

*Thursday,
26th September, 1918*

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

Vol. LVII

April 1918 - March 1919

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF
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April 1919 - March 1920

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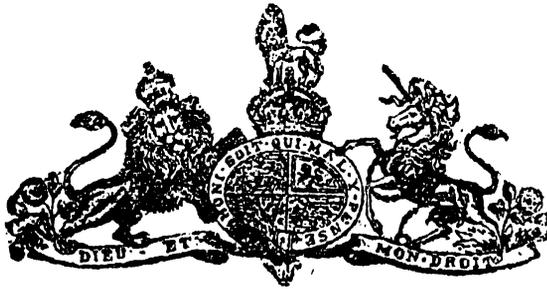


& Debates Section

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1918



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, Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on
Thursday, the 26th September, 1918.

PRESENT :

His Excellency BARON CHELMSFORD, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., G.O.M.G., G.C.B.E.,
Viceroy and Governor General, *presiding*, and 52 Members, of whom 48
were Additional Members.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent:—"My Lord, I lay on the table a statement† showing the districts of the several Provinces where the system of trial by jury obtains, which was promised in reply to a question‡ asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Patel on the 5th September, 1918." 11 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent:—"My Lord, I lay on the table a statement‡ showing the newspapers and magazines whose entry into different Provinces has been prohibited, which was promised in reply to a question§ asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Patel on the 9th September, 1918."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Sir Fazulbhoj Currimbhoj asked :—

11-3 A.M.

1. "Will Government be pleased to state how much public money is locked up in commodities which are under control for—
- (1) Purchases on account of the United Kingdom.
 - (2) Purchases with a view to re-sell in this country in order to eliminate profiteers.
 - (3) Purchases essential for munitions work?"

Public money locked up in commodities under control for purchases.

* Vide Appendix D.

† Vide page 46 of Council Proceedings of 5th September 1918.

‡ Not included in these Proceedings.

§ Vide page 153 of Council Proceedings of 9th September 1918.

[*Sir William Meyer; Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya; Sir William Vincent.*] [26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer replied :—

"(1) The more important among the purchases of controlled commodities on behalf of the United Kingdom are financed through the ordinary trade channels, for example, rice, tea, hides, wheat and other foodgrains, sandbags, beans, oil-seeds, etc. No Government money is therefore locked up in connection with these purchases. Advances made to firms, pending recovery from the Home Government on delivery of the output, are limited to one or two special cases, for example, mica, and the payments on this account awaiting recovery at any time are inconsiderable.

(2) Purchases with a view to resale in India in order to eliminate profiteers are under the control of Local Governments and no information is available as to the amounts, if any, locked up in this way, but it can be safely said that the amounts in question are not large.

(3) This part of the question presumably refers to direct purchases by Government for military and like purposes. I may explain that the purchases falling under this class are not made entirely, or even of necessity mainly, for the Home Government. It has been necessary to build up reserves of military stores, foodstuffs, clothing, etc., to meet demands that may arise for the various Indian Expeditionary Forces as well as for our own requirements. The cost of such reserve stores is charged to a suspense account which is cleared when the stores are actually issued to His Majesty's Government or for Indian requirements. The amount outstanding under the suspense head on the 31st March 1918 is not yet definitely known, as the accounts for 1917-18 will not be finally closed till January 1919. Rough calculations show, however, that the approximate figure was £11·5 million, distributed as follows :—

	£
Supply and Transport	4,800,000
Clothing	4,000,000
Remounts	1,400,000
Medical Stores	400,000
Ordnance	700,000
Other articles under the control of the Munitions Board ...	200,000
Total	11,500,000

It is possible that when the accounts are closed, the actual figure will be found to be somewhat higher. It may be added that the whole of the expenditure referred to above was not incurred in India. A large portion of the outlay on clothing, medical stores and ordnance was incurred in England."

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya asked :—

Reforms suggested by Lord Hardinge before laying down his office.

2. "Is it a fact that, before laying down his office as Governor General of India, Lord Hardinge submitted a memorandum to the Secretary of State for India in which he suggested that certain reforms should be introduced in India after the war? If so, will Government be pleased to lay the memorandum on the table?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Communiqué issued on the 2nd November, 1916, a copy of which is laid on the table. The Government of India have no information whether Lord Hardinge sent privately to the Secretary of State a memorandum of the nature mentioned by the Hon'ble Member.

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

[*Sir William Vincent; Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi; Sir William Meyer.*]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 2nd November 1916.

COMMUNIQUE.

In view of the erroneous impression likely to be created by the statements made in certain organs of the Press that the demands formulated in a Memorandum submitted to the Viceroy by a number of elected members of the Imperial Council follow the lines of a note or despatch on the same subject forwarded to the Secretary of State by Lord Hardinge, the Secretary of State authorises the Government of India to say that no despatch of this character was sent by Lord Hardinge's Government, and that these demands do not correspond with the views expressed by him privately by note or otherwise to the Secretary of State.

J. H. DuBOULAY,

*Secretary to the Government of India.**

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

3. "Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing Province by Province—

(a) the number of limited companies which have been granted licenses up-to-date for raising capital under the Indian Companies Restriction Act (XII of 1918);

(b) their respective lines of business;

(c) the aggregate amount of capital they sought permission to raise, and the amount in respect of which license has been granted;

(d) the number and names of all such companies as may have been refused such license up-to-date;

(e) their respective lines of business;

(f) the amount of capital each of them sought permission to raise, and the proportion such amount bears to the total authorised capital and to the amount of capital, if any, they had already raised; and

(g) the reasons for the refusal of a license in each case?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer replied :—

"(a) to (f). Two statements* giving the information for which the Hon'ble Member asks are laid on the table.

(g) In all the cases mentioned in the second statement, licenses were refused because it was considered that permission to raise capital would withdraw money from the market which might otherwise be invested in Government loans, while the objects of the companies concerned or their chances of carrying these into early effect, were not such as to warrant this objection being waived."

* Not included in these Proceedings.

[Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi ; [26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]
Sir George Barnes.]

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

Indian
and Cotton
piece-goods

4. "(a) Will Government be pleased to state—

- (i) the respective quantities and values of Indian cotton and cotton piece-goods and yarns manufactured in India and exported to foreign countries in 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917 and the first six months of 1918; and
- (ii) the respective quantities and values of raw cotton and cotton piece-goods and yarns imported into India in the same years and for the first six months of this year?
- (b) Is it a fact that speculation in cotton goods has increased in an extraordinary manner, and that these goods pass at the present moment through the hands of more middlemen and speculators than they used to do before the war?
- (c) Has cornering taken place in Calcutta and other places in regard to imported cloths bearing particular trade-marks?
- (d) Is distress of a very acute and widespread character prevalent in Bengal and some other Provinces owing to the high prices of cloth?
- (e) Have the Government of India invited or received the opinions of any Local Governments on the subject of this distress? If so, will Government be pleased to lay these opinions on the table?
- (f) Do Government propose to take any measures for the relief of distress amongst the people due to scarcity of cloths?"

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

"(a) With regard to the Hon'ble Member's question marked (a), all the information asked for is contained in the ordinary statistics issued by Government, and I should like to refer him to these publications. However, on this occasion, in order to save the Hon'ble Member trouble, I have had a typewritten copy made of the figures he wishes for, and this copy* I lay upon the table.

(b) Government understand that there has been lately in some centres much speculation in cotton piece-goods.

(c) Government have no information with regard to the cornering of imported cloths bearing particular trade-marks.

(d) There is, I regret to say, a considerable amount of suffering in Bengal and elsewhere owing to the high price of cloth.

(e) Since January last, the Government of India have been in consultation with Local Governments regarding the control of the supply of commodities of general use, including cotton cloth. Much of this correspondence relates to matters which are still under consideration, and cannot be laid on the table consistently with the public interest. The Hon'ble Member is doubtless aware that in a Press Communiqué of the 24th August last, the Government of India published the Report of the Committee which was convened in Bombay in March last to consider the question of the control of cotton cloth. They simultaneously addressed a circular letter, of which a copy* is laid on the table, to Local Governments, explaining the intentions of the Government of India and asking them to send a representative to confer with the officer who is to be placed in charge of the scheme.

(f) I would refer the Hon'ble Member to my reply to a question asked by the Hon'ble Raj Bahadur B. D. Shukul in this Council on September 11th."

* Not included in these Proceedings.

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.] [*Mr. Malcolm Hogg ; Sir George Barnes ; Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur ; Sir William Vincent ; Sir Robert Gillan.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Malcolm Hogg asked :—

5. “(a) Since the prohibition of the export of pearls from India, have any special permissions to export pearls been granted to any firms or persons? Prohibition of export of pearls from India.”

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of such permissions, with the quantity for which each permission was granted and the special grounds on which it was granted?”

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

“I lay on the table a statement*, showing particulars of the only cases—four in number, in which permission has been given to export pearls, since the prohibition was imposed.”

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

6. “(a) With reference to the reply given on the 27th February last to my question on the subject, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the views of Local Governments *re* the investigation of the indigenous system of medicine? Investigation of the indigenous system of medicine.”

(b) What further action do the Government of India propose to take in the matter?”

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

“(a) The views of the Local Governments and Administrations are summed up in a statement† which I lay on the table.

(b) The matter is under consideration. In reply to his question on the subject in February last, the Hon'ble Member was informed that the Government of India were awaiting the opinion of the Committee of the All-India Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbi Conference. That opinion is still awaited.”

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

7. “(a) Is it a fact that third class passengers at important junction stations particularly at the terminal stations such as Egmore and the central station in Madras suffer great hardship because the ticket window is not kept open sufficiently early so as to expedite the sale of tickets to the large number of passengers, that some passengers have to pay heavy *bakshis* to obtain tickets, and that tickets are refused at the last moment? Hardship of third class passengers in obtaining tickets.”

(b) Do Government propose to suggest to all Railway Administrations measures to remedy these evils?”

The Hon'ble Sir Robert Gillan replied :—

“A reference to the Time Tables and Coaching Tariffs of Railways shows that Railway Administrations arrange to keep booking offices open sufficiently long before the departure of trains to obviate inconvenience to intending passengers. No specific complaint has been received regarding the Central Station, Madras. A complaint received from the Railway Passengers' Association, Saidapet, regarding Egmore was referred to the Railway Administration, when it appeared that most of the points brought to notice had already been

* Vide Appendix A to these Proceedings.

† Vide Appendix B to these Proceedings.

[*Sir Robert Gillan*; *Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma*; *Sir William Vincent*.] [26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

attended to, and a satisfactory settlement effected at a meeting between the General Traffic Manager of the Railway and representatives of the Association. Railway servants are forbidden to accept illegal gratifications, and if they demand and accept wrongful payments before issue of tickets to passengers, they lay themselves open to criminal prosecution. The remedy for the evil where it exists lies, so far as the travelling public are concerned, in a prompt and definite complaint to the Agent of the Railway concerned.

(b) The question of ameliorating the conditions of 3rd class travel has been receiving the careful attention of railways and of the Railway Board. In this connection I lay on the table* for the information of the Hon'ble Member, copies of three letters recently issued by the Board to Railway Administrations and Senior Government Inspectors.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

8. "Is it a fact that riots accompanied by looting of grain and cloth shops occurred in the city of Madras and several mofussil towns, including district headquarters such as Vizagapatam, Anakapally, Ellore, Madura, Salem, Sathanur near Paramakudi, etc., in the Madras Presidency?"

Looting of grain and cloth shops in the Madras Presidency.

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"It is a fact that riots accompanied by looting of grain and cloth have occurred in the areas mentioned by the Hon'ble Member."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

9. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the following incidents occurred in the Punjab in connection with recruitment in the said Province—

Incidents in connection with recruitment in the Punjab.

(i) a Tahsildar was murdered in the district of Shahpur ;

(ii) armed police fired on a large body of landholders at Leiah under the orders of a Magistrate accompanying them ;

(iii) a similar incident occurred in the Shahpur district ;

(iv) the Deputy Commissioners of Multan and Sialkot were roughly handled by certain villagers ?

(b) Have any inquiries been made and with what result ?

(c) What steps have been taken to prevent collision between the people and the officers ?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

"(a) A Tahsildar engaged in recruiting work was murdered in the Shahpur district. At Leiah and also in the Shahpur district, the police were forced in self-defence to fire on large mobs which attacked them. The Deputy Commissioner of Multan was assaulted when recruiting, but no report has been received of any assault on the Deputy Commissioner of Sialkot.

(b) Certain arrests have been made in connection with the murder of the Tahsildar, and proceedings are being taken against the property of those accused who are still absconding. The case of the rioters at Leiah is at present under trial, while the appeals of all those persons convicted for their part in the riot in the Shahpur district have been dismissed by the Chief Court.

* Vide Appendix C to these Proceedings.

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

[*Sir William Vincent ; Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma ; Sir Claude Hill M. Surendra Nath Banerjee.*]

(c) The Local Government has impressed on all its officers the necessity for discretion and tact in the matter of recruitment and the inexpediency of using the police for this work."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

10. "(a) Is it a fact that the south-west monsoon has failed in several parts of India, including the greater portion of the Madras Presidency ?

Railway facilities afforded for the carriage of food-stuffs and cloths in the Madras Presidency.

(b) Is it a fact that foodstuffs are being exported from this country in large quantities, and that from April to July 1918, the value thereof exceeded that of the corresponding four months during 1917-18 ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to enable the poor to buy foodstuffs at reasonable prices ?

(d) Do Government intend to direct that Railway facilities should be immediately afforded for the supply of food stuffs and cloths in the Madras Presidency ?"

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill replied :—

"(a) There has been a partial-failure of the monsoon in several parts of India, including a portion of the Madras Presidency, but the position was much improved by the rain which fell about a month ago and again last week in Madras, and if more rain comes within a month, the prospects of the spring crops will be generally good.

(b) The value of the exports of grain, pulse and flour during the four months April to July 1918 exceeded the value exported in the corresponding period of 1917 by less than 5 per cent. This increase was entirely due to exports of rice, mainly from Burma, which had large surplus stocks wanting a market. In the periods referred to the value of rice exports rose from 5½ crores to 9 crores, while wheat exports fell from about 8 crores to a little over 4 crores.

(c) The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to paragraph 4 of the statement laid on the table in reply to a similar question asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. D. Shukul on the 11th September 1918.* This statement shows the action already taken or under contemplation in the different provinces to prevent speculation and regulate prices of various articles (including food grains). I may add that the problem of securing adequate food supplies, which is largely one of distribution, is receiving the continual and anxious attention of the Central Transport and Foodstuffs and Communications Boards.

(d) The whole situation was reviewed and considered at the Conference of Directors of Civil Supplies convened at Nagpur in August, and it will be reviewed again at a further Conference to be held next month, and as a result of the deliberations of the former meeting, Government have already taken steps materially to increase the space allotted for the transport of necessary supplies to the Madras Presidency both by rail and sea."

The Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee asked :—

11. "(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious riots which recently took place in Calcutta and in Madras ?

Calcutta and Madras riots.

(b) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether the authorities concerned had received any information beforehand of the likelihood of these disturbances ;

(ii) whether precautionary measures, if any, had been taken to prevent them ;

(iii) why such measures did not produce the desired results ; and

(iv) what were the causes of these disturbances ?"

* Vide page 218 of Council Proceedings of 11th September 1918.

406 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS; THE INDIAN COMPANIES
(FOREIGN INTERESTS) BILL; THE INDIAN DEFENCE
FORCE (FOREIGN SERVICE) BILL; THE BRONZE COIN
(LEGAL TENDER) BILL.

[*Sir William Vincent; Sir George Barnes;*
His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief
in India; Sir William Meyer.]

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent replied :—

“The Government of India have been in communication with the Governments of Bengal and Madras on the subject of these disturbances. They have been informed that the situation in Calcutta is now quite satisfactory, and the Government of Bengal are issuing a Resolution dealing with the matter.”

**THE INDIAN COMPANIES (FOREIGN INTERESTS)
BILL.**

11-14 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill to take power to prohibit the alteration, except with the sanction of the Governor General in Council, of articles of association which restrict foreign interests in certain Companies, and to provide for other purposes connected therewith, be taken into consideration. I explained, my Lord, the object of this Bill when it was introduced. Its intention is to prevent companies which have adopted articles of association with the approval of Government, in order to sever themselves from enemy control, from altering those articles of association without the consent of the Governor General in Council.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes :—“I beg to move, my Lord, that the Bill be now passed. I should inform your Lordship that no criticisms have been received.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

**THE INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE (FOREIGN SERVICE)
AMENDMENT BILL.**

11-16 A.M.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill to provide that certain persons deemed to be enrolled under the Indian Defence Force Act, 1917, shall be liable to serve as well without the limits of India as within those limits, and that when so serving, they shall be subject to the said Act, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill be now passed.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BRONZE COIN (LEGAL TENDER) BILL.

11-17 A.M.

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill to provide that certain bronze coins coined outside British India shall be legal tender in British India be taken into consideration. As I said when introducing the Bill the other day, the objects of it are fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and we have had no criticism on it at all.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill be now passed.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

[His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India.]

THE INDUSTRIAL COMPULSION BILL.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India :—“ My Lord, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide that certain persons liable to military service under the Indian Defence Force Act, 1917, should be liable to perform war work. The object of this Bill is explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill. Certain industries are at present of national importance owing to the outturn of the factories and workshops engaged in them being essential to the maintenance of the troops in the field. The working of these industries, which have expanded considerably since the commencement of the war and are still continuing to expand, involves the employment of men with special technical training and knowledge. In pre-war days these specialists were largely recruited from England, but owing to the operation of the Military Service Acts and the demands of Munitions factories at Home, such recruitment has now become very difficult, and in fact practically impossible. It is accordingly necessary to utilise, to the fullest extent, the services of persons available in India who possess the necessary technical qualifications and training. 11-15 A.M.

“ Experience has shown that Government employes whose services are essential to the working of Munitions factories and workshops have been induced from time to time to relinquish such employment in order temporarily to take up more remunerative work under private firms who are not always engaged solely on war work. It is imperative that this tendency should be stopped, so that all factories engaged fully and only in war work may be kept up to the highest pitch of efficiency. Work in such factories is as essential as active service in the field, and its dislocation may easily result in serious depreciation of our fighting capacity, as the loss of a single foreman may throw out of action a large body of artisans. We have, in fact, on various occasions released technical specialists from the Army, not only for Government factories, but for employment by firms engaged on war work.

“ In order that the services of those who have technical knowledge may be utilised to the best advantage of the State, it is essential that Government should have power to control their employment. The simplest way of securing this is, to treat such employment as military service. The present Bill is designed to give effect to this idea.

“ The Bill, as explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, provides for taking power by an Order in writing to require any member of the European portion of the Indian Defence Force, whether in possession of an exemption certificate or not, to take up or continue any employment in any industry declared to be of national importance by the Governor General in Council. Persons in respect of whom such an order has been made will be deemed to have been called upon to perform actual military duty, as the case may be, according as they belong to the general military service or the local military service class.

“ It is intended to pay reasonable salaries to men employed on technical work, and the provision made for this in the Bill will be worked to the satisfaction of all reasonable men. The services of the Selection Committees formed under the Indian Defence Force Act will be utilised in choosing the persons required for particular forms of war work. It is not proposed to employ these men in private businesses, whether engaged on Government work or not. The power which we propose to take will not be exercised, except for the purposes of Government service and industrial concerns under Government in which Government may control the profits as well as the output. This should ensure that no undue demand will be made either on the employers of labour or on the

[*The Commander-in-Chief in India; Mr. Malcolm Hogg.*] [26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

men-themselves, and every reasonable endeavour, consistent with obtaining our object, will be made to avoid interference with private employment. It is fully realised, however, that the measure closely affects private firms and the skilled hands whom they employ, and it is for this reason that we are doing no more than introduce the Bill this Session. In the interval between now and the February Session private firms and Chambers of Commerce will have ample opportunity of discussing its provisions, and any opinions or suggestions which they may wish to put forward will be fully considered when the discussion on the Bill takes place next Session.

“With these remarks, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill.”

11-24 A.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. Malcolm Hogg:—“My Lord, I do not think it will be denied that this Bill raises wide issues of very considerable importance. In support of this statement I need only point out that the Bill proposes to introduce the principle of industrial conscription, of compulsory industrial service, a principle which, as far as I know, has not been accepted in any portion of the British Empire, and which has certainly been vigorously and successfully resisted in England. Further, the Bill proposes to utilise the Indian Defence Force Act for a purpose for which that Act was not intended when it was passed in this Council. Now, a Bill which raises issues of this importance must, I think, naturally meet with a certain amount of *prima facie* opposition from those concerned. If that opposition is to be overcome, and if the consent of those concerned is to be obtained, it is essential that Government should make out a very strong case for the passing of the Bill. It is not, I think, enough to show that the objects aimed at are necessary objects, objects of national importance, but it is also essential to show that those objects cannot be attained by simpler and less drastic methods. Now, I understand, that the objects of this Bill are really two. The first is, to prevent men who are already employed in Government factories on essential war work from leaving that work for more remunerative employment elsewhere. The second is, to enable Government to secure the services of a limited number of additional men of similar qualifications for similar work in Government factories. Now, no one will dispute the proposition that Government factories engaged on war work must be kept adequately staffed, nor will it be disputed that for that purpose Government must have a reasonable measure of control over their existing employees, and every assistance from the industrial community in obtaining such further employees as are required, if available. But, I think, it will strike every one that the objects of this Bill, important as they are, are of comparatively restricted scope, while the provisions of it raise issues of far-reaching importance, and at first sight certainly appear to be somewhat out of proportion to the requirements. I think that Hon'ble Members of this Council will ask themselves whether it is not possible to attain these objects by some simpler and less drastic methods. This Bill has only been before Hon'ble Members of this Council for some 36 hours, and I do not think, therefore, that the Council will expect me to attempt to answer that question to-day, but on the answer to that question my own ultimate attitude to this Bill must depend. If, therefore, I do not oppose the introduction of this Bill to-day, I do not wish to be understood as necessarily assenting either to its principles or to its detailed provisions. I must reserve to myself full liberty to oppose the Bill, either in part or in whole, at a later stage if, after due consideration by my community, such opposition appears to be necessary. My reason for not opposing the Bill to-day is, that I fully recognise Government's difficulties in the matter, and I also fully recognise that a way out of those difficulties must be found. But, in this connection, I feel bound to say that, in seeking a solution of these difficulties, I do not think that Government have followed the best possible method. In a matter of this sort when Government require a limited number of men with special qualifications, I should have thought that the first thing to do would have been to have stated their

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

[Mr. Malcolm Hogg; Mr. W. A. Ironside.]

difficulties fully and frankly to the European industrial community, from whose ranks these men are required, to have asked that community if the men were available, and to have invited their co-operation in securing them. I feel perfectly certain that, if that course had been pursued, the co-operation asked for would have been most willingly given. I do wish to impress most earnestly upon Government that the European community are only too anxious to co-operate with Government, and more particularly to co-operate in war work and that we very much prefer to give co-operation rather than criticism. But by the course which has been pursued in this matter, we are put in the position that in order to co-operate we must criticise first. Now, I may be told that I am splitting hairs and drawing a distinction without a difference. But I do assure your Lordship that there is a very real difference in this matter. It is one thing to say to the industrial community 'we want such and such men with such and such qualifications, can you help us to get them?' If that course is pursued, not only would the co-operation of the industrial community be assured, but if that method of getting the men should fail, and if you should subsequently have to adopt more drastic measures, you would, to a great extent, disarm criticism. It is, I submit, quite a different thing to say to the industrial community, without having previously consulted them or invited their assistance, 'we make certain drastic legislative proposals; our object in making those legislative proposals is only to get a limited number of men, and you need not therefore fear that these drastic measures will be generally or to any great extent applied.' That course inevitably irritates public opinion. It creates a certain feeling of distrust, a feeling that Government have shown some lack of frankness in dealing with these particular needs, and in inviting the co-operation of the community in meeting those needs. When once those feelings of public irritation are aroused, they are not easily allayed and they do not tend to create an atmosphere favourable to that whole-hearted co-operation which the European community is genuinely desirous of giving to Government in these matters.

"I have dwelt on this matter perhaps at some length, but it is because I feel most earnestly and most sincerely that it would be as much in the interests of Government as in the interests of my own community, and that it would do much to facilitate co-operation in war work between my community and Government, if, in matters of this nature which particularly affect my community and which deal with Government's needs for war work, we were taken into Government's confidence fully and frankly at an earlier stage than has been done in this case."

The Hon'ble Mr. W. A. Ironside :—"My Lord, I hesitate to strike any jarring note of dissent to a Bill such as this to provide man-power for national service, particularly in case that any words of mine may be open to misconstruction. The circumstances, however, are, I think, peculiar and demand at this stage some criticism, particularly in view of recent happenings, and particularly perhaps because the community in Calcutta, which I have the honour to represent, is so largely bound up with the industrial life of this country. This is the third amendment of the Indian Defence Force Act during the present Session. Perhaps the Government believe in the precept of Dickens' Immortal character Mrs. Gummidge Little and often? With all respect, my Lord, I make bold to say that the Bill seems to point to a policy of unmerited mistrust, shall I say, of the British European community, particularly the large industrial community in Calcutta and elsewhere. When the Defence Force Act was first instituted and discussed with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in Calcutta, certain definite assurances were given on both sides, and every one of those assurances have on both sides been loyally and honestly carried out in a mutual feeling of good-will and trust, one to the other. But I think that the Act never contemplated anything beyond military obligations, and those of a

[*Mr. W. A. Ironside.*]

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definite character. These naturally have been extended from time to time, and the extensions have been accepted cheerfully and loyally, on the full understanding that the original assurances had perforce to be tempered by necessities brought about by time and other changes. But, I think, I am correct in stating that my community in Calcutta will look on this proposal as rather hasty and ill-considered. In the original Act Government took the people of Bengal, and I think the whole of India, entirely into their confidence, and I cannot understand why they have not done so in the present case. You have laid yourself open to a charge which was actually included in a telegram which I received last night of breach of faith. I am aware that the powers that you seek may not amount to much, but the methods you have adopted appear so open to misconstruction, particularly to those uninitiated in the necessities and methods of Government. We feel you have laid our community open to the charge, shall we say, of disloyalty, and opposition to national service by this seeming necessity for compulsion and for reasons which, I believe, are quite inadequate and unreasonable. Had you been able to prove the necessity for this measure, I should not have thought of speaking at all. I attended one short Conference, my Lord, the other day when we discussed the question of the urgency of man-power for Government service. All we heard about was a few tailors, mechanical engineers and a number of supervisors for Stores on, I am rather afraid, inadequate salaries, and as a result of that meeting, I think my Hon'ble friend the Member for the Bombay Chamber, and myself were mutually of opinion that the whole of Government's requirements could be met in a very few days by personal application to the Chambers of Commerce and Trades Associations in both towns. But you are apparently insecure as to your premises, and if the objects and reasons for the measure are urgent, why not pass the Bill at once, why wait for six months for criticism? Would you like us to move that a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to discuss the matter? If this measure is of national importance, why wait until next year?

"If it is not a necessity to-day, why waste time over it just now? My Lord, I hesitate to use the words, but we look on this measure as one of the pin-pricking order. My Lord, I shall doubtless be reminded again of what I said at Delhi, and, I would take this opportunity of explaining my action at Delhi. There we heard a great deal about the fullest possible use of the available man-power of the country. In order not to spoil the harmony of the proceedings, I withheld information which I had with me; I felt indeed that Government was out to cut away all top-hammer and get on with business. I could have given you then the names of scores of men who, in excess of zeal, had relinquished good posts to serve their country, and who were eating their hearts out acting in posts practically as junior clerks in various parts of the country on work which their Babus at home could have done equally efficiently; of men who, after throwing up lucrative and comfortable posts at home, waited for six and nine months for replies to their applications for Commissions of highly skilled technical men turned back, too old at 40. We had indeed come to the conclusion at that date that Government did not require any more men, and I know for a fact that young men in Calcutta were moving heaven and earth to get away from India and join the forces in Europe. And now in the light of my visit to Simla, I think I can go back to Calcutta with the firm conviction that the available man-power of military value exists in Simla in greater degree than it does in Calcutta. I expected a severe and salutary lesson in my duty to my country but I am going back to Calcutta, where the pressure of work is every bit as great, where the hours are every bit as long, and where the temperature and humidity is above the Simla average. My Lord, as a result of the Delhi Conference, the Military Department of the Government of India, forwarded us a letter dated

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the 1st June 1918, through our Provincial Government. Let me read one or two extracts from it:—

As a result of the recent Delhi Conference, the Government of India have under consideration measures for increasing the armed forces of India to the utmost possible extent, in order to enable this country to exert its whole strength in the cause of the Empire. * * *

The Government of India believe that, apart from the Imperial and Provincial Services which have already contributed so largely to the increase in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, there are still many Europeans of military age in India employed in commercial firms, and other business concerns, or earning their living as journalists, brokers, lawyers, etc., occupations which cannot be classed as essential war industries: many gentlemen of these classes would be suitable for service as officers or subordinates in either the combatant or the non-combatant branches of the Indian Army. * * *

I am accordingly to request that the whole question of European man-power may be examined and that the Government of India may be favoured with your views as soon as possible. In several provinces the Local Government will have the assistance of Chambers of Commerce, Trades Associations and the Provincial Controllers of Munitions, in framing proposals.

And further down it is said:—

It is difficult to give a complete list of occupations, industries or trades which can be considered non-essential for the prosecution of the war, and the question must, in a large measure, be left to the decision of the local Committees. The Government of India are, however, of opinion that the number of Europeans of military age employed as actors, musicians, shop assistants, hair-dressers, etc., or engaged in trade as tailors, drapers, furniture makers, jewellers, photographers, booksellers, music sellers, art dealers, and many other occupations of the same nature, could be reduced without difficulty, and their places taken by women to a larger extent than is the case at present.

I submit, my Lord, that the gentleman who wrote that letter knew nothing whatever about Calcutta. Our proposals, however, to comply with this request were at once decided upon, conveyed and accepted, I think, within seven days by the Bengal Government, and the two large organisations in Calcutta, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades Association, got to work. Our members loyally supported us, and the Committees that were appointed, I assure you, worked hard and long. They are still finishing up. The budget of papers that I have here, my Lord, comprises the return of one firm, 250 men, and these are the epitomised figures for the whole of the men belonging to firms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. I will just give you a few figures. The total number of British firms in the Chamber is 185; the total number of European British-born subjects employed by these firms is roughly 3,399, say 3,400 men. The present staff of those firms is 2,757. We have released for military service, not national service in Simla and other such places, but for national service in the field, 590 men out of the original number of 3,399. Out of that number 6 were Anglo-Indians, that is, roughly, 584 imported Europeans out of a total force of British-born subjects of 3,400. And we are prepared to release now, as a result of these papers, 98 more Europeans and 69 Anglo-Indians, a total of 167. The Committees who have examined these figures have gone into them thoroughly, man by man and firm by firm, and they have suggested to the firms 19 further Europeans and 21 Anglo-Indians, a total of 40 more men, altogether 200, these we are prepared to offer you. You have had already 600, it will now be 800. I think, my Lord, I have said enough. We have never failed you; we never will fail you, but you have gone to that same well often, and I do ask you earnestly in a matter of this sort to be careful not to risk that the pitcher may one day come away empty."

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:—"My Lord, I strongly support the very well-reasoned and forceful appeal that has been made by the Hon'ble Mr. Ironside. There are only just a few remarks I will add to it. He rightly complained that the measure indicates a mistrust of the European community. I am sorry to add, my Lord, that it indicates a mistrust of the Indian community also. I thought, my Lord, that, in this matter at

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any rate, there might be an effort made to find out whether from the ranks of educated Indians men could not be found who could be trained for technical work during the time that lies between now and the time when these men will be required for service. I think that, having regard to what has been said by the Hon'ble Mr. Hogg and the Hon'ble Mr. Ironside, and also having regard to the period of time that is available to Government, an earnest, honest effort should be made to train as many Indians as it may be possible to, for the kind of work that is in contemplation. That is all I have to say."

11-40 A.M.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India:—"My Lord, I have listened with great sympathy to the speeches which have been delivered by my Hon'ble friends Mr. Hogg and Mr. Ironside. This Bill has undoubtedly been interpreted by them in a way which was never intended when it was prepared.

"The Hon'ble Members will agree with me that the present war, is one of great magnitude, that it is increasing from month to month, and that demands to an increasing extent are made on the Government of India, and we are compelled to meet those demands with the very least delay that is possible. India is required to respond to these calls in an increasing degree, and we cannot afford to waste time or delay in responding to them. In fact, our duty is to respond with the very least delay that is possible, and that is really all that we have in mind. There is no reason whatever for imagining that we have any suspicion of our brother Englishmen out here. I do hope that my remarks will dispel any such idea.

"I am quite certain that both Mr. Hogg and Mr. Ironside know perfectly well that we are prepared to meet them on every occasion, and that we always tell them quite frankly what our needs are. They know perfectly well that, as far as the Indian Defence Force Act is concerned, we have tried to meet all their difficulties and adjusted our measures accordingly. We have nothing else in our minds but the prosecution of the war, and the demonstration of India's ability to respond to any demand that is made on her with the least possible delay. We are carrying out this policy with full sympathy for the work that our brethren are doing for us in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and elsewhere, and with the full intention of doing nothing which will disturb the important work in which they are engaged. They cannot say that we have ever done anything to disturb them. Therefore, let them take that as our assurance. They seem to be hurt because this Bill has been brought in without their knowledge. We had no desire to hurt them. The only people we desire to hurt are our enemies; we have no desire to hurt our friends. Is not that obvious? Why then, I ask, should they take umbrage in this way. It is not reasonable for them to come here and make this laboured attack on us. I am not getting angry, but I do say that it is not reasonable as Englishmen for you to come here and make in these contemptuous tones this attack on us. We want to work with you, why not, therefore, ascribe to us the same good faith that we ascribe to you? At the same time, I do not want to have any recriminations over this. Our aims are the same as Mr. Hogg's aims and Mr. Ironside's aims and the aims of those whom they represent in Bombay and in Calcutta. This Bill is now merely being introduced, and, because we give them this notice, my Hon'ble friend Mr. Ironside gets up and gets very angry. What would he say if we gave him no notice? What does he want? And why the special pleading that, because the Bill is not wanted now, why should it be wanted six months hence? Our object is a perfectly honest one. We bring forward this Bill and we ask you, gentlemen, who know what the temper of the people is, and how they can be best employed in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and elsewhere, to help us. There

THE INDUSTRIAL COMPULSION BILL ; THE COTTON CLOTH BILL

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[His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India ; Sir Claude Hill ; Mr. W. A. Ironside ; Sir George Barnes.]

is nothing else we have got in mind, and I do hope that the Hon'ble gentlemen will now be satisfied that we have nothing else before us, but to get on with the war, to terminate it and to show that India can respond to all the calls that are made on her with the least possible delay. That is the only reason why we have brought this measure in. In the interval, we shall be prepared to receive these, our friends, into our confidence. We have got nothing to hide from them ; we trust them, and I hope they will trust us.

“ With these few words, my Lord, I will sit down, and I do hope that all this turmoil and excitement that has been got up about this very innocuous measure will now subside.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—“ My Lord, I beg to introduce the Bill, and to move that the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons relating thereto, be published in the Gazette of India and in the local official Gazettes in English.”

The Hon'ble Sir Claude Hill:—My Lord, if I am in order, I should like to say a word with reference to one observation of the Hon'ble Mr. Ironside's, in which he took credit for the fact that his community in Calcutta had surrendered a proportion which, from his figures, I gather to be approximately 12 per cent of the people whom he represents. I may say that one department of the Government, for which I happen to have figures, namely, the Public Works Department, has, from its superior staff, surrendered 40 per cent.” 11-57 A.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. A. Ironside:—“ My Lord, I should like to correct that. Of the original staff of 3,400, we have surrendered 600 and we are offering 200 more. The original 3,400 comprised everybody who was a European British-born subject. Out of the 600 who have gone all but 6 are British subjects, mainly men from home, consequently, we are nearly 60 per cent short of our original senior staff.” 11-58 A.M.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE COTTON CLOTH BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes:—“ My Lord, I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to take powers to provide for the cheap supply of cotton-cloth to the poorer classes of the community be taken into consideration. This Bill, my Lord, was explained by me at some length when leave was asked to introduce it on the opening day of the present Session. Its object, my Lord, as I then told Council, is to alleviate in some measure the serious hardship which has been caused to the poorer classes by the great rise which has taken place in the price of cotton piece-goods.” 11-59 A.M.

“ Subsequently the Bill was referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Hon'ble Members :—

1. Sir George Lowndes.
2. Sir Fazulbhoj Currimbhoy.
3. Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur.
4. Mr. Muddiman.
5. Sir Dinsbaw Wacha.
6. Mr. Sarma.
7. Mr. Ironside.
8. Sir Verney Lovett.
9. Mr. C. E. Low, and
10. Myself.

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The Select Committee met and unanimously agreed upon certain amendments which I will shortly mention.

“Sir Dinshaw Wacha and Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy had intended to move an amendment in Select Committee with regard to forward contracts, but unfortunately by inadvertence they omitted to do so. Consequently, though the Report of the Select Committee is absolutely unanimous with regard to its recommendations, Sir Dinshaw Wacha and Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy signed it reserving to themselves the right, if so advised, of moving an amendment at a later stage of the Bill dealing with the question of forward contracts.

“The first amendment made by the Select Committee is a special power inserted in sub-clause (2) of clause 4 giving the Controller power to prescribe the manner in which standard cloth shall be marked. This was the suggestion of Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy, and while at first he questioned whether it would be possible to mark standard cloth so that every yard of it should be recognisable, he subsequently agreed that efficient marking was quite feasible by running a coloured thread down the selvage of each piece of standard cloth.

“In sub-clause (2) (c) of clause 4 we inserted a few words to make it clear that a manufacturer might at his own risk pass on his obligation to manufacture standard cloth to another manufacturer by such private arrangement as he thought fit. Both Sir Dinshaw Wacha and Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy thought that this would be a great convenience to some mills which were adapted to weaving only the finer counts.

“In the last proviso to sub-clause (2) (d) a few words were inserted to make it clear that, while in normal circumstances the Controller should fix a flat rate governing mills in the same locality, he should have power to depart from this rule where special reasons existed.

“In the Bill as it originally stood, there was a power to inspect books. This Sir Dinshaw Wacha and Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy thought might be unduly harassing to the mills, and they urged us to trust the mill-owners. The Committee took into consideration the other powers conferred on the Controller, and decided to delete the power of inspection.

“An alteration of some importance was made in clause 5 of the Bill so as to provide that, where the majority of the Committee who have been consulted by the Controller differ from his opinion, the matter must be referred to the Government of India. In the Bill as it originally stood, reference was only to be made if the Committee were all opposed to the Controller's view.

“Clause 8 of the Bill has been modified so as to penalise misuse of any mark prescribed by the Controller.

“At the end of sub-clause (3) of clause 9 some words were inserted in order to impress on Local Governments the necessity for the utmost publicity with regard to prices fixed for standard cloth.

“At the suggestion of Mr. Sarma the penalty imposed by sub-clause (2) of clause 10 has been increased from three months to six months, and I think Council will agree that a severe penalty is needed to prevent the sale of standard cloth at a price higher than the price fixed by the Local Government.

“This enumerates, I think, all the changes made of any importance by the Select Committee. The other changes may be described as drafting changes only.

“After the meeting of the Select Committee the question was discussed with Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy and Sir Dinshaw Wacha whether an amendment was on the whole, either necessary or desirable with regard to forward contracts.

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Eventually after discussion an amendment was agreed upon, which Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy will move, and which Sir Dinshaw Wacha, who is unfortunately not able to be present here to-day, has authorised me to say is entirely satisfactory to him.

“ At the same time that the Bill was being discussed by the Select Committee here, a very important Conference was being held in Bombay under the chairmanship of Mr. Noyce. At this meeting the Bombay Mill-owners Association, the Bombay and Cawnpore Chambers of Commerce, the Cotton Contracts Committee, the Ahmedabad Mill-owners Association, and the Bombay Native Piece-goods Merchants Association were all represented. In addition, the Directors of Civil Supplies or other representatives were present from Madras, the Punjab, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Assam, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Baluchistan, Central India, Baroda and Indore. I think it would be well that I should refer very shortly to some of the matters which were touched upon at the Bombay Conference. The discussion which took place at the Conference and the work done by it have been, I think, most valuable, and will prove to be of great assistance to Mr. Noyce as Controller in working out the details of the scheme.

“ One of the most important matters discussed at the Conference was the subject of the existing stocks in the country. Without doubt these stocks are at the present time large. The census which we have lately taken of stocks at the ports shows a much larger amount of cloth in hand than was estimated, and, I think, that it is a safe assumption that the returns are not on the high side. We may take it that no one has made a return of a larger amount than he actually holds, and it may be that some persons have omitted to make a full disclosure. Mr. Noyce informs me that the view taken by the Conference generally was that stocks were being unreasonably withheld from the market in the hope of obtaining higher prices, in many cases by those not accustomed to deal in cotton goods. I hope that the speculators who are trying to make a profit by these means will take warning in time and unload their stocks in the market.

“ In regard to the distribution of standard cloth, the view taken by the majority of the Conference was that, in addition to the distribution of cloth by means of Government, municipal or local board shops, the agency of licensed dealers should be utilised, if Local Governments considered it suitable. The representatives of the mill industry were, however, of opinion that licensed dealers should not form part of the scheme for the distribution of standard cloth. This difficult matter, and we are fully alive to its difficulty, must be left to be worked out by each of the Provinces, but the Controller will be instructed not to issue standard cloth to any Province until that Province has satisfied him that an efficient scheme of distribution exists.

“ Another important subject discussed was the control of the price of raw cotton. The Conference was of opinion that it was impossible, and that, if possible, it would be unwise to attempt to control directly the price of raw cotton in India. We must remember that India is not alone in this matter, and that America is a far larger producer of cotton than India. If the United States decide upon a policy of control, then some scheme of control might be worked out for Indian cotton in order to secure Indian parity. Apart from any direct control of the price of raw cotton, it was suggested by some members of the Conference that a system of licensing exports should be adopted, and the opinion was expressed that a policy based on these lines would have a most salutary effect. It is of course quite clear that any restriction of export of raw cotton would have the effect of artificially reducing the price of cotton for the Indian mills, but we must not forget that it would also have the effect of reducing the price of the raw cotton exported.

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“The amount of surplus cotton which India has year by year to export is large—I think that last year the amount exported was about 5,700,000 cwts.—and an artificial reduction in price consequently would entail a heavy net loss to India and a proportionately large present to our customers abroad. This side of the question must not be lost sight of. Though there are strong economic reasons against a policy of restriction of export for the purpose of producing an artificial reduction of the price of raw cotton, a policy of imposing some restriction on export, might become alike desirable and necessary if there appeared to be any risk of a deficiency in the supply of raw cotton for the use of our Indian mills. We must watch the position and be careful to safeguard, if necessary, the supplies of our own mills.

“At the Conference the various representatives from the Provinces were asked what their requirements of standard cloth were likely to be. The only Provinces which were in a position to give a definite statement of what they would want were Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam. The Bengal representatives estimated their requirements at nearly 4 million yards a month. The Bihar and Orissa representatives said that they would need the same amount, and the Assam representative estimated the requirements for his Province at 2 million yards monthly. The other Provincial representatives expressed their inability to furnish a definite statement until they were in a position to see the samples of the cloth it was proposed to standardise and particulars of the price fixed for it. Mr. Noyce, who has come up to Simla after attending the Conference, reports to me that he has received assurances from the representatives of the mill-owners of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Cawnpore and Madras of their willingness to co-operate in the scheme to the utmost, and to assist us in every way that they possibly can, and I should like to tender them my best thanks to-day. By the kindness of the Agents of the textile mills in Bombay, a sample cloth which they thought suitable for standardisation was woven during Mr. Noyce's short visit to Bombay, which I have brought with me to-day. This sample was submitted to the representatives of Bengal, who pronounced it to be exactly what they required. The specification of it is 20s warp and 20s weft, 32 reed and 32 pick, and the price was estimated at about 5½ annas a square yard in Bombay. I have brought this sample with me to-day in case Members of this Council might like to inspect it.

“I beg to move, my Lord, that the Bill be taken into consideration.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

15.15 P.M. **The Hon'ble Sir Fazulbhoj Currimbhoj**—: My Lord, with your Lordship's permission, I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name and which runs as follows: ‘That in clause 4 to the first proviso to (a) of sub-clause (2) of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the following should be added, namely:—

‘and if the Controller is satisfied that the manufacturer has incurred actual loss arising out of forward contracts entered into before the commencement of this Act, and that such loss is immediately attributable to an order under this Act, he may take such loss into account.’

“I will briefly explain to the Council why I thought it necessary to bring this amendment. Several mills have sold forward their products six to nine months ahead at high prices, and have purchased cotton to cover these sales, also at high prices, at a fair margin of profit. If, under the provision of the Bill, a certain portion of the looms is commandeered then the mill-owners will not be able to fulfil contracts within the contracted period, so *ipso facto* the contract is cancelled. The result will be that the mills will not only lose the profit on their sales, but will actually suffer loss, if the price of cotton goes down. To safeguard this, I have moved this amendment that if the Controller is satisfied

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[*Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy; Sir George Barnes; Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.*]

that the mill has actually suffered loss, then he should take this matter into consideration, when he fixes the prices. I believe this is a just and fair solution, and I am obliged to the Hon'ble Member for Commerce and Industry for acceding to my request and accepting this amendment on behalf of Government.

"My Lord, I will now come to the Bill itself. In the Select Committee we have made certain alterations in the Bill, and as the Hon'ble mover has given full explanation regarding these changes I will not deal with them.

"My Lord, as this Council is aware the mill-owners of Bombay and Ahmedabad and the Indian Merchants Chamber of Bombay, whilst appreciating the object underlying this Bill, have expressed their opinion that there will be many practical difficulties in carrying out the object of the Bill. While realising these difficulties, I cannot help supporting this Bill when I consider the serious condition of the poor people, owing to the high prices of cloth and grain I support the Government with regard to this measure, fully expecting that the poor people will be benefitted and also feeling confident that the Government will properly safeguard the interests of all concerned.

"The Hon'ble mover has made reference to certain measures which the Government is considering and which have a bearing on the subject of the present Bill. As far as I know the Government do not contemplate at present the control of more than a small percentage of looms, say, about 10 per cent. In this case I am sure it will not in any way hamper the prosperity of the industry.

"If the agencies through which Government will distribute cheap cloth works satisfactorily, and if the object of supplying cheap cloth to the poor people is gained, then I am sure Government will need more cloth. Then, in that case, I think before taking further steps to control more of the production of the mills, it will be imperative for Government, in fairness to the industry, to control the price and the export of raw cotton, as also the control of the existing stock of cloth in the market, including the imported foreign cloth, as also to fix standard rates for the cloth.

"I am glad to learn from the speech of the Hon'ble Member that some of those above measures have been discussed at the Bombay Conference and are under the consideration of Government. The Hon'ble Member has also informed us that the Government, while appointing an Advisory Committee, mentioned in the Bill, will nominate on it representatives of the different Associations and Chambers concerned in the business. I wish a definite statement to the above effect had been included in the Bill, but on the assurance that my Hon'ble friend has given that this would be so, I did not press for this and I fully rely on this assurance.

"In conclusion I beg to assure the Government that the mill-owners of Bombay will heartily co-operate with Government and do their best to help Government in carrying out the object of the Bill. With these few words I beg to move the amendment."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes:—"I beg to move, my Lord, that the Bill be passed."

12-20 P.M.

The Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:—"I have great pleasure in supporting the motion that the Bill be passed. The amendments which have been made have met some of the objections which had been pointed out on the first day, and the amendment which has been accepted to-day will meet with the difficulty which was represented by mill-owners to the Council through several of us. I hope, my Lord, that the Bill will now bring speedy relief to the very large number of people who have been undergoing great hardship on account of dearness of cloth. There are just two or three points, however, which I beg to press upon the attention of Government. I

12-20 P.M.

[*Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya; Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea; Sir George Barnes.*] [26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

hope that this measure may be sufficient, but I apprehend it will not be, and while I recognise fully the weight of the considerations urged by the Hon'ble Member in the way of dealing with the controlling of the price of cotton, I would like to make a suggestion in that connection. I quite realise the difficulty of dealing with cotton which is to be exported, but may it not be, my Lord, that the price of cotton which is to be used in the country may be controlled and that the cotton which is to be exported may be left untouched. If the cotton that is to be used in the country is controlled, and if the cotton that is to be exported is left untouched, I think a great deal of relief may possibly be given.

"There is certainly another matter which I beg to press upon the attention of Government. As we are co-operating with the United States of America, I hope it will be possible to come to some arrangement with them which has been hinted at by the Hon'ble Member in order to do what may be necessary in this direction.

"The next point, my Lord, I would urge, is the supply of cheap yarn to hand-loom weavers in the country. The Government might bear a little loss in order to supply cheap yarn to hand-loom weavers, but by so doing the supply of cloth may be increased through the agency of hand-loom weavers.

"Another matter to which I should like to refer, is the difficulty about transport. I hope that greater facilities will be provided, both by rail and water, for the carriage of cloth from one place to another in the country.

"And the last thing which I would mention is, not the fixing of a price altogether for imported cloth, but fixing a maximum price beyond which imported cloth may not sell. I know the difficulties in the way of it, but I press it once more upon the consideration of the Hon'ble Member, and I hope something will be done in that direction.

"Lastly, I would once more suggest, as was mentioned by another Hon'ble Member the other day, that facilities may be provided to import textile machinery, so that the output of cotton cloth may be increased.

"With these suggestions I most heartily support the motion that the Bill be passed. The people will feel very grateful to the Government for having taken this measure."

12-35 P.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea :—"My Lord, I desire to associate myself with the note of satisfaction which has been sounded by my Hon'ble friend Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya on the passing of this Bill. To me, the only matter of regret is, that a measure of this kind should not have been placed on the Statute-book some three months back. We urged it, but as I have said in this Council and elsewhere, Government takes a long time to move, and if this matter had been placed on the Statute-book some three months back, I think much of the trouble with which Government is now confronted would have been avoided. Be that as it may, it is no use quarrelling over the past. We are thankful to the Government for the measure which it has passed, and I hope and trust, indeed I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind, that it will afford substantial relief to the poor and middle classes.

"My Lord, I have inspected the cloth which is meant for Bengal, the standard cloth, and my Hon'ble friend the Maharaja of Kasimbazar and myself both agree that it will do, and I think that sort of cloth will be helpful, if it is cheap, to the poorer classes of India. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the Bill."

12-35 P.M.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes :—"My Lord, I do not think I need say anything more. But I should like again to thank the mill-owners of this country for the way in which they have received the scheme and for their promise of co-operation in carrying it into effect."

The motion was put and agreed to.

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

[*The President.*]

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S SPEECH AT THE
CLOSING OF THE SIMLA SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—SEPTEMBER 1918.**

His Excellency the President:—“I think we may all look back with satisfaction on the Session which has now come to a close. The debates throughout have been informed by that spirit of co-operation, which was the key-note of the Scheme of Reforms proposed by the Secretary of State and myself. On the official side such co-operation rests on a recognition of Indian opinion; on the non-official side on a recognition that Government has only one end in view--the well-being and progress of India.

“At the very outset of the Session the same note was struck, and stirred a sympathetic chord on all sides of the House. It was struck first by the Hon'ble Mr Surendra Nath Banerjee in his eloquent appeal to his non-official colleagues to grasp the hand of fellowship extended to them by Government. And in swift response the Hon'ble the Home Member pledged the whole-hearted co-operation of that fine Service to which he belongs, in the progressive fulfilment of India's destiny as a full partner in the Empire.

“Quickened by this spirit of co-operation, the Council may face the future with confidence. Diversity of opinion there must always be; diversity indeed is the very law of life. But above diversity there is a higher law still, the law of unity. And it is the task of this Council to reconcile the many divergent interests of India into one whole, and to bring her ever nearer to the goal towards which we are all striving.

“How great is our essential agreement underlying all diversities of interests was demonstrated in the debate on Reforms. That debate has cleared the air. It has removed many misconceptions. It has done much to prepare the ground for the Committees that will be engaged this cold weather in investigating the all-important questions of Franchise, and of decentralisation and the provincial division into Transferred and Reserved Subjects.

“Some misconceptions no doubt still remain; it could hardly be otherwise with a scheme of such complexity. Take, for instance, the disappointment voiced during the debate by some Hon'ble Moslem Members at the inadequate representation of their community which to them seemed foreshadowed in the scheme. May I remind them again of my words at the opening of the Session? ‘I am most anxious that the fullest representation should be secured to the various classes and communities in India, but I am frankly doubtful myself whether the best method for securing that representation is through a system of separate electorates. However, I am content to leave the unravelling of this important question in the hands of the Committee, who will have the fullest evidence placed before them and will be free to make such recommendations as they think right.’ This assurance was general, addressed to all communities alike. But I would ask my Moslem friends in particular to lay it to heart. It is now for them to plead their cause before the Franchise Committee. That Committee, as also the Committee that is to deal with Subjects, will include a member of their community. And they may therefore plead their cause before it in the fuller assurance that all weight will be given to their claims. The strength of those claims no one recognises more readily than I. Their position under the Morley-Minto Reforms is secured; any advance on that position is for them to make good before the Committee. Yet I have been told that there is a feeling among Moslems that Government is less mindful of their interests than in the past. I have even been told that the unfortunate incident in

420 HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S SPEECH AT THE CLOSING OF THE SIMLA SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—SEPTEMBER 1918.

[*The President.*]

[26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.]

Calcutta, the grievous death-roll at which I deeply deplore, was in some measure symptomatic of this discontent. If there is indeed such a feeling abroad, I call on the leaders of the Moslem community, in the spirit of co-operation which has fructified our work at this Session, to help me to dispel it. For my own part I will only add this. I have watched the unswerving loyalty of Moslems throughout these trying times, proffering manhood and money in the cause of the Empire, with admiration. And Moslems may rest assured that I shall see to it that there is no abatement of the promises they received from my predecessors in the matter of representation, and that the wider interests of the great Moslem community are always safeguarded.

“ Another feature by which this Session will be signalised in our history was the entrusting to the non-official vote the decision on India's further financial assistance towards the prosecution of the war. We embarked on this departure from precedent in full confidence. Our action was vindicated by the result. The readiness with which the non-official Members of this Council rose to their new-found responsibilities will stand out as a landmark on the road towards responsible government. Their assumption of a larger share in the Empire's war-burden will strike a note of Imperial solidarity that will carry far beyond India itself. And that they read the temper of India aright, is proved—if proof were needed—by the large subscriptions that were simultaneously pouring in, to swell the War Loan before its close to nearly 50 crores. I offer my thanks to India at large, and to the various War Loan Committees for their unflinching efforts. And to the patriotic spirit of Bengal, which headed the Provinces with a contribution of nearly 20 crores, I pay a special tribute. The combination of these achievements, in this Council and in the country, forms a fitting close to Sir William Meyer's long and distinguished career in the service of India. He has remained with us on the call of duty at personal sacrifice; and all of us are glad to think that his sacrifice has met with so gratifying a reward. In the name of the Council I bid him good-bye and Godspeed.

“ Our Session is over. We met three weeks ago buoyed with high hopes in the coming triumph of our cause. In three short weeks our hopes have gone from strength to strength. The first faint flicker of victorious peace, which then seemed dawning on the horizon, is now beginning to kindle the whole sky. From every front comes news of victory. And in the latest victory of all, India can proudly claim a glorious share. For great forces have gone forth from India to Palestine, manned from British India and the Native States, and by Gurkhas from Nepal, whose Prime Minister has ungrudgingly placed at our service the gallant man-power of his country. The full story of that victory has yet to be told; its far-reaching effect no one amongst us can foresee. But of this I am assured. When the record of that glorious campaign is unfolded, across the page of history will be writ large the name of India.”

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

SIMLA ;

The 3rd October, 1918.

A. P. MUDDIMAN

Secretary to the Government of India,
Legislative Department.

APPENDIX A.

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

Statement showing particulars in respect of the grant of special permissions to export pearls from India since the 16th March 1918, the date on which the embargo was imposed.

Particulars.	Consignor.	Consignees.	Destination.	Special grounds for grant of concession.
(1) 600 tolas valued at Rs. 10,000 approximately. (Broken and shapeless pieces intended for medicinal use.)	Mr. F. F. Talati, Bombay ...	Not known ...	Hong Kong ...	Sanctioned as a special case as the pearls in question had originally come from Hong Kong whence they were shipped to India prior to date of the prohibition. The case was thus merely one of re-shipment.
(2) Unset pearls valued at over Rs. 50,000	Mr. N. D. H. Abdul Gaffoor, Colombo.	Self ...	Colombo ...	Mr. Gaffoor came to India in February last and had posted the pearls in advance of his departure from Ceylon. The pearls reached Bombay on 23rd February 1918, but having been delayed in transit, Mr. Gaffoor had to return to Ceylon without being able to dispose of them at Bombay as he had intended to do, and left instructions with his Agents to send them back to him at Colombo. On his return to Ceylon, Mr. Gaffoor applied for permission to re-export the pearls and sanction was accorded in view of the circumstances set forth above.
(3) (a) 34,938 carats baroque very rough and unfinished pearls valued at £ 350. (b) 20 ozs. baroque very rough and unfinished pearls valued at £ 200.	Messrs. David Sassoon and Company, Limited, Bombay. Messrs. David Sassoon and Company, Limited, Bombay.	(a) Mr. Israel Pinchasoff. (b) Mr. S. Barouch ..	New York ...	The pearls were sent to Messrs. David Sassoon's for sale, but the firm having failed to dispose of them wished to return them under instructions from the owners in New York who are the consignees. Sanction was accorded subject to the Collector of Customs being satisfied that they were bona fide cases of re-shipment.
(4) 3 pearl scarf pins 3 pearl studs 1 pearl button valued at £ 1,000.	Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Company, Bombay.	Firm's London House.	London ...	Sanctioned as the articles represented items of jewellery which were intended for sale—the sale proceeds to be devoted to charity in accordance with the will of the late Sir Jacob Sassoon.

APPENDIX B.

(Referred to in answer to Question No. 6.)

Statement summing up the views of Local Governments and Administrations on the question of placing indigenous systems of medicine on a scientific basis.

The opinion unanimously expressed by Local Governments is that it is practically impossible to place the indigenous systems of medicine on a scientific basis. The systems are a survival of a state of medical knowledge which once prevailed in Europe, but has been superseded by a series of scientific investigations and discoveries extending over several centuries. They ignore the instruments of scientific investigation which have made modern medicine and surgery possible, and the theories on which they are based are demonstrably unsound. Even at the present time there are numerous practitioners who have superimposed a knowledge of Western medicine on Ayurvedic instruction, or *vice versa*, but there is evidence that these men do not possess the confidence of the people to the same degree as practitioners who have been trained solely in accordance with the strict tenets of the Ayurveda, and the latter are strongly opposed to any form of Government interference. If advance is to be made on these lines, it is essential that there should be a strong movement among indigenous practitioners, supported by public opinion, to reform and organise themselves, and of such a movement there is at present little or no evidence.

The hold which the ancient systems undoubtedly have on the masses of the population is attributable in part to a form of credulity analogous to the belief in the magical efficacy of quack drugs and patent medicines which, in spite of constant exposures and a much higher level of education, is still so widespread even in Western countries; but the popularity of these systems is chiefly due to the smallness of the fees which their practitioners are willing to accept. Training in Western methods involves expense, and it is inevitable that practitioners so trained should raise their fees. The attendance at Government hospitals and dispensaries, where the treatment is gratuitous, proves that the value of Western methods is appreciated, and the policy of Local Governments is to increase the facilities for such treatment. To divert the funds available for the purpose to the encouragement of systems which they cannot but regard as unsound would, in their opinion, be a grave misuse of public revenues.

There is, however, one line of research which is likely to be fruitful; and that is, the scientific investigation of the properties of indigenous drugs. Several Local Governments have already considered measures for conducting such an investigation; but these measures have had to be postponed owing to the impossibility of obtaining during the war the services of competent pharmacologists.

APPENDIX C.

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

No. 552 T-17.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD)

To

THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS OF RAILWAYS, CIRCLES Nos. 1, 2, 2-A., 3, 4, 5,
6 AND 7.

Simla, the 23rd January, 1918.

SIR,

In consequence of complaints which have appeared in Newspapers, and representations made to the Government of India on the subject of the discomfort of 3rd class passengers on Indian Railways, such as overcrowding, insanitary condition of railway carriages and station latrines and waiting halls, defective food, supply-etc., I am directed to state that the subject has again received the attention of the Railway Board. They recognise that, although a good deal has been done by Railways in these matters, there is still room for improvement. I am accordingly to request that you will give further careful attention in your inspections to the conveniences provided for 3rd class passengers, especially as regards the general arrangements for dealing with the traffic, booking and waiting accommodation, refreshment arrangements, latrines and the general sanitary condition of the same, and include these points especially in your reports.

2. For your information I am to send herewith copy of a letter which the Railway Board have addressed to Railways on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

B. STANLEY,

*Assistant Secretary, Railway Board.**Document accompanying.—*Copy of letter No. 552 T-17 of date
to Railways, etc.

APPENDIX C.

[Referred to in answer to Question No 7.]

No. 552T-17.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.
(RAILWAY BOARD.)

To

THE AGENTS, ASSAM BENGAL, BARS NAGPUR, BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN, BENGAL-NAGPUR, BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA, BURMA, EASTERN BENGAL, EAST INDIAN, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA, MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHARATTA, NORTH WESTERN, OUDH AND ROHILKHAND, ROHILKUND AND KUMAON AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

THE AGENT AND CHIEF ENGINEER, HIS HIGHNESS THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAY.

THE MANAGER, JODHPUR-BIKANER RAILWAY.

Simla, the 23rd January 1918.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to inform you that the Railway Board have recently received representations regarding the discomforts 3rd class passengers are subjected to and have also noticed many complaints on the subject in the press.

2. The Board recognise that most railways have in recent years done much to improve matters in this direction, also that the present time, when everything possible is being done to discourage passenger traffic, and it is impossible either to obtain new, or improve existing stock, is not altogether a suitable time to take this matter up. They are, however, of opinion that in many cases more might be done in the direction of improvements which depend mainly on supervision and the provision of adequate staff, and in this connection I am to draw attention to the following points in connection with which it is considered there is frequently room for improvement and which call for the exercise of constant supervision on the part of both railway officers and subordinates:

- (a) Issue of tickets and weighing of luggage in ample time before departure of trains.
- (b) Admission of passengers on platforms earlier, in order to avoid the great crush and rush for seats which so frequently occurs.
- (c) Drawing up of trains at large stations as far as possible on the platforms which best meet the convenience of passengers.
- (d) Provision of sufficient and suitable waiting accommodation, with benches or seats for passengers.
- (e) The provision of sufficient and suitable refreshments, with accommodation for the vendors.
- (f) The provision at all large stations of an ample supply of good water with facilities for supplying the same to passengers.
- (g) The provision of sufficient latrine accommodation of approved type and the proper cleaning of the same.
- (h) The maintenance of all coaching stock and station premises in a clean and sanitary condition.

3. As examples of what has already been done in this direction, on certain railways Passenger Superintendents whose sole duty is to look after the comfort and convenience of passengers are employed. On the Bengal Nagpur Railway, Railway Train Conductors are provided, and on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway there are standing instructions for Guards on the subject. On the East Indian Railway a special Indian staff is employed for the supervision of the catering arrangements. The Railway Board consider that all these are steps in the right direction which might with advantage be extended. The general point they wish to bring to notice at the present time is that, though equipment cannot be improved, additional staff can be obtained, and the fact of the shortage of accommodation calls for increased attention by the railway staff, with constant and efficient supervision.

4. I am also to say that a suggestion has been made that bye-laws should be framed and notices pasted on the walls of carriages and at stations in order to secure cleanliness on the part of passengers. I am to ask for your opinion on this suggestion.

Yours faithfully,

B. STANLEY,

Assistant Secretary, Railway Board.

Documents accompanying—

Nil.

No. 552T-17, dated Simla, the 23rd January 1918.

The Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, Railway Branch.
 The Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa, Public Works Department.
 The Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
 The Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore.
 The Managers, Ambari-Taranga Light and Gunant Railways.
 The Managers and Engineers-in-Chief, Bengal, Depara, Orissa State, Gonda-Parbandar State, Jannagar State and Junagad State Railways.
 The Manager and Executive Engineer, Morvi Railway.
 The Managers, Bhavnagar State, Dholpur-Bari, and Udaipur Chitorgarh Railways.
 The Managing Agents, Ahmedpur-Katwa, Pankura-Dumoodar River, Bardwan-Katwa, Jessore-Jhanida and Kalighat-Falta Railways.
 The Managing Agents, Patwah-Islampur Railway.
 The Finance Member, Government of Gwalior.

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations and to the officers noted on the margin, for information and favour of necessary action, and to the Government of Bombay, for information.

By order,

B. STANLEY,

Assistant Secretary, Railway Board.

APPENDIX C.

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

No. 552T-17.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD)

To

THE AGENTS, ASSAM BENGAL, BARSI LIGHT, BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN, BENGAL-NAGPUR, BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA, BURMA, EASTERN BENGAL, EAST INDIAN, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA, MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA, NORTH WESTERN, OUDH AND ROHILKHAND, ROHILKUND AND KUMAON AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

THE AGENT AND CHIEF ENGINEER, HIS EXALTED HIGHNESS THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAY.

THE MANAGER, JODHPUR-BIKANER RAILWAY.

Simla, the 23rd August 1918.

DEAR SIR,

In reference to the replies received from Railway Administrations to Railway Board's circular No. 552T.17, dated the 23rd January 1918, I am directed to forward, herewith, a Note by the Railway Board and to say that though the Board recognise that many railways have already done and are doing much in the directions required, they think it desirable to impress on them generally the need for giving constant attention to the points in the Note and especially for ensuring efficient supervision, to see that instructions are at all times properly carried out.

2. As regards the framing of a bye-law and the pasting of notices on walls of carriages and at stations in order to secure cleanliness, I am to say that while the Railway Board believe that under present conditions such a bye-law and notices cannot do much good, they are inclined to think, as a matter of policy and since railways do not seem to have any great objection, that it would be better to introduce them if it were only to show that everything possible is being done by railways by taking up the question,

Yours faithfully,

N. C. HALDAR,

Assistant Secretary, Railway Board.

Document accompanying—

Note referred to.

No. 552T-17, dated Simla, the 23rd August 1918.

Copy, with copy of enclosure, forwarded to the Senior Government Inspectors of Railways, Circles Nos. 1, 2, 2-A., 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, for information and guidance, with reference to Railway Board's letter No. 552T-17, dated the 23rd January 1918. It is requested that in addition to any special reports they may find necessary to make at any time, their reports on annual inspections of railways should contain remarks on the points dealt with in the Railway Board's Note.

By order,

N. C. HALDAR,

Assistant Secretary, Railway Board.

No. 552-T-17, dated Simla, the 23rd August 1918.

The Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, Railway Branch.
 The Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa, Public Works Department.
 The Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
 The Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore.
 The Agents, Ambaji-Taranga Light and Guzerat Railways.
 The Managers and Engineers-in-Chief, Bengal Doora, Cutch State, Gondal-Portbandar State, Jamnagar State and Junagad State Railways.
 The Manager and Executive Engineer, Morvi Railway.
 The Managers, Bhavnagar State, Dholpur-Beri and Udaipur Chitor-garh Railways.
 The Managing Agents, Ahmedpur-Katwa, Bankura-Damoodar River, Burdwan-Katwa, Jessore-Jhenidah and Kalighat-Falta Railways.
 The Managing Agents, Futwah-Islampur Railway.
 The Member for Trade, Customs and Excise, Gwalior Durbar.

A copy of the above (with enclosure) is forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations and to the officers noted on the margin, for information and favour of necessary action, and to the Government of Bombay, for information.

By order,

N. C. HALDAR,

Assistant Secretary, Railway Board.

Note by the Railway Board.

Where continuous booking has been arranged, it is not always the case that passengers get tickets at all hours. To ensure that the good intentions of the Railway are carried into effect, it is essential that frequent inspections are made to see that the staff required to be on duty are actually present, and that they do not put off intending passengers.

2. A study at all times of the fluctuating requirements of traffic is necessary to avoid the inconvenience that passengers sometimes have to undergo at the time of buying tickets. An exodus from business centres at week-ends, or a rush on account of large and local fairs, festivals, and the like, sudden applications for renewals of season tickets, all require careful watching by an officer, and such emergencies should be foreseen and met by providing more booking clerks and a larger number of ticket windows than usual. It may be necessary for an officer to be present at the station and see that the measures ordered are in full operation and are adequate.

3. The class of men employed generally as booking clerks and their education and training, do not as a rule go to make for efficiency. The question of their pay requires consideration. They run the constant risk of debits and on the other hand they are always open to temptations. It is essential therefore that they be sufficiently well-paid. To expect booking clerks to commence work after passing their examination and without any practical training appears to be to court trouble. Their training should be much more practical than is generally the case and by familiarity with dummy tickets and counters they should be made thoroughly efficient in their duties before being put on duty to sell tickets to passengers. While under training their general education, particularly with reference to the Railway geography of India, should be improved upon.

4. Long hours of duty for booking clerks make the service unattractive and lead to careless methods of working. The provision of a sufficient number of well-paid booking clerks of a class above the average of other station clerks, well-trained and of fair education, performing not too long hours of duty should be the ideal.

5. There is much to be said for the practice of keeping passengers off platforms till trains have arrived and inward passengers cleared the platforms. But in the majority of instances, there is no necessity for the practice which undoubtedly causes trouble to the outgoing passengers. Except at stations where due to the narrow width of platforms or for particular trains by which there is

generally a great rush of inward passengers, and under the usual circumstances passengers should be allowed to gain admittance to their proper platforms as soon as possible after they have purchased tickets. This would necessitate entrance gates being manned for considerably longer periods than is generally done at present, and staff will also be required to see that the passengers distribute themselves along the length of the platform in the most convenient manner.

6. At terminal stations rakes should be placed along platforms well before the advertised time of departure and the little saving in gas or electricity at night should not be made a reason for keeping trains in the yard till the last moment.

7. The question of refreshments for Indian passengers has been kept prominently in view by railway administrations and much improvement has resulted in recent years, but the matter requires further consideration by railways generally. The points to remember are that, first, railways are required to cater for the needs of different religious sects; secondly, for the middle classes and the masses and, thirdly, for men and women. These various requirements require very careful study. The aim should be to provide a morning and an evening meal for the better class of passengers on long journeys, careful attention being given to the religious susceptibilities and customs of the people, and for the masses an abundant supply of food of the description they are used to in the locality. There is no reason why railways should suffer pecuniary loss in securing this aim. Catering on railways is a profitable undertaking and whether done departmentally or through contractors, loss can and should be guarded against. It is suggested that in this matter the co-operation might be obtained, if possible, of Indian gentlemen of standing in various centres. They are in a position to suggest how the wants of their countrymen can be best met, and the experience gained from a beginning made on these lines at a few towns will be found of use in framing the general policy for the line.

8. In the matter of supply of drinking water for passengers, it is not enough to have the number of hydrants on a platform increased, for during the hot months the water from the overhead iron tanks coming out of the hydrants is often quite unfit for drinking. Nor is it sufficient to appoint additional watermen at all stations during the hot weather; it is essential also to secure the men's attendance. A liberal supply of cold drinking water should be provided at all main stations and receptacles ready filled should be on the platform before arrival of trains and watermen present to supply the water to passengers in carriages. It again becomes a question of efficient supervision and constant inspection to see that the arrangements sanctioned are in proper working order. At small wayside stations and at stations where there is difficulty in procuring water, no arrangements other than increasing the staff of watermen seem possible, but it may be noted that in this matter also improvement is possible by proper supervision. It is possible to lay too much stress on the provision of a filtered water-supply, at least when a proper filtered supply is impracticable or difficult, till better arrangements can be made, a plentiful supply of the water available in the locality should be made accessible to the passengers, the majority of whom are not used to drinking sterilised water. A plentiful supply of water at all principal stations at all hours of the day and night and providing the water cold, would go a long way towards avoiding complaints.

APPENDIX D.

Statement showing the districts of the several provinces where the system of trial by jury obtains, the year in which and the offences for which the system was introduced and the subsequent modifications.

Presidency or Province.	Districts.	Date of first introduction.	Offences triable by jury.	Subsequent modifications	REMARKS.
Madras	Chittoor, Cuddapah, Kistna, Godavari, North Tanjore, South Arcot, Vizagapatam Agency.	1862	Offences under sections 379, 380, 382, 392 to 395, 397 to 402, 411, 412, 414, 451 to 459 and 461 of the Indian Penal Code.	Suspended in South Arcot in 1870. Withdrawn from Vizagapatam Agency in 4. 1883.	
	Zillah of Tanjore ..	1863	Ditto ditto		
	Extended to all the districts except Ganjam and Godavari Agencies.	1883	Ditto ditto ..	In 1894 attempts to commit and abetments of the offences detailed in the previous column were added to the list of offences triable by jury.	
Bombay	Ahmedabad	1884	All offences punishable with death, transportation for life and imprisonment for ten years.	In 1885 trial by jury was limited in the Ahmedabad district to offences punishable with death only.	
	Surat	1885	Ditto ditto ..	In 1916 the system was extended to all offences in which the accused is charged that he is by reason of a previous conviction liable to enhanced punishment under section 75 of the Indian Penal Code.	
	Thana	1885	Ditto ditto ..	Ditto ditto.	
	The City of Karachi	1884	Ditto ditto ..	Ditto ditto.	

Statement showing the districts of the several provinces where the system of trial by jury obtains, the year in which and the offences for which the system was introduced and the subsequent modifications—contd.

Presidency or Province.	Districts.	Date of first introduction.	Offences triable by jury.	Subsequent modifications.	REMARKS.
Bombay—contd.	Belgaum	1885	All offences punishable with death, transportation for life and imprisonment for ten years.	In 1915 it was directed that, with effect 22nd December, 1915, all offences cognizable by a Sessions Court and tried before such court in the Belgaum district, except offences punishable under sections 302, 303, 304, 304 A, 305 to 308, 311, 465 to 469, 471 to 477 A, 484, 485, 487, 488, 489 A, 489 B, 489 C, and 489 D of the Indian Penal Code and attempts to commit, or abetment of, any of these offences should be tried by jury.	
	Poona	1867	All offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XII, XVI, XVII, and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code, in which the punishment awardable is death, transportation for life or transportation or imprisonment for a period extending to ten years or upwards and also of all abetments or attempts to commit any of these offences.	Offences under the said Chapters for which, taken in connection with section 75 of the Indian Penal Code, such punishment is awardable, were added in 1898.	
Benar	24 Parganahs, Hooghly (and Howrah), Burdwan, Mirinchiabad, Nadia, Dacca.	1863	Offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI and XVII of the Indian Penal Code.	Later on in 1862 offences under Chapter XVIII of the Indian Penal Code as well as abetments of, or attempts to commit, any of these offences were added. In 1893 offences under Chapters VIII, XVI (with certain exceptions) and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code were withdrawn but were restored in 1893.	From 1st January 1919 offences under Chapter XII of the Indian Penal Code and under section 52 of the Indian Penal Code, 1898, with abetments of, and attempts to commit, these offences will be triable by jury.

1887	Chattarganj, Mysore, Chhapra, Rajshahi and Jamsore	Offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI, XVII, XVIII and XX of the Indian Penal Code with abetments of, and attempts to commit, these offences.	In 1888 offences under Chapter XX of the Indian Penal Code with abetments of, and attempts to commit, these offences were added	Ditto	ditto.
1905	Khalna	Ditto	Ditto	ditto.
1885	Allahabad, Benares and Lucknow.	Offences under sections 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 372, 373, 376, 379, 380, 381, 382, 382, 393, 394, 396, 397, 398, 399, 401, 403, 404, 411, 412, 413, 414, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 434, 435, 436, 440, 448, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467 and 468 of the Indian Penal Code, and abetments of, and attempts to commit, any of these offences—Chapters V and XXIII of the Indian Penal Code.	From 1st January 1919 offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XII, XVI, XVII, XVIII and XX of the Indian Penal Code and under section 52 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, with abetments of, and attempts to commit, these offences will be triable by jury in the districts of Bakarganj, Bankura, Birbhum, Bogra, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Malda, Midnapore, Noakhali, Pabna, Raঙ্গpur and Tippera.	
1862	Patna	Offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI and XVII of the Indian Penal Code, and abetments of, or attempts to commit, these offences.	Extended the same year to include offences under Chapter XVIII, Indian Penal Code. In 1892 offences under Chapters VIII and XVI were withdrawn but previous position was restored in 1893. In 1895 offences under Chapter XX were added.		
1918	Muzaifarpur and Bhagalpur.	Offences under sections 363 to 366, 372, 373, 376, 379-382, 392-395, 397-399, 401, 403, 404, 411-414, 426-432, 434-436, 440, 448, 450-462, and 463-468 of the Indian Penal Code and abetments of, or attempts to commit, any of these offences.		

Statement showing the districts of the several provinces where the system of trial by jury obtains, the year in which and the offences for which the system was introduced and the subsequent modifications—contd.

Presidency or Province.	Districts.	Date of first introduction.	Offences triable by jury.	Subsequent modifications.	REMARKS.
Burma	Towns of Rangoon, Moulmein and Akyah.	1863	All offences triable by the Court of Sessions.	<p>Revoked for offences from Akyah town in 1872.</p> <p>Modified in 1875 so as to extend trial by jury for all offences before Court of Records, Sessions, and Court of Judge, Moulmein town.</p> <p>The latter order was modified in respect of Moulmein Court.</p> <p>Firstly by a notification in 1885 directing trial by jury of all offences from Moulmein town before Moulmein town sessions court;</p> <p>Secondly by a notification in 1888 directing trial by jury of all offences from Moulmein sub-division before the Amherst Court of Session;</p> <p>Thirdly in 1890 due to the substitution of the Tennessee for the Amherst Court of Session; and</p> <p>Lastly in 1910 by an order directing trial by jury before Tennessee Court of Session of all offences from Moulmein township instead of Moulmein sub-division.</p>	
Assam:	Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Kamrup, Darrang and Goalpara.	1862	All offences triable by the Court of Sessions.		<p>In 1868 the system was limited to offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI, XVII and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code. A change was made in 1892 but the order of 1892 was cancelled in 1893 by a notification which made all offences under Chapters VIII, XI, XVI, XVII and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code and abettments of, and attempts to commit, such offences triable by jury.</p>