assistance from the suggestions which Hon'ble Members have made on that occasion. I only mention the matter here because I am afraid that, in regard to those Members who did attend that conference, some of the remarks which follow will be necessarily familiar.

“In regard, first of all to forests, although the war has curtailed our revenue somewhat, we have had welcome recoveries in certain provinces. For example, in Coorg, where an increase in the price of sandal wood has occurred, we have realised a considerable actual increase on the revenue of past years. Similarly, the development of the resin industry in the Punjab has given us a welcome addition to revenue in that province. On the other hand, in Burma, a fall in the value of teak has resulted in considerable loss. Meanwhile, however, we are pushing on as rapidly as possible the consideration of schemes for the ultimate development of forests.

[10TH MARCH, 1917.]

[*Sir Claude Hill.*]

“As an example I may mention that an extensive project is under consideration for the development of the north and middle Andamans departmentally, and present estimates show, I think conclusively, that as soon as we are able to start financing that scheme we shall enter upon a project which will be of large profit to the State. In Coorg also, by the construction of two forest tramways, we hope scientifically to exploit the Coorg forests, and so add considerably to the resources of the Empire and the revenues of Government. The Government of India—I am speaking now with special reference to a question which my Hon'ble friend Mr. Wacha desired to put in this Council—are fully alive to the immense potentialities of the forest resources of this country, and I can assure him that under the able administration of Mr. Hart, the Inspector-General of Forests, the commercial side of forest administration will not be lost sight of.

“Last year I referred in this Council to the fact that we proposed to bring out from England a tanning expert to investigate the possibility of the development of new methods of tanning. Mr. Pilgrim has since arrived and has been at work in India for nine months now. At the present moment the tanning industry is of peculiar importance to India owing to military requirements, and the fact that we have got in India now—although owing to delay in the receipt of plant, etc., he has not been able to get fully to work—the fact that we have got a tanning expert in India is likely to prove of great value in the development of the leather industry, with special reference immediately to Army requirements.

“The utility and value of getting out and employing such specialists has been demonstrated by the results which have already been arrived at in connection with the bamboo pulp paper industry. We have had that subject examined carefully, and I think I may say that, but for the intervention of the war, we should already have had factories working or, at all events, approaching completion; and I think that we may confidently hope that, as soon as the war ceases, we shall be able to proceed immediately to the erection of the necessary plant for the production of bamboo paper pulp, with the result, I hope, of a great access of strength to the paper mill industry in this country.

“Last year I also referred to the urgent need for strengthening the establishment in all provinces, and I may mention to-day that the question of forming a special cadre of forest engineers—a project which, I think, will appeal specially to my Hon'ble friend Mr. Wacha—is now receiving attention and has been referred for the opinion of Local Governments. Hon'ble Members are, of course, aware that forest revenues have been provincialised and that, except in such areas as Coorg and the Andamans, the Government of India cannot take action without reference to Local Governments. The urgent necessity, however, of scientific exploitation of the forests, and the consequent need for entertaining qualified engineers for that purpose, have been fully recognised, and I feel that I can say with some confidence that Local Local Governments are likely to respond very readily to the suggestion which has been made to them to entertain the services of such officers.

“Both in agriculture and in forest administration, the value of science, as the true basis of industrial progress, is now fully recognised, I think, on all hands, although we sometimes meet with criticism questioning whether any practical results follow; but the work which is being done in the Forest Research Institute—an institute which, I hope, Hon'ble Members who are interested in the subject will make a pilgrimage to see—ought to be of the greatest possible value to the Government and the country.

“It must, however, be admitted, I am afraid, that Government have not always taken the public, or been successful in taking the public, whatever their intentions, fully into their confidence in regard to what is being done, whether in the Research Institute or in forest matters generally; and the Department, in order to remedy this state of affairs, are shortly bringing out a publication dealing with the work of the Forest Department in India on more or less popular lines which, I hope, will give very valuable information to those

Hon'ble Members and the general public who are interested in the subject, and will, to a certain extent perhaps, remedy the tendency of Government to hide its light under a bushel. I may mention—I shall come to that later on when I deal with agriculture—that in regard to agricultural publications too, we have perhaps failed to popularise and make generally known our work. But I should like to make one observation, and that is this, that Mr. MacKenna has recently, in reference to two publications to which I shall shortly refer, appealed directly to the editors or proprietors of various leading Indian journals to take note of our efforts to produce a more popular publication, and has asked for criticisms and suggestions and so forth. I regret to say that so far the press has been stonily silent and has given no response at all.

“Turning now to Agriculture, the first subject to which I propose to refer is agricultural education. This Council will remember that last year I explained that we had then recently had a conference on agricultural education in Pusa in February 1916, and I gave an outline of one or two of the more important resolutions which that conference had come to. Those resolutions were, as I then foreshadowed, referred to Local Governments for opinion, and we have since received their views, which are under consideration. Well, Sir, it seems to me that we have now reached a stage at which it is not only possible but necessary that the Government of India should formulate and promulgate their conclusions on this important subject; and I propose, in order to lead up to the possibility of such promulgation—and I have in this His Excellency's concurrence—to convene a conference on agricultural education to assemble in Simla some time during the ensuing summer, to be composed of expert agriculturists, expert educationists and some, I hope, Additional Members who are interested in the subject and whom I shall invite; and I hope that with their assistance the Government of India will be placed in a position in which they can formulate their conclusions in regard to a definite policy and inculcate them upon Local Governments. I wish to mention that, in arriving at this stage of our proposals, I have received the most valuable assistance from my Hon'ble friend Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, to whose suggestions I am very greatly indebted for the scheme of consultation which I have outlined.

“Last year I referred to the meeting of the Board of Agriculture which had taken place shortly before the meeting of this Council. The Board, as this Council is aware, only meets biennially, and therefore there was no meeting of the Board this year. Such meetings are, however, of such value for scientific purposes that, on Mr. MacKenna's advice, I arranged this year to have sectional meetings of some of the scientists under the Agricultural Department, and there has recently been held, under Mr. MacKenna's presidency, a meeting of entomologists and mycologists, which Mr. MacKenna informs me has got through a very large amount of very useful work.

“From time to time, as I hinted just now, the press seems inclined to question whether practical agriculture gets the advantage from scientific research to which ordinarily it should be entitled. I think this criticism proceeds, partly at all events, from ignorance of what is being done; and, as I have already said, I do not reproach our critics on account of that ignorance, because I do not think we have always taken the steps necessary to enlighten them. But we have recently issued two publications, one the ‘Agricultural Journal of India’ which issues quarterly, and one the ‘Report on the Progress of Agriculture in India.’

“Well, I hold those two publications in my hand, and I would suggest that those Hon'ble Members and the general public who may be interested in these subjects and wish to make inquiries and inform themselves regarding them and as to the scientific progress that has been made and so forth, should subscribe regularly to our Agricultural Journal. I am afraid I am a bad advertiser, but I appeal to Hon'ble Members not only to do this, but also, if they will, to send me any criticisms or suggestions they may have to make regarding the further improvement of these hand-books. They are profusely illustrated and quite neatly got up, and I hope Hon'ble Members will appreciate the change from the ordinary foolscap blue-book type of publication.

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[Sir Claude Hill.]

“With regard to the question whether any practical benefits have resulted from scientific investigations, I think I can give one or two practical and conclusive answers based on information which Hon'ble Members will get from Chapter III of 'Progress of Agriculture in India.' For example, Pusa Wheat No. 12, as demonstrated by Mr. Howard, has resulted in an increased profit to cultivators of roughly speaking Rs. 12 an acre as compared with those cultivators who cultivate the ordinary *desi* wheat. Needless to say, this represents a very, very large excess of profit to cultivators of wheat. I should like to take this opportunity, in reference to Pusa wheat No. 12 and its spread, to thank those zemindars and landholders of the province of Oudh who have been foremost in helping the Department to popularise this wheat and to spread its cultivation, and in particular my Hon'ble friend, Raja Sir Rampal Singh Bahadur, who has placed under the supervision of the Department about 50 acres to be used for a seed farm. I had the pleasure of visiting that seed farm a little while ago and also seeing, on my way through the Rai Bareilly district, the progress that has been made. The co-operation of the zemindars in Oudh in this matter and the public spirit displayed is deserving of the highest commendation, and I hope their example will be followed in other parts of India.

“In reference to a question which was asked in this Council which seemed to imply that we were wrong in sending home parcels of wheat for milling experiments in England, to which I replied by a reference to the answer given to a similar question in the United Provinces Council, I should like to explain that it is quite obvious that if we can secure that any wheat from India is graded and standardised and recognised in Europe as being of a particular quality, we shall by those means popularise the product and shall also eventually, and at no distant date, secure to the cultivator a very much more permanent as well as enhanced return. I should have hardly thought that that required demonstration, since it seems to me quite an obvious reply, and the small quantities which have been sent home, hardly diminish the rate of development of the sowing of this seed, at all events not comparably with the advantages which are inherent in standardising it at home. There is, however, another justification and another reason for sending these samples home, and that is this. This Council are aware probably that Indian produce in the past, seeds and so forth, have had a very bad reputation owing to the practice which used to prevail almost universally of mixing a certain amount of dirt with the produce; so much so that eventually and for a large number of years, it was necessary in computing the value of Indian produce, to assume that it contained a certain percentage—averaging 2 per cent.—of dirt. This, I hope, is a thing of the past, but I think the very existence of that practice within recent years is a sufficient justification, if further justification were needed, for taking steps to assure the English millers that what purports to be Pusa wheat No. 12 is really that, and not mixed with a certain amount of impurity.

“Similarly, in regard to cotton, scientific experiments, especially in the Central Provinces, have resulted in a great improvement in the development of short staple cotton, an improvement which is computed to have given the ryots a profit of approximately Rs. 15 an acre. This spread over the whole area means that the ryots in the Central Provinces are benefited to the extent of very many lakhs of rupees. Again, the Punjab, No. 4-F. American cotton has been in the past year sold at a premium of Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 4 a maund, and is now making rapid strides in popularity. The importance to the Empire of developing the out-turn of long staple cotton is such that the Government of India have determined, or at all events have proposed, and I hope it will result in determination, to convene next October a special committee to examine the subject of long staple cotton and to visit the chief cotton growing centres and ginning factories and so forth, and to report to the Government of India as to the best means of securing the extension of long staple cotton cultivation.

“This question of long staple cotton brings me to the question of marketing, which is a subject of great difficulty to which the agricultural departments have given a great deal of attention. We of course desire that the cultivator should reap the full benefit of any improvements which we can devise for him in the matter of cultivation; but occasionally, and especially in regard to

cotton, efforts are made by buyers to defeat our object in that regard. There is an instance that I may mention ; last year at Lyallpur, a ring of buyers endeavoured to defeat our desire to secure adequate prices for American cotton, long staple, grown in the Punjab ; and the Agricultural Department of the Punjab had to organise special auction sales, and succeeded, as I have just said, in securing that cultivators realised a premium of Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 4. This resulted mainly through the co-operation of certain firms, such as Messrs. Tata & Co. That will illustrate the difficulties which we have to contend with in the matter of securing to the cultivator the advantage which is his due. I do not wish to claim these achievements in the matter of cotton and wheat as conclusive or final or as being so creditable as to disarm criticism. They really are much more the earnest of what we hope to do. The potentialities emphasise of course the need—and this is a very important point—for securing the services of the best possible men for the agricultural department, and this aspect of the case reacts upon the question of recruitment. This was one of the subjects which we discussed at the informal conference to which I have referred, and I think all Hon'ble Members came to the conclusion that the position was roughly, that, first of all, we must secure for the agricultural department in India the best possible and most devoted workers, irrespective of race, creed or anything else, but secondly, subject to that proviso, which will exist until we have advanced somewhat further along the road of progress, we should make every effort to recruit and to find suitable Indians for those posts. This is a very important matter which will of course have to be taken into consideration at the conference which I propose to hold in Simla. But I think Hon'ble Members and the general public could very largely assist in this matter if they would only urge upon the people at large the desirability of some of the best brains of the country taking up such subjects as agriculture and forestry in which so much remains to be done to develop the potential prosperity of the country, and I hope Hon'ble Members will endeavour to make known this aspect of the case. We need the best brains we can get.

“ My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Wacha, asked a question in this Council on the subject of agricultural engineering, and I was compelled to reply to him that I thought that the stage to which agriculture had advanced in India did not justify us in proposing to establish separate special agricultural engineering institutes at present.

“ I hope my Hon'ble friend will agree with me in this conclusion, but I hope that this development will follow in due course as soon as we have organised ourselves to the stage when we can provide for specialisation of that kind. In the meantime we are sanctioning the strengthening of the staff at a considerable rate as the following will show. During the year we have sanctioned an Entomologist for the Punjab, a Soil Physicist for the Bombay Presidency, a special Deputy Director of Agriculture for cattle breeding and dairying in Madras, a fourth Deputy Director for cattle breeding in the United Provinces, a third Deputy Director of Agriculture for Bengal, and the continuance for a further period of five years of the appointment of Assistant Economic Botanist in the United Provinces. Most of these appointments of course have to remain vacant, not only because of the economies imposed by the war, but owing to the unfortunate fact that we cannot find recruits at the present time to fill the posts. As soon as the war is over, we hope that there will be plenty of recruits, and that we shall get the staff needed. Not only have we sanctioned these individual posts, but we have taken the initiative in another direction, that is, by suggesting to Local Governments the desirability of each province being self-contained in the matter of its Agricultural Department ; in other words, that each province should be able on its own account and with its own staff to carry out all the experiments and processes that may be necessary for its own agriculture, whether it be agricultural education or experimentation or demonstration ; and we have suggested a schedule minimum to Local Governments which, I feel fairly confident, will be responded to.

“ I now turn to the Silk industry. I mentioned last year that we had obtained the services of Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy to investigate the silk industry of India.

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[*Sir Claude Hill.*]

Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy has written what, I hope, will prove to be a monumental report on the silk industry. Unfortunately he was interrupted, unfortunately that is, for the Agricultural Department, by a call made on him by the military authorities to proceed to Mesopotamia to endeavour to grapple with the plague of flies which prevailed there last year. Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy was absent for two months, and the result was that he was unable to proceed to Japan to complete the tour which he had projected in investigating the silk industry. He had rather hurriedly to compile his report, but I hope his labours, coupled with those of Mr. Ansoige, who co-operated with him on the commercial side, will prove of great value to the country. The only definite conclusion (I have not seen his report in its final form) which I know that Mr. Lefroy has come to is that the silk industry, as such, cannot stand by itself probably, in any province, and must be regarded as a sort of bye-product of the ordinary agricultural work of the cultivator. That is a proposition which does not affect the question of course or the desirability of resuscitating the industry, but it is a material fact as to the methods by which such resuscitation may best be effected.

“Last year I also mentioned that we proposed to secure the services of a special indigo chemist for the investigation of the indigo industry in regard to the methods of production of the natural indigo. Mr. Davis has been at work here for a year, and has already succeeded in producing a standardised paste of natural indigo, samples of which have been sent to England for test. The reports of the results of these experiments must be awaited; but his provisional results, coupled with other experiments which he has made in the matter of vatting in conjunction with the imperial bacteriologist, have raised in the minds of the Government of India the sincere hope that it may yet be possible to re-establish the natural indigo industry on a footing in which it will be able to compete on equal terms with synthetic. That being so it seems imperative that the work done by Mr. Davis should continue; he has really only begun the scientific side of it. It is proposed by the planters of Bihar, which is the original home of the indigo industry in India, it is proposed by them that he should be retained for a further period, and that he should be associated with a special indigo botanist, since the botanical side of the problem requires to be further investigated. For that purpose the Bihar planters have suggested, in order to finance this investigation, the imposition of a small export duty on raw indigo. The proposal has been referred to the Local Governments concerned, who with one exception (and I hope a temporary exception) have agreed in the desirability of doing this, and I need hardly impress upon this Council the importance, if possible, of retaining or recovering an industry of such value to India as the indigo industry.

“Another important matter under this head is the cultivation of quinine. Hon'ble Members are probably aware that quinine is produced by Government on two plantations, one in Bengal and one in Madras. The supply from these plantations is by no means adequate to India's ever-growing needs, and it is wholly inadequate for the needs of the Empire. It seems desirable that India at all events, if not the Empire, should be more or less independent of outside supplies in the matter of such an important drug; we are therefore deputing Major Gage to investigate certain tracts in Southern India, Burma and Assam which promise to be suitable for the cultivation of the cinchona plant with a view to seeing whether we cannot very considerably extend the cultivation.

“In reference to the Scientific and minor Departments which stand in my name, I should like to make a reference to some criticisms which have appeared, in the journal ‘Nature’ in regard to the Board of Scientific Advice and its work. The line taken by the critic was that the Board of Scientific Advice, as constituted, had entirely failed to show any initiative in regard to scientific investigation. Well, to that I would reply that the Board of Scientific Advice was not constituted or devised for the purpose of showing initiative in the matter of scientific investigation, but only to co-ordinate the work of scientific research which is going on in various Departments and in various parts of India. In regard to this, we may, I think, claim that the Board of Scientific Advice has already achieved some measure of success. The war, however, has undoubtedly changed the outlook in regard to this, as in regard to so many other things,

and we are now seeing whether we cannot reconstitute the Board in such a way as to make it more an initiating body as well as a co-ordinating body and in order to enable it to establish relations with the Advisory Council of the Privy Council Committee for the purpose of promoting Scientific and Industrial Research.

“ Since my Hon'ble friend Sir William Meyer delivered his speech on the 1st of March, we have received the Secretary of State's sanction to our proposals for the distribution of the profits from the Wheat Scheme which, Hon'ble Members will remember, we undertook should be devoted for the benefit of Agriculture, more particularly in those provinces where wheat was grown. A sum of £158,000 (Rs. 23,70,000) will be distributed in the following manner :—

	Rs.
Punjab will receive	10,70,000
United Provinces	7,75,000
Central Provinces	2,25,000
Bombay	1,50,000
North-West Frontier Province	50,000
and the Agricultural Adviser	1,00,000

This distribution has been effected after consultation with the Local Governments, and on a basis partly of the area under wheat in the different provinces and of the amount exported, as also of the existing agricultural needs, specially with reference to wheat, of the different provinces. We have reserved one lakh of rupees to the Agricultural Adviser as a reserve on which to draw in the event of any emergent matter appearing which conforms to the conditions on which we have decided to allot such grants.

“ Turning now to the Public Works Department, our productive irrigation systems, after meeting all charges for maintenance and repairs as well as interest on capital, has returned a net profit of Rs. 299.10 lakhs during the past year exceeding the corresponding figure of the previous year by Rs. 22.35 lakhs. We estimate for 1917-18 a net profit of Rs. 315 odd lakhs. In my last year's speech, I mentioned that we hoped to secure an increase in consequence of the completion of the Punjab Triple Canals project, and I am glad to be able to say that about half the increase that we anticipate is due to the completion of that project. The provision made for capital outlay for Major Irrigation Works during the ensuing year under Head 49, that is from funds not charged against revenue, is 90 lakhs, and for 'Protective Works,' the cost of which is met from the Famine Insurance grant, is Rs. 60 lakhs.

“ In addition to the above grants, a small sum of Rs. 60,000 has been provided for works which no longer give an adequate return on capital outlay. The total of these allotments amounts to Rs. 150.60 lakhs, or nearly five lakhs less than the current year's revised estimates. The decrease is partly due to the completion of the Triple Canal Project, and partly of course to the necessary curtailment of expenditure.

“ The Hon'ble the Finance Member, in his speech introducing the Financial Statement, has alluded to the present phase of some of the larger Irrigation works. I only propose to deal with two or three of them. The project for the construction of a reservoir at Metur on the Cauvery, which it has been found necessary to modify as a result of the terms of the award in the dispute between the Mysore Durbar and the Madras Government, was first prepared in 1910, and a brief description of it is given in Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson's speech. The modified project is somewhat restricted in scope. Although the storage capacity of the reservoir is not altered, the area of annual irrigation is somewhat smaller,—it has been reduced from 473 thousand and odd to 371 and odd acres. This restriction is also reflected in the financial aspect of the project, because whereas the original project was expected to yield at full development a net revenue of Rs. 26.6 lakhs a year, the amended project will only bring in about 23.43 lakhs, which represents a return of 5.97 per cent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1917-18; RESOLUTION *RE* REDUC- 571
TION OF GRANT OF Rs. 40 LAKHS TO Rs. 10 LAKHS ON
NEW DELHI.

[10TH MARCH, 1917.] [Sir Claude Hill; Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu;
Sir C. Sankaran Nair.]

"The project for embanking the left bank of the Irrawaddy river contemplates the construction of an embankment from Tullokmau to Yandoon, a distance of 102 miles, at a cost of about 62 lakhs of rupees only, and it is expected to yield a return of about 20 per cent.

"A preliminary consideration of the Sind-Sagar-Doab project has shown that an area of about 2 million acres is susceptible of irrigation in the *thal* of which about a million and a half can annually be served at a cost of about 4 million sterling. I may mention that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has recently made a tour in that part of the province, and he writes to me in a private letter that he regards the scheme as a most promising one. The expenditure is expected to yield a good return. Both of these projects are still in an embryonic stage.

"Finally, in my last year's speech, I referred to what is known as the Sarda river project, and mentioned that we had submitted to the Secretary of State a scheme for utilising part of the available water of the Sarda river. The Secretary of State, in reply, has asked what we propose to do in regard to the major alternative projects, one of which is to utilise the water of the Sarda river in Oudh and the south, and the other to replenish the waters of the Punjab in the west, and we have referred this matter to the Government of the United Provinces for report.

"As regards Civil Works, I have nothing to add to what is stated in the Financial Statement, except that we have kept the figures as low as possible consistently with efficiency."

**RESOLUTION *RE* REDUCTION OF GRANT OF Rs. 40
LAKHS TO Rs. 10 LAKHS ON NEW DELHI.**

The Hon'ble Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu to move the following Resolution:—

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in view of the exigencies of the war, the proposed expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs on New Delhi budgetted for the year 1917-18 be reduced to Rs. 10 lakhs.'

In the absence of the Hon'ble Member the Resolution was not moved.

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair introduced the following 11-45 A.M.
heads of the Financial Statement for 1917-18:—

<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
Sanitation.	Sanitation.
Education	Education.

"Sir, I beg to introduce the Education and Sanitation heads of the Financial Statement.

"As regards Education, it will be seen from the figures already given that we are spending in the present year 12 lakhs more than in 1915-16, and that we contemplate a very considerable increase of expenditure on Education in the year 1917-18. This latter feature of the Budget is due to the circumstance that we have for the first time for two years been able to make an additional grant to Provincial Revenues on behalf of Education. The fact that at a time when every rupee is wanted to promote the war, we should have put aside no less a sum than 30 lakhs for educational purposes is a very striking testimony of the high regard in which the Government hold the cause of Education in this country. There are of course many branches of Education which are in need of funds, and I do not deny the claims of other branches on us, but we considered that in making this grant we should concentrate our attention on that part of our educational system which on the

[*Sir C. Sankaran Nair.*] [10TH MARCH, 1917.]

whole was most in need of help, and this in our opinion was undoubtedly the position of our teachers. We have for many years and from many quarters received complaints as to the inadequate extent of the training which they received and as to the inadequate attractions of the profession. We felt that the key of the educational problem was the teacher, and that our first step was to give what help we could to make him efficient and contented. We wrote last year to Local Governments asking them to consider whether arrangements could be made to secure that all or the greater part of new teachers should be trained, and we laid down in our Resolution of 1913 a scheme which aimed at providing the trained teachers with a minimum pay of Rs. 12 in primary, and Rs. 40 in secondary, schools. The Local Governments and local bodies have done a great deal of recent years in both respects, but much still remains to be done. We have still 70 per cent. of our teachers untrained, and there are areas where the standard of pay is still not sufficient to keep the younger teachers in the profession. There are no doubt difficulties connected with the application of the money which we are now providing, and these were discussed by us with the Directors of Public Instruction in January last. But we are in most cases giving the Provincial Governments every latitude in their disposal of the grant. The grant made to each province will be available at its discretion for training or for pay or both. It will be recurring. The grant can be utilized for primary or secondary education as desired, but we hope that a predominant share will be given to primary teachers. It is intended primarily for male teachers as it will probably be best to deal with female education on a separate footing, but there will be nothing to prevent Local Governments from using such part of it as they wish for female teachers. The grant will be available for use during the current year, and we expect it, as far as possible, to be so used.

“The whole grant has been distributed with the exception of a reserve of 75,000 which we intend to utilize mainly in meeting the needs of the European community in the matter of training schools for teachers.

Madras gets	4,00,000
Bombay gets	2,50,000
Bengal gets	9,00,000
United Provinces gets	2,50,000
Punjab gets	1,75,000
Bihar and Orissa gets	3,25,000
Burma gets	3,00,000
Central Provinces gets	1,60,000
Assam gets	1,00,000
North-West Frontier Province gets	38,000
Coorg gets	60,000
Delhi gets	8,000
Baluchistan gets	6,000

and as I said already, for the Anglo-Indian training schools at Sanawar and Ootacamund, we propose to give 75,000.

“In the matter of Sanitation, it will be observed that this is for the first time shown as a separate head in our returns, apart from the medical expenditure. This not only makes for convenience, but is gratifying as showing the increasing importance attached to this branch of expenditure. The war has of course had a serious effect on some important classes of sanitary schemes, but we have estimated for next year a total expenditure slightly exceeding that which was budgetted for in respect of the current year.

“Our Imperial expenditure is represented mainly by two items known as the Sanitation reserve and the grant to the Indian Research Fund Association. The former which normally amounts to 7.70 lakhs was reduced to 5.70 during the current year by the temporary surrender of 2 lakhs owing to the financial position, and this sum of 5,70,000 has been allotted for various objects,

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including a drainage and water-works scheme at Peshawar (2 lakhs), the improvement of the Badrinath-Kidarnath pilgrim route (1 lakh) and the Dhar housing scheme at Simla (1.61 lakhs). For the year 1917-18, we have similarly surrendered $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs which like the 2 lakhs surrendered last year will be made available for allotment later on when financial conditions improve.

“The Indian Research Fund Association normally receives a grant of five lakhs per annum, but in 1916-17, a sum of two lakhs was temporarily surrendered and a similar amount will be again surrendered in 1917-18. The expenditure of the Association during 1916-17 included the cost of various inquiries into diseases, including Tuberculosis, Ankylostomiasis and Diabetes and other objects connected with medical research. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was granted by the Association to the Bengal Government for anti-malarial measures, and one of Rs. 30,600 to the same Government for a scheme for the collection of accurate vital statistics in certain areas. The Association has also sanctioned a considerable contribution to the Central Research Institute at Kasauli, and Sir Pardey Lukis will inform the Council of the excellent work which has been carried out during the war by that Institute.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Sharp:—“Sir, I lay on the table the annual narrative called ‘Indian Education in 1915-16.’ The tables at the end of this volume are for all India. But figures for the separate Provinces are to be found in another publication commonly known as ‘Salient Features,’ of which I shall be glad to supply a copy to any Hon'ble Member who desires to have one.” 11-51 A.M.

The Hon'ble Surgeon-General Sir Pardey Lukis:—“Sir, the time has not yet arrived when we can estimate with any degree of accuracy the amount of the debt that this country owes to medical research, but people are already beginning to realize the importance of the role played by the laboratory worker. Never again can scientific investigation and preventive medicine be relegated to the back-ground, and it is admitted on all hands that money spent on carefully considered research schemes is a profitable investment. 11-52 A.M.

“Here in India we have reason to be proud of the progress made during the last six years and, on this the last occasion I am likely to have the honour of addressing this Council, I trust I may be excused for saying that there is not a single feature of my administrative career that I shall look back upon with more gratification than upon the progress that has been effected, during my term of office as Director-General, in the organization of medical research in India and the development of the Indian Research Fund Association.

“Owing to the reversion to military duty of the majority of the members of the Bacteriological Department the activities of this Association have been necessarily somewhat curtailed by the war, but our research workers have furnished a band of expert advisers whose assistance, both in the laboratory and in the field, has been of great value to the military authorities. We have also despatched to Mesopotamia from our Central Research Institute at Kasauli several fully equipped field laboratories.

“But perhaps the most valuable assistance we have been able to render to His Majesty's Forces overseas has been the conversion of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, into a huge manufacturing depôt for the preparation of vaccines, intended to protect the troops from the ravages of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, as well as from those of cholera. The preparation and despatch of these vaccines in the large quantities required, have involved an enormous amount of work. The Institute, in response to Military demands, has already issued half a million c. c. of typhoid and para-typhoid vaccines and three-fourth of a million c. c. of cholera vaccine, and arrangements are now in progress to increase largely the output in the immediate future. In connection with the supply of vaccines from Kasauli, I should

[*Surgeon-General Sir Pardey Lukis.*] [16TH MARCH, 1917.]

like to mention that, at the end of last month, the Central Research Institute was visited by two members of the Medical Advisory Committee, sent out to Mesopotamia by the War Office, and that they have reported as follows :—

‘ We were shown the various steps in the preparation of these prophylactic vaccines from the start to the finished product, and we were greatly impressed by the care taken to ensure the purity of the various constituents of the vaccines at every step in the process, their accurate standardization and their final incorporation as a carefully tested sterile product in sealed glass vials. The general arrangement of the laboratories and equipment left nothing to be desired.’

“ This, I think, reflects great credit upon Majors Brown and Cunningham of the Bacteriological Department to whom were entrusted these difficult and delicate duties.

“ I may mention moreover that, in addition to the supplies from Kasauli, large quantities of vaccines for the inoculation of troops against plague, dysentery and various septic infections have been despatched to Mesopotamia from the Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory at Parel.

“ I have already stated that, as a result of the war, the normal activities of the Indian Research Fund Association have been curtailed. They have not, however, by any means ceased, and many problems of extreme importance are now under investigation.

“ As regards plague, we are financing an inquiry at Poona on the subject of plague-prevention. This inquiry was commenced by Major Kunhardt, but on his departure for Mesopotamia, it was taken over by Dr. Chitre, who is now engaged in studying the various methods of rat destruction. His reports show that in Barium Carbonate, we possess a rat-poison safer to handle and more efficacious than any substance hitherto used for the purpose. This salt has also the advantage of being very cheap, and it exists naturally in the form of ‘ Witherite.’

“ The importance of grain markets and grain godowns and of the movement of grain as factors in the dissemination of plague is generally admitted. It follows from this that the construction of well designed rat-proof markets and the keeping of them free from rats are anti-plague measures of real utility. The Indian Research Fund Associations, therefore, have financed the construction of such a model grain market at Dalligunj, the most important grain centre in Lucknow, from which have originated most of the severe plague epidemics in that city.

“ We are also financing the investigation which is being carried out in Calcutta by Major McCay into the causes underlying the extreme prevalence of diabetes in Bengal, and we have given a grant to Dr. Sudhamoney Ghose who, under the supervision of Sir Leonard Rogers, is engaged on an inquiry into the chemical composition of Chaulmoogra oil, the derivatives of which are yielding most encouraging results in the treatment of leprosy.

“ Then, again, we have given grants to the two newly opened Pasteur Institutes at Rangoon and Shillong respectively, to enable them to develop the research side of their work, and we are assisting the schools of Tropical Medicine now under construction in Calcutta and Bombay. It is hoped that these two schools will be ready to commence work as soon as the war is over. They will afford unrivalled opportunities for post-graduate work and medical research.

“ Tuberculosis, the undoubted spread of which is causing serious anxiety, is engaging our careful attention. During the past two years Dr. Arthur Lankester, at the expense of the Indian Research Fund Association, has been occupied in making a comprehensive inquiry into the prevalence of tuberculosis in all the provinces of India and of Burma, and into the factors concerned in its spread. On the receipt of his final report, upon which he is now engaged, consideration will be devoted to the possibilities of framing measures, designed to cope with the spread of this dire disease. Meanwhile, Dr. Soparkar, working under Major Glen Liston at Parel, is engaged on certain very promising

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pathological investigations with reference to the tubercle bacillus. Another inquiry upon which Liston and Soparkar are engaged is in connection with 'Bilharziasis,' with which disease many soldiers returning from Africa and Egypt are found to be infected. Hitherto this disease has not prevailed in India, but in the altered circumstances of the present day, it is essential to inquire into the possibilities of its gaining a foothold in this country. The disease is due to a small parasitic worm and the recent researches of Leiper in Egypt have shown that certain varieties of water-snail act as intermediate hosts and are essential to the continued existence of the worm to which they stand in much the same relation as that of the mosquito to the malarial parasite. Endeavours are now being made to ascertain whether any of our Indian species of fresh water snails are capable of harbouring this worm. So far, I am glad to say none have been discovered.

"Whilst on the subject of the work at Parel, I may inform the Council that Dr. Mackenzie Wallis, a well known Chemical Pathologist who has come out to India as a temporary Lieutenant in the R. A. M. C., is now working with Major Glen Liston. He is engaged on most important investigations connected with the chemical sterilization of water and in the preparation, at a cheap rate, of certain media for bacteriological work which, prior to the war, could only be obtained at very high prices from Germany. The Indian Research Fund Association have given Dr. Wallis a grant in aid of his investigations.

"The last subject which I shall mention is that of hook-worm disease, or 'Ankylostomiasis.' As most Hon'ble Members are aware, for several years the International Health Commission of the Rockefeller Institute of the United States, have devoted much time, attention and money to investigations into the prevalence of, and possibilities of eradicating, hook-worm disease both in America and in many tropical and sub-tropical countries, including several British colonies. Some two years ago, largely in response to the representations of this Commission, we commenced a systematic inquiry into the prevalence of hook-worm in India. These hook-worms are intestinal parasites, frequently existing in enormous numbers, which attach themselves to the lining membrane of the bowel and cause considerable loss of blood, followed by anæmia and general debility. As the result of investigations carried out in Darjeeling by Lieutenant-Colonel Clayton Lane and in the Madras Presidency by Dr. Mhaskar, we find that from 70 to 95 per cent. of the coolie class are infested by these parasites. Now, although it is true that a certain degree of hook-worm infestation is not incompatible with apparent good health, it does not follow that such unpleasant guests are harmless. Indeed, we have reasons for believing that their presence predisposes to infection by other diseases, and it has been demonstrated in Ceylon that, if Indian coolies, working in the gardens, be freed from hook-worms—and this is an easy procedure—not only is their general health improved, but their output of work is increased, sometimes as much as 25 per cent.

"The Indian Research Fund Association, fully realising the importance of the matter, recently deputed Major Norman White to Negapatam and Ceylon to confer with Dr. Perrin Norris of the International Health Commission, and, as the outcome of this Conference, it is intended shortly to enlarge the scope of our inquiry in the immediate future, when it is hoped that all Local Governments will co-operate in assisting in the framing of rules towards the ultimate eradication of the hook-worm from India. The young parasites live in polluted soil. The obvious preventive measure, therefore, is to minimise this pollution by the provision of suitable latrines and by rendering their use obligatory. An excellent pattern of latrine has now been devised, and it is in use in the Darjeeling Tea Gardens. The destruction of the adult parasites in the human body can be easily effected by the use of *Chenopodium* oil, one dose of which, as a rule, suffices. This oil is a far more satisfactory vermifuge than thymol, the drug chiefly in use in India, and it has the advantage of being non-poisonous. *Chenopodium* is not indigenous to India, but Dr. Perrin Norris has

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promised to send us a supply of seed from America, and I am quite convinced that we shall have no difficulty in acclimatising the plant, for which purpose I propose to invoke the assistance of the Revenue and Agriculture Department.

"I should have liked to allude to several other lines of investigation, such as Cornwall's work on Kala Azar at Coonoor; that of Knowles at Parel on Amœbic dysentery, and Mr. Awati's interesting and important researches at Kasauli into the morphology and habits of the various species of house-fly. But time will not permit: I think, however, I have said enough to convince the Council that money spent on medical research and preventive medicine is money well spent."

RESOLUTION *RE* ADDITION OF Rs. 30 LAKHS FOR THE EXTENSION OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

12-14 P.M. **The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri** :—"Sir, I move the following Resolution :—

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs be added to the provision made under the head 22—Education in the Budget for 1917-18 for the extension of elementary education.'

The Council will remember that not many days ago a similar question on the subject of elementary education was brought forward but negatived. Thrust out at the door on that day, I venture to come in again at the window this morning; but I have a reason. For some years, Sir, there has been a standing dispute between the Government and the non-official public as to which is the most efficacious means of making elementary education universal in the land. We have had it put forward on our side that compulsion is the only means to achieve that object. When last it was brought forward in this Council, Government countered the proposition by claiming for voluntarism equal possibilities. I contend, Sir, that by doing so Government pledged themselves practically to carry forward the work of extending elementary education through good seasons and through bad. At that time it was believed that, although the main purpose of Mr. Gokhale's Bill was defeated, he had elicited from Government promises of financial support for liberal schemes for extending elementary education. These promises were really fulfilled. The appointment of the Minister of Education was followed by what I may call a triennium of hope and advance along all lines in the field of education. Sir Harcourt Butler took charge of the Department, and although he is not here, I think he will be glad to learn that the non-official public welcomed the way in which lakhs and tens of lakhs rained on his auspicious head, while his successor unfortunately has not even a drizzle of poor thousands. In this triennium, I believe the story is not altogether apocryphal that Sir Harcourt Butler ventured to envisage a scheme of educational expenditure which at its culmination would have gone up to ten crores a year. Well, we were soon to welcome a promise made, both in Parliament and in India by the Government, that 41,000 schools would be added to the system of elementary education, and that the school-going population actually in attendance would be doubled in no long time. Apparently to fulfil this programme the Government of India called last year for schemes from all the Local Governments which were summarised in a statement placed on the table of this Council at the end of last year. Nothing has come, however, out of all these schemes, and speaking in this Council on the last occasion the Hon'ble Mr. Sharp nearly admitted that the Department had been occupied in making plans and shelving them. What happened in India may practically be guessed from what happened in the province of Madras, which I take because it is the

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most favourable from the Government point of view. In Madras, Sir, I am happy to tell the Council that the policy adopted by the Government in the matter of education has been very liberal and progressive. Encouraged by the example of the Government of India, who granted for three years in succession recurring sums of money amounting now, I think, in all to 125 lakhs, the Government of Madras themselves out of their own provincial revenues, promised to the education budget of that province a recurring grant of 2 lakhs which was to be progressive every year, namely, 2 lakhs one year, that 2 lakhs and another 2 lakhs next year, and so on. During the three years that the Imperial Government made an advance of a recurring character, the Government of Madras spent a great part of those sums in opening new schools—in other words, in extending elementary education to areas which had not come under the beneficial effects of education. These schools cost nearly Rs. 300 each, so that a lakh went to the creation of more or less 300 such schools. We were looking forward, Sir, to a scheme which would be worked right through on this scale. But unfortunately the war came, the Imperial Government changed their plans, and during some time past there have been no recurring grants for education, with the unfortunate result that even the Government of Madras refused practically to spend any part of the suras at their disposal for opening new schools. It was my misfortune to contend against this state of things for three years in succession in the local Council. Time after time we asked that, out of their own progressive 2 lakhs a year, the Government might, while they kept a lakh for the improvement of existing schools, devote the remaining lakh at least to the creation of new schools. We had no idea why our proposition on this subject was defeated time after time, but I gathered afterwards, without being expressly told, that apparently Local Governments have got the impression that their revenues are only pledged to the improvement of education, while for any large schemes for the opening of new schools, they should look to the Government of India. Now, what has happened in my province I have no doubt has happened in other provinces and probably on a larger scale. This then is the state of things. The Local Governments are prepared, when they have money of their own, to spend it on improving existing education; but to make elementary education spread through the land by creating new schools and affording additional facilities for people to come under its influence, for that object they depend exclusively on recurring sums which the Imperial Government may be willing to place at their disposal. Now, that is the object with which I have given notice of this Resolution. Psychologists say that the strength of a belief is to be tested by the action to which it leads. If Government believe that on the voluntary system in vogue at present (we do not believe in it), if Government believe that on the present system they can extend elementary education, it is their duty continually to place recurring sums every year at the disposal of Provincial Governments. I am not losing sight of the fact that in the Budget before us a sum of £200,000 has been placed on the estimates. It is really a gratifying feature. The sums appearing in the education budgets of the two years past were almost nothing. I am very happy to congratulate the Education Minister on his being able, however slightly, to advance schemes of improvement which have been awaiting his disposal. Anything that helps to make the lot of the teacher better, to give him better pay and to give him better hopes to continue in his work should be welcome. Far be it from me to say a word against this disposition of the money. But I contend that *pari passu* with it, the Government of India ought to place sums at the disposal of Local Governments for the extension of elementary education. A battle royal, Sir, has been waging all over India during some years as to which is to be the first object, extension of elementary education or greater efficiency. I am one of those who refuse to join in this battle; both are good, because I contend, and have always contended, that Government must put their best foot forward in the one direction as well as in the other. It is a mischievous idea altogether that when the claims for improvement have been met sufficiently, it would be time to look to the needs of extension. Improvement is a thing which has no end. Educational standards are rising, new ideas are creeping into the field of education and revolutionising our methods. If we

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were to wait until we made all the schools we have model schools before we opened new schools, there is really no hope whatever of anything being done under the voluntary plan. We are, Sir, like a colony of human beings who are obliged to take up their residence in a rank primeval forest. We have small patches of cultivation here and there, but the reclaiming forces of man have to contend against a formidable and sleepless foe, the encroachments made by the luxuriant forest growth. To give rest to the spade, to make the fire cease to burn, to let the axe lie at home, is to invite the forest into your homes and seek destruction. We, Sir, I think, are in a somewhat similar predicament. We cannot afford to let this work of extension drop for even a year. Do not weary of well-doing. I ask that recurring grants should again as before be placed at the disposal of Local Governments, and I claim that next only to the war, education expenditure is that which must find acceptance by the Government. I have had a suspicion for some time that while perhaps Government agrees with us that the extension of education is also a laudable object, they do not assign to it the same place that we do. It has dawned, I grant, upon their consciousness, but it is still in the outer fringe, in the very circumference of their vision. I ask that it should be brought to the centre, so that side by side with schemes for improvement there should also be schemes for extension of education. In these days when provincial autonomy is so much talked of, a word of explanation is necessary as to why in my Resolution I invite the Imperial Government almost to ear-mark the sum, if it should be granted, to extension. I have for some time felt, Sir, that under the present dispositions of power between the Supreme and Provincial Governments, it would be necessary in certain cases for the Imperial Government when making grants to say also on what objects they desire those grants to be expended. I know by actual experience that in the provinces there is a great demand on the Director of Public Instruction for various items of improvement in existing schools. He has them piled before him; in despair for money he is on the look-out for some wind-fall, and when it comes his way he only thinks of putting it to the best use that he has marked out before him. It is, therefore, necessary that we should prevent Local Governments from falling into this temptation of putting all their monies into improvement of existing schools only. It is, therefore, necessary that the Imperial Government, if they should make the grant that I plead for, should at the same time ear-mark it for the special object of extending elementary education.

“There is one thing only, Sir, that I will mention before I sit down. You have got to tell us clearly what destiny you are preparing us for. You are our providence. What is the destiny that you intend for the people of this country? Are they always to be in a low state of vitality, without even the rudiments of education, or are they to be worked up to a state of national efficiency such as we find in the continent of Europe among all the nations there? England, Sir, lest she be outstripped in the race for national equipment, has recently been starting various schemes with the object of securing to every person born within her shores the best education for which he may be fitted. Quite recently, I read with great interest a ringing statement made by a reverend prelate of the House of Lords that if he had the time and energy he would go out stumping the country for starting what he designated a ‘thirteen to eighteen Association’, meaning thereby that it was necessary in England to prevent from running to waste the possible talents of youths between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. The compulsory age for elementary education stops at thirteen. Then a large number of boys get into what are known as blind-alley occupations. About their eighteenth year they are thrown out, for the employers would no longer employ them as juvenile wages are inappropriate after the age of 18, and then you get the streets crowded, it would appear, by a number of people who cannot get sufficient wages, and who do not know what to do with themselves. That is the problem for which that prelate pleaded for the starting of a ‘thirteen to eighteen Association’. In India, Sir, it is not a thirteen to eighteen Association we want,

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It is an Association that will look after people almost from the cradle to youth. We want plenty of associations for scouring to people the rudiments of education from the school-going age, say six right away to eighteen or twenty, until university education begins.

"Now, Sir, the worker amongst the people in India has one universal experience; he comes up against illiteracy at every turn and in a very short time. You go to the agriculturist, to the man who wants improved methods of agriculture adopted by the people, he tells you you must have universal education; you go to the sanitarian, the man who wants to teach the people to live better and take better care of their bodies, he tells you that you must have universal education; you go to the social and religious reformer, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, to the man who is interested in the development of industry, you read the evidence that has been placed before the Industrial Commission; everywhere you get nothing but the one cry 'educate the people, educate the people.' You cannot afford to let this good work lie over for good seasons, whether there is abundance or want, whether there is war or peace, this is work that the Government of India should not let rest for a single year. It is because I strongly entertain this belief that I have ventured to ask you to make this grant of 30 lakhs for the extension of primary education.

"Sir, I beg to move the Resolution that stands in my name."

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—“ Sir, my Hon'ble friend 12-34 P.M. began his speech with the admission that this subject has really been discussed before. He said that he had been cast out of the door and was now going to make a sly ingress by the window. Well, I am afraid I must bar the window against him too.

"This Resolution asks us to add to our estimates for 1917-18 the sum of £200,000 for expenditure on primary education, and asks that this sum should be a recurring grant. It is impossible for the Government of India to accept such a mandate, and it will not require long to show why. I have already explained in introducing the Financial Statement that we have undertaken heavy demands in connection with the war, and that, even with the additional taxation necessary to meet these, we are only likely to have a surplus of £130,000, which is very small indeed, having regard to the circumstances of the time and the unforeseen calls that may come upon us. The Hon'ble Member spoke about putting education next to war expenditure. Well, although we were in the strain and stress of war, we included in our Budget a special recurring grant of £200,000 towards improving the training and pay of teachers in primary and secondary schools, and as my colleague the Education Member said just now it is likely that most of this money will go to teachers in primary schools. Also as I said in my speech on the Financial Statement we hold that such an improvement in respect of teachers is an essential preliminary to further educational reform and, although present circumstances prevent our doing much in this direction, we desire by this grant to give an earnest of our intention to make more liberal provision for education when peace and prosperity return. We cannot do more than this at present, as the Hon'ble Mover would have us, and convert our small surplus into a deficit, for that is what the effect of his Resolution would be. I am not prepared to budget for a deficit in present circumstances. My Hon'ble friend must be content with the earnest we have given that we shall spend money more freely for educational purposes when the times permit.

"He has spoken eloquently of the necessity of having fresh schools; I agree with him as to the desirability of these, but what is the use of fresh schools without efficient teachers? You might as well try to raise an army without having a good supply of officers. If the thing is to be real, to be effective education and not eyewash, what is of most importance is the teacher and the quality of the teacher.

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“Another proof of our earnestness in this respect is afforded by the fact that, in spite of the war economies which have been forced on us in other directions, we have not cut down expenditure on education. I gave some figures in this connection in paragraph 30 of my last year's Financial Statement speech as regards provincial outlay, and nearly all our expenditure on education is debited to the provincial head. I will read out the figures as brought up to date for 1915-16 and the current year.

“In 1911-12, provincial expenditure on education was £1·963 million, in 1912-13, £2·490 million, in 1913-14, £3·056 million, in 1914-15, £3·182 million, in 1915-16 it was £3·001 million, while in the Revised Estimate for the current year it is £3·073 million, that is a little above the outlay of the last pre-war year.

“I have already pointed out that in 1917-18 we are making a special extra grant of £200,000, but even without that the figures would be materially in excess of what is provided in the current year's Revised Estimate. They would amount to £3·423 million, of which £3·286 million is provincial, and adding the £200,000, special allotments, we get to an increase of over £400,000 on the present year's provision.

“Then when we ask the Council to have faith in our regard for primary education in the future, we may be fairly judged by what we have done in the past, before the war, to which the Hon'ble Member has referred. Taking recurring grants I find that in the years immediately preceding the war, commencing with 1912-13 our total special grants for education amounted to 124 lakhs, and that 51 of these were earmarked for elementary education, and 10 lakhs for the education of girls, which in present circumstances will be mostly elementary; while there was a further sum of 19 lakhs unallotted to any specific purpose of which a considerable portion must have gone to primary education. In the same period we added as non-recurring grants (in round figures) 102 lakhs for primary education, 2½ lakhs for female education and 16 lakhs not specifically allotted.

“The Hon'ble Member spoke of the idea prevailing in some quarters that Provincial Governments should not be required to meet the expenditure on any expansion of education; that that was the business of the Government of India. I may say at once I cannot accept any such proposition. Education is a provincial head; and one of the main objects of giving Provincial Governments sources of growing revenue is that they may satisfy legitimate demands for expansion in the departments under their control. Every now and then, when the Government of India have been prosperous Provincial Governments have been given special assistance, and we hope to be prosperous again and to do the same. But we must not thereby be supposed to accept a definite liability for the extension of primary education as contrasted with improvement of existing schools. I say that that is a liability of Provincial Governments, and all we can promise is to help those who help themselves.

“In face of these explanations, I trust that the Resolution will not be pressed. If it is pressed, I can only oppose it.”

12-11 P. M.

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:—“Sir, it is unnecessary to make a speech in support of the motion before us. I would only like to ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member if he could not spare the amount asked for out of the surplus and some other items. I should like him to tell us why the sum of Rs. 40 lakhs which has been set apart for Delhi expenditure could not be reduced? Certainly that expenditure might well stand over for some time. No interests will be injured by the construction of Delhi being delayed, while the interests of thousands and millions of boys in this country are being injured by their being deprived of the education which it is their birthright to expect from a civilized Government.

“My Hon'ble friend has spoken of the need of more efficient teachers before schools can be extended. The attitude my friend has taken up, is, I submit,

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a wrong one. The cry for efficient teachers before schools is of very recent growth and I fear, it is being carried too far. Schools have existed and worked with the most beneficent results before the special training of teachers was thought of. If the Government of India would recognise the imperative need of bringing the blessing of education home to the school-going population, they would use the instruments that are available, and that would lead to such an expansion of education in a few years that all lovers of the country will be gratified. But to wait for the training of teachers, and to make their absence an excuse for delaying the extension of education to the people is, I submit, an entirely wrong policy. I do not ask my Hon'ble friend the Finance Member to cut down any new item of war expenditure, but I should like him to tell us why the 40 lakhs provided for Delhi expenditure in the Budget should not have largely been given for education."

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer:—"I can answer the Hon'ble Member's question in a very few words, and I think he will be the more satisfied with my reply, because some two years ago he professed himself an ardent advocate of the policy of New Delhi. We have cut down the expenditure on Delhi to the full extent we can do as without absolute waste. If we were to cut down further, we should have to disband establishments and let existing material rot and waste. I can assure the Hon'ble Member that we have not put any money into New Delhi that is not simply required to keep the project alive if I may say so, as a going concern." 12-43 P.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri:—"Sir, I have nothing to say except that I would have been much more gratified if the Hon'ble the Finance Member was able to tell us that the Government of India have on hand some scheme for the extension of elementary education and not merely that it is a burden on the Provincial Governments which are not over-provided with monies as the Finance Minister well knows. His idea is to throw the responsibilities on shoulders that cannot bear them and refuse to shoulder the responsibilities which the Government of India can alone bear. A large programme has to be planned. Until that programme is planned by the Government of India and funds are promised to the Provincial Governments, it is, I think, unjust, Sir, to expect them to finance large schemes of expansion. I say that from experience, as I said of the most favourable province in India, that hitherto the Government of Madras found themselves unable to finance any extension scheme. I do not of course know the secrets of budget-making, but it strikes me that, with a large sum at their disposal, the Government of India might, in the beginning, have made provision for some sums on behalf of extension. The rules do not require that I should suggest sources from which the Finance Minister should abstract the revenue that I ask on behalf of this item. It will be a very hazardous thing for me to do so, for I know he can defend every item in his Budget as though it was the most sacred item. But there is a surplus which might be touched. I venture to say this with the greatest possible hesitation and with the greatest timidity of spirit, but the surplus, I think, is always meant for some uses. I have known surpluses being spent at the last moment on objects that the Finance Minister specially favours. Of course we non-officials who are outside the sphere do not know how really some items find more and more money, while other important items shrink from year to year. If we had a glance at these things from the inside in good time, we might be able to suggest suitable plans which the Finance Minister will not be able to put aside in a cavalier spirit. I have known in Madras for example when small demands, for thousands or tens of thousands, were rejected by the Finance Minister, schemes were suddenly brought forward claiming 4 and 5 lakhs at a time. In my own experience in the sphere of education itself some years ago we found suddenly in a Budget of a certain year a sum of 4 lakhs provided. For what? For starting some Government secondary 12-44 P.M.

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schools. We were taken by surprise and were at a loss how 4 lakhs could all of a sudden have been found. It looked like jugglery. Then we found that a scheme of Government secondary schools had been in incubation for some time in the Province, that it had been decided upon; the Government were compelled to find the amount, and 4 lakhs were found. But luckily owing to missionary influence in England, the scheme fell through. But whatever it was, that gives a proof that if it occurred to Government to find monies for objects that they want, they would somehow or other find it. When the Finance Minister and the Government of which he is the financial adviser resolve to find money for a good object, he will never be at a loss. Where there is a will there is always a way."

The motion was put and negatived.

12-50 P.M.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes :—"Sir, I beg to introduce the following heads of the Financial Statement for 1917-18 :—

<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
Salt.	Salt.
Excise.	Excise.
Posts and Telegraphs.	Customs.
Stationery and Printing.	Posts and Telegraphs.
State Railways.	Stationery and Printing.
Subsidised Companies.	Protective Works, Railways.
	Subsidised Companies.
	Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure.
	Capital outlay on State Railways.

"As has been the practice in former years, I will ask my Hon'ble friend the President of the Railway Board to offer some remarks on the subject of railways.

"With regard to the head of Posts and Telegraphs, I do not propose to trouble the Council with figures relating to receipts and expenditure, for these figures have already been laid before them by my Hon'ble Colleague, but I think that it may interest the Council to hear a few words concerning the activities of the Post and Telegraph Department in connection with the war. Few of us, I imagine, have any accurate conception of the extent of those activities, and of the strain which has been placed upon our Post and Telegraph Department.

"Some idea with regard to the Post Office is afforded by the fact that since August 1914, 26 supervising officers, 700 postmasters, inspectors and clerks and about the same number of menials have been sent from India for employment with the various Expeditionary Forces. As was to be expected, many of these men have now returned to India, but the total Postal staff at present with the forces consists of 20 supervising officers, 541 postmasters, inspectors and clerks and 524 menials, while the total number of field post offices is no less than 112. By far the heaviest part of this work has had to be done in Mesopotamia under the most trying difficulties and, as an instance of the magnitude of the postal traffic there, it may be mentioned that about 100,000 parcels are handled monthly at Basrah. Apart from the actual work in the various fields, the sorting of the mails in India for the troops at the front involves a vast amount of labour, as at the two Indian bases, Bombay and Karachi, bags are prepared for every unit with each force. Over and above this, special arrangements have had to be introduced at Bombay for the disposal of letters and parcels for officers and soldiers invalided to India from the field, necessitating the maintenance of a card index for each unit showing the whereabouts of each individual.

"The Telegraph Branch has also been put to a severe test in supplying the men and stores required for the field telegraph parties. Large numbers of men have been deputed for telegraph service in Mesopotamia, and it has been extremely difficult at times to meet all the demands which have been

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received from that theatre of war. At present there are roughly 1,200 members of the Engineering and 600 of the Traffic staff employed there. Similarly, in connection with the campaign in East Africa, about 650 engineering and 125 traffic men have been deputed. In addition wireless operators have been lent for duty on transports, many officials have been lent to the Indo-European Telegraph Department to assist in maintaining the essential link between Mesopotamia and India, while work has been carried out by departmental agency in Seistan and various parts of Arabia.

“Taking the Post and Telegraph Department as a whole about 4,000 officials of all classes are on field service, and many of them have been mentioned in despatches, while three have been awarded the honour of C.I.B. for military work and one Indian subordinate, I am glad to say, has received the D. U. M.

“As regards stores the value of the issues for war purposes made this year is already over Rs. 15½ lakhs. The telegraph workshops have been kept very fully employed on the manufacture of munitions, and there is reason to believe that the output has been very satisfactory.

“Telegraph traffic has continued to expand rapidly, and the latest figures available show an increase of 10 per cent. over those for the corresponding period of last year which themselves were very considerably in excess of the pre-war figures. In particular, the volume of State traffic, frequently in code and cipher, has been very great. This is at all times troublesome to deal with expeditiously and accurately, as such messages have to be collated, but very few complaints have been received. The strain on the staff of operators became so heavy in the autumn that it was found necessary to raise the charge for ordinary inland telegrams from 6 to 8 annas in order to decrease the volume of traffic. As the Director General has stated in his Annual Report, ‘Notwithstanding the heavy demands for men for the various fields of military operations and the extra responsibilities imposed on the Department on account of Censorship and other exigencies of war, as well as the abnormal expansion of Government and Press telegraph traffic, the business of the Post and Telegraph Department has proceeded just as smoothly and efficiently as in normal times. To this result the staff of every rank contributed, and their loyalty, zeal and devotion to duty were never more conspicuous than in this year of stress.’

“I come to the next head, that of Salt, one of the principal anxieties which the Government of India have felt during the current year has been the abnormal rise in prices, more particularly in the Punjab and certain other parts of Northern India. This rise in prices has been mainly due to the curtailment of normal imports from the United Kingdom and other countries occasioned by the shortage of tonnage, which has brought about abnormal demands on the salt lakes of Rajputana, and the salt mines of the Punjab. At the same time, there has also, undoubtedly, been a great deal of speculation which has helped to raise prices to an unjustifiable level. Steps have been taken by the Government of India and the Government of the Punjab to deal with the position as far as possible. In the Punjab, depôts have been opened by the local authorities under the orders of the Punjab Government with the object of distributing salt at reasonable prices to the consumer, preference at the same time being given by the Salt Department to indents made by these local authorities over indents made by the general public. It is hoped that this measure may materially alleviate the position so far as the poorer consumers are concerned. I am glad to notice that there has already been a considerable drop in salt prices in the Punjab. The Government of India have also recently adopted measures with the object of largely increasing the output of the Mayo Mine at Khewra, which is the chief source of supply in the Punjab by the opening up of new workings and introduction of mechanical haulage to replace manual labour. It will probably not be possible until the end of the war to carry out in their entirety the measures above referred to for increasing the output of the Mayo Mine as the necessary

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machinery has to be obtained from home, and it is not at present procurable there. The Government of India have, however, sanctioned the immediate installation in the present workings of additional plant which it is hoped will be procurable in this country, and it is expected that this will result in a very considerable increase in the output within the course of the next few months. The present position at the Rajputana Salt Sources as regards future stocks of salt is, also, I am sorry to say, not without anxiety as the late summer rains of 1916 have filled up the salt lake and have thereby put off the extraction of salt by some two months, and it is also feared that it will be difficult to secure a sufficient supply of labour for extraction owing to the demand for field labour. In this case, however, as in the case of the Punjab Salt Mines, the Government are doing all that is possible to secure the maximum output.

“As regards the Customs and Excise estimates, I do not wish to add anything to the remarks made by my Hon'ble Colleague the Finance Member in introducing the Financial Statement. In spite of increasing restrictions on trade designed either to guard against the enemy getting articles of which he is in need or to conserve supplies to meet the ever-growing needs of the Indian Army and of the Home Government or, finally, to economise tonnage, I think it can certainly be said that trade conditions generally in the year which is now ending have been unexpectedly good. We have had of course our special problems. I may refer, for instance, to the difficulties which we have had to deal with in connection with the supply of coal. We have had also to embark upon new activities in the direction of Government control of certain trades. For instance, we have had to control the supply of tanned kips to the War Office; we have had to restrict the export of raw hides and skins, and we have had to take measures involving a direct interference with trade in the matter of the supply of jute, shellac, mica, wolfram and certain other commodities. Nevertheless, as I have said, trade conditions generally in the past year have been more favourable, I think, than any one could have expected. I fear it is equally true, however, that we have now to face a period of greater anxiety than we have experienced in the current year. The freight position is likely to be more and more difficult, and the necessity of economising tonnage to the greatest possible extent is one of supreme importance. The Home Government have found it necessary recently to take the most stringent steps to prohibit the import of all articles into the United Kingdom that are not absolutely necessary, while the export of many articles from the United Kingdom which India normally consumes, has been similarly curtailed. These steps must, of course, re-act directly on our trade. Restrictions, I need not assure you, Sir, are not imposed unless and until they are necessary for the vital interests of the Empire, that is to say, in the interests of us all. Those concerned in commerce and trade have accepted in an ungrudging spirit the restrictions which in the past have been found necessary, and we shall not look in vain for the same spirit in the future. We must and we shall stand together to bear our share of the burdens of the war, and any measures which are essential for the successful prosecution of the war will in the future, as in the past be accepted without demur.”

1-3 P. M.

The Hon'ble Sir Robert Gillan:—“Sir, when I spoke in the Budget debate last year, I said there was one word which recurred on every page and in every paragraph of current railway, history and that word was 'war'. The same is true of the Chapter which I have now to add.

“About the figures of railway revenue and expenditure I need say little. Inevitably—and, as the Hon'ble the Finance Member told us, this is a matter not merely of money but of materials—our capital expenditure has been and must continue to be very severely restricted. The same thing is true in the revenue account of renewals. It is interesting to notice, I think, that in the current year it is anticipated now that railways will earn 6 crores of rupees more than was originally estimated, and they will do this without adding to their working expenses. The result is that the percentage of net working profit to

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capital outlay comes up to the very high figure of 5·69. Next year it is lower, because the estimate is for some reduction in receipts and increase in expenditure, but it is still 5·47. These results are abnormal, both because railways have been carrying a heavy traffic which used to go by sea, and because the expenditure has been restricted. With the restoration of peace conditions will change again. We cannot count on keeping all the new traffic and most of the expenditure has not been avoided but postponed. None the less, at a time like this, the results are very welcome. I should like to think also that the figures indicate an expansion of the internal trade of India; and, after making all allowances for the revenue derived from the diversion of traffic from the sea to railways, I am inclined to think they do.

“To come to our special war activities. Last year I told the Council that we had successfully begun the manufacture of munitions. That manufacture during the current year has greatly extended and has branched out in many directions. We have been concerned also with the construction of military railways and with the supply to them in Mesopotamia, East Africa and on the frontier of personnel and materials. The recruiting organisation alone for the supply to them of skilled and unskilled labour has developed into a very large business with ramifications all over India and in fact outside of India.

“Then we have had to do with the Inland Water Transport in Mesopotamia. This may seem rather curious, but it was desired to carry out a great deal of constructional and re-erection work in India for river-craft. For that purpose an Indian Rivercraft Board was constituted in Calcutta, composed of representatives of shipping firms whose services have to be cordially acknowledged. Rivercraft Committees were set up in Karachi, Bombay, Colombo, Madras and Singapore, and a large shipbuilding yard constructed at Karachi under the control of the Indian Rivercraft Board. With these activities, in view of their association with engineering firms, it was natural that the Railway Board should be connected and the supply of personnel and stores for Inland water Transport to which this connection led, has been a very big business. Thus our war responsibilities have during the past year increased very greatly, and it was found necessary in order to deal with them to set up a special War Branch in the Railway Board's office.

“These have been our additional responsibilities, but in their ordinary working also railways have experienced grave anxieties. A year ago I spoke of the congestion which had been caused by the transfer to railways of sea traffic, and, in view of our experience at that time, we thought it would be well to consider in advance the possibilities of the next busy season. For this purpose a Conference was held in July in Calcutta under the presidency of our Hon'ble Member, and the outlook was then considered both from the commercial and the railway point of view. I think that Conference did much good both by co-ordinating information and clearing the air. But in times like the present all forecasts are apt to be upset. One *desideratum* clearly was that before the busy season began all consumers of coal should lay in stocks so that coal should not interfere with the movements of other traffic, and for this purpose special contracts were entered into by railways by which they might accumulate large stocks. In the first place, however, plentiful rains, good crops and malaria led to scarcity of labour in the coal fields. The raisings in November were very much below what they ought to have been. Then in December, as a result of the strike of miners in Australia, because it was this far off disturbance that affected us an abnormal demand arose for Admiralty coal, and this demand no one in India but the railways could meet. The result was that railways started the busy season with depleted instead of with very large stocks, and for some time we have been face to face with a very difficult position. A Committee was however established in Calcutta for the regulation of coal supplies. On the railway side we have done our best to make full use of our facilities and stock, and we do hope that the turn of the tide has come.

“Another outstanding difficulty in railway operations at the present time is that which I have already mentioned, the difficulty of getting materials. It is

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not a matter of working up to any ordinary standard, but really of keeping our stock and our engines in commission. The want of a few tubes may cripple an engine which is otherwise in perfect working order, and, unfortunately, it is the indispensable things which are almost unprocurable. We have had to devise, to extemporise, and in every possible way to economise, and it is this absolute need of economy which has led to the recent restrictions in passenger services. I have seen a certain amount of criticism of this step in the press. Inconveniences no doubt have resulted to the travelling public and naturally there are grumbings. But the step is inevitable, the inconvenience is an insurance—I am going to use rather a big word, but it is not, I think, too big a word—against a disaster.

“I have given two outstanding examples of our difficulties, Sir, but there are many others which occur from day to day in railway working, and the staffs of our railways have been depleted; they have given up many of their best men to what railways like every one else have to put in the forefront of requirements, that is war needs. It is not only the men who have borne the burden and heat of the day in special work in foreign countries that we have to remember, but the officers and the rank and file who under abnormally difficult conditions have kept the ordinary railway machinery running. To all of them a tribute is due for devotion to duty and for work well done.”

1-10 P.M. **The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock** to introduce the following heads of the Financial Statement for 1917-18:—

<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
Registration.	Registration.
Jails.	General Administration.
Police.	Courts of Law.
Medical.	Jails.
	Police.
	Medical.

“Sir, in introducing the various heads of the Budget with which the Home Department is concerned. I have as usual to deal with services which, though of the greatest importance to the community, do not in their purely financial aspect usually evoke much comment or criticism. They are services in regard to which it is practically impossible to curtail expenditure. Indeed in their case it is practically impossible to prevent expenditure increasing. War or no war, the police and the law courts have to go on with their work, documents have to be registered, prisons have to receive criminals, hospitals to remain open for patients, and the general administration to be carried on with the added strain of the war. All that can be ensured is that, while the war is on, none but the most urgent increases should be allowed, and all general schemes for improvement and development have to be postponed altogether, or where this is not possible, introduced by the most gradual methods. I do not think the Council needs any assurance, but, on my own behalf, I can assure the Council that my Hon'ble Colleague the Finance Member is a very vigilant custodian of the public purse, and that no schemes involving any increase of expenditure can hope to win his consent, unless their urgency can be demonstrated in the most convincing way. The details regarding marked increase under the various heads with which I have to deal are explained in the Financial Statement, and I do not propose therefore to take up the time of the Council with any analysis of figures and tables, or with explanations of this or that increase in expenditure.

“I prefer to confine myself to more general observations regarding the departments which I have the honour to administer. The war has had its effects every where, in some cases it has exercised its silent pressure, in others its effects have been more clearly manifest. The pressure of business has in many cases necessitated extra staff in our offices, and every Department has had to bear its share and play its part.

“The greatest strain of all has fallen upon the Medical Department, a strain which under the able control and direction of Surgeon General Sir

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Pardey Lukis has been borne in the most remarkable way. I take this opportunity of offering my testimony to the great debt which India generally, and the Home Department in particular, owes to the very able direction by the Hon'ble Sir Pardey Lukis of the Medical Department and the untiring labours that he has given to the welfare of his profession and those whom his profession most benefits. In order to meet the demands of the military authorities in connection with the war, 316 Indian Medical Service officers in civil employ, 207 Military Assistant Surgeons, 122 Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons and 629 Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been surrendered for military duty by the Local Governments. In addition to these, 259 private practitioners and 111 Civil Assistant Surgeons have been granted temporary commissions in the Indian Medical Service for the purpose of the war. Their services have been of very great value in supplementing the medical resources of the Army. This has thrown a great strain on the resources of the Local Governments who have met the difficulties, as far as possible, in the following way :—

- A.—By doubling up civil charges, *i.e.*, by placing the Civil Surgeon of one station in visiting charge of another.
- B.—By placing medical officers in military employ in collateral charge as Civil Surgeons.
- C.—By the employment of medical missionaries and other independent practitioners.
- D.—By the re-employment of retired medical officers and medical subordinates.
- E.—By replacing medical officers in charge of the big Central Jails by laymen such as members of the Indian Civil Service and Police.
- F.—By the promotion of military and civil Assistant Surgeons to the charge of civil surgeoncies.

In surrendering officers from civil employ for military duty, Local Governments have been very careful to make as small demands as possible upon the professorial staff of the various medical colleges so as to interfere as little as possible with the progress of medical education.

“Turning now to Jails, our jails have not escaped the effect of the pressure, for while in some parts of India circumstances connected with the war have brought about congestion in the jail population, the war has simultaneously enabled us to relieve the congestion in a very pleasing way. Some thousands of prisoners, those convicted of less heinous crimes or crimes involving less moral depravity have availed themselves of the opportunity for service in special labour corps in Mesopotamia. Those who have volunteered for this service and have been found suitable have been receiving reasonable wages, sufficient to permit of their allocating some portion to the support of their families and of themselves working as members of free corps and giving their service directly to the war. The sentences of these men have been suspended, and if they work well and receive good conduct, as I hope will be the case with the majority, when the campaign is over and they are set free, they have the promise of remission of their sentences. Their self-respect will have been restored to them and they should have earned enough to make a fresh start in an honest livelihood without the immediate pressure of want which may sometimes drive men back again to crime before they have had full opportunity for rehabilitating themselves.

“The efforts of the various Local Governments to reclaim the criminal tribes have often been made known to this Council, and even in this year some provision is being made in the Punjab for the inauguration of a large scheme for the regeneration and profitable employment of the criminal tribes in that province. Their services are also being enlisted for the manufacture of articles required for the war.

“I will now turn to the Police. Five years ago when I first came to this Council I had to meet a Resolution from my Hon'ble friend Mr. Basu, advocating the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the administration of the Police. I indicated in my reply what great allowances had to be made for the difficulties and troubles which the Police had to undergo in the execution of their duty, for their many temptations, for their scanty pay and for the fact that the reforms advocated by the Police Commission must necessarily be slow in operation. I counselled patience and I expressed my strong hope that

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under the gradual effect of the measures taken and about to be taken, under the watchful supervision of the Local Governments, under the untiring efforts of the many honourable and hardworking officers, European and Indian, under whom they serve, the improvement and reformation of the Police would steadily come about. My Hon'ble friend was sufficiently convinced to withdraw his Resolution, and I now urge upon the Council that the hopes that I had expressed, and the patience that I then counselled, have been fully justified.

"During my term of office the total annual expenditure on the police for the whole of India has increased by no less than a million sterling. I make no apology for this increase. I am proud of it. It is money well spent, and it is money for which good value has been received. By far the greater portion of it has been spent on improving the pay and grading of the humble constable and head constable, and that improvement has not yet finished. I claim for that force, a force of 200,000 in round numbers, that the cases of misconduct are surprisingly few and that such cases have been growing fewer and fewer. In a force of that size there must be many weaker vessels and many black sheep, but, as each year goes by, the tribute which the Courts pay to the honesty with which investigations are carried out is becoming greater and more pronounced. It is unreasonable to expect that every villager put into a police uniform will at once be transformed into a courteous servant of the public. But I will point to one fact, Sir, to show that the exactions commonly attributed to the lower police are greatly exaggerated. If the illicit income which these men made were of great importance and magnitude, you would not find that the grant of a rupee or two extra per month in salary would make all the difference between short and full recruitment and few and frequent resignations. It has been found in those provinces from which the Army draws most of its recruits that an increase in the emoluments of the troops necessitates a corresponding, or nearly corresponding increase, in the emoluments of the police if recruitment is to be maintained at its proper level and resignations are to be checked. I think every one of us knows that the Indian sepoy has very few or no opportunities of adding to his lawful emoluments by illicit means, and if the police really made any substantial income by such means, the small increase made to the emoluments of the sepoy would not draw men away from the police service.

"I have often wondered, Sir, why the Press and the Indian public continue so persistently to shower abuse upon their countrymen who don the uniform of the police. If it were beyond the power of India to produce an honest and hard-working police force, what hope would there be for the country? I do not take this gloomy view. In the Indian Police force India has a body of men of whom it should be proud. They have never gone on strikes, they have never become insubordinate, they have continued to do their work uncomplainingly in all weathers and through every stress, and have shown an example of patience, endurance and loyalty which should excite envy rather than reproach. Nor, Sir, will I exclude from my category of commendation the many officers and men of the Criminal Investigation Department, European and Indian, who have done their duty faithfully and well, and I should like to pay a tribute to the manner in which the head of that Department, my friend Sir Charles Cleveland, has guided the organisation which he so ably controls. India does not know, the public do not recognise, the services which the Criminal Investigation Department have performed in tracing out, checking and controlling the activities of the rebels, spies and revolutionaries which must be found among a population so vast as that of the Indian continent. I have never been one of those who desired to throw doubt upon the manhood and virility of Bengal. If I ever had any doubt on that score, it would have been dispelled by the example of those many fine officers of the Criminal Investigation Department, all of the Bengali race, who have sacrificed their lives in the cause of duty. If the young men of Bengal desire any inspiration it is from their police officers and not from the perverted anarchists from whom they should draw it. It is the murdered officers and not conspirator nor cowardly assassins who are best fitted to wear the martyr's crown.

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"Sir, I am now at the end of my term of office, and perhaps you and the Council will allow me some further indulgence upon this occasion. It has been my lot to be associated with measures like the amendment of the law of Conspiracy and the Defence of India Act. I do not regret for a moment the part that has fallen upon me to play in the passing of those laws. There was a stern necessity for them. I regret that that necessity existed, but otherwise, I do not regret that I had to do my duty in respect of those laws. They are at best measures designed to repress crime, and it stands to reason that any one concerned with the Government of India would take far more pleasure in laws of constructive beneficence than in laws of repression. It is a source of great regret to me that I have not been able to carry through other measures of a beneficent constructive nature. As the Council is aware I have attempted to pass through a measure for the better protection of minors, and that measure had received wide-spread approval as a whole, but when the subject began to be examined in the details, so many points of acute controversy were produced that it was considered impossible to go on with it during the war. Similarly, in my second year of office, I visited the Andamans Settlement and formed great hopes that with the aid of a Jail Commission the Government of India might be able to take a great step forward towards the improvement of its penal system and the better reclamation of its criminals. The war has again intervened, but I trust that these reforms may after all not be long delayed. There were other matters of very general interest which I had hoped to push through during my term of office. One of these is a measure to deal with Charitable and Religious Endowments upon which the Home Department held a Conference at Delhi shortly before the outbreak of the war. Another measure with which I had been anxious to deal was the question of usury, on which I hoped we might be able to devise something to protect the poor and ignorant from the avarice of the usurer.

"All these hopes for securing great and wide-reaching benefits for the people of India have been frustrated temporarily by the war. But after all it matters little, if a Bill is a good one, by whom it is got through; and if circumstances rendered it impossible for me to enjoy the fruition of those schemes, it will still ever be a source of pride and satisfaction to me if I have been able, however so little, to push those schemes a little further on towards realisation.

"Sir, I should like before sitting down to express in this Council my thanks to the many officers who have assisted me in the conduct of the affairs of the Home Department, particularly the Secretaries without whose loyal support I could have done nothing; and in that term I include all those who assisted them in their work, and especially I would like to bear testimony to the valuable work and assistance which a Member of Government receives from the ministerial and clerical establishments whose continual and loyal exertions and labours are known to him though they may not shine so manifestly before the general public."

The Council then adjourned to Monday, the 12th March.

A. P. MUDDIMAN,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Legislative Department.

DELHI :

The 15th March, 1917.

APPENDIX A.

[*Referred to in answer to Question No. 1.*]

(a) and (b)—The Imperial Government does not subsidise any Indian or Anglo-Indian newspapers or periodicals, but merely takes such number of copies as are required for Departmental purposes.

In 1911, the following newspapers were subsidised by the Local Governments named :—

	Copies.	Amount of subsidy per annum.
		R
Bombay	" Jagad Vritta " 10,000	18,000
Bengal	" Sulav Samachar " 25,000	62,000
United Provinces	" Independent " 800	9,000
Eastern Bengal and Assam	" Biswa Barta " 11,000	32,000

The subsidies in the last three cases were withdrawn after a year and have not been renewed. The period for which a subsidy was sanctioned in the case of the " Jagad Vritta " has not yet expired.

APPENDIX B.

[Referred to in answer to Question No. 5.]

Statement showing railway schemes in Bengal which are under consideration.

Name of railway.	Gauge.	Length.	Estimated cost.	REMARKS.
(a) WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE FINANCED FROM PROGRAMME FUNDS.				
<i>Assam-Bengal.</i>				
Comilla-Srimundi	3' 3½"	84·00	22·50	
Golakganj-Kumargram	3' 3½"	38·00	23·00	
Chittagong-Akyab	3' 3½"	210·00	303·00	
<i>Bengal-Nagpur.</i>				
Vishnupur-Calcutta Chord	5' 6"	76·40	181·00	
<i>Eastern Bengal.</i>				
Ishurdi-Rampur Boalia Nachoul	5' 6"	63·00	87·00	
Santahar-Dinajpur	5' 6"	60·00	80·00	
Netrokona-Mohuagunge	3' 3½"	17·00	14·59	
Rayaganj-Eklakhi	3' 3½"	31·00	40·00	
Faridpur-Jessore	5' 6"	58·00	77·25	
Khulua-Dum Dum chord	5' 6"	80·00	0·00	
Serajganj-Mymensingh	3' 3½"	58·00	60·00	
<i>East Indian.</i>				
Hoghly Bridge connection	5' 6"	8·00	112·82	
Sainthia-Berhampur Bhairamara	5' 6"	94·00	119·00	
Contai Road-Contai	2' 6"	34	12·78	
Krishnagar-Jalangi	2' 6"	55	80·98	
(b) WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE FINANCED BY BRANCH LINE COMPANIES.				
Ishurdi-Sadhganj	5' 6"	46	54·16	
Mymensingh-Jamalpur Baksiganj	3' 3½"	71	66·14	
Jessore-Jhenidah Extensions	2' 6"	120	108·16	
Sainthia-Naya Dumka	2' 6"	41	32·00	
Jangi-Gopalpur Gopalpur-Jamalpur	3' 3½"	90	54·00	

APPENDIX C.

[*Referred to in answer to Question No. 7.*]

Rules.

Free passage is admissible in the following circumstances :—

- (i) To families of Indian officers and soldiers serving in Burma or at Aden, provided they were borne on the authorised married establishment of the unit, are natives of India proper and were originally conveyed to Burma or Aden at the public expense, when accompanying their husbands discharged on pension or on reduction of establishment or as physically unfit for further service unless their unfitness was caused by their own imprudence. By sea only between Rangoon and Calcutta or Madras, or between Aden and Bombay or Karachi.
- (ii) To widows and children of all Indian ranks who may die while serving in Burma or at Aden or at any station beyond India proper at which troops on the Indian establishment are located, provided the widow accompanied the deceased from India to such station at the public expense. By sea and rail only to their intended place of residence in India.
- (iii) To families of those dying while on field, foreign or other detached service not covered by (ii). By sea, river, canal and rail.