

*Saturday,
9th March, 1918*

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

Vol. LVI

April 1917 - March 1918

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 9th March, 1918.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble SIR GEORGE LOWNDES, K.O.S.I., K.C., *Vice-President, presiding,*
and 58 Members, of whom 52 were Additional Members.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1918-19.

SECOND STAGE.

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—"I beg to open the second
stage of the discussion on the Financial Statement."

**RESOLUTION RE INCREASED EXPENDITURE FOR
TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma :—"Sir, I beg to 11-5 A.M.
move the Resolution which stands in my name :

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council an increase in the
recurring appropriation from Imperial revenue of 30 lakhs towards primary education by
another 30 lakhs for expenditure from the year 1918-19 onwards on the development of educa-
tion in—

- (a) Mechanical, electrical and sanitary engineering.
- (b) Metallurgy.
- (c) Mining.
- (d) Forestry.
- (e) Agriculture.

[*Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma.*] [9TH MARCH, 1918.]

"Sir, the subject of this Resolution has been discussed to a large extent when the Public Services Commission Report resolutions were being considered on previous occasions, and yesterday also there was a general expression of opinion that the Government ought to grant larger sums towards the development of education in India. Particular stress has not been laid upon aid to the branches which I seek to see developed, and I therefore propose to make a very few brief remarks in connection with that aspect of the question. I do not think any very lengthy remarks are needed to commend the need of development or money therefor to the Council. The needs of the higher services, as well as the general economic condition of the country, require improvement in education in the branches which I have included in the Resolution. The Public Services Commissioners in their report have these observations on this point. On Agriculture they say:—

'Practical agricultural experience, however, is not demanded of candidates for appointment to the highest posts on the research and teaching sides of the department. In these branches, the chief requisite is a good science qualification supplemented by a term of post-graduate training in agricultural research. We accordingly recommend that facilities for such training be developed in India, and that the standard be brought up to the level of the best equipped agricultural institutions of Europe and America. The training classes should be established at Pusa, such additions being made to the staff of the institution as may be necessary for the purpose.'

"With regard to Forests this is what they say:—

'Direct recruitment should be made to the Imperial branch in India; with this object, a course of training up to the highest European standard should be instituted at Dehra Dun.'

"In regard to Geological survey the following statement is made:—

'A School of Geology should be developed in India which will rank with similar institutions in Great Britain. It is desirable that at one centre at least in India advanced study of this subject should be possible.'

"In regard to Mining the following recommendation is made:—

'Facilities for instruction in mining should be developed in India, and every effort should be made to utilise the services of Indian inspectors. One reason for urging this is, that there is a considerable Indian element among mining managers.'

"Then with regard to civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering and kindred branches they say generally:—

'With regard to the needs of the Public Works Department we are satisfied that the training now given in each of the four colleges is adequate to the needs of the higher branches of the public service.'

"But the evidence suggests improvements in mechanical and electrical and sanitary engineering.

"With regard to the locomotive and other departments they say that:—

'Arrangements should also be provided by which statutory natives of India with suitable educational qualifications would be able to serve as apprentice pupils in the shops and running sheds of the State railways, and so to reach the standard of professional training prescribed for direct recruitment.'

"With regard to Metallurgy, the report of the Committee on Technical Education, which sat more than 14 or 15 years ago, recommended a school for metal working, but nothing seems to have come of that recommendation. There is no doubt, therefore, that from the point of view of equipping educational institutions and workshops for the recruitment of the higher branches of the Indian Services, there is ample justification for the expenditure of the money I ask for. But, Sir, it may be said that the recommendations of the Public Services Commission are under consideration and that, therefore, it is a little premature to consider this subject. And with regard to the Industrial branch, it may be said perhaps that the Industrial Commission is sitting and will submit its report about April, and that, consequently, we might wait till that report is received. My answer to these two objections would

[9TH MARCH, 1918.] [Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma.]

be that, with regard to the Public Services Commission's Report, the matter has been already under investigation for about two years, and all that I say, is that some beginning should be made in the current year towards the solution of this problem. With regard to the Industrial Commission's Report, what I would say is, that the report will be received in June, and we are already late in making the necessary improvements to enable us to compete with foreign countries in the matter of industries. The recent commercial returns show how India has been swamped with foreign goods. So, apart from the question of recruitment for the Public Services, I would strongly urge upon the Government the need for the development of education in the branches which I have mentioned.

"Sanitary Engineering is one of the subjects which has to be taken up in India, and I hope that special attention will be paid to it.

"The recommendations of the Universities' Commission, with regard to the London University, show that they have there an Imperial College of Science and Technology in Metallurgy, Mining, and in Civil and Mechanical Engineering, and that it was hoped to secure professors with the highest qualifications at a salary of £1,000, and that £500 was sufficient for Readers. Therefore, the expenditure need not be very prohibitive in the matter of equipping Indian colleges, and besides, we already have in this country institutions in Agriculture, in Forestry, in Mining and in Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering at Roorkee, Sibpur, Poona and Madras. All that is needed, is to further equip them with superior professorial staff and the necessary scientific appliances.

"So far as to the need and the cost. Then the question is, whether I am right in asking for a grant from the Imperial Revenues, especially in view of the possibility of the decentralisation of Provincial finance. My answer is, Sir, that these needs that I am asking to be served are chiefly for the higher Indian services, the Imperial services so to speak, and also for the general economic development of the country in which the whole of India is interested, towards equipping railways, larger irrigation works, and so on; and, consequently, there is justification for the appropriation of Imperial Revenues, towards the objects in respect of which support is sought. Of course, if any of these should fall within the exclusive category of Provincial finance, certainly, adjustments may be made, but I do not think that this step should be deferred, or can be deferred, until the other problem is fully solved.

"Then the question may be asked whether the grant can be utilised during the current year. If a brand new institution or brand new institutions had to be started, there would be some difficulty; but we have our own institutions which can be developed, and it ought not to be very difficult to import old men—men who are too old for fighting—into India for the purpose of filling the professorial appointments. So there may be no difficulty in getting the required professors; the equipment is there to a certain extent, and it ought not to be difficult, therefore, to utilise the grant during the year.

"Then the more important question would be whether there is any possibility of inducing the Government in the state of the Imperial finances this year to make any grant with regard to that subject. Sir, much has been said yesterday already. There has been a growth of nearly £26 millions in the general revenue since the year 1913-14. But have the general needs of the country been served by even a very, very small percentage of the excess? That is the first point I would like to put to the Council. The second is that there are certain increases and certain allotments suggested which might await happier times; under the discharge of debt, Indian bonds and Railway bonds, an expenditure of £3.5 millions is proposed, a loan of 2.7 millions is to be discharged, which might be included in the new loan. Then there is a debt of .8 millions to the Gwalior State, but if His Highness the Maharaja of Scindia is not very particular on insisting upon repayment, it might be postponed. I am only suggesting possibilities. I will not say any of them or all of them are particularly feasible.

[*Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma; Sir William Meyer.*] [9TH MARCH, 1918.]

"Then there is railway development for which another million is provided. I do not say that that should be curtailed; but it is just possible that all the money may not be expended during the current year. Then the elasticity is so great and has been proved to be so great that it ought not to be difficult to find £200,000 for the expenditure that I seek in connection with this department.

"Then between the acceptance of this by the Government and their making any provision, there would be a long time, and I hope, therefore, that the figures can be so adjusted or will be capable of being so adjusted on later information as to make it possible for the Government to accept this Resolution."

11-15 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—"I regard the Resolution with very considerable sympathy, but I shall presently explain why I am not able to accept it in this form. The Resolution says :—

'This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council an increase in the recurring appropriation from Imperial revenue of 30 lakhs towards primary education by another 30 lakhs for expenditure from the year 1918-19 onwards on the development of education in :—

- (a) Mechanical, electrical and sanitary engineering,
- (b) Metallurgy,
- (c) Mining,
- (d) Forestry,
- (e) Agriculture.'

"To put it briefly, on technical education, including Forestry and Agriculture. I must again refer to what I said yesterday in regard to our financial position. It is quite true that we budget for a surplus of about £2½ million. It may be—I hope it will be—that that surplus will prove to be actually exceeded in the year that lies before us. But, as I tried to emphasize in my speech on the 1st of March, we want all this money for the demands on our Ways and Means resources arising out of the war. I gave a sketch of these demands in my speech, and I had to say that, on the balance sheet I was able to strike, we had not been able to make specific provision for the Secretary of State's Council drawings which are so important for India's external trade; that we must meet these in some way or other, and that, therefore, even if we get windfalls, it is necessary to preserve them.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Sarma has made some rather ingenious remarks as to putting off paying our just dues, and hoping to save money on the provision for railway renewals, a very much needed provision for the helping of our much tried railways, which have done such splendid service. I am afraid I cannot accept those expedients as being practical and of financial validity.

"I must also repeat the arguments I used yesterday against further commitments in the shape of Provincial grants, when our future financial relations with the Provinces are under consideration, and it is proposed to give them larger resources to meet what is primarily Provincial expenditure.

"I gave some figures yesterday to show how the total expenditure on education had advanced as compared with 1913-14—the last year of peace. I showed that the coming budget provided 1 million pounds more expenditure for education than in that year; and as regards technical education I now cite some figures for the year 1916-17—the last for which details are available—as compared with the period five years previously, 1911-12. I find that comparing 1911-12 with 1916-17, the expenditure on engineering colleges and schools, engineering and surveying schools, technical and industrial schools, increased in all from about 24 lakhs to 29 lakhs. The former figure includes a Provincial outlay of 14 lakhs, the latter of 18 lakhs.

"Well, as I said yesterday, it is most undesirable to plunge into ill-considered schemes of outlay merely in order to impress the public, and this is specially the case in regard to technical education. We have got to be careful

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[9TH MARCH, 1918.] [Sir William Meyer.]

that what is spent is spent to the best advantage to meet actual, immediate or prospective demands. On this point I should like to quote some very apposite remarks made as regards engineers in paragraph 86 of the recent report of the Public Works Reorganization Committee. They say:—

‘We are not convinced, however, that the annual output of engineers is less than the existing demand, and this view receives support from the fact that 46 per cent. of the upper subordinate posts in Bengal are filled by Bachelors of Engineering, that 60 per cent. of the products of the engineering class at Madras accept subordinate positions, and that posts as upper subordinates are guaranteed to and accepted by the students from Poona passing second and third in the Bachelor of Engineering examination. It is obviously uneconomical for Government to provide, at considerable expense, an engineering education of the highest standard for a man who will remain for the greater portion of his life in an inferior position and will never have the opportunity of exercising the knowledge gained during his college course.’

“Similar remarks were made in respect of electrical and mechanical engineers in the report of Colonel Atkinson and Mr. Dawson on Technical Institutions. I sincerely hope—and I yield to none in that hope—that our industrial development will hereafter justify provision for a much larger output of technically trained men; but we must not let the supply exceed the demand. If so, you will have a set of men for whom the State has provided training and who cannot be properly utilised. I may say, too, that we shall have guidance presently in this as in other matters from the report of the Industries Commission. My Hon’ble friend has referred among other things to Mining. I may remind the Council that Sir Thomas Holland, the President of the Industries Commission, is one of the greatest living authorities on mining—certainly the greatest living authority on mining in India; and that it is not likely the development of mining and the training of men in mining enterprise will have escaped his notice or his recommendations.

“Then, again, it would be most difficult to obtain the necessary teaching personnel, the reason being the paucity of men in the scientific cadre owing to the war, and the difficulty of recruiting fresh men. My Hon’ble friend says ‘get an old batch of old men from Home.’ Well, I do not think that would be feasible. In the first place, the old men, or a considerable portion of them, would succumb to the unaccustomed Indian climate; and, in the second place, there is nothing in which the practical outlook changes so much as in these technical subjects. We do not want old men who are passed their work. If you want to have good instruction, you must have it from men who are in the prime of life and who are thoroughly *au fait* with existing and future developments.

“Then, as regards agricultural education, a reference was recently made in my Hon’ble colleague Sir Claude Hill’s Department to Local Governments as to the promotion of this. We have not received the replies yet. Here, again, it is undesirable to commit ourselves prematurely to schemes which might possibly be unreliable.

“For these reasons, Sir, I cannot accept the Resolution, but I am prepared to make an offer to my Hon’ble friend which, I hope, will meet his purpose, and which, I may say, is made with the full concurrence of my Hon’ble colleagues who administer the Departments in question. On the figures in the Financial Statement, for reasons already explained, I can make no further grant; but it may be, though I cannot yet speak with any knowledge on the subject, that the final budget figures will show a somewhat better position for 1918-19 than we have yet been able to assume in the Financial Statement. If that should prove to be the case, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State which will be necessary, I shall be prepared to set aside such sum, not exceeding 30 lakhs, as may seem desirable, after consultation with my Hon’ble colleagues in the administrative departments concerned, for purposes of technical and agricultural education. This money would, at the outset, be regarded as an Imperial reserve. We cannot commit ourselves in any way at present as to its eventual application. It may be, as I have said,—I hope it will be,—that we shall get material guidance on this point ere long from the report of the Industries

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Commission. It may be, too, that the replies to the references made to Provinces on the subject of agricultural education will help us to an early practical course in that matter. But for the present I can only give this strictly provisional undertaking. I regret I cannot commit myself to hand over such money as may be available to the Provinces. It may be that we shall be able to spend it to better advantage under the direct agency of the Government of India—especially as my Hon'ble friend observed that some of the objects concerned were rather all-India objects than Provincial objects.

" Now that is all I have to say. As I have explained, I cannot accept the Resolution as put before the Council, but I do make this conditional promise that, if our budget for 1918-19 shows a betterment as compared with the Financial Statement, I will give the fullest consideration to the putting aside of a sum, not exceeding 30 lakhs, for the general objects which my Hon'ble friend has referred to, and I hope that, in view of this explanation, he will not press the Resolution."

11-27 A.M.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma:—" Sir, I have only one or two observations to make with reference to the remarks which fell from the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. A passage was quoted from the report of the Public Works Department Reorganisation Committee that even at present the output of engineers is not small and, perhaps, exceeds the requirements and the fear was expressed that the supply might exceed the demand. May I say, Sir, that in the following paragraph the Commissioners state that, if their recommendations are accepted and the Indian agency be increased, the management being handed over to the local boards, there would be a demand for a larger number of highly qualified engineers and better arrangements will have to be made to enable the engineering colleges to increase the output. But the point really is not as to whether the output of engineers educated on the present lines is sufficiently large; the point is as to whether the highest type of teaching open to candidates in the rest of the world is open to students seeking education in these various branches in India; and it is for that higher teaching on which stress was laid by the Public Service Commissioners, it is for the development of that higher education that I have sought this money, and therefore, I think, Sir, that the money can very well be utilised at an early date.

" Then with regard to the second point that was put to me, that we must not unduly hasten the pace of making large advances to Provinces unless we had properly considered schemes, may I say that this subject of technical education has engaged the attention of Government for more than 20 years past, that the Public Services Commission's recommendations have been before them for the last two and a half years, and that there is a limit to the patience even of the Indian community. I hope, therefore, that there will be more driving power in the various administrations towards advancing the cause which we all of us have at heart. But in view of the very sympathetic remarks of the Hon'ble Sir William Meyer that the Government would consider the question and make provision this year if the finances would permit, I do not see that any useful purpose will be served by pressing the Resolution. It only remains for me to thank the Government for the assurances they have given. I beg to withdraw the Resolution if the Council would permit me to do so."

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

RESOLUTION *RE* GRANT OF 50 LAKHS OF RUPEES IN AID OF SANITATION.

11-31 A.M.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma:—" Sir, I beg to move the second Resolution which stands against my name, namely:—

" This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a grant 50 lakhs of rupees may be made in aid of sanitation, especially towards the supply of pure drinking water in rural areas."

RESOLUTION *RE* GRANT OF 50 LAKHS OF RUPEES IN AID 855
OF SANITATION.

[9TH MARCH, 1918.] [*Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma.*]

" Here, again, almost every Member of the Council, official as well as non official, is convinced of the need for better sanitary equipment in order to improve the health of the Indian population. Recent events such as the increase of plague and increase in mortality from fevers, especially malaria, have rivetted, almost compelled, the attention of every thinking Indian to the subject and made him pause and consider as to whether he has been doing his duty in not putting sanitation above all other things and all other requirements. The figures available to me with regard to the last census are truly appalling. In several Provinces there has been a diminution in population, and as compared with the Native States, British India cannot boast of having done its duty in the matter, the growth of population having been smaller.

" In Bihar, there was an actual decrease of population of '9 between 1891—1901 and in the decade 1901—11 the growth was only 1·7 per cent. In the Bombay Presidency, it was—1·7 and +6 in the two decades. Bombay city itself was depopulated in the years 1891—01 4·1 per cent and the growth has been very small during the latter period. The Central Provinces again fared badly, but in the Punjab the tale is harrowing; there has been a decrease during the period 1901—11 of the population to the extent of—1·7 per cent, whereas there has been a general increase all over India of 5·5. In the United Provinces, also, the tale is equally sickening. Between 1891 and 1901 the growth was only 1·7, whereas between 1901 and 1911 there was an actual decrease of 1·1. A contemplation of these figures is sufficient to convince us that the mortality from the various preventible causes in India is greater than the mortality which ten such horrible wars like the great war now devastating Europe may be accountable for. The growth of population in British India has not been larger during the last decade than that in the Native States, and that is a state of things which requires looking into. So far as to the general need. With regard to the special requirement to which I have drawn attention, namely, the supply of pure drinking water in rural areas, I must say that I made pointed allusion to that special object with reference to the experience I have of my own Presidency. I have travelled far and wide in rural areas for various purposes, and nothing has impressed me so much as the absolute and imperative need of providing pure drinking water which can be done at a comparatively small expense, if only the resources of the Government and of local bodies can be organised on a proper footing. There are very many villages, where a lot of time and energy is spent by half the population (I say 'half' because the women-folk form half the population) in going long distances to get water which is but impure and absolutely inadequate in the hot season; and even where canals run by the side of villages the water is so impure as to cause mortality from fevers and bowel complaints, simply because local bodies have not been able to make proper arrangements for purifying the water. I, therefore, think that this is a subject which requires immediate attention; and there is the Public Works staff which is not engaged fully owing to the curtailment of Public Works expenditure. This is a matter which does not require any special technical skill, because there are hundreds of small overseers and contractors who will be willing to undertake the task, and labour will be forthcoming in abundance. I, therefore, think that the money can be utilised this year if only the grant is made, and I have worded my Resolution somewhat vaguely in order to meet possible objections. I said, 'recommends to the Council, that the grant of 50 lakhs may be made in aid of sanitation.' This grant may be made either from the General Imperial Funds or by releasing Provincial funds to the extent of 50 lakhs, if the Hon'ble the Finance Member should say that there is to the credit of Provincial Governments a sum of £545 thousand which may perhaps be utilised for the purpose. I, however, submit that the Imperial grants, having regard to the immense growth in the revenue, ought to undertake a portion of the burden and contribute 50 lakhs of rupees immediately. That is what is due to this particular department of Governmental activity. But if the Government are unable, for the reasons which have been suggested yesterday, to make a grant from Imperial revenue, I hope they will be able to make a grant in the

[*Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma; Pandit M. M. Malaviya; Mr. S. N. Bannerjea.*] [9TH MARCH, 1918.]

indirect fashion that I have alluded to, by allowing the Local Governments to spend to that extent from, or rather to draw upon, their Provincial reserves. The Financial Statement with reference to that point says that 'instructions have been issued in view of the war conditions to the Local Governments asking them to restrict drawings on their balances which include the unspent remainder of these special grants', and it further says 'any outlay thus postponed is merely deferred until normal times return'. I hope, Sir, that the grant may be made in one of the alternative forms I have proposed, and I think the subject requires the serious consideration of the Hon'ble the Finance Member and the Government of India."

11-39 A.M.

The Hon'ble Pandit M. M. Malaviya :—"I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Member will see his way to accept the Resolution of my Hon'ble friend in one of the alternative forms suggested by him. I do not think the cause of sanitation requires any advocacy. Countless plague deaths eloquently call for more money being put forward in the direction of sanitation, and the need for pure drinking water is one of the most insistent needs which calls for attention. There is no doubt that a great deal of money can be most usefully spent in promoting public health and hygiene, and thereby preventing preventible mortality, and, as my friend Mr. Sarma has now suggested an alternative form, I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Member will see his way to accept the Resolution in one of the forms."

11-40 A.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. N. Bannerjea :—"Sir, I desire to support my Hon'ble friend on my left in this matter. I think the practical thing to do in this case would be for the Government of India to issue instructions to the Local Governments to free their balances for this purpose. They hold large balances for sanitary purposes, and these balances might be usefully employed for the purpose mentioned in this Resolution. Something more has to be done than that. You may give the money to various local bodies, but you cannot compel them to spend that money. I know, as a matter of fact, considerable grants were made to the District Boards out of the cesses which were placed at their disposal, but the District Boards were not able to spend them and so the grants lapsed. Therefore, Sir, it seems to me that apart from the essential need of money something more is required, and that something is the revision of the constitution of these District Boards. The Government of Bengal has taken a distinct and definite step in that direction by appointing by direct election in the case of five or six District Boards, Indian Chairmen for the purpose of carrying on their administration. The experiment has been tried for some months in the district from which my friend Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi comes—the district of Moorshedabad. The Chairman-elect is Rai Bahadur Baikuntha Nath Sen, aged 74, but he possesses the energy of a young man and he goes about from place to place in his motor car, visiting distant places, and he has infused a new life into the whole District Board administration. If we had in the District Boards of Bengal chairmen of that type elected by the people, I am sure this problem would be largely solved. Money is needed, and I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Member will be able to give it to us or, at any rate, to free the balances. But even more essential, I repeat, is the revision of the constitution of these local bodies. Liberalise the constitution, make it more popular, make it more responsible, make the Chairmen feel that they are responsible to the electorate, then and then only I think these balances will be utilised in a proper and more satisfactory manner than they are at present.

"As for drinking water, its value for the purposes of sanitation cannot be exaggerated. Wherever a supply of pure drinking water,—and I speak as a Chairman of one of the municipalities in Bengal,—wherever the supply of pure drinking water has been obtained, it has been attended with substantial benefit to the health of the people. I live in a village near the cantonment

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OF SANITATION.

[9TH MARCH, 1918.] [Mr. S. N. Bannerjea; Sir William Meyer.]

of Barrackpore. We have got a filter supply. We pay for it and we get it, and the result is a marvellous change for the better in the health of the people. The Government at present,—I am talking of those riparian municipalities,—is engaged upon a scheme for supplying pure water to the riparian municipalities on the left bank of Hooghly. The estimated cost of the scheme is about Rs 36 lakhs. It is expected that Government will make a substantial contribution, and the municipalities are most willing to tax themselves for the purpose. Therefore, let us have the contribution by all means from the Government, and I hope and trust my Hon'ble friend the Finance Minister will be in a position to give us an assurance to that effect. But the constitution of these local bodies must be liberalised, they must be popularised, they must be made responsible to the people, their official character must be banished. Then and then alone the cause of sanitation will be placed upon a satisfactory footing in Bengal and elsewhere."

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer:—"Sir, here again I have much sympathy with the objects of the Hon'ble Mover, and I may say that one of the most interesting and, to my mind, pleasant experiences of my Indian career, which now extends over more than a generation, is the change in the attitude of the people towards sanitation. When I was a young official I found, as a District Officer, that sanitary measures were absolutely unpopular. I believe now that as my Hon'ble friend Mr. Bannerjea has said, there has been a change in the outlook, and that people are becoming more and more willing to tax themselves for the purposes of sanitary improvement. But I think my friends will also agree that, although this is extremely desirable, it would be undesirable to force the pace too much and to let people think that they are being coerced into sanitation. I only throw that out by the way, because I repeat that I have the greatest pleasure in looking at the fact of the changed attitude of the ordinary mass of the people towards sanitation. 11-45 A. M.

"Well, here again we have not been absolutely at a standstill as might be thought from some speeches yesterday. I think my friend the Mover will recognise, as being a master of figures himself, that we have advanced during the last few years very considerably. I have got the figures here for sanitation expenditure—and mind you this is only the Government sanitation expenditure; it does not include the expenditure of district boards and municipalities which are primarily concerned with this subject. In 1913-14, the expenditure was £432,000; we are budgetting this year for £715,000, that is an increase of 70 per cent. Then during those happy years in which peace prevailed and the Government of India were able to make grants to the provinces, a good deal was done in the direction of encouraging sanitation. I have some figures here furnished by the Education Department. In the last ten years the Government of India have given recurring grants which now total 85 lakhs a year for sanitation, and 439 lakhs in non-recurring grants; the actual expenditure, altogether, in this way, recurring and non-recurring, for a period of ten years amounts to nearly 10 crores. That is quite apart from the 82 lakhs recurring expenditure given since 1913-14 to certain Local Governments to permit of an increase to the general resources of rural boards with the object that the boards should have a freer hand for sanitation expenditure. These sums are not merely for urban sanitation; much has been made available for rural sanitation also: and in making the grant for 1913-14, the Education Department drew special attention to the needs of rural water supply.

"Coming now to the Resolution, I cannot accept the proposal that we should make a further grant from Imperial revenues of 50 lakhs for sanitation, I can only repeat what I have said before, that although we have a surplus, that surplus is needed, essentially needed, for our Ways and Means purposes in connection with the war, and we cannot dissipate it further. My Hon'ble friend the Mover, however, threw out an alternative suggestion. He said 'let the provinces over-draw from their balances'.

"Well, we have had to ask the provinces to conserve their balances for war purposes. If my Hon'ble friend turns to paragraphs 70 and 71 of my

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[*Sir William Meyer* ; *Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma* ; [9TH MARCH, 1918.]
Sir Dinshaw Wacha.]

speech introducing the Financial Statement he will find that we have had to cut down the total balances of India, which include provincial balances, very much. We estimate that on the 31st March 1919 we shall not have much more than £11 million, our total balances for all India, whereas we regard the ordinary margin of safety as £12½ million.

“I may say that the Bengal Government came up to us this year and asked to be allowed to draw on their balances a bit, that is that their expenditure in the coming year should exceed their revenue for that year for certain purposes, and one of them was sanitation. The Bengal Government have embarked on a liberal sanitation programme, and we were satisfied with their reason and said that we would allow them to draw on their balance for this purpose. Other Local Governments have not made any similar request, and I must presume therefore that they are satisfied with the increased provision that they have been able to make out of current revenues. It is no use adding to your expenditure and simply provoking lapses, or rash and ill-considered outlay to avoid lapses.

“There is the question of establishment too. The Hon'ble Mover said that the Public Works establishment, not having so much to do as usual, could turn their attention to sanitary works. My Hon'ble friend Sir Claude Hill has just informed me that 33 per cent. of the Public Works establishment are absent on war work, serving in the field or otherwise, so that we have not got the establishments.

“But I will say this, that if in the course of the year any province should come up to us and ask for a further grant for sanitation to be made from the provincial balances, and can show that they can do this without disturbing our Ways and Means calculation by reason of the provincial revenues coming in better than at present anticipated—I say that if any province makes such a request, we shall receive it very sympathetically. I should be very loth indeed to stand in the way of any such request. Therefore, though I cannot accept the Resolution as it stands, I think my Hon'ble friend Mr. Sarma will not be able to accuse me of want of sympathy.”

11-55 A. M. **The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma** :—“Sir, I recognise that the Government are aware of the serious nature of the problem, but to my mind it seems that they have not placed it in a proper perspective. They were deluded into thinking that the improvements that have been effected in recent years resulting in a large increase of expenditure, have been of such a character as to satisfy the average thinker on these questions. But what is the position? There was an increase of expenditure from 60 lakhs to 130 lakhs; has any very great benefit resulted? Has enough been done? We find that in 1913 the deaths were 6,845,000, in 1914 there were 7,155,000 or an increase of 300,000, and in 1915 the figures were nearly the same, 7,142,000. Therefore the deaths in 1914 and 1915 are more than in 1913. . . .”

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—“There is a larger population probably.”

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma :—“And the growth of population is only half per cent. During the recent decade it has been 5·5, and the death-rate is much larger, 4 per cent.”

The Hon'ble Sir Dinshaw Wacha :—“Are these deaths due to want of sanitation only?”

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma :—“They may be due to want of sufficient food also, which may result in feebler frames unable to resist the ravages of disease. I grant that. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that a larger advance should be made in the desired direction.”

RESOLUTION *RE* GRANT OF 50 LAKHS OF RUPEES IN AID 859
OF SANITATION; THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1918-19.

[9TH MARCH, 1918.] [Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma; Sir William Meyer;
Sir Claude Hill.]

"Then with regard to the establishments needed, it is quite true that a number of Public Works officials have gone out, but I believe the curtailment of the expenditure proposed has even been greater; and apart from that, the local board staff undertakes general expenditure of the kind that I have referred to. But in view of the promise the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has made, that if any Local Government, should approach the Government of India for the sanction of larger expenditure, the request would be sympathetically considered, I think that we shall have to transfer our activities from here to the Local Governments, and then press the question if the present Finance Minister or his successor is obdurate. Under those conditions, therefore, and having regard to the reply that has been given, I do not see that there is very much use in pressing the Resolution further; having regard to war conditions, I feel that perhaps it would be improper to press the Government further in this matter. But before leaving the subject, may I ask inasmuch as for every improvement we have asked, this plea of want of funds has been brought forward, whether the Government of India cannot induce the Government of England to help us a little more in this direction by releasing our funds, because one point that I have never been able to understand is why, when £00 million pounds or more have been lent to the Allies and the Colonies, the Government cannot help us to find the funds for the purposes made here. That is a question on which perhaps the Finance Member on some occasion may help to make clear the position of the Government because there is a misunderstanding on the subject."

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

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1918-19.

THIRD STAGE.

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer:—"I beg, Sir, to introduce the third stage."

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill opened the third stage of the 11-58 A. N. discussion on, and introduced the following heads of, the Financial Statement for 1918-19:—

<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, the discussion which has already taken place on the Financial Statement has been more expansive than has been the practice in past years, owing to the change in procedure, and I think I can therefore be rather more brief this year in dealing with the subjects that fall under my care than has been my practice in the past. There are, however, one or two important matters which, I think, the Council would wish me to enlarge upon,

“Dealing in a different order with the subjects from what has been my practice in the past, I would first of all propose to refer to, and inform the Council of, the advance that has been made in the matter of agricultural education since I addressed this Council last year. In accordance with the suggestion which was made to me last year by the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya we held an agricultural educational conference during the last Simla Season in June, at which the whole subject of agricultural education was gone into and certain Resolutions passed which have since been referred to the Local Governments, and, so far as we know, they have met with very general approval. For present purposes I propose to refer to what is of the greatest immediate importance among these Resolutions, namely, that which was passed in June last recommending that agricultural middle schools be established in all the Provinces. That Resolution, among others, was also referred for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture which met last December in Poona, and which I attended, and was there debated at considerable length, with the result that the Board of Agriculture, while premising that in no circumstances was it desirable to do anything which would retard the progress of scientific investigation and demonstration which they regarded as of cardinal importance, endorsed the recommendation that agricultural middle schools should be established in every Province, wherever possible. They went further and drew up a provisional syllabus for such agricultural middle schools, which should form a very useful basis, I think, for adoption, with such modifications as may be necessary for different Provinces, in the schools which we now hope will come into being. The rapidity with which this scheme for inaugurating middle schools progresses must, of course partly depend on financial considerations, as well as on the enthusiasm of individual Local Governments. But I venture to hope, after what my Hon'ble friend Sir William Meyer has said to-day, that if circumstances prove favourable, and if it is possible for him to allot a certain additional grant, in pursuance of his reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma, towards technical education, I shall be able to hope for some of the crumbs from the rich man's table; and possibly be in a position to stimulate Local Governments, always supposing that stimulus is necessary to the establishment—the very early establishment—of certain of these schools to which I, personally, and the Department attach the very greatest importance.

“The proceedings of the Board of Agriculture dealt with very many matters of great importance, and I trust that Hon'ble Members who are interested in agricultural development—and it is a great pleasure to me to notice that their number appears to be growing rapidly—will have obtained and perused copies of the report of the proceedings. I only propose here to refer to one other item there discussed, and that is the subject of uneconomic holdings, which was perhaps the most important matter which came under consideration. The discussion was based primarily on a draft Bill of a rather skeleton character which the Hon'ble Mr. Keatinge, the Director of Agriculture in Bombay, was anxious, I believe, to introduce into the Bombay Legislative Council. The nature of that Bill was of a purely permissive character, the idea being to make it possible for a landlord who so wished, with the consent of all the descendants who might be interested in the disposition of his property, to get it declared that such property should not be further sub-divided, but should pass to his son or next-of-kin. Well, it is obvious that such a measure is one of very considerable difficulty and complexity, and that, since it impinges upon the Hindu law of inheritance, it is a very ticklish thing for Government to discuss. At the same time, its permissive character was, according to my thinking at the time, its best commendation to us for consideration. Generally speaking, the Board of Agriculture were in favour of some such measure being passed, but it was interesting to me to take note of the fact that the people, who at that Board's discussion thought that the measure was likely to prove inoperative and ought to be strengthened very much more, were two prominent Hindu gentlemen present at the Conference, who urged that this was a much too mild measure, and that Government ought to go very much further and peremptorily, if necessary, interfere with Hindu traditions. That was their view, but it was

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not the view taken by the Board of Agriculture. Of course, the question of whether legislation will be undertaken is still for discussion, but I mention the matter as being to me a very interesting phenomenon, that those who pressed for action in this behalf were the two prominent Hindu gentlemen who were present at the Conference.

“Then the next matter to which I should like to refer is the very important step we have taken in the appointment of a Committee to examine the question of developing the cultivation of long staple cotton. In recent years the world's demand for raw cotton, especially of the better varieties, has very largely outstripped the supply, and to us, in India, that is a matter of very great interest and importance; because it is, perhaps, not generally realised that 20 million acres of the cultivated area of India are at present under cotton, and that, therefore, the potentialities of India in regard to the development and cultivation of long staple cotton are enormous. The question how far that change which is involved in the substitution of long for short staple cotton is possible of achievement depends on very many factors—among others the question of how far we can arrange for marketing arrangements so as to ensure that the cultivator will always be able to obtain the proper premium value for the improved varieties of cotton; and that matter in India does present very considerable difficulty. It may interest the Council, however, to know that, in regard to that aspect of the case, we have arranged for telegraphic intimation to be at short intervals despatched upcountry from Bombay of ruling world prices for the different classes of cotton. That seems to be one step which may help the cultivator to obtain an adequate price for improved varieties. On this Long Staple Cotton Committee, which is still conducting its inquiries under the presidency of Mr. Mackenna, we have a representative of the British Cotton-growing Association and an ex-Chairman of the Bombay Mill-owners' Association, and I have the best of reasons for believing that they are tackling the subject from a broadminded standpoint, and that they have the interests not only of the manufacturers and the marketing agencies, but also of the cultivator very seriously at heart. It will further interest the Council, I think, to know that the Home Government have decided to appoint a permanent Cotton Committee, the main object of which will be to assist in developing the cotton resources of the whole Empire by keeping in touch with work in progress relating to the growing, handling, and marketing of cotton all over the world and by being a sort of clearing house of information in London. We have been asked to appoint on that Committee out here representatives of the Indian users of cotton and Indian merchants, and I hope, therefore, that the inauguration of this Committee will be a further factor in enabling us to progress in the direction of the development of long staple cotton growing in India.

“I had hoped to be able to tell the Council something about the results arrived at by Professor Maxwell Lefroy when he was out here investigating the silk industry, but, owing to Mr. Lefroy's absence from India, there has been some unavoidable delay in getting out his report, and I am unable to say anything on the subject to-day.

“The Indigo Cess Bill has already passed through this Council, and therefore I need not refer further to the subject of Indigo. But there is an important matter which I should like to mention, and that is the subject of cinchona cultivation. Hon'ble Members are probably aware that there is likely, within a very short period of time, to be a world shortage in the supply of that indispensable drug, quinine, and we have therefore during the past year taken steps to ascertain whether it is not possible for us in India so to increase the area under cultivation of cinchona as to make India, at all events, independent of this shortage in years to come, and possibly also to make India the supply agency for the rest of the Empire. For this purpose, Colonel Gage, Director of the Botanical Survey, was deputed and spent some months last year in investigating possible areas in Southern India, in Assam and in Burma, and it is a matter for congratulation to know that Colonel Gage has or thinks he has (and he is a very great expert on the subject) discovered a very suitable area in one of the districts in Burma for

a very large extension of cinchona cultivation. We hope, therefore, that we may shortly be in a position very largely to extend the outturn of quinine.

"The next matter to which I should like to refer for a moment is the recruitment for the Agricultural Service. In connection with the Hon'ble Mr. Sastri's Resolution the other day, I had occasion to offer certain remarks, and I do not wish to repeat what I then said; but I should like to observe that we have found it extraordinarily difficult to obtain recruits with the requisite qualifications for the scientific posts under the Agricultural Department. During the past year or so we have taken steps, as I explained, to effect promotions from the Provincial Service and to appoint Indians when we can find them duly qualified. But there has been a shortage, and great difficulty is found in filling some of the posts on the scientific side of the Agricultural Service. All I wish to do now—I am afraid at the cost of repetition—is to say that, while the Government of India are cordially at one with the aspiration of certain Members of this Council that the Indianisation of the Agricultural Service should proceed as rapidly as possible, they also adhere—and, I think, the Council will on the whole agree, wisely adhere—to the great principle that the best men for some years to come must be obtained irrespective of race or creed or anything else in order that no excuse might be given for levelling the complaint hereafter at the Government of India that they had sacrificed what was so vital to the interests of India in deference to a theory.

"I now turn to the activities of the Forest Department; and there again perhaps my Hon'ble friend Mr. Sarma will be surprised to know that as many as 65 officers of the Imperial branch were away on war duty. Like the Public Works Department, the Agricultural Department has been very seriously crippled in its activities owing to the war and to the zeal with which some forest officers applied for permission to go on work connected with the war. But we do fully realise the importance, more especially in this time of war, of developing, as far as possible, the unlimited forest resources of India. As I had occasion to tell my friend the Hon'ble Sir Dinshaw Wacha last year, we have decided to create a cadre of forest engineers as one of the most important developments in the direction of forest exploitation, and I may mention that very great activity has, as a matter of fact, been displayed in many Provinces in exploiting forest produce for purposes of the war. The only other point in respect of staff that I need mention is that Madras, the Punjab and Bengal have put forward—and we have approved of—re-organisation schemes involving a total increase of 18 Imperial and 30 Provincial Service Officers, which will meet a long-felt want in those Provinces, as soon as recruits can be obtained. Then, in pursuance of the policy of developing Provincial autonomy in forest matters, we have had under consideration proposals for decentralising the training of forest rangers. At present that work is done in Dehra Dun, and we propose that it shall be done in future in three centres— at Dehra Dun for some of the Upper India provinces, at Coimbatore for some of the Southern and Central provinces, while a new school is to be opened at Dharwar in the Bombay Presidency.

"Turning now to the Public Works Department, it will have been seen from the Financial Statement that our productive irrigation systems, after meeting all charges for maintenance, repairs and interest on capital, have returned a net profit of 331 lakhs as against 315 lakhs, which I anticipated in this place last year. For the ensuing year we estimate a profit of 341 lakhs, the gradual increase being, as I forecasted last year, due to the completion of the Punjab Triple Canal project. The provision for major irrigation works is 70 lakhs, or 20 lakhs less than the provision allowed last year; while the grant for protective works chargeable to famine insurance has been reduced from 60 lakhs to 58. This steady reduction is due to our policy of undertaking no new works, unless it can be shown that they are either urgently required, or will be immediately remunerative, with the result that as each of the works now under construction is completed, the provision is slightly reduced. This, however, does not mean that we have no new project under consideration. The case is far otherwise. Though we are not able to undertake any new works at present, a comprehensive programme of new

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projects is being drawn up and will be introduced when financial conditions permit. As regards the future developments of some of the major irrigation works, I mentioned last year the Cauvery Reservoir in Madras. Owing to a Privy Council decision there has been some question as to how the water rights of zamindari lands work out, and how far the decision of the Privy Council in reference to those rights affects the probable results of the irrigation facilities provided by this project. The project has not yet been submitted to the Secretary of State pending the investigation of that question. Another great irrigation project in Madras is that for a reservoir in the Kistna; but we have not gone into that fully, because the Cauvery work is both more important and likely to be more beneficial to the country, and we propose to concentrate on that at first. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has referred to the project for a canal from the Sarda River which has quite recently been submitted worked out in detail by the United Provinces Government. This is the project to which I made reference in replying to the Hon'ble Mr. Sastri, and it may be of interest if I mention that this scheme when completed will probably be one of the largest irrigation works in India or in the world. The total length of the channels included in the project exceeds 5,000 miles, and some 9 millions acres will be commanded and 2 million acres irrigated annually. I need only refer very briefly to two other projects which are under preparation, namely, that for the Sukkur Barrage on the Indus in Sind and for the Bhakra dam on the Sutlej in the Punjab. The main object of the former is to convert the existing inundation canals in Sind into perennial canals, while that of the latter is to store the surplus water of the Sutlej during the rains with a view to its utilisation during the dry season. The provision of such storage reservoirs to prevent water running waste and to secure its utilisation during the dry season has become more and more one of the main objects upon which the Irrigation Department is concentrating. I had, the other day, in a visit to my old district of Ahmednagar, occasion to see the changes that have been effected by works of this character. When I was in Ahmednagar 25 years ago, the whole of the Pravara and Godavari valleys were practically deserts in which there were perhaps half a dozen wells which could be seen dotted about on a bare countryside, and where land could be purchased for Rs. 12 an acre. I revisited it the other day to find that I was able to motor for 60 or 70 miles along these valleys through a sea of sugar-cane, wheat and so forth, and ascertained that the land which used to be purchasable for Rs. 12 an acre was very difficult to obtain now for Rs. 400 an acre. That, in the space of 25 years, I think Hon'ble Members will agree with me, is a gratifying change.

"I now desire to mention certain matters with reference particularly to a remark of the Hon'ble Mr. Shukul. I understood the Hon'ble Member to say the other day that there was a serious deterioration in the condition of the people of the country, at all events in parts of the Central Provinces. Well, I confess at once that I do not know whether what Hon'ble Members have noticed in this regard is directly contrary to my own impression when travelling about India and contrasting the condition of the people as it appeared 25 years ago with what it is now. My experience is that one sees on every hand better houses, more wells, better comforts, better implements used by agriculturists in the rural tracts, and on the whole, if I may say so, a greater degree of prosperity. That, however, is an arguable proposition, and I do not wish to lay undue stress upon it. But I do wish to lay stress on, and draw the attention of this Council to certain extracts from, Mr. Mackenna's Report on the progress of agriculture in India which deal with facts which are incontrovertible and which have a great bearing on the correctness of an estimate which concludes that the condition of the people is deteriorating. I would first of all, if I may ask the indulgence of the Council, read an extract from page 15 :—

'The agricultural departments have been successful in demonstrating the improved agriculture of one tract to the backward cultivators of another, e.g., the methods of transplanting rice, drilling and intercultivating cotton and other crops, green-manuring, the Poona method of making *gur*, etc., and it is in these directions that Deputy Directors are doing the most useful work.'

Mr. Mackenna then goes on to give an extract from a report regarding certain operations in the Central Provinces at the Chandkhuri Farm; the Chandkhuri Farm having been established in an area hitherto entirely waste which the Hon'ble Mr. Shukul will recognise by the name of *bhata* lands :—

'These *bhata* lands lie higher than the more productive arable lands and are for the most part regarded as uncultivable; a very small proportion of them are poorly cultivated at long intervals to produce wretched crops of the lesser millets.....The original idea was to try growing green fodder crops under irrigation in order to substitute stall-feeding of cattle for the starvation-ration hitherto obtained by grazing.....This has been successfully achieved; but Mr. Clouston has not been satisfied with that success. He has gone on to try the cultivation of *bhata* lands, aided by manure and irrigation, with ground-nut, cotton and cane, and has made a startling success with all three crops.....The cost of cultivation is very little, and the nuts were found to be much larger than those grown in stiff black soil, hitherto regarded as most suitable for this crop.'

Similar good results were achieved in the case of cotton and so on. Water is available, and it only remains to encourage cultivation, and there are hundreds of thousands of acres which will be available to come under cultivation out of these barren lands.

"I will now give another quotation :—

'The cultivation of a short staple variety, *roseum*, in Berar has brought an additional crop of rupees to the cultivators. The introduction of Company No. 3, a selection from Karunganni cotton, which is an indigenous long-stapled variety, and Cambodia cotton, have produced markedly beneficial results. Similarly, in the Punjab, the cultivation of Mr. Milne's selection, 4 P. American cotton, is extending by leaps and bounds and this year it is expected to bring an additional 45 lakhs to the cultivators.'

In the canal colonies of the Punjab the department is pushing a selected wheat regarding which Mr. Mackenna says :—

'It is estimated that the growers of this wheat got an additional income of at least 2 lakhs of rupees as the result of the higher yield and the premium paid over the ordinary price of wheat.'

In regard to the Central Provinces again, I may draw Mr. Shukul's attention to the increased profits, from growing those wheats, which have been definitely established, at 'from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 an acre,' and as there are 200,000 acres this brings an additional 10 or 20 lakhs a year to the cultivator. In Bengal, the selection of an improved type of rice 'Indrasail' isolated by Mr. Hector has also resulted in very great profits to the cultivators and in the year under report seed sufficient to sow over 20,000 acres was distributed through panchayets, while this year it is hoped to distribute enough for nearly 12 lakhs of acres. In regard to cotton in Madras in the 'Tinnevelly' tract, it is stated on page 25 :

'The selected strains Company No. 2 and No. 3 have been found to combine both good yield per acre and staple, and the Director of Agriculture calculates that the ryot who grew Company No. 3 cotton made a profit of some Rs. 28 per acre over those who grew ordinary Tinnies.'

"I hope I have not wearied the Council with the recital from this book of the progress of agriculture in India, but I felt that it was necessary to say something, however little, to show that, so far as the Agricultural Department are concerned, the claim to progress in the direction of benefiting the cultivator is not lacking in evidence.

"There is only one other reference I should like to make to what has fallen in the course of the debate from Hon'ble Members; and that is to the remark of the Hon'ble Mr. Chanda in reference to New Delhi, that its construction should be temporarily stopped. I may best refer him to the answer given by the Hon'ble Sir William Meyer to Mr. Basu last year. My Hon'ble Colleague said :

'As I explained the other day, we are just spending enough to keep things going to keep the scheme alive. That scheme is one which was brought into effect by the fiat of the King-Emperor, and it is the deliberate policy of the Government of India and of His Majesty's Government at Home. My friend was not in the Council two or three years ago; but if he had been, he would have had a striking exhibition of the way in which Hon'ble Members from other parts of India endorsed the project of the New City.'

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"As was the case last year, so is it this year, that the provision for New Delhi is merely sufficient to prevent waste. I have already in answer to a question by another Hon'ble Member explained how largely the staff has been reduced and the rate of construction is merely such as to keep the scheme alive."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma:—"May I ask ^{12-28 P.M.} for information whether with regard to the 18 Imperial Forest officers, the recruitment is to be thrown open to all without regard to their race and only with a view to efficiency?"

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill:—"I am afraid I did not quite understand the point of the Hon'ble Member's question."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma:—"If I am not wrong, I remember having heard that sanction has been given for 18 additional Imperial officers in the Forest Department. I ask as to whether these officers will be recruited from Europeans as well as Indians irrespective of their caste, having regard only to their efficiency."

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill:—"The Hon'ble Member is quite ^{12-29 P.M.} correct. The recruitment will be made, under the orders and regulations at present obtaining at Home, through the Secretary of State in the ordinary way. Recruitment is not closed to anybody."

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair introduced the following ^{12-30 P.M.} heads of the Financial Statement for 1918-19:—

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

"Sir, I beg to introduce the Education and Sanitation heads of the Financial Statement. Hon'ble Members will find at page 62 of the Financial Statement that the expenditure on Education continues to grow, and will next year considerably exceed all previous records. When I took over my present office in 1915, we were spending about 4½ crores of rupees a year. Last year we spent 5 crores, and next year we hope to spend over 6 crores. The number of scholars which seven years ago was barely 6½ million was over 7 millions in 1916-17, and I trust that it will be found to exceed 8 millions in the present year, and that we shall make a further advance next year. This is not as great a progress as we might wish to see, but none the less it is a very distinct advance and one which we cannot ignore. The additional expenditure expected in 1918-19 is due partly to the new Imperial grant announced by the Hon'ble Sir William Meyer but also and to a still larger degree to a policy of educational expansion which has been adopted by all the Local Governments without exception. Our own grant is, as the Hon'ble Sir William Meyer stated, one of 30 lakhs, and it follows on a grant of 30 lakhs given last year for the training and pay of teachers. The grant for 1918-19 is like its predecessor intended to meet the needs of primary education. It will be available not merely for schools themselves, whether these schools are for boys or girls, but also for Inspectors and for the training and pay of teachers as far as primary schools are concerned. It is generally recognised that of the various pressing needs of education in this country, that of primary education is the most pressing, and we should have been glad to have been able to present to this Council some scheme which will provide in advance for the progressive extension of primary education in India, but as His Excellency has explained in his speech at the opening of this Session, the changes in our financial system which will be inaugurated as part of the contemplated reforms render it impossible for us at this stage

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to formulate any programme of this kind in advance. In the meantime we have, as the Council are aware, given an opening to the introduction in several provinces of schemes by which local bodies can enforce in their areas a system of compulsory education, and the provincial budget shows for the first time a provision for meeting the expense of introduction of compulsory education. Hon'ble Members will find it at page 64 of the Statement. We have not ourselves adopted compulsion as part of our present programme, but we are anxious to see primary education increase by whatever means this increase may be obtained, and, on these grounds, we have included in our budget the new recurring grants of Rs. 30 lakhs for primary education. Of this sum, we are keeping one lakh in hand, and of the rest Madras would get 5½ lakhs; Bombay 4; Bengal 5½; United Provinces 4½; Punjab 2; Burma 1½; Bihar and Orissa 3; Central Provinces 1½, and Assam 1 lakh. A further half a lakh will be distributed as follows :—

	Rs.
Coorg	2,000
North-West Frontier Province	32,000
Ajmer	8,000
Baluchistan	5,000 and
Residency Areas	3,000

These grants are intended for the extension of primary schools on the present voluntary footing, but they will, of course, be available also for granting assistance in areas where compulsory education is being introduced.

“Turning to Sanitation or, as I should prefer to call it, Public Health, we contemplate here also a considerable increase in our expenditure. We spent Rs. 78 lakhs in 1916-17; we shall be spending 87 lakhs this year, and we hope to spend 107 lakhs next year. Most of the provinces have budgetted for an increase of expenditure and the increase contemplated in Bombay and Bengal is considerable. We have also provided for an increase of expenditure from the two items from which we ourselves make grants, namely, the sanitary grant and the grant for the Indian Research Fund Association. The reserve at our disposal from the sanitary grant was Rs. 6 lakhs. Of this sum, we have given one lakh towards the drainage of Peshawar, one lakh for the improvement of the Badrinath Kidernath pilgrim route, Rs. 75,000 for the relief of congestion in Ahmedabad and Poona, Rs. 80,000 for improvement at Amritsar and for anti-plague measures at Rawalpindi, Rs. 60,000 for the relief of the congested town areas in the Central Provinces, and Rs. 90,000 for various sanitary improvements in Delhi. Next year we hope to have some 8 lakhs at our disposal, and some portion at any rate of that sum will be utilised in assisting Local Governments to provide for the improvement of the health conditions attending pilgrimages. For our other main source of expenditure—the Indian Research Fund Association—we should ordinarily have had 7½ lakhs available, but our Bacteriological Department is depleted owing to the war, and we temporarily surrendered 3½ lakhs out of this sum. Of the remaining 4 lakhs, we have put aside 1 lakh for the Hygiene Institute which will be an important branch of the School of Tropical Medicine at Calcutta, designed to give medical post-graduates an up-to-date training in public health such as is not at present available in India. We have also devoted Rs. 26,000 to improvements to the Central Research Institute at Kasauli and Rs. 10,000 to experiments in the improvement of vital statistics in Madras. The rest of our money has been allotted mainly to special lines of investigation, such as plague, diabetes, flies and hookworm disease. Hon'ble Members will perhaps remember the account which Sir Pardey Lukis gave us in this Council last year of the widespread debility occasioned by this last-named disease among the coolie class, and I am glad to say that during the present year a sum considerably exceeding half a lakh has been spent on the important inquiries into this hookworm disease which have been carried out by Lieutenant-Colonel Clayton Iane in Bengal and by Dr. Mhasker in Madras. We propose during the present year to continue our liberal support of the chief investigations which have been

[9TH MARCH, 1918.] [*Sir C. Sankaran Nair; Mr. H. Sharp.*]

carried on during the present year, and if opportunity offers to extend further the scope of these forms of research. Our inquiries are, as I have stated, much circumscribed by the absence of many of the officers of the Bacteriological Department at the front, and at the present moment out of a research staff of 31 officers 18 are on Military duty. There are at this time 17 officers engaged in laboratories or on special inquiries, of whom 9 are Indians: and in addition to these, Indian assistants have been associated in the investigations now under the conduct of European officers. We are in this way forming the nucleus of a body of indigenous experts who will, I hope, constitute a source of great future strength to the well-being of this country.

"I have made an allusion to the late Sir Pardey Lukis, and I wish before sitting down to remind the Council of the debt which we owe to him in the development of bacteriological research in India. Hon'ble Members are aware of his great services in other lines, but I think I am right in saying that he looked on this particular branch of his activities as representing in a special way his own contribution to the welfare of India. He was very closely associated with the inception of the Research Fund Association, and it was due to his constant efforts that the Fund was utilised, as it has been, for the investigation of the more prominent questions affecting public health in this country. In continuing the work on the lines which he inaugurated, we shall maintain it in the way he would best have wished to the memory of his services to India."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. Sharp:—"Sir, it is usual at this stage to lay on the table a short narrative dealing with the educational activities which took place during the last completed financial year. I think I explained last March that during this year the Quinquennial Review of Education would be published and that, therefore, no short narrative would be laid on the table. Instead, I beg to lay on the table the document generally known as 'Salient Features', which gives the more important figures of education in India and also in the individual provinces." 12-39 P. M.

The Council then adjourned till Tuesday, the 12th March, at 11 o'clock.

A. P. MUDDIMAN,

*Secretary to the Government of India,
Legislative Department.*

DELHI;

The 18th March, 1918.