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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES FOR 1921.

Vol. I—Part 3.

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The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 28th day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.E., President, presiding.

I QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—
The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Village courts.

509 Q.—MR. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(a) to state how many village courts have been established in the several districts of the Presidency in accordance with the Village Courts Act of 1919;

(b) whether vernacular translations of the Village Courts Act of 1919 and the rules under which they are being worked will be distributed among the members of the panchayats;

(c) to state whether the Government have placed any officer on special duty for the organization of village panchayats; and

(d) if the reply is in the affirmative, to state how many village panchayats have been organized by him so far.

A.—(a) Approximately 2,593.

(b) The Act and the rules framed thereunder so far have been translated and published in the district gazettes in the vernacular languages of the district and orders will be issued for their distribution among the panchayats where it has not already been done.

(c) & (d) No officer has been placed on special duty for the purpose.

Furniture for village courts.

510 Q.—MR. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether sufficient furniture and stationery have been supplied to the village courts.

A.—So far as the Government are aware sufficient stationery and furniture have been supplied to village courts. If, in any case, an adequate supply has not been provided the Collector will no doubt take necessary action.

Use of arms by the Sirdars of Goomsur.

511 Q.—MR. BISWANATH DAS: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(a) if it is a fact that the Sirdars of Goomsur were allowed the use of arms under paragraphs 5 and 9 of their sannad without any licence from 1836 to the end of 1920 and that they are now forbidden to possess arms without licence;

(b) if the Government are aware of the anxiety that has been caused and the representations made against the issue of such orders; and

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(c) what action has been taken on their representations and to lay on the table correspondence, if any, on the subject.

A.—The Government are not sure to whom the Honourable Member refers under the designation of the "Sirdars of Goomsur". They have received no special representations regarding the withdrawal of Arms Act concessions in Goomsur.

Minor irrigation department.

512 Q.—Mr. B. P. DEVARAJULU NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the resolutions passed by a conference of the minor irrigation subordinates of the central districts held at Cuddapah on 19th February 1921; and

(b) to state why the minor irrigation department was not amalgamated with the Public Works Department as recommended by the Public Works Department Committee.

A.—(a) The Government have received a copy of the resolutions referred to.

(b) The committee recommended the transfer of minor irrigation works and the minor irrigation staff to district boards, not the amalgamation of the staff with the Public Works Department. The Government considered the recommendation unacceptable.

Salary of upper subordinates in minor irrigation department.

513 Q.—Mr. B. P. DEVARAJULU NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) if the Government are aware that upper subordinates who were minor irrigation overseers on Rs. 80 and Rs. 100 were reduced to the sub-overseer's grade on Rs. 30—5/2—80, when the reorganization of the department was effected in 1918; and

(b) whether he will consider the deplorable lot of such men and restore them to the upper subordinate's grade on the same pay as that of the Public Works Department upper subordinates.

A.—(a) Yes. The officers who were prejudicially affected have been given personal allowances to cover their loss.

(b) The reorganization of the minor irrigation staff will be considered in connexion with that of the Public Works Department staff.

Salary of lower subordinates in minor irrigation department.

514 Q.—Mr. B. P. DEVARAJULU NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) if it is a fact that lower subordinates in the minor irrigation department are given a salary of Rs. 30—80 with a biennial increment of Rs. 5;

(b) if it is a fact that men with similar qualifications in the local fund and municipal service are given a scale of Rs. 80—5—150, with a further prospect of getting Rs. 250 also; and

(c) if the Government will be pleased to remove this iniquity and sanction a similar scale of pay for the minor irrigation sub-overseers.

A.—(a) Yes.

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(b) For men with similar qualifications in local fund and municipal service, the minimum sanctioned pay is Rs. 30 and the maximum Rs. 120. The Financial Relations Committee recently recommended a scale of Rs. 60—3—90 for sub-overseers possessing these qualifications and of Rs. 80—5—150 for overseers. The Government have no information as to how many local boards have adopted the recommendation of the Committee.

Abkari sales held for 1921—22.

515 Q.—Rai Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to lay on the table a statement showing district by district the result of the abkari sales held for the year 1921—22.

A.—The Government are not in possession of the information asked for.

Provincial Forest Service.

516 Q.—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(1) by whom men for direct employment in the Provincial Forest Service are selected;

(2) if by a committee of officers, on what principles this committee is formed;

(3) whether Government will be pleased to include in the committee non-officials from each of the communities mentioned in question No. 499.

A.—(1) Candidates for direct appointment to the Provincial Forest Service are selected by a committee consisting of the Chief Conservator of Forests, the President of the Board of Examiners and a non-official Indian gentleman to be appointed by the Government, from year to year.

(2) The committee includes two officers well acquainted with the needs of the Forest Service and accustomed to judging the qualifications of candidates and one non-official to help them with his advice.

(3) The Government are not prepared to adopt the member's suggestion.

Assault case by Mr. G. H. Jackson, I.C.S.

517 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO AVARGAL: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether the attention of the Government has been drawn—

(a) to the decision of the High Court in the case of assault by Mr. G. H. Jackson, I.C.S., on a telegraph peon at Tanjore, in April last;

(b) to the fact that the trying Magistrate, A. J. King, Esq., I.C.S., awarded compensation to the accused in this case, to be paid by the complainant, which order, the Public Prosecutor found it impossible to support in the High Court; and

(c) to the letter written by the trying Magistrate to the accused in the present case, offering the services of the Public Prosecutor; and whether the Government propose to take any steps in this matter.

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A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The Government do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

Construction of a reservoir in and flood banks to the Tammileru river.

518 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(a) whether there are any proposals now for the construction of (i) a reservoir to act as a flood moderator for the Tammileru river in the Kistna district, (ii) flood banks to the East and West Tammileru for the protection of crops; and

(b) whether these proposals have received the consideration of the Government.

A.—(a) & (b) Proposals for the construction of a reservoir to act as a flood moderator for the Tammileru river are under scrutiny in the Office of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. As regards flood banks to the East and West Tammileru no such proposals are under consideration.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“Will the Honourable Member direct an investigation as regards the desirability of affording flood protection to lands flooded to the East and West of the Tammileru river in the Kistna district?”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“I shall look into the records on the subject, Sir, and if further investigation is necessary, I shall certainly order an investigation.”

Districts or portion of districts which will come under resettlement during the next five years.

519 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state the districts or portions of districts which will come under resettlement during the next five years.

A.—The following statement shows the districts or portions of districts which are due for resettlement during the next five years :—

Year in which the resettlement is due.	Name of district.	Name of taluk.
1921-22	Bellary	Siruguppa (portion).
	Anantapur	Bellary.
	South Arcot	Gooty.
1922-23	.. ..	Tadpatri.
	.. ..	Chidambaram.
	Bellary	Hospet.
	South Arcot	Hadagalli.
	Madura	Vriddhachalam.
1923-24	The Nilgiris	Kodaikanal.
	.. ..	One village in Ootacamund.
	.. ..	Harpanahalli.
1924-25	Bellary	Kudligi.
	Tanjore	Rayadrug.
1924-25	Trichinopoly	Whole of the district.
1925-26	Nil	All taluks except Karur.
		

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Remission of assessment in Bellary district.

520 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state with reference to the answer given by the Government to question No. 103 put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council dated the 16th February 1921—

(a) whether orders remitting assessment have been passed in the case of any villages in the Bellary district;

(b) if so, in the case of what villages, and on what scale;

(c) the average outturn in annas and pies of the affected villages on which the scale of remission has been based in each case; and

(d) whether orders suspending collection of revenue have been passed in respect of any villages, and, if so, in the case of what villages, and in relation to what kists.

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have, as yet, received no proposals for the grant of remission of assessment on dry lands in the Bellary district.

(d) A statement showing the names of the villages in which suspension of collection of kists till the next fasli has been sanctioned and the number of kists suspended is laid on the table.* The statement includes three of the villages mentioned in the list furnished with the answer to question No. 103 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 16th February 1921, viz., items 17 to 19 of the Rayadrug taluk. The remaining villages in that list have been excluded from the statement as proposals for the remission of assessment in these villages are under consideration.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“With reference to answer to question No. 520 (a), (b) and (c) it is stated that ‘the Government has, as yet, received no proposals for the grant of remission of assessment on dry lands in the Bellary district’; but later on it is said in reply to 520 (d), that ‘the remaining villages in that list have been excluded from the statement as proposals for the remission of assessment in these villages are under consideration.’ Clause (d) seems to indicate that certain proposals have been received, while the answer to (a), (b) and (c) states that no proposals at all have been received by Government.”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“The questions (a), (b) and (c), Sir, have reference to the remission of assessment, whereas question (d) is for suspension of assessment.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“I am referring only to remission, Sir. It is stated in answer to 520 (a), (b) and (c) that no proposals for the grant of remission of assessment on dry lands in the Bellary district have as yet been received, while in (d) the last sentence, ‘the remaining villages in that list have been excluded from the statement (as proposals for the remission of assessment) in these villages are under consideration’, refers to remission and not to suspension. It seems that proposals have been received and considered.”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“The first set of questions relates to assessment on dry lands, whereas the latter refers to assessment on wet lands.”

* Vide Appendix on page 1247 infra.

Famine Code.

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521 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state the arrangements he has made for the distribution of gratuitous relief in the affected taluks of Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool districts in pursuance of section 50 of the Famine Code which says that "as soon as a test-work is opened, the distribution of gratuitous relief should commence."

A.—Section 50 of the Famine Code contemplates the distribution of gratuitous relief through the agency of kitchens in the earlier stages of relief measures. The Collector of Bellary has taken steps to open kitchens at Karavi, Sanavasapuram and Kanekal in the Bellary division and proposes to open kitchens in other places if such a step is necessary. The Collector of Anantapur proposed to distribute gratuitous relief in the Gooty taluk from 14th March. In the case of Kurnool district the Collector directed the Divisional Officer, Nandyal, in January last to open a kitchen near the workshop in the Nandikotkur taluk.

Famine test-work in Bellary district.

522 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the nature and kind of stones which the coolies on the famine work near Joladarasi, Bellary district, were employed in breaking, up to the last week of February;

(b) whether afterwards the coolies were required to break a different and far too hard a kind of stone, and, if so, the date from which they were so required to break the new kind of stone;

(c) what kind of stone—whether the old sort used up to the end of February or the new stone subsequently shown—is less difficult to procure or available in larger quantities near the places where work is proceeding now;

(d) whether it is the fact that the metal collected up to the last week of February does not differ in any way from that collected and paid for without any objection hitherto and which is still lying in some parts of the road;

(e) if the answers to (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, the reasons which led to the selection of the black stones which are difficult to procure and hard to break;

(f) whether it is laid down in the Famine Code that, subject to the requisite quantity of work being turned out, the wages paid to man, woman, or child should be enough to enable them to purchase respectively 90, 70 and 50 tolas of the staple grain of the area in which the test-work is in progress;

(g) whether orders were issued about the last week of February, to the effect that the wages paid to coolies should be based on the prices prevailing in Bellary, the taluk headquarters, and not on those current in Joladarasi, the village near to the workshop;

(h) if such orders have been issued, the date on which they were given effect to at the workshop;

(i) the number of seers per rupee at which cholam was sold in Joladarasi on the day or days immediately preceding the date when the Bellary prices were ordered to be taken as the basis for calculating wages and the number of seers per rupee at which cholam was sold on the same day or days in the Bellary market;

(j) the percentage reduction in wages resulting from the change mentioned above, other conditions remaining unaltered;

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(k) the respective distances of Joladarasi and Bellary from the place of test-work; and

(l) the average weekly earnings of a man, woman, or child for a fortnight previous to, and a week or a longer period subsequent to, the changes carried out as regards the selection of stones for breaking and the choice of market for calculation of prices and wages?

A.—(a) Stone classed as 'easy'.

(b) Afterwards the coolies were required to break a less easy type of stone as the stone originally broken required practically no breaking and was unsuitable for road material. The exact date on which the change was introduced is unknown. It is not a fact that the stone was far too hard a kind of stone.

(c) This stone was more difficult to procure. A special gang was employed to extract it.

(d) & (e) No.

(f) If the requisite quantity of work be turned out, the workers, whether men or women, will be paid the wages prescribed for the class (I or II) to which they belong which will enable them to purchase 90 or 70 tolas, as the case may be, of the grain adopted for the calculation of wages; class III workers (children between the ages of 10 and 14) will get wages sufficient for the purchase of 50 tolas of grain.

(g) Probably so, as Mr. Buckley during his inspection of the test work on 23rd February 1921, commented on the fact that the wages had been based on prices obtaining at Joladarasi and not on those obtaining at Bellary, the nearest market. At the same time the Collector was instructed to open a bazaar for the work if necessary.

(h) The order appears to have been given effect to in the week ending 26th February 1921. The Government have no precise information.

(i) White cholam was sold at Joladarasi at 4.5 seers per rupee on 19th February 1921 and yellow cholam at seven seers per rupee on 26th February 1921 at Bellary. The Government have no other information.

(j) Class I	..	..	..	..	37½ per cent.
Class II	..	..	..	..	38⅙ per cent.
Class III	..	..	..	..	33½ per cent.

(k) & (l) The Government have no information.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answers to clauses (d) and (e) of question 522, I do not know if it is correct, because in (e) I asked for the reasons which led to the selection, whereas in (d) I asked for certain information. I wish to know whether it is a fact that the metal collected up to the last week of February does not really differ in any way from that collected and paid for earlier. There seems to be some mistake there."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I shall satisfy myself, Sir, if there is really a mistake and if there is one I shall correct it and inform the Honourable Member accordingly."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, in 522 (k) I asked for the respective distances of Joladarasi and Bellary from the place of test work; will the Government be pleased to get the information?"

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The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I am afraid Sir, it is hardly worth while to ascertain that information.”

Test works in Gooty taluk.

523 Q.—Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(a) whether it is over a month since the test works were started at Vidapanakal, Budigavi and Thondapad in the Gooty taluk of the Anantapur district;

(b) whether it is a fact that the task set in respect of these works has been raised by the Collector by 16 per cent over the standard fixed by the Famine Code;

(c) whether it is a fact that the scene of these test works is treeless black-cotton soil with no drinking water;

(d) whether it is a fact that the bulk of the coolies are women with children under ten years of age and other aged dependents unable to work and doing no more than sharing in their scanty meal;

(e) whether it is a fact that influenza has broken out in the affected area;

(f) whether it is a fact that in spite of these hard conditions the test works have been attracting over 1,000 coolies every day;

(g) when the Government propose to convert these test works into regular famine relief measures on the basis of the Famine Code; and

(h) whether the Government will take steps to further revise the Famine Code lowering the standard required to justify relief measures on a more liberal scale in view of deteriorating health conditions consequent on more frequent visitations of late of epidemics like influenza and plague in rural areas.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The sites of the test works at Vidapanakal and Dondapad have excellent water supply with avenue trees for shade. The Government have no information as regards the work at Budagavi.

(d) There is a preponderance of women and children on the test works.

(e) Yes, but it has since subsided.

(f) The average daily attendance has exceeded 1,000 coolies since 5th February 1921.

(g) The Government have approved the Board's proposal that the Gooty taluk should be declared a famine area.

(h) The Code will be revised if and when the necessity for revision is established.

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“As regards 523 (b), will the Government be pleased to obtain the information?”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I have no objection.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“As regards 523 (c), will the Government be pleased to obtain correct information as regards the existence of treeless black cotton soil and scarcity of drinking water?”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I am sure I have furnished correct information so far as it is at my disposal.”

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Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“May I suggest to the Government to be pleased to ascertain correct information as regards these. To my knowledge there is absolutely no drinking water-supply.”

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—“The Honourable Member's knowledge has no relevancy.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“For the benefit of the Government, I say.”

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—“The Honourable Member should confine himself to the question. He has received his answer.”

Tamil Lexicon.

524 Q.—Mr. T. SOMASUNDARA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state—

- (a) when the Tamil Lexicon Committee was originally constituted;
- (b) who the first members of the committee were;
- (c) who the members are at present;
- (d) when each of these was appointed;
- (e) what their functions are;
- (f) how many of them are honorary and how many paid;
- (g) what each person employed for the lexicon work is paid monthly;
- (h) the progress that has been made annually in the work ever since the committee was formed;
- (i) the original estimate of the cost of the work;
- (j) the revised estimate as it stood from year to year;
- (k) the present total estimate for finishing the work including the amount expended in previous years;
- (l) the names of persons originally employed for doing the preliminary work of collecting and defining the words of the lexicon;
- (m) the names of the persons who are now on the revision work and their monthly salaries and the special qualifications possessed by each of them;
- (n) a statement showing the monthly expenditure on the lexicon work—
 - (i) salary of each member of the staff actually employed in the work;
 - (ii) other establishment charges;
 - (iii) contingencies; and
- (o) the details of the estimate of expenditure proposed to be incurred in 1921-22 and the succeeding years till the publication of the lexicon.

A.—(a) In the year 1912.

- (b) 1. Professor Ranga Achariyar.
2. Rao Sahib T. Ramakrishna Pillai.
3. M.R.Ry. Pandithorai Thevar of the Madura Tamil Sangam.
4. The Rev. A. C. Clayton.
5. The Rev. J. S. Chandler
- (c) 1. M.R.Ry. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar Avargal, B.A., B.L.
2. The Rev. E. M. Macphail, M.A., B.D.
3. M.R.Ry. S. Anavaratavinayakam Pillai Avargal, M.A., L.T.
4. Professor S. J. Crawford, B.A., B.LITT.
5. Mahamahopadhyaya V. Swaminatha Ayyar Avargal.
6. Professor S. Kuppuswami Sastriyar Avargal, M.A.

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7. M.R.Ry. B. V. Kamoswara Ayyar Avargal, M.A.
 8. Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avargal, M.A., LL.B., I.S.O.
 9. The Rev. J. S. Chandler, M.A., B.D. (Yale).
- (d) 1. From April 1919.
2. From February 1919.
3. From April 1918.
4. From March 1920.
5. From December 1912.
6. From September 1914.
7. From April 1920.
8. From April 1920.
9. From the beginning.

(e) The functions of the committee are—

To decide (subject in certain cases to the sanction of the Syndicate) on all general questions of principle, method of procedure, etc., referred to it by Editors, and to submit to the Syndicate periodical reports.

(f) Two are paid and seven are honorary.

(g) The Rev. J. S. Chandler, Rs. 600 per mensem plus house-rent allowance Rs. 140 per mensem.

Mr. Anavaratavinayakam Pillai (half time), Rs. 150 per mensem.

Mr. M. Raghava Ayyangar (Chief Tamil Pandit), Rs. 125 per mensem.

Mr. V. M. Gopalakrishnama Achariyar (Sanskrit and Tamil Pandit), Rs. 65 per mensem.

Mr. A. N. Murti (Telugu and Urdu Pandit), Rs. 52 per mensem.

(h) Words defined—

September 1914	..	..	..	..	..	6,120
March 1915	..	..	..	..	..	2,681
September 1916	..	..	..	..	..	8,309
" 1917	..	..	..	..	..	19,414
" 1918	..	..	..	..	..	21,214
August 1919	..	..	..	..	..	23,306

(i) Not less than a lakh of rupees.

	RS.
(j) September 1920	 1,96,000
January 1921	 2,61,000
(k) January 1921	 2,61,000

- (l) (1) 1. M.R.Ry. M. Raghava Ayyangar Avargal, Ramnad Samastha nam Pandit and late Editor of Sen-Tamil.
2. " Subbarama Sastri Avargal.
3. " Shunmugam Pillai Avargal.
4. " Sathiyavahisuvra Ayyar Avargal.
5. " C. K. Subrahmanya Ayyar.
6. The Rev. J. S. Chandler.

(m) (1) The Rev. J. S. Chandler, M.A., B.D. (Yale).

(i) Correspondent, in charge of the Lexicon office staff of three pandits and three writers, and of the menials connected with the office and also the office library and the manuscripts of the new lexicon.

28th March 1921]

Editor having supervision of all the literary work was asked by the representative committee first appointed, on motion of the late Professor Ranga Achariyar, to give his whole time to the work for five years; was accepted for that work by the Government first; and then by the Syndicate; and when the term of five years had passed, he was asked by the Syndicate to continue until the work should be finished.

- (ii) Pay Rs. 600 + house-rent allowance Rs. 140 per mensem.
(iii) Duties.—Correcting the cards and typed copies of all the words, harmonising definitions and completing cross references carried on by the three pandits; working on the final revision with the other members of the Committee of Revision during their hours of work.

(2) M.R.Ry. S. Anavaratavinayakam Pillai, M.A. (in Tamil with Malayalam), L.T.

(i) Lecturer in Tamil and Superintendent of Vernacular Studies (Christian College, Madras).

Original works published—
Saiva Siddhanta Varalaru.
Avvaiyar.

Tamil Perumakkal Varalaru, etc.

- (ii) Pay Rs. 150 for half time.
(iii) Duties.—Final revision with the Editor.

(3) Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avargal, M.A., LL.B., I.S.O.

(i) Author of 'Ephemeris', acknowledged authority on Tamil Language and Literature, especially in Astronomy.
'Indian Chronology (solar and planetary)'; a practical guide to the interpretation and verification of Tithis, Nakshatras, etc., B.C. 1—A.D. 2000.

- (ii) Pay—Honorary, about six hours a week.
(iii) Duties.—Final revision together with the Editor and (on Saturdays) with both the other Members.

(n) (i) The Rev. J. S. Chandler .. Rs. 600 + 140 house-rent allowance.

Mr. Anavaratavinayakam Pillai	..	Rs. 150
Mr. M. Raghava Ayyangar	..	Rs. 125
Mr. V. M. Gopalakrishnama Achariyar.	..	Rs. 65
Mr. A. N. Murti	..	Rs. 52
Office staff (including clerks and typists).	..	Rs. 143

Total .. Rs. 1,135 + 140

- (ii) Other establishment charges .. Rs. 98
(iii) Contingencies (including stationery, books, furniture, printing, etc.) .. Rs. 267

Total .. Rs. 1,635

[28th March 1921]

(o) Estimate for the year 1921-22—

	RS.	RS.
Travelling charges	Nil.	
Stamps, etc.	20	
Printing	200	
Stationery	700	
		920
Purchase of books	200	
Rent (house-rent to Rev. J. S. Chandler) ..	1,680	
Establishment	18,600	
Furniture	50	
Miscellaneous	350	
Total	21,800	

Each succeeding year—Rs. 21,800.

Cost of printing the Lexicon at Rs. 25,000.

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"With reference to question No. 524, will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education state what portion of the work relating to the Tamil Lexicon has now been completed and finally revised?"

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"I remember answering this question already one of these mornings. I then answered it in full. I do not exactly remember now what I said."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"If an appreciable portion of the Lexicon work has been finally revised, will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education direct that the Lexicon be published in part?"

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"The matter will be considered."

District educational councils in Tinnevely, Madura, etc.

525 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SAUNDARA PANDIA NADAR Avargal: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state—

(a) when district educational councils are intended to be formed in the districts of Tinnevely, Ramnad and Madura; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken to secure adequate Nadar representation on the councils.

A.—(a) From the 1st April 1921.

(b) In Tinnevely Government propose to nominate to the Council one Nadar gentleman.

In Madura and Ramnad it is believed that the Nadar gentlemen will come in by election.

Location of Repalle Munsif's Court

526 Q.—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO Garu: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Court designated as the Repalle District Munsif's Court in the Guntūr district is located at Tenali sixteen miles away; and

[28th March 1921]

(b) whether any representations have been made by the people of Repalle taluk for the location of the Court at Repalle; if so, whether the Government are prepared to comply with the request during this year.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No such representation has been received by Government. Under the Madras Civil Courts Act it is the High Court that fixes and modifies the location of District Munsifs' Courts.

Agricultural College for Telugu districts.

527 Q.—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO:—To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development—

(a) if the Government propose to open an agricultural college for the Telugu districts; and

(b) if it is proposed to increase the number of travelling veterinary assistants in the agricultural areas.

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The question of increasing the number of touring veterinary assistants is under the consideration of Government.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"In regard to question 527 (a), is the Hon'ble the Minister for Development aware that students in the Agricultural College from the Circars are comparatively few, and that it is due to the fact that the college is located very far away from the Telugu districts?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"If that is meant, Sir, to suggest that there should be an agricultural college in the Telugu districts, I am afraid that the financial position of the Government does not permit of any such proposal. If, on the other hand, the Honourable Member wants that facilities should be afforded for Telugu students to resort to the college in larger numbers, the Government will do their best as they would do for the benefit of any other community in the country."

APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to question No. 520 asked by M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th March 1921, page 1239 supra.]

RAYADRUG TALUK.

Third and fourth kists.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Bollanaguddam. | 11. Pulukurtti. |
| 2. Siddarampuram. | 12. Yelanji. |
| 3. Kuruvalli. | 13. Doddagatla. |
| 4. Hiresamudram. | 14. Vyasapuram. |
| 5. Bandur. | 15. Shollapuram. |
| 6. Kalludevanahalli. | 16. Hana Kanahal. |
| 7. Govindavada. | 17. Hulekera. |
| 8. Uddehal. | 18. Jakkalavudiki. |
| 9. Bommanahal. | 19. Kottepalli (hamlet of Kanekal). |
| 10. Untakal. | |

[28th March 1921]

BELLARY TALUK.

Four kists.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Nalludi. | 24. Korlagundi. |
| 2. Yemmiganur. | 25. Kallukutikinahal. |
| 3. Guttiganur. | 26. Masudipuram. |
| 4. Patnasaragu. | 27. Banapuram. |
| 5. Chitikinahal. | 28. Vanenur. |
| 6. H. Virapur. | 29. Karechedu. |
| 7. Dammur Kaggal. | 30. Sindavulam. |
| 8. Dammur. | 31. Bennikal. |
| 9. Kolur. | 32. Moka Gonchal. |
| 10. Somasamudram. | 33. Bommanahal. |
| 11. Bhyradevanahalli. | 34. Kakkabevinahalli. |
| 12. Kanekal. | 35. Godchal. |
| 13. K. Virapuram. | 36. Jagginabudihal. |
| 14. Sidiginamala. | 37. Amarapuram. |
| 15. Paramadevanahalli. | 38. Yottinabudihal. |
| 16. Meenahalli. | 39. Burranayukanahalli. |
| 17. Joladarasi. | 40. Sanjivarayanakota. |
| 18. Chellagurki. | 41. Kammarchedu. |
| 19. Channahal. | 42. Chandur. |
| 20. Hirebadagalli. | 43. Bobbukunta. |
| 21. Basarakodu. | 44. Ibrampuram. |
| 22. Handihal. | 45. Seedaragaddu. |
| 23. Gududur. | 46. Halakundi. |

ADONI TALUK.

Four kists.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Muchigiri. | 8. Musanahalli. |
| 2. Virupapuram. | 9. Kuppagal. |
| 3. Myakadona. | 10. Yerigeri. |
| 4. Noulkal. | 11. Poddattumbalam. |
| 5. Isivi. | 12. Doddanakeri. |
| 6. Kallibhavi. | 13. Nagaldinne. |
| 7. Chyagi. | |

ALUR TALUK.

Four kists.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ballur. | 10. Naganur. |
| 2. Amritapuram. | 11. Chigali. |
| 3. Siddapuram. | 12. Kammarchedu. |
| 4. Gulyam. | 13. Manikurthi. |
| 5. Jangamanahosahalli. | 14. Patcharahalli. |
| 6. Aspari. | 15. Bapuram. |
| 7. Johrampuram. | 16. Halaharivi. |
| Chinahotur. | 17. Haradajeri. |
| | 18. Machanur. |

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ALUR TALUK—cont.

Four kists—cont.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 19. Doulatapuram. | 27. Khajipur. |
| 20. Chippigeri. | 28. Gunmanūr. |
| 21. Thimmapuram. | 29. Sidanahal. |
| 22. Kammiahal. | 30. Degalahal. |
| 23. Chintakunta. | 31. Kokkarachedu. |
| 24. Medehal. | 32. Beninahal. |
| 25. Sirugapur. | 33. Chakibanda. |
| 26. Yeruru. | |

SIRUGUPPA TALUK.

Four kists.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Maliganur. | 38. Alabanur. |
| 2. Tsallakudlur. | 39. B. Sugur. |
| 3. Lingaladinne. | 40. Ilikihal. |
| 4. Agasaladinne. | 41. Santhekudlur. |
| 5. Dombaladinne. | 42. Yadavalli. |
| 6. Veeraladinne. | 43. Harivanam. |
| 7. Bapuram. | 44. Nadangam. |
| 8. Uttamanivani. | 45. Raravi. |
| 9. Matur. | 46. Tondihal. |
| 10. Hatchholli. | 47. Rampuram. |
| 11. Beeravalli. | 48. Karchiganur. |
| 12. Kallukutikinahalli. | 49. Chanakanur. |
| 13. Basaravalli. | 50. Ibrampuram. |
| 14. Akkatangerahal. | 51. Desanur. |
| 15. Byragamdinne. | 52. Siruguppa. |
| 16. Rowdur. | 53. Boggur. |
| 17. Upparahal. | 54. Syaliganur. |
| 18. Ravihal. | 55. Kotihal. |
| 19. Gubbihal. | 56. Bandrahal. |
| 20. Kothalaehinta. | 57. K. Sngar. |
| 21. Halumaruvani. | 58. Araliganur. |
| 22. Chinna Bellary. | 59. Devalapuram. |
| 23. Honnavalli. | 60. Kenchanaguddam. |
| 24. Halekota. | 61. Manganahal. |
| 25. Seedaragadda. | 62. Herihal. |
| 26. Kadudarahal. | 63. Mudinur. |
| 27. Nagalapuram. | 64. Mylapur. |
| 28. Kuruvalli. | 65. Kuriganur. |
| 29. Bommalapuram. | 66. Budiguppa. |
| 30. Mottesugur. | 67. Godahal. |
| 31. Agasanur. | 68. Karur. |
| 32. Matradinne. | 69. Motasugur. |
| 33. Venkatapur. | 70. Uttanur. |
| 34. Nagarahal. | 71. Ulur. |
| 35. Kesarakoni. | 72. Talur. |
| 36. Bagwadi. | 73. H. Hosahal. |
| 37. Gajjigenahal. | 74. Hagalur. |

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SIRUGUPPA TALUK—cont.

Four kists—cont.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 75. Darur. | 79. Siregeri. |
| 76. Sanavasapur. | 80. Havinahal. |
| 77. Bhyrapuram. | 81. M. Sugur. |
| 78. Tekkalakota. | 82. Manur. |

HOSPET TALUK.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Ittigi. | 3. Sanapur. |
| 2. Muddapuram. | |

HADAGALLI TALUK.

Third and fourth kists.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Halu Timmalapuram. | 3. Hulikutti. |
| 2. Timmalapuram. | 4. Ballahunsi. |

II

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

The Council then resumed discussion of the motion (No. 22) made by Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao to reduce the grant of Rs. 6,07,793 in 32 (a) by Rs. 8,000.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Sir, this House is obliged to the two medical twins, as they have been aptly described by the Hon'ble Member Mr. Grieve, for the information that they have placed before us in dealing with this question. They have presented to us a picture of the way in which the claims of the department are being looked at by the independent Indian medical profession here. But judged from the standpoint of other lay members in this Council, I find myself in a greater dilemma. In a motion for reduction of the total grant, specific reference has been made to the expenditure under the head ‘Medical establishment’. It will be found that under the head of revision of pay to Provincial Medical Service, a provision was made in the budget for the current year of Rs. 2,42,000 and it has been increased to Rs. 3,15,000 in the budget for 1921-1922. “ We have no details as to how this provision is made. But that is not all that we are called upon to vote for at this session of the Council.

11-15 a.m. In the supplemental agenda placed in our hands we are called upon to vote for an additional sum of Rs. 3,80,000 under arrear salaries to Provincial Medical Service. The difficulty in which we are placed is this. Time after time the claims of the various departments of the public service are placed before us and we are informed by the Hon'ble Mr. Richards that the medical profession is not properly paid. I may here refer to the remarks of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar in connexion with this subject.”

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS (interrupting) :—“ First of all, I have not stated that and I do not know if Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar has made the statement referred to.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU (continuing) :—“ Relying upon the statement of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, Mr. Richards himself stated that, as has been pointed out already, the members of the medical profession are not properly paid. It is true he relied on the information given by some other member of this Council. That is, after all, not a very important matter. What I wish to point out is that we, who have all been anxious, from the very first sitting of the

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Council, to find a reasonable method of effecting retrenchment in all possible directions, are face to face with a situation where every member of the Government—whether of the reserved or of the transferred departments—gets up and supports vehemently the claim for the increase of salaries and the arrears of salaries in his departments. I do not think that, so far as we are concerned, we can draw any distinction between one part of the Government and the other. But we are faced with the position that whenever the claims of any set of officers are concerned, it is stated that the pay given is hardly adequate and that we cannot at all touch that part of the budget. That is what puzzles some of us in our anxiety to find a reasonable *via media* of effecting retrenchment for definite useful purposes. Our anxiety is all the greater because so far as the budget is concerned we have been given a full idea of the payment of arrears of salaries; but in the supplemental agenda placed before us, there is some addition under that head. I therefore ask this Council to pause before sanctioning the increase under the various heads. We wish to be fair and just to all departments without any difference whatever. It is said, ‘How can you treat the claims of one department in a different manner from those of another—especially when you voted the other day for a large increase of salaries to the members of the Judicial Service and when in the case of those services, arrears to a large extent have already been paid.’ One thing is certain, that so far as this Council is concerned, it cannot and ought not to make any difference between the officers of one department and the officers of another department. If in dealing with the motions already passed by this Council, increases which might have been avoided have been sanctioned, that ought not to be a reason for our not trying to effect retrenchment in future. We shall not stop there but proceed further and try to find out in a constitutional manner what is to be done in those cases in which the Council has already come to a decision.”

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TORRINGTON :—“ Sir, I crave the indulgence of this House if, greatly daring or greatly foolish, I rush in where angels and wise men, like my friend the Minister, hesitate to tread and attempt to interfere in the domestic affairs of that talented but difficult family, the medical profession. I do so because the head of the family is no longer here to keep it in order and because, as I listened aghast on Saturday night to the out-pourings of some of the younger members, I was reminded again and again of Macbeth's moralizing, on the news of the death of his wife, when he says

‘Life's but a walking shadow’

and again

‘Tis but a tale, full of sound

And fury signifying nothing.’

That, Sir, seems to me an accurate description of this resolution. This walking shadow of Rs. 8,000 has been used as a stalking horse for an attack on a great and beneficent department—an attack distinguished as much by its vehemence as by its vagueness, urged in speeches that were full of sound and fury and which when analyzed I shall show to be only ‘a tale signifying nothing.’

“ I shall endeavour to state the charges made in the speaker's own words. The first is the amazing charge that there is no scope for Indians in the Medical Department. The following are the terms in which it was made :—

‘There are very few appointments which are open to Indians at all . . . In no department of the Government is the claim of the Indians more ignored . . . Graduates in Law and Engineering can occupy the highest

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posts in the land. The medical graduate with Indian or English qualification, or all the qualifications put together, cannot aspire to any post higher than that of a Civil Assistant Surgeon in his life'".

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO (*interrupting*):—"I said Civil Surgeon and not Civil Assistant Surgeon. If the Honourable Member wishes to alter it, I have no objection."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*continuing*):—"I am quoting from the best available authority—a transcript from the shorthand notes.

"And again we were asked whether there are no Indians fit to be in charge of professorial chairs. I say these charges are amazing because in the Indian Medical Service, which is the Imperial Service of this department, there are actually at this moment 774 Indians to 734 Europeans. In this Presidency there are now only fifteen Europeans all told at work. There are at this moment Indians holding the administrative charge of a province and one of the largest divisions of the Army. There is an Indian occupying a professorial chair in the Medical College. It is only a short while ago that there were two. As for no Indian ever being able to rise above the post of Civil Assistant Surgeon in his life, there are now, to say nothing of the Civil Surgeons, nineteen Indian officers in charge of districts. These figures, I hope, are sufficient completely to refute the statement which I have read and to show that it is 'not a tale full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.'

"The second charge is in the speaker's own words that the military services domineer over the civil services, keeping them down and not allowing them to expand. Again he says 'What we object to is not individual officers, but the principle of having a military officer over our heads. They come with military ideas, military discipline, military interest and always a military goal and they have no abiding interest in the department or in the country or in the profession. If they have got tired of any one thing, they at once go back'; and the speaker promises, like the fat boy in *Pickwick*, to make our flesh creep with revelations, if we desire it. I do not think we need his revelations because I do not think there is a member in this Council who will recognize in this description the kindly men who have brought healing to the districts, who have sacrificed health and pay during the war and who have given up a large part of their lives to the building up of an Indian medical profession. Let us take the attack in detail. Can anybody honestly say that the ordinary District Medical and Sanitary Officer is a domineering martinet who goes about his district full of *military ideas and discipline* ready to dash off the moment anybody does anything he does not like? Is it not rather the case that few of us before the war had ever seen him in uniform at all and with pain and grief that he enveloped a form grown partly in the kindly climate of Madras in a uniform made for him when he had, what a newspaper writer calls, according to my honourable colleague on my right, the figure of a girl of eighteen.

"Then as to the *military interests and military goal*, what are the military interests in this Presidency and what is the military goal? The only goal that I can imagine that the Honourable Member has in mind is the fact that an officer of the Indian Medical Service when his time comes for promotion to full Colonel, must return to military duty because, I presume, the administrative offices at the head of the department are as much military as civil. But how many such vacancies are there to be filled and how many of our medical officers in Madras

28th March 1921] [The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter]

have ever gone to them? I have been trying to remember those who have so gone in my thirty years and I have not yet found enough to cover the fingers of one hand.

"Lastly, is it true that these officers have no abiding interest in the department or in the country or in the profession? Is it not the fact that most wonderful work on tropical diseases has been done by officers of the Indian Medical Service? Have they done it without any interest in the department, the country or the profession? Again, have we not been told by the very gentlemen who made this attack that they learnt the bulk of what they know at the feet of the Indian Medical Service and that the teaching by members of the Indian Medical Service is such that the Madras qualification is more valuable than the English one? Is that a state of affairs that is likely to come of teaching by people who have no interest in the department or in the country or in the profession? I am very much afraid that when the Honourable Member made this statement, his feelings had completely run away with him and that he said far more than he meant.

"So much for the sound and fury. What then is the underlying cause of this walking shadow of a grievance? I gather that the trouble lies in the fact that the official Civil Medical Service is treated as a reserve for military purposes. Now it is needless to say that in time of war the number of doctors required by the army is five times as many as are necessary to attend to the needs of the same army in times of peace. And the question is how this enormous reserve is to be found. In England it has always been found from among the private medical practitioners who are now enrolled in very large numbers in the territorial army or in what is known as the special reserve. In India it is needless to say that at the time the Indian Medical Service was instituted there was practically speaking no private profession and some alternative had to be found, and the only alternative available, certainly at that time, was to constitute the Civil Medical Service a reserve for the Army Medical Service. When the great war broke out, the number of the reserve required was not four times the peace strength of the army doctors, but many times that again, so that after every officer of the Indian Medical Service who could possibly be spared had been absorbed, we were very much in the position in which all European countries were of having to depend upon the civil medical profession and had to call for volunteers from amongst civil medical men. While I am prepared to admit that to many of these men such a call made a very large demand upon them, I regret to say that the response was altogether inadequate. We have been told in the discussions of the question of stipends for Assistant Surgeons that the taking of a bond to serve in the army when called upon was a binding of them to slavery. I am sorry to say that many of them preferred dismissal to fulfilling their bonds. Among the Civil Assistant Surgeons a few of the juniors did go while the seniors filled the places vacated by officers of the Indian Medical Service; but the demand was not nearly met and in the end it became necessary, in order to secure medical men at all, to create temporary commissions for officers who were prepared to serve in India only, that is to say, they stayed at home working in cantonments while the men who have volunteered for war service were kept at it without respite till the war was over."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"When the Hon'ble Member for Finance got up and showed the House that he is going to smash my arguments, I was almost breathless and thought that he would smash my arguments to pieces. The argument is as frivolous as it is angry. I said yesterday that 51 appointments

[Mr. U. Rama Rao]

[28th March 1921]

under the Madras Government are reserved entirely for military medical men. I did not mean to say that among those, Indians were not there. I purposely used the word military medical men. I said also that civil medical men of better qualifications are not given any of these 51 places, because they are not men who belonged to the Indian Medical Service. I did not say that all the departments were monopolised by Europeans."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*interrupting*):—"The Honourable Member is reported to have said:—'Very few appointments are open to Indians at all. It is unfortunate that this department is overburdened with military medical men. To make room for military medical men a number of places have been reserved for Indian Medical Service men'."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO (*continuing*):—"Yes. I did say that they are reserved for Indian Medical Service men and that I know as well as the Honourable Member. As for the remark that I attacked the Indian Medical Service men, it is not true. My friend Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao and I have great regard for them. We read under them. We simply stated that 51 appointments each carrying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000 and upwards are entirely monopolised by men belonging to the military service. We have the highest regard for men of the Indian Medical Service. Most of them are my personal friends. As for the professors, I did say that with the exception of one chair, that is the chair of Anatomy, all the other chairs were in charge of Indian Medical Service. The Honourable Member said that most of the appointments are held by Civil Assistant Surgeons. I want to know how many of them are holding permanent appointments? They are given these places as a stopgap, because Indian Medical Service men were asked to go to military duty. They are not given the same pay or facilities except some extra allowances. The moment the war ended they were taken away one after another. I did not say that the qualifications we have were superior to those of Englishmen. I said that we had brains and not money. To get an appointment at Madras a man has to go from here to Edinburgh."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*interrupting*):—"I will read exactly what the Honourable Member said:—'The qualification here is highly superior in some respects to the qualification there.' If he withdraws this statement, no one would be more glad than I."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO (*continuing*):—"I did not say so. I said that the qualification here was not in any way inferior to the qualification there. The mere fact that a person who is not able to pass the L. M. S. Examination here, goes there, passes the L.R.C.P. Examination, competes for Indian Medical Service and that in some cases they were superior, for instance, in anatomy. As for the argument of the Honourable Member who said that all I said was only out of anger, I leave it entirely to the House to judge."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"I rise to speak with reference to this motion, not with a view to support the motion. I take it that this resolution is brought to direct the searchlight of this House to this department which has withstood all attempts at reform or reorganization for a longer period than other departments. The Indian Civil Service, with all its claims to superiority, has from time to time given way for the advancement of the claims of Indians. But this department through its influence over the Local Governments and the Government of India has withstood the despatches which were sent by successive

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Secretaries of State that reorganization should take place at a very early date. The plain fact is that the Civil Medical Department is subordinated to the exigencies of a military service. Eighty-seven per cent of the higher offices in the country are held by military officers, and only 13 per cent are held by Civil Surgeons. The Indian Medical Service officers hold the administrative appointments in all departments. Thirty-three out of 37 of the professorial chairs are held by them, and 27 offices in the Bacteriological department for research work; they are in charge of all the big hospitals and district surgeoncies; and the majority of appointments in the Sanitary and Jail departments are in their hands. So then in fact, it is said that the Civil Medical Department is a monopoly of the Military Medical Service. At one time the sanctioned strength was 772. Of those 475 or 62 per cent perform the duties pertaining to the Civil Medical Department. We all know that the administration of the Civil department and Justice is handed over to the military, when martial law is proclaimed. So far as the medical department is concerned it is always under the control of the military. In piping times of peace, why should this civil administration be handed over to them?

"As for the qualification of the people in Indian Universities, officers of the Indian Medical Service, who have no special aptitude, are appointed as professors. Eminent surgeons from all parts of India have from time to time borne testimony to the quality of the Indian graduates in Medicine. This is due mainly to the stuff the students are made of. So in spite of the disadvantage that they have as professors men who have had no special training, special aptitude for the subjects they are called upon to teach, these Indian graduates have taken a high place and have by their study shown themselves better than or as good as those trained in English Universities. That being so, it is rather disappointing, however much we all appreciate the services rendered by the Indian Medical Service officers, that these Indian graduates, who have shown themselves competent by their work in the college and in after-life have to satisfy themselves with an inferior cadre and pay. This is a matter which deserves much consideration. When graduates in Arts take to law, they undergo training for three years and they become vakils who in ten years are eligible to become High Court Judges, if they are competent to fill offices. They also fill offices of less importance such as District Judges and Subordinate Judges. But the medical men take a five years' course, or a larger number of years to suit the prejudices of some professors who do not allow them to pass in the first year. What is the result? They cannot rise to a higher rank than that of Civil Surgeon."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"The Hon'ble the Finance Member worked up a great deal of unnecessary indignation in answering the motion. The Honourable Member is fast becoming an adept in parliamentary devices and I think on the present occasion, the Hon'ble the Finance Member's indignation is a parliamentary device, but I hope nobody will be deceived and that the real facts will not be ignored."

"The question as has been admitted by the Honourable Member himself is as to why the Civil Medical Service should continue as a reserve for the Indian Medical Service. That is the crux of the question to which attention was sought to be drawn by my honourable friend. It is unnecessary to refer to every statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter. He has taken too literally some of the statements made by the mover. I would ask him to look to the spirit of the resolution that is, the necessity for the constitution of the civil medical service independent of military requirements. Now I am well aware of the feelings of civil medical

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men in this Presidency. I know several of them feel keenly the sense of injustice and subordination in regard to this matter. Wherever the military medical officer is available to take charge of a district, the Civil Surgeon, or the civil medical officer in charge of the district, must make way at present. Whenever a military officer is available to be appointed as professor in a Medical College the civil officer in charge will have to make way. These are the general features of the present situation and there is no good trying to say that the arguments addressed are mere thunder and sound or that they mean nothing. The question is whether this state of things should be permitted in this Presidency, and if the Local Government would address themselves to this problem they certainly would have promoted the best interests, not only of civil medical officers, but the wider interests of the country. There is no use blinking the facts which have been before the country for nearly ten years, to my knowledge. (A voice, 'longer'). Therefore I should think the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter should not take any dialectic advantage over my friend on the authority of what he is supposed to have said last day. The real question should be tackled. I think the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has not only given an answer but admitted facts."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"It was not my intention to intervene when I came down here this morning. But the unfortunate curtailment by the bell of what my honourable colleague was saying prevented him from enlightening the Council on a point, which by force of circumstances has apparently become minor, but which as a matter of fact was the major proposition. The proposal to reduce the total grant by Rs. 8,000 refers directly to the remuneration of the Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General if I may bring the House down to cold realities again. I should like simply to say that the low figure of last year was not due to the rank of the officer filling the post but was due to the fact that owing to the shortage of staff another appointment was not made and only an allowance was paid. The larger entry against the current year represents the provision for a Captain's allowances. And I may say at once that the whole question of the status of the Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General was recently discussed at a conference with Major-General Giffard. Various opinions were held this way and that. Some were inclined to the view that we should prefer a medical officer to a trained Secretariat officer. As to the general issue which according to Mr. Ramachandra Rao my honourable colleague has failed to meet, I should like to remind him that the issue is not so simple as it seems to him and that the history of the case is not so clearly before the recollection of other members of the House as apparently it is before his recollection. Among the legacies of the war and of the many subjects which have engaged the consideration of the Government of India during the last three or four years, I venture to submit, there has not been any problem more difficult to solve than the question whether or not the civil and military sections of the medical profession in this country can be properly separated.

"There is one more thing, Sir, which I wish to say before I sit down; and that is a word of defence of the action of my honourable colleague. He was not concerned with the general issue of the relative positions of the civil and military sections of the Medical Department in this country. What did concern him, and I confess I myself was very deeply concerned too, was with regard to the serious nature of the statements made on Saturday afternoon by two members of the medical profession. They involved undoubtedly a perversion of the facts in regard to the Indian Medical Department, the Indian Medical Service I should say, to

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give its proper style. Those mistakes would have remained unchallenged on the records of the proceedings of this House if my honourable colleague had not stood up this morning and nailed—I do not want to use an unparliamentary expression, otherwise I would say—the lie to the counter."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Is it in order?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable Member is not in order."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I bow to your ruling, Sir. I would substitute the words 'statements directly at variance with facts.'"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I do not think the Honourable Member should have stated even that."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I should like to express my apology. That is all I have to say. The importance of my honourable colleague's speech was of necessity to give the contradiction to misrepresentations which otherwise would have stained the records of the proceedings of this House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Do I understand that the Hon'ble Member Mr. Rama Rao wants to make a personal explanation?"

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"An answer was extorted to a question by the Government Member. I would explain in general terms how the military officers, when they became discontented or dissatisfied with the conditions of civil service, always wanted to go back to military service, having a lien on that service which gave them a handle to treat civil appointments with less attention and less devotion than otherwise. That was what I was trying to prove when I was disturbed by a question, and on the spur of the moment perhaps not a very desirable answer was extracted from me.

"But there is another word which I would like to say in so important a matter as the reference to civil medical men in relation to the Indian medical officers. Each time a demand is made for additional privileges or for extension of the civil cadre, a note of warning is sounded, sometimes in tones of thunder, that an attack is being made on the Indian Medical Service. We are on the threshold of a new Government."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable Member is not confining himself to his subject."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO (*continuing*) :—"I was trying to explain to the House why it is that we bring this proposition forward. Our object is not to cast a slur on this officer, or that officer but to say that the conditions of the service have not been all that was desirable and that it needs a thorough overhauling. If the Medical department has not taken up the interests of the civil population more largely as other departments have done, it is because that the civil medical men are domineered by military officers whose interests are elsewhere, not in the civil exclusively as it should be. Every civil administration should be self-contained and, I submit, the Medical department is not so at present. All our efforts are to represent to the authorities that a thorough inquiry should be made into the state of affairs."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable Member is passing far beyond a personal explanation. I am very sorry he has not got a right to reply. The honourable mover has the right of reply."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with this motion that has been made and I appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister

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in charge of that department really to examine the policy that has been pursued hitherto by the department and to see whether he should not inaugurate a radical change in its policy. That, I suppose, is really the object of the observations which have been made.

"Now, I am not concerned so much with the past history of the Medical department. We are concerned more with the future, with what the future is going to be. We are concerned with the new year's budget, and with respect to that, it is only right that we in this House should express in unmistakable language our desire, our fervent desire, that as far as possible there should be a proper medical service which will give the fullest scope to indigenous talent and ability and that the medical service should not be dominated by military considerations or by the military department, however much it may have been necessary or desirable in the past, and it must be entirely freed and emancipated from their control hereafter and function purely as a medical service so as to be in keeping with the aspirations of the community at large. There is no use in such a matter as this of flinging charges one against the other. The object of the Honourable Members on this side of the table was really to enlighten this House as to what really happens and to persuade the House to take a correct view. I must certainly deprecate the procedure that was adopted. We Indians in this House must necessarily talk about things with which we are concerned, and the only way to meet this issue is really to take us into confidence and tell us exactly what is going to be done. That, I venture to submit, is the correct method of approaching the unofficial members of this House.

"May I say that, now that this department is a transferred department, it behoves us that we should impress on Government the advisability as far as possible of making the items of this department entirely votable, so that this House may have full control over this department? May I suggest to the Honourable the Minister in charge of this department that we expect him to inaugurate a new policy and to state what that policy is? I do not say that any member of Government is not allowed to speak on this debate. Certainly we want to know what the voice of the transferred department is and it is to that voice that we should attach importance. It is from that voice only that we unofficial members of this Government can learn what the policy of the Ministry is going to be. With these words, I would most respectfully and most humbly beseech all the members of the Council to vote for this proposition that is placed before the House."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Yesterday when the Hon'ble Member Mr. U. Rama Rao introduced the debate on the subject of reduction of six lakhs and odd by Rs. 8,000 he began his speech with the observation that he made the motion with a view more to elicit information than with a view to effect reduction. I presume, Sir, that he does not really mean that there should be any reduction of the grant. The grant, if I may say so, is a minimum grant and it does not admit of any reduction. The increase of the pay of the Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General in which some of the Honourable Members fancied that they found a vulnerable point is really beyond the range of their attack. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has already pointed out the reason why the increase was effected. Besides, the increase is increase of the pay of an Indian Medical Service officer and as such it is non-votable.

"Sir, as regards the general policy, from what I gather from the speeches of the Honourable Members, I thought they wanted information as to the way in which the Civil Surgeons and the Assistant Civil Surgeons are recruited and what

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their prospects are to be. I am prepared to give the information on this subject. But, before I give any information, I must demur to the unmerited criticisms levelled against the Indian Medical Service officers as a class. Now that both the members have withdrawn them, I do not wish to pursue the matter further."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO (*interrupting*):—"We did not withdraw. We stated that we did not make that statement."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR (*continuing*):—"I have got a copy of his speech in my hand and I see his statement in the speeches. Now that Dr. Rama Rao says he did not make the statement, I leave it there.

"Well, Sir, as to the policy. I know that there has been a great deal of discontent among the Civil Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons regarding their pay and prospects; but according to the recent scale which is to take effect from 1st April, their position will be much better than what it was before. According to this scale the Assistant Surgeons will draw from Rs. 200 to Rs. 450 whereas they were drawing Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 hitherto. Civil Surgeons will draw from Rs. 500 to Rs. 900 and two of them will be placed on selection grade drawing Rs. 1,000 a month. As to the question, raised by the Hon'ble Member Mr. Ramachandra Rao regarding the substitution of the military service by the civil services in the Medical Department, it is rather a large question, and I do not think it will be within the jurisdiction of this Ministry or this Government to tackle with this question. It is a matter on which the opinions of the Government of India and the Secretary of State are necessary and therefore there is no good discussing it here. One matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is that we may have to consider whether in making this substitution the substitution will really effect the retrenchment which we are all hankering after. Whether by substituting civil services for military service we can dispense with the military service altogether is a question I do not wish to dwell upon. Devolution Rule 12 says: 'A local Government shall employ such number of Indian Medical Service officers in such appointments and on such terms and on such conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State in Council.' This rule has to be borne in mind before we can make any change in this direction."

Diwan Bahadur T. DESIKA ACHARIYAR :—"I move, Sir, that the question be now put."

The motion for closure was put and carried.

Then the motion, namely, that the grant of Rs. 6,07,793 in 32 (a) be reduced by Rs. 8,000, was put to the vote and declared lost, 49 voting *against* and 23 *for*.

Demand No. XVII, namely, that a sum not exceeding 42.24 lakhs be granted under the head Medical, was then put to the Council and was granted *nem con*.

DEMAND XVIII—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Sir, I beg to move Demand No. XVIII, viz., that a sum not exceeding Rs. 21.30 lakhs be granted under Public Health and Vital Statistics.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Munuswami Nayudu was not moved owing to the absence of the Honourable Member and was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'1. That the demands for Rs. 6,400 and Rs. 2,000 for temporary additions to pay under 33-A be reduced to one rupee in each case (*Budget page 155*).'

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO then moved—

'2. That the amount of Rs. 18,800 allotted under Detailed Account No. 33-A for popular health lectures be omitted (*Budget page 156*).'

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In doing so, he said:—"Mr. President, the limitations under which a member has to send up his proposals have placed me in a very awkward position and several of my fellow-members have been asking me whether I am against health lectures. Nobody who has known me or my work in the past would accuse me of this. On the other hand, I may tell this House that when the first two Assistant Surgeons were engaged for health lectures some years ago I was one of those commissioned by the head of the department to draw up a course of curriculum and to see that it was run through and I did not only that but presided over several of those meetings and I know how well those individual officers acquitted themselves as lecturers and if to-day I make bold to bring a motion of this kind it is not because that lectures are of no use and that I do not want any lectures, but that if they are to be as it should be done and done as widely in every nook and corner of the Presidency, not Rs. 18,000 but Rs. 18 lakhs would be required. Since that is not possible in the existing circumstances I beg to propose that this amount should be deleted altogether and that it should be made available for sanitation which is the object for which the lectures have been instituted. It may be said that half a loaf is better than no loaf. It is not so in this case because young Assistant Surgeons are sent out to lecture on technical subjects. They have got their own ideas of propriety as regards the technicalities and the language used and various other details. At the time they produce some effect, but it is so evanescent that it has no abiding place in the scheme, that it is not worth sending our men from place to place to give a solitary lecture or two. But if on the other hand a sanitary officer would station himself on the borders of a district or even of a taluk and give a lecture and during the ensuing week put into practice and demonstrate what he preaches, and show that they could all be put into practice, a great deal more could be done. Several motions that I have given notice of are all moved with a view to setting free large sums of money for being available for the local district boards, district health boards, district health committees and district health officers. They should all take up this subject as a standing problem for them to tackle with not as one of passing interest and for this purpose a sanitary survey of each district should be made and a catalogue of the sanitary improvements should be made, the most pressing being put at the top and the least pressing at the bottom. And item after item should be taken up and be made the subject of a lecture and then the subject of demonstration. Improvements suggested must be carried out as money becomes available. I have during my term as District Surgeon visited a large number of unions and the universal complaint is want of money. The Honourable Members will find that in the smaller unions the ordinary state of things is this. If Rs. 1,000 be the income, Rs. 800 goes for the establishment charges—not only for the clerical establishment but for scavengers, lamp-lighters and so on. For improving village-site, village administration or improving water-supply or for improving roads there is no scope whatever. To really improve village sanitation, we must have a body of men interested in health improvement who would make a sanitary survey of their locality and take item after item and do it thoroughly. With this view a certain amount of money must be placed at their disposal and that will be possible only if we cut down some of the items which cannot bear immediate fruit and which are even questionable as regards utility in order to enrich the coffers of the numerous sanitary unions."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Sir, I rise to support this resolution not with the intention of cutting Rs. 18,000 but as a protest against the way in which the health propaganda work is carried on in this Presidency. In the year 1920-21 a sum of Rs. 18,800 was provided, whereas they spent according to the revised

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estimate only a sum of Rs. 500. That shows that they have not been doing their work as they ought to have done. In the report of the Surgeon-General he says that two Assistant Surgeons were deputed to deliver health lectures in the Kistna and Cuddapah districts in the year 1919. Owing to the dearth of medical men, these lectures could not be continued in the year 1919. Now, Sir, I understand all the temporary hands that have been engaged during the time of the war have been given notice one after the other asking them to go away. That again should be stopped and all these hands could be engaged for this work. Apart from these a number of private medical men from different parts of the Presidency may be engaged for this work. Most of them, I am sure, will do the work honorarily. If this is done with a little extra expense given to them for the purpose of carriage allowance, etc., this health propaganda work could be carried on extensively. With a view to show the dissatisfaction that the scheme is not carried on properly I rise to support the motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I rise to oppose this motion. I was carefully listening to the arguments of Messrs. C. B. Rama Rao and U. Rama Rao, and I thought that though they were moving and supporting this resolution, all the arguments and observations which they were advancing and making were really against their own motion. My friend Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao stated that he was moving this resolution not so much for the reduction of this amount as for an increase of the amount granted for improving village sanitation. Certainly, a grant of an adequate fund for improvement of village sanitation is highly essential. And I would heartily support any proposition that is brought forward for the grant of additional funds for the improvement of village sanitation. But the improvement of village sanitation should not be effected at the cost of abandoning all these public health lectures. They are doing a great deal of good, and my friend himself admitted that they are doing some good. But what he stated was that the effect produced by these lectures was not permanent but was only transitory. In any case, the fact that these Assistant Surgeons go about the country and deliver health lectures is certainly better than delivering no lectures at all. There is one observation that fell from my other friend, Mr. U. Rama Rao, with reference to the expenditure of this amount which I fully endorse. I find, Sir, on my reference to the budget figures that the amount spent actually in the year 1919-20 for the delivery of these popular health lectures was only Rs. 342 and that last year, that is, in the year that is about to expire, though the budgeted amount was exactly the same, namely, Rs. 18,800, the revised figure under this head comes only to Rs. 500. That means that the Honourable the Minister in charge expects that only Rs. 500 out of this comparatively large amount of Rs. 18,800 appropriated under this head is expected to be spent before 31st March. I hope my honourable friend will insist that the whole of this amount will be fully spent, and if possible something more, upon this item and upon this item alone. With these observations I oppose the resolution and in doing so, I am not against the spirit of the observations made by my friends Messrs. C. B. Rama Rao and U. Rama Rao."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"I shall be exceedingly glad to spend the whole amount on health lectures. But that would be possible only if we could get qualified men to go about lecturing in the country and that is a matter which is not entirely under my control."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO:—"I beg to withdraw my resolution in view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Minister."

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DEMAND XVIII—PUBLIC HEALTH

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The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO moved—

3. *That the provision under Detailed Account No. 37-B for a Director of Town-Planning on Rs. 20,000 per annum be omitted (Budget page 157).*

In doing so, he said:—“Mr. President, this motion is also on the same lines as the previous one; but I do not think it need be withdrawn. The object is the same. The amount required for improving rural sanitation is so great that the luxury of town-planning is not likely to be resorted to by any municipal council or union or other local body during the current year. I therefore think that this sum, if liberated, could be more usefully spent. Not that I object to town-planning nor that I do not understand the usefulness of it, but that we are in such straitened circumstances now that it is much better to defer luxuries and insist upon necessities.”

MR. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—“Sir, though I was one of those who voted against the appointment of a Director of Town-Planning when the Town-Planning Bill was under discussion in this Council, yet I think, Sir, that a Director of Town-Planning would be useful now, looking at the way in which municipalities and local boards will have to conduct their business under the new Acts by which they will be governed. The new Acts give them a large amount of power and they will not have time even to look after their own affairs. The improvement of towns and housing as well is an essential ingredient, and though, as Dr. Rama Rao said, rural sanitation is a very important thing, I believe the improvement of sanitation and of housing conditions in cities and municipalities is equally essential. In order to co-ordinate the whole thing and bring it to a successful issue as early as possible and in order to still the cry that has been raised in all cities about want of accommodation, I think, Sir, that a Director of Town-Planning is essential. If that is granted, it must necessarily follow that we must pay him, and the amount that we are asked to vote for is only Rs. 20,000 which does not even come to Rs. 2,000 per month. And I believe, Sir, that is a very essential thing for which every one of us will be well advised to vote.”

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBEERUMAL CHETTIYAR:—“When the Town-Planning Bill was considered it was abundantly proved that a Director for Town-Planning was essential. It was then resolved that provision should be made for the appointment of one. I therefore think that the provision made in the budget for a Director's post should not be opposed now.”

MR. F. J. RICHARDS:—“Mr. President, I oppose this motion on the ground that there is a very real demand for a Director of Town-Planning. The Town-Planning Act has recently been brought into force and it must not remain a dead letter. Under the Act a considerable number of municipalities are compelled by law to frame schemes within a definite period. It is of little use for municipalities to waste money, time and trouble in framing schemes without competent advice. And it is also necessary, when once such schemes are framed, that there should be a Director to see them through. Town-planning is not merely a matter of drawing up a scheme on paper; it is not merely a matter of engineering or merely a matter for the Sanitary Commissioner. There are other considerations, and, unless these are taken into account, the schemes are likely to be abortive. There are rules and by-laws to be framed under the Act. It is a simple matter for the Secretariat to evolve rules and by-laws, but without competent advice rules and by-laws so evolved are not likely to be of real practical

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value. There are important economic aspects in town-planning which are beyond the purview of an engineering officer or a Sanitary Commissioner and which require experience of a broader kind. There is the question of housing, and, closely allied with that, the question of starting in this country co-operative building societies for the poorer classes as well as for the rich. There is the still more important question of regional town-planning, i.e., of developing the area outside municipal limits, with a view to adjust the needs of contiguous rural and urban populations. If this is not done, all the efforts of municipal councils to put their towns in order are likely to be spoiled by indiscriminate building beyond their jurisdiction. There are other specific questions cropping up, where careful thought and the close co-ordination of various interests are required. I refer particularly to the harbour schemes of Vizagapatam, Cochin and Tuticorin, and, unless competent advice is forthcoming, it is likely that the municipal activities in the way of town expansion will make these ports hardly creditable in the international opinion which will judge them. Then again there is the question of training experts in town-planning. Requisitions have been received from various municipalities to depute officers competent to advise and assist and take charge of their schemes, and that demand is bound to increase. At present the demand cannot be supplied, because no officers exist with practical experience in this matter. There are other matters connected with civic survey, statistical enquiries which require organization under expert guidance, in order that town-planning schemes may not suffer shipwreck. The amount allotted, Rs. 20,000, is not for the full year. It is unlikely that a competent adviser with the necessary practical experience could be obtained for less than about Rs. 2,500 a month. That is a matter which can be dealt with hereafter. The provision has been made in response to demands put up during the past twelve months, and I might add that the town expansion schemes of Madras City itself are seriously handicapped for want of such an officer. Regarding finances, no doubt during the coming twelve months or so it will not be practicable for any municipality to finance any large town-planning scheme. I would point out that before finance is required, a scheme is required, and to raise your loan or get your grant or raise taxation before you have a scheme ready is a waste of public money. I hope that the Council will accept the view that a Town-Planning Officer is necessary.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—“Sir, before I give my vote on this motion or against it, I should like to ask for some definite information in regard to this question of a Town-Planning Officer. Honourable Members are aware that Professor Goddes came out to this country and delivered a course of lectures arranged by the then Government of Madras. His lectures were printed and circulated. He visited a certain number of towns and many suggestions were made by him for the improvement of those towns and his report is a bulky volume of about 300 pages. It was communicated to the municipalities and the orders of Government are contained in the single word ‘recorded’. Then came down, I believe, Mr. Lanchester. He was in this Presidency for about six months. Elaborate plans have been drawn up, suggestions have been made for the improvement of the City of Madras—I believe he went also round to some of the mufassal towns, and his visit also cost us about 20 or 25 thousand rupees—I do not know the exact figure, but I believe it was more in the neighbourhood of Rs. 30 thousand. Now, the present proposal is to have another Town-Planning Officer. I suggest that the Minister should consider the advisability of training an indigenous staff, an officer in the Provincial Service, either belonging to the engineering or the medical profession, with sufficient outlook and wide knowledge

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of things, and if necessary to send him to the United Kingdom or to any other country for gaining practical experience of the subject. After all, Sir, the conditions of town-planning depend very much on the climate. I had occasion to see some portions of the new extensions of London. I also had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Fisher Unwin, a great expert in town-planning. I must say that it is entirely a question of experience of local conditions, and any gentleman, who comes from England and wishes to impart his town-planning ideas into this country, entirely may neglect the conditions under which the people live in this country and therefore it is far more essential that a person with the knowledge of Indian conditions should be sent out for training elsewhere if necessary, rather than that some other gentleman living in some other country should come here and impose his ideals of town-planning on Indian towns. Therefore it is this aspect of the question, Sir, that I would ask the Honourable the Minister to consider and to let me know whether the Town-Planning Officer, for whom this provision is made, is to be recruited from the United Kingdom or how it is proposed to utilize the amount, and if he says that this amount would again be spent in getting down another Professor Geddes or another Mr. Lanchester, who would come and go away again after making a few suggestions without somebody here on the spot from year end to year end to give us advice, I propose to vote against this grant, and if, on the other hand, this amount would be utilized for the purpose of immediately selecting a suitable officer and sending him for training to other countries, I shall have no objection to vote against this motion. Sir, we must have a clear statement of policy on this matter. I am one of those who have under the Minto-Morley Councils insisted on having our own Town-Planning Officer belonging to this country; and after all, I do not think it is so very difficult to pick up knowledge of town-planning. Therefore I do not see why one of our own officers should not be sent out for training to the United Kingdom."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Sir, evidently Mr. Ramachandra Rao is labouring under a mistake. We are not inviting an Englishman or an American to go about lecturing about town-planning in the upcountry, but we are appointing a gentleman to be the Town-Planning Director for Madras for a limited period of time. It is proposed that a number of engineering and sanitary officers should be trained under the Director, so that towards the end of the period, they will be able to help the municipalities and district boards in town-planning operations in the mufussal as also in the City of Madras."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I have no delusion in the matter. I perfectly understand the proposal and I am against the proposal that the gentleman should come here from England."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Sir, may I endeavour to make this matter a little bit clearer with reference to certain negotiations that have been taking place? What we have had hitherto is, I think, a gentleman versed in Political Economy and another, an architect, and we have had various theories. What we want now is to get down to practical work. Bombay has a very highly qualified gentleman from the department at Home in charge of the development scheme and we are looking out too for an officer acquainted with the practical everyday work of the department at Home and I think the idea is that such an officer would come out and start this scheme on proper lines in various municipalities and as soon as possible let us know how he has been doing. What is aimed at now is practical work and not lectures, no architecture nor political economy."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"What is the difficulty in sending out a man?"

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"The chief difficulty is that if we send a man, it will take a long time for him to come back equipped with the knowledge that is necessary. As my friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, is aware, there is a great deal of town-planning activities, activities in the direction of extending towns throughout the Presidency, and these municipalities cannot wait until the man who is sent to England comes back equipped with knowledge."

Mr. M. D. Devadoss at this stage moved that the question might be put.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I assume the Honourable Member presses the motion to a division."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"Yes, Sir."

The motion for closure was put and carried unanimously.

Then the main motion to omit the provision of Rs. 20,000 for a Director of Town-Planning was put to the vote and declared lost, 11 voting *for* and 47 *against*.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"Mr. President, I beg to move—

'4. That the allotment of Rs. 1,05,900 under Detailed Account No. 33-C for expenses against bubonic plague be omitted (Budget page 157).'

"My reason for bringing forward this motion is exactly the same as that given for the previous motion. I have served in some bubonic plagues and I have known certain epidemics in which, as help did not come in time, things went wrong. I know very well one epidemic which we were able to nip in the bud, because we were able to take timely and immediate precautions. I think that in all cases of epidemics, the greatest thing is to secure the first few cases and if you can isolate them and prevent contagion being spread broadcast, you will have, in fact, stopped the spread of the epidemic. When an epidemic spreads and after a certain lapse of time these special officers come from the centre of administration, from Madras or elsewhere, generally weeks pass on and in the meanwhile the poison gets scattered and one cannot possibly get hold of it, and then the epidemic is simply allowed to run its course. What I want is that these District Health Committees that are going to come into existence should take charge of this with ample funds at their disposal, and be always forewarned. That is to say, if frontiers are well guarded and if the Health Officer or the Assistant Health Officer is told off to watch the first cases of epidemic diseases, and he goes and takes effective measures for isolation and disinfection, I submit that many an epidemic could be nipped in the bud, and we will not have to see these controllable diseases running such a weary length and committing such havoc. I speak, Sir, from personal experience in this matter and I know that in Ayyampet when plague broke out a few years ago, how the Revenue Divisional Officer and myself camped under a tamarind grove and paid three or four visits almost daily to the village and by persuasion and mild threats, got the people to vacate, and pulled down all the huts, made a regular bonfire of them in the streets and got them to put up thatched huts in the fields, with the result that the epidemic was well under control in two weeks, and it died out altogether before the month expired. Now what took place in Ayyampet could be repeated in almost any locality and I speak with a knowledge which very few can have in this assembly. I therefore press that the purpose of my motion may be well understood, and that instead of having a big staff in the centre of the administration, and time wasted in communications

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to and fro, each district municipality should be trusted to itself and each District Health Committee be compelled to take certain precautionary measures; and if this is done in the proper style and in the proper manner and with occasional checks from the Medical Department, I am sure we will not have this recurring series of epidemics which disgrace the public life of Southern India. I therefore appeal to this House to carry this motion, not to stop measures against epidemics or to concentrate them in a certain place, and not to have a central authority, but to trust the district health bodies and make them realize their own responsibilities and to see that their duty is to be always forewarned."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I rise to oppose the motion, and my reason is this. My friend who has moved this resolution has himself admitted that it is necessary to take precautionary measures for preventing the spread of plague when once it breaks out and also for taking measures to prevent its occurrence, if possible. I only agree with him there."

"What will be the consequence of voting for this resolution? The consequence will be that the expenditure required will fall upon the municipalities and district boards, which in their present condition they are not able to meet. One thing is certain and that is that the expenditure, whether it is this amount of Rs. 1,50,000 and odd or any larger portion or a smaller portion, will be necessary either for the purpose of preventing the outbreak of plague or preventing the spread of the disease when it once breaks out. Somebody will have to pay the bill and meet the cost. The question is whether, as it is now proposed in the budget, the Government should be made to incur the expenditure or whether the municipalities and the district boards should be made to incur the expenditure. As I said, Sir, in the present financial condition of the municipal councils and the local boards, it is certainly preferable that the Government undertake the expenditure instead of the local boards and the municipal councils. For these reasons alone I oppose this motion."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"I am equally opposed to this resolution. I have carefully listened to Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. He has got some methods of his own in order to combat the disease. But I have a great mind to ask him how it is possible to carry out those measures without something being provided for in the budget. He seems to think that all this burden is to be thrown on the municipalities and the district boards. I may tell the House that the Plague Committee sat sometime ago and they classified the charges to be borne by the Government and the local bodies in such cases. I remember well the Honourable Member himself serving on the Committee. The Committee classified such charges as inspection, etc., to be borne by the Government and we were entrusted with the most onerous and stupendous duty of catching rats. The expenses incidental to the evacuation and inspection work were allotted to the Government. It is for that purpose that there is a provision made in the budget. I see no utility whatever in reducing the provision under that head and Dr. C. B. Rama Rao is well aware of the state of finance of the local bodies who can ill-afford to bear a portion of this expense."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO:—"I simply want to draw the attention of this House that if this money can be made available to the various district head committees it would serve better purpose enabling them to act immediately. My object being that, I have no hesitation to withdraw."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO moved—

'5. That the allotment of Rs. 1,66,700 under detailed Account No. 33-C for expenses against malaria epidemic be omitted (Budget, page 157).'

In doing so, he said:—"This resolution, Mr. President, is under the head of Malaria. But when one goes into the details it really touches the cholera parties. Cholera parties have received certain encomiums from the various administrations."

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS (interrupting):—"May I rise to a point of order? My honourable friend has tabled a motion about 'malaria epidemic'. There is no budget provision under that head. I wish to have your ruling, Sir, as to whether he is in order in moving a motion for the reduction of something else, i.e., on cholera parties. It is a mistake, no doubt a bona fide mistake, and the figure entered in the motion is that provided for 'epidemics'."

Rao Bahadur C. B. RAMA RAO (continuing):—"Mr. President, I beg to invite your attention to page 188 of the budget where at the top appears the word 'Malaria' in capital letters and 'cholera' appears in smaller type in the details. If it is a mistake it is not my fault."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Surely cholera is not a portion of malaria."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO:—"The mistake is not mine. It is perhaps a printer's devil."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"May I point out that under 'Malaria' comes 'Total Malaria'. After 'Total Malaria' there is a full stop. Then we begin again with epidemics. Epidemic is quite distinct from malaria."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Do I understand the Secretary to the Local and Municipal Department to say that there is an allotment of Rs. 1,67,000 against cholera?"

Mr. F. J. RICHARDS:—"Under the head 'Epidemics' generally."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I fear the Honourable Member is entirely out of order."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I point out that he is asking for the reduction of the total grant of Rs. 1,67,000 which covers cholera epidemics and everything else."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It is a sum of Rs. 1,67,000 in Detailed Account No. 33-C."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It applies only to cholera duties."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I suggest to the Honourable Member to omit the word 'Malaria' from his motion. The motion as altered will read as follows:—

'That the allotment of Rs. 1,66,700 under Detailed Account No. 33-C for expenses in combating epidemics be omitted.'

"Is he prepared to make that alteration?"

Rao Bahadur Mr. C. B. RAMA RAO:—"I am prepared, Sir."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMA YANINGAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether that is the real intention of the honourable mover?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"That is a different matter. But he is permitted to make his motion with the alteration, in which case he can speak about Rs. 1,67,700 but nothing outside that."

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Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"I thank you, Mr. President, for kindly getting me out of this difficulty. This evidently refers to all epidemics and chiefly to cholera. I really wanted to speak about these cholera parties. I have served in many cholera epidemics. Cholera parties came into existence during the last few years. Before the party arrives at least two weeks are wasted in telegraphing, etc. They have to come from other places. Each party contains one Assistant Surgeon, eight or ten sanitary inspectors and a few special totis and so on. They have to wind up their work in one district and come to another district. It generally takes time. What I say is that they don't do the work for which epidemic treatment is devoted. What is wanted in all these cases is to tackle the first few cases and isolate them. The question of treating the epidemic then becomes a very easy thing. That can be done only by the local health officers. In all municipalities and district boards certain specially trained sanitary inspectors should be posted on the frontiers to be on the look-out for these cases particularly during feasts and festivals, and wherever there are large gatherings of people. If only efforts could be centred on the detection and isolation of the first few cases most of the work done and a good deal of expense and life will be saved. Therefore, I say that instead of perpetuating this old and antiquated system of cholera parties, the amount might very well be transferred for the same work to be controlled by the district health committees with special instructions for the controlling sanitary staff. With these few words I beg to move this motion."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the Honourable Member does not really object, I think, to the provision made in the budget for fighting out the epidemic. What he objects, if I heard him aright, is to the department wasting its precious time. He says that the methods adopted by it are not very sound and that the best way of stamping out these epidemics is to tackle the problem at once and not to waste time in wiring or sending messages to the different parties. So this is a question more of principle than of making the provision for epidemics. That we must stamp out these epidemics, will be admitted by everybody. Out of the three districts which I represent, two are threatened with bubonic plague. In spite of the best efforts made by the different parties, we find the plague still prevailing at Uttamapalayam and Boodamangalam and in the city of Madura. Before I left Trichinopoly it was threatened with plague. Rats were falling from house-tops and two cases were detected with bubos. I found the Sanitary Inspector and others organizing lectures and convening meetings at different places to consider how best to stamp out the disease. I do not think we have reason to be very optimistic like our Honourable Member who says that the first few cases must be isolated and the disease is sure to be stamped out. It may be in some cases; but Providence has its own ways. In spite of the increasing popularity of the anti-bubonic serum in the district of Madura, the disease is persistent and has not been stamped out. As regards cholera, for the last two months I know it has been raging in the district of Tanjore and has exacted from very many taluks a very heavy toll of mortality. Therefore we gain nothing by cutting down the provision made for fighting out epidemics. So far as the question of principle is involved, I think the Honourable the Minister in charge of the department will give us an assurance that the most recent and up-to-date scientific methods will be employed and that every effort will be made to fight out the disease. With that assurance, I think the House will be satisfied."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"I have no hesitation whatever, Sir, to give the assurance which my friends ask for. It is certainly the cherished object

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of the Ministry as well as of all the local boards to avail of up-to-date expert knowledge in all these matters."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"I have no objection to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand No. XVIII for a grant not exceeding Rs. 21.30 lakhs for the Department of Public Health and Vital Statistics was then put to the Council and granted *nem. con.*

DEMAND XIX—AGRICULTURE.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg leave to move that this grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 15.96 lakhs be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture for expenditure during the year ending with the 31st of March 1922. In doing so, I reiterate the satisfaction that I expressed in the discussion of the general debate on the budget when so many Honourable Members were so very kind to me and my departments and even proposed additional expenditure under those departments. Let me hope that they will extend the same sympathy now and grant this demand that I make."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'To omit Rs. 1,30,000 lump provision for a paddy-breeding station (*Budget, page 160*).'

"At page 160 of the budget there is an item of Rs. 1,30,000 provided for a paddy-breeding station. We have no particulars supplied to us as regards the way in which this thing is going to be done. All that is stated is 'lump provision for a breeding farm.' My information is that one experiment was tried somewhere near Mayavaram and after spending thousands of rupees it was given up. If that sort of thing is going to be attempted again, I strongly urge this House to vote against this sum. But if it is said that the department is going to attempt to cultivate paddy on a more intensive scale than is now done, then the answer to that is that it ought to be tried in various parts of the Presidency. I cannot see the utility of establishing a paddy-breeding farm in a place like Tanjore, because it is not likely that the ryots from the various parts of the Presidency will go there and see how the experiment is carried on. On the other hand if people in different parts of the country are instructed to carry on this new kind of breeding of paddy, I think it will be more successful and people will greatly appreciate the advantages derived. I therefore suggest that experts or persons who know the improved methods be sent to various parts of the Presidency and be made to ask people whether they will undertake such things and thereby improve their yield. If such an experiment succeeds, I am sure the country will be very much benefited. On the other hand even if the breeding farm in Tanjore proves a success that success has to be demonstrated to the ryots at large. You, Sir, know very well that the ryots of the Madras Presidency are very conservative in their ways. Unless they are made to see anything for themselves with their own eyes, I do not think they will give up their old ways for any new ways. My object in asking for this omission is that we want money for a number of other things. We do not want to spend a lot of money on mere experiments without knowing where we shall be. If this means that the department is going to put up a number of buildings—house for the Director or the Superintendent and a number of quarters for the

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Assistants—and probably cultivate about ten acres of land, I think, Sir, that will be a waste of money and no benefit whatever will come out of it. Therefore, I submit that this item should be deleted.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid there is good deal of misapprehension on the part of my honourable friend who is otherwise generally very well informed. This amount is not required for any building purposes, if by buildings my honourable friend means any of those elaborate buildings which cost thousands of rupees. My Honourable friend said that details were not given. I will presently give him the details. But before I give the details let me correct a statement, if I may presume to do so, which he has made that a farm has been tried and it has failed and having failed there we are making another attempt to fail elsewhere. There is at present, Sir, an agricultural farm in a place called Manganallur. Extensive experiments, rotational and manurial, were conducted on that farm and very excellent and satisfactory results obtained. The land there is something near 100 acres and our experts did not consider that for further purposes of the department such a large extent as 100 acres was required. Having finished the experiments in rotation and manures they wanted to try experiments in what is known as new strains. Different kinds of seeds will be tried under different conditions and if a particular kind of seed is found to be useful and thriving and yielding more than the rest, that will have to be introduced in the district.

“ The Honourable Member thinks that it is no use trying such an experiment in the district of Tanjore and that it should be tried in the various districts. I entirely agree with him when he says that it should be tried in almost every important district. Tanjore, however, is not an unimportant district. Out of the eleven million acres cultivated under paddy, Tanjore alone contributes something like a million acres. Considering that experiments, manurial and rotational, were conducted in the district, considering also that the chemical analysis of the soil had already been conducted in that district, it was decided to push on the experiment to its logical conclusion so that the country might derive the benefit that will naturally come from these experiments. Perhaps the Honourable Member is under the impression that because in Tanjore this cultivation of paddy has been in existence for a long time it may not be necessary to conduct these operations further in that district. But if I place before him certain statistics with reference to production he will see how far still we are behind the civilized nations of the world in getting from the land all that it is capable of yielding. Madras, Sir, has, as I said, 11½ millions of acres yielding something like 5,287,000 tons or ½ a ton per acre. India on the whole cultivates 78,247,000 acres and produces 33,551,000 tons. The United States of America cultivates 1,089,600 and produces 823,660 tons or ¾ of a ton per acre. Japan, that marvellous little country, cultivates 7,609,000 acres and produces 10,077,000 tons or say on the average 1½ tons per acre. Italy cultivates 325,000 acres yielding 478,000 tons or 1½ ton per acre. When we go to the far west and look on Spain, that wonderful country presents the marvellous result of an output of 297,000 tons for 112,000 acres cultivated with paddy or 2½ tons per acre. Comparing now the Madras Member will at once see how far behind we are in the matter of extracting from the land what it can give us. Now what is the purpose of these experts? It is just to see how far we can push forward these experiments and how much we can get from the land. May I also bring to the notice of this House that in this

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very House several resolutions were moved by Honourable Members—from the year 1914 down to the present day there were as many as four resolutions moved or tabled—and 17 questions asked requesting Government to push on these agricultural farms with a view to see that the latest improvements in agriculture are introduced to improve the production of this country. It came rather as a surprise upon me when my honourable friend tabled this motion that such a reduction should have been suggested in the Department of Agriculture especially when our national production is concerned which in its turn means national wealth.

“ I shall now go into the details as to what purposes this money is required. In the place of one hundred acres in the Manganallur farm, we are going only to acquire fifty acres for the new station. Before I give the other details I must mention one thing which I have forgotten. That is under the terms of the lease entered into with the owner of the land at Manganallur Government are bound to give up the land by the beginning of April 1922. Attempts were made in the past to make him consent to give that land on a longer lease. But he resisted all attempts and finally he made it a condition precedent in 1919 that the land should be returned to him on the 31st March next year. Now, that lease was under a sharing system. We had to make him payment in kind. Honourable Members will find that six or seven thousand rupees have been paid to him during the last year by way of mere rent alone.

“ Now, this year it is proposed by our experts that 100 acres are not necessary and that 50 acres will be enough. Considering the prices now in the Tanjore district, the 50 acres of land will cost about a lakh of rupees. Livestock and deadstock cost Rs. 10,000 and the other things taken together—not exactly big buildings as my honourable friend thought, but minor buildings such as sheds and other things—will cost about Rs. 35,000. There is also some material available in Manganallur. All that will be taken to the new place. The reason why it is proposed to purchase the land, I think, Sir, I had better give. We have to purchase it not merely taking into consideration the troubles that we had with the last owner in asking us to vacate the land now and then, but because the experiments that are going to be hereafter performed will require a sort of fixity of tenure in the land in which these experiments are to be made. They take time to give satisfactory results. They are laborious. Science changes; knowledge changes; new knowledge comes and with it changes will be required even in the experiments that are performed on these fields. Even when a satisfactory result has been obtained, it requires constant watch. Now experiments are being carried on in Coimbatore where we have got a paddy expert. But as the Honourable Member himself has suggested, it will not do to have one at a particular place. Because other conditions such as climate, drainage, water-supply, etc., go to contribute variations in the production in paddy. The reason why Tanjore is selected is, as I said, that it has got one million acres of land. If these experiments are carried on, I think that production will be largely increased and thereby our national wealth. I hope with this explanation my honourable friend will be satisfied.”

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“ Sir, it is quite true that the experimental farm at Manganallur has been carried on for some time for rotation of crops and application of manures. I wish to know whether the experiment made in connexion with this paddy breeding had been successfully carried on. The Deputy Director of Agriculture took pains to make an experiment in Samalkot farm. An

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experiment in *arupatu nati samba* (90 days crops) was carried on in Samalkot. Instead of a 90 days crop it came up to be 8 months crop. That is the result of the experiment made by the Agricultural department under the supervision of the Deputy Director of Agriculture. The climatic condition of this place, the chemical constitution of the soil, etc., are altogether ignored and this crop has been introduced in Samalkot and the result is that it proved to be 8 months crop. In the Coimbatore College Research Institute elaborate experiments are being made in connexion with this paddy breeding in order that the paddy grown may be different and the crops larger than what they are now. The new kind of crop which they wanted to produce was expected to be more productive from this experiment of paddy breeding. My information is that the experiment was not very successful. Only in one section of the farm it proved to yield 130 lb. when it originally produced 100 lb. The second has not proved to be successful. Therefore, when we have got a vast area of land in the Coimbatore College Research Institute and scope for experiments, I ask whether it is necessary to have an experimental farm at a cost of a lakh and thirty thousand rupees at Tanjore. If Tanjore is a granary of this Presidency, why should we carry coals to Newcastle? Can we not have a farm in the Northern Circars so that they may be benefited? We have so many farms in the south. The northern districts have not got any demonstration farm to prove the advantage of rotation of crops or in manure. These demonstrations are absolutely necessary for the north and no attempt has been made to establish one there. We applied for one in Ganjam time after time and we fail to get one. In Vizagapatam they opened a farm but in Ganjam there is none. Mr. Barber has urged on the Government the necessity for developing sugarcane cultivation. Ganjam is a good place for paddy breeding because there are different kinds of rice there, koutia, sattikam, kundoo. There is a kind of paddy which will grow in 80 days, another which requires no water and which could be raised even in dry land. Why then is no experiment made in Ganjam? It will benefit the ryots economically and it will improve our paddy. I do not want to cut down the demand and I would suggest to the consideration of the department that this amount may be diverted from Tanjore to Ganjam district and other places of Northern Circars."

Mr. K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA:—"I find my position rather peculiar. I am not willing to divert this provision of Rs. 1,30,000 from the head of Agriculture. I feel rather inclined to offer my remarks not having made up my mind to vote for this motion or against it. But I should like to place before the Government certain practical difficulties in the way of these experiments on account of which they do not appeal to the mind of the ryots. It is better that the Government should come forward with an assurance that this lump provision of Rs. 1,30,000 will be carefully expended on various experiments that may be necessary in the various paddy-producing districts without confining the sum to Tanjore only. I do not grudge this amount being spent on experiments in Tanjore only but there is some sort of feeling in the minds of the members of the House who represent the other paddy-producing districts whether the Government should not be prepared to distribute this amount proportionately among the various paddy-producing districts. I do not ask the whole amount to be spent in the Kistna district as the Honourable Member for Ganjam has suggested that it should be in Ganjam. I ask the Government whether it would not be good policy to distribute this amount to the various districts. I fail to see why this piece of land which is 50 acres in extent and which is said to be valued at one lakh of rupees should be acquired at the very outset. Of course we shall have to see whether this capital

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[Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya]

expenditure of one lakh of rupees on these 50 acres of land will yield a return to Government. Whether the Government will be prepared to continue the agricultural business for ever is a question which can be justly asked. The value of the land is probably Rs. 2,000 per acre and such a piece of land must be of a very fertile nature. Of course any experiment may be made on such a piece of fertile land. But any demonstration carried out on such land would not be of any value to ryots who own lands which are less fertile. As Mr. Patro has pointed out, conditions of climate and soil differ in different districts and in various parts of the same district. For instance in Kistna district, the soil of the lands adjoining the sea is quite different from that of the interior; and the soil of the western part of the district is quite different from the northern part of the district. So we have to see what kinds of different paddy will have to be demonstrated in the various districts. It is my humble opinion that this costly expenditure of Rs. 1,30,000 should not be concentrated at only one place like Manganallur. I find there are other places where experiments can be made if the same amount is distributed among the various districts.

"There is also another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government. There are no details in the budget for the provision of Rs. 1,30,000. I presume that it is required in part for officers' salaries. I have observed in my preliminary remarks on the Budget that many of the officers not being born in agricultural families and not being in possession of the experience which is necessary in order really to gain and impart a certain amount of knowledge in Indian agriculture, there is a certain sort of discontent among the ryots. I do not mean any insinuation against any individual officer. But the general policy that has been adopted by the Government is rather unsatisfactory. I know, Sir, that there are several applicants for posts in the Agricultural department who have been born in agricultural families and I would press upon the consideration of the present Government that people from those ranks will have to be chosen in order to see that these classes are encouraged. I understand that people who have returned from the army are also employed in the Agricultural department. I believe, Sir, they are not as valuable as people who were born in the families and as it were of an agricultural stock. I want to press this point of view on the immediate attention of the Government so that the ryot who visits these demonstration farms may feel satisfied that his visit has been of use to him and that he has learnt some lessons in the course of it."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"It is not at all my intention to cut down this grant. But what I do maintain is this. The Madras Presidency is purely an agricultural province and on more occasions than one I was pressing that sufficient provision should be made for the improvement of agriculture in this Presidency. What I don't wish to see is that Rs. 1,30,000 should be spent upon a mere experiment at this Manganallur farm. The Hon'ble the Minister says that he was not well informed. I have the report published by the department wherein it is stated: 'The conclusion is drawn but when money is a consideration the best return is undoubtedly that obtained from the smallest of the above doses of manure. From another experiment is drawn the inference that the less concentrated manures like basic super and basic phosphate shows more manurial residues than the corresponding concentrated manures.'

"Later on in the same report it is said: 'Another experiment carried on for five years has shown that 500 lb. of fish manure per acre, whether applied at the time of planting or after the harvest of the *kurwai* crop, gave the same yield as 15 cartloads of cattle manure.'

[Mr. M. D. Devadas]

[28th March 1921]

"I do not at all object to scientific experiments being carried on in a central place like Coimbatore. But I certainly do not wish to have a large sum of money spent merely in an experiment. I trust the Hon'ble Minister will see to the proper application of this amount. If it is for the purpose of acquiring lands, I think the lands in Manganallur can be acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. If a person is not willing to lease his lands for a long term, it is certainly open to Government to acquire them under the Act. If the Minister would assure the House that he would see that this amount is properly spent for the benefit of the country, I won't press the motion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"So far as the acquisition of the Manganallur land is concerned, the owner of the fields on which the experiment is being made would not even allow the land for a continued lease, much less would he sell. Certainly if we could get lands at the same rates somewhere near Manganallur, the Government would only be too glad. But unfortunately experience has shown that it is not possible to induce the ryot to part with his lands."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS (*interrupting*) :—"Is the Government so powerless even under the Land Acquisition Act?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—"I do not know that a land intended for the benefit of the people should be got by force. Certainly Government should be more conciliatory. My honourable friend knows what pang it would cost to a villager to part with his land. Occasions have been known on which the owner of a few cents of lands sought to be acquired goes to court and pays thousands of rupees to the members of the profession to which my honourable friend belongs. It is not at all the intention of the House to resort to coercive processes. My honourable friends have been talking of a democratic House, and it is not wise to take possession of lands by coercive processes for experimental purposes. Honourable Members should know that this should be the last resort."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Is land acquisition a reserved subject or a transferred subject?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"That is not a point of order. It is interrogating the President with regard to classification of subjects."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—"I myself am a native of the northern parts, and may claim to speak for the two districts of Gōdāvari and Kistna. The Gōdāvari delta irrigates about 1½ million of acres and all these are paddy-producing lands. There is the Kistna delta which irrigates another million acres of lands for the cultivation of paddy. I proposed Tanjore because certain experiments had already been conducted in that district. Manurial and rotational experiments have been conducted, and it is natural that these experiments should be pushed on to their logical conclusions so that we may have the full benefit of these experiments. It is no good starting experiments in one place for some time and then go to another, for, in that case, it will be in the nature of the proverbial rolling stone."

"Then, Sir, my honourable friend from Berhampur said that a paddy called 'Arupathunal' was brought and tried and expected to yield in a few weeks time and it was found that it took months for the yielding of the harvest. I suppose that the world's benefit received from the knowledge of science and experiments was not acquired in one day or by one experiment. It is proverbial that success

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is the result of failures. I may mention this, Sir, that on account of the experiments performed in Coimbatore, as the latest report will show, with one strain of seed there was as much as a 16 per cent increase in the output of paddy. That would convince Honourable Members that these experiments are not performed in vain and that if really we want to increase the national production, increase the output, certainly the only way to do that is to proceed with scientific experiments and see that our country produces as much as other countries do.

"As for distributing the expenditure between various districts, so far as the one lakh of rupees is concerned, I may mention that it is not a recurring expenditure. It will be spent in one year only and it is not a recurring expenditure. The annual expenditure would be much less. I quite agree with Honourable Members that these experiments will have to be carried on at various centres, but anything like an expenditure of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 2,000 or even Rs. 10,000 would be an absolute waste. If things are to be conducted in a profitable way, they must be conducted upon past experience and we know that our experts are not many. I have seen huge demands made in this House for retrenchment. I should only be too glad, if you could get enough money to start another farm at Samalkot and another in Berhampur. But the trouble is all about money. We could not scrape much. The provision of one lakh is not money thrown away. It is invested in land. It is the property of Government. I really do not see the objection in asking that it should not be spent. I hope therefore that the House will see the need for this. Certainly if under any other grant there should be any retrenchment and if that money be given to me I would be very glad to open another farm."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"From the debate it is clear that the Government propose to incur an expenditure of one lakh for acquisition of land. That is an expenditure of capital nature, and if it adopts the principle of borrowing moneys for all capital expenditure, I am sure the Development Minister will find sufficient money to start farms in Gōdāvari, Kistna and Berhampur as well."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"May I point out, Sir, that in the division of that amount between the various departments no distinction is made so far as I know between the money derived from revenues and the borrowed money. I do not know why the Honourable Member took it that the one lakh is part of 70 lakhs."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"The Finance Minister has made a list of the ways in which the borrowed capital is to be spent and from that list I am speaking and in that list is not included the item of Rs. 1 lakh for the acquisition of lands in Tanjore."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to know if the Honourable Member would consent to allow this lump provision to go to the new Finance Committee. I think there would be a statement of this question, at any rate, as regards the necessity of this sum. On the question as to whether the one lakh should be met from the Revenue or from the Loan account, I suggest that as this is a remunerative investment it ought to go under Loan account and not under Revenue. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has said nothing about it in the memorandum that he presented to this Council."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I want to say a few words of explanation with regard to the experts in the Agricultural College at Coimbatore. I am dead against curtailing any portion of the agricultural grants. If

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Mr. Devadoss had proposed that instead of spending this large sum of money in one place it might be spent in various places, we would all be most willing to vote for this. Even now if this reduction is voted upon by this House, I do not know if the President is likely to allow a lump provision including this sum also for the Agricultural department. It has been said by the Honourable Member on the Government side that only 1 lakh out of 1.13 lakhs is to be spent upon purchasing lands. My fear is that there will be applications for 2 lakhs and 3 lakhs for putting up buildings and getting experts. This year it will take some time to purchase lands."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"The idea is not to have any experts there. An expert will be in Coimbatore, and he will be going and examining the work. This does not involve additional cost. That provision is incorporated."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*):—"I am much obliged to the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member thinks that the calculations made by the other Members are wrong. There is no reason why there should be 15 experts. Only one is from India, the others are experts for cotton, maize, etc., from other places. I say it is not necessary to purchase 50 acres and 100 acres in a new place. I do not know if the particular owners will be prepared to give their lands for sale. Probably the process of Land Acquisition Act may have to be enforced. If so, the experiments may go on for some time more at Manganallur and then only we may know whether the cultivation of paddy may be improved or not in that district. It is said that so far as India is concerned the yield is very low. Unfortunately it is so. The reason is less manure, less water. If land is to be acquired it will be by compulsory process. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, a very large number of lands has been acquired under compulsory process. In most cases where the land is acquired by compulsory process, the matter will be taken to District Court and to the High Court if necessary by the owners. There is also this difficulty. If one permanent farm is established there is the danger of taking more water to that particular farm at the risk of the lands of other people close by. The figure was given of 16 per cent more yield in the Government farm. I do not know in what year the experiment was done. If it was a question of last year we can all have claim to that credit when most of the lands in Coimbatore gave a greater yield. This year for want of rain in the beginning and excessive rain at the time of the harvest, the yield went down. Therefore it is very serious to make an experiment by purchasing lands for one lakh, while this experiment has been going on for the last few years in another place. Anyhow so far as we are concerned we know many ryots have learnt it before that single seedling business. So far as the Agricultural College is concerned, they have been able to teach only that single seedling is better than multiple seedling. But we do not know whether large expenditure on farms will be useful, and therefore if the Honourable Member thinks of purchasing a large land for the purpose of breeding farms, it cannot be done unless we have large grants for the purpose. We know lakhs and lakhs have been spent in Coimbatore and certainly we will be asked for far more grants. If land is not purchased, but taken on lease—I do not care to know whether it is from this gentleman or some other gentleman—we will not find it necessary to put up costly buildings. In any case we are strongly against large sums of money being voted upon purchase of lands with the risk of being asked to spend more sums next year for buildings and probably for additional experts."

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[Mr. T. M. Narasimhacharlu]

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Turning to page 160 we find another lump provision for acquiring land for experimental work. 1-15 p.m.

Under this head for paddy-breeding station, it is proposed to acquire 50 acres of land for Rs. 1 lakh in Tanjore. I submit that the acquisition of lands for agricultural purposes is not the best way of developing or improving agriculture. I think that for experimental purposes we may take a loan or lease of some lands. If the experiment proves successful, then we can publish the success of the experiment among the people and ask them to adopt it. If the experiment proves unsuccessful, then the whole thing may be abandoned. For that purpose it is quite unnecessary to purchase lands at a cost of Rs. 1,30,000. That is my first objection.

"The next thing is that I find that these experiments are made in a place where there is very little need for experiment at all. The Hon'ble the Minister for Development stated to us that experiments have been done at Manganallur and to push the experiments to their logical conclusion and to arrive at a satisfactory result we have to continue the experiments in another place. I have not heard much of the success of the experiment, but from what the Honourable Member Mr. Devadoss told us, the experiments have not been successful. Therefore I think that continuing the experiment seems to be of doubtful utility. Surely it is not our object to see that this provision of 1.30 lakhs is deleted altogether but rather our object is to place it at the disposal of the Hon'ble the Minister for Development so that he may utilize it in the best interests of the people. In this connexion I may state that the member for Ganjam and the member for Kistna and the members from several other districts all wanted that their districts should prosper even though their districts have got very good deltas and rivers. If the Hon'ble the Minister for Development has any inclination to divide this amount among the various places in the Presidency, I would only request him to remember the Ceded districts where there is a canal, the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal, under which paddy is also cultivated.

Rao Bahadur V. APPASWAMI VANDAYAR:—"Mr. President, many more farms should be introduced in the Tanjore district alone because that is one of the first class rice producing districts in the Presidency and it will be a great stimulus to the ryots to increase the agricultural produce. In a way it will be a great help to the Government in the next assessment although that may be against us. Regarding purchase of land most of our friends say that it is quite unnecessary. In my humble opinion it is very necessary because long leases are not to be had. On the other hand our generous Minister carefully stated that the acquisition cannot be a coercive one. I thoroughly endorse that view. Long leases they cannot give and they cannot afford to give. If at the same time the Government is going to purchase 50 acres, for one lakh of rupees, in my humble view it is good. Further if they begin to cultivate the lands, we have got one facility. Whenever we see that water is not coming in properly, we are apt to say that the Government do not properly look after irrigation. But if they are going to cultivate the lands themselves they will see well how our grievances are well grounded. On this account certainly the money which has been allotted to this end ought not to be taken away."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, first of all, the object of this lump provision is not clear. We do not know how much of the amount is to be allotted for the purpose of acquiring lands for the purpose of paddy-breeding experiment."

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [28th March 1921]

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU (*interrupting*):—"One lakh."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI (*continuing*):—"For the purchase of land the allotment is too much. We need not spend so much. The land is required for an experimental purpose. Of course individual landowners may not be willing to place their lands at the disposal of the Government. But there are zamindars and big landholders like the Raja of Ramnad who will most gladly spare 50 acres of land to Government for experimental purposes. Then again the experiment is proposed to be made at Tanjore. In what part of Tanjore we do not know."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"It will be a place near Kumbakonam."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI (*continuing*):—"It is included in the delta and on a lower level. The experiments must be made on a higher level land which is not liable to flood inundation. People who are acquainted with the district of Tanjore would quite agree with me that crops suffer loss owing to the excess of flood and not for want of water. Fifty acres of paddy growing land near Kumbakonam will be liable to flood inundation. But if lands are taken up in the western portion of the Tanjore taluk which is on a higher level and if experiments are made thereon, they may be successful. In some other districts such as Madura, Tinnevely and Trichinopoly, the experiments may more successfully be tried and a good portion of the grant may be distributed among other districts also. I just point out the danger of expending so much money upon crop experiment in Tanjore, and that in the deltaic portion near Kumbakonam. I therefore object to the present proposal."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I am quite in favour of spending money on agricultural farms. But I wish to draw the particular attention of the Government to one thing. The farms that I know of are in Samalkota and Anakapalle. They are according to the people's understanding located in the best and the most fertile stations. There is no use of making experiments in places where the soil is considered to be the best and which has the best irrigational facilities and showing the results to the people. They at once say 'Of what use are these experiments? If the same thing were done in a place which is of poorer soil, then it would do good.' So the Government in selecting stations for experiment must invariably select places which are not good; where the soil is of the middle class, not of the best class. Besides even in selecting lands there is no necessity to acquire or rent the best lands. The lands that they should try and improve in order to show the people the method of increasing the crop should be the last class lands."

Rao Bahadur V. APPASWAMI VANDAYAR (*interrupting*):—"Kumbakonam is a very medium place. It is not high or low."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU (*continuing*):—"If the view of the Government should be that only such lands should be selected, there will always be lands—waste lands—at the disposal of the Government or even if they want waste lands in the Tanjore district, there will be, I am sure, some waste lands available upon which they can start the experiment. So I am inclined to think that the experiment should be allowed excepting as to the purchase of lands which sum could be very well utilized for similar experimental farms in other places."

A motion for closure was then moved by Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu which was put to the vote and carried.

28th March 1921] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

The main motion was then put to the vote and declared lost, 14 voting for and 43 against.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2 p.m. and reassembled at 2-35 p.m.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to move—

'2. That Rs. 6,000 provided for an Additional Assistant to the Director of Agriculture be deleted (Budget page 160).'

"The department of the Director of Agriculture is technical department and the work to be done is not much in the nature of office work; but the work has to be carried on by specialists. So I think, Sir, that the office does not require much strengthening outside the office. All that is done in the office will probably be to write the ordinary administrative reports, etc., and all technical matters are left to the specialist. I find, Sir, originally there was only one Director. It is only some three or four years back that an assistant was given to him. If I remember correctly it was done more on account of the fact that a suitable assistant was available. I believe at the time Mr. Dharmaranga Raju was appointed Assistant to the Director he had made certain proposals for the improvement of the department itself. So far as I can ascertain, the appointment of a gentleman like Mr. Dharmaranga Raju, it was thought at that time, will help the department and also make the expenditure that is incurred on the department more useful. Mr. Dharmaranga Raju was then an enthusiast and as I said he had just then made a proposal with regard to the way in which improvements could be made in the department. I believe, for some months after Mr. Dharmaranga Raju's death it was kept vacant. It was probably thought after that, that the appointment had been sanctioned already and in the usual way in which things are done the appointment was made and some other gentleman was appointed for the place. That gentleman has been in charge as assistant to the Director and I believe he has been doing his work in the office. I do not see, Sir, why an additional officer is sought to be introduced as an Additional Assistant to the Director. It seems to me that it is an unnecessary appointment, especially when provision has been made for an inspector of agricultural offices and head clerk both drawing high salaries from Rs. 125-150. When such officers exist, I do not see the reason for the new appointment."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR who had also tabled a similar motion, viz.:—

'3. To omit Rs. 6,000 for an Additional Assistant to the Director (Budget page 160).'

Spoke thus:—

"I also support this reduction on some main grounds. As we have said before, our object is not at all to make any reduction in the whole agricultural department. But I have put some reduction simply with a view to draw the attention of the new Minister in charge of this department and see how much money can be saved. He wanted a large sum of money in one of his speeches. One thing I would strongly urge and that is that the headquarters of the Director of Agriculture can be taken to Coimbatore itself. And if this is done a saving may be effected. Probably the Director of Agriculture may be one of the experts. Of course, I may say that many of these experts of whom I have some knowledge have not all enough work. If I say they have no work at all, I will be much criticised and a bomb will be thrown over my head. It is a fact that many of these have not got

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sufficient work and at present—I speak subject to correction—one of those is acting as Principal of the College, another as a librarian in the library—of course not gratis—but they have their own additional duty allowances.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*) :—
“ In addition to his duty as an expert.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—“ Of course, in addition to his duty as an expert. If his duty as an expert for which he is paid is sufficient for his day's work he will have no time either to be a principal or a librarian. I therefore say that of these 15 experts who have been introduced in this department at Coimbatore, many of them have a good deal of leisure. I simply was going to say that one expert can do the work of a principal, another of a librarian, another, male or female, can certainly do the work of personal assistant and also additional assistant. The appointment of an additional assistant is a new one provided in the budget only this year and if the headquarters of the department is taken to Coimbatore there will be a number of experts who will be able to do this work. The Hon'ble the Minister said that in addition to the expert work these people were doing extra work and therefore must be paid extra. I have absolutely no objection to this extra payment to experts. But they are supposed to be going on tours. That is their chief work and we understand that their assistants, additional assistants or assistants to them—there is a difference between an assistant and an assistant to a person—these people are touring while these experts are in the headquarters drafting reports. It is therefore that I say that many of these will be available to do this extra work. I say advisedly that many of these will be able to attend to this work. Of course, these persons have been appointed for some years past and we cannot dispense with their services. But I would respectfully submit to the Minister in charge of Agriculture to see whether these have sufficient work. I maintain they have not and therefore certainly their time can be utilized in various ways. Complaints of racial feelings have been raised in every department; but in agriculture at least I think the Minister will be able to see that there is no use of such a large body of European experts especially when they have to deal with cotton, millet, pulses, paddy, etc., which are not grown in England. If he especially looks into the qualification of some of these experts—I speak subject to correction—he will see that many of these have no expert knowledge or expert degrees. Of the various Deputy Directors, etc., there are some who have not got even the ordinary Arts degree. So I say in such departments if experts are necessary it may be better to have local Indian experts who may have better knowledge. I am told that the qualification of some of them is that they are master farmers, not of Indian farming but of English farming. I think it good to have master farmers, and I think in this Council there are master farmers who will take up the task if the Government agrees to do so. All that I was going to say is that these master farmers have only got European qualifications if any and some of them do not possess any expert qualification. They can very well be utilized for these appointments and no new appointment need be created this year. This additional assistant to the Director is one of the appointments newly created and I know that he will be a provincial Civil Service man and this reduction will affect him. Of these 15 experts there is only one who is an Indian, excepting another who is acting.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*) :—
2-45 p.m. “ May I know, Sir, whether all this is concerned with the point here? We are concerned with an assistant to the Director in

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Madras, and the Honourable Member is discussing the qualifications of our Agricultural experts, expert knowledge, master farmers and all that is happening or is believed to be happening or imagined to be happening, in Coimbatore.”

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—“ I understood the Honourable Member to say that it is proposed to shift the Director of Agriculture from Madras to Coimbatore and then to employ one of the experts there, on the ground that these experts have no work to do.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—“ Perfectly so, Sir. So far as the Department of Development is concerned, I only said that the Hon'ble the Minister, who wanted plenty of money for this department, will be able to get it if only he does not fill the posts permanently with new experts from England and if he combines these various appointments when there is a vacancy. We cannot send away people who are there. If only the headquarters are transferred, I over and over again say, Sir, that there will be experts enough to take up this appointment of Assistant Director of Agriculture which office is in question now. So I said that 15 people at least will be prepared to take up this appointment, because these 15 persons who are there have not sufficient work.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“ There seems, Sir, to my mind that there is a kind of misapprehension on the part of the two honourable gentlemen who have spoken on this motion. This new officer, who forms the subject of this discussion, is not strictly speaking, an Additional Assistant to the Director in the sense of an ordinary Personal Assistant. The officer that is going to be appointed, or is already appointed, is known as the Statistical Assistant and is intended to do statistical work. In support of this action of the Government, I may be permitted to draw the attention of the House to the observations in the Cotton Committee's Report at page 153 where they impress upon the Government of India and the Local Governments the need for the appointment of a statistical officer to prepare the necessary statistics of crop production, crop forecast and the like. It is found in paragraph 229, ‘ There should be a careful check in the office of the Director of Agriculture, an officer of the standing of an Assistant Director of Agriculture being attached to do work connected with the work of forecast in provinces in which the Director has not sufficient time to devote for that.’ This opinion has been endorsed by the Board of Agriculture which met at Pusa in December 1919. At page 31 of that report there is this recommendation : ‘ Recommendation (9) is to the effect that there should be a careful check of the returns in the office of the Director of Agriculture, by an officer of the standing of an Assistant Director of Agriculture being attached to him, for work connected with forecast in provinces in which the Director has not sufficient time to devote for that. We would go further than this and say that the work of compiling and scrutinizing all agricultural statistics is of sufficient importance to justify the appointment of an officer of at least the standing of an Assistant Director of Agriculture to all provincial agricultural departments.’

“ Now, the work of this Assistant will not consist in merely making arithmetical calculations and totalling up the figures that might be supplied to him. He has to do important work, crop forecast, studying the figures, estimating whether they are correct or not, comparing production with consumption and export, tracing out discrepancies to their sources and getting into touch with the crop reporting agency and with food production and food consumption. On all these matters he will have to exercise his mind and see that the correct figures are supplied by the statistical department to the Government and the country. Now, Sir, it is hardly

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necessary for me to impress upon this House the need for such statistics. Upon the forecast of the crops will largely depend the prices in the country. Contractual relations between this country and other countries for the supply of the produce of this land will very often depend upon these figures. In other words, correct statistics means so much money to the producer and to the trader of this country.

"Now, the suggestion is made that this assistance could be rendered by some of the experts in Coimbatore and for that purpose the Director's office should be transferred from Madras to Coimbatore. Well, how far that view will receive any support from this House I must leave entirely to it. Instead of being in a place where the headquarters of the Government are, we are asked to send away our Director, because we do not want to give him an Assistant here. He must go there and get the assistance from an expert who is to be paid Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,700 or more whose value is in discovering something of immense use to the country while the statistical work could be done, as has been admitted, by a provincial officer on Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. Well, whether such work is to be entrusted to a highly paid expert is a thing which I must ask my honourable friend to say if he has seriously proposed it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"I certainly thought over the matter seriously. I took notes of it and made my suggestion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*):—"My honourable friend persists in his opinion and he is at liberty to do so."

"Let me also refer to one other paragraph in the Cotton Committee's Report. There is this paragraph, No. 236, in which the agencies which collect statistics in America are given. We have, Sir, as many as six agencies there. There is what is known as the Crop Reporting Board, the Bureau of Crop Estimates; there is an agency known as State Field Agent; the Voluntary Crop Reporters, Crop Specialists and Crop Correspondents. These six classes of people, both paid by Government and not paid by Government are assisting in the preparation of agricultural statistics for the United States of America. Now all that work, more or single officer my honourable friend raises an objection. The Director, Sir, has been Assistant to the Director at all, and in 1913 one Assistant was given. That is all admitted, and experts have come. Reports will be constantly coming in from Assistant Directors and Deputy Directors who have been appointed. The Director himself will have to be travelling, to be in touch with these officers and the country. All these things mean that the Director's work has multiplied, and that there should be an Assistant in the office. That Assistant will be purely a statistical Assistant and quite different from the Personal Assistant. If the House thinks that there is any use at all in these statistics, certainly this is an amount which cannot be taken out."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, we were under the impression that all these statistics were prepared by the Revenue Department and that the Revenue Board was issuing the report. Just now, for the first time, we hear that the Agricultural Department is going to make a forecast of the crop and other things, which, as I have said, were hitherto done by the Revenue Department. I do not know, Sir, how they are going to do it. For instance, from the taluks, I believe it is one Tahsildar with the help of Revenue Inspectors and others that sends the

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report. Hitherto, the reports were sent to the Collector and the Collector sent his report to the Revenue Board and the Revenue Board added the whole thing and issued the report for the Presidency. I should like to be enlightened how these forecasts of the statistics are going to be issued hereafter, and who is going to be responsible for them and how they are going to be worked. If really all these statistics are going to be prepared in the office of the Director of Agriculture, I shall certainly not grudge this appointment. I would like to know if this work is going to be transferred to the Director of Agriculture and if I knew this, I shall not press my motion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"The work of the Board of Revenue is practically transferred in some respects already, and some more work is about to be transferred but it has been held up in consequence of a reference which is pending in the Board of Revenue whereby the accounts of the karnams are expected to be lessened. As soon as that question is settled, the whole work will be transferred and as a matter of fact the greater portion of agricultural statistical work has long been done in the office of the Director of Agriculture."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether there is any corresponding reduction in the provision for the Board of Revenue? As some of that work is going to be transferred, the persons who had that work in the Board of Revenue will no longer be required to do that."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member may ask the question, but whether or not the Honourable Member is going to get a reply is a different matter. The Honourable Member who could reply is probably Mr. Habib-ul-lah."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not think, Sir, there is going to be any reduction in the Board of Revenue in connexion with that."

Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar and Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar did not press their motions, and the motions were by leave withdrawn.

The following motions were not then moved and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—

4. To omit Rs. 1,200, duty allowance to Personal Assistant Budget page 160)

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—

5. To omit Rs. 1,200, duty allowance to Personal Assistant (Budget page 160).

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—

6. To omit Rs. 1,200, duty allowance to Personal Assistant (Budget page 160).

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—

7. To omit Rs. 1,200, duty allowance to Additional Assistant (Budget page 160).

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—

8. To omit Rs. 1,200, duty allowance to Additional Assistant (Budget page 160).

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Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, I move :—

‘ 9. To omit Rs. 1,200, duty allowance to officer acting as Librarian (Budget page 161).’

“ This relates, Sir, to duty allowance given to an officer acting as librarian and the duty allowance that is fixed is Rs. 1,200 per year. That comes to Rs. 100 a month. That seems to be a large allowance to give to an officer who has already got an appointment. Even in places like the Presidency College, the librarian is paid only about Rs. 60. To give an allowance of Rs. 100 a month to an officer who is doing the work of librarian in addition to his other duties seems to be a large sum.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, the only other information that I may give besides what has been given by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar is that this librarian's place—I speak of course subject to correction—was being filled up till recently by others in the same department without any allowance. It is only now that the Entomologist has been made to be the librarian and he receives this Rs. 100. I want to know if this Entomologist has got plenty of leisure, because to his department there is one Assistant recently added. Is his department so great as to necessitate an assistant and if his time is so precious as the Honourable Member just now said, is it fair to ask him to do this work? I submit it is time to take away that work from him. As I said, there are a number of assistants to do his work. Is it fair to give him an allowance of Rs. 100 when the same work was being done by others for no allowance? Therefore, I think this allowance must be curtailed and should not be given.”

“ One thing also I want to say and it is this. Now, the Entomologist has to attend to the library and I am told the library has also got its own clerk and that the librarian is only doing the work of supervising there. We require the Entomologist outside the headquarters touring for the purpose of finding out various worms affecting various plantations. If that is so, what is the use of his being stuck up at the headquarters. Giving him an allowance would only be a temptation for him to remain at Coimbatore. We have got also an experienced Principal and Vice-Principal there. They may be asked to do that work with or without any allowance, and there are others, as I have already said, ready to take up this work with no allowance. This gentleman himself is given a very large pay. There is a Cotton Expert, who is getting a lower pay, although he is also in the Imperial Service, and there are others to whom either the same pay or a lesser pay would be quite sufficient.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“ I have yet to come

3 p.m.

across officers who would do work without any payment at all. If any real work as a librarian is to be done, something will have to be paid. And in the alternative, if we accept my honourable friend's resolution the result will be to have to appoint a separate officer on say Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 in the place of an allowance of Rs. 100. That, I submit, is not economy, but retrenchment with a vengeance.

“ As regards the work of this officer, it is not merely supplying books to those that may ask for them. But he has got the very arduous duties of indexing and note writing on science books written in languages other than English—it is not a regular translation, but only a synopsis—for the benefit of teachers and students who do not know French, German or other foreign languages in which many useful books are written and published. The system of indexing books in a library is not much known in this country. I have seen some libraries

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu]

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where it takes some two hours to get at a given book. It is not the case in the Agricultural College Library at Coimbatore. If my honourable friend steps into that college he will find it.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I have gone there several times. It is in my neighbourhood.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“ I am told that with the system which prevails there a book can be got within five minutes of its being asked. That is a thing which ought to be learnt in other places.

“ The question arises, why this should be given to the Entomologist and why not give it to an Indian. I claim to be as much an Indian as any Honourable Member in this House. I yield to nobody in my patriotism. When certainly something has to be gained by the presence of Englishmen in this country, and so long as we cannot get on without their assistance, let us have it.

“ The honourable mover was going on with the capacity of the various officers, the fourteen or fifteen experts. If you can certainly produce half of this number from among our own countrymen we will certainly be pleased to employ them. His Excellency the Governor has recently recommended three Indians to the Government of India to be drafted into the Indian Agricultural Service. If there are men available, the Government will not be slow to recognize their merits. As in the case of the Statistical Assistant, Indians known to be able have been chosen and no opportunity will be lost by the Government in recognizing merit.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ I did not want to take part in this discussion, but I rise in order to reply to some of the remarks of the Hon'ble the Minister for Development. It will be seen that so far as the duties specified are concerned they are not of an exceptional character as to require a duty allowance for the purpose. I was taken out of my breath when we were told that it would take a long time to learn the duties of a librarian.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (interrupting) :—“ I was referring to the expert's duties.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU (interrupting) :—“ I am glad to be told that he was referring to the librarian's duties. Another point for consideration is this. Though we have not considered it necessary to press this question of duty allowances in other cases, I think there is no necessity for retaining this provision. It is understood that all that he is required is to supervise the work of the clerks and others in the office. Whenever necessary a separate officer on a moderate salary may be appointed instead of giving additional work to the experts. As pointed out by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar the services of these experts will be needed elsewhere and their work requires full attention on their part. Is it right to throw additional responsibility on them? Is it not reasonable to appoint a new officer and give him a reasonable pay? That aspect of the question cannot be lost sight of.”

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ This is a small matter. I have to request the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to go into the details of the question. I hope that he will see whether the duty allowance of this extent is necessary. I withdraw the resolution.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [28th March 1921]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR moved—

‘10. To omit Rs. 6,000, provision for Assistant Sugarcane Expert and Additional Assistant Entomologist (Budget page 162).’

“All I can say in connexion with this motion is this. As far as the Assistant Sugarcane Expert is concerned I am glad to see that His Excellency wishes to introduce Indian element. The present Assistant Sugarcane Expert is very useful and is acting in the place of the Sugarcane Expert himself. If there is a vacancy in the place of the Sugarcane Expert (we do not press for giving notice to people like him), it may not be filled up by any other from England. One Indian is quite sufficient to look after the whole work. As regards Entomologist his work seems to be exhaustive. He requires a number of assistants. Just read page 162. He has got an Assistant Entomologist, and an Additional Assistant Entomologist. Lower down we have 43 assistants and some of them are assistants to the Entomologist. There seems to be a distinction between Assistant Entomologist and Assistant to the Entomologist. So far as this particular post was made by our Council Secretary when he was acting as Director of Agriculture after seeing that that particular officer was fully qualified with European qualifications. All that I want to say is this, that whenever an opportunity occurs please give the post of the Entomologist to an Indian qualified in Entomology. These Indians have more practical knowledge, more sympathy and are more able to move with the ryots. I simply appeal to the Minister that when there is a vacancy he will consider favourably the claims of these Indian assistants. If that assurance is given I will not press this motion.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“The Honourable Member is giving the answer himself. He has admitted that after Mr. Barber has left the place has been occupied by Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar. I find this motion is for deleting the provision for an Assistant Sugarcane Expert. If the place itself is abolished, there can be no vacancy and no Indian can be brought in. I cannot understand what the Honourable Member really means.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“What I want to say is that the assistant, Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar, who is now acting for the expert does not want an assistant. So I request that it need not be filled up now.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“I have not been able yet to follow my honourable friend quite well. If certainly an Indian officer was found to be competent there was never any objection so far as I know, for the appointment of such an Indian in the Agricultural Service. These Sugarcane Experts were all maintained by the contributions made by the Government of India. So far as sugarcane industry is concerned Madras had produced the best kind. Other provinces have applied to the Government of India for the assistance of our expert so that our methods may be introduced in other provinces, for instance, in the Punjab. In the beginning the Government of India contributed 2½ lakhs of rupees from the Imperial Revenues for the initial expenditure, and year after year they are giving Rs. 44,000. It is possible that a small amount is being spent from the Madras Province also. Even for that I intend to ask the Government of India for a further grant. So far as sugarcane industry is concerned the Honourable Member himself will see the necessity of these officers.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“Sir, I should like to know from the Hon'ble the Minister for Development whether the statement made just now refers to the fact that the Government of India will continue to

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contribute towards the cost of the maintenance of the Sugarcane Expert even after agriculture has been made a transferred subject. It will certainly be contrary to the principles of the Reform Scheme. I should like to know whether this is a fact.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—“I can assure my honourable friend that the present contribution continues till 1922.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—

11. To reduce by Rs. 10,000 travelling allowance of Rs. 35,000 (Budget page 162).

The above motion was not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR moved—

12. To omit Rs. 10,000, lump provision for ‘contingencies’ of six new experts (Budget page 162).

In doing so, he said :—“This raises a question which, I think, the

3-15 p.m. Hon'ble the Minister who has taken charge of the Agri-

cultural Department just now, may well tackle. There were two schools of thought from the very beginning. One was to provide for experts and concentrate attention on research work and spend all the money that is available for these things. The other school of thought was of opinion that we need not spend so much money on that, but a considerable portion ought to be spent for the purpose of making local experiments and for the purpose of making available to the ryots as much of the research work and its results as possible. These two schools of thought have existed for a long time, and some of us have been looking with almost dismay at the amount of expenditure that has been incurred on the experts and on the cost of the buildings and laboratories and other things, which are put up in Coimbatore. I may state, Sir, that from the beginning, ever since the college was moved to Coimbatore, I was closely watching all work going on in the college. I was connected with the Executive Committee of the Coimbatore Agricultural Association since it was started and had been its secretary for six years. Therefore I may say I am speaking with some experience and with full responsibility.

“Well, Sir, we are thinking of the improvement of agriculture. It is not my intention or the intention of any member of this House, that any expenditure to be incurred for the improvement of agriculture should be cut down. The only question is, how we are going to help it really. It is the experience of us who have visited the Agricultural College that the experts are not in touch with the local conditions and with what is going on around them. Curiously enough, at the conference at which some experts from Northern India were also present, a dissertation was given by one of the experts, about banco paddy and some other things. When I asked him whether he had a list of the several varieties of paddy that were grown around the Agricultural College within a few miles, the answer came that he had no such list. When I wanted him to give me the difference between banco paddy and *aruvathanguruvai* grown in the district, which takes the place of banco paddy, the result was that the expert knew very little of the *aruvathanguruvai*. At the same discussion the question turned on tobacco. Again, the answer came that the Agricultural College and the expert had no list of the varieties grown in the Coimbatore district itself, even though Mr. Robertson had stated that one variety of tobacco grown in Coimbatore called Meenampalle is the best variety grown in India. That shows the sort of work that is going on

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [28th March 1921]

history of the question we must give our vote carefully on this budget provision. No other department would under these circumstances have succeeded in getting these lump provisions. I would therefore ask whether it is worth while to continue the policy of making lump provisions without any definite scheme being settled and of trying to have the work pushed through later on. If it is the case that we have not furnished the Honourable the Minister with adequate staff, I can understand. There has been an increase in the necessary staff, in the matter of experts, his assistants and sub-assistants. To ask for Rs. 10,000 for more experts is unreasonable."

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS :—"I move :—

'14. To omit Rs. 10,000 lump provision for "contingencies of six new experts".'

"Mr. President, my object in tabling this motion was to ascertain how this lump provision of Rs. 10,000 was going to be spent by the six new experts."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"It is unfortunate, Sir, that the Honourable Members did not quite catch me. It is not for six new experts at all. Six new experts for Rs. 10,000 a year must be of a poor sort indeed. We do not certainly want such experts. The amount is under the head 'Contingencies' which is found in the left hand corner of the margin and which my Honourable friend forgot to look at. These are contingencies for the new experts."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"They have all stated that clearly."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Their whole argument went on the basis that we are going to have 'six' new experts for this sum. We have got some experts appointed already, and the Honourable Members are aware that the pay of these officers is in the hands of a higher body than this Government. It is not for the Ministry or for the Local Government in any way to interfere with the appointment made by the Secretary of State, but I must take this opportunity of repudiating the idea that these experts are not experts or that they have done no good work. If Honourable Members claim personal experience and base their experience on purely solitary instances here and there, I should certainly think that it would be very unfair indeed to any scientist or expert to be so judged by a layman. It may be that such things occurred, as my Honourable friend from Coimbatore stated, that the live-stock expert was not able to change the lists which he had himself prepared. . . ."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR (*interrupting*) :—"I said I had to give information on several points."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—"That is quite possible. But that does not mean that experts from England come with all the local ideas here. He brings scientific knowledge to bear upon the local conditions which will be supplied to him, and he will work upon them and produce results. Not that he was learning how the crop grows here and what the particular conditions here are. The next thing we want is scientific expert knowledge which only western countries now possess. I do not for a moment say that Indians are not competent, but they must learn yet to do the work. There is no use of complaining against the Europeans. It is most unfair to criticise the servants of Government who are doing their very best, as much as lies in their power, and who are certainly doing what they are paid for. These criticisms are unnecessary and impolitic, unnecessary because it serves no useful purpose, impolitic

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because it unnecessarily creates irritation which is not desirable in the beginning of our career under the reforms and at a time when we are trying to advance our own cause, just taking such helping hand as may be extended to us, in order that we might surely reach the goal which we set to ourselves in the fullness of time and in the wake of proved fitness."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I support this resolution not on the general question of efficiency of experts or otherwise. The provision that is objected to is the lump provision under Contingencies. As I understand it, Sir, these lump provisions are generally made when clear and detailed notions have not been entertained. I thought that my Honourable friend Mr. Reddi Nayudu would give us some information as to what the details are."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I am perfectly willing to give the information. I have got it in my hands. I thought it was unnecessary in view of the direction which the debate took. I may say that these contingencies are not for postage or labels. They are intended for setting these offices with laboratory fittings, microscopes, stores and the like without which these experts cannot work."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am not satisfied with that information. I still maintain that sufficient details regarding these lump provisions have not been given. My friend says that these are intended for microscope and other things. Of course he may be right, but what amounts are intended for microscope and what other amounts are intended for articles to be purchased? Nor is it clear what those articles are. We have absolutely no idea about these details. The other day at the time of the general discussion of the budget, when I raised objection to the provision of certain lump sums in the budget on the ground that the provision of these lump sums shows that the definite and detailed ideas have not been formed, my Honourable friend the Finance Member called my attention to the provision of lump sums in the last year's administration report of Travancore of Rs. 40,000 under the Agricultural Department, and Rs. 40,000 under the Industrial Department. Even at the time of my making observations regarding lump provisions that appear in the present financial budget, I was perfectly aware of the provision in the Travancore administration report of Rs. 40,000 under a lump sum in the Agricultural Department, and another sum of Rs. 40,000 in the Industrial Department. It was because of my experience that I gained there when I was in charge of the administration there that I took exception to the provision for this lump provision. As a matter of fact, the person who was in charge of the administration at the time, that is myself, wanted to develop these two departments, the Agricultural and the Industrial departments, and there was plenty of money available, but I had not the assistance then of officers in charge of those departments. They themselves had not clearly formed ideas as to how these amounts could be spent, and consequently I too had no ideas as to how this money should be spent. So in consultation with the heads of departments, Sir, I provided Rs. 40,000 for the Agricultural Department, and another Rs. 40,000 for the Industrial Department, and before the year ran out the heads of departments concerned were able to devise detailed schemes, and the provision of Rs. 40,000 in each of these departments was spent and spent usefully."

"Now, here what I want specifically to ask my Honourable friend Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu and the Honourable the Finance Member is whether such detailed provision showing rupees, annas, pies, which should be spent on the detailed items, has been prepared. My Honourable friend the Finance Member

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stated the other day, and I called my attention and the attention of the House to one of the devolution rules which said, that unless the provisions relating to the detailed items are carefully examined by the Finance Department, they ought not to be included in the budget."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODDINGTON :—" May I answer that question, Sir? The reason why we cannot give exact details of these lump provisions under Contingencies is we do not know when these officers are going to be appointed."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Exactly, that is because the Hon'ble Member has no clear idea."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Mr. President, experts are appointed and they are to do the work. And they are to do the work without contingencies! Is it indeed a very desirable state of things? These experts are under training or at least are going through their course in the Coimbatore Agricultural College, and they will soon be placed in charge, as I understand, of the divisions, and these divisions have to be worked by these officers. The Honourable the Minister has stated that microscope and other necessities are required in order to equip them for their work. The Government have appointed these experts, and it is necessary that they must be provided with necessary equipments. Therefore I do not see any force at all in the motion that we should delete Rs. 10,000 under the head 'Contingencies'."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" The Honourable the Minister has stated that only one expert has been appointed and the remaining five have yet to be appointed."

Mr. K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" I do not know why there should be so much trouble about these contingencies. No doubt some Honourable Members have raised a technical objection that as no details are mentioned in the budget showing under what head all these details will come, they should therefore support the motion. Of course I for one think that there should be details under each head of expenditure, but I do not think, Sir, for one moment that this is such an item as will admit readily showing details. As the Honourable the Minister has shown to us, this is a department in which no finality can be arrived at and expenditure must be incurred now and then possibly without any idea of an immediate return. It is necessary to provide for such expenditure though details are not provided. The Honourable Member Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar rose to support this motion but his arguments were more or less directed towards the defence which he had to make against the remarks of the Honourable the Finance Member on a previous occasion at the time of the discussion of the budget. Of course we can easily distinguish what heads of expenditure do require details, and what do not require details. No doubt, in this case, I suppose the House will be prepared to acknowledge that this is after all an amount too small for any such technical objection to be raised. So I oppose this motion."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—" This agricultural question is a very technical one. There are two sides to it; one is the point of view of the Government and the other is the ryot's point of view. The Government says that the Agricultural Department is quite necessary; but the ryot will be glad if the Agricultural Department is done away with and thus secure a reduction of taxes. The Government has to maintain the Agricultural Department for the benefit of the people. Unfortunately our experts are no better than the experts of Mark Twain—of course I do not want to say anything in disparagement of any expert—who

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took notes on agriculture that a bull has four legs and two horns. The experts are making experiments, but they will always be in the experimental stage and they will never extend it to the practical stage. I was a practical agriculturist and was conducting a paper on Agriculture in Tanjore. I myself taught practical agriculture, not by examining with a microscope and that sort of thing. I introduced single-blade plantation of paddy in some village in Chingleput district. I know to plough and I myself have ploughed.

"I explained the advantages of single planting to the ryots. They did not at first believe me. I showed them that the lands which I cultivated produced $1\frac{1}{2}$ times more than those of others. Then they came to me and requested me to show them how to work. My knowledge was derived from the paddy fields and not from the Agricultural College at Coimbatore. I always judge of a thing by its results. Our members would not ask for the result, but they would ask for details and be satisfied with them.

"We shall wait and see what sort of results are produced by the Agricultural Department. They are scientific, of course, but they are not practical. They must go into the country, move with the ryots and show them practically. The country has an aversion for the change of methods of cultivation. They must be taught in simple language and by practical show. Otherwise they would not believe you. If you use Latin terms they will think that you are stark mad. If you say that in America they are able to produce indigo in sandy soil 400 times more than the usual yield, he will ask you what America is; he will consider that America is a kind of vegetable. Make your work more practical, but you are making it more scientific. Of course, I expect better results in future and so I support the Government."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir we are now discussing the item relating to the contingent charges of the six new experts. In the first place I should like to know from the Honourable the Minister for Development whether in the coming year Government propose entertaining six additional experts in addition to those already in the department during the current year. If Government are recruiting these officers, where are you going to recruit them? Are you going to recruit them in England? I believe the Honourable Minister made a statement that there is a higher authority than this Council. I take it that he refers to the Secretary of State. If these appointments are to be made by the Secretary of State I should like to know what duties these experts are to perform. Are they to be at the College, or are they to be posted to the districts? Whether they are posted to the districts or to the College, I should like to raise the general question of recruitment. It is a question of the greatest importance. In the first place I submit to this Council that once the Secretary of State begins to recruit these officers the pay and the allowances of these officers become non-votable. It means that this Council will have absolutely no authority over any officer recruited by the Secretary of State. His pay, his allowances, his pension and charge connected with him is out of the jurisdiction of this House. That is the first question. The second question which is also of equal importance is that the Royal Commission on Public Services has already decided that so far as the Agricultural Department is concerned the recruitment should be essentially in this country."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO (interrupting) :—" I rise to a point of order. The motion before the House is the contingency and not the recruitment of these officers."

[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu] [28th March 1921]

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (*continuing*):—"I have been asking for information from the Honourable the Minister as to whether it is a fact that these officers are to be appointed next year so that contingencies may be provided. I have informed the Council that the recruitment of officers is essentially for the consideration of the House. If they are recruited by the Secretary of State they at once become non-votable. I am asking for information from the Honourable the Minister. I should like to know whether it is relevant to the question."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Relevancy seems to be rather remote. Apparently the Honourable Member does not approve of the six new experts being appointed by the Secretary of State. Since that would be non-votable, they are attacking the contingencies. They are entitled to attack any portion of the machinery. How far the House would be wise in allowing experts to be entertained and denying them contingencies, is for the House to decide. It would be in order for the Honourable Member to say that they are not necessary when the provision for the contingency of six new experts is being discussed. At the same time there are so many grades of relevancy. I am sure that the Honourable Member will confine himself as much as possible to the motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (*continuing*):—"The only other question that I should like to place before the Honourable the Minister is, as I said, that the recruitment of these officials should be as far as possible made in India. I would like to ask the Honourable the Minister whether in the recruitment of the officers of the Agricultural Department any attempt would be made in India to advertise these places and to see whether these officials could be recruited in the country. There must be some definite policy, and so far as I am concerned I would like to have these appointments made not by the Secretary of State, but by the Local Government; the House could then have some authority over them."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I was under the impression that this lump sum was for six experts that have been already appointed. If they are to be newly appointed there is no provision for their salary in the budget. If the experts have not yet been appointed, there is time enough for the Minister to see if new experts are wanted and a lump provision of Rs. 10,000 is needed for contingencies. The Honourable Members will see that besides this Rs. 10,000 there is provision for laboratory and other charges Rs. 16,800 and a lump provision for staff under new experts Rs. 14,000. Therefore there is a very large sum provided for these experts that are to be created hereafter. The Honourable the Minister expressed his indignation,—he thought it was a very righteous indignation at our complaining against these experts. Although we have no power to vote against these experts, we thought that we might at least speak. The Honourable the Minister says 'don't speak about it.' The Honourable the Minister is new and ought to be profited by the experience of those who live in close proximity to these Agricultural colleges, about the usefulness of these experts. The experts already in existence are too many and not of much use. We appeal to the Minister not to create these new appointments. There seems to be no urgency. If necessary a wire may be sent to the Secretary of State not to appoint these people. We appeal to the Ministers in whom we have the greatest confidence to reduce the number of experts and see that no new experts are appointed. Many of us are very doubtful of their necessity even or desirability. If these experts are not to be appointed this contingency is not necessary. So, I would appeal that this provision may be curtailed."

28th March 1921]

[Mr. P. C. Muttu Chettiyar]

Mr. P. C. MUTTU CHETTIYAR:—"இந்த சபையிடத்தில் அநேகம்பேர்கள் விஸ்தாரமாய் பேசிவிட்டார்கள். கவர்ன்மெண்டார் விவசாய சம்மந்தப் பட்டமட்டில் தங்கள் கடமை ஜலசபைதான் என்று நீண்டகாலமாக நினைத்திருந்தார்களென்று தெரிகிறது. சுமார் 13, 14 வருஷமாக Agriculture விஷயத்தை மேனாட்டுக்கொப்பந்தம் முன்னுக்குக் கொண்டுவர எண்ணினார்கள் என்று அறியலாம். ஆகையினால் இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டார் புதிதாய் செலவிடநேர்ந்தது நமக்கு லாபகரமே. இதில் நான் ஆகேஷிக்கத்தூண்டுத் தது இதுவரையில் நடந்தமாதிரியை உத்தேசித்தும் இவ்விஷயங்களைச் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள வேண்டிய அவசியம் நேர்ந்தது. ஆனால் இந்த 13, 14 வருஷங்களாக Agriculture சம்மந்தமாக மதுரையில் ஒரு பிராஞ்ச் இருந்தது. அந்த பிராஞ்சினால் என்ன உபயோகமிருந்ததென்று தெரியவே முடியவில்லை. புத்திசாலிகள் எழுதிய ரிபோர்ட்டை ஆகேஷிப்பதற்கு ரொம்ப தைரியம்வேண்டும். எந்த விவசாயிகள் என்னவிதமான புதுப் படிப்பு படித்து புதுமாதிரியான விவசாயம் செய்திருக்கிறார்களென்று தெரியவில்லை. ஒருவிதமான ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு இருந்தாலொழிய நான் ஒத்துக்கொள்ள முடியாது. இந்த விஷயத்தில் 20, 23 மெம்பர்கள் பலவித ஆகேஷனை கொண்டுவந்து இருக்கிறார்கள். அவை யெல்லாவற்றையும் சேர்த்து நான் பதில் சொல்லவேண்டியவனாயிருக்கிறேன். தற்போதைய English பாஷையில் நான் அப்பியாசமில்லாதவனாய் இருக்கிறபடியால், இங்கு நடக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகளை எல்லோரும் அறியும்படியாய், சுய பாஷையில் எப்பொழுது பேசும்படி யேற்படுமோ தெரியவில்லை. அடிக்கடி எழுந்து பேச முடியாமல் இந்த டிமாண்டில் எல்லா பிராஞ்சையும் சேர்த்து ஒரே சமயத்தில் பேசவேண்டியவனாயிருக்கிறேன். இதுவரையில் என்ன புதியமாதிரி விவசாயம் செய்துவிட்டார்கள்? 14 வருஷங்களில் செய்யாதது இனிமேல் செய்யப்போகிற மாதிரி இன்னதென்று புலப்படவில்லை. தொட்டுக் கூட்டியது வித்தையென்று பழமொழி. பழைய உபாத்தியாயர்கள் பலகையில் பள்ளந்தோண்டி கையைதொட்டு வரைந்து காண்பிக்கிறது ஹைக்கம். மிருக புத்தியையுடைய விவசாயிகளை நம்பி பெரும் பணங்களை இழந்திருக்கும் பெரும் குடும்பஸ்தர்களுக்கும், இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டு இலாபகரமானதே. எந்த விவசாயிகளுடைய பிள்ளைகள் இந்த விவசாய காலேஜில் வாசித்தார்களென்று தெரியவில்லை. ஆனால் Agricultural Inspection Demonstrator என்ற உத்தியோகங்கள் சம்பாதிக்கிறதற்கு உபயோகமாயிருக்கிறது. விவசாயிகள் பிள்ளைகள் எப்படியிருக்கிறதென்று கேட்டால், 5 வயது ஆனவுடன் ஆடுமேய்க்கவும், 7 வயது ஆனவுடன் எருமைக்கடா மேய்க்கவும், 8 வயதான உடன் எர் உழவும் போய்விடுகிறார்கள். இந்த விவசாய காலேஜிக்கு எப்படி வருவார்களென்று தெரியவில்லை. ஒருக்கால் compulsory ஆயிருந்தால் தான் வருவார்கள். ம-ா-ா-ஸ்ரீ S. சோமசுந்தரம் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் அமேரிக்கா என்றால் விசிடேபிள் என்று சொல்லியதுபோல் கம்போடியா காட்டன் என்றால், காய்கரி என்று நினைத்துக்கொள்வார்கள். லண்டன் அல்லது சிமைப்பருத்தி என்று சொன்னால்தான் தெரியும். ஆகையினால் இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்ட் பணம் சம்பாதிக்கிறதற்காகவா? அல்லது ஜனங்களுடைய ஆத்மாவை ரகிப்பதற்குவேண்டிய உணவு பொருளை விருத்தி செய்வதற்கா என்பதை ஆனரபிள் மெம்பர்கள் ஒருவரும் யோசித்ததாகத்

[Mr. P. C. Muttu Chettiyar]

[28th March 1921]

தெரியவில்லை. ஆனால் பஞ்சம் முற்காலத்தில் பணியில்லாக் கொடுமையால் ஜனங்களை வருத்தினது. இக்காலத்தில் தானியமில்லாது பஞ்சம் என்ற பெயரை வைத்து அனேக காலமாய் கவர்ன்மெண்டு பஞ்சப்படி கொடுக்கும் படியாகவும் நேர்ந்தது. பணம் சம்பாதிக்கும்படியான மாகூல்களை; அதாவது பருத்தி, கடலை முதலியவைகளை விருத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கிறார்கள் ஒழிய, நெல்லு பயிரோடு புஞ்சை தானியங்களை விருத்தி செய்வதினால் தான் பஞ்சம் எப்பொழுதும் வராதென்று ஒருவராவது நினைக்கவேயில்லை. இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டு இப்பொழுது வேலை செய்கிறமாதிரியை ஆகேஷிப்பதற்கு இடமாகிறது. அவர்கள் group, group ஆக ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிலும் குறைந்த சம்பளக்காரர்களை பல இடத்தில் instrument, manure, விதை சகிதம், இருக்கும்படி செய்து ஆங்காங்கு வேலை செய்து காண்பித்து ஜனங்களை ஒரு மூன்று வருஷங்களில், தாங்கள் முன் வருஷங்களில் அடைந்த செலவு வரும்படியையும், இப்பொழுது அடைகிற செலவு வரும்படியையும் ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு மூலமாய் தெரியப்படுத்தினால் இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டின் முக்கியமான அலுவலமாகும். Manure விஷயமாக ஒருவித ஏற்பாடும் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் விவசாயிகளுக்கு செய்ததாக இல்லவேயில்லை. சில விதைகள் sample விதைகளாகக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அவைகள் உயர்ந்த விதைகள் தான். ஆனால் பழைய விதைகளைப்பார்க்கிலும் புதிய விதைகளை விதைப்பது லாபகரமென்று புலப்படவில்லை. கிராமத்தார் இத்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டினால் முன்னேற்ற மடைந்த ஸ்திதியை சரியான ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு மூலமாய் கிராமத்தாரில் கௌரவத்திற்குடைய கையொப்பத்தோடு ரிபோர்ட் செய்ய வேண்டும். அப்படி ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிலும் செய்து அந்த ஜில்லா திருப்தி யாயிற்றதென்று close செய்யவேண்டும்.”

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. President, the scope of my resolution has to be explained. My position is this. There are no doubt matters which have to be attended to by a research institute; there are questions like analysis of the soil and questions of study about the worms and things like that which only experts can do. For that purpose we have got now a large body of experts. What is now proposed is to appoint a number of additional experts for doing practically the same work or assisting those in service. As I said, the people who will be really useful in helping the ryots in their practical work are persons who will be in charge of agricultural and experimental farms. I was also saying that Mr. Dharmaranga Raju had made a proposal and effect could be given to it. He said that lease could be taken of lands in villages, in areas where experiments could be made as regards the varieties of produce as suits the different conditions of localities, manure, seed selection, etc. These farms can be under the charge of one trained man and no experts will be necessary. Experts will be necessary only for any information that will be required for the life history of worms and other insects or about the analysis of the soil. These questions can be referred to the experts in the college and information obtained from them. These experimental farms, on the other hand, will be dealing with manure experiments and with the selection of seed that is necessary and things like that, and also different crops which could be acclimatised in different localities. So I propose that experimental farms should be established. The cost of one farm will probably be something like Rs. 6,000 or so per year. And a number of farms like that spread over the Presidency will lead to great improvements in agriculture and will really help the ryots. This scheme, Sir, I submit, should have precedence over the additional

[28th March 1921] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

appointments of these experts involving an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 14,000 towards contingency and the staff. My proposal is that we ought to economise in the appointment of these experts and in the contingency and staff that are to be given to them and money thus saved should be utilized for the purpose of opening these agricultural farms and experimental farms in different localities of the Presidency. I see from the Hon'ble the Finance Member's memorandum that some of these appointments have been made already, for instance, one agricultural economist, probably appointed last month and an economic botanist. What I would suggest is that, with regard to those already appointed, their services could not be dispensed with. But with regard to those who are not appointed, if it is possible to keep in abeyance the provision of one or two of these officers and of the staff provided for them, with the money we can easily open three or four farms on the lines suggested by me. That will be a policy which will have to be adopted by this Council as well as by the Government. I only request the Minister to give effect to this.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—“I have very great regard, Sir, to my friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar; I have known him for a long time and I also know he takes much interest in agriculture. But unfortunately when schemes are proposed, expert opinion has to be preferred to that of a lawyer in the matter of agriculture. The expert officers who are to be appointed are six in number. A bacteriologist has already been appointed. An agrostologist has been provided for, but not yet appointed. An agricultural economist is appointed or has been doing acting work. An economic botanist for millet and another for pulses have been sanctioned but have not yet been appointed. Information was asked for by the Honourable Member for Kistna as to the way in which these recruitments to the appointments are made, and I have only to answer by saying that the recruitment to the Indian Agricultural Service is in no way different from the recruitment for the Indian Civil Service or the Indian Educational Service. There are these devolution rules in schedule 3, which give the cases where the sanction of the Secretary of State is necessary. As for the appointment there is certainly nothing to prevent the appointments being made in India. But the only trouble is to find out the right man for the right place. If any member of this House can point out any person who can be said to be fit for any of these five places, this Government will be very glad to consider the case and to recommend it to the Secretary of State for India. Now, as I have previously submitted, two appointments have already been made and the question before the House is as regards their contingencies. Application has been made to the Secretary of State for India to give us as many officers as he could and 'contingencies' are to be provided for them in the course of this year. What are these officers to do after having come to India without these 'contingencies'? One honourable friend thinks that a microscope need not be given. Another thinks that the experts should work somewhere in the farm and a third thinks that a laboratory is already there and further enlargements need not be made. But unfortunately the experts that we are going to have are not going to be of the same kind as those we have at present. If one economist is already in existence and another is to come, it is urged that both of them could work on the same scientific instruments. If the agrostologist is asked to work with the instruments and apparatus supplied to the botanists according to the needs of the latter, I seriously doubt whether any real work could be turned out. No one, who is conversant with the work of these experts, would say that any one of them should work on the instruments and implements belonging to the other.

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu] [28th March 1921]

After all it is only Rs. 10,000, and it is not likely that the whole of the amount would be spent because all the appointments are not made. If, however, Honourable Members are anxious that I should only provide for those already appointed and for two or three who may soon be appointed, I have not the slightest objection to do so and to save about three or four thousand rupees on the whole."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I will be satisfied if that item be reduced by Rs. 4,000 by finding some item of economy."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I have no objection to reduce it by Rs. 4,000 and retain two experts."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I want a definite reduction of Rs. 4,000."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"That is not for the Honourable Member to say."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member has not withdrawn his motion. I would like the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, to be so good as to tell me whether he wants that motion to go to a division, or whether he is prepared to withdraw it. I am not going to allow any further debate."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask you, Sir, whether it is open to me to move an amendment to that?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"No. I cannot allow any amendment."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"In view of what the Minister himself has stated. . . ."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"A ruling has already been given."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following similar motions also were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—

'13. To omit Rs. 10,000, lump provision for "Contingencies" of six new experts (Budget, page 162).'

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS:—

'14. To omit Rs. 10,000, lump provision for "Contingencies" of six new experts (Budget, page 162).'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—

'15. To reduce by Rs. 300, provision of Rs. 10,000 "Contingencies" for six new experts (Budget, page 162).'

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—

'16. To omit Rs. 14,000, lump provision for "staff" of six new experts (Budget, page 162).'

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the motion that stands against my name is as follows:—

'17. To omit Rs. 14,000, lump provision for "staff" of six new experts (Budget, page 162).'

"I make that motion on the distinct understanding that the Honourable the Minister will be pleased to state that, so far as this item is concerned, he will be able to effect retrenchment to the extent of half that amount. Because he has

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just told us that he is going to retain the provision only for two experts and contingencies, and so a proportionate amount may be reduced so far as this also is concerned. With that assurance, Sir, I shall withdraw. Otherwise I may have to press it."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I think, Sir, it is possible to reduce it by Rs. 4,000. More than that the Government cannot do."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I accept the assurance of the Minister and withdraw."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motions were not moved and were deemed to have been withdrawn:—

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS:—

18. To omit Rs. 14,000, lump provision for "staff" of six new experts (Budget, page 162).

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—

19. To reduce by Rs. 10,000, provision of Rs. 80,000 for traveling allowance (Budget, page 163).

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—

20. To omit Rs. 120, duty allowance to typist or clerk (Budget, page 163).

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—

21. To omit Rs. 120, duty allowance to typist or clerk (Budget, page 163).

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—

22. To omit Rs. 20,000, lump provision for reorganization (Budget, page 165).

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR then moved the following motion:—

"23. That the grant of Rs. 15,83,304 under '34-A. Agriculture' be reduced by a sum of Rs 2,00,000 (Budget, page 160)."

In doing so, he said:—"Mr. President, I move this for the purpose of ascertaining whether the policy of this Government and the Ministry is going to be the same as before, viz., to continue this Department of Agriculture year after year with an increasing expenditure, or whether they are going to curtail the expenditure upon this most unproductive item. I find that in 1919-20 the account for this department was over 13 lakhs. In 1920-21 the estimate was 17 lakhs out of which they were able to spend only 15 lakhs; and this year the estimate is Rs. 18,57,700. I do not know whether I should say more than what has been said on the last motion so very well by the other members who are more competent to speak on the subject than I can ever hope to be. Particularly I refer to the speech of Mr. Muttu Chettiyar and I move this also so that he may give us the rest of his unfinished speech and make further observations. From my experience and from the information that I have received, I really feel that the general opinion upon this subject is that it should be a very much more curtailed department, a very much less expensive department than it is. You can really save something like two lakhs of rupees which is the amount I propose to reduce by. I do not propose to delete any particular item, but I want that there should be a reduction on the total expenditure to the extent of 2 lakhs. I know perfectly well that if the House votes in favour of that reduction, the Minister

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will certainly be able to carry out that reduction most easily. For instance, he has told us that some of these experts, who are italicised at page 162, have not yet been appointed. I do not know, Mr. President, whether it was right to include the pay of these officers and others as non-votable before they have been appointed"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"Sir, I may be permitted to inform the Honourable Member that the Government have long ago applied for these officers, and they may be appointed at any time by the Secretary of State."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*continuing*):—"I venture to state that the Government of India rules regarding the appointments, salaries and pensions"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Does the Honourable Member propose to discuss the propriety of His Excellency's ruling? His Excellency has ruled that it is non-votable."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*continuing*):—"Sir, I bow to the ruling of His Excellency, but I said that these appointments were not made and on that ground I may make these observations."

"Now, in the next place, I do think that no man in this department can really do efficient work unless he is acquainted fully with the vernaculars of the country. There is no use particularly in this Agricultural Department in having persons who are not able to speak to the ryots directly and tell them what they should do. Otherwise, you require intermediaries for the purpose of transmitting this valuable scientific information from these persons to the persons who are to be benefited."

"In the second place, I want the recruiting to be entirely in India and provincialized for the simple reason that the expenditure on this department can thereby be very materially reduced, and it is a matter of very great importance that this expenditure should be kept within very reasonable bounds on this, as I said, most unfruitful department. I am not certain that this single seed-planting was the discovery of this department. I have been very reliably informed that it has been very long in existence. The only improvement that has been effected by this department is that as regards cotton, and everybody will accept that. From the reports that have been published, I do not know that anything substantial has been done to increase the output, the produce of the country or the productive value of the land or to add to the wealth of the country in any way. This department has been in existence for 14 years and lakhs of rupees have been spent upon it. What is the real advantage we have derived? I quite admit that interesting experiments have been made and various other things have been done. But we can get them out of the American bulletins without having our own department, and I think in a matter like agriculture, which has been such an ancient industry in this province, and in a tropical country like this, and in the South Indian conditions, it seems to me impossible that we can derive any very real advantage from these experts who are trained under very different climatic conditions and who have to deal with different sets of people and to work under altogether alien conditions; and if the ordinary education is so very difficult to be imparted to the common people of this country, how much more difficult is it to impart scientific education to our people? I do not think our people will really understand these."

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Far more importance should be attached to the formation under Revenue Department of village societies and to propagandist work—slender provision is sufficient for a central bureau issuing information that may be valuable to the country. I think it is really impossible for us to feel satisfied that this department has been functioning satisfactorily, that it is proceeding on sound lines that the expenditure on this is really an expenditure which is a legitimate charge upon the revenues of this province, when there is a growing necessity for improvement in all directions and there is necessity above all for the purpose of tackling the problems of poverty. I suppose my enthusiastic friend, the Honourable the Minister, whose enthusiasm I admire more than the department which he is going to control—I am sure I have more faith in his enthusiasm—I do not think he will be able really with its assistance to increase the paddy output, or the output of any other agricultural produce, within any reasonable distance of time. If for 14 years we have not done it, I doubt if we can do so hereafter. I should like, Sir, that there should be some information given to us before we vote upon this general demand. What is the exact value of this department? There is no use telling us that scientific knowledge is added to. We know that. But what is the economic value, what is the commercial value of this department? How many appliances have been placed on the market or have been brought within the reach of the ryots? Is it really correct to suggest that our people really understand and assimilate the whole of this technical information which these highly technical scientists alone will understand? I think what is far more important is a systematization of such knowledge as prevails in our own country upon this most ancient industry, and if that systematized information is spread broadcast, if there is sufficient propaganda work, and also some more facilities are given to ryots and greater importance is paid to irrigation, I think it would achieve far better results than this kind of scientific enthusing over agriculture which does not really mean more money in the pockets of the agriculturists. What increase there has been in the pocket of the agriculturist, if there has been an increase at all, is owing to the rise in prices and not owing to this Agricultural Department, and I really associate myself with Mr. Muthu Chettiyar who doubted the wisdom of supplanting the food crops in the country by industrial crops *ad libitum*. That is a very complicated question. I am satisfied that, so far as cotton is concerned, we have progressed satisfactorily, and I have nothing to say as regards the activities of this department under that head. But I do feel thoroughly dissatisfied with the work of this department under other heads of work. As regards the experiments that are being carried on for the purpose of finding out the best manure, etc., for the land, we must remember the resources of the peasant population of this land. There is no use going in for very difficult and costly scientific appliances and experiments on manures which will not be within the reach of the ordinary peasant. After all the object of any department of Government of this description must be, as my friend the Minister has put it, for the purpose of really increasing the productive capacity of the land and adding to the agricultural wealth of the country. I am sure upon that he yields neither to me, nor to any one in this House, in his enthusiasm; but I ask him not to give adherence to any continuity of policy in this department, but to apply the pruning knife liberally to this department and to see whether it is not possible to reduce the expenditure by two lakhs of rupees. I move this for his enunciation of the new policy, if any, which he is going to adopt. I want a definite policy to be laid down."

Bao Rahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I am not a pessimist, and I take a more hopeful view of the progress of the Agricultural Department. But I think the

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department has not been able to reach so far the ryot as well as we would wish it. The department is full of experts at a very heavy cost, but these experts have not been able to teach the ryot and inform him of the scientific methods of agriculture. On the whole, as far as I was able to observe the work of this department in my parts of the country, the Northern Circars, I should say that the rule of thumb is adopted even in the agricultural farms of Samalkot, etc. The ordinary method which is adopted by the ryot is copied there and adopted in a more expensive method and it does not appeal to the ryot even if it is successful.

"The scientific method applied in the production of crops, I regret to say, has not been very encouraging. But I hope the department will work up to a standard which will meet with the approval of the ryot. So far as I see the ryot has not taken to that improved method which is so much talked of in the administration reports. My predecessor has referred to very successful methods of cultivation in cotton. The results of the cotton cultivation in India, in this part of the Presidency as far as I have been able to observe in the Koilpatti farm, are very disappointing. At one time what was known as company cotton seed was supplied to the ryots. The whole produce was taken from the villagers and the ginning was done by the department. The seeds were taken by the department and the lint was given away, and it was sold at more than the ordinary price. For two or three years this process worked well. Now the ryots are not taking to those seeds. They are taking to the old indigenous seeds and are raising the cotton out of the ordinary seeds that are available. I find a provision here in the budget made for cotton cultivation at page 164 printed in small letters for a sum of Rs. 1,40,600. This, I believe, is intended for the encouragement of cotton cultivation in the south. The crop raised in the Hagari farm in Bellary is Cambodia cotton. When we attempted Cambodia cotton in our part of the country, we found it was a surface crop unlike the ordinary cotton crop. In Bellary also at present this crop is subject to disease and here in order to combat this disease, we require the services of the expert. I am not very pessimistic of the work of the experts. It is only in such cases that the expert advice is required. But in other matters of intense cultivation or economic cultivation, I do not think the experts are able to assist the ryots, for we know as much as they know.

"There is one principal thing which this department has to pay attention to, and especially the Minister, and that is the improvement of cattle breeding which is altogether neglected. The principal point I wish to submit for the information of this House is that we have got a department of live-stock under the Agricultural Department. The work that the live-stock department is now doing is very limited. For instance, last year a provision of Rs. 25,000 was made for breeding cattle. No steps were taken to utilize that grant. This is very deplorable. Again in the matter of the milk-supply of Madras, an attempt was made in importing four Ayrshire bulls from Scotland and they were intended to be supplied to the milkmen and then the calves had to be taken and reared up with a view to give over to the milkmen. In that way a number of good milk-cows were intended to be reared up in Madras. I do not know where the cows are. But my information is that the cows are in existence but the officers seem to have disappeared. I do not know what is being done in regard to this improvement of milk-supply in Madras."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I am very sorry, Sir, that at a time and at a place where I expected that if any additional grant at all is to be granted it would be to this department, I find my friend to

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whose intelligence I have a great admiration not only moving for a general reduction but even differing from me as regards the value of science as applied to agriculture. Expressions were used which can only be intelligible to me either on the basis of a difference in fundamentals between us or on the only other basis of a difference in interests. Representing the University of Madras and moving only in educated circles, it was not possible for him perhaps to understand what national wealth really means and what the country's production really means. Otherwise it is impossible to understand the meaning of the phrases that he used, speaking of this department—"an unfruitful department," "not adding to the national wealth," and so on and so forth. Well, there will not be much use in discussing the fundamentals. The Government are great believers in the effect of applied science to practical agriculture and their policy has been one of a progressive nature in giving to the ryot as much as they can spare; for they believe that this is the only direct return to the ryot who pays so much tax, the ryot whose interests I take it—except a few members—almost all the members of this House represent. The expenditure in this province, Sir, has been shown to be about 14 or 15 crores of rupees, not to speak of what is paid to the Central Government. Half of it, i.e., nearly 7 crores of rupees, is being paid by the ryot and the agriculturist, either in the shape of land revenue or irrigation cess. Even if we omit the irrigation cess, we have got something like 6 crores of rupees paid by the ryot; and what is the return that we are giving to him, if it is not in the shape of the benefits from this agricultural department? It may be that one expert has failed to satisfy the Honourable Member and that another has taken eight months to complete a work which my honourable friend was told, would take only eight weeks. But from the experience of one or two experts, we cannot question the value of science as applied to practical agriculture. This very morning I was placing before the House the world's output in rice and was pointing out that whereas in this Presidency only half a ton is produced per acre, something like five times that quantity is produced in Spain. I will presently place before the House other statistics which will show what science can do. I am sure that the results obtained in other countries are due to the application of science and to the work of experts. In cotton, Sir, as I have already mentioned, Madras cultivates 3,133,000 acres and in bales of 400 lb. each 581,000 bales are the output. In Egypt 1,365,000 acres are cultivated and the yield is 1,190,000 bales. In the United States of America 35,993,000 acres are cultivated and the yield is 14,358,000 bales. In other words, the yield per acre is only 74 lb. in Madras as against nearly 160 lb. per acre in the United States of America and 320 lb. per acre in Egypt. Can it for a moment be suggested that in our country blessed with the numerous splendid rivers and with the richest soil that has been known in any other country in the world, our poor production is due to anything but the ignorance of those that are asked to cultivate the land? For years and centuries, our people have been using the same implements. We have not introduced science into our agriculture. We have not been able to get much benefit by using the knowledge of the world and if to-day we are going to cut off this provision by adopting the policy which my honourable friend asks us to adopt of cutting off the amounts year after year and coming to nothing, then I say 'woe be to this country'. That is with reference to production. Let us for a moment see what is being spent in the world on agriculture. It is admitted on all hands that India is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the key industry of this land. We cannot claim that ours is an industrial country. And now, even in regard to the key industry we are asked to reduce the expenditure. With a population of 317

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millions in India, the amount spent is Rs.75,000,000 and odd. This comes on an average to Rs. 33-10-8 per 1,000 of population. The amount spent in Madras for 1,000 of population is Rs. 24-6-10; in Japan it is Rs. 216-15-0 and in France Rs. 948-0-0. In the United States they are spending a magnificent sum of Rs. 1,681 per 1,000 of population, whereas we are spending only Rs. 24.

"Yet this is an agricultural country, depending entirely on agriculture, the only key industry in the whole country, without any development in industries. We are asked seriously that we must reduce year after year the expenditure. I do not know what my honourable friend for the University of Madras would like this country to come to. If improved production can only mean improved wealth, certainly, that is the only way in which we can expect our country to develop where there are no large industrial activities; we have no iron. We have not got coal here. We have not got any of those industries as are to be found in the western countries. For a long time agriculture will remain our sole industry on anything like a large scale. I must appeal to the members of this House, who are the representatives of the people who pay more than half of the entire tax of this province, to seriously consider this proposal that a reduction should be made in the provision for agricultural improvements and leave the matter entirely to the House, whose natural instinct will, I am sure, reject this self-destructive proposal."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR:—"Sir, I wish to make a few remarks on this occasion when we have to decide the policy of the Agricultural Department. We have got Imperial and Provincial officers in this department. We have no voice so far as the highest posts are concerned. We have to see how far this department helps the ryot. Judging from the experience of the past few years, we may say that the Agricultural Department is still in its infancy. The real state of the ryot and how to improve his general condition have not yet been fully considered by the department. So research in this line may be more useful in the first instance than research in the improvement of crops, diseases and other matters. By this the ryot may be able to appreciate the work of the department and to easily adopt the methods which are advocated. Without this it will be

4-45 p.m.

very difficult to convince the ryot. There is no benefit to the agriculturists from the co-operative department. The co-operative department has not really done good to the ryots. Creating departments and lines of work should be only based on the experiences of researches thus made but not merely by copying other countries whose statistics and conditions may be quite different. South India is a country of small ryots, fighting against great difficulties which can be avoided without any extra trouble and costly experiment. If agricultural development should be begun in right earnest this department should have much more control, and take interest in several matters connected with ryots such as irrigation, forest grazing, consolidation of holdings, disposal of Government lands. Experts should be local persons interested in agricultural pursuits, and they should be given good opportunities of travelling outside India where similar conditions can be found. It is not a matter for surprise that under the present conditions this costly machinery does not satisfy the ryots. No doubt there have been recorded some useful advantages, but it is nothing when compared with the large machinery at work for so many years. We have closely watched the line of work which the department is adopting, but we cannot exhaust our remarks by discussion only on this occasion. We must suggest ways and means and every now and then bring our remarks to the notice of the authorities. Without our willing co-operation with the ryots and without representing the interests of ryots to the department,

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I do not think we shall be able to advance. There is no question that we are very backward in agriculture when compared with the advanced countries abroad. I do not think they would have attained such an advancement if they had left agriculturists alone to do their work leaving demonstrators to do experiments. A perusal of the Royal Commission's Report will show that the Agricultural Department should generally come under the Indians who have been trained in advanced agriculture in their own country and after they have been appointed they should be given an opportunity of travelling outside."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The period of three hours prescribed by His Excellency the Governor for the disposal of the demand having expired, I have now to put the outstanding votes on this demand to the House. The first is the motion of Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar that the "Grant of Rs. 15,83,304 under 34-A. Agriculture be reduced by a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs."

The motion was put to the Council and declared lost.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"May I ask for a poll?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Certainly."

A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 7. Dr. U. Rama Rao. |
| 2. " P. C. Muthu Chettiyar. | 8. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 3. " K. P. Gopala Menon. | 9. " A. S. Krishna Rao. |
| 4. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 10. " L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. |
| 5. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 11. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 6. " K. Sadasiva Bhat. | 12. " M. Ramachandra Rao. |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu. | 26. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar. | 27. " A. Ramayya Punja. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayalu Reddiyar. | 28. " T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 29. " P. T. Rajan. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 30. " K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter. | 31. " A. Subbarayudu. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. | 32. " S. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 8. Mr. E. Periyannayagam. | 33. " N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 9. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 34. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 10. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 35. " P. Venkatasubba Rao. |
| 11. " R. G. Grieve. | 36. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. |
| 12. " V. Appaswami Vandayar. | 37. " O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. |
| 13. " R. Appaswami Nayudu. | 38. " T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 14. " S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad. | 39. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. |
| 15. " K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 40. " M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 16. " P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 41. " R. T. Kesavalu Pillai. |
| 17. " T. Balajirao Nayudu. | 42. " L. C. Guruswami. |
| 18. " A. P. Patro. | 43. " M. C. Raja. |
| 19. " O. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 44. " W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 20. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 45. " R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |
| 21. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 46. " A. T. Palmer. |
| 22. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 47. " E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 23. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. | 48. " M. D. Devadas. |
| 24. " W. P. A. Soundara Pandiya Nadar. | 49. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 25. " K. Sarabha Reddi. | 50. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| | 51. " D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu. |
| | 52. " T. M. Narasimha Charlu. |

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53. Mr. S. Muttumanikkaachari.
54. „ M. Krishnan Nayar.
55. Rev. E. M. Macphail.
56. Mr. P. Venkatarangayya.
57. „ T. Namburumal Chettiyar.
58. „ Govindoss Chathurbujados.
59. Muhammad Usman Sahib.
60. „ Hamid Sultan Marakkayar.

61. Mr. Mr. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib.
62. Ahmad Miran Sahib.
63. Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib.
64. Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib.
65. Abdul Razaac Sahib.
66. Abbas Ali Khan.
67. Mr. K. Prabhakara Tampan.
68. The Raja of Ramnad.

Ayes—12; Noes—68

Demand No. XIX was put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XX—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICE.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—“I move that a sum of not less than Rs. 4,30,081 plus Rs. 400 be granted to the Department of Agriculture—Civil Veterinary services.”

Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar did not move the following motions standing in his name, which were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

‘1. That the following alteration be made in 34-B. Agriculture—Veterinary charges:—

(1) *Detete Rs. 1,380, local allowance (Budget page 167).*

2. *Veterinary Assistants—House-rent allowance (Budget page 169)* Rs. 312

Demand XX was then put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

III

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—“I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has assented to the amendments to the Standing Orders passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 11th March 1921.”

IV

REGULATION UNDER STANDING ORDERS.

The SECRETARY then laid on the table the following regulation made by the Hon'ble the President under Standing Order No. 68:—

“Under Standing Order No. 68 the President directs that the regulations already framed regarding the selection by the Council of Members for Select Committees under the Standing Order No. 77 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the election of Members of the Committee on Public Accounts.”

V

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

Under Standing Order No. 67 the Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter then laid on the table a statement showing the action taken by the Local Government with reference to the vote of the Legislative Council reducing the amount of the demand for a grant not exceeding 51.11 lakhs for the Forest Department, together with a certificate of His Excellency the Governor of Madras required by section 72-D (2) (a) of the Government of India Act.

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In doing so, he said:—“Under Standing Order No. 67 ‘If the Local Government or the Governor exercises the power conferred by section 11 (2) (a) and (b) of the Act in regard to demands refused or reduced by the Council, the Finance Member shall, as soon as may be hereafter, lay on the table of the Council a statement showing the action taken by the Local Government together in the case of action under section 11 (2) (a) with a copy of the certificate granted by the Governor, but no motion may be made in regard to that action.’

“With reference to this Standing Order I beg to lay on the table the following statement:—

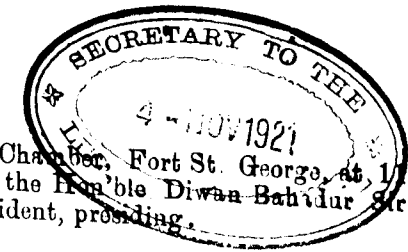
‘With reference to the vote of the Legislative Council reducing the amount of demand for a grant not exceeding 51.11 lakhs for the Forest Department, the Local Government have decided to act as if the entire demand has been assented to. Papers indicating the reasons underlying this decision have been printed and will be laid on the table which takes the form of G.O. No. 464, dated 26th March 1921.’

“The following is the certificate of His Excellency the Governor:—

‘Under section 72-D (2) (a) of the Government of India Act, I certify that the provision of Rs. 51.11 lakhs for Forests made in Demand No. IV of the Government's demands for grants for the year 1921-22, is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the administration of the Forest Department.’”

The Council adjourned at 5 p.m. to meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 29th March 1921.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 29th day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Building-sites in British Cochin.

528 Q.—Mr. M. D. DEVADAS : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(a) whether he is aware that building-sites in British Cochin are very valuable;

(b) whether he is aware of the recent decision of the Madras High Court in the case of Brunton *versus* Brunton in which land fit for building purposes and situated not far from the abandoned hospital-site was valued at Rs. 1,000 a cent; and

(c) whether it is proposed to sell the abandoned hospital-site by private treaty or public auction.

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The question of the disposal of the land is under consideration.

Communal representation in service.

529 Q.—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether the Government propose to take steps to see that Anglo-Indians and Brahmans are not recruited to the service if they are over-represented in it until such time that men from the other communities are employed to restore proper representation of all communities.

A.—The Government cannot answer a hypothetical question.

Government Diplomates in Accountancy.

530 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Registration—

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed at a meeting of Government Diplomates in Accountancy, apprentices and students of the Audit Class of the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras;

(b) whether it is a fact that seventeen auditors holding temporary certificates have been granted fresh auditors' certificates in cancellation of the temporary certificates held by them; and

(c) whether it is the intention of the Government to make them permanent certificate holders and, if so, whether they have the necessary qualification.

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A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The fresh auditors' certificates already issued are practically permanent and the holders have the necessary qualifications.

Training of health visitors.

531 Q.—Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state what the arrangements made to train health visitors are, and why only three are undergoing training.

A.—The Government have no information beyond that contained on pages 36 and 37 of the report of the Health Officer of the Madras City for 1919 and paragraphs 29 and 30 of the triennial report on civil hospitals and dispensaries in the Presidency for 1917-19.

State prisoners.

532 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member for a list of the State prisoners detained in custody, the dates from which they have been so detained, the causes for their detention, the allowances granted to them and the other means of livelihood possessed by them.

A.—There are no State prisoners at present detained in custody.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether the words 'State prisoners' are used in any technical sense and whether there are any political prisoners detained under the Agency Regulations or under Act III of 1818?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I do not think, Sir, that phraseology is an issue in this answer, but I may explain to the Honourable Member that the really significant words are 'in custody' which I take to mean detention in jail. That is the only meaning that I can apply to the expression 'in custody.' As a matter of fact recently there was one State prisoner detained in custody at the Coimbatore jail, but not very long ago he made a murderous assault upon a member of the staff of the Coimbatore jail as a consequence of which he is, I believe, at the present moment under trial. I treat that particular case therefore as outside the purview of this question, since the custody which at the moment concerns him is custody for an offence against the ordinary criminal law and is irrespective of the circumstances under which he was placed in custody as State prisoner."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know, Sir, whether all these agency prisoners are detained in custody or whether they are asked to confine themselves to a particular locality when they are in custody."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I think all their cases come under the second category, but, I am afraid, I cannot say that off-hand. I took pains to satisfy myself that the only case of detention in jail was the one which I mentioned."

Correspondence between Government of India and Provincial Government in regard to non-co-operation

533 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member with reference to the answer given by Mr. O'Donnell, Home Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st

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March last, that the Government of India were in correspondence with Local Governments in regard to arresting the spread of the non-co-operation movement—

(a) to make a statement as to whether the Government would publish the correspondence between themselves and the Government of India on the subject; and

(b) whether any general policy has been laid down by the Government of India in this matter and whether the Local Government have agreed to adopt such policy.

A.—(a) The correspondence cannot be published.

(b) The Government are not prepared to make any statement on the subject.

Andhra Province.

534 Q.—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether the Government propose to take any action for the constitution of the Telugu districts of this Presidency into a separate province during the term of the present Council.

A.—No such proposal is at present under consideration.

Construction of drain for Romparu.

535 Q.—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) whether the estimates for the construction of Romparu drain in Bapatla taluk, Guntur district, have been sanctioned; if so, whether the work will be undertaken this year;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the bad state of the Kommamur canal, Guntur district, and if any repairs are proposed to be undertaken; and

(c) whether any drain channel is projected for Bapatla and adjoining swamps.

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government are aware that the last reach of the canal is liable to troubles from silting; experimental measures have been taken and are under observation.

(c) No.

II**DEMAND XXI—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.**

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I beg to move

that a sum not exceeding 7.25 lakhs be granted to the Ministry of Development for expenditure under Co-operative Societies for the year ending 31st March 1922."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I move—

'1. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

"Sir, I believe that if this appointment is created it will serve only as a fifth wheel to a carriage. I do not think the work of the department has become so unwieldy as to be divided between two responsible officers. Rarely there is a department with two official heads. Recently Government have been creating many Honorary Assistant Registrars and I think there are many gentlemen

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who are ready to accept such honorary posts. I think such appointments will relieve the congestion of work. So I move that this grant be omitted for this appointment which in my opinion is superfluous."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR moved—

'2. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

In doing so he said:—"Sir, I propose the elimination of the office of Joint Registrar. This department is intended to be augmented by a very much larger staff than formerly existed. For in the year coming to a close the amount granted was 1.71 lakhs, whereas the amount actually spent as per revised estimate is 2.84 lakhs. Now it is proposed to spend 4.35 lakhs. In fact last year there has been a Registrar and a Personal Assistant to assist him to be working as from the 1st June 1920. I find from the administration report of the Co-operative Societies that Mr. John Mathai who was the Personal Assistant to the Registrar was appointed a Professor of the Presidency College. The question of appointing a Personal Assistant is under the consideration of the Government. I see also in the budget that there is already a Personal Assistant provided, but the salary is stated as Rs. 400—50—550. Formerly there were nine Assistant Registrars, but now there are to be 22 Assistant Registrars. In these circumstances, I do think that we are not going about the right direction of retrenchment by creating one more appointment of a Joint Registrar on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem. As was remarked by the Rev. E. M. Macphail the other day, we are having too many officers for doing a certain amount of work which can be managed by a smaller staff. It is not like the department of the Publicity Board where we considered it necessary that a very responsible officer should be there. There is a responsible officer drawing a salary of Rs. 2,500 in the person of the Registrar and there being a number of Assistant Registrars, as many as 22, an army of Inspectors from 116 to 317, I submit, Sir, that it is not necessary to create this appointment. I think that the Committee of which His Excellency is going to be the President in curtailing expenditure would find additional work thrown upon it by this appointment being now created. For these reasons, I do object to the appointment of a Joint Registrar being created by this budget."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU moved—

'3. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

In doing so he said:—"I also ask for the deletion of the provision for a Joint Registrar. I do not really know how long the proposals for the appointment of a Joint Registrar have been under contemplation. We find that, in view of the good work that has been done by the Co-operative Department, there has been an addition made to the strength of the Assistant Registrars from time to time and also of Inspectors. We have also taken advantage of the honorary services of various gentlemen who had considerable experience and interest in the working of this department. But I really think, Sir, that it is superfluous to add another post at the top when the whole department can be successfully managed by the Registrar of Societies. I also think that when we are contemplating a time when the working will be entrusted to non-official hands as early as possible—that has been the policy which has been placed before the country for several years—and when we are really looking forward to that period when the improvement of this department will very largely be entrusted to non-official members, to add one more to the already existing high paid appointments is, I think, highly unnecessary."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR moved—

'4. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

In doing so he said:—"I do not think, Sir, that it is necessary to say much. Anyhow, I may say that many people are under the impression that more attempts should be made to regulate the work of the existing societies rather than going on adding legions to these societies. This is one of the appointments, I suppose, that were created just before the last Government came to an end. If there is no objection to this appointment being cancelled now, I request that the Honourable the Minister may be pleased to do that. By that the department will not in any way suffer. With these remarks, I beg to support the motion."

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar was not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'5. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was owing to the absence of the Honourable Member not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'6. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR formally moved—

'7. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not made owing to the absence of the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'8. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 12,000 for one Joint Registrar be omitted (Budget, page 169).'

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I see there are as many as eight motions tabled and as many as six of my Honourable friends have spoken and I should think, taking all in all, I have got to meet them at least half way. But before I do so and before I make a statement on behalf of Government as to what can be done in the matter I think I have to place certain facts before the Council which will show under what circumstances this appointment has been created. My Honourable friend opposite was telling us that this was one of those appointments which were made just before the dawn of the new regime. But certainly Honourable Members did not expect that Government could be sitting in their place without doing anything especially when matters were before them for a considerable time. And if they found that during the previous months the Government had done nothing, probably they would have come forward with a criticism of delays and inaction. There is therefore no point in saying that this appointment was made just before the Ministry took charge. Sir, the problems of co-operation that are just now engaging the attention of the Registrar, among other things, may be stated as follows: firstly, the question of the utilization of the Co-operative Department for the purpose of spreading improved methods of agriculture advocated by the Agricultural Department by the organization of societies for the joint purchase and sale of good seeds and manure and implements and other

11-15 a.m.

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu] [29th March 1921]

agricultural products; secondly, the extension of co-operative methods among weavers and industrial classes; thirdly, there is the organization of co-operative building societies among the poorer classes in congested towns and villages; fourthly, the organization of supervising unions and the devolution of primary organization and supervision by un-official agency to which importance has been rightly given by my friend opposite. Next, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the duties that are at present performed by the Registrar and how it was not possible for him to do the work all alone without any assistance. The Registrar is to be in touch with several branches of the Departments of Development: Agriculture, Industries, Fisheries. Then there is the outdoor work of the Registrar which is given as follows:—

(1) attending the various conferences in the several districts which are useful as propaganda activity;

(2) inspection and supervision of unions in which non-officials take a leading part;

(3) inspection of trade unions which have to be carefully regulated as speculation in trade will lead to financial disaster—regulation is a very important function of the Registrar;

(4) inspection of district banks; the Madras Central Urban Bank having become a federation of district banks and most financial operations are getting centralised, the Registrar has to regulate the work of the district banks as regards finance; and

(5) attending inter-departmental conferences and setting schemes as regards the part to be played by the Co-operative Department in the activities of the other allied departments.

"Then, Sir, my Hon'ble friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettyiar was mentioning that there was a Personal Assistant to the Registrar until June last and that place was occupied by an eminent citizen who unfortunately for us had to take service in another department. Certainly with the great work that is before the Co-operative Department, with the vast expansion of the help which they have been rendering to the public, to the people at large, it will be conceded on all sides that some help to the Registrar would be necessary. Such being the case I think the only way to meet half way as I said is to reduce this amount to Rs. 6,000, to Rs. 500 a month. I hope this will satisfy the House and if they are prepared the resolution may be taken in the altered form."

MR. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, I am a great believer in these co-operative societies. I happen to be the President of one of these societies in my country and the future development of the poor people at least of this land depends entirely on the advance of these co-operative societies. I deprecate very much any idea of reducing the grant under the head of co-operative societies. There are co-operative societies started at present, but the spirit of co-operation is not at all understood by the people. Most people think that these co-operative societies are intended only to take loans. The idea of helping one another has not entered into the minds of people. So this is the time when men should be very busy in teaching the people the idea of co-operation. I am certainly against employing honorary helpers in this branch of work because they can do very little in this direction at present. I believe the day will come when honorary members will help us in the matter of co-operative societies; but, in the present state of things, we need more and more helpers, paid workers, in co-operative work."

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MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTYIAR:—"Sir, in view of what the Hon'ble the Minister for Development has said that he is prepared to meet half way in doing away with the Joint Registrar I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

Motion No. 2 was by leave withdrawn.

MR. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"I beg leave to withdraw my motion also."

Motion No. 1 was by leave withdrawn.

RAO BAHADUR A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I would request permission to have the motion put in this form, viz., that instead of 'Rs. 12,000' 'Rs. 6,000' be substituted and instead of 'Joint Registrar,' 'Personal Assistant' be inserted. I do not propose to withdraw my resolution because the Honourable the Minister himself admitted that the provision of Rs. 12,000 was not necessary. If permitted I shall move a formal amendment on the above lines."

THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT:—"I must rule the amendment out of order. It is entirely a proposal for expenditure which no Honourable Member is entitled to make."

RAO BAHADUR A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU then pressed his motion to a division.

MR. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I rise to a point of order. When a motion has been discussed and withdrawn by leave of the House, I wish to raise this point that has occurred very often before, whether another resolution on the same subject can be put to a division at all."

THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT:—"I really cannot help it. These members have all given independent motions. Of course, if any motion has gone to that stage, it is a well understood thing that all the Honourable Members who have notified it should withdraw it simultaneously. But now, if any Honourable Member insists upon his motion, I cannot prevent it."

The motion of Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu (No. 3) was then put to the vote and lost.

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I do not know whether I shall be in order if I say that the words 'Joint Registrar' may be there, but instead of 'Rs. 12,000', 'Rs. 6,000' may be substituted."

THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT:—"There is really no difference so far as I can see. I do not want to interfere in the debate more than I could help. The Minister has made a statement and so far as I can see Honourable Members are agreed and have accepted. Why press the motion to a division when the Minister himself agrees to abolish the appointment of a Joint Registrar and to put in another man? The real difficulty is that I do not want to permit any motion to come before the House which is against the standing orders."

DIWAN BAHADUR M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I point out, Sir, that if the Minister wishes to withdraw this item, he ought to withdraw it from the budget and bring a new demand for grant? He should bring a supplemental demand for a grant of Rs. 6,000 for a Personal Assistant. It is not that the resolution should be withdrawn. For so long as the amount is in the budget it would be open to the Minister to appoint a Joint Registrar."

THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT:—"Of course, it is entirely a matter whether the House could trust the Minister. It is not for me to tell him what to do. Since the resolution is not withdrawn, I am bound to put it to the vote. I cannot

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accept any amendment which is not in accordance with the standing orders and which may involve the idea that the Council at this stage sanctions an expenditure which it is not competent to do."

The motion (No. 4) was then by leave withdrawn.

11-30 a.m. Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I do not quite understand the position. The Honourable the Minister said that he does not want the provision, but still the Government is voting against the motion and the motion is being withdrawn. What the Honourable the Minister said was that he does not want to provide Rs. 12,000 for the Joint Registrar and so it ought to go. It means that the Honourable the Minister accepts the motion before the House. But all the same Honourable Members are withdrawing it and the Government itself is voting against it which I do not quite understand."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" The position is simply this, Sir, Honourable Members are under the impression that the pay for the month of March has been paid. That will be paid only in April, and I can assure the House, if they have confidence in the Government and if my word carries any weight with them that I will keep my word, and when this officer goes out after the 31st March, a supplemental grant will be applied for and the vote of the House will be taken for the pay of the Personal Assistant. I do not, therefore, see where the difficulty comes in."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I should like to see what the Council thinks about it. From the view I take, I cannot understand the position at all."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao's motion having been put to the House, can a similar motion be put again?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I hardly think it can be, but under the theory I have explained I have to allow it."

The motion (No. 7 of Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar) was put to the vote and declared lost.

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the motion that stands against my name reads as follows :—

'9. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the provision of Rupees 1,29,720 for Assistant Registrars be reduced by Rs. 100 (Budget, page 169).'

"Sir, my object in moving this resolution is to draw the attention of the House to the fact that whereas in the current year coming to a close there were only 9 Assistant Registrars, which I remember the Honourable the Minister corrected into 17 Assistant Registrars, it is intended to raise that number to 22 and the amount that will be incurred in connexion with that establishment is Rupees 1,29,000. Having regard to the fact that according to the Co-operative Societies' report there are as many as 44 or 45 Honorary Assistant Registrars, it is as well that the department utilizes the services of Honorary Registrars rather than engage a costly staff of Assistant Registrars. Moreover the salary which is paid to them ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 850 as regards 17 of them and 5 of them are only on Rs. 300. Besides these, there is a Deputy Assistant Registrar, a Special Deputy Collector and one Assistant Registrar. This again, as I pointed out previously, is not going in the right direction towards retrenchment. While the department feels that Honorary Registrars could be very well utilized with their amount of experience, surely Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars who have been already doing work in the department could very well be pressed into the service and their salaries will be considerably less than what is proposed to spend on the

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22 Assistant Registrars. Moreover, if I can judge the future from the past, as to 10 of these or 9 of these gentlemen they are mostly Deputy Collectors who apparently find this an occasion for getting some rest and training and judging also from the classes from which these officers are drawn, it looks as if it would be a further comfortable berth for one class of officers only, that is, the Brahman gentlemen. Therefore I want an assurance that before further appointments are made, the Ministers will do as much as they could to distribute these appointments amongst all communities so as to eliminate that objection about one community predominating in the holding of these appointments. With these observations, I formally move this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" On the question of honorary appointments, Sir, on the last occasion I mentioned to the House that it was impossible to expect non-officials to do the work of paid men. They were no doubt good in their own way, but they can only be supplementary. They cannot do the regular work of paid officers. Honorary officers cannot be expected to give that time and attention which only paid men can give, and to be at a given place and at a given hour is not an easy task. It requires a man for the purpose and certainly in the beginning of this department, at a time when we are spreading, as it were, a regular net-work of these societies all over the country to help the needy ryots, to supply them with money by these Co-operative Societies just at the time when they want it to purchase their seeds and to pay their kist and the like, I should think, Sir, that that kind of initiative work cannot be entrusted to non-officials to any large extent.

"Then, Sir, my Honourable friend said that this was given to officers who needed training and rest. As for training, Sir, every one who is drafted into the service requires it, young or old. As for the implied idleness, I am not quite sure if my Honourable friend was in any way justified in making that statement regarding a hard working set of officers. If, on the other hand, his intention is that young men full of vigour and full of energy in them should do this work and go about from village to village and invite people to become members of these societies, I would certainly agree with him and say what can be done in the direction of appointing younger men. Sir, it has always been the declared policy of Government—it may be it has been unfortunately departed from in some instances—to make no difference between one community and another, and when one community dominates over the rest, the Government will see their best to set right matters, provided efficiency does not suffer and provided competent men are available, and to secure that due representation is given to all communities, Brahmans or Non-Brahmans, Muhammadans or Christians. With this assurance I hope my Honourable friend will withdraw his resolution."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I have given notice of a similar motion to the one just now moved by my Honourable friend Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar which is as follows :—

'10. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit, the item of Rs. 1,29,720 for Assistant Registrars be reduced by Rs. 50,000 (Budget page 169).'

"My objection is not so much to appointing official agency in this matter, nor do I want the utilisation to a larger extent of non-official agencies in place of these Assistant Registrars. I do quite agree with the Honourable the Minister in charge of this department in thinking that in a progressing and developing department

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like this we must not depend very much on non-official agency alone and that there must be a separate class of officials detailed for this work. But it seems to me, Sir, that the class of officers that are now detailed for this purpose are more expensive than the class required. I am of opinion that persons of the grade of Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars who have seen some service and who have had some experience in their districts and who have youth, energy and health to their credit will be found to be more useful in spreading co-operation, in organizing Co-operative Societies, in going about the villages and speaking to the people and opening such societies than Deputy Collectors who must, in the nature of things, be presumed to be more or less older men looking forward to the day when they will be asked to retire and enjoy their well-earned rest. In this view, Sir, I have sent in this motion and if my motion is accepted, it will result in a reduction in expenditure also. But of course reduction in expenditure is not my main idea, but my idea is that a class of men less expensive than that of Deputy Collectors might be utilized for this purpose, and I think that the Honourable the Minister will agree with me and try the experiment of appointing a few Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars for this work. With these few remarks, I move my resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I believe that if the remarks of the Honourable mover of this resolution are given effect to, the efficiency of the work is likely to suffer. Certainly it is desirable that younger men should be made to do this kind of work instead of older men, but I also believe that something—not only something but a great deal—depends upon the status of officers who are doing this kind of work. If the officers who are made to do this work be called Deputy Tahsildars or even Tahsildars, I don't think they will be able to carry out that work so efficiently as if they have the status of Deputy Collectors. So I think it is desirable in the interest of the progress of work in this department that the class of officers that should be appointed as Assistant Registrars should be Deputy Collectors. But at the same time I think it is also essential that senior Deputy Collectors should not be put on for this kind of work for more reasons than one. In the first place, senior Deputy Collectors will be elderly men and will not have that physical capacity which younger officers will naturally have. Secondly, senior Deputy Collectors will be more expensive than junior Deputy Collectors, so that the lowest class of Deputy Collectors may be appointed to do this work, because they will be less costly and also they will be younger and therefore more efficient."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I have given notice of a similar resolution and I would rather say what I have to say now. Sir, there is a feeling in certain quarters that it will not be wise on our part to reduce expenditure under any of these transferred heads. I am afraid I cannot subscribe to that view."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"May I say, Sir, that such a view has not been expressed in this House?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I said only, Sir, that there was a feeling in certain quarters, and I did not say this House was of that opinion. My idea is that waste is waste, never mind who indulges in that. The ordinary ryot is not concerned with the fact whether the burden that is pressing heavily on him is due either to the action of the officers in charge of the reserved departments or of those in charge of the transferred subjects. I think the costly agency which is now employed in this department may well be displaced by an equally and even more efficient but more economical agency. I dwelt on these topics in the few observations I made at the time when the budget was introduced. The Honourable the Minister for Development then said that the Co-operative Department is in its infancy and is as it were a baby, and that the officers employed must be men of

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11-45 a.m. I take exception to both those statements. To say that this department is in its infancy, Sir, is to deny the noble work done by the distinguished officers who managed this department in the early days. I think this department started 17 years ago, is young and vigorous and is able to stand on its own feet and make headway. To say that the Deputy Collectors have more tact or command greater influence than the Tahsildars is, I think, not acting fairly to the class of Tahsildars. It is a well-known fact that the tahsildars really bear the brunt of the administration of the district. In my opinion, a senior Tahsildar is equal to an average Deputy Collector and I think it will be more to the efficient discharge of work in this department if the Tahsildars who are comparatively young, who have got ambitions, who have a career to look to, are employed rather than the elder officials who have reached the goal of their ambitions, and who have not much incentive to throw themselves entirely into their work. The change proposed by me will not make the administration less efficient. It will also conduce to great economy. Each one of these Deputy Collectors has got a duty allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem. I emphatically deny the need for giving duty allowance to these officers. Their work is not such as requires compensation. For example, as I said the other day, a Settlement Deputy Collector may be given this allowance. His work is really difficult. But this department provides a comfortable berth for these Deputy Collectors; not only have they comparatively easy work to do but get in addition to their pay Rs. 100 each per mensem. This does not seem to be good administration. The batta and other allowances of these officers have also been recently increased. Hitherto they were given double second-class fare; but now they are given double first-class fare. I say, Sir, that the department will be as efficient, and even more, if these officers are removed and their places taken up by young and energetic officers from the grade of Tahsildars. I, therefore, strongly commend the motion for the acceptance of this House."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have a motion in my name that travelling allowance (Budget page 170) be reduced by Rs. 25,000. I have put this motion for the reduction of the travelling allowance with a view to say a few words on the whole department. I think it will serve the whole purpose if we generally deal with that matter now. There is in this department a large increase in the number of Assistant Registrars and Inspectors. The first question will be, however desirable it may be to increase the work of these Co-operative Societies, what are these societies to do if the number is to be increased? The first necessity for these societies is money. I think all possible attempts have been more or less made to get as much available money as possible towards fixed deposits and shares. Therefore, unless the Government take some interest in the matter and arrange to give loans and divert at least for a certain time of the year the money that is kept in the Madras Bank or some other place or act up to one suggestion that has been made on several occasions by the co-operative conferences and Co-operative Societies, namely, to have the operations under the Land Improvements Loans Act through these Co-operative Societies, I am afraid there will be no work for more societies in this Presidency. My own impression is that there is a sufficiently large number of societies and very often many of them are acting as defaulters. Therefore there is no use in inducing defaults instead of teaching co-operation. One other thing has been said as to whether Deputy Collectors are to be preferred or Tahsildars. I am certainly of opinion that Tahsildars are quite enough. I appeal to the Honourable the Minister to create another class of Assistant Registrars on Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per month. As a result of the resolution of the Council to cut short

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the whole Land Records Department which has been accepted by the Government, practically, except some establishments, a large number of Tahsildars will be liberated. As these Tahsildars have been accustomed to travel throughout their districts and have got experience of the whole district they will be able to do real and substantial work if put in charge of the co-operative work. As regards the question of prestige, I do not agree with Mr. Krishnan Nayar in his point that the mere name of the Deputy Collector and high pay will add to the prestige of the position. I will rather say that we want people who are of a lower cadre and who are prepared to move more freely with the people as Tahsildars and Land Records Tahsildars than the Deputy Collectors. The Deputy Collectors go and camp only in certain places where there are big bungalows. Co-operative societies want only people who deal with the public at large on equal position. Therefore, I think the increase in the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors is too much to be able to do anything in any particular department however useful that department may be or may be expected to be. I think we must feel our position and have a small increase rather than a big jump as seems to have been provided in the budget. Both, therefore, in the case of these Assistant Registrars and Inspectors my point and request to the Minister will be not to create all the appointments all on a sudden. Secondly, whatever appointments are made, unless it is necessary to appoint Deputy Collectors, as many Tahsildars, especially Tahsildars from the Land Records Department who have got experience of the districts, may be appointed. Familiarity with the district and familiarity with the leading men of the district are necessary for the Assistant Registrars, and Deputy Collectors may not be so useful as Tahsildars who will generally be natives of the district and who may have been doing work in those districts. As has been pointed out there will be then also a large reduction in the item of travelling allowance. Travelling allowance for these three years has gone on by jumps. This year it is practically double of what it was last year which was in itself double that of previous years. If these Tahsildars are appointed to tour in their own districts, a large sum may be saved by way of travelling allowance. I am one of those who think that, unless it is absolutely necessary, no curtailment should be made in the transferred subject. But there should be money and more useful work should be done with that money. We need not necessarily cut short the money that has been given to this grant and it may be in the department itself but may be utilized in other ways as granting loans, if necessary, for those societies which are not able to get deposits. In these circumstances, Sir, as a matter of principle I support this motion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"So far as the mover of the resolution is concerned, he was good enough to tell us that reduction is not his main point; but he would like to have officers of a lower class. That has been sufficiently met by my esteemed friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar. It has been suggested that Tahsildars of the senior grade may be appointed instead of Deputy Collectors. A complete answer to that is found, Sir, in the fact that a senior grade Tahsildar will be getting Rs. 250 and a Deputy Collector of the lowest grade will be getting Rs. 300 and the difference between the two is only Rs. 50. How long such a Tahsildar can be expected to remain as our Assistant Registrar on Rs. 250 without hoping to become a Deputy Collector is a question which I must leave to the Council to consider."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—"The pay of the Tahsildars has been raised, the scale beginning with Rs. 300."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—"That only supports my case."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR (*interrupting*) :—"Senior Tahsildar does not mean Tahsildar of the highest grade."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—"It does not alter my point at all. A first-grade Tahsildar under the new organization gets Rs. 300 and an officer whom my friend calls a senior officer may be getting Rs. 250 or Rs. 275. With this thin margin in pay between the two, it is impossible to expect that a Tahsildar will continue for any reasonable period in this service. Without a continuity of service for at least a decent period, it is impossible to expect any good work or achieve any satisfactory results."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—"I never said that these Tahsildars should be Tahsildars throughout. Tahsildars may be appointed, and their grade may be increased."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*continuing*) :—"That does not take away my point at all. On the other hand there is much force in the point raised by my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar that a good deal depends upon the status and the pay of these officers. One Honourable Member suggested that there was nothing in pay and in the name of Deputy Collectors. These arguments which had already been advanced in this House did not find acceptance in connexion with other matters. I do not see why they should prevail now. It has also been said, Sir, that these officers who are appointed, finding a comfortable berth here, are not doing anything at all. I think I have given on the last occasion a sufficient account of the work that is being done and perhaps, in connexion with another resolution that will follow, I may have to repeat it, but suffice it to say for the present that within the space of a year and a half they have been able to double the number of the existing co-operative societies. My honourable friend from Bellary was suggesting that the department was not in its infancy and that by saying that it was in its infancy I was not doing justice to that noble band of officers who had brought this department to its present state. I may at once tell him, Sir, that I do not yield to him in my admiration and esteem for that noble band of officers who have really done excellent service to the people of this country to whom, excluding agriculture alone, this department is of direct benefit. Then, Sir, as regards appointing the officers on the lowest grade, I think I must yield to the opinion of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar that the Deputy Collectors of the last grade should be appointed as they will be young and generally vigorous. I shall be very glad indeed to see that that recommendation is given effect to. I think that will satisfy my honourable friend, the mover."

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, at the outset I said that it was not my object in bringing forward this resolution to curtail the expenditure alone at the expense of efficiency. I fully agree with the remarks of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar in thinking that in the matter of spreading the knowledge of co-operation and organizing societies, the status of the officer should also be considered. On the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Minister that young men full of energy and enthusiasm in the grade of Deputy Collectors will only be posted to this department, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

12 noon.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I beg to move—

'11. That the provision of twenty-two Assistant Registrars made in Detailed Account No. 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit be reduced by five posts on Rs. 300 each (Budget page 169).'

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"Mr. President, on page 169 you will find that for the budget year twenty-two Assistant Registrars are proposed to be entertained, of whom five on Rs. 300 each are proposed. The reason why I propose this reduction is this. During the current year and last year several co-operative credit societies have been formed and the ryots in the villages are in daily expectation of receiving loans so as to relieve themselves of their necessities. But I find that during the current year money has been very tight and there is nobody who is willing to lend or to deposit his money, so that it may be useful for these villagers and for these co-operative credit societies. So that many of these societies have got themselves registered and they are without any work. In this state of affairs I would ask whether it would be desirable, whether it would be advisable, to increase the number of staff, especially in the higher grades. If the societies are lying idle, if there are no funds available which could be advanced to these societies as loans, I ask what those Assistant Registrars have got to supervise. The Government have proposed to increase the number of inspectors who have to go about the villages, organize these societies, who will have to check these societies and audit and in general supervise them, so that these societies may be in good working order. I can see the necessity for increasing the number of inspectors, because at present their charge is rather too much. But after all, these inspectors are only entertained as temporary inspectors. They have not the status of the permanent ones, nor are they entitled to any pension or such other privileges which the permanent employees obtain in Government service, so that the Government will be better advised if they do something more substantial to improve the status and condition of these inspectors, because it is they that have to go about the villages and do the real work. If, instead of making the department top-heavy by creating more appointments, this money is to be diverted to the improvement of these inspectors, I think the money would be well spent. And to that extent, the ryots will certainly be benefited, because the inspectors will take greater interest in the work that they do. So on these two grounds, firstly on the ground that the proposed increase in the number of Assistant Registrars will not be necessary at all for the budget year, because they will have very little work to do on the account of stringency of the money market, and also on the ground that that money may be utilized to improve the status of the inspectors, I propose that these five new appointments may not be sanctioned at all.

"Yet one other point. It has been said that it is not rather expedient to employ honorary agency of Assistant Registrars for this work. I demur to that statement."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"I did not say that the honorary Registrar is for supplementing the work; in fact we are indebted to them for their work."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU (*continuing*):—"What I suggest is that the method of supplementing the work of the Assistant Registrars by employing the agency of honorary Assistant Registrars may more largely be adopted. If that is so done, if there are more honorary Assistant Registrars in the field who will help and supplement the work of the paid agency, I think there will be no necessity at all to employ these five additional Registrars on Rs. 300 each.

"For these reasons, Sir, I propose that these five posts may not at all be sanctioned for the budget year."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion. The Co-operative department which has been in existence only for the past seven years has been doing a lot of useful work, and its activities are being

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widely appreciated by the public at large. If the Co-operative department is to play a real part in the building up of the nation and in the diffusion of knowledge of agriculture and other cognate matters, it is essential that it should be properly and efficiently staffed. I found it rather difficult to follow the line of reasoning of the honourable mover. He wants to reduce the 22 Assistant Registrars provided for in the budget of the current year 1921-22 by five. While it is possible to appreciate the reason which weighed with the Government in fixing the figure at 22, I find it rather difficult to follow the honourable mover. As I understand, the idea on the part of the Government seems to be to have one Assistant Registrar for each district, and I think the administration report for the year 1920-21 gives a complete, logical and convincing answer to the motion that has just been made.

"Paragraph 3 says: 'Nine new officers have been appointed to undergo training to be eventually placed in charge of the new section sanctioned. The scheme when fully carried out in the next two years (and it is hoped that it will be carried out) will secure an Assistant Registrar for each district with the exception of The Nilgiris and Ramnad. . . The Assistant Registrars with a smaller area of a district and the large inspectorate staff sanctioned by the scheme will be better able to secure the consolidation of the working of the existing co-operative activities and the expansion of the movement throughout the Presidency.'

"If the thing is worth doing at all, there is no use in grudging the department a proper staff. It is much better that the staff is sanctioned as proposed in the budget."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, Sir, continuing what I have said on the subject I should like to point out that there are three disagreeable features in the co-operative societies as they are existing at present. One of them is the tendency of the money-borrower to dodge the society; the second is the partiality shown by certain societies in lending money; the third is the want of the sense of co-operation amongst those who form themselves into a co-operative society. There seems to be a great deal of difficulty in bringing these members together and to think out plans and methods for working the society. Sir, these require not only men but men with certain status. There is no doubt whatever that co-operative societies need men whom the people will respect. I believe, for the sake of discipline, these men should be men of position. I do not at all believe in the work of honorary workers in the case of co-operative credit. I say it once more. Also in giving the devil its due I prefer the Brahmans to take the work of these co-operative societies who can command greater discipline."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am against this resolution. Of all the departments of Government that have recently come into existence the Co-operative department is doing the best work. I agree whole-heartedly with the Hon'ble the Minister. In fact, as my friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar said, there ought to be one Assistant Registrar for every district. In that, I am sorry, Ramnad has been excluded, and it is only on account of the absence of the Assistant Registrar specially for this district that the increase in the number of societies has not been very patent. I hope more provision will be made, so that the beneficial work of this department may not in any way suffer. But in the matter of recruitment to the ranks of the Assistant Registrars, I do not feel that there is much difference between a Tahsildar and a Deputy Collector. There is not much in name. We want vigorous men, whether Tahsildars or Deputy Collectors. I think even among the ranks of non-officials there will be many who will be willing to accept appointments as Assistant Registrars on a starting salary

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of Rs. 300 which rises to Rs. 850. There are very many young men, more especially in Madura and the South, who are very great believers in co-operation, and such people, if offered good appointments, will do very useful work.

"I believe that during the time of Mr. Vedachala Ayyar many poor classes who were supposed to have criminal tendencies have been reclaimed by the benefits of co-operation extended to them. I think it will be bad economy to cut down the grant that is required under this head."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I must thank the Honourable Members of this House for the support they have been pleased to give me in this matter. I see that Honourable Members recognize the needs of the agriculturists. This is the department which directly helps the tax-payer. The agriculturists and the ryots are the real people that form the backbone of this nation.

"One suggestion has been thrown out just now and that is that we might as well try non-officials as Assistant Registrars. I can assure my honourable friend that in the next appointments that are to be made an attempt will be made to see whether we cannot find fit persons from among those non-officials who might have had experience on these lines and who could discharge their duties without detriment to efficiency.

"Sir, as there has not been much opposition, it is not necessary for me to go into anything like a detailed defence of the proposal to increase the number of the Assistant Registrars. However, I feel bound to bring to the notice of this House certain facts which will convince it of the need for them. At present, Sir, we have as many as 5,600 societies, 138 unions, 641 urban banks and 30 (including the provincial bank) central banks. The total number of the members comes to 329,886 and the total amount of share capital is 50½ lakhs, while the total amount of loans advanced to various societies and members reaches the decent figure of Rs. 1,37,11,031. That ought to be a sufficient excuse for a demand for so many officers and that ought also to be a sufficient proof to show that we are laying our axe at the root of that being who is known as the Indian Shylock, the village sowcar. In this connexion, I may bring to the notice of the House that until 31st December 1920 something like Rs. 19,30,000 has been taken from the Bank of Madras and that an undrawn sum of Rs. 9,39,000 in the same bank was also at our disposal which makes up a total of about Rs. 28,70,000. That will be sufficient answer to the point raised by the honourable mover of this resolution as regards the tightness of the money market. Our desire is that there should be a net work of co-operative societies in every district and in every taluk so that people may not go to the village sowcar. With this information and with the support given to me in this House, I feel that the resolution will be withdrawn or voted against."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I still maintain that there is no necessity to entertain five Assistant Registrars for the budget year. It is not my point that this Co-operative department is not doing good work. It is doing immensely good work. I said about the stringency in the money market, but the Hon'ble the Minister has said that the Madras Bank has got 9 lakhs with it for the distribution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (interrupting):—"Twenty-eight lakhs, Sir, of which 19 lakhs are already distributed and there is yet a sum of Rs. 9 lakhs undrawn."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"But what is this 9 lakhs of rupees for the whole Presidency? Rupees 9 lakhs is nothing. Let the Hon'ble the

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Minister only ascertain how many societies are really in need of money. Let him calculate the amount that is needed for it. Let him find out whether there is any other source except the Rs. 9 lakhs by which the demand of the several co-operative societies may be met. Then the House will understand that what I say will be correct, viz., that there is at present no need at all of the present proposal. On the other hand, there is a great deal of necessity for strengthening the work that we have started. Instead of finding out whether the work that we are doing is sound, the Government, Sir, go on multiplying the officers at the top and want to have an Assistant Registrar for each district. It may be good, but let us pause and find whether what we have been doing is on a sound basis and that is what I am suggesting. Therefore I submit that the entertainment of five Assistant Registrars may be postponed for the present. For the coming year they are not at all necessary. It was said that the present honorary Assistant Registrars will not be sufficient or may not be expected to do as much work as paid agency. I do not think, Sir, it can be a correct fact and so I am sorry I cannot withdraw the motion.

"Another point has not been answered at all. Why should not the Government make more stable the position of these inspectors who are going about the villages in the sun as well as in the rain and do the spade work, why should they be not made permanent and the posts be made pensionable and more attractive? You want money for this purpose, but you go on adding men to the cadre of the deputy collectors more and more. I suggest that this kind of top-heavy administration is not at all conducive to the better working of this department."

The motion No. 11 was then put to the vote and declared lost.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'12. To reduce by Rs. 47,000 the provision of Rs. 1,29,720 for Assistant Registrars (Budget page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was not moved owing to the absence of the member and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'13. To reduce to 12 the number of Assistant Registrars for whom Rs. 1,29,720 is provided (Budget page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'14. To reduce by Rs. 98,261 provision of Rs. 1,96,521 for salaries of inspectors (Budget page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. P. Siva Rao was not moved owing to the absence of the member and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'15. To reduce to 150 the number of inspectors for whose salaries provision of Rs. 1,96,521 has been made (Budget page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'16. That under 34-C. Agriculture—Co-operative Credit the item of Rs. 1,96,521 for inspectors be reduced by Rs. 75,000 (Budget page 169).'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. O. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'17. Travelling allowance to be reduced by Rs. 25,000 (Budget page 170).'

[Mr. T. Arumainatha Pillai]

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Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"Sir, I beg to move—

'18. That the grant of Rs. 7,24,859 in 34-C. Co-operative Credit be reduced by a sum of Rs. 1,08,000 (Budget page 170.)'

"I move this resolution, not with a view to cut down the amount of Rs. 1.08 lakhs from the demand under the Co-operative department, but to mention certain things which I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will examine and if possible adopt, if they are worth adopting. Much has been said, and we have only a few minutes back heard about the dispute as to whether Deputy Collectors or Tahsildars should be appointed as Assistant Registrars and I believe the Hon'ble the Minister has also paid some tribute to the work done by the honorary Assistant Registrars. In this connexion, Sir, may I not bring to the notice of the department and its head that there are very capable young men, very well educated and with broad ideas and imagination and a wide outlook who move with the people and know very well their conditions. I would put it to him whether it is not possible to draft such men into the service and utilize their services. I mean, Sir, that many of our young men have taken to independent professions but on account of the prevailing tendency in the Indian atmosphere they have also taken to practical politics. I put it to the Minister, Sir, whether it would not be possible for him to entertain these young men on, say, Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 and introduce new blood and new ideas into this department. The success of this department will depend on the tact and sympathy and also the broad-mindedness of those who carry on its work, and I do not believe, Sir, it could be suggested of our young men now that their views are very narrow or that they are unprogressive. These young men ought to be drafted into the service even at the risk of the prestige, which is supposed to attach to the rank of a Deputy Collector or a Tahsildar. I do not want to fight, Sir, about whether it should be a Deputy Collector or a Tahsildar. They may be good in their own way. But I believe they have both certain faults in common. It is admitted that this department is quite a new one. It is still in its infancy and its existing officers have been brought up in a certain groove and we all know that when certain persons have been brought up in a certain groove it is very difficult for them to get out of it. I do not wish in any way to dogmatise, but I believe that a Deputy Collector or a Tahsildar with his official powers and his magisterial powers rather considers himself a sort of big man in his own district and in his own division and it is not possible for him perhaps to think otherwise and come down to the level of the ordinary poor village ryots whose needs he is expected to care for. On the other hand, the young democrats, who live and move with the people, understand their difficulties and are ready to do whatever they can for them. Some of them have taken up social service and they have done it very creditably too. Then why should it not be possible for us to introduce these young men into the service?

"Then, Sir, some years back I had the pleasure of listening to a lecture on co-operation by our present Council Secretary when he was Registrar of Co-operative Societies and it gave us an insight into the methods of co-operation. A few days back when this budget was put into my hands I was curious to see whether all the principles there laid down as the guiding principles of the department were still observed. I took the case of my own district, Chingleput, and it was only yesterday, Sir, that I was told to my surprise that when people want to become members of the co-operative credit societies, one of the first instructions given to the managers of the societies is to ascertain whether any man who wants to become a member of a co-operative credit society has got property. I am only putting it to you, Sir, for information and inquiry, but not as a matter of complaint. I believe, Sir, that the success of a co-operative credit society ought to depend on

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the honesty and co-operation of its members. It is simply because each member ought to know the other members who form a society that village societies are encouraged rather than town societies where such mutual knowledge is not expected. We expect that the villagers know one another and we expect that each villager knows the honesty of his neighbour and whether he will be able to fulfil his obligation or not. If that purpose is lost sight of, then I submit, Sir, that a loop society is nothing but a joint stock company. We do not want to start joint stock companies, but we want co-operative societies to help the poor people. So far as poor people are concerned, as also the depressed classes—and there are poor people in all classes—if the possession of property is made a condition precedent for admission to a society, then I would impress it upon the Minister that the purpose for which the department was created has not been served at all. Therefore I would suggest Sir, that the Honourable the Minister would kindly undertake to look into the matter and see that these societies are not turned into joint stock companies.

"One thing more, Sir. We have heard a good deal about co-operative credit societies. When we look into the budget for the object of these societies, we find that Agriculture and Co-operation are put together side by side, and this department is intended to help the agricultural people as well. We have heard much about co-operative credit societies and we have heard a great deal about co-operative house building societies. But, Sir, have we the number of co-operative credit agricultural societies in which the poor people are helped?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"May I mention, Sir, for the information of the Honourable Member that the number of agricultural co-operative societies is far larger than that of any other kind of co-operative societies?"

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI (*continuing*):—"Thank you, Sir, but so far as my district is concerned, I can very well say that such societies as have been started there do not at all carry on agricultural work. For instance, we know that in every village there are lots of people who cannot buy their own ploughing implements and seed. I will put it to you, Sir, why should not these co-operative credit societies do these things, as the urban society here in Triplicane does? Why should not the co-operative societies stock the seed and distribute it to the members for their use and get back its value? For instance a poor man in a village has to go

12-30 p.m.

to the sowcar in the village to borrow his seed and he has to pay a heavy rate of interest when he returns it in the shape of paddy. Co-operative societies ought to be able to remedy these evils. These are some of the points which I wanted to raise. As I already told the Honourable the Minister, I do not want to cut short any amount in his department."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"May I acknowledge, Sir, that it is a very reasonable attitude which my Honourable friend has taken, saying that he does not want any reduction at all by this motion, but that he wanted to bring to the notice of this House and myself certain defects believed to be existing in the department. He has himself admitted that the department is new, in the sense that most of the societies, in fact, 2,000 societies, were started within the last year. Certainly 'to err is human' and in the beginning of this association mistakes are apt to be committed. But I may tell you that at the head of this department is one who really loves the people of this land and who with his knowledge of Tamil goes and sits on pials of the ryots, freely mixes with them and tries to induce them to join the societies and who can be stated to be a true friend of the ryots. I will communicate these observations to him and I will see that

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these defects, if existing, are remedied. Two or three instances are mentioned. One is that we might select and draw into the service capable young men from the non-officials, who have been doing good work in the country. I have already stated, Sir, that many such young men have not come to my notice. If a person is found to have knowledge of co-operation and if he is found to be capable of discharging his duties well, then certainly the Government will be very pleased to encourage such young men. Such cases, however, have not yet come before me. If they do come, we would be certainly glad. But at the same time, it must not be forgotten that the claims of those who have been serving Government faithfully, loyally and efficiently should not be overlooked.

"The other point that was raised was that certain limitations of property qualifications are standing in the way of people becoming members. I will bring to the notice of my Honourable friend that in the recent societies that have been formed by the Labour Assistant Commissioner in the Gōdāvari district, no such limitations are obtaining. In fact the evidence shows that these poor people who could not claim any property as their own have yet got virtues, such as honesty, thrift, etc., and these societies are getting on well. It will be the duty of this department to increase these societies.

"As for agricultural societies, I have already mentioned that these classes of societies are already very numerous indeed. Probably my Honourable friend is thinking of trading societies. These too are at present coming into existence though their number is not large at present. It is only after the benefits accruing from these agricultural societies have been fully recognised that they are coming into existence. As a matter of fact, there is a society somewhere in the south which has started a factory on co-operative lines. There is one at Kallakurichi to be started. All these are being considered by the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, and I am certain that as far as funds permit and as far as the exigencies permit, due attention will be paid to all that has been said by my Honourable friend."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"I am really thankful to the Honourable the Minister for his kind assurance."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, I had not the least intention of interposing in this debate. But after listening to the remarks which have fallen from the lips of the Honourable mover in regard to that class of public servants whom I have the honour to represent in this Council, I feel it my bounden duty to protest against them. If I understood the Honourable Member aright, I think he was trying to show that Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars are not fitted to carry out the purpose of co-operative movement, in that they put on airs about themselves, they do not mix freely with the people, they do not deign to go and ascertain the real wants of the people and that, therefore, it was absolutely necessary, in the interest of the development of co-operation, to supplant them by young men who possess modern political ideas. I will merely answer that charge by one single statement. I believe from the time co-operative movement was set on foot in this province up to this day when we are congratulating ourselves so whole-heartedly on the results that department has been able to achieve so far, it was the deputy collector, who was indented upon, to organize the department and who brought it to the successful level in which we find it to-day. I would, therefore, say, Sir, that the deputy collector is really not as bad as he has been depicted before this House as being one who lacks the interest of the people or who does not move with the people and does not know their wants. On the other hand, he is one of the people, he knows the

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people, he lives with the people and deems it an honour to do what he can for the elevation of the people. If really the time has come when the official class should make room for the non-official, I, for one, have not the least objection; but to say that the official class which had until now given its best energies, its talents and interest for the development of this department should go because it does not possess that angle of vision which is necessary for the successful conduct of that department is what I strongly deprecate."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"I must congratulate the class of Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars in having such a warm advocate in the Hon'ble Mr. Habib-ul-lah to protect and to applaud all this work that has been done by them."

The motion was by leave of the Council withdrawn.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR moved—

'19. This Council resolves that the provision of Rs. 7,58,500 under 34-C. Co-operative Credit—Agriculture—be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 (Budget page 170).'

'20. That the grant of Rs. 31,13,000 under 34. Agriculture, be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 (Budget page 159).'

In doing so, he said:—"I find from the budget that five new appointments are going to be made. I would respectfully suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister that the experiment be made as regards these five appointments at least, by recruiting the officers from the cadre of Tahsildars. I think that Tahsildars on Rs. 200 and Rs. 240 might be appointed from that class and the results watched for a year. If at the end of the year the Hon'ble the Minister finds that the experiment has been really a success and if the people whom he has recommended are able to do as well and even better than the old class of officials then, I think he may consider the question of further extending the experiment. With that idea I move this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I am afraid, Sir, I cannot accept the suggestion. I am very sorry for it, but I can assure him that these five appointments will be given to the last grade of deputy collectors."

The motions were then by leave of Council withdrawn.

Demand XXI, namely, that a sum not exceeding Rs. 7.25 lakhs be granted under Co-operative Societies was then put to the Council and granted *nem. con.* subject to such reductions as the Honourable the Minister had undertaken to make.

DEMAND XXII—CINCHONA.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I doubt whether any person other than he who is responsible for this Cinchona department ought to make this demand, and I hope I am not divulging domestic secrets when I say that the exact responsibility for that department is perhaps not yet finally settled. But as I am put down on the agenda paper to move for the grant on the subject, I do so. I move—

'that a sum not exceeding 3.95 lakhs be granted under the head 'Cinchona'.'

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know whether it is a transferred subject?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"It is in the reserved list and for all practical purposes, I believe, a central subject."

Demand XXII, namely that a sum not exceeding 3.95 lakhs be granted under 'in Cinchona' was put to the Council and carried *nem. con.*

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DEMAND XXIII—INDUSTRIES.

12-45 p.m.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—
"I beg leave to move—

'for a grant of Rs. 19,62,721 for the Department of Industries and Fisheries for the year ending 31st March 1922.'

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU moved—

'1. That in the demand under 35-B. Industries—Fishery Bureau, the grant of Rs. 3,000 proposed under contingencies—stocking of tanks, be reduced by Rs. 100 (Budget page 173).'

In doing so, he said :—"Sir, my object in moving this resolution is to draw the attention of this House to some correspondence which Honourable Members might have noticed in the public press as to the proposal to meddle with the Mahanandi tank in the Kurnool district. There have been various protests raised in that part of the country and various representations made urging that the Fisheries department ought not to extend their operations to that tank. Those of the Honourable Members who had the privilege of witnessing that tank which is at a distance of about ten miles from Nandyal and three miles from Gazulapalli railway station, would have found that it is one of the most picturesque tanks and one of the best bathing places in the Presidency. There is a spacious temple and a spacious compound round that tank, and it is only during recent years that it was repaired and improved at considerable cost. I happened to go there last year for the Andhra Conference presided over by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and thousands of people were always bathing in the tank. It was remarkable to find that, notwithstanding that fact, the water was always clean and transparent and unrivalled. The water is said to possess some mineral properties. From time immemorial it has maintained its reputation for purity and it will be a misfortune now if any attempts are made to meddle with such tanks which are really national assets and which ought to be improved rather than affected by such operations. There was some correspondence about it in the Press, and I do not think the Hon'ble the Minister has given a final decision regarding that point. It is with the object of drawing the attention of the House to that fact and to request the Honourable the Minister to give instructions to his departments not to meddle with that tank that I have thought it necessary to move the resolution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I beg to associate myself, Sir, with the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao. Mahanandi is a place of pilgrimage and it is held in high reverence and esteem by the people not only of the district but of the surrounding districts as well. I therefore appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister to see that nothing is done to make the place less sacred in the eyes of the people, or to make it appear that the Government do not attach the same regard to that place as the people have a right to expect the Government to do."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, besides the information that is now given to the House, I am in possession of other information which I think I must place before it. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishna Rao was thinking that we are going to pollute the sacred tank of Mahanandi. Nothing of the kind at all. This Government, for the matter of that, all the Governments in India regard the Proclamation of Queen Victoria as the great charter of this country, and that has ordained that there shall be no religious interference in this land by the authorities in power. That will always be kept in view by every officer and Government, and to say that this Government is now

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trying to spoil that tank or to make it less sacred, as my friend has put it, is unjustifiable. The point is this. There is some apprehension. I know there were public meetings, and resolutions were passed and communicated to me. The temple has a tank inside it and has two tanks outside. These three tanks are supplied with water from a perennial source or a fountain. But the Government are not in any way interfering with any of these tanks at all. What they propose to do is to construct ponds at a place which will be three-quarters of a mile from this place and there will be no market, no curing of the fish or anything of the kind. The work in the ponds will be purely what they call piscicultural merely and the fry will be taken and introduced in the big canal near by—the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal. This is done mainly as an anti-malarial measure—and malaria is believed to have been caused by a certain kind of larvæ and these fishes are known to be capable of destroying the larvæ and of improving the health. So, in the interest of health and in the interest of the fishing industry, it was found that this place has got a sufficient supply of water and the scheme was undertaken. But the water-supply will not in the least be interfered with. As a matter of fact, negotiations were entered into with the Dharmakartas of the place, and I have got in my hands a letter written by the Tahsildar in which he gives the conditions that were insisted upon by the temple trustees, whose main object seems to be to see that the water-supply to the temple, its tanks inside and outside, shall in no way be affected. They also want that no killing of fish should be allowed there. Such or nearly such are the conditions insisted upon by the temple authorities, and I can assure my Honourable friend that if we are not able to come to a definite and satisfactory arrangement with them, it will not be done at all and we shall have to seek other places. On the other hand, if the authorities are prepared to accept the terms proposed by Government, the work will be undertaken. In any case I can assure my Honourable friends that the religious susceptibilities of any place or community will not be offended by this Government."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon'ble the Minister whether there is any objection for carrying on these experiments somewhere near the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal? I have been to Mahanandi, and I do not know whether there would be sufficient quantity of water for the three existing tanks and for the new tanks which are proposed to be constructed. If there is no objection, I do not see why the experiment should not be transferred somewhere near the canal itself, as the fishes have again to be carried to the canal itself."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, it was originally tried in a place called Sunkosula which is near the canal and at another place called Podur also near the canal. It has been found that the kind of water that is required for the culture of these fishes was not available there. The soil was not good and the water was not good and sufficient. The water at Mahanandi is supposed to be good for this purpose. I myself do not know how far this place is from the canal itself. It will probably be about three or four miles from the canal. As I have said, the Government are not particular in any way except that a good work will suffer if it is to be taken to any other place where there is no sufficient and good water."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I am glad to have that assurance from the Hon'ble the Minister. I would further inform him that he will do well to wait and examine the matter himself more closely before taking the question of meddling with the tank. It has been pointed out that the water is good. We have also been told that there was a letter from the Dharmakartha

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communicated through the Collector accepting certain conditions. I had the opportunity of seeing him and I would rather hesitate before I ask this House to accept the communication sent by the Dharmakarthi and the Tahsildar himself. Therefore I would suggest that the Hon'ble the Minister himself will examine the matter more closely and the fact that in the interest of the Fisheries Department he should do something ought not to form any criterion in this connexion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"My Honourable friend has asked me to go and see the place myself. I am prepared to pay my pilgrimage to Mahanandi and decide the matter myself."

The resolution was then by leave withdrawn.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. Devadoss was deemed to have been withdrawn as the Honourable Member was absent :—

'2. To omit Rs. 60,000, Contingencies, for 'Other Schemes' (Budget page 173).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'3. That the following item be deleted :—

Duty allowance of Rs. 1,320 to the Principal, Soap Institute—35. B (Budget page 175).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was not moved and was, therefore, deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'4. That the following duty allowance be omitted :—

25-B. Industries—Oil and Soap Industry—Duty allowance to Principal, Rs. 1,320 (Budget page 175).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'5. That the following item be deleted :—

Rupees 2,400 of two Supervisors under 35-D. Establishment (Budget page 176).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadoss was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'6. To reduce by Rs. 23,600 provision of Rs. 43,600, for 'Other Contingencies' (Budget page 177).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'7. That Rs. 9,600 under travelling allowance—Madura Industrial Institute—be reduced to Rs. 3,000, 35-B. Industries (Budget page 178).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadoss was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'8. To reduce by Rs. 10,000 lump provision of Rs. 30,000 for purchase of Tanning Machinery (Budget page 179).'

Demand No. XXIII for a sum not exceeding Rs. 19.98 lakhs was then put to the Council and granted nem. con.

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DEMAND XXIV—LABOUR AND ALLIED DEPARTMENTS.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, I move for the vote of the House :—

'For a grant not exceeding 6.47 lakhs under the head of 'Labour and allied Departments.'

"The amount is made up on page 12 of the printed notice. At the end in the remarks column you will find printed reference to the details in the budget."

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'1. That the following item be deleted :—Duty allowances of Rs. 2,400, Rs. 6,720 under Salaries, Rs. 4,800 under Establishment, under 37-C. Commissioner of Labour (Budget page 182).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was not moved and therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'2. To omit duty allowance to Assistant Commissioners of Labour, Rs. 6,720 (Budget page 182).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'3. That the sum of Rs. 13,200 made up of Rs. 11,400 and Rs. 1,800 for six Tahsildars in No. 37-C. be deleted (Budget page 182).'

The following resolution standing in the name of Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'4. That the following items of duty allowances be omitted :—

To clerks (Budget page 182) Rs. 120.

To peons (Budget page 182) Rs. 480.'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu was not moved and therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'5. That the following items of duty allowances be omitted :—

To two clerks (Budget page 182) Rs. 120.

To eight peons (Budget page 182) Rs. 480.'

The following resolutions standing in the name of Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar were deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'6. That travelling allowance of Rs. 27,900 under 37-C. Commissioner of Labour be reduced to Rs. 10,000 (Budget page 182).'

'7. That conveyance allowance to Personal Assistant Rs. 900 be deleted (Budget page 182).'

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, I beg to move :—

'8. That in 37-C. Miscellaneous Departments, the voted items in the provision for Commissioner of Labour and his assistants and subordinates, establishment and allowances and contingencies, amounting in all to Rs. 1,98,520 (4,08,300—300—30—1,50,000—59,750), be omitted (Budget page 18).'

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"As a matter of fact I sent a notice for the abolition of this department altogether. It is only because two items were considered non-votable that the resolution stands as it is now. This department of the Commissioner of Labour is a new department. I believe the original idea in creating the department was to look after the interests of the depressed classes which were not receiving due attention. Originally there was one Commissioner for the purpose of seeing whether especially the question of house-sites for the depressed classes and allied matters could not be forwarded by special attention being paid to these. Then, Sir, two Deputy Collectors were added to help this Commissioner and they were appointed for a year or two. So far as we can gather, the work of this Commissioner and his assistants was very little indeed. And that was due to the fact that sufficient provision was not made for actual expenditure in the department entrusted to this Commissioner. What the depressed classes wanted was acquisition of sites on which their *cheris* stood and sale to them of sites, either for money or gratis. They also wanted better provision for water-supply and also more schools.

"Now instead of providing more money for these purposes, what the Government did was they gave them one or two officers. These officers, especially in Tanjore and other places, having been in their posts—I don't exactly know how long ago these officers were appointed—but ever since these officers were appointed, they were only making proposals for the acquisition of sites and doing such things. No real advancement has been made so far. Probably the Government recognized that it would be very hard to justify the existence of this department from the way in which they have been getting on. So a device was thought of and at once the name of the officer was changed and he was called the Commissioner of Labour. Just then labour was asserting itself and there were organizations in Madras and elsewhere in the form of trade unions and things like that. Government evidently wanted to give this work to this department and the department was created. But it had practically no work to do and there were no funds to pay for expenditure by the department. Some work had to be found and they found it in this way. In the Labour Department also the public are not aware whether much has been done by this department or the Commissioner of Labour. There have been strikes, there have been all sorts of agitation for better pay and better prospects on the part of the labourers. There is the outstanding question of the recognition of the trade unions and there is also the loud cry on the part of the labourers and the employers that there should be some sort of legislation in these matters. The public are not aware that anything has been done by this department of labour for meeting the difficulties that have been felt and have found expression in the press and on the platform regarding these matters. Well, Sir, it did not stop there. The provision for this department has been going on increasing. I believe last year this department had a Commissioner and two assistants. That is my impression. Now we find provision made in the budget for the next year for a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, two personal assistants, six Assistant Commissioners, six Tahsildars, forty revenue inspectors and 45 clerks and so on. It is going to be a very big establishment indeed. I cannot for one moment see, Sir, the necessity for such a big establishment like this. As I have already said, the Government is not able to find money really to help the depressed classes and the labourers. What is the provision that is made for the depressed classes? We find a lakh and a half of rupees provided for this year for the betterment of this class. Now this newly-created establishment is going to cost Rs. 3,48,000. I beg to submit, Sir, that such a

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disparity between the provision made for the actual betterment of the class for whose benefit this department was created and the actual charges of the department itself, is something which, I think, the Council cannot swallow easily.

"Then, Sir, we do not know what other work this Labour Department has to do. As I said, it was started for the benefit of the depressed classes and is now doing some labour work and I don't know what other works are going to be entrusted to this department. As it is, this huge establishment seems unnecessary. Probably it is going to be saddled with the work of other departments. The Council only a few days back said that a department like the Land Records Department was quite unnecessary as they thought that some other department could do the work. Here also I submit, Sir, that for the betterment of the depressed classes we have got the Collector and the local boards. The local boards can very easily look after the water-supply and elementary education of these depressed classes. All that the local boards require is money. It is not that the local boards are not prepared to help the depressed classes; they will be very glad to do so; only they have not got sufficient funds. If the Government will give them funds, the local boards will be very glad to look after the water-supply and education of these people. The money may be earmarked for the use by the local boards and they may be asked to do the work.

"Then with regard to the acquisition of sites and other things, the Collector can very well look after that; and I don't think, Sir, that a department like this is necessary for that purpose. I beg to submit, Sir, that hitherto we have been getting on without this department and if any further work has to be done, for instance, the Co-operative Department which is going to be expanded—we are going to have 22 assistant registrars and additional inspectors—certainly these will be available to do work like this. If there is work to be done in the villages, certainly they are there. In addition to all these, I beg to submit, Sir, I don't see any necessity whatever for a department like this. It is for that reason that I gave notice that the whole cost of this department should be deleted. Since two of the items in that are non-votable, I have not been allowed to move the resolution in the terms in which it stood."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, within the very short space of time allowed to me it would be absolutely impossible to tell the House the genesis or the origin of this department, or to tell the House the various activities in which it has been engaged. I am now dealing only with the Assistant Labour Commissioners under the Labour Commissioner. They and their establishment are concerned almost solely with the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. Sporadic attempts have been made by this Government for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, but without very much result. In Kistna, after consideration, a special officer was appointed for the purpose of acquiring house-sites for the Panchamas. Then, Sir, a special officer, Mr. Grey, who is now the Deputy Commissioner of Labour, was appointed to make a special enquiry as regards the economic condition of the depressed classes in selected districts. While this work was going on, a special officer again was deputed to enquire into the conditions of the Panchamas in the mirasi district of Tanjore and in consequence of a report which we received, a special officer was again appointed to Tanjore for acquiring house-sites and he made certain proposals. In the meantime a resolution was moved in the Imperial Legislative Council in which my honourable friend Mr. Ramarayaningar took part and my Hon'ble Colleague Sir Lionel Davidson (who was not then 'Sir') sponsored the Madras Government and acted as its representative. The proceedings were sent to the Madras Government. We invited the opinion of all officers, of all persons and of

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all bodies who had anything to say with regard to this subject. The whole of it was carefully reviewed by very experienced and able officers in the Board of Revenue, if I may say so without impertinence, and the conclusion the Board of Revenue came to was this: 'After a careful consideration of the problem of the depressed classes, the Board (i.e., the Board of Revenue) has come to the conclusion that however liberal or generous may be the attitude of Government towards them and whatsoever may be the facilities accorded for the improvement of their condition, the effect desired is not likely to be produced so long as there is no separate agency to carry out the policy of Government in this respect. Proposals for improving the conditions of these classes have in the past from time to time received the approval of the Government, but owing to the lack of special organization and effort, they have failed in effect'. Then they go on. 'It is, therefore, essential that a special officer with a suitable officer under him should be appointed as protector of the depressed classes'; there is something said as regards the energy either of the Collectors or of the local bodies in connexion with this matter, which I need not read. The Government entirely agreed with the view taken by the Board of Revenue and they appointed a special officer to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the Assistant Commissioners or of the Deputy Collectors who were specially employed in these various districts. At that time Chingleput had also come in under the scheme. The work which was continued has proved very successful. I shall only read to you the administration report sent by Mr. Paddison, the first Labour Commissioner, which unfortunately covers only the period up to June 1920. I am not going to trouble the House with reading the whole. Here is the paper which I am ready to place in the hands of the Honourable Members if they desire to read it. One portion of it, I think I ought to draw the attention of the House to. In consequence of this co-ordination, in consequence of the special Deputy Collectors who were appointed for the purpose of the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes in the various districts, this result followed. This was within the course of about six months. He says, 'There is a marked improvement in the general demeanour of the Panchamas. There are visible signs of growing self-respect, thrift, self-reliance and hopefulness in the community. Most of the Panchamas in about 20 villages (here he is speaking of the Panchamas in the Tanjore district) have given up drink. Not only some Panchamas have applied for house-sites, but also other Panchamas are anxious to become members of co-operative societies started in their villages. That, I think, is sufficient justification for a special agency for improving the condition of the depressed classes. This report, I understand, has been placed on the editors' table.

"I am concerned now with the Assistant Commissioners of Labour and their staff. The primary duties of the Assistant Commissioners of Labour will be these: of organizing co-operative credit societies for the depressed classes with a view to financing the acquisition of house-sites and building of houses where additional houses are required; of organizing co-operative credit societies for the depressed classes for general purposes; of organizing co-operative buying and selling societies wherever possible; of investigating the necessity for the improvement of the water-supply of the depressed classes and of making recommendations to the presidents of local boards in cases in which action is required; of providing communications for paracheris in cases in which these are shut off from the high-roads by private lands over which the Panchamas can only pass on sufferance; of preparing schemes of improvement for the depressed classes where it is possible; of assisting the members of the depressed classes in obtaining lands; of promoting education by starting schools for the depressed classes; and generally of promoting the interests

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of the depressed classes in any other way that suggests itself. It was found, Sir, that when some of these functions were put upon either the Collectors or the Divisional Officers or the local boards, those officers or bodies considered these to be mere odd jobs to be taken up in leisure moments, in fact this was extra work and, as a matter of fact, no real progress was made and therefore it is that we are obliged to have a special agency and that special agency we must have if there is to be any improvement in the condition of our fellow citizens who are fellow-citizens only before the law but who in fact are not far removed from agrarian serfdom. After all the Labour Commissioner was appointed only in February or March 1919. Work in the three districts which I mentioned has been going on for some time. We want an organizing agency for the purpose of supervising the work that is being done. As a matter of fact a considerable number of co-operative societies intended for the Panchama population, more especially to enable them to acquire the house-sites in which they and their forefathers have been for generations living, have been formed. Educational institutions specially intended for the Panchama population in the villages have been started. There is a special provision made this year for an additional one lakh of rupees under the head of Education for the depressed classes in the villages. Besides these, we have provided for about three lakhs of rupees for the acquisition of sites for Panchamas on loan account or loan basis. All this work requires a special agency to take care of, and to raise the depressed classes to a realization of their rights. That is the chief function of these Assistant Commissioners of Labour and they are doing their duty excellently because they are picked officers—picked on account of their enthusiasm and sympathy for these classes. They are, as my friend reminds me, Deputy Collectors; but we are paying them a special allowance for the purpose of doing this particular duty."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"I oppose this motion. It is a standing disgrace to our Presidency that we have been neglecting the depressed classes."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Hear, hear."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"I do not wish to use the term depressed classes, because they are really our labouring classes. They are the real labour of this country. We have been neglecting their condition so long. We have been treating them in some cases as slaves and in many cases as untouchables. We have never given them the rights of citizenship though in law all are said to be equal. Sir, it is a year ago that the Government took up this matter seriously and a special department was organized. My complaint is that sufficient funds have not been placed at the disposal of this department for the purpose of acquiring the cheris and house-sites for the Panchamas. That is really my complaint against Government. More funds ought to have been placed at the disposal of this department for the purpose of really doing good as soon as possible, because the funds at the disposal of this department, I find, are so small. Even in places like Madras we want several lakhs of rupees in order to relieve the real grievances of the cheri people. Sir, it may be known to the members of this House that recently the civil courts have been passing decrees for the eviction of these cheri people. People who have been in occupation for 20, 30 and sometimes over 100 years have been asked to quit after a few days' notice. If anybody goes round these cheris he will be struck by the fact that there are houses worth Rs. 2,000, Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 10,000 and more. It is really a hard thing that these people should be asked to pull down these houses and remove the debris within fifteen days after notice. No doubt the law must take its own course. The law is very stringent and we cannot complain against the action of the judiciary. But it is

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the duty of the Government to come to the relief of these poor people. Therefore, my complaint is that sufficient funds have not been placed at the disposal of this department. With these remarks, I strongly oppose the motion."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I strongly oppose this motion. In fact, I am of opinion that the money allotted to this department is not enough. I am glad to learn that this department is the outcome of the labours of our Minister the Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar, who anticipated this democratic movement about a decade ago. Only I request the Government not to spend money upon officers who are unsympathetic to the depressed classes. I rather like that the members of the depressed classes themselves are appointed as officers. In this connexion, I request the Government not to use that official word 'efficiency' against these poor classes. The official word 'efficiency' is always a red rag to the tax-paying public of this Presidency. The official word 'efficiency' always means 'we are not going to act according to the wishes of the people'; so much so that when our Honourable the Minister for Co-operative Societies used that word this morning, I was very much afraid. But fortunately he qualified it by saying that no particular community will be allowed to domineer. Sir, efficient men are available in every community and also in these depressed classes. The hallmark of the University should not be the standard of efficiency. Sir, it is by half the genius of the land run to waste. Sir Salar Jung of Hyderabad was not a graduate of the Madras University. I therefore request the Government to appoint, as much as possible, from the members of the depressed classes officers of this Labour Commission Department, especially in this land of castes and communities, where we imbibe all prejudices from our childhood and where these prejudices in our ancestors are the cause of the condition of these depressed classes to-day. So I once more request the Government to appoint, as much as possible, members of the depressed classes as officers of the Labour Commission Department."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR :—" Sir, the Hon'ble the Member for Law enumerated the duties that fall to the lot of special officers appointed for purchasing house-sites. On the other hand, my friend the mover said that in the Tanjore district nothing more substantial was done than making a survey of house-sites."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—" That is not accurate. House-sites to the extent of about Rs. 1,20,000 had already been acquired. Now Rs. 50,000 have already been paid by the Panchama population and very much more land will be acquired. Before I could say all this, the closure was applied."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR (*continuing*) :—" I wanted to correct those remarks. I have many opportunities, Sir, of coming in contact with the ryots of the Tanjore taluk. Almost every week I see the benefits of this movement in very many villages. So I may assure the House that the work done in the Tanjore district is work done on right lines. We have also the right type of man in that place. Not satisfied merely with purchasing house-sites for the members of the depressed classes, I find him going to villages, convening meetings and impressing upon the poorer classes the importance of thrift and economy and advising members to be temperate in their habits, with the result that I know there are many villages where not merely temperance but even teetotalism is the rule and no longer the exception. I can assure the House that there are villages in which members of the depressed classes will regard it as an insult to be asked to supply their relatives with liquor. There is a story, Sir, of a member of the depressed class in a village who happened to give a feast. Many relatives came to his house and some of them

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thought that without liquor the feast was no feast at all. But then the man assured those relatives that if they insisted upon being supplied with liquor they would not only disgrace themselves but disgrace him in the eyes of his brethren in the village. Again, I know that as a result of the labours of this officer in Tanjore, many of the depressed classes in very many villages have become very thrifty and have put by some money. Co-operative societies started for their benefit on right lines have done a great deal of good. What is more, I find that the members of the depressed classes are showing greater zeal for the education of their sons and also over matters relating to sanitation. It is a matter of common ordinary knowledge to find very many members of this class going in for better houses. They are trying to set an example to others in matters of dress and other things. Therefore, Sir, to make a statement like that, that no real good has been done, especially in the Tanjore district, where we have a right type of man, is to create a wrong impression which it is my duty to correct."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—" I have some knowledge of these so-called depressed classes. How are they treated? It is unnecessary for me to repeat the difficulties they are labouring under. They are treated worse than animals. They are not allowed to enter into the law courts. In Tanjore, Sir, in three courts, there were three sets of suits for the purpose of ejecting the Panchamas from the houses which they were occupying. I purposely used to take vakalats for these Panchamas and appear before the munsifs. The munsifs and the vakils are all high-class people. My clients were not allowed to enter into the courts. When I was asked whether I was ready with the case, I replied that unless my clients were allowed to come into the court, I could not go on with the case. I said that those who did not like this might go out and it was sufficient for me if the munsif was there. This was in Tiruvadi. In another place, at Tirutturai-pundi, the munsif was a Brahman reformer. He at once asked all the fellows to enter into the court. As soon as they came in many of the vakils went out. That was very good for us. Thus they are not allowed to enter and when the case is called and there is no answer, the munsifs at once pass ex-parte decrees against them. In one of such cases I had to appeal against an ex-parte decree to the District Judge of Tanjore, who is now a High Court Judge. In the tanks, Sir, buffaloes and cows are seen bathing always; but these Panchamas cannot take water from them. Why? Because our traditions and our superstitions say that God was pleased to create a set of people to be always our slaves. My friend says that they can expect better treatment if the matter is left to the district and the taluk boards. This is just like the circus trainer taming the beasts—lions, tigers, goats, etc. As long as they are in his presence they keep quiet and when he goes away leaving them to themselves, they fall upon each other."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I think the Honourable Member is out of order."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the Honourable Member is out of order. He is decrying the municipal bodies and local boards."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—" Unless we have a special department we cannot do anything in the way of promoting the cause of the depressed classes. The Labour Commissioner once came to one of these paracheris. There were about 500 in it. He saw that there was cleanliness in certain houses and asked what sort of things they wanted. It is on account of education and not by passing the act their condition can be ameliorated. I myself have visited some of the places. I am only a self-appointed and paymentless commissioner for these people. Government should show sympathy by appointing a special officer called Labour

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Commissioner and see that he takes a special interest towards these classes. Of course Tanjore is the worst place and wonderful work is being done there for improving the condition of the depressed classes."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I wish to say a few words with regard to the general question raised by this resolution. The Honourable Members opposite are quite willing to get up every time and defend the officials of the various departments whenever they are attacked in this Council. We had had a protest on behalf of the deputy collectors. We had a protest on behalf of the medical profession the other day and here is an honourable member who states that the work of district boards and municipalities is wanting in sympathy for the depressed classes."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI (*interrupting*) :—" My point is that those who are elected are prevented from doing any good to the depressed classes."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (*continuing*) :—" My honourable friend cannot be unaware of the fact that during the last one year the district boards, municipalities and taluk boards have been trying to put in representations of the depressed classes on these bodies. All the district boards and taluk boards are trying to find representation for these classes. It is altogether wrong to say that the district boards are not in sympathy with the claims and aspirations of these classes. At the same time I should like to bring to the notice of this Council that it is absolutely necessary to secure the goodwill and co-operation of all the classes of people in the villages. Difficulties are arising in regard to admission of children of the depressed classes to schools. It is a delicate position which can only be solved by first securing the sympathy of the classes and educating them of their duties. Whatever may be the fate of this resolution, I should impress upon the members that it is their duty to do their best, to promote the material, moral and educational well-being of these unfortunate classes. But let us not at the same time minimize the difficulties in regard to this matter."

" Taking the question of house-sites for these depressed classes, I was one of those who moved years ago for the appointment of a special officer in the district of Kistna. I was fully alive to the unfortunate position of these depressed classes in the hamlets of the villages and the work that has been done has been successful. And this year a few months ago I applied for the appointment of another special officer to continue that work. But there are difficulties in regard to the location of their dwellings and the acquisition of the sites and in pushing this work through successfully."

" In regard to admission into schools also, I can say from my experience that seven or eight schools were closed and boys belonging to higher castes were withdrawn from these schools. Rival schools were started by villagers who did not want their children associated with the children of the depressed classes. The district authorities had to appear on the scene to appeal to the people, and to satisfy their sentiments and to find out ways and means of carrying out the orders of the Government in the spirit in which they were intended without giving up the principle. Therefore there is no good of minimising the difficulties and, while I appreciate the efforts of Government, I will ask the Members of this House to have a little more sympathy with the authorities who are charged with the carrying out of the new policy of the Government. I heartily support the proposal for the appointment of special officers for the acquisition of the village-sites."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I am rather surprised that there should be any one in this House so uncharitable as to bring in any resolution against the grants for this Labour Commissioner business. Sir, the lot of the Panchama is a very sad one

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and everybody knows about it. It is not enough to sympathize with him on the platform and public places but something must be done for his amelioration. And the only way of doing that is by putting into practice what is preached in various places. Some cases are being instanced regarding the position of the Panchama and the ill-treatment to which he is put. I have one case which came to my notice as Bench Magistrate.

" There is a village which fortunately is not under the British Dominions, I mean it is a zamindari village, where the Panchama is not allowed to walk through the public streets. He is given a by-lane by which he should bring water for domestic purposes. Now that lane becomes filled with water up to the waist in the rainy season and the womenfolk are forced to carry water pots on their heads and wade through this water. A certain Panchama was bold enough to bring this matter to the notice of the village munsif with the result that he was belaboured for the trouble he took on behalf of his caste. There are many cases which will go to prove that the lot of the Panchama is a very sad one. Under such circumstances, I think the Government did a very nice thing in starting this appointment and all the people of the Panchama caste, and I suppose all of us, should thank the Government. For if one of the limbs is diseased, the whole body will be diseased. But I should warn the Government against employing men in this department without first ascertaining their views and their sympathies in regard to the Panchamas. I have seen many cases where a man who is not fit for that department has been entertained with the result he does not carry out the purpose for which he is employed. I would suggest that every one should be on probation for a few number of months and if he is not found fit he should immediately be removed and other men placed in his place."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—" I beg to oppose the motion. As Mr. Devadas said there is one danger namely that this department is providing a number of offices for various persons. More funds should be devoted for doing some specific work. I may suggest that this department should work for the improvement of the dwellings of these poor labourers. I find that many municipalities and corporations are not able to devote their attention to this problem. As my honourable friend Mr. Habib-ul-lah Sahib knows he himself visited several paracheries and tried to ameliorate their condition, but there was the difficulty of funds."

" This department might get more grants from Government and see that these are spent by the respective municipalities. This department should take up the work of improving the condition of the depressed classes. In fact, this department can co-operate with the municipalities and see that the grants given to them are properly utilized in carrying out the duties for the purposes for which they are given."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I am very sorry at the turn that this discussion has taken. One would imagine from the speech or the speeches that followed the mover's resolution that he was opposing the steps taken for the amelioration of the depressed classes. If I was able to follow Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, I believe he tried to make his position as clear as possible, that he is anxious as any one in this House to do all that is possible to improve their condition, though he questioned the necessity for a separate agency for the purpose. That is the only aspect he has placed before us. I believe there is no one in this House who will not co-operate in all efforts that are being made to improve the condition of the depressed classes. I would join with all those who spoke before me that the provision made in the budget for the year to come to improve the

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condition is certainly very inadequate, if we consider what it is possible to be done. The provision made in the budget relates to expenditure on relief for a large number of depressed classes.

"The only point which has been raised is whether we can rely upon the old machinery of the Collectors for working out these measures or we require for that purpose a separate agency like the one which has been suggested. I am afraid we have missed the real issue by misconstruing, I fear, the attitude taken by the honourable mover of this resolution. If my memory does not fail me, I believe that even at the time of the general discussion on the budget my honourable friends Mr. M. C. Raja and Mr. O. Tanikachalam Chettiyar did not feel enamoured of the provision made in the budget under the head of 'department of labour'—I am speaking subject to correction because I am speaking from memory. While we are anxious to achieve that object we have to bear in mind that the old agency of getting this work done through the Collectors furnished to us during the course of this session regarding the lands reserved for the depressed classes and regarding the lands assigned to them, must convince anyone that the Collectors of those districts through their Divisional officers have been very earnest in that matter and they have been very enthusiastic in doing that work."

"Again, Sir, in the matter of providing educational facilities for Panchamas, whatever might be stated as to the view of those who are not intimately acquainted with the work of local bodies, I think I would be failing in my duty if I do not repudiate the suggestion that local bodies have neglected this aspect of the question. In most cases to the extent to which they have been placed in possession of funds—I will challenge any statement made to the contrary and ask you to examine their budgets and administration reports—they have been providing schools for Panchama boys and girls and taking interest in that matter."

"Again, coming into the question of drinking water-supply, to the extent to which funds are available they have not neglected their duty in that respect. It will be found that in the whole Presidency, I must say at least so far as my district is concerned, there is no one taluk which has not got a fairly intelligent Panchama member on its Board. Even in the new boards which are going to be formed day after to-morrow, we have taken particular care to have Panchama members. I may inform this House that there was a suggestion made by a member of the District Board of Nellore who came and asked me that some provision should be made in the budget for sinking drinking wells for the Panchamas. If there was any suggestion which was taken up more readily than anything else, it was his suggestion to make a limited provision in the budget for sinking wells for drinking water in almost all the rural areas. I am only mentioning this fact not as a matter of explanation, but to enable this House to realize that by this time local bodies have duly realized their responsibility in doing all that is possible in the way of helping them in that respect. So far as the Collectors of the districts are concerned they have been co-operating in that respect. Having said that, though I am not going to object to the provision for the department of labour, though I am not going to object to a trial being given to the new department, though I Sir, that the increase of machinery won't stop there. I am afraid, more assistants and several more inspectors; and yet the work done may not be as satisfactory as it was in the past. I know that when the work was distributed among the various Collectors they were in a position to render redress more speedily than it might be possibly done by the Commissioner of Labour. I will mention one instance. I had to visit a place where the Panchamas all came to me and

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presented a petition that they should be provided with village-site. I at once took the Taluk Board President into confidence and was prepared to make necessary provision for that purpose. I then sent it to the Collector who was generally liberal in making provisions from discretionary grants and asked for provision in that respect. Honourable Members may know what happened. One who would have himself readily given the grant and one who would have helped us in finishing the work by providing village-site for Panchamas, he made a reference to the Commissioner of Labour and said that redress was to be had from him. The correspondence on the subject has not yet been finished or has ended only recently. I say that if you give real power to these Collectors themselves and place them in possession of more funds, it will be possible for the persons concerned to get at the Collector immediately and ask him for immediate redress and get the money required. But if we are to go to the head of the Department of Labour and his Assistant, there will be considerable delay."

Mr. K. P. GOPAL MENON:—"Sir, from what we have heard, I do not think there are two opinions about the fact that the condition of the depressed classes ought to be bettered. I think some of us have misunderstood the object with which Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar has brought forward this resolution. When he thinks that the whole item of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd provided in the budget is to be distributed for the betterment of the depressed classes, he is perfectly right in bringing forward his resolution. Out of the sum of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd under this department, only a lakh and odd is provided for the betterment of the depressed classes, whereas the balance of about three-fourths of the total amount is to be spent for the purpose of paying the highly-paid officers. I certainly quite agree with my honourable friend Mr. Devadas when he said that more grants ought to be given for the betterment of the condition of the depressed classes, but not for paying the highly-paid officers—a lot of Assistant Commissioners and others. The Honourable Member for Government says that the Labour Commissioner wants assistants. Well and good. Is it not possible to see that these Assistant Commissioners are started on lower pay? Where is the necessity for paying them Rs. 900 each? Is it not possible to start them on Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 and utilize the balance for the real purpose of the grant, namely, the betterment of the depressed classes? It is in that view that I support the motion of my friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar."

"The betterment of the condition of the depressed classes requires more money. They have to be improved in many ways, and with this amount the depressed classes are not going to be satisfied. They want something more substantial to be given to them. Give them better education, give them better house-sites and give them drinking wells, etc., and in the long run bring them up on a par with us. It is the duty of everyone who is interested in the cause of our country to see that the condition of the depressed classes is bettered by giving them more grants. I do not think these people will feel satisfied by witnessing the dramatic performances of the sort given them by our friend Mr. Somasundaram Pillai. I take the resolution of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar in that view, and if that view is accepted, it is desirable that the Honourable Member in charge should see that if possible expenditure is cut down."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, I am sorry to see the turn that the discussion has taken. The question was not whether we are going to help the depressed classes and render them more help. That is not the question at all. The object with which I brought this motion before this Council was to show the disparity between the grant actually given for their betterment and the cost of the establishment that was going to be appointed for the purpose of utilizing

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this grant. I certainly wanted to say that when the grant was one lakh and odd the cost of the establishment should be reduced. That is the thing to which I wanted to draw the attention of the House. It is unnecessary for me to say here that I am as much interested in the depressed classes and I have done as much work for them hitherto as anybody else in this House. The only question now is whether it is proper when only a sum of one and half lakhs is provided for the actual betterment of the depressed classes, we should spend Rs. 3.50 lakhs for the establishment to spend that grant. That is the one question we have to tackle here—and in this resolution. I expected the member in charge to give me a catalogue of other works that the department is doing and show that the establishment is justifying itself. But he has done nothing of the sort. He has only said that this establishment has only to do what hitherto has been done by the local boards, by the Collectors and other people. He has not shown any reason for bringing into existence this new department. I said, Sir, that the local boards have been doing much work. So far as I know, in my district I have been always particular that preference ought to be given for demands on the part of the Panchamas for water-supply and for institutions like educational institutions. I have also insisted that wherever there are local board schools the Panchamas should be admitted into those schools. In regard to a particular school I received a mahazar asking me to see that the practice is put a stop to. I declined. The school is going on as well as it did before in spite of the Panchamas being admitted, and I think the school has even a larger number of students. Well, Sir, the local boards cannot be said to be forgetful about the matter at all. If they have not been able to do more, it is because they have not got more money. If money is available, if a portion of the three and odd lakhs now proposed for establishment is handed over to them in the form of grants, certainly they will look after the interests of the Panchamas in a better way. I also know that several of the taluk boards in my district have got schemes for the extension of village-sites for the special benefit of these depressed classes. I had to stop these schemes for want of funds. It is not attention that is wanting, nor is it willingness on the part of the local boards, but only funds are wanting and nothing else.

“So, Sir, it is that aspect of the matter that I wanted specially to bring to the notice of the Council and I am sorry that sufficient attention has not been paid by the Council to that matter at all. As a matter of fact, I have been pleading from the beginning for more funds being made available for their special use. Having seen the direction which the discussion has taken on my motion, I do not want to press it.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2 p.m. and re-assembled after lunch at 2-45 p.m.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar was not made by the honourable member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

9. That under 37-C. Miscellaneous Departments, the item of Rs. 4,08,300 for Commissioner of Labour be reduced by one lakh (Budget, page 182).

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR moved the following resolution:—

‘10. That under 37. Miscellaneous Departments, the provision of Rs. 4,08,300 for Commissioner of Labour be reduced by one lakh of rupees (Budget, page 182).’

In doing so, he said:—“I may at once promise by saying that I am not one of those who feel that much money should not be spent for the amelioration of the

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condition of the labourers and the depressed classes. Far from that. But I may be asked why is it that you move a resolution to reduce the grant by one lakh. It is by way of pointing out that what ought to go really for the amelioration of the labourers is being diverted to those who are made to live comfortably in the name of labourers. For while Rs. 4,08,000 is sought to be given to this department, Rs. 1,50,000 only goes for the real benefit of the labourers. Rs. 2,58,000 goes for an over-officialised establishment. While in the year coming to a close we were only content with an establishment costing Rs. 83,000, now it is sought to spend upon establishment Rs. 2,58,000. It is by way of protest against this extravagant expenditure in the name of labourers and the depressed classes that I move this resolution. The money that is allotted for this department is not used for the elevation of the labourers but for the elevation of some other class. Therefore I object to and ask for the elimination of this large sum by at least one lakh. My object is that, if this amount is eliminated, though it is not open to me to move a resolution that the amount so eliminated might be re-appropriated for the real benefit of the labourers, at least the Government would bring in a suggestion for re-appropriation. I believe that this department is being made very much of and large amounts of money are being wasted upon it. If the Honourable Member in charge of this department says that it is by reason of the general resources of this department that the Panchamas have realized the advantages of the activities of the Government on their behalf and are eagerly coming forward to profit thereby, that there is a marked improvement in the general demeanour of the Panchama and that there are visible signs of growing self-respect, thrift, self-reliance and hopefulness in the community, I say that they are not as much due to the efforts of the Government officers as to the general awakening which has come upon all communities. It is due to the voluntary efforts of persons like Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar headed by the Hon'ble Mr. Ramarayaningar, like Mr. M. C. Raja and Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai that these Panchamas have come to the forefront. If it would not be improper, I may mention the name of my brother Rao Bahadur O. Kandaswami Chetty who has started night schools in the Christian College for the benefit of the poor boys and which work has been carried on for several years, silently, unostentatiously without any payment from anybody, by requesting various persons to teach the boys at the end of the day's labour. It is not, I say, to the credit of this department that all this has been done. It is stated that at one stage that nothing has been done prior to April 1920 by way of starting schools for the Panchamas in the district as no funds were available for the purpose. During the months of April to June 1920, twenty elementary Panchama schools were started, the average attendance in each of these schools being 26 to 28 except in the case of three schools where the attendance was nearly 50. I do not consider it a very great record, Sir, for a department which has spent last year Rs. 88,000. If you will go to the various wards in the city of Madras you will find a larger number of Panchama day and night schools for the education of the Panchama boys and girls and of the working classes. There are various things upon which the money can be very well utilized. In the Administration report for the period ending 30th June 1920 various things which require attention are enumerated: working-men's canteen at Parthasarathi-kuppam in Triplicane. This is a scheme to open a working-men's club in the Parthasarathi-kuppam, Triplicane, for the benefit of fishermen as a counter-attraction to the toddy shops in the locality. I remember this scheme was referred to the Corporation for its opinion and the Corporation has set its seal of approval. This scheme has just been referred to the Commissioner of Labour and is engaging his attention. I dare say it will continue to engage his attention so long as he continues to draw his salary. If

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funds are not put into the hands of the Labour Commissioner for doing these things, he cannot do anything more than merely consider. Again regarding cheris in the city of Madras the position of Panchamas is becoming very acute. It is said that the problem of housing the Panchamas who were evicted from the Mottu cheri was engaging the attention of the Commissioner. The Corporation was addressed in the matter and they have undertaken to apply to the Government for a loan of Rs. 30,000 being the approximate cost for the construction of 100 tenements for the evicted Panchamas.

"Similarly the Pulianthope cheri, Halls Garden cheri, Thousand Lights cheri, Katpadi cheri are all engaging his attention. He could do nothing more, for no funds have been provided. I know a number of Panchamas were evicted near the Flowers Road cheri. I applied to the Court on their behalf for stay of execution on the ground that the Commissioner of Labour has written to these people that it is intended to acquire these lands. The Judge before whom I read the letter shrewdly asked how many years would Government take to complete the acquisition. Now when the acquisition proceedings are started by the Government, it will take several years. I do not see any provision in this budget for the acquisition of the site from which people are sought to be evicted and which the Government told they were going to acquire. I therefore strongly appeal to the House that there are urgent needs for the housing of the Panchamas and the depressed classes for which this money could be well utilized. I therefore ask the House to support the motion for retrenchment so that the Government may be driven to the necessity of bringing in a Bill for re-appropriating the amount for the legitimate purpose of providing the depressed classes with houses."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am afraid that a mistake is made by concentrating attention upon the lakh and fifty thousand which is provided for. My honourable friend who has just spoken has really confined his attention solely to the Panchama population of the city of Madras. So far as the acquisition of house-sites is concerned it would be in the nature of things impossible to acquire all the house-sites in Madras. If at all a well-conceived development scheme is possible, the Corporation must do its duty. The newly constituted town-planning trust must do its duty. So far as the Government are concerned they are through their Labour Commissioner trying to avoid eviction by negotiations with the landlords by obtaining either a quasi-permanent tenure or better conditions under which they can live. The Honourable Member for the University of Madras in presiding over a meeting suggested that there should be legislation against eviction, at least against eviction without compensation. That of course is a question which is bristling with difficulties which will have to be faced if necessary. Not merely have we provided for this lakh and fifty thousand, we have provided for three lakhs of rupees for the acquisition of sites and whenever it is deemed necessary to prevent hardships to the Panchama tenants in the city of Madras, such proceedings as are possible legally for the Government will be taken for preventing undue hardships to these persons. The establishment and the larger establishment we want is for the purpose of undertaking work in three more additional districts. Out of the two personal assistants to the Labour Commissioner, one is practically doing that kind of work in the city of Madras which the Assistant Labour Commissioners are doing in the districts. Another of them is doing some work at Chingleput. But the work of the Labour Commissioner has so much increased that it is impossible for him to do his duty in the shape of supervision or organization without real assistance in the matter. As everybody knows he is now supervising the criminal settlements, a very important portion of his work.

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Besides that he has to look after emigration, he has to look after the proper supervision of the inspection of the factories by the staff below him. Besides these, oftentimes references are made to him in connexion with requests for information or proposals emanating from the Government of India due to the proposals of the Washington Conference. Besides that we are organizing something like a wages census; we are organizing the department for the purpose of procuring accurate information with regard to the increase of prices and with regard to the increase of wages, so that such accurate information will be in the hands of both employers and employees when any trouble arises as regards the question of wages.

"It is not correct, Sir, that the Labour Commissioner and his establishment are merely drawing a salary for the purpose of doing nothing. They are to the best of their ability doing the best they can on behalf of the labour population. It is not merely by acquisition of sites that we can solve the problem; it is not possible for any Government to give the sites which anybody wants for the purpose of building; but we will do the best we can and without the support and co-ordination of the Corporation of Madras—of which I believe the Honourable Member who spoke just now is a member—and without a fully developed town-planning scheme the problem of housing of the poor classes could not be solved. It is not correct to say that we are not budgeting for any provision for the acquisition of house-sites whether here or elsewhere. I may say that I have been fighting as hard as I can for much more money in the shape of provision for special educational facilities for Panchamas and for the acquisition of sites.

3 p.m.

But unfortunately we have to face a financial situation which leaves very little money for ameliorative work and my department came in for an amount of curtailment along with other departments. The expenditure which is proposed to make is absolutely necessary, if we have really to improve the lot of the Panchama population. I recognize with great pleasure the work which has been done by non-official bodies and we look to their help in a larger and larger measure. But at the same time the Government cannot depend upon merely non-official agency in regard to this matter. They have got a duty to perform and they are ready to do it to the best of their ability, if they are not hampered."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, if I intervene in this debate just for a little while, it is just to place before the Council one fact and that is, the effort that is now being made for the amelioration of the depressed classes should not be exclusively confined to Madras. I know, Sir, that the Honourable Member in charge does not intend doing so; but the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar leave the impression that if anything has to be done it is only for the city of Madras. I do not say he said so but he never mentioned the existence of these conditions in the mufassal. While I cordially agree with him that the conditions"

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (interrupting):—"I was dealing with the report of the administration of the Labour Commissioner which mentioned all these various cheris on which attention is being given. So it is in connexion with that report that I made reference to these cheris."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"May I say, Sir, we are looking into that also and as I said there is provision and these cheris also will share along with those in the districts?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (continuing):—"Sir, with some experience of the distribution of funds by the Government I can say that

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whenever there is work to be started or some funds to be distributed for purposes such as this Madras always receives preferential treatment. I protest against the tendency on behalf of all the districts and so far as this Council is concerned, we who come from the mufassal would try to secure equitable distribution of funds. If there is to be a child-welfare scheme, the first steps should be in Madras; if there is to be a scheme for the improvement of milk supply funds must be devoted for that purpose in Madras. Again if there is a question of improvement of the condition of the depressed classes my honourable friends are very eloquent over things being done here as if Madras is the only place to be considered. I should like to point out that in the distribution of funds—whatever funds are available for the purpose—we must try to equalize and to distribute them fairly to all the districts and this aspect of the case I will ask my Honourable friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar to bear in mind in making proposals of this nature. I know that Madras has been very generously treated in the matter of water-supply and drainage schemes, whereas many mufassal towns are starving for want of funds. Therefore if we are to act fairly in this Council in the distribution of funds, I would ask my friends who represent Madras to understand that we cannot allow an undue proportion of the funds to be diverted into their hands."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I am one of those who have drawn the attention of the Government to the pitiable plight in which the members of the depressed classes were living in Madras. I asked the Government whether they will be good enough to allot the money required by the Municipal Corporation of Madras and take any steps to acquire sites in which the depressed classes are now living in Madras. For that I received the answer that the Corporation might raise a loan in the open market. The Corporation has already tried to do so and the Government should be aware that their attempts were not successful. The Government know that several memorials have been received from the people living in the cheris and that their grievances are real and need urgent attention. Still the Government in answer to my question could say nothing more than that the Commissioner of Labour has been directed to take the necessary steps for acquisition. But where is the proof that the Government will do anything useful and that quickly in the matter? It will take perhaps years before anything is initiated. I ask, therefore, along with the Honourable Mover of the resolution that some amount be earmarked for this purpose, as a proof of the intention of the Government to do something good for these people. I think, therefore, it is eminently desirable that the Government should set apart some amount for the acquisition of the sites on which the people of the depressed classes are living in Madras."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am very sorry to oppose the resolution which has been tabled with good intentions. It is said that the money spent on the establishment is much more than the money that is set apart for the amelioration of these backward classes. The Panchama, Sir, is indeed in need of much help. But I believe he is more in need of moral support. I know there are places where the Panchamas have money enough to acquire land for building houses; but nobody is forthcoming to give them the land. I welcome this labour department because of the moral support which it will give to the Panchama. This department will set free the Panchama from his slave mentality."

Mr. M. C. RAJA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sure that the House would like to have my view on the subject. Before I proceed to say anything, I wish to make my position very very clear. In the year 1919 when the Government

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started this department with Mr Paddison as the protector of the interests of the depressed classes they never anticipated, I believe, that he would be given the additional work of labour, emigration, factories, etc. . . ."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—" It was Mr. Paddison who suggested the addition of these activities before he was confirmed as the Labour Commissioner."

Mr. M. C. RAJA (*continuing*):—" That may be, Sir. But I said, that at the time when Mr. Paddison was appointed, the Madras Government probably did not anticipate all these. Mr. Paddison may have suggested to the Government to add all these activities. Just as Mr. Paddison was getting a view of the problem which he had to solve in the interests of the depressed classes, multifarious duties were imposed on him; so much so the attention that he bestowed on his duties as protector of the depressed classes was necessarily limited. It speaks volumes for Mr. Paddison's interest in the depressed classes that in spite of calls upon his time from labour and from criminal settlements he was able to do some reconnoitering work on behalf of the community. But I may observe that as time went on the Labour Commissioner did more and more extraneous work and the protector of the depressed classes sank into insignificance. I have before this asked in this very Council that the Labour Commissioner should be separated from the depressed classes work. If that is done there is no need for such a large staff as we now have in the Victoria buildings. But, Sir, I should like to say that unless there is a separate department to look after our interests, our interests will not progress. Therefore, Sir, as the Hon'ble the Law Member has pointed out, a separate agency is quite essential. For we have enough work for a whole-timed officer with a small staff devoted to our purposes. Last year only a portion of the money that was allotted to the depressed classes was actually spent. And there were so many and incessant calls for relief of various kinds. This shows that in spite of a large staff at his disposal the Labour Commissioner devoted very little attention to the depressed classes. In this connexion I should like to suggest that in appointing officers to look after the work of the depressed classes, persons with real sympathy and sincerity should be chosen. I say this for I have been receiving lots of complaints against the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Chingleput, and these reports have been forwarded to the Commissioner of Labour. I believe Mr. Moir, who is taking a genuine interest in the amelioration of the depressed classes will look into this. He is unable to spare time whenever he is called to see the cheris, as he has to look into the matter and settle the labour disputes. As regards house-sites I can assure my Hon'ble friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao that very little work has been done in Madras by this department towards the amelioration of the depressed classes and he need not be afraid that the Labour Commissioner has spent all his money for the welfare of the depressed classes in Madras. As a matter of fact the Labour department started work for the amelioration of the depressed classes not in Madras but in the Tanjore district and there the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mr. Arulanandam, has been doing splendid work. Here I should like to thank him for the able work he has been doing to improve the condition of the people. Coming to Madras, Sir, the Assistant Commissioner Mr. Sundaracharlu has been of great help to the community. Mr. Sundaracharlu has never stinted time or energy, whenever his services were wanted; he was always at our disposal and he has done the best work for the people. And Mr. Moir has been a most sympathetic Commissioner and he has been often accompanied by me to see the deplorable, the miserable, the most disgraceful condition of the site of the cheris of Madras."

[Mr. T. C. Tangavelu Pillai]

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Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—“Mr. President, the motion before the House is for the reduction of the total grant for the Commissioner of Labour by one lakh. The question before the House is whether this amount can be easily adjusted by such a reduction. Turning to budget, page 182, you will see that last year we had only a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner and two Personal Assistants. Now we find six new Rs. 420 and one on Rs. 300. These new appointments are found not to be necessary. The whole scheme now is new and we want more money for this. But to my honourable friends on the opposite benches who are always for retrenchment I say that this is a place where we can find a way for retrenchment. Now, instead of a Commissioner of Labour being given both the functions of Commissioner of Labour and also Protector of Depressed Classes, I would suggest, as pointed out by the last speaker, Mr. M. C. Raja, that these two functions should be separated. As regards the Commissioner of Labour, if he is also asked to take up the work connected with the depressed classes, he cannot find proper time and cannot devote proper thought for it. I have personal experience of their grievances, because reference was made to the Commissioner of Labour regarding the Panchamas in the Nannimangalam village in the Lalgudi taluk where the Panchamas were not allowed to come out even for a pot of water, and this was brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Labour and to the Collector, but nothing was done.

“Now, turning to the provision of Rs. 1,50,000 for the depressed classes, I want to know how much of this amount is meant for education. Education being a transferred subject . . .”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—“No portion of this is intended for education. There is a special provision of a lakh of rupees specially for Panchama education, under the budget head ‘Education’.”

Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI (*continuing*):—“As the Honourable Member has pointed out that a lakh of rupees is provided for Panchama education, why not that be entrusted with the Minister in charge of Education?”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—“It is in the Educational budget.”

Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI (*continuing*):—“Then coming to the other establishment, the number of appointments of tahsildars and deputy tahsildars can very well be reduced from five to three and of the revenue inspectors twenty men can be easily done away with, and thus we can save a lakh of rupees over the department.”

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—“Mr. President, the Honourable Member who has preceded me attributed to us a desire to bring about retrenchment. I think he is perfectly right in that, and I propose, notwithstanding that this is a motion for retrenchment, to oppose this, and my reasons are these. In the discussion that has been made so far on this resolution you will have noticed that the desirability of separating the function of the Commissioner of Labour from the Protector of the Depressed Classes has been much discussed. Now, Sir, it looks to me that Mr. Paddison was very well advised in having asked that these other departments which were put under his control on his request should be so done. Rightly or wrongly, Sir, there is this fact that the conditions and the circumstances of the depressed classes have largely to be taken into consideration in discussing questions of labour, and to them fortunately the principle of the dignity of labour need not be preached. There are, therefore, a number of

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points in which questions relating to labour will also relate to the condition of the depressed classes and it is therefore desirable that the directing head is the same so that he may co-ordinate what might be required in the interest of one department with what might be required in the interest of the other department. The objection that so far has been taken to having the same officer to do both the functions is that he finds that his hands are too full of work to be able to do the work satisfactorily. I take it, Sir, that the grant which it is now sought to be reduced is intended for the purpose of mainly meeting this difficulty. You will have noticed the large disproportion there is between the amount of the revised estimate for this year and the budget estimate for the year to come and that is for the purpose of supplying the Commissioner of Labour with extra hands and extra staff so that he might be able to discharge the various onerous duties that devolve upon him. The objection, therefore, that hitherto the work of department has not been found satisfactory is more a ground for allowing the grant than for reducing it. I think, Sir, that now when we have not had sufficient experience of the working of this Labour department, when it has not been given a fair trial so that we might be confident in the conclusions that we might arrive at from its work, much the better course is to trust the department and vote the grant that has been asked for and see what it is they are able to effect, when fortunately, in this particular, there is absolutely no difference of opinion as to the end that is to be reached, whether we belong to the party which is supposed to be identified with the Government or what is called the opposition. In these circumstances, Sir, I think the Honourable Member will be well advised having drawn attention to what he considers to be the difficulties in the situation, in withdrawing this resolution. I do not think that the Government or those who are responsible for this department of work have had enough of time to either consolidate their experience or to indicate the directions in which the funds could be more usefully used than in the directions that have been suggested. We recognize that the grant which is a lump provision for the use of the depressed classes is somewhat less than what is to go for the establishment. But when you start a business, when you start a department, it is ordinary experience that it is the establishment that eats more than what the legitimate work of the department might cost. And after all, if experience shows that a larger amount is needed I have not the slightest doubt that the Government will make no hesitation in applying for such additional grants nor have I any the slightest doubt that this House will only be willing to make that grant. In these circumstances, Sir, I do not think that this is an objection why this grant should not be voted.”

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—“Sir, I want to say a few words about the principle underlying the policy adopted in this respect. There is no question about the allotment made. The work for which it is intended is also good, and the grievances of the depressed classes are admitted, and the sooner they are redressed the better. Last year, the provision made under this head was only Rs. 88,000, and now it is increased to Rs. 4,08,300. That means 200 per cent larger. The money provided for the work that is required to be done is put down at Rs. 1,50,000, and all the rest goes to cover the cost of the establishment which is twice as much. There must be strong reasons for increasing the grant by 200 per cent, and the main portion of it is expended on establishment and not on the work for which it is intended. The Member in charge will, I hope, be able to explain it.”

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI:—“I rise to oppose the motion, Sir. The department is in its infancy and unless there is an organizer no details

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can be settled and no policy can be formulated, and for the person who has to exercise control over the depressed classes of the whole Presidency such an establishment as recommended and provided for seems to be absolutely necessary. Finally I may say that there can be no Construction without Direction. Therefore, Direction must be first provided for."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I take it to be, Sir, to elicit rather to inform the Council of the prevailing opinion as regards Labour department. Of course, I have known Mr. Paddison for a long time and I have very great admiration for him almost amounting to personal affection from my connexion with him in the Forest Committee, and I have known Mr. Moir and he is such a sympathetic and able officer. But I have reasons to believe that recently this Labour department has lost the confidence of the public. Of course, it is in charge of the criminal settlement and in charge of many other useful departments and it is also supposed to settle the differences between the labourers and the employers in the City of Madras. But, somehow or other, the performance of this department, from what we the outside public know of it, and I do not know whom to blame, has not been very commendable. There have been strikes and we used to see the Labour department not very active in settling the differences. Somehow or other, I fear, rightly or wrongly, some of these unions and some of these people who have gone on strike and who wanted to get some kind of redress have not fared well and I am afraid that the Government has been indifferent in the matter. At the same time, I am afraid that the Labour department has not taken proper care to step in in time and stop the thing. I am giving expression to a feeling which is more or less universally held in Madras that the Labour department has been sleeping over these occurrences and has not done properly on the side of the poor people. No doubt, I am fully aware of the indiscretions committed by some of the leaders connected with the labour movement. At the same time, I must say that the Government might have been more liberal and the Labour department more sympathetic in dealing with this question. Of course several questions have arisen on account of the misunderstanding between the labourers and the employers. My friend, Mr. Devadas, gave notice of a resolution, but that is very highly paid is to be of any use to the public. I think I may reasonably state that an Indian should be put in charge of this department. With all their ability, with all their interest and with all their sympathy, I am afraid the men who are now at the top of the department cannot enter into the feeling of the poorer classes of the people. And I appeal to the Member in charge not to depend on the idea that the department as such is going on well at present, but to see that the department is more useful and more trusted by the people. With these few words, I do not say I either support or oppose the motion."

3-30 p.m. Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I feel bound to support the motion for reduction. I do not agree with all the reasons that have been put forward in supporting it. I certainly feel that very little has been done by this separate department, as regards either the settlement of labour disputes or the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes. So far as the depressed class work is concerned, I do admit that something has been done by this department. It ought to be made as a small department charged only with the protection of the labouring classes and the depressed classes. It ought not to have other functions like criminal settlement, emigration and other things which are at present dealt with by it. So far as the work of education and co-operation amongst depressed classes is concerned, they may very well be administered by the respective

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departments of education and co-operation. When we want money for very many purposes, I should certainly think that this department ought to be kept on the minimum basis. For these reasons and especially to draw the attention of the House to the feeling which I share with Mr. Kesava Pillai, viz., that we have not received as great a benefit as we expected from this department, I felt bound to bring in a motion on this subject. At the same time I do not agree with the view that the protection of the depressed classes is the monopoly of any section of the community; nor do I agree with the view that any one section is not as keen as any other section in depressed classes work; nor do I agree with the view that the condition of the depressed classes is the same as it was years ago. The attitude of the general community towards the depressed classes is nothing like what it used to be before. I was listening to what my friend Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai was saying. What he said might be true in the days when it occurred. That charge is no longer true. It may even now happen anywhere in exceptional cases. There is no use imagining that all sections of the community do not co-operate for the purpose of the betterment of the depressed classes. In fact, as far as my experience goes—and I have had some experience in this line of work—I can say that everybody and every section of the community vies with one another for the purpose of looking after the welfare of the depressed classes. The trouble is not that so much money is sought to be spent. The trouble is that more money is not spent. This department should not be run with establishment costing Rupees 2,58,000 for the purpose of administering the magnificent sum of Rs. 1,50,000. In administering criminal settlement work the department can only operate as a post office, because the whole correspondence has to go back to the Collector. Then I think the best way in which this department can really do its work is by allowing the Collectors to take care of the depressed classes of their districts. So far as Madras is concerned, the labour problem is so difficult and the depressed class problem so complicated that there ought to be a Commissioner of Labour on a reduced salary who ought to engage himself completely in that work. So far as the mufassal is concerned, it ought to be left to the Collectors of the districts."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, having been a teacher all my days, I am rather new to the ways and methods of the Legislative Council, and trust I will not violate any of the formalities that are considered to be essential here. This morning when this subject of labour was brought up for consideration, I was not at all aware that the whole question of the depressed classes was going to be squeezed in. Perhaps, those who have introduced the subject are right, and I was wrong in my own ignorance. Now, Sir, with your permission and with the permission of the House, I shall submit just a few observations for their kind consideration. So far as I can gather from the speeches on this subject, there are four or five points that seem to demand attention. Exception, for instance, has been taken to the fact that the budget for this department, if I may use a somewhat homely but none the less, I believe, effective simile, seems to be a tadpole budget. The complaint seems to be that the head is out of all proportion to the body. I believe, Sir, there is some justification in that complaint; and I hope that the Hon'ble the Member in charge will be pleased to devote his best attention to this representation."

"Secondly, Sir, it has been pointed out that in making appointments to these departments, one vital principle should be borne in mind. This is, as an aged and experienced member of this Council remarked the other day, a country of communities and classes; and in making appointments to departments like co-operation or labour or agriculture, in my humble opinion, attention should be given to

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the fact that between those who work the department and those for whose benefit the department is worked, there should not be a wide social gulf. In other words, between those that are benefited by the intentions of the Government and those who carry out those intentions, there must be a close relationship; if I may use again a figure, they must be members of the same household, at any rate, members of the next door.

"Another question, Sir, that seems to demand attention is this. We are warned not to minimise the difficulties. Certainly that is wise counsel. But in actual life it so happens, Sir, that these fears, lest we should lose sight of these difficulties, come to magnify the difficulties; and we steal away when we ought to be firm. And here as a schoolmaster I am reminded about the nettle. We are told that if we handle the nettle only in a trembling manner it pricks us to our pain. But if we handle it firmly as men of mettle, it shall 'soft as silk remain.' It is this firm handling of the situation that is very often required.

"Again, Sir, we have been told that the local bodies have everywhere been generous in their treatment of the depressed classes. I dare say this is the general rule; but there are also unfortunate exceptions. And the district from which I come is, I believe, an exception of that kind. Only three months back a resolution was passed by our District Board to the effect that it would be against public interest, and that it would perhaps be placing a premium upon non-co-operation, if permission was granted to the members of the depressed classes to enter the general schools maintained by that Board. Sir, in that connexion another Honourable Member has said that no opportunity was ever missed to make liberal grants for the opening of schools for the benefit of the depressed classes. We are thankful for all that. But there is one principle that ought to underlie these educational activities for the benefit of the depressed classes, to which I very respectfully draw the attention of the House. I believe, the day of the redemption of the depressed classes will be almost indefinitely postponed if the present system of establishing separate schools for the depressed classes apart from the general schools should be continued. What I feel, Sir, as essential to the amelioration of this community is to give its members absolute freedom, to enforce the rights in the matter of obtaining admission into the general schools. It may be there will be troubles, it may be that some schools will have to be closed down. Let them go for a while. What we have observed in the neighbouring State of Mysore will come to pass here. Eventually, if not the good sense, at least the personal interest of others, will prevail; and these schools will once again be opened and become popular.

"I have another point, Sir, to which I very respectfully invite the attention of this House. Everywhere there is a demand, it is said, for the amelioration of the condition of these classes on the part of all communities. I believe it is true, if we take into account only individual members of a community; but viewing in the aggregate, there are certain communities which are yet very far backward as compared with the other communities, in their eagerness to further the interests of the depressed classes. These are the few observations, Sir, which I venture to offer."

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I did not at all want to speak on this matter, and I would not have got up but for the remarks made by Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu that the district from which he comes is an exception to the rule that the depressed classes are liberally treated. I am afraid there, and secondly to the fact that he is not connected with the local boards the district in which he lives. I think I may say, without contradiction, that our Board has done very much for the amelioration of the condition of these classes."

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Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU (*interrupting*):—"May I, Sir, submit whatever may be the benevolent work done by that Board in other directions, as regards the particular point to which I made reference, I have almost quoted the very words of the resolution expressing the intentions of that Board?"

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU (*continuing*):—"I say we have done everything for the amelioration of these Panchamas. If my honourable friend only takes into consideration the amount of money which we have spent for water-supply for these Panchamas, if my honourable friend would only consult the Assistant Commissioner in charge of this work as to what additional grants we have made voluntarily for their amelioration, if my honourable friend would only consult statistics as to the improvement that has been made in their condition, I submit he will see his way to reconsider his remark. With regard to the education of Panchamas, there is a very honest difference of opinion as to what should be done for improving their education. Some think that the Panchamas should be allowed into the schools resorted to by other caste Hindus. Of course my greatest wonder is that it is not the Brahmans who object to it, but it is the high class Kapus and Kammas. In my tours in the district when certain Kapus and Kammas very strongly objected to their admission, I remarked 'why should the Kapus and Kammas object when the Brahmans are agreeable to their admission'; and the retort which these Kapus made was, 'The Brahmans are ready to do anything but we Kapus do not condescend to admit these people into our midst. Under these conditions and taking into consideration that these Panchamas are in the employ of the Kapus and are dependent on them for their livelihood we have naturally come to the conclusion that in the interests of the Panchamas themselves it would be better to have separate schools—separate elementary schools—in their villages, so that by the time they came up to the secondary stage there might be no objection to their being admitted into secondary schools. That is all we have done and we have done so not from a spirit of exclusiveness or Brahman jealousy but with a view to their own benefit and to their own improvement."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"My object in intervening at this stage in the debate is for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House to the fact that more money should be spent by the department itself, that is, not upon the appointment of officers but upon the real object with which the department has been created. The rules of the House do not permit us to ask the House to increase the amount. We can only do this by drawing the attention of the Government and the House to the fact that this administration is top-heavy. If we want more money to achieve our real object, I ask that the reduction asked for, namely, one lakh of rupees, be passed with the request to the Government that the amount be reappropriated for the purpose of being spent for the real benefit of the depressed classes. That is the object with which I rise to support this motion."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, an Honourable Member said that I supported my department with some warmth. I do confess that I did not know it. I was only feeling the warmth of the atmosphere. But if any justification was required for this department, Mr. Raja by his personal experience has given that justification. A complaint has been made that the expenditure over this department was top-heavy. I want the members of this House to analyse the figures of the budget for a minute. The six Assistant Commissioners are picked officers, who have been picked on account of their sympathy, their ability and their optimism in carrying on the work which is taking place in the districts. I may say, Sir, to quote the words of the Labour Commissioner 'that it is essential that the special character of the work of the

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Assistant Commissioners should be recognized. It requires great perseverance, tact and personal sympathy on the part of the officers selected. It is on that footing that we have been selecting our officers. One of the persons selected has done exceedingly good work, elsewhere. We wanted to secure his services as we are undertaking this work newly in Guntūr. The other officers have been for some time in our service, have learnt the work, and known the ways of the classes among whom they have to work. Somebody remarked that some of the tahsildars and some of the revenue inspectors may do the work, thus knocking out a few of the clerks and reducing the top-heaviness, by reducing the number of peons. All this is not for the establishment at the head office. It is for the purpose of carrying on the work in the districts. The nature of it I dilated upon some time ago in connexion with some other motion in the discussion. So far as Madras is concerned, we have two Personal Assistants and I have the pleasure of having the testimony of Mr. Raja as regards the energy displayed by one of them and who practically does the work of Assistant Labour Commissioner in Madras. The other gentleman is for the purpose of going out to other districts where we are not starting operations immediately, but where there may be cases to which attention has to be given. One instance to which my attention was drawn in this House related to an incident which is said to have occurred in Trichinopoly. We are investigating into that matter. The Collector has been asked to make a report. As soon as we find there is a case with regard to that, one of the Personal Assistants will go there for the purpose of taking the necessary proceedings for the acquisition, and this 1.50 lakhs of rupees would be utilized for that purpose also. If, for instance, in the course of our operations, we find that the money which is provided for for any of these purposes is not sufficient, I assure the House (I hope they will be generous) I will ask for more money.

"I shall not go through every one of the arguments that has been advanced. Mr. Raja wanted to have practically the whole of this department for the purpose of work among the depressed classes. One member says: 'let us have a small establishment.' As I pointed out, the bulk of the expenditure is incurred in the districts for the purpose of ameliorating the conditions of the Panchama population in those districts. We have started work in districts where there are the largest number of such population. So far as the head office is concerned, there is no doubt the Labour Commissioner is doing the very considerable quantity of work thrown upon him, including the supervision of criminal settlements. One Honourable Member said that it ought to be the function of the District Magistrate. We want to investigate the position and co-ordinate the work of all the officers, and we want an officer to visit the settlements and to bring them into some organization. And we wanted to have special supervision over all these settlements which individual Collectors may not be able to do. That, I submit, is the justification for the establishment we want. As was pointed out by Mr. Raja, what we want at present is direction and organization."

MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"By way of reply I again wish to emphasize what I said at the beginning, namely, I do not really want the Labour department, which is intended for the benefit of the labourers and depressed classes, should be deprived of the proper amount of money. But as I cannot in this House move a resolution to transfer some portion of the money intended for the establishment for the actual needs of the labourers, I can only ask for retrenchment, so that when that money is released it can be added to the 150 thousand rupees which is properly appropriated for their benefit. It is with that object I am asking this House to support my motion

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"My friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao referred to the fact that I was only thinking of Madras. I was not thinking only of Madras. I was dealing with the various problems referred to by the Labour Commissioner in his administration report and I only mentioned them by way of illustrating the very proper objects for which that money should be released by reducing the establishment and not for claiming that all should be given to Madras. Some of the Honourable Members said that it is the duty of the Corporation to do work of this nature. The whole of last year, the Corporation was considering how to do these things. Government asked the Corporation what loans they required for carrying on the various works. The Corporation wanted 19 lakhs, of which 10 lakhs had been promised to them already. They then forwarded a resolution to the Government. Government turned round and said, 'we are sorry we cannot assist you; you will raise the money in the money market.' The Corporation said: 'we have attempted to raise a loan of 5 lakhs at 6 per cent but without success.' In this state of things, to spend all the money that is available for organizing officers who will look into the condition of the depressed classes instead of diverting it for the benefit of the people, is, I think, an improper thing. One of my friends from Gōdāvari referred to the conditions there. Apparently it seems to be a peculiar district, where amongst all people the non-Brahman alone is considered not entitled to butter-milk and milk and he in his turn considers that the Panchama should not sit alongside of him in school. Leaving all the eccentricities of the district, there should be a fair distribution of money available for the purpose of the depressed classes in all the other districts."

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 51 voting *for* and 19 *against*.

The following motions standing in the name of Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar, not having been made, were deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'11. That the grant of Rs. 3,48,550 (Commissioner of Labour under 37-C be reduced by a sum of Rs. 75,000 (Budget page 182).'

'12. That the grant of Rs. 3,48,550 (Commissioner of Labour (under 37-C. be reduced by a sum of Rs. 1,98,550 (Budget page 182).'

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"The motion standing in my name is as follows:—

'13. That Rs. 33,000 being the recurring monthly grant to missions (2,750) under settlement at Kavali, Nellore district, be omitted (Budget page 184).'

"I asked for an explanation the other day. On page 183 it is stated 'Settlement at Kavali Rs. 33,470.' The Honourable Member asked me to refer to the other side and it is stated there 'Recurring monthly grant 2,750' and so on. I asked that the sum of Rs. 33,000 be omitted. But from the answer given to one of my interpellations, I find it was given to an American Baptist Mission. I draw the attention of the Government and also the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the department to the state of things in which the Settlement at Kavali, as disclosed by the papers published by the Government itself. The Honourable Member was kind enough to furnish me with a copy of the report of the management as well as of the Magistrate. And so far as the remarks of the Labour Commissioner are concerned, it seems to be very encouraging. I would draw the attention of the House to the report where they state there are three settlements, and the origin of these is given in this report. The original figure of 100 of criminals at Kavali has grown to 160 and at Vellore from 480 to a total of 920. They have lost, the report says, about 200 persons and another 200 are intending to run away. This settlement is administered under the Criminal

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Tribes Act. Money is given to a Mission body to keep these people, to take work from them, and give them wages, and—I would not say, convert them—to give them a moral tuition. The administration report of the management tells us that the members of the staff, except one head constable, are Christian men and women, and that many of them are earnestly striving by work and example to lead these people to a knowledge of their truth. The work of the settlement would be impossible without a great deal of co-operation of the staff. The object is to reclaim them. But so far as I can see, there has been very little reclamation in this settlement, because we find a continuous stream of people running away from the settlement and they are being punished by the Magistrate. The manager of the settlement has got the power of placing them in jail. They are put into the prison house. If the Honourable Member says 'No', I should like to have some

4 p.m.

more information if possible. You will find in this report, Sir, that the magistrates, before whom second and third offenders were brought, accepted their excuse too often and failed to administer preventive punishment with the result that others were led to run away in expectation of a like leniency in their own cases. It does not refer to the first punishment at all. My information was that the manager in charge of the settlement, as I find at the reformatory, has got the power to punish the people."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"Sir, I do not think he is right because we send these people for punishment before the Magistrate. Sometimes they are detained before they are sent to the Magistrate."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*continuing*):—"I accept the statement from the Honourable Member, Sir. The difficulty is, as a consequence, it would appear that these are not improving in any way. It is stated that no Police officer below the Deputy Superintendent is permitted by the manager to enter any of the settlements without being accompanied by the manager or his representative. Why? He suspects that the Police officers may enter into negotiations with any of the men to commit depredations elsewhere. It is stated in the report that the work is hard and that the members of the staff have been chosen with as much care as possible to secure faithful and honest men who may have to reclaim these criminals. The report says further: 'The work is hard and requires constant temptation.' You will also find it stated that the management suspect the Police and the Police suspect the maistri. There are passages which would be very interesting for the House to hear. Before I go to them, one other main cause quoted with so much approbation in this report. It is Paul's dictum, which is will not work, neither let him eat', and 'this has been the motto of the settlement from the beginning since it is our profound belief that habits of industry are essential for the reformation of the habitual thief and therefore the title of the settlement.' I would also draw attention to paragraph 6 of the District Magistrate's letter, page 24. He says 'the non-official visitors also make remarks on the insufficiency of the wages earned at the settlement.' No one, who compares other wages that have been earned at the settlement, can avoid being surprised at the low as the manager reports, but the question which we visitors often ask ourselves is 'how an adult man or woman can exist on 6 or 7 annas a week.' That is exactly the complaint, I heard also from some people in jail at Vellore who were convicted for running away from this settlement. They said: 'How can you expect us to live on 6 or 7 annas a week? So we are running away, leaving our wives and

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children. Then we are convicted and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment which we suffer; and we are sent back to the same settlement'. They were further telling me that Mr. Bawden was a very good officer and a very good missionary gentleman and it was the maistries that were doing all the mischief complained of. Whatever it is, the District Magistrate has no doubt about it. He seems to think that the settlers who earn this amount are obviously not starving. For he says, 'they are well fed and the vital statistics table shows that the death-rate among the settlers is much lower than that of the outside population. I am sure that they do not eat too little but I am sure also that they must supplement their wages.' That is the way reclamation goes on!

"Then the non-official visitors complain of the maistries being Christians, and suggest that they are not above suspicion. The Police are also of the same opinion. Mr. Bawden objects to any insinuations against his maistries and considers that it is very regrettable that such statements should be made without definite facts being given to justify them. At the same time Mr. Bawden makes similar statements about the subordinate police to which the District Superintendent of Police objects. In paragraph 3 of his report, the manager remarks that 'it is part of the policy of the Government, that so far as possible the subordinate police should have nothing to do with members of the settlement, since too often there has been association with the thieves in the disposal of the stolen property.' I make a present of it to the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, who is in charge of the Police department! I have asked Mr. Bawden for specific instances but he has not given me any. 'My own belief', continues the District Magistrate of Nellore, 'is that both the subordinate police and the maistries are likely to be tempted to assist in the disposal of stolen property'."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, it afforded me some amusing reading to go through the file while my honourable friend was making his speech. If he will try his hand at reclamation on persons of this sort, he would find what amount of difficulty he is likely to meet with. The question is not one of details, for I am not personally acquainted with details, though I dare say I shall rectify the mistakes as soon as possible. The question is whether the person who is now in management is doing it on proper lines; that in certain instances he has not been able to reclaim the lot is not a matter which goes against the soundness of his administration or the sympathy of the administrator. I want to draw attention to one or two passages as to the general lines on which this work is being conducted. I am reading now not from Mr. Bawden's report but from the report of the non-official visitors to this settlement. The report of the non-official visitors starts with this: 'We visited the settlement in company with Mr. Bawden and also made independent enquiries about the condition of settlers. We appreciate the earnestness and enthusiasm with which Rev. Mr. Bawden and his assistant have been managing the affairs of this settlement.' In another place where they note that some of these settlers do not have sufficient wages, they themselves point to the cause of it as follows: 'In some cases the settlers who have been accustomed to live by thefts and burglaries find it difficult to adapt themselves to a new condition of things and earn their livelihood by honest labour'. They also proceed further to say that sufficient work, sufficiently interesting work, is not found for all these persons. After all we are limited by conditions of the settlers, the conditions of work which is available near by and we have to recognize our limitations in regard to other matters. Then Sir, there is the opinion of the District Magistrate, to which I want to draw attention. 'No doubt there may be trouble between the subordinate police and the subordinate officers of the settlement sometimes. That

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could not in the very nature of things be helped.' This is what the District Magistrate says in paragraph 2; 'I was not in charge during a portion of the year but I have since camped for some days at Nellore and some days at Kavali. No inhabitants of these towns made any complaint whatever to me about this settlement in their memorials. This is good negative evidence that they are operating successfully.' It is the same District Magistrate who has made some remarks which were read by the mover. Finally he winds up by saying 'these settlements are, I should say, successful and the large sum of money the Government is spending on them is well employed, particularly the money that is spent on education and boarding of the children. Forty per cent of the settlers are children and they appear to be most admirably dealt with. We have got to depend on younger generation for reclamation and not on confirmed thieves.' Then, Sir, we have got the endorsement of Mr. Paddison. He says: 'I have inspected the settlement thoroughly and every one who sees it himself does appreciate strongly the strenuous and earnest labours of Mr. Bawden.'

"After all, we go by general ideas which people possess as to the way in which the settlement is conducted. Regarding details, I will bestow my anxious consideration and make correction, if possible. The Government Order says the same thing. I will add that my colleague Sir, Lionel Davidson, has inspected the Kavali settlement himself and has gone into the details of this matter as carefully as he can. Though he and others were not satisfied with the manner in which the accounts were kept, on which we are taking action, they found that nothing could be said substantially against the way in which the management is carried on. I do admit there are criticisms on details as on certain other matters but in due course, investigation will be made and the irregularities will be rectified. But you cannot expect the whole thing to adjust itself in a day or two, especially seeing the nature of the work in which we are embarking or have already embarked. So, I submit to the House that there is no point in asking for reduction of the grant which is made for the settlements. I want to appeal to this House to consider what the effect of accepting this resolution will be. Because we are not satisfied with some details of the management, is the settlement to be closed? That will be the result of your knocking out the Rs. 33,000 which we are spending. It is impossible again to reorganize this. It is impossible for the Government to take up action immediately, because there will be no budget provision. You will agree that the work must go on.

"One thing has been said as regards the Christian staff. They belong to the Baptist Mission and they are there as missionaries. So far as the Government is concerned, as was remarked by Mr. Bawden himself, if there is any agency which will come there to impart religious instruction to the Hindu population there, neither the Rev. Bawden nor anybody else would have any objection whatsoever. There is no good in complaining that this mission calls for prayers in the morning or evening. Apart from any question of sentiment, the Government have absolutely no objection, if any of our Hindu brethren will take over charge, so far as religious instruction is concerned, and Mr. Bawden agrees to that also. Treating the matter broadly in all its aspects, I would submit to the House that the mission has worked it successfully with a very irretractory material and they have succeeded in the experiment, far beyond their expectations. If in any details they have failed, they will be corrected as soon as possible."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, as one of the non-official visitors, whose report has been referred to by the Hon'ble the mover of the resolution and by the Hon'ble the Member for the Government, I think it is my duty to place certain views before this council. I

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think the mover has done well in bringing up this resolution, if it be with the object of bringing to the notice of the Government certain defects in the existing system of management and with the object of suggesting improvements in the methods of management. If it is for the purpose of deleting the provision altogether, it will be difficult to subscribe to his view. Unless we find a suitable machinery for the purpose of taking up the management and the control of several of these prisoners of the criminal tribes, we cannot do away with it altogether. We the non-official visitors, myself and Mr. Adinarayana Reddi and another went to the settlement and had an idea as to the conditions under which they were living. Before we pronounce whether it is a failure or a success I think we will have to wait further. I do not think that the Hon'ble the Law Member should be gratified with the official reports which have been sent and come to a definite conclusion that it is a success leading to the reclamation of the prisoners who have settled there. But one thing I may say and that is that substantial good is being done to the children of the criminal tribes who are being educated. There are boarding houses provided there and these young children are having the benefit of education. How far the older criminals are being benefitted or whether they are being reclaimed, it is not possible for anyone to state. Rather one must feel doubtful before pronouncing his judgment, because several have absconded from it and several are undergoing imprisonment in jail. I know the manager of the settlement, who is a very hard taskmaster. He did not himself deny that he paid their wages according to certain strict standards and according to their wage-earning capacity. As was pointed out in the report itself, several could only earn about 6 or 7 annas a week, which is nothing but starvation wages. It is also clear that the wages allowed are much less than the rations allowed to prisoners in the jails. There are a fairly good number of persons who do not earn their proper wages. When they find that they cannot eke out their livelihood by the wages they earn and when they find that they are better fed in the jails, it is no wonder that they should try to abscond, so that they might eventually go to jail. That is the economic question which requires very careful consideration.

"The second point which struck us was this: it was a mission body and it made its own arrangements about the teaching of religion. The manager stated that there was no objection to any body of Hindus making the necessary arrangements for imparting Hindu religion. We put it to him whether it was possible to allow in the settlement an admixture of maistries and other persons belonging to other religions. He stated that there were difficulties in the way of carrying out these proposals. He also stated that he would not trust others in the settlement. The result is that it will not ordinarily be possible to make any satisfactory arrangements for the imparting of Hindu religion in the settlement. Another point which requires consideration is that unless these settlements are improved at a much greater cost and unless lands are given to them to show them a permanent means of livelihood, it is not possible to expect any definite improvement. I know something has been done in that direction and some lands have been reclaimed and some persons have been able to get some lands. But what has been done is very little compared with the large problem that lies before the Government. If these criminals are to be reclaimed, it will not do if they are put on some road work to earn some wages and it will not do if they are kept on such precarious means of livelihood. Their tendencies will not be altered, if they are not permanently trained in some industrial pursuit or if they are not given some lands permanently."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Sir, I rise to oppose the reduction of this grant. The question resolves itself into two heads. The first is whether there is

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any necessity for a settlement of this sort and the second is what is the most economical method by which these settlements can be run. So far as the existence and the necessity of these settlements, I do not believe that the honourable mover would say that they are not necessary. Conceding the necessity of this establishment then, may I ask him how he would run this establishment in the most economical method? For the last few days, Sir, we have been having proposals for retrenchments and retrenchments alone, but to-day for running an establishment, a sum of Rs. 30,000 is opposed. Suppose the Government undertakes to run this establishment. What would it cost? I cannot positively say. Putting it at a very wide margin, I would say that it would at least cost as much as one lakh a year. If the Government are going to pay a lakh of rupees for running this establishment, Honourable Members will again get up and say what is the fun of this Government spending one lakh of rupees when money is wanting. The work has been criticised in one or two directions. The Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao has been saying that the manager has been asked to take in some Hindu maistries and that he found it impossible to do so. Sir, the management of this institution is given to a private man who is in charge of the whole thing, the success or failure it is only such persons upon whom he can safely depend to carry out his instructions that he must choose. It is impossible for a man who has been entrusted with a work, if he really wants to carry it out with any amount of success, to take in outsiders whom he does not know and on whose work he does not place much reliance. To suggest that, Sir, I believe is quite inconsistent with the ordinary method of carrying on work.

"Then again, Sir, the question has been raised about the preaching of a particular religion. The Hon'ble the Law Member has been good enough to give an assurance from the Government and also from the manager of the institution that if there is any society, or if there is any organized body elsewhere willing to undertake the preaching of Hindu religion or the religion of these criminals that are settled there, the Government will not object to it, but, on the other hand, the Government will encourage it and also the manager will not object to it. But has the Honourable the mover or Mr. Krishna Rao or any one of these people been able to state that they have got an organized body who would go and teach Hindu religion or anything of that sort. Nothing has been stated of that stamp. Simply machinery at a lot of self-sacrifice and for a pittance of Rs. 30,000 and odd which this Government is willing to give him, simply because that the agent is a Christian missionary, is it fair, Sir, in this democratic House to come forward and say that this amount ought not to be given? I put it to my honourable friends once more whether they are able to run this institution. These criminals have been here and the Government have been trying to reclaim them. Nothing has been done on the other side to reclaim these criminals and yet the cry is raised 'why do you waste these 30,000 rupees.' I retort the cry 'would these Honourable Members be prepared to spend one lakh of rupees for the same, would they be satisfied and would they be responsible to their electors and would they satisfy the tax-payer by now coming forward and saying the Government was willing to pay Rs. 30,000 and one lakh for the very same purpose? I believe, Sir, that is not a very sound policy to follow.'"

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"Objection was raised on the basis that the settlement is managed by a Christian body. I protest against this statement.

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What does it matter whether he is a Christian or a Muhammadan, whoever he is, he is bent upon doing good to humanity. My fear seems to be that these people may be converted to Christianity. I will be extremely glad if these people become Christians instead of being Hindus and criminals. There is no attempt on our part to organize societies to reclaim criminals to teach morality and religion among ourselves, like the missionaries. Why should we grudge that when they are undertaking to do these things? Of course, they believe that conversion is doing good to so many persons. They cannot help it. Everybody who has true faith in the religion must believe that conversion does ultimate good for the man to whom they teach Christianity. It is absent in the Hindu religion: we do not know which man belongs to which religion. We have amongst us atheists, agnostics; but it is not the case with their religion. They have got a systematic way of teaching their principles. When such is the case, I see no reason why these people should object to their teaching religion. I welcome more missionaries for the purpose of reclaiming criminal tribes to the right path. So I am not at one with the mover in this particular respect."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I wanted to draw the attention of the House to the conditions of the settlement. Sir, as I have pointed out, I can quote many more passages. I stated already that Mr. Bawden is a very estimable Christian missionary and he seems to have done a good deal for young children also. Their school is good and I believe the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has also referred to it in one of his reports. I wanted to point out 'you might under the Criminal Tribes Act try to protect societies, but you have not tried to treat these people as human beings.' That I want to point out to the Government. Many of our members are telling that the criminals are being reclaimed. So far as I can see, there have been attempts made by this mission to whom the public money is being given to reclaim the criminals. They have not succeeded. There are passages in which—I am afraid I may lose my time if I go on quoting passages—these failures are clearly shown. If wives are left and husbands run away, they, the wives and children, are driven to starvation. This is absolute cruelty which the Government should not be a party to. No doubt they say these criminals are paid for reclamation under the management of the mission. What they do is this: they employ them on contract work. They are given certain piecework to do. If they are not able to do this, it is stated they are fined. It is mentioned that one was fined 4 annas and another 1 anna for indifference or laziness. It is all very well; but taking into consideration the wage of 7 annas and 8 annas a week given to a man, do you expect him to do any work? Of course official people like ourselves, are given good travelling allowances for touring, and yet some of them prey upon the villages. Do you expect these poor fellows paid so low, not to run away? They were forced to leave their children and run away. I have come in contact with many of these people and have defended some of them who were unjustly charged. I have known that the family affection existing between husband and wife among them is as strong as among other classes of people, and yet they are obliged to leave their family and run away. Mr. Bawden wants to see that young men in the settlement might not contaminate such women. There are so many other instances. I would rather suggest that Government itself tries to reclaim them out of the money of the tax-payer rather than give money to a mission which is trying rather unsuccessfully to do so. According to their own admission, I make bold to say that Government money should be spent if necessary to reclaim these people and to keep them under proper management. Give them, as our friend says, living wages and not starve

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them or hand them over to a mission body and then say 'they are ready to take them and reclaim them and so we shall give them the money'. The mass of the people would not like to have such a thing done. We want to reclaim them. Do what all you can for providing safeguards, but do not hand them over to a mission body. No doubt Mr. Bawden is very good. But the whole management is heartless. The district magistrate bears testimony to it. I am willing to wait for sometime, and go to the settlement myself, make a closer examination and bring the resolution again. For the present, I would withdraw the resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Before the Honourable Member is allowed by you and by the House, Sir, to withdraw his motion I should like to say a few words. The Honourable Member has said that it was his intention to go to the settlement and visit it himself and then to bring another resolution on the subject. May I, Sir, through you suggest to him that before characterizing the work of Mr. Bawden as 'heartless' and 'cruel', it would have been wise if Mr. Kesava Pillai had gone to the settlement and seen a little personally what the work done there is. I have done that myself, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*):—"I am quoting from the report of the Honourable Member himself."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*):—"The attributes used by Mr. Kesava Pillai are not there. I have seen the settlement myself. I have known Mr. Bawden and been in intimate touch with the management of the settlement for upwards of two years, and I venture to say that no one who knows him would call him heartless or cruel."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*):—"I do not do so, Sir. I said the management was heartless and cruel. I have never made any personal remark. I have said that Mr. Bawden is a very good man and the people in jails are also very good. I say nothing against him personally."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*):—"The implication, I think, of Mr. Kesava Pillai's speech clearly was that while Mr. Bawden was good towards the children he was heartless and cruel towards the adults."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*):—"I said, Sir, that personally Mr. Bawden was very good. It is the maistries that are very cruel. I made the same statement before the Jails Commission."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*):—"I am sorry to have been the cause of such repeated interruptions, Sir. I was merely speaking of the impressions left by Mr. Kesava Pillai's remarks. I may say here, Sir, that the issues raised in respect of this question are issues which have involved protracted controversy in the past. The notes of inspection of the visitors of the settlement including Mr. Krishna Rao have elicited from Mr. Bawden a detailed criticism extending over eight pages of small print. Now, in all that discussion there is much that is devoted to the question of the 'starvation' wage. Mr. Kesava Pillai and other speakers have assumed that 7 annas 6 pies a week is the general average wage. I should like, Sir, to point out that that is not the case at all. It is possible that it is all that individual adults in the settlement earn but it is certainly not the average wage. Undoubtedly, there is opportunity for those who work diligently to obtain a fair subsistence. I should like, Sir, with your leave, to read a very brief extract from Mr. Bawden's report on the subject of the class of people with whom he deals. And remember, Sir, that in these three settlements there are on the average something like 2,000 persons including a large number of people

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transferred from the settlement at Kalichedu without the request and rather against the will of Mr. Bawden. It is that inroad of refractory personages from Kalichedu which is one of the greatest defects of the settlement. That is a general proposition which I should like this House to bear in mind. This is what Mr. Bawden writes:—

"It must be remembered that the people in the settlement at Kavali are all of them registered criminal tribes, that their mode of life before coming to the settlement was of theft and idleness, and that there are three items with regard to many of them that are true. First, they are unaccustomed to any work at all. Secondly, practically all of them are unskilled in any work that requires skill. Thirdly, very many of them are unwilling to work. I have been six years with these people and with the exception of a very few of them, there are none of them that I would engage, if I were an employer of labour, as an ordinary coolie.' That is a general statement about these people.

"Mr. Krishna Rao has admitted that this settlement is doing excellent work with regard to the children. Nobody who has seen the school in the management of Miss Bullard could possibly dispute that, for she is doing the most excellent work. I have been told by police officer after police officer that the reclamation of these criminal tribes, so far as the existing generation of adults is concerned, is almost beyond human power. The hope of reclamation to which we must look forward is in regard to the next generation, and I believe the work that is done in this direction at Kavali is beyond all praise.

"We have also been told, I think, by Mr. Krishna Rao that sufficient effort is not being made to settle the inmates of this colony on the land. As a non-official visitor of that settlement, he must be aware that Mr. Bawden's system is to send those men who have proved themselves to be *prima facie* satisfactory members of society, first of all, I think, to Bitragunta where they are given land to cultivate and a measure of independence, and afterwards if they make good, he sends them on to Allur where they enjoy more liberty. When I was at Bitragunta one of the subjects which engaged my special attention was the possibility of arranging with the Irrigation department of the Public Works Department for the draining of a large swamp there—a measure which I hope will find ample labour for these settlers—while ultimately the improved land will be handed over to them. I mention this, Sir, in order to make it clear that the question of settling the men on the land has not been neglected by Government but is a subject of constant attention. As to industrial pursuits, that is a far more difficult problem. If instead of referring to industrial pursuits in general terms, Mr. Krishna Rao, as a non-official visitor or as a member of this Council, could suggest any specific practical industry which could be pushed through with success in the settlement, no one would be more grateful than I or my honourable colleague or the managers of the settlement.

"I do not propose, Sir, to touch on the religious question. That is an issue, which, I may say, I have discussed on at least three occasions with Mr. Bawden. It is referred to at length in his rejoinder to the Committee's inspection notes printed in the paper of which a copy has been given to Mr. Kesava Pillai. I referred to the point in what I might describe, 'a dying bequest' to my successor in charge of the department of industrial settlements. This is what I wrote: 'With regard to the religious issue raised in these papers, I can only say that in my opinion Mr. Bawden has justified his policy and it would be a great mistake to risk losing his services by insistence upon any radical change. He has gone to the utmost limit, consistent with his own religious principles in offering to provide

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facilities for instruction in the Hindu or Muhammadan religion, if particular settlers wish for it and Hindus or Muhammadans are willing to come forward with definite proposals, subject to his general supervision, for the conduct of special services and under conditions such as to ensure the same measure of discipline as his own arrangements in regard to the Christian religion entail.'

"Before I sit down, there is only one more word I wish to say and that is with regard to the particular issue of the insufficiency of wage. That is a matter to which in drafting the Government review I drew the particular attention of the Commissioner of Labour. There is no better way of ensuring thorough investigation of the question and I venture to think that this aspect is sufficiently dealt with, when I say that in December last I requested the Commissioner of Labour, when he next visited the settlement, to pay special attention to the alleged 'insufficiency of the wages earned by certain of the settlers, particularly, the District Magistrate's surmise that in such cases the wages earned must be supplemented from other and presumably illegitimate sources.'"

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Although I do not belong to Nellore I can say that I know the conditions of the Nellore district somewhat intimately. I know that before these settlements came into existence, the person and property in several parts of the Nellore district were very unsafe. The ryots of the district were constantly in dread of the criminal tribes and we used to hear of dacoities off and on. Apart from the fact that it is the duty of the State to reclaim the criminals, as a zamindar interested in the Nellore district I must say that these settlements have greatly minimized the depredations of the criminal tribes and that whoever stands between the criminal settlements and the Nellore people will be doing a great disservice to the district."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—"I wish to say one word, Sir. After the speeches of my previous speakers, I think that the settlement is well conducted and the money well spent in a well directed charity, the expenditure incurred in this case being just as good as the money spent on the reformatory schools."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"Since it has pleased the Hon'ble the Home Member to speak upon this resolution, even after Mr. Kesava Pillai, after trying to point out what he considered to be the defects in the settlement, had proposed to withdraw his resolution, and since I take it that the resolution is still under discussion I feel myself, compelled, Sir, on reading one portion of the report, to make the very few observations that I shall make now. As I understand, the object of Mr. Kesava Pillai was primarily to draw attention to the defects in the settlement and I do not think that the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, in his reply, touched actually on the points to which he has drawn attention. But he has, if I may say so, Sir, made certain remarks which are irrelevant to the issue by pointing out the excellence of the arrangement. Now, Sir, we are not here to condemn the work of the settlement as a whole. But we are entitled to insist that if there are patent defects, defects that disfigure the management, that these defects shall be removed and the only means by which we can do that is by drawing attention to them and that can be done only by asking for the reduction or the deletion of the vote that is demanded by the Government. There is one aspect of this question which, I am afraid, has not been given the attention that it deserves."

"I find, Sir, from this report that it is not merely a criminal settlement that is asked to be managed, but that a Christian Mission is asked to manage it to which grants are made by us, so that facilities are directly given for the purpose of proselytising those who are in the settlement,

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facilities which are not equally granted to other religions on account of a certain difficulty that is said to exist in arranging for other persons than Christians to get in there who would have equal influence with the settlers. If Honourable Members will turn to page 10 of the Government Order relating to this question. . . ."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"May I ask, Sir, what the Honourable Member is reading from, and whether it has been laid on the table?"

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*continuing*) :—"I am now reading, Sir, from a copy which was accessible to the Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai, a copy which, I take it, is accessible to every other member of this House, and which therefore I am entitled to quote from, and I am exceedingly sorry that on this question the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson should ask for a privilege to be maintained because on any information that I am giving to this House, the proper way to meet it is not by pleading such a privilege but by showing that the information is wrong."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"I do not know how the Honourable Member can suggest that I am shutting out information from the House. I only wanted to know what the paper was that he was reading from."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*continuing*) :—"The Honourable Member knows the Government Order as well as I do."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"I am sure that a copy of that document was not given to Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*continuing*) :—"As I have already said, I am now reading, Sir, from page 10 of the Government Order. The Honourable Member knows as well as myself what that Government Order is. It is not private information that has been given to me that I want to disclose to the House. I am only reading from a copy of the Government Order and that would go to show that proselytising is an active part of the work that this mission is doing, and I am sure that public money is not intended to help any particular mission, however laudable its general work might be, in its special work of proselytising persons. Now, Sir, that is a point which requires the consideration of this House and I simply put it to the Government, so that it might see that while it may be impossible for any particular mission to take up this work, except on the terms of being allowed to proselytise the settlers, whether some other method could not be devised whereby all religions could have an equal chance, and as a Hindu, I could not believe that it is only the Christian religion that is helpful to these persons. In these circumstances, Sir, particularly when you find that there is this mention made in connexion with the work of the mission, namely, that the people have begun to realize the benefit of this religion having been promised a life that is and that which is to come and it is a principle which, I venture to say, is not peculiar to any particular religion worth the name—I submit, Sir, that equal facilities should be thrown open to all religions and if these terms are not acceptable to this mission for carrying on the work, the management may be changed even if it happens to cost more. That is the point that I wish to press upon the attention of the House."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The period of three hours prescribed by His Excellency for the disposal of this demand having expired, it is now my duty to proceed to put it to the Council."

[The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar] [29th March 1921]

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai then withdrew his motion with the leave of the Council.

The following motions were considered to have lapsed as they could not be taken up for discussion:—

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—

'14. That the following items of duty allowance be omitted:—

'37-C. Miscellaneous Department—Miscellaneous—Criminal Settlements—

	RS.
Duty allowance to medical officer (Budget, page 184) ..	120
Duty allowance to sub-assistant surgeon (Budget, page 184) ..	120
Duty allowance to sub-assistant surgeon (Budget, page 184) ..	180

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—

'15. That the following items of duty allowance be omitted:—

	RS.
To medical officer (Budget, page 184) ..	120
To sub-assistant surgeon (Budget, page 184) ..	180

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—

'16. That Rs. 2,000, being the provision made for barbed wire-fencing in Reformatory Settlement, Guntur, be omitted (Budget, page 184).

'17. That Rs. 1,692, being the lump provision asked for increased supervision grant at Sitanagaram Settlement, Guntur district, be omitted (Budget, page 184).'

Demand XXIV as modified (i.e., Rs. 6.47 lakhs minus 1 lakh or Rs. 5.47 lakhs) for the administration of Labour and allied departments was then put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXV—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF CIVIL OFFICERS.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"I beg to move—

'For a grant exceeding 35.73 lakhs for Civil Works—In charge of Officers (mainly grants to local bodies).'

The demand was put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXVI—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS (RESERVED PORTIONS).

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I have the honour, Sir, to move for a grant of 11.09 lakhs under this head."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to propose—

'1. To omit Rs. 1,47,500, provided under 'Original Works' for residences of the Governor (Public Works Budget, page 1).'

"Sir, if you refer to page 1 of the Public Works budget under the head 'Residence of the Governor' for the year 1919-20 (Accounts) Rs. 1,60,617 has been budgeted. In the budget estimate for 1920-21, Rs. 1,72,500 has been budgeted and in the revised estimate Rs. 2,60,780. Then again in this year's budget, Rs. 1,47,500 has been provided. Sir, the amount is a big amount that has been provided for in this budget. In addition to this, under the head of repairs another Rs. 1,35,000 has been provided for the residence of the Governor.

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Then again, Sir, under the head 28, a lump sum for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses Rs. 1,25,000 has been provided. Altogether, Sir, about Rs. 4,07,500 is provided for expenses for the residence of the Governor. I do not want to make any speech on this matter. We all know we are trying to cut down expenditure. We want money for other many useful purposes. We want money to pay non-gazetted officers and also village munsifs and karnams. In these circumstances, Sir, I beg to move that this amount be omitted."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Sir, the sum of Rs. 1,47,500 mentioned in resolution No. 40 is made up of the 1.25 lakhs mentioned in the succeeding resolutions plus an item of Rs. 22,500. The additional Rs. 22,500 represents an allotment provided for use at the discretion of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, who is allowed in respect of the three Government Houses at Madras, Guindy and Ootacamund to spend an aggregate sum not exceeding Rs. 22,500 per annum. He has authority to sanction minor estimates within the limit. Past experience has shown that this delegation of power is very essential and I venture to think, Sir, that this House is not likely to question a measure of decentralization of that description. If now, Sir, I proceed to deal with the remaining Rs. 1,25,000, I shall incidentally be answering the next series of resolutions and perhaps it will conduce to the expeditious disposal of the case, if I adopt that course. I will say then, Sir, that this Rs. 1,25,000 which remains, does not actually represent definite works, but is a lump provision much below the aggregate of the sanctioned estimates for specific works. Perhaps I had better mention what specific works are on hand, saying at the same time that the budget provision of a lakh and a quarter represents an arbitrary reduction of the sum which, if funds had been available in larger measure, might have been provided in order to carry out improvements in these Government Houses which have been fully investigated. In the first place, there is an excess liability of Rs. 12,663 incurred in the current year but not yet actually met. That is a liability which will have to be discharged at the beginning of the next financial year and I will remind the House, Sir, that this is the 29th of March. There is then an estimate of Rs. 15,585 for electrical works at Government House, Ootacamund, which are considered to be essential in order to place that residence of His Excellency the Governor in something approaching to the standard of upkeep which Mr. Arpudawami Udaiyar told us the other day was so essential in regard to furniture. There is then, Sir, a series of estimates aggregating slightly over Rs. 1,06,000

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which were sent up to the Government of India for sanction. I can give the exact particulars of this, if Honourable Members wish. But the following is a rough summary. Minor improvements and additions to the Government House at Ootacamund come up to Rs. 11,300. Then come other substantial items—constructing quarters for 35 servants, Rs. 47,600; then extending the rear wing of the Military Secretary's office, Rs. 29,000; constructing a Public Works store shed, Rs. 15,300. Then there was another minor item of some Rs. 3,000 which, I think, consisted of additions to the dhobykhana. These are items in regard to which estimates have been duly prepared and a letter requesting sanction was sent to the Government of India in December last; because it was thought desirable that these works should be carried out before His Excellency left for Ootacamund in April. The Government of India, however, declined to sanction execution before the close of the year and directed that provision should be made in the budget of the coming year. There are two or three other sets of estimates, one for fire protection and water-supply amounting

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to Rs. 39,880; and the other for drainage improvements aggregating to Rupees 8,760. I have now given particulars which including items within the Military Secretary's sanctioning power, aggregate to over two lakhs of rupees. The provision made in the budget is only 1.25 lakhs."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"As this sum of Rs. 1,47,500 is said to include the sum of Rs. 1,25,000, it will be convenient if Honourable Members who have tabled motions in regard to that also speak now."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I wish to say one thing, Sir. This item of Rs. 1,47,500 is item 28 in the Civil Works budget. Because it is discussed now, it should not be said hereafter that all the previous items, i.e., up to and including 27, cannot be discussed. That point of order is often raised in this House and naturally and very reasonably allowed by you, Sir. I have no complaint against it."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"May I ask for an explanation, Sir? On page 3 of this preliminary issue of the Public Works budget, under Original Works—Residence of the Governor—the amount provided is Rs. 1,47,500. Again under repairs, it is Rs. 1,35,000. I want an explanation with regard to this, Sir."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I did not quite catch what the Honourable Member said. But I may say that page 1 gives an abstract and that the details are given from page 2 onwards."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU moved —

'2. To omit Rs. 1.25 lakhs, lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

In doing so, he said:—"The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has given us information as to the preparation of estimates for the various works which make up this large expenditure. As this is the first motion we are discussing in connexion with Original Civil Works which are under Public Works Officers, it is but necessary that we should have a correct conception as to why all these motions are now coming before the House. We have felt that it is absolutely essential to effect substantial retrenchment in all possible directions and we have found from our experience that it has not been possible to effect any substantial retrenchment where the pay has been sanctioned or has been given effect to and in the matter of travelling allowances to individual members and contingencies. I think, Sir, that if we really want money for various purposes, the most reasonable place where we can apply the pruning knife is Original Works—Civil Buildings. No doubt buildings are necessary in several cases and they are good and useful in their own way. It is not necessary for us to discuss that aspect of the question. Nobody suggests for a moment that it will not be advantageous if we construct the various buildings included in the Public Works budget. Nobody will suggest that the Government House should not be in a much better fashion and in a more artistic manner than at present. But when we really feel that we ought to effect some retrenchment, I think that except in special cases where absolute necessity and urgency requires that we should vote for the provision, the policy of this House should be to vote against the grant. I do not suggest that we can apply this as a rule of thumb in every case. We have to discriminate between one case and another and see whether we have, not as a matter of additional convenience, not as a matter of additional accommodation but as a matter of necessity, to vote, for

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the provision of any building. I will urge upon this House to give effect to the policy of retrenchment. It is for that reason that I think that this sum of Rupees 1.25 lakhs is not necessary."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I also beg to move—

'3. To omit Rs. 1.25 lakhs, lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

"The Hon'ble the Home Member has told us that this sum of 1.25 lakhs is necessary and some of the works have already been done and they ought to be paid for."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (interrupting):—"The work already done is only a matter of some Rs. 13,000."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU (continuing):—"Yes. Quite so. If the supply of these papers is intended to give information to the members, we find on turning to page 3 about this item 28, the amount of estimate. There are two square brackets between which there is no amount mentioned. Again going further, we find that nothing was spent in 1919-1920 on this head. During 1920-1921 we find a blank. Under 1921-1922—works under progress—it is shown blank. For the new works, Rs. 1,25,000 is provided. These are to be commenced perhaps, according to the information given, after the 1st April 1921. Now, Sir, with this dearth of information, when it comes to questioning, the Hon'ble the Home Member has been pleased to tell us that a portion of the work has already been undertaken and it is awaiting payment."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (interrupting):—"May I with your leave, Sir, correct a misapprehension or possibly a careless statement of my own which may lead us into unprofitable channels. It is in my experience of the Public Works Department and also of other disbursing departments that it is not uncommon to incur expenditure somewhat larger than the sanctioned allotment. In such cases adjustments in the accounts are made after the 31st March out of the allotment for the next year. Unless the sums are very large, there is nothing very peculiar about this, for it is often impossible to restrict the actual expenditure to exact figures."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU (continuing):—"I quite appreciate what the Honourable Member has said. In my own little experience I also find it occasionally like that. But the point is why was not that information given in the preliminary issue which was supplied to us only a few days ago? That would have saved much of our trouble."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (interrupting):—"May I answer that question, Sir? The reason is that Rs. 1,25,000 is a lump provision which does not represent any particular estimates. It is a lump provision for additions and improvements to Government Houses and may include a variety of items. We do not yet know which item His Excellency may consider to be the most imperative of the various items."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU (interrupting):—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that estimates are prepared before lump provisions are budgeted for?"

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The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Estimates are in existence. But which particular estimates will actually be met from this lump provision is the matter in issue."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARIU (*continuing*):—"So what I gather is this. There are some estimates and those estimates have to be selected and put in under this provision, so that we may have Rs. 1,25,000 to satisfy those estimates. I submit, Sir, in the first place, there seems to be some vagueness about this provision. Even the Government do not seem to have made up their minds as to what particular works should be done under this lump provision. In the present state of our finance, will it not be possible to postpone these additions and improvements for a more propitious season? No doubt His Excellency's residence must be of primary consideration to us. But at the same time, let the Government also consider the predicament in which the country is placed in the present stringent financial condition. I, therefore, submit that the question is whether we should find money for our necessities or whether we should find money for our luxuries. The question reduces itself to that. If so, there can be only one answer to that, namely, let us postpone our luxuries and let us provide for our necessities."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"I beg to propose—

'4. To omit 1.25 lakhs, lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

"It is not necessary for me to add anything to what was said by the previous speakers who have proposed similar motions. I want to say very few words in support of my motion. My object in proposing to omit this allotment of Rs. 1,25,000 from the budget estimate is to provide funds for more urgent and important purposes. This expenditure is intended for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses. The question is whether the additions and improvements proposed are very urgent and quite necessary. I suppose His Excellency with his usual kindness may give his consent to postpone the work, considering the fact that funds are insufficient for more pressing needs such as sanitation, etc., in the Presidency. For instance, the Salem municipality is badly in need of a drainage scheme. I propose that this amount of Rs. 1,25,000 be utilized this year for the acquisition of lands for the Salem drainage scheme."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI moved—

'5. To reduce by Rs. 50,000, lump provision of Rs. 1.25 lakhs for Government Houses (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

In doing so, he said:—"It is not for the entire omission that I move this resolution. It is for establishing a principle, viz., a percentage of expenditure on improvements year after year with reference to the capital cost of the building. This will avoid frictions in the future. I calculate that the three Government Houses on an average cost 5 lakhs each, or 15 lakhs on the whole. A sum of Rs. 75,000 is quite ample to spend on improvements for the year 1921-1922. Unlike repairs and maintenance of works which cannot be put off improvements to buildings can be postponed to a future date."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I should like to speak after hearing the other members on the subject."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I called on the Member to speak because his motion was on the agenda. He may speak when he likes."

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju's motion was as follows:—

'6. To omit Rs. 1.25 lakhs (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, in a few words I should like to move this proposition for the acceptance of the House, viz.,

'7. To omit Rs. 1.25 lakhs (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

"It has been said many a time in this House, I may even say *ad nauseam*, that economy must go right through the machine. If I remember right, this item, referring as it does to the Government House, may be supposed to represent the top of the machine. This item of Rs. 1.25 lakhs comes under the head of lump provisions, which, if I am permitted to say, have an element of vagueness about them, and the dominant characteristic of a lump provision is the considerable amount of uncertainty investing it. As remarked by some of the previous speakers, the financial outlook of this Presidency does not appear to be very hopeful or promising. There are other pressing demands upon the public exchequer, and it is but reasonable to ask that this item may be allowed to stand over. I should like to be enlightened by the Honourable Member in charge of the department as to whether this work is of such an urgent character that unless the additions proposed and the improvements sought to be effected are peremptorily carried out, there will be any great danger of the Government House tumbling down or any great danger of the deterioration in point of appearance or practical utility. For my part, I am free to confess that the Government House may wait for a year or two until the financial conditions are more hopeful. There are more urgent claims on the public purse, for example, there is a regular army of non-gazetted officers whose cause we have promised to advocate. I venture to submit that this item can very well be ignored at present, so far as the coming year is concerned. I am for the deletion of this item, which does not savour of the parsimony which has been claimed to the credit, or rather to the absence of credit, of the Government of Madras, but which seems to err on the side of extravagance."

Rao Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU:—"On page 7, there is a similar motion; so I do not wish to move this now."

The Hon'ble Mr. O. G. TODHUNTER:—"I am glad to recognize that the Honourable Members who have pressed this motion have no

5-15 p.m. wish to put a stop altogether to the making of necessary improvements to the Government Houses, but that all that they wish is that some of the works should be postponed, in pursuance of this year's policy of retrenchment. One speaker has urged that this retrenchment should go right through the machine, beginning at the top. With reference to this, I should like to assure him that the retrenchment has already begun at the top and that, although the demands of the Public Works Department for improvements and additions to the Government Houses amounted to over two lakhs of rupees, the amount has already been reduced by no less a sum than Rs. 75,000, so that the provision in the budget is not enough even to pay for the estimates that are now ready. Another Honourable Member has referred to the army of subordinates who are waiting to eat up any savings that we can make. In this connexion, I should like to mention that the provisions which are now under discussion are provisions for the comfort, not of His Excellency the Governor only, but of what is very nearly an army of servants and others. When

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a motion was tabled recently about the doctors engaged at the Government Houses, I asked the Surgeon to His Excellency the Governor what was the total number of the population to which these doctors had to minister. I don't remember his figure exactly, but I think it was something like 900. Another Member has urged that we should postpone luxuries to necessities like sanitation. On this point, I should like to say that a large part of the works provided for are not luxuries at all, but are works of sanitation. Others are works for the health of the Government House staff, as, for instance, a lying-in ward for the little hospital there. There has been a good deal of misconception arising out of the fact that the provision in the budget is put in the shape of a lump provision. I think this can be easily explained. The columns which have been referred to as being blank are columns under which the progress is shown of large estimates estimates now in question to fill up either the columns for the total estimate or those for the progress made in past years, for the reason that we are dealing not with one large estimate, but with a very large number of small ones and that the sum put down in the budget, which represents an arbitrary reduction from the total of the small estimates, has not yet been allocated to any particular items. That will have to be done when the order of urgency is settled. Finally, I should like to remind Honourable Members that some of these works are already in hand, while in regard to others commitments have already been made and that therefore it is not possible for them to cancel this provision outright without involving Government in a failure to fulfil their financial engagements."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I move that the question be now put."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Two Honourable Members have already spoken. If any other Honourable Member wishes to speak, he may do so."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, the Hon'ble the Finance Member stated that regarding the electrical installation, some of the things are to be replaced. The item now under discussion is about improvements to the Government House. I do not believe that this item which goes under the heading of additions and improvements also includes electrical installation."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"It does. It is one of the items included in the catalogue. The Public Works Department has given me a series of estimates from which the one lakh and a quarter was taken."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*) :—"We have got two items. One is for repairs. That is covered by the motion of Mr. U. Rama Rao. The other item is 1.25 lakhs for additions and improvements."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Is not 1.25 lakhs included in the 1.47 lakhs?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Yes."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju will see that the 1.25 lakhs is included in the 1.47 lakhs."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*) :—"I find two items here. On the first page, I find one item, and on the third, another item."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"To cut matters a little bit short, I may tell Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju what the details of the electrical

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estimate are—improvements to overhead main. We are now dealing with additions and improvements. Item I, Improvements to overhead and underground Main; item II, providing additional lines in the dining hall; Item III, laying in the front drain for the underground system; Item IV, additional lines; Item V, additional lines for hospital. Then follows the remark of the Military Secretary :—

'Additional works are absolutely necessary and cannot be postponed, as in most cases, the present posts are rotten and unserviceable.'

"I presume the existing arrangements in two or three cases are the overhead arrangement which is classified as an additional improvement. The total amount of the five items is Rs.15,585."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*) :—"We need not quarrel about the headings. The point is whether this is an item which can be postponed for the time being. I know with what feelings of delicacy this House wishes to deal with items concerning the comforts of His Excellency the Governor. But at the same time, we owe a duty to the tax-payer. And this is the first time this item has to be budgeted for and is open for discussion in this Council, because in former budgets it never used to be discussed, and it is necessary that we shall have to scrutinize, item after item and see whether there is absolute necessity for any of these items for the time being. The question is whether the finances of the province will allow these items to be budgeted for or can safely be postponed. As long as we have got more pressing demands, I believe it is the duty of this House to see that other urgent necessities are satisfied and does not feel any delicacy regarding the requirements of His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Here also is a case where we can appeal to the Government if they cannot reduce something. One of the two items we are dealing with is Rs. 1.25 lakhs for repairs. So far as repairs are concerned, we may not be able to reduce much. So far as additions are concerned, we were told that additional lines or improvements to lines will cost Rs. 15,000. We are not however told as to how much the maternity hospital would cost. Thanks to the Honourable Member for observing that in discussing this we are not dealing with the comforts of His Excellency, but the comforts of the staff of His Excellency, or as has been put, the wives of the staff of His Excellency. The question is when there is so much stringency of money whether a maternity hospital for a few wives of the staff of His Excellency the Governor is necessary."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—"That matter refers to the syces, underlings and the menials at the Government House. There is no need to introduce His Excellency's personal staff in the matter."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—"That makes my position stronger. I say there are a few maternity hospitals in the Presidency and there is one big maternity hospital in Madras in the town. I do not see any reason why the wives of the menial staff cannot attend that maternity hospital and why there should be a maternity hospital and a doctor to serve the purpose of these inmates or the wives of the inmates of this menial staff. After all, we see that the requirements of the Public Works Department are sometimes very large. We were told that they wanted Rs. 75,000 more and it was due to the kindness of the Financial Department that a curtailment has been made. Therefore we appeal to the Hon'ble the Finance Member to see if this item cannot be postponed, the building of the maternity hospital, without which the Government menial staff

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have been getting on till now. When there was plenty of money these things did not take place, and when there is stringency, I do not see why this should take place. We appeal to the Government to give us an assurance before to-morrow whether some amount could not be cut off in this item."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I should like to know whether any portion of this expenditure covered by this item has already been incurred. That is the first enquiry I should like to make."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I have already said that there is something like Rs. 12,000."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" The second point is which of these items of expenditure relate to the Government House at Ootacamund and which to the Government House at Madras. The Government and this House have come to an understanding that the stay of Government on the Hills should be limited to three months and if any portion of this expenditure is to be incurred under the head of Government House at Ootacamund or expenditure connected with the stay of His Excellency at Ootacamund, it is a question for consideration whether that expenditure is necessary. There is some feeling that expenditure on Government Houses this year or last year has not been on the same scale as in previous years."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" Due to the war."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" It may be so."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Are the figures correct?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" They are quite correct. Nothing has been spent, and that was on account of the war."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" But I should like to know which of these relates to the item of expenditure on Government House at Madras and how much has to be spent on Government House at Ootacamund."

The Council then adjourned at 5-30 p.m. to meet at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 30th day of March 1921.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 30th day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, B.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Road Board for the Presidency.

536 Q.—MR. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state, with reference to G.O. No. 9 L., dated 4th January 1921, regarding the constitution of Road Board for the Presidency—

- (a) whether the Board in question has been formed;
- (b) if not, when it is likely to start; and
- (c) what the functions are of the Board.

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The main function of the Board is to work out a definite policy for improving the communication in the Presidency on an examination of the following subjects which are closely connected with and are incidental to their proper upkeep, viz. :—

- (1) The classification of roads into first class trunk roads, second class roads and other roads,
- (2) the construction of roads, bridges, causeways, rest-houses and ferries,
- (3) the maintenance of avenues and sign posts,
- (4) lighting,
- (5) the qualifications, etc., of the engineering staff,
- (6) the laying of standard specifications and type-designs for roads and bridges,
- (7) the development of railways, tramways and motor services for passengers and goods, and
- (8) the control over traffic on roads.

Veterinary College students.

537 Q.—RAO BAHADUR A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development whether—

- (a) the Government have received any representations from the students of the Madras Veterinary College for the redress of their grievances; and
- (b) if so, what action has been taken in that matter.

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The representations are under the consideration of Government.

Buckingham canal.

538 Q.—RAO BAHADUR T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue why the Buckingham canal is not paying its way while all other canal systems in India are yielding a return of about 9 per cent per annum on the capital outlay.

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- 4.—The Buckingham canal does not pay its way
- (i) because owing to natural physical disabilities the cost of upkeep is very high; and
 - (ii) because the construction of a railway along the same route has afforded more attractive facilities for transport.
- The statement in the second part of the question is not correct. The only other navigation canals in India outside the Madras Presidency are in Bengal and these pay only about 1·20 per cent.

Transfer of Sivakāsi taluk board to Srivilliputtūr.

539 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SAUNDARA PANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(a) the reasons why he transferred the headquarters of the Sivakāsi taluk board from Sivakāsi to Srivilliputtūr; and

(b) whether, prior to such transfer, he ascertained the opinion of the Divisional Officer, Sivakāsi, on the matter; and if he did, what the Divisional Officer's opinion was.

- A.—(a) Srivilliputtūr is more centrally situated than Sivakāsi.
(b) The answer is in the negative.

II

VOYING OF DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, if no other gentleman wishes to speak, I will begin. But I should like to have the last say in order that I may reply to all the remarks of the members who speak on these motions. Since last night, I have had the advantage of discussing these estimates with the Chief Engineer, who in turn has had a further discussion with the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor this morning, and the result is that I am now in a position to inform the House that the grant of Rs. 1,47,500 is the minimum sum which, we think, can properly be asked for for the outstanding works. Now a variety of specific questions have been put to me by Mr. Ramachandra Rao, including particularly the inquiry whether these estimates relate to the Government Houses at Madras and Quindy or to Government House, Ootacamund. The answer to that inquiry is that the bulk of the estimates are intended for work at Ootacamund. Broadly speaking, the position is that, last year and the year before, attention was primarily devoted to Government House, Madras, as the visit of the Prince of Wales was then expected, there had been a visit from the Viceroy before and subsequently work had to be done in connexion with the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

"The first item which goes to make up the budget provision is a sum of Rs. 22,500 available for outlay on all the three Government Houses and intended to meet minor works within the sanctioning powers of the Military Secretary. Roughly the figure for each house is Rs. 7,000. But a deficiency in the case of one Government House may by custom be made up from the sums provided for the other Government Houses. I understand from the Chief Engineer that in the revised estimate the larger portion of the expenditure relates to Government House, Madras. There are also liabilities already incurred in connexion with that Government House which have not been actually discharged; these amount to something like Rs. 12,000 and relate to estimates within the sanctioning powers of the Military Secretary. There is also a liability of Rs. 7,500 on an estimate sanctioned by the Government of India but not likely to be fully paid for during the current year. So far I have given particulars regarding some Rs. 42,000 made up

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of Rs. 22,500 plus Rs. 12,000 plus Rs. 7,500, and all items which we regard as absolutely requisite.

"The next item which has to be considered relates to electric lighting at Ootacamund. The estimate is in round figures Rs. 16,500 and as I have already explained that it comes under the category of 'additions and improvements'; a large portion relating to the replacement of the overhead line, which has become quite unserviceable, by an underline system. There is another minor item included in the details of the aggregate outlay at Ootacamund to which I referred yesterday; this is a sum of Rs. 3,000 for a school-house for the children of the Government House establishment. These two items bring up my total of essential expenditure to Rs. 61,500. In addition to that a careful scrutiny has been devoted since yesterday to the various estimates sent up to the Government of India in December or January, the aggregate amount of which comes to about 1·03 lakhs. The result of this scrutiny has been that a provision of 43 lakh for servants' quarters can safely be omitted. This is a consequence of the taking of a reduced Secretariat establishment to the Hills with the result that buildings in the vicinity of Government House which they used to occupy can now be made available for Government House servants who cannot be located in the existing precincts of Government House. Deducting 43 lakh on this account, there remains a sum of Rs. 60,000. That figure, together with the Rs. 61,500 for which I have furnished details, amounts to Rs. 1,21,000. It was at first thought that it might be possible to adopt that figure instead of a total of Rs. 1,47,500. But further consideration has shown that unfortunately this cannot be done. There are two items included in the additions to Government House, Ootacamund, which are certainly of pressing urgency and imperatively necessary. One proposal is, as I said yesterday, in connexion with drainage works. It is desired in the interests of sanitation to link up all the latrines at Government House with the underground drainage system and the amount asked for on this account comes to Rs. 8,760. The other item is provision for improvement of water-supply and fire protection at an expenditure of Rs. 39,880. I have before me here the certificate of the Chief Engineer given with a full sense of his responsibility, which runs as follows:—

"I cannot be held responsible for the safety of Government House, Ootacamund, as owing to the defective fire-appliances and water-supply it is insufficiently protected against destruction by fire."

"I should like to inform you, Sir, and the members of this House that only last year the Government House at Ootacamund was in imminent danger of being destroyed by fire owing to the inadequate supply of water and the consequent impossibility of directing a sufficient stream of water to extinguish a fire which broke out. The chimney leading from the fire place in the main hall caught fire at the point of junction with the first floor, with the result that a large portion of the supporting beam was damaged and there was grave danger of the whole premises being burnt down. The essential expenditure on drainage, water-supply and fire protection thus amounts to some Rs. 47,000. If this be added to the figures previously given, the resultant aggregate is nearly Rs. 1,70,000, notwithstanding a substantial reduction on account of servants' quarters at Ootacamund."

"In these circumstances, Sir, I hope the House will see that His Excellency the Governor has assented to every possible reduction and that it is still necessary to provide a sum of Rs. 1,47,500 for the proper upkeep of the Government Houses in this Presidency, and I appeal, Sir, in the light of this detailed explanation to Honourable Members to withdraw their motions."

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The motion of Mr. U. Rama Rao (1) was by leave withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao (2) was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. (3) which stood in the name of Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachari was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member was not present.

The motion of Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar No. 4 was by leave withdrawn.

The motion of Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju No. 6 was by leave withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar No. 7 was by leave withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"What does the Honourable Member Rao Bahadur T. Namberumal Chetti say in respect of his motion?"

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI:—"My motion, Sir, relates to additions and improvements. I do not want to withdraw it."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I should like to say a few words in respect of Mr. Namberumal Chetti's motion. I only wish to say that while I think I have succeeded in satisfying the Council that there is good cause for the grant of Rs. 1,47,500, still if Mr. Namberumal Chetti's point of view is that the charges of the Public Works Department are in excess of the value of the work done, I am authorized by the Chief Engineer to say that he would be quite ready to place the contracts with Mr. Namberumal Chetti himself if he would undertake to carry out for Rs. 75,000 Public Works Department estimates for 1.25 lakhs."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Is the Honourable Member right in asking a member of the House to take up a Government contract work here?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I need hardly inform the House that I was only making what might be called a sporting offer."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"You should make it outside the House."

Does the Honourable Member (pointing to Mr. Namberumal Chettiyar) press his motion?

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI:—"Yes."

The motion No. 5 was put to the vote and lost.

Sriman Sashibushana Rath Mahasayo did not make the motion standing in his name and it was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn—

"8. To omit Rs. 10,000, provided for constructing a new Deputy Tahsildar's office at Kudala (Public Works budget item 4)."

MR. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President—This motion is—

"9. To omit Rs. 3,00,000 lump provision for works in the Agency division."

"In moving this, my desire is to place two points of view. In the first place I understand that this sum of 3 lakhs is made without any estimates. That is how I find it stated in the detailed budget itself. In answer to a question of Mr. Ramachandra Rao it was stated that there was no estimate. I don't think that a lump provision of 3 lakhs without estimates and without any idea of the works or the expenditure can be made when there are other estimates ready to hand."

"The second objection is one which we ought to be clear about. I do not know if it is properly put in this account. It is Demand No. 26 (provision for works in the Agency division). I find from the Schedule to Devolution Rules that maintenance and construction of public works, construction of residence of His Excellency the Governor should be in the Transferred Department unless such

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maintenance and construction is undertaken by a Reserved Department. In case the maintenance and construction of a building is undertaken by a Reserved Department and His Excellency the Governor assigns the duty to that Reserved Department it will no doubt be in that department. But if the work of construction and maintenance is not assigned to a Reserved Department it continues in the hands of the Public Works Department. It does not matter whether the building is intended to be used in connexion with the administration of a transferred subject, in any case they are to come under Demand No. 27 and not under 26. These are the two things that I wish to lay before the House."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to propose the following Resolution:—

'10. To reduce to 1 lakh the provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for Agency works.'

"My object in moving this reduction is to provide funds for more important and more urgent purposes such as the increase of salaries to non-gazetted officers, village headmen and elementary school teachers in the Presidency. I do not understand why such a big allotment should be made for this work especially in the year 1921-22 when we are badly in need of funds for the above mentioned purposes. If we look into the budget carefully, we shall find that there was no such allotment in the current year or in previous years. I do not know how the Government came to feel the necessity this year, and how they arrived at this figure providing not 1 lakh or 2 but 3 lakhs. I think the Government will find it somewhat difficult to spend this big amount in one year, as there are no estimates already sanctioned. The fact that it is a lump provision itself clearly shows that nothing serious will happen if such a provision is not made. Now I am for reduction to 1 lakh and not for totally deleting the amount. So I request that my motion may be accepted by the House."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Mr. President, I have given notice of a motion similar to that moved by Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. I should like to add just a word or two to the remarks made by him. The Honourable Member in charge of the department told us that the money was urgently needed. There is a serious agitation to constitute the Oriya Province embracing the new Agency Division. If the agitation were to fructify, if owing to agitation it should become a reality and if these tracts were to become part and parcel of the new Oriya Province, Government would be thankful for having been saved this expenditure. In that view of the matter I shall feel bound to oppose the lump provision of 3 lakhs. As the Honourable Member has put it, it is a lump provision and the column, estimate, is left blank. I am not enamoured of lump provisions, in the absence of details, and it is unnecessary to labour the point in view of the fact that the amount is very large and no imminent urgency is shown. I submit that this is an item which ought to be struck out."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I shall not have much difficulty in convincing the House of the necessity for this provision. I should like first to refer to Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar's point about the classification. This has been roughly examined by Mr. Todhunter and the Financial Department and I understand he has come provisionally to the conclusion that this item should have been shown under 'Demand XXVII Transferred' and not under 'XXVI Reserved'. I express no opinion in the subject except that the grouping on the agenda paper is convenient since it enables me to take up together a series of items of work for which I am responsible."

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"I will now deal with the merits of the case. In the first instance estimates are sanctioned by various authorities according to the amount of each estimate. The Agency Commissioner himself has certain powers of sanction and if the Public Works Department is employed to carry out work, the Executive Engineer, the Superintending Engineer and the Chief Engineer have also got varying powers of sanction. The budget provision of 3 lakhs represents a reduction from the original demand put forward by the Commissioner which amounted to a sum of 4.25 lakhs. The Government provisionally accepted an aggregate total of 4 lakhs but subsequently owing to the financial stringency had to reduce it by 1 lakh. A reference was accordingly issued to the Agency Commissioner asking him to indicate under what particular items the reduction should be effected. In the result we had from him a final statement of 57 items of road works in the Agency tracts making an aggregate total of 3 lakhs. I do not propose to tire the House by reading out all the items. They range in amount from Rs. 500 to Rs. 30,000. I imagine that in each case estimates are in existence, either actually sanctioned or about to be sanctioned. The largest item relates to the Anantagiri Ghat Road, a project originally commenced in the days of Mr. H. G. Turner. The bulk of these items represent allotments to continue or carry on work already begun, such as for instance, the metalling of sections of road which fall due for execution or renewal and are classed under the head of 'new works' in accordance with the universal practice.

"It is asked why there should be so large an allotment. I have mentioned already that the Agency Commissioner's demand for $4\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs has been reduced to 3 lakhs. I should like to cite his remarks with regard to this reduction in his proposals.

"Mr. Harris writes: 'I have been guided by two considerations, (1) the necessity for pushing through main lines of communication and (2) the very modest amounts which Ganjam has asked for, and therefore got, in the past. It is most unfortunate that the scheme for the development of the Agency should be so starved of funds for this most essential form of development at the very start.'

"The other day when we were discussing the general question of the Agency tracts a number of Honourable Members laid stress on the importance of developing them. The first and most important measure of development consists in improving the road communication. It has been stated by Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar that there has been no expenditure under this head in the current year or in previous years. The Honourable Member is probably not aware that this provision corresponds to the allotments made in previous years to the district boards concerned. Agency road works were for the most part carried out by the Koraput District Board and the District Boards of Ganjam and Gōdāvari in so far as portions of the Agency lay within the jurisdiction of these two boards. In connexion with the creation of the Agency division it was decided that the construction of works in the Agency should be put into the hands of the Public Works Department for the present, but a report has been called for from the Agent as to the establishment of new local boards to deal with such works in future. Meanwhile the Public Works Department must carry them on. I may say, Sir, that the Agent's proposals in regard to the constitution of local boards have actually reached the Government—came to my house from the Secretariat last night. There were many complicated points raised in the file and I could not deal with them immediately, but hope to take the case up as soon as this legislative session is over. Last year the allotment to district boards for Agency road works came

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to an aggregate sum of 2.50 lakhs, the particulars whereof were given in detail in G.O. No. 120, Revenue, dated 17th January 1920, which was placed at the disposal of the Publicity Board and is I have no doubt within the reach of the Honourable Members of this House. The total includes for the Ganjam district, the Cinderella of these three Agency tracts, only a sum of Rs. 23,000 distributed over 21 items. In Vizagapatam and Koraput there are 17 items, dealt with respectively, 6 by the Vizagapatam District Board, 8 by the Koraput District Board and 3 by the Agency officers themselves. In the Gōdāvari Agency there are 12 items dealt with by the Gōdāvari District Board.

"It has been suggested by another critic, Mr. T. M. Narasimhachari, that after the Oriya Province comes into being and these tracts are transferred thereto this expenditure will be a dead loss to Madras.

11-30 a.m.

As I said the other day, Sir, if the Oriya Province comes into being, it is probable that only one of the six divisions which go to make up the Agency division will be transferred thereto. But I do not want to rely solely upon that point. I appeal to the House to consider whether it is not rather a parochial view to decline to meet the very necessary expenditure which goes to develop this tract of country because there is a possibility that the administration thereof may be transferred to a body other than the Government of Madras. Surely, Sir, it is our duty to keep things going as best as we can until administrative changes of that kind come into being. We cannot leave entirely untouched the ordinary maintenance of the roads or sections of the roads simply because one or two years hence the control of that area may perhaps be transferred to another administration. Further, as my honourable colleague reminds me, these roads that we are making and maintaining all run towards the coast and bring produce down into the plains of Madras. The administration of this Presidency owes on that account a special duty towards the Agency tracts on the hills."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, before hearing the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, I wanted to support this motion, but now I do not know whether to support it wholly or whether I should support it only partially. In the budget copy of the Civil Works, which was supplied to the Honourable Members there is one column showing the amount of estimates and in that column as against each item the amounts are given. For instance, 'quarters for the District Collector of Cuddapah, Rs. 30,000' and so on. Against some of these items there are amounts given and those amounts are included within square brackets, for instance, 'restoring the taluk office at Alagadda and reconstructing the record room, Rs. 23,000' within square brackets. There is also an explanation given that the amounts within rectangular brackets indicate the approximate cost. There are again certain rectangular brackets which include no amount whatever and the present amount is such an item. The inference that one would naturally draw from this is that no estimates have been prepared for this. The Hon'ble the Home Member now states that the estimates for this have been prepared. I think, Sir, if this information had been given in the budget itself, that would have thrown some light on the matter and Honourable Members would have been in a position to make up their minds one way or the other with reference to this. It is unfortunate that this information, namely, that estimates have been prepared for these works, was not given in the budget. Then the Hon'ble Home Member states that it is necessary that the Agency tracts should be developed. I fully admit that; from the discussion that took place the other day, it is clear that there is an

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urgent necessity to develop the Agency tracts and for developing money is necessary. But the question is whether any of these works has already been commenced and whether it is necessary to spend the whole of this Rs. 3 lakhs this year. Here again I am sorry to say that no information is given in the budget about these. For instance in the budget itself it is specifically stated that this amount of Rs. 3 lakhs should be given now and that nothing out of this has been spent."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"The Honourable Member states that it is specifically stated that no amount has been spent on this kind of work. I should like to ask him if that phrase does not need some slight correction."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Honourable Member stated that estimates for these Rs. 3 lakhs had been prepared and he also stated that some amounts had been spent upon some of these works. But what is stated in the budget itself is: Lump provision for works in the Agency division. And then in the column 'grants' for 1921-22, there are two columns; one of these columns is 'works in progress' and as against works which are in progress, amounts are shown in various items. For instance, for one particular item of work, Rs. 10,000 has been shown. Another item, namely 'for constructing residence for the Revenue Divisional Officer' the estimated amount is Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 5,000 has been spent upon the work which is already in progress. And as against this particular item no information has been given in that column. On the other hand that column is blank, thereby showing that no amount has been spent upon this work. If any amount has been spent on this work, that would have been shown as a work in progress. As a matter of fact in column 'work in progress' no amount has been shown and in the column relating to 'new works' the whole of this is put. If, as I said before, all this information had been given in the budget, it would have made matters very much clearer. Probably then, this objection would not have been taken at all.

"Then again, if it is necessary that the Agency tracts should be developed in this year when there is so much difficulty for money, is it necessary to spend the whole of Rs. 3 lakhs upon the Agency tracts in this year? There is also the further question which the Chief Engineer should consider and decide whether the department will be able to spend the whole of this amount, granting that the Agency tracts should be developed this year.

"The question for serious consideration is whether the whole of this amount of Rs. 3 lakhs should be spent upon this work in this year of financial stringency. Then again, Sir, it was stated by one Honourable Member of this House that there is a probability of an Oriya province being formed. It was also stated that in any case till that province is formed it is certainly desirable to go on with the work and with the maintenance of roads. I agree with the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson in that respect. But I may suggest this, Sir, that if there is a possibility of an Oriya province being formed and if part of the Ganjam district is to be included in that, then probably it is desirable to construct these works out of borrowed capital. Then at the time of the transfer of part of Ganjam to this new province, the necessary adjustments could be made and this province will not suffer. So that I think that if it is necessary to provide for these works it is desirable to spend the money out of loan money and secondly I think it is not desirable to spend the whole of this amount in this year in the circumstances that I have already mentioned."

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[The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter]

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Mr. President, I quite agree with the Honourable Member who has just spoken that it is unfortunate that we could not give the House the fullest possible explanation not only of this item but of a number of items, and I take the blame for failure to do so on my shoulders. I have told the House that I have done the very best I could in this year of revolutions, but that it has not been possible to give full explanations of all the changes because of the numerous changes in the system and in the constitution which would have to be accounted for. Let me take this case as an instance. The Agency Commissioner took over his office, which involved a rearrangement of jurisdictions, only in December. Here I may take the opportunity of correcting the tentative statement which has been made on my behalf and point out that the Government of India have declared by notification that Agency works are a 'reserved' subject. The last clause of the notification runs thus:—Section 46 (1) of the said Act shall be construed in its application to this territory as if the words 'in relation to reserved subject' and the words 'and in relation to transferred subjects (save as otherwise provided by this Act) by the Governor acting with Ministers appointed under this Act,' were omitted. In other words the Act has to be construed as if it ran 'that these tracts shall be governed by the Governor in Council.' That clears up the question of the matter being a 'reserved' subject. That notification was received in January. Meanwhile the Agency tracts have been administered as portions of the adjoining districts and the roads thereof have been administered by the district boards of the districts. Thus we were aware in January that we had to provide for the carrying on of these road works. But we have as yet no District Boards in the Agency areas to rely upon. My honourable colleague has stated that we are still trying to simplify the Local Boards Act so as to apply it to these backward areas. Therefore we had to provide, somehow or other while the budget was on the anvil, for the road works in the Agency, and having no other agency to rely upon, we were compelled to rely upon the Public Works Department. We have a number of estimates ready as my honourable colleague has stated, but we could not put all of them into the budget. In this connexion, I may say that the figure within square brackets is a tentative figure and that we do not show in detail any estimates for sums less than Rs. 10,000. The budget is quite long enough as it is and if every little estimate were to be shown in it, it would become interminable. There are 57 items in this particular case making up the Rs. 3 lakhs.

"I hope that will explain why it is that we were unable to give all the details that have been asked for in respect of these estimates, and I hope that it will also explain why it was impossible to provide for these works out of borrowed capital. The works we provide for out of such capital are works by which we expect posterity to be benefited, and we cannot include under that head small road works which may not last more than a few years. Last of all, as to the question of the new province, I would invite attention to the report of the Joint Committee, which is to the effect that when a majority of the members in any language area demand it, it shall be necessary to appoint a commission to go into the question of giving that area a separate administration. As I understand this recommendation, it is not for the Government, but for the representatives of the language area, to take the initiative in the matter. The one difficulty which I have always seen about this Oriya province is that it will be very hard for it to pay its way, since it will be chiefly composed of backward zamindari areas. Looking at the matter therefore for the moment, not as a Madras, but from a purely financial point of

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view, I may say that, regarding the matter merely as a matter of rupees, annas and pies, I should be very grateful to anybody who would relieve the Madras treasury of the cost of the Agency tracts. I need hardly say that as a loyal Madrasi I am not so anxious to part with this fertile area to the Oriya province.

"I would also invite attention to the fact that the people who benefit by these roads are not only the inhabitants of the Agency, but also the inhabitants of the plains areas adjacent. This is in fact another important matter to be borne in mind in connexion with the new province, namely, that the communications of the Agency tracts are all with the coast districts to which they have hitherto been attached and that the Agency tracts have in the recent past done much to feed these coast districts, which have therefore a great deal to gain from the roads. In these circumstances, I appeal to the Honourable Members from Vizagapatam to support the allotment of three lakhs for Agency roads. Otherwise they may be doing an injury to their own constituencies."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I do not propose to press this resolution after the statement that has been made by the Hon'ble the Finance Member and the Hon'ble the Home Member. But I should like to take this opportunity of inquiring whether this notification which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter referred to was made after the Government of India Act was applied in December last to the whole of this Province. In that case I should like this question to be re-examined as to whether such could really be done under section 52 of the Government of India Act which raises a most serious question. I am not inclined not to vote for any money for the development of this Agency tract however much I may be in sympathy with its development for it is made a reserved department. I admit if properly developed it should be the granary of this Presidency. As to the other matter I do not propose to press it. All that I should like to submit to this House is that whatever happens in those Agency tracts, the House should have the details of the policy of the development. Before anything is done the House should be taken into the confidence before large schemes are embarked upon. At present I do not press this motion."

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I say a word by way of explanation not for myself but regarding the remarks of Mr. Todhunter? No one of the Madras Oriya tracts has made any motion or representation in this Council. There has been already a committee sitting in Ganjam to ascertain the real boundaries of the Oriya countries. Sir, until we have a report of that committee we are not going to take any action on that. We hope to have it more fully."

The motion was then by leave withdrawn.

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—" I press my motion—

'10. To reduce to Rs. 1 lakh, the provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for Agency works (Public Works Department Budget item No. 29).'

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" Sir, if the motion is pressed, may I take the opportunity of saying a word in reply to a point of Mr. Krishnan Nayar in regard to the detail how far these works are in progress? I have since found in my files elaborate statements sent up by the District Board Presidents in October giving details of the work done up to date, the work expected to be completed this year and so forth."

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The motion was then put to the vote and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu was not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

"11. To reduce by Rs. 1 lakh the provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for Agency works."

The following motion standing in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadas was not made and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

"12. To reduce by Rs. 1 lakh, the provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for Agency works."

The following motion standing in the name of Sriman Sasibushana Rath Mahasayo was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

"13. To reduce by Rs. 14,000 the provision of Rs. 28,000 for constructing free quarters for revenue subordinates in the Vizagapatam Agency division."

Demand No. XXVI was then put to the Council and granted *nem con*.

DEMAND XXVII—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS (TRANSFERRED PORTIONS).

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—" Mr. President, I beg leave, Sir, to move Demand XXVII for a grant not exceeding one hundred and three lakhs and seventy thousand. Before the resolutions are taken up for discussion, I have to make one or two remarks on this demand. On page 126 I find it stated the Public Works belongs to me as a transferred subject. As regards the resolutions under that, the members in charge of the various departments to which the item of works relates are entrusted with the resolutions. I have got for my own share about 212 resolutions. They are classified as items relating to works in progress and items relating to new works. In the case of works in progress I want to inform the Council that there will be a difficulty if these works are left without a provision in the current year. As regards the new works, the Council is at liberty to suspend execution of these works except in extraordinary cases. With these remarks I move for the demand."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the motion—

'1. To omit Rs. 10,000 provision for quarters for the District Forest Officer.'

"I have the assurance of the Minister in charge with regard to the new works that he will use his discretion whether the work is indispensable or not. Sir, it appears to be the policy of the Government to construct residential quarters for the higher paid Government officials. This is a bad policy, especially at a time when we are on the wrong side of the budget and when we are raising a loan to meet the deficit and also when we have first-class bungalows available in the mufassal. This should not be the policy of the Government. Now there is no scarcity for bungalows. First-class bungalows are available all over and I do not see any reason why the Government should spend such a large sum as that for constructing houses or bungalows for the use of Government officials. This reminds me, Sir, of an old story in Kanarese. A poor unwise man wanted to build a house but had no money. So he had to borrow the money and construct the house. As he had no money to pay for the interest he had to sell the house and pay for the interest. I hope the Government will not come to that condition."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, I beg to move—

'2. That Rs. 10,000 provision for quarters for the District Forest Officer be omitted.'

[Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar] [30th March 1921]

"This item before the House comes under the head of new works. The Honourable the Minister was kind enough to give us a free hand with respect to new works and asked us to be somewhat cautious in respect of works already in progress, and I take this opportunity of expressing our indebtedness to the Honourable the Minister in charge of this department in giving us an amount of latitude and freedom in cutting down the items which in the judgment of the House appear to be somewhat extraordinary. My submission is to deal with this as extraordinary. It seems to me that in the year to come the financial position appears to be rather not steady."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"I must inform my honourable friend that where there are extraordinary reasons, they will be advanced against Honourable Members."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I should like to be enlightened on this point by the Minister. To me it appears to be extraordinary."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"I think Sir Lionel Davidson will speak to that. It is his department."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, I do not propose to go into detail at all on the general question, because I understand that my Honourable colleague, Mr. Todhunter, would prefer to deal with that, and I would myself rather leave it in his hands. I will merely recall to the recollection of the House what I said on this issue in the course of the general discussion of the budget. The House will remember in particular that I then quoted emphatic remarks made in the budget discussion of last year by a distinguished Member of the late Council, the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar, laying stress on the special obligation of Government to make proper provision for the housing of their own officers."

"I will turn now, Sir, to the case of this particular building and the simplest way of dealing with it is, with your permission, Sir, to read portions of a note specially prepared for me by the Chief Conservator of Forests with regard to this item. But I should promise that he himself put forward seven new works for inclusion in the current budget and that, in consequence of the need for economy, the Government reduced these seven items with great difficulty to two, the two which now find place in the budget. The first of these is quarters for the District Forest Officer, South Cuddapah. Mr. Cox tells me that the necessity for this work was recognized so early as 1911, when Government directed that quarters should be built for the District Forest Officer and three other officers on a site selected by a Special Site Committee. In 1913 preliminary estimates for the District Forest Officer's bungalow were sanctioned and detailed plans and estimates were called for. In 1915 a further reference was issued to the Superintending Engineer and, owing to the lack of any accommodation for the District Forest Officer at Cuddapah, the Government were compelled in June of that year to fix his headquarters temporarily at a place called Kodur, pending construction of a bungalow at Cuddapah. Now Kodur, Sir, is something like 50 miles south of Cuddapah and the District Forest Officer has since 1915 been occupying a rest-house there intended for the use of the general public and Government officers, because there is no building at Cuddapah in which he can himself be housed. Not only is he himself living at Kodur, 50 miles away, but his office which he

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ought to be able to control on the spot is located in an office building at Cuddapah. Surely, Sir, that is not a desirable arrangement for the District Forest Officer to be 50 miles away from the district headquarters and his own office occupying a rest-house needed by other people. In 1916 the Board which had then charge of the Forest Department classed this item as an urgent work to be commenced next year, i.e., in 1917, if possible. It was held over on account of the war. The special sanction of the Government of India to the estimate, because it slightly exceeded the permissible limit, was received from the Government of India in October last and the item was entered in the budget for this year as perhaps the most urgent of all the seven items put up by the Chief Conservator of Forests. Only one word more, Sir, and that is a reference to the unhealthy conditions of Cuddapah town. This is not now as bad as it used to be, but I venture to think that if there is any town in this Presidency in which it is incumbent on the Government to provide decent accommodation for its servants, that town is Cuddapah. We do not wish our District Forest Officer with all the risks he incurs from malaria in his forest tours to return to a headquarter where the risk might be hardly less."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, after having heard the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, I am going to vote for the grant of this item. But having stated that, I think it is necessary, Sir, that some policy should be kept in view by this House with reference to the voting of similar grants. If I may say so without disrespect to my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Subbarayulu Reddiyar, it seems to me that the policy which he himself has laid down is a very sound one. If a work has been already commenced, it must be completed; otherwise the money spent upon it will be wasted. But with reference to the new works which have not yet been commenced, unless they are of an extraordinary and exceptional character, it is desirable, I think, in any case this year, that money for the construction of such works should not be sanctioned. It is perfectly true, as the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has stated, that this particular building in Cuddapah comes under this category of extraordinary and exceptional character. Cuddapah has gained a notoriety for its unhealthy nature and it is desirable that the Forest officer in that district should have his special quarters and it is for that reason that I said that I was going to vote for this motion. But the policy of providing buildings at headquarter stations for highly-paid officers, such as District Forest Officers—I am not speaking of Cuddapah—District Superintendents of Police, Collectors, District Judges and so on, is, I think, Sir, a very unsound one. We have been trying during the last so many days to reduce as far as possible amounts under various heads, though I believe the Council has not been very successful. This particular item of civil works is a demand under which I think it will be possible for the Council to make considerable reduction without doing any injury to the country and without in any way impeding the progress of this Presidency. So that, I think there is no harm in the Council voting for this special grant, but the observations that I have ventured to submit, Sir, should be kept in view by the Council when voting for other grants of a similar nature."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"May I beg to know which of these works have already been started and progressed and which are not? The Honourable the Minister wanted to classify them into two classes, those which have already been started and those which have not."

1390 DEMAND XXVII—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS
(TRANSFERRED PORTIONS)

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

[30th March 1921]

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, we are now considering the demand for the provision made in the budget in respect of a new work to be undertaken and that in regard to quarters for officers in the Forest Department. I think I must express my satisfaction at the remarks of the Honourable the Minister when asking for a grant in respect of these works. He was good enough to tell us that the various items included in it would be defended by the officers of the various departments; but, as a general rule of policy, he indicated that we ought not to meddle with works in progress, while we were free to discuss exceptional circumstances existed, we might try to have those provisions deleted. I think, Sir, I can safely accept that statement as made by him. I do not think that we can reasonably stop works in progress; but we must confine our attention to works to be undertaken in future. But our difficulty is this. If he had indicated, after examination of the various items in the budget, the works which can very well be deleted and those works which are not considered urgent, I believe the House would have been obliged to him. If he had taken the trouble of indicating to us that in respect of such and such items the works are not imminently or urgently wanted and might be put off, and that in respect of such and such items the works are imminent and urgent, he would have helped us to a considerable extent instead of necessitating an elaborate discussion on item after item. In the absence of such information from him, our position is this; we take up one item and it is defended with all the tenacity of a lawyer by the Member in charge of the department; and it will not be easy for us to know exactly whether to vote or not for this. Therefore, when once we are agreed on these general principles and also on the principle of effecting economy by effecting retrenchments, might I not suggest that it would have facilitated the work of this House if the Honourable the Minister had indicated to us that, out of the total demand for 103.70 lakhs under this head, he would be satisfied with a less amount and that such and such works which are not specially urgent might be put off? If he had come forward with that statement, it would have been more satisfactory and given considerable help to the House and those of us who have tabled these motions with the object of effecting retrenchment would have been satisfied. As he has not done so, I believe we have no other duty except to take motion by motion and vote against the several items. Of course if it is a case of construction of offices, it stands on a different footing. The administration must get on; and as you cannot get rented buildings for big offices, they will have to be constructed. But if we can object to any buildings at all, it is only in regard to quarters. I know that various objections will be raised that these quarters are necessary and will conduce to the convenience of officers, but I submit, Sir, if there is any item to be cut off, it is the construction of quarters for Government officers. It is because we are given no general indication as to the extent to which the departments themselves would co-operate with us and no indication as to the manner in which it is proposed to effect retrenchment, I feel bound to vote against this item, Sir."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, may I at once proceed to answer the complaint made by the last speaker that we have given no general indication of the works that can be sifted out of the Public Works Budget? He appears to be of opinion that there has been no general sifting out of the list of works put down and that the Minister has simply put before the House whatever the departments have asked for."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"May I explain, Sir? I am afraid I have been misunderstood. I am not suggesting that when these proposals were originally made, there had been no sifting in the various departments. My suggestion is this. Even from the grant of 106 lakhs which has been asked for by the Honourable the Minister and in view of the various resolutions which have been tabled by the Honourable Members of this House for the purpose of effecting retrenchment, I expected the Member of Government to have considered them and effected retrenchments in the provision already made, and to have indicated which of the items can be put off. I am prepared to admit that the original demand of the various officers would have been more than 200 or 206 lakhs, but I only wanted him to indicate in the budget what further items may be put off as not being very urgent or as not being necessitated by exceptional reasons."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Perhaps, Sir, I may be allowed to proceed with what I was saying. What I was saying was that this budget as put forward is the result not of one, but of a number of sittings. The Public Works Department put up a list costing many times this demand; that was examined by the Finance Department; then it was examined more than once by a committee of the Secretaries of all departments. The Cabinet informed the Secretaries how much money there was likely to be to spare and the Secretaries drew up a list of the most urgent works up to the amount so given. That list was again examined on more than one occasion by the Cabinet and further works cut out, so that before the list was presented to the House it had already been cut down to the bone. What the Honourable Member now asks us is to scrape the bone."

"On the general question of the policy of housing of officers, there seems to be an idea that to do so is a most unbusinesslike, expensive and generally improper proceeding. Let me take up first the initial case, the case of an officer posted to a place where there is no house in which he can live. Take, for instance, that of an officer posted to a new salt factory in a deserted mud flat on the coast. Are you going to deny the officer in such a place a house to live in? I do not think that any member of this House will say that we should require officers posted to places at which there are no houses either to live without houses or to build houses out of their own pockets. For the next stage, I will take the case of an officer who has to live near his work. I may take, for instance, the officer at the Observatory who has to make observations at all hours. Take again an officer in charge of a hospital who has to attend on patients by day and by night, or the officer in charge of a hostel or boarding school. I take it that in these cases again no member will say that houses ought not to be provided. Coming, again, to the district officer, I suppose that every one used to the ways of the continent of Europe, those of France for instance, will be aware that there is provided for the Prefect a regular official residence."

A voice :—"What about England?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"By all means let us adopt the English model when the services in India have been entirely indianized, but so long as you have two races to deal with, I ask whether it is possible for a European officer to go and take a house in the middle of any Indian town to which he might be posted as he would do if he were posted to work in England. As a matter of fact, in many district headquarters there are houses which have been recognized for generations past as the houses of the Collectors, Judges and so forth. These have been provided by private gentlemen, sometimes leading

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zamindars, sometimes abkari contractors, and I would ask the House whether it is desirable that the Government—for the obligation is the obligation of the Government and not that of the individual officer—should be under an obligation to private gentlemen in this way for the providing of housing for their officers? When I say this, I do not mean to say that I want suddenly to cancel all these long-standing arrangements, but I do say that these arrangements are not arrangements which we can make in future cases. If then there is no such house available and the Council decline to build a house, what is the alternative? Is it desirable that a Collector posted to a district should have no house to go to and that he should be driven to secure a house, possibly by offering a higher rent to one occupied by somebody else. And if the Collector who has so secured a house and has spent a lot of money in furnishing it is then transferred, what is going to be the result of such a policy? It must inevitably put him to a great deal of additional expense as well as uncertainty and discomfort and that can only react on the efficiency of the officer and probably ultimately on his pay. You cannot expect officers to pay for this sort of thing out of their own pockets. In this connexion, I would refer to the example of railways and banks and mercantile houses in Madras which have been increasingly undertaking the provision of houses for their officers, both in Madras and up country, and I venture to prophesy that they will do so a great deal more in the future, and that they are already regretting not having tackled the problem in the past.

"I now come to the question of officers at the headquarters of Government in respect of which we have been accused of having no general policy. I think that is quite a mistake. At the headquarters of Government, we are now in the position, thanks to the foresight of Sir Harold Stuart, who took the matter up in 1915, of having secured a number of valuable sites. We are able to borrow money at more reasonable rates than other people, we have an expert engineering department which is able to construct our houses for us. Is it not good business, therefore, to use these sites which are lying idle and this staff by building houses upon them and letting them at economic rents whereby we should also relieve the congestion of Madras? I would say the same of the town of Coimbatore or any other town where we have officers who need houses and where more houses are needed generally in order to relieve congestion. I hope that the House will look upon this matter, not as a question of favouring any class of officers, but as a purely business question.

"I should like here to touch once more upon the question of the indianization of the services. It is, I am sure, the desire of this House to increase the Indianization of the services at headquarters and elsewhere. Now, I don't think that anybody will contradict me when I say that the standard of living of Indian officers at headquarters, especially in the matter of housing, has risen very considerably of late years. One has only to drive through Mylapore to realize this. At the same time, I would remind the House that whereas English Under Secretaries have hitherto generally been bachelors who have lived in Clubs, when you have Indian officers filling the same posts, you will generally find that they are married men with families and therefore they require houses to live in. Therefore, I put it to the House that in the interest of the question of the indianization of the services itself it is desirable to provide houses for officers to live in."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has made a very feeble defence of a most indefensible position. I do not think it is right that the State should at this stage of development of this country provide

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all these officers with house accommodation. If we make provision for one set of officers we cannot resist the demand which will be made by another set of officers for a similar provision. If we make provision for the aristocracy of the services then we shall be unable to resist the demand which the democracy of the services will require at our hands. Then we know perfectly well, and I say it with some confidence that the State management of these things must necessarily be more expensive than their private management. A private contractor will be able to do these things much cheaper than Government who, with their enormous establishments, with their rates and other things must necessarily incur a very great expenditure from the public revenues in making these provisions. Nobody thinks it worth while investing money in building operations because people know perfectly well that their houses may not be taken up for officers' quarters and even if they are so taken up, Government will continue to build houses. So long as this competition between the Government and private enterprise exists, it is impossible to expect anything like a decent profit to the private owner."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"May I ask the Honourable Member to tell us where this competition exists?"

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"It certainly exists in Madras. There are several items."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"May I mention that in Madras there are quarters for eight officers?"

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"There are provisions coming in. Therefore I think the State ought not to compete with private architects and contractors. The third reason, I think, this is really a waste of expenditure. Whatever the accounts may show, you cannot get anything like an adequate return of money on these investments. Then, the Government will have in its hands an enormous number of houses belonging to the State which is not a sound proposition. When you want to reduce or abolish appointments and when you want to reduce the departments, this present policy will not be conducive to retrenchment because there will be a number of untenanted houses and we will want officers to take them up. Actually this is a most extravagant policy. I do not see why in Southern India, when there is so much of building operations going on everywhere, such a scheme should come forward. I am glad the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter himself has referred to the new buildings in the Luz Church Road. There are a good many houses there and I do not believe that the State or the Public Works Department built them. Houses are springing up everywhere and they are not built by the State."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"May I ask, Sir, whether they are built by speculative builders or for the use of the owners?"

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Sometimes they are built by contractors and sometimes by owners themselves. What I suggest is that you must leave the members of the services to make their own arrangements. You can only make arrangements by way of pay and pensions. It is impossible to give housing accommodation except to the poor people in the services such as low-paid clerks or policemen. There are men like these in other departments for whom provision will have to be made. With the exception of those cases I cannot at all approve of the State undertaking to make provision for persons who draw pay over Rs. 500. The case of those who draw a pay of Rs. 30, 40, 100, etc., is different. In backward areas where it may not be possible to get any house the State may have to depart from the ordinary rule. But I find the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter standing in the Council for a general

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principle and saying that it is a business proposition that the State should go in for this kind of provision for all officers and that it is the duty of the State to do so. I want the House to consider this matter very carefully before committing itself to this very costly policy for which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter asks this House to give him a blank cheque.

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, my only reason for intervening in this discussion is the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter's speech. He has raised three points to which I beg to reply. In the first place, there seems to be some difference of opinion between Mr. Todhunter and the Minister in charge of the department. If I understood the Minister rightly, it amounts to this: that in exercising the duties that the members of this House have to perform, they should discriminate between works in progress and new works and that in respect of new works some latitude is allowable in determining what works should be stopped. That implies that with respect to the estimates that are for our consideration, it is competent to us to suggest that certain works shall be stopped. It is not an academical or barren discussion as to general principles that the Minister is drawing attention to, but it is to enable us to determine how far the estimates now placed for the consideration of the House shall be accepted. We shall take into consideration the fact that there are some works which are new and some works which are already in progress, and it is with respect to these particular works, in respect of which estimates are asked to be sanctioned and which are new, that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge has told us that there is greater latitude allowable. According to the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, whatever is to be done by way of sifting to arrive at any residuum has already been done, and at the present stage we can only scrape the bone. All this is urged before any estimate is placed before the House. I do not really know whose views we are to accept, whether we should take the view of the Minister in charge of the department or the view that the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has put forward.”

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—“ I adhere still to what I have said. My view is, that so far as new works are concerned, except in extraordinary circumstances, they may be suspended. Now and then there come up new works of extreme urgency. I will instance the urgency for the construction of office buildings for the Registrars' offices at Cocanada and Guntur. The registration offices there are in rented buildings. The landlords have given notice that the offices should be vacated. In such cases and in similar cases I would certainly insist upon the progress of new works during the year. As regards Mr. Todhunter's views I do not think he has differed from me.”

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, I am glad the Hon'ble Minister in charge has given us this assurance; and if I may respectfully say so, I quite agree with him in the view he has chosen to enunciate. So far as buildings and offices are concerned, they stand on a different position altogether from buildings and quarters for officers. To continue what I have said, I do find, notwithstanding my honourable friend's failure to see it, the difference between his view and the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter's. I do find, I am sorry, some difference between the two views. And the very fact that the Honourable Minister insisted on his own view rather than on the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter's indicates that there must be a difference. In these circumstances what I submit to you is that the explanation given by the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, is not sufficient to induce us to vote against the resolution now before the House.

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“ Then it was urged that by refusing to withhold sanction to these estimates we shall be forcing up competition. On the other hand, the Government wish to provide buildings which will have the effect of reducing very high rates of rent. The object, it may be stated, is an exceedingly laudable one. Only I am afraid that the Government have not chosen to apply it in the proper direction.

“ Now, Sir, with reference to competition, with reference to the rents of buildings, the competitors are those who are likely to compete with Government or other persons who are in a position to provide similar buildings, and they may very well be left to take care of themselves. Competition rent affects only the middle class and the lower class men. So far as high-class men are concerned, they know how to safeguard their position and they know whether they are able to pay Rs. 100 or 80, whether Rs. 150 or 120 is the proper rent. It is not that class of persons that require to be taken under the protecting wings of this Council. It is the middle class that requires to be protected. If the proposal is that we must build quarters for clerks and peons, for clerks who draw petty salaries, and for peons who draw even smaller salaries, that they should be provided with buildings, so that it may not be necessary for them to compete with other people who may also require houses and be compelled to pay higher rent, there may be some meaning in that view. To say that Government money should be spent in order to provide palatial buildings for high-class residents does not appear to be a very logical proposition.

“ Then my Honourable friend drew attention to the fact that if the consummation of our wish is reached when most of the services are indianized, it is the Indian incumbents who are ultimately going to be provided and benefited, and not the officers for whom the buildings are now intended. Now, Sir, I quite sympathize with the view that the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has put before us and the fact we having had that view presented to us choose to accept the resolution now before us shows with what sense of responsibility we are approaching the question of cutting down wasteful expenditure.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“ Sir, the question of construction of official residences has been debated in this Council very often in the past, and the principles applicable to the construction of these buildings by the State have also been referred to. The Public Works Code lays down that it is obligatory on the part of the Government to provide residences for certain class of officials. In this class, so far as I can recollect at the present moment, residences for gaol officials, medical men and the police officials who have to reside in the vicinity of place where they discharge their duties have been included. And the question has been raised very often as to why the Government should go beyond these regulations of the Public Works Code. The Public Works Code also lays down that wherever buildings are constructed for other classes of officials, it should be on a remunerative basis, and that such rents should be fixed as will pay interest on capital investment on these buildings. These seem to be the general spirit of the standing orders on the subject. I submit that in the application of these standing orders there has been some deviation. Speaking from memory, I raised the question some years ago, and it was then found that the income by way of rents on residences in this Presidency entailed a loss of interest of about fifty thousand rupees. Well, apart from these general considerations, we have now, I believe, come to a stage at which a new policy in regard to the construction of buildings has to be adopted. I have already referred to the question of constructing

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buildings from loan funds and not from revenue. That principle must be definitely accepted by Government. If it is accepted and if the rent is fixed so as to make the capital cost remunerative, much of the present objection would disappear.

"It is unnecessary for me at present to refer to the question of the indianization of the services. The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, whenever it suits him, would fall back upon continental parallels and abandon those of his own country. Apart from that, it is unnecessary to discuss that question now. I would like to point out to the Minister that there are many buildings which ought to be classed as not at all urgent for this year. May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he considers that the construction of quarters for the Revenue Divisional Officer at Narasapur urgent?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"May I rise to a point of order? This question is going on general principles. I hardly think the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao is in order in raising the issue of a specific building. Doubtless he has full particulars of value, etc., regarding the Revenue Divisional Officer's quarters there."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I am quite prepared to take a ruling with regard to this matter. I should like to inform the Hon'ble Mr. Davidson that on demands like this it is usual to have a general debate on the first item. However, I am prepared not to raise this question now."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I want to say a few words. So far as the question of principle is concerned, I differ very much from members on this side. I think from the point of view of efficiency as well as other considerations, an officer should be given residential quarters. (Hear, hear.) The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter referred to several mercantile firms in Madras. I am connected with a number of firms and industries in Coimbatore. I have found that it is always desirable to supply these people with residential quarters, so that they may work satisfactorily and efficiently. In the various mills there, one of the conditions of agreement is that, in addition to the pay, they should get residences also. They gave first rented buildings to some of their subordinates and afterwards they found that it was very difficult for the employees to go to their offices in time and therefore these companies found it necessary to construct quarters for practically all their subordinates. As a question of principle I strongly support that wherever money is available the subordinate staff should be given residential quarters."

"A side issue was raised as to whether houses for higher officers were also necessary. My own impression is that houses should be provided also to the higher officers as well as to the lower. I do not want to say anything about the 2 lakhs of rupees for quarters at Coimbatore. If it is necessary to support that item so far as Coimbatore is concerned—"

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"That is not before the House."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The general principle is that a good deal of time and energy is wasted by these people having to go to offices from long distances and it is necessary to purchase quarters close to their offices. Of course there is one point for consideration; that is, the economical point of view. I myself feel that houses are being largely built at great cost for European

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officers. There is one difficulty always in that procedure being adopted. In view of the indianization of services, the question is whether Indians will be able to pay rent at such rates. Take the case of deputy collectors, assistant collectors and sub-collectors. There was a sub-collector at Erode. His house was a big one and the rent was high. But when it is converted into a deputy collector's station, the rent became high for him; he could not pay it and it had to be sold."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"May I point out that whenever an officer occupies a house, there is a limit of 10 per cent on his salary to be paid as rent?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Even that 10 per cent becomes much. Even if Government bungalows are available, they are not bound to reside in them."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"May I ask whether it is not a case that deputy collectors, whether they occupy or not, must pay the rent for the Public Works houses under the rules?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I know that rule. I say it is not good to spend large sums of money and then to take only 10 per cent of the pay, whereas they can get cheaper houses. You build palatial houses and take only 10 per cent of their pay."

Mr. K. GOPALA MENON:—"Mr. President, I am inclined to oppose this resolution. I come from a place where for the last ten or twelve years officers have always found it difficult to live in good houses, because Government have not houses provided for them. Officers whom Ramnad and Madura desired to continue in service there somehow or other tried to get away from these places as they had no good houses to live in. I would draw attention to the immediate necessity of the Government supplying good bungalows for gazetted officers and also for supplying quarters to non-gazetted officers like clerks, and menials like peons and others. I speak from practical experience. The new Government buildings for officers' quarters in Madura are far away from the congested localities and there was a marvellous decrease in congestion in Madura on account of these bungalows having been built there. The quarters are generally at far off places and the inhabitants from congested localities also go and live there, so much so the town naturally expands. Besides, officers should not be tenants in anybody's house. Some motive may be attributed to them. So from this point of view also it is reasonable that officers should be provided with quarters. After all, when these officers leave their stations, they do not take away these buildings with them and while they live there they pay decent amount by way of rental. As such, these buildings are really national assets and paying concerns. I therefore strongly support the motion for putting up buildings in important places for gazetted officers."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, the question of providing quarters for officers is viewed with discontentment by many members. As long as the rules regarding the amount of rent to be paid by the officers that occupy the quarters are not revised, this will continue. The existing rules are that the officers have to pay 5½ per cent of the capital amount spent or 10 per cent of the salary, whichever is the lower. The highest amount which an officer is obliged to pay is 10 per cent of his salary. The Hon'ble Member for Finance appealed to this House to view

12-45 p.m.

[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju] [30th March 1921]

this question from a business point of view. The first item that is now under discussion is the provision of a residence for the District Forest Officer of Salem. The estimate is Rs. 30,000. The highest amount which the officer has to pay will be Rs. 3,000 a year."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Five and a half per cent of the total outlay and 10 per cent of the salary."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Then it will come to only Rs. 1,600. Now the rule about $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the total outlay was framed when the Government was able to raise loans at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Times have changed. The Government of India is now raising loans at 6 and $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Taking into consideration the expenditure which the Government has to incur for the maintenance of these buildings, it comes to 2 per cent on an average—."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*):—"The maintenance is included in the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent— $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for interest and 2 per cent for maintenance."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"That is exactly my point. Five and a half per cent is to cover interest as well as maintenance charges. The Government is raising loans at $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The old rules were framed when the Government raised loans at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. At the present rate of interest, the rent which the officers may be asked to pay must be 9 per cent. If the rules are so altered that the officers are required to pay 9 per cent of the total outlay and the maximum limit of 10 per cent of salary is removed, then I do not think that any objection will be taken, nor will the tax-payer be affected. And every officer will be able to have the convenience of living in a well-constructed house."

Mr. R. G. GRIEVE:—"Mr. President, I want to endorse what Mr. Gopala Menon said and to reinforce it by my personal experience of the locality to which he referred. When I was first posted to Madura in 1910 as Inspector of Schools, I found myself in the company of two other officers without a proper place to live in. At last three of us were crowded together into an unhealthy bungalow. The Judge, Mr. S. G. Roberts, never recovered from his dysentery; the Assistant Collector, who was the second officer, had to go home on long leave, because he was ill; and I myself suffered for years from the results of living there."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"In Cuddapah, from want of an official residence, the Judge was always forced to occupy private bungalows. Mr. Hughes was posted to Cuddapah some time in 1914 and he was made to pay Rs. 150 for a house for which his predecessor had paid only Rs. 45. And when Mr. Hughes was transferred, Mr. Mackay was posted in his place and the landlord threatened to raise the rent to Rs. 250. Therefore it is highly necessary that officials should be provided with quarters."

"I had some work to do with the District Forest Officer of Madura. I was told that he was camping at Kodaikanal. I went to Kodaikanal, and I was told that he had gone to Dindigul. I followed him there, but I was told that he had gone to Palmi. Finally when I was able to catch him, he told me that he had no residence and so he was camping from place to place like a wandering Jew. It has been said that the houses built for Government officials are palatial, magnificent and that lakhs of rupees are spent on them. In one of these bungalows an Indian Judge was living. The bungalow built for European officers was not commodious enough for the Indian Judge with a large family and larger number of relations hanging on him."

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[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan]

"I am quite sure that by opposing this resolution the money will be spent in India; and Indian workmen will be employed in the construction. We get profit by way of the annual increment in the value of the houses. I do not think that Indian money will be lost by investing money on this enterprise."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I do not know whether any purpose will be served by a general discussion on this matter. I think, Sir, in a matter like this we will have to go into each case separately and see whether quarters should be provided. I do not agree with Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar when he said that no residence ought to be provided for higher officers, nor do I agree with Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar that all employees ought to be so provided. I think each question should be taken by itself. In Coimbatore the District Judge, Additional District Judge and the Inspector of Schools are living in the same bungalow as they could not get separate bungalows. The mere fact that there are a number of houses in Coimbatore must not be a reason for not providing officers with residences. Each case will have to be taken by itself. My complaint about the Government is this. They do not always go about this business in the most economical way. In a place like Coimbatore, I should say that all the officers of the Forest department should live in the Forest College premises. Their quarters can be built there at a small cost. I beg to submit that each item may be taken separately and may be decided according to the merit of each. This sort of general discussion will do no good."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I beg to oppose this resolution. I think the practice of not providing officers with quarters is likely to produce a most demoralizing effect. They must not be, particularly the judicial officers, left to the tender mercies of the vakils or other landlords. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson referred to an instance—I read in the newspapers as I was absent on that day—where a District Judge had to try his own landlord and that on a charge of murder. Such cases are only too numerous. I may also refer, Sir, to the complaint Mr. Gopala Menon made to the conditions in Madura. The District Superintendent of Police of Ramnad had to live in a garden house—it is adjacent to the district jails and is going to be acquired for Rs. 55,000. The house was very nearly 30 feet long and 20 feet broad. This is a palatial building indeed referred to by some of the previous speakers as houses which district officers occupy. If a Judge is not provided with quarters by the Government, he is subjected to very great hardship. It also happens that when a Judge finds it impossible to get a house, he has to get hold of some vakil to influence the landlord who may be that vakil's client. It may not be pleasant to refer to these incidents, but I am sure it will be agreed that such things should not take place. Some house-owners like myself find great inconvenience in renting their houses. An official has to go to a place because the Government post him there. When they are stranded for want of houses we are obliged to give our bungalows. Since we don't keep these houses for rent, this causes a great inconvenience when we require our houses for our own purposes. I think even sub-magistrates should be provided with quarters if it is possible. On a question of policy it is a wise one to pursue and as a business concern it is most remunerative. Unless the Government is going to incur any loss, I strongly plead that they should build houses and any attempt for this Council to deny this will be most unrighteous and you will be only rendering the hard-worked officers a discomfort which they do not deserve."

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The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"There are not many points that I wish to deal with in my reply, but there are one or two. The first in regard to which I wish to say a few words is the suggestion that there has been little or no retrenchment of the original proposals as compared with the final proposal. I should like to refer to particular figures in the case of the buildings for the Forest department. The original proposals covered expenditure on estimates aggregating to Rs. 2,10,000. What we have provided for in this budget is Rs. 20,000, about one-tenth of what we were asked to embark on. As the question of European and Indian has been raised—only very incidentally, I am glad to say, because I always deprecate the introduction of these racial issues—I may say that in the particular case of Cuddapah the officer who will be benefited is an Indian."

A voice.—"Is Cuddapah always an Indian charge?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"No, Sir. This Indian officer succeeded a distinguished European officer, Mr. Whitehead, who was there for several years. The district of Cuddapah, and particularly the forest charge of Cuddapah, is not necessarily an Indian charge. I am glad to notice that one of our critics recognized in the case of the Forest department reasons for exceptional treatment which might very well be conceded. And I should like in that connexion particularly to ask this House to remember that, while we have been discussing the general issue, the vote on this resolution will determine the fate of an Indian District Forest Officer and whatever may be the feeling with regard to the general issue—I think we should be fairly divided—I hope this resolution will not be pressed to the detriment of the District Forest Officer of Cuddapah. I think it was Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar who, in dealing with the general policy, emphasized that it was quite unnecessary to make any provision for high-paid officers. He said they might very well look after themselves. If the economic rent of a house was Rs. 120, they could very well afford to pay Rs. 150."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR (*interrupting*) :—"What I said was that if Rs. 120 was the economic rent and if Rs. 150 is demanded, the officers know what to do under such circumstances."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*continuing*) :—"Quite so, Sir. I understand that they are presumed to be gentlemen of sufficient discretion and knowledge of the world not to allow themselves to be fleeced in the matter of house-rent. If so, my rejoinder is this. They are Government officers who have no option where they shall live. They have to go where they are posted. They do not know how long they are likely to remain in a particular place. They may be transferred after a short interval of time. And they are therefore on a very different footing from the permanent resident who is in a position to negotiate and wait his time for a house on a suitable rent. Moreover, there are cases where there are no suitable houses locally procurable. Instances in point have been given to us to-day by various gentlemen, notably by the Raja of Ramnad. There is one other argument which has been raised to-day to which I may have to refer in regard to a later item. I was very glad to note it at the time. Mr. Gopala Menon alluded to the great difficulty to which he had been put in regard to finding out the bungalow where the District Superintendent of Police at Calicut was living. I hope, Sir, that when we come later on to proposals to provide a house for that officer at Calicut, I shall enjoy the support of Mr. Gopala Menon. In regard to the general issue, Sir, I am hardly competent to say very much. It has been argued at length again and again on both sides of the House, and it is a matter

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which I would prefer to leave in the hands of my Hon'ble Colleague Mr. Todhunter, but as he is debarred from making any further speech on this subject in this debate, I venture to remind him through you, Sir, that he may have opportunities in connexion with later resolutions of which he may avail himself."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"With the assurance of the Hon'ble the Minister that he will not unnecessarily spend money on this account, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution."

Both the motions were then by leave withdrawn.

The following motions standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu were deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'3. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for quarters for the District Forest Officer.'

'4. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for quarters for the Conservator at Salem.'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I am willing to withdraw my resolution, Sir, if the Hon'ble the Minister gives me the same assurance."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—"I can only tell the Honourable Member that there is need for that building and I cannot give him any assurance."

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao did not move the following resolution :—

'5. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for quarters for the Conservator at Salem.'

The resolution was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar was not moved, and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'6. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for quarters for the Conservator at Salem.'

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I beg to move this resolution—

'7. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for quarters for the Conservator at Salem.'

"With reference to the headquarters for the Forest Officer at Cuddapah, having regard to the peculiar circumstances referred to by the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, I had no hesitation in saying at that time that I would certainly vote for the grant. I also stated, Sir, that in my opinion—there seems to be a difference of opinion among the Honourable Members of this House on this point—except in special cases it is undesirable to provide Government quarters for high-placed officials. As I stated, in insanitary places like Cuddapah or other places for exceptional reasons . . ."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*) :—"Cuddapah is not an insanitary place now, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*continuing*) :—"I will withdraw the word 'Cuddapah'. In insanitary places like Wynad for instance and other places, it may be desirable for the Government to provide quarters for high-placed officials. But in my opinion, Sir, it is certainly very undesirable to provide costly Government buildings for headquarter officials in places like Salem which is the place now under consideration. I am perfectly at one with the principle enunciated by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of these works. He stated generally, that with reference to buildings that have been commenced already, they must be provided for. But with reference to buildings that have not yet been commenced, each case must depend on its own merits. With reference to this particular building for the Conservator at Salem, I find that it is not a work in progress. It has not been

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commenced; it is a new building to be commenced hereafter. And so far as my information goes, Salem is not an insubstantial place. Certainly in places like Salem, Calicut, Madras, there must be dearth for houses. But that cannot be helped. That is no reason why the Government should come to the assistance of high-placed officials. It is certainly a different matter so far as low-paid officials are concerned. We have listened a great deal to the Indianization of offices. The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter referred to it and I will certainly be glad to see as many Indian officers in the higher ranks of all departments as possible. But whatever it is, on principle, whether they be Indians or Europeans, my objection remains the same. On this point I make no difference between Europeans and Indians. Some of my friends who come from Madura district referred to the need for providing houses at Government cost in Madura. I do not contradict them, for I do not know anything about the conditions in Madura. My observations are with reference to the general principle. My friend the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter, when he was speaking with reference to the last resolution dealing with the Cuddapah district, said that we might follow the example that prevails in France for building houses for the Prefects. But let us follow the system that obtains in England where, so far as I am aware, there is only the house in Downing Street which is the official residence of the Premier and there is also the house for the Lord High Admiral. Except these, there are no houses provided by Government for officials. Probably there may be for the subordinate police officers but they do not come under this category. Then, my friend the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad stated particularly with reference to the judicial officers that it was necessary to provide them with buildings. There again I do not contradict him because I do not know the conditions of his district. Unless Sir Lionel Davidson has very strong arguments to induce me to believe that there are special reasons for providing this particular officer at Salem, I must move the resolution and press it to a division."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, I do not propose to traverse the general question in regard to this matter. I know personally very little about the local conditions of Salem excepting that I am satisfied that this proposal would not have been brought forward by the Chief Conservator if it had been at all possible to procure a bungalow anything like suitable for occupation by the Conservator. There are other gentlemen present in this House who are familiar with the conditions of Salem and I will invite one or two of them to address the House on the subject. I believe Dr. Subbarayan has special knowledge of the circumstances. I will address myself therefore to the circumstances under which the need for a residence for the Conservator of the Southern Circle has been recognized from so far back a date as 1912, or much earlier than that. In March of that year the Government sanctioned the construction of a residence for him and called for detailed plans and estimates, just over nine years ago. At that time the Conservator was stationed at Trichinopoly. Plans and estimates were prepared by 1915 and duly sanctioned. But no action was taken apparently because of the war and the need for extra economy. Meanwhile, the headquarters of a house at Trichinopoly was cancelled and the sanction for the construction then in charge of the Forest Department at once raised the question of constructing both quarters and an office for the Conservator at Salem. We have now struck out part of the proposals for this scheme which, as approved in April

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1919, included quarters for the District Forest Officer at Salem as well as for the Conservator. As a measure of economy that has been cut down to accommodation for the Conservator only. I venture to say that it is quite certain that no proposal would have been put forward concurrently by the Board of Revenue and by the Chief Conservator for the construction of quarters for these two officers if there had been accommodation locally available for them. My next point, Sir, is that in connexion with this scheme the site has already been acquired for the location of the requisite buildings. I have not unfortunately with me at this moment—nor can I immediately secure them—detailed data justifying this scheme. There are Government Orders the numbers and dates of which are quoted in the note which is in my hand, but I have not the original papers with me, or I should be able to show conclusively that there was a real need for the construction of this particular bungalow."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"As I come from Salem, I want to say a few words in support of this motion. This item relates to the quarters for the Conservator of Forests at Salem. No one can deny the necessity for quarters of this officer at Salem. But the question is whether this expenditure should be incurred this year, and in my opinion this can be postponed for a year or two as funds are required for more urgent purposes. The Conservator of Forests is somehow or other managing to live in a comfortable building."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*):—"Not comfortable, Sir."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"I see in the budget that an estimate for Rs. 36,000 has been sanctioned very recently and the amount of Rs. 10,000 is allotted for expenditure during the current year. So it is clear that a certain amount has to be spent on this, and no site has yet been chosen or acquired."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*):—"I am sorry to rise to a correction on a point of fact. I have said already that the site has been acquired and is available."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"If you vote an amount of Rs. 10,000 this year, you have to allot the remaining Rs. 26,000 next year. I think, having regard to the hard times and the need for finding money for urgent and important purposes, this can be postponed for a year or two. With these few words, Sir, I heartily support the motion to omit this amount from the budget."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Sir, in supporting this motion, I do not propose to traverse the ground already taken by me on a similar question. I agree with the member that has spoken just before me that it is better that the question of making this allotment is postponed for a year or two, and my reason is this. It has been brought to our notice that it is only 5½ per cent of the total cost or 10 per cent of the officer's pay, whichever is less, that is being realized for buildings which are built at the public expense."

"Now, Sir, in the case of officers of the grade for whom residences are sought to be provided their pay and salary have been recently increased. One of the chief reasons why their pay has been increased is that the cost of living has increased; the cost of living also takes into account the cost of the accommodation of the persons who are said to live in a particular place. In these circumstances, when there has been an increase in their salaries, there is no reason why the Government should also make an allowance to them in an indirect manner by providing for them houses which as a matter of fact costs the Government more

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than what they are able to realize from these officers. Take this very case; the total amount is said to be Rs. 36,000 that is required for building this house. It has been stated that the site has already been acquired. I don't know what the exact amount is. I believe I am right in saying that the total cost of this house will be at least Rs. 40,000 and I take it that the Public Works authorities, like other builders, have a tendency to exceed the original estimate rather than to cut it down. Taking, therefore, Rs. 40,000 to be the total output on this building, at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent it will give us only Rs. 2,200. As a matter of fact, if you have this building, as has been pointed out by Mr. Narasimha Raju, to maintain it, it will cost at least 2 per cent. Taking that you borrow this money, you cannot get so that you have to pay $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on account of this Rs. 40,000, and the return which you get from the particular officer who utilizes this house is $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; that is, the Government is made to lose 3 per cent on Rs. 40,000 by way of making this provision for the officer. Now, it is not that the officer is not able to pay, as for other contingencies. In these circumstances, I think it is better that, so far as the provision of houses is concerned for which some return is expected from the officers who are to live in them, this question should be considered after the said, circumstances have changed. There ought to be a revision of rates, and I doubt very much whether these very officers who are living in houses at Government or elect to provide for themselves if they are asked to pay a higher rate of rather suspect that they would prefer the latter alternative if they were told that they would have to pay 8 or $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the total output. In those circumstances, whatever may be the wisdom of the policy of providing houses for officers who serve the Government, I think it is desirable that it is postponed until the other question is settled."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I only want to supplement the speech of Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar by drawing the attention of the House to item 2 in Annexure B to the Finance Member's memorandum. There we find that this is to be met from the loan amount and we do not yet know the rate at which it is to be borrowed. As this amount is to be met from loan amount, I think the rules should be so changed that it must cover 9 per cent. This building is intended for the Conservator and the pay of Conservator is Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,900 and Rs. 1,800. So even according to the highest pay of the Conservator he will be able to pay only a sum of Rs. 200 monthly or in the year, Rs. 2,400. That will not cover the interest and the maintenance charges, and I think this House will not be well advised to vote for this item unless those rules are changed or the estimate amount is reduced so that the rent covers the amount of interest payable. The accommodation may be reduced by curtailing the estimate amount."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I hope I shall be able to satisfy the last Honourable Member and the Honourable Member who spoke before him by reading the draft rule that is now being examined which seems to provide for just what they require. The draft rule runs:

'In the case of residences acquired or constructed by Government, it shall be calculated on the cost of acquiring or constructing the residence, including any capital expenditure incurred after acquisition or construction, together with the

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cost or assessed value of the site, and shall be a percentage of its cost equal to the rate of interest at which Government is borrowing money in the open market at the time of acquisition or construction plus such allowances for maintenance and repairs as the Local Government may fix.'

"The next rule goes on to say, 'Nothing contained in this clause shall operate to prevent a Local Government from taking in any particular area a uniform percentage of emoluments, not exceeding 10 per cent, as rent from each Government servant supplied with a residence provided that the total amount of the standard rent fixed for all residences supplied in that area is thereby recovered.'

"I am not prepared to say that these rules are going to be accepted by the Government of India as they stand, but that is the basis upon which reconsideration is now proceeding."

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I should like to know what becomes of the capital that is spent. Is there any insurance charge to cover the capital outlay?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Does the Honourable Member mean to ask whether there is any sinking fund?"

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Yes, exactly."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"We do not generally provide for a sinking fund in the case of productive loans."

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Otherwise it cannot be economic rent, if we are doing it as a business concern."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson appealed to the experience of those gentlemen who come from Salem. I think he is perfectly right. That is a very good test for judging whether this building is necessary. I am perfectly content to be guided by that and what is the result of that test? The Honourable Member from Salem having regard to his own experience said that it was absolutely unnecessary to have a building."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"May I rise to correct that statement? It is within my recollection, and perhaps it is within your recollection, Sir, and within the recollection of the House, that the honourable gentleman began by saying that no one can deny the necessity for the quarters in Salem."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am indebted to the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. I beg his pardon. But apparently he has forgotten what the Honourable Member from Salem said subsequently. He said subsequently—I am perfectly certain that I heard the Honourable Member from Salem aright—that it was not necessary to provide this building this year and that it might be put off for a year or two, and the question before the House is whether in this year, 1921-22, it is necessary to provide this amount for this building. I am perfectly at one with the honourable gentleman that comes from Salem with reference to this observation."

"Then, the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson proceeded to say that the site was acquired some years ago—I may have made a mistake in hearing him—in any case, whether some years ago or recently, it has been acquired. And because the site has been acquired it is not necessary to provide for this building this year."

"Then, with reference to the business aspect of the question, my friends Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar and Mr. Narasimha Raju said that as a business

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

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proposition the Government should not undertake this. I submit, Sir, that there is no place in this Presidency where the difficulty of getting a house for living cannot be felt. In every important town and in healthy towns particularly there must be great difficulty. With reference to every item, it is pointed out by the Hon'ble the Home Member for Government that in the case of all those officers, those particular buildings are necessary. But if the policy initiated by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge is to be carried out, how can you give effect to it? With these observations, Sir, I press the motion."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I also come from Salem, and I know some of the difficulties prevailing there. I myself find difficulty in getting a house and whenever I go there I have to live with my friends. It must be very difficult now for an officer of the standing of the Chief Conservator of Forests to get a house in Salem proper to live in, because the town is very congested and is a small town, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar, admitted that it is very difficult, but he said that the Conservator was living comfortably. As a matter of fact, the Conservator lives in Yercaud and has to come down from Yercaud."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—"I said he was moving here and there in the whole district. Very few days he remained at Salem."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"But his permanent residence is at Yercaud. I don't know whether it is conducive to working that the office should be at Salem and the officer at Yercaud. No doubt, he is a travelling officer, and though he has to travel, I think it is far better for him to have a habitation in the town itself where the office is. In these circumstances, the Honourable Member will be well advised, seeing the difficulty of officers in getting a house, to withdraw this resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Sir, one Honourable Member has admitted that it is justifiable to treat the Forest Department as an exceptional case. I should like to emphasize that point in conclusion. Where the present Conservator of Salem lives, I do not personally know. It is possible that he may have a house in Yercaud. If so, it is because one is not provided for him in Salem. That is why perhaps, as Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar says, he is 'moving here and there in the whole district.' Well, as the Member of Government responsible for the Forest portfolio, I say that is exactly the state of affairs which I do not want to prolong. I do not want the Conservator of Forests at Salem to live in Yercaud, because he cannot get accommodation in the neighbourhood of his office at Salem. I do not want that he should be 'moving here and there' all over the district without any settled habitation to go back to. The life of a Forest officer always involves very great strain on health and it is essential that our Forest officers should have decent and healthy bungalows in which to spend those intervals of stay at headquarters when they are not compelled to camp out in feverish forest tracts. That is the reason why I press particularly for the special treatment of Forest officers and of this particular item—the bungalow for the Conservator of the Southern Circle. The work has been selected, as I have already stated, out of seven items, of which no less than six represent quarters for District Forest Officers and the Conservator and it is almost the most pressing of the series. I do hope that from motives of economy this House will not delete this item to the detriment of a Forest officer, who is reasonably entitled to be housed in comfort by the Government which he serves."

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[The Hon'ble the President]

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"May I invite the attention of the House to the fact that the motions on this demand cover no less than 11 pages and unless the House is expeditious, the chances are that under the guillotine the greater portion of the demand will have to be voted without any discussion? It is entirely a matter for the House to consider. I do not want to interfere in any way with the course of the discussion. I was not present at the beginning of the discussion; but I understand that the general question in regard to the housing of public servants has been discussed. The only question therefore is the application of the principle. As each motion is taken up, if it is going to be discussed for any considerable length of time, the chances are that out of these motions covering 11 pages of the agenda, the House will probably be able to vote upon a very small number of them, perhaps covering one or at the most 1½ pages; then I shall have to put the Demand. Is that a matter to be desired or to be aimed at? I simply indicate this for the consideration of the House. If the members want to go on with each motion in detail, certainly I shall call upon speaker after speaker. But that is a serious matter for the consideration of the Honourable Members. I feel that at this stage when we have spent nearly half a day, I should draw the attention of the members to the fact that they are still at the second item of the agenda—they have disposed of the question of quarters for the District Forest Officer, Cuddapah, and they are now dealing with the provision for quarters for the Conservator at Salem."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"May I know, Sir, when the guillotine is to be applied?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Whenever the day will expire. That must be some time to-morrow."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"May I just say a word about the guillotine, Sir?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"That will be done in accordance with the rules prescribed by His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I do not question that. What I suggest is that the President may re-examine the question whether when the guillotine is applied all the motions which have not been spoken to should not be put to the vote before the demand is put. I merely submit this for the consideration of the President."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I think I passed a rule yesterday about this. I will certainly re-examine the point carefully again. If Honourable Members have any authorities on the point they can send them to me through the Secretary."

The motion was put and lost.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'8 To omit Rs. 7,500, provision for quarters for the Assistant Commissioner (Public Works Budget item No. 3).'

"I formally move this to know the reason and the necessity for this provision."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Sir, on this motion I wish to call, as the first witness for the defence, the Honourable mover himself, who is going to move a resolution shortly in which he recommends to the Government 'that no amounts shall be spent from the current revenues of the province for the construction

1408 DEMAND XXVII—CIVIL WORKS—IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS
(TRANSFERRED PORTIONS)

[The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter] [30th March 1921]

of quarters for Government officials except in the case of officials who are to be provided with quarters according to the rules now in force'. An Assistant Commissioner of the Salt, Abkari and Customs Department is entitled to be provided with free quarters or to be paid house-rent. I hope therefore that I shall have the Honourable member with me in providing this building for the Assistant Commissioner. My second witness for the defence is my honourable colleague on my right who is prepared to assure the House that it is impossible to secure a house for love or money in Vellore. This particular estimate was sanctioned as long ago as the year 1914 and it was only the financial stringency during the war that has caused the construction to be postponed till now."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I say, Sir, that the amount of Rs. 7,500 is the amount to be spent this year? According to the details given by the Honourable Member the estimate is for Rs. 21,500. As has been pointed out by one of my friends, if we vote for Rs. 7,500 this year, we will be asked to vote the remainder of the estimate next year till the building is completed."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the issue now raised is whether the building is to be constructed this year or not. Whether the building is to be constructed from the current revenue or from the loan account, is not at all in issue. I see in the Finance Member's memorandum that this building is to be paid for from revenue. Myself and the Hon'ble the Finance Member are in perfect agreement there. But the question is whether this building is to be constructed this year or not. The very fact that the construction of the building was sanctioned in the year 1914, as appears from the marginal notes of the budget estimate, is sufficient to show that having waited for seven years we can well afford to wait for another year."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, Sir, as I have been summoned practically as an expert witness in this matter, I hope the House will give to my personal knowledge of Vellore that attention and respect which, I think, it deserves. Vellore has never been known to possess anything like a superfluity or abundance of residential quarters for officers. A few bungalows which exist to-day in that city are the remnants of the bungalows which were occupied by the Military officers when we had an Army at Vellore. Unfortunately or fortunately, more probably the latter, some important educational institutions which were started in the city of Vellore had to absorb a large number of the bungalows. In fact, anyone who now goes into the city of Vellore will notice that from one end on to the other end, one whole block is occupied by the Voorhee's College. That college has absorbed, I think, no less than seven residential buildings and what more it will do, I am not now in a position to say. Then there is an eminently useful medical institution called the Women's Medical School for sub-assistant surgeons and for want of anything like a suitable building for the purpose of housing the institution, for the purpose of housing the professors and for the purpose of their lecture halls, they have taken no less than three residential bungalows to be utilized for these purposes. There are two other bungalows which are taken over by other educational institutions. At the present moment, Sir, there are no more than half a dozen residential houses which the officials of that place have got to distribute among themselves. Vellore is not now asserting for the first time the need for the construction of residences for its officials. That need has been, I believe, established and accepted by the

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Government and by this House. For it was in the year 1911, when the district was newly formed, that the need for quarters for officials began to be felt. We have now got an official residence for the Collector, another official residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, yet another for the Principal of the Police Training School; and we have also got a Government building which is used by the Assistant Superintendents of Police under training. So far as other departments are concerned, their fate is simply pitiable. We have there two District Forest officers—both of them, of course, Indians at present. But all the same, they have to maintain their dignity and position. They have been hankering after buildings ever since they set their feet in Vellore, but barring some old insanitary buildings in the congested part of the city which, as the House knows, is constantly subject to plague, the District Forest Officers have not been able to secure any other buildings at all. The Assistant Commissioner of Salt for whom quarters are to be provided has been forced to be more often in camp than in headquarters. It was only by an accident when I left Vellore and vacated the building where I was residing, that this officer was able to secure a residence for himself and that too, Sir, under circumstances which ought not to be encouraged. For, as soon as I left that building, Messrs. Parry & Co. are reported to have taken it on lease. But apparently owing to some arrangement between them, the Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue is now occupying that bungalow. Messrs. Parry & Co. have dealings with the Abkari department on a large scale and I should have preferred that the Assistant Commissioner had not taken up that house; but under the circumstances he had no other alternative. This scheme, which my Honourable friend the Finance Member referred to as dating so far back as 1914 for providing quarters for the officers is one for which I was myself partly responsible. I felt the need for the provision of quarters for officers there. I impressed it upon the attention of the local authorities and when Government subsequently appointed a committee for the purpose of deciding the question of providing quarters for officers in Vellore and as I happened to be a member of that committee, I insisted on the necessity of constructing quarters for officers there.

" We have now land there for providing quarters not merely for the Assistant Commissioner of Police but also for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and for one District Forest Officer. The idea now is to utilize a portion of the land for the Assistant Commissioner only on account of the financial stringency. If it is possible, I should certainly also provide quarters for the District Judge. There is not an inch of accommodation available for any official there. It is one of the places where official residences are imperatively necessary."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motions standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu were deemed to have been withdrawn owing to the absence of the Honourable Member :—

' 9. To omit Rs. 7,500, provision for quarters for the Assistant Commissioner.'

' 10. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a Revenue Divisional office at Narsapur.'

The following motion was not made by Mr. O. Tanikachala Chetti and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

' 11. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works the provision of Rs. 10,000 for constructing the Revenue Divisional office, Narsapur, be omitted.'

[Sriman Bisvanath Das Mahasayo] [30th March 1921]

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—“ The motion standing in my name reads as follows :—

‘12. To omit Rs. 40,000, provision for constructing a residence for the Collector, Coimbatore (Public Works Budget item No. 14).’

“ I formally make this motion and in doing so I think it is necessary that we should make ourselves sure if the tax-payers would tolerate to spend money on quarters after revising salaries of officials before we accept this demand. The Hon’ble the Finance Member has amply spoken about the business way in which he is going to have these official quarters. If these quarters are to be run on a business scale getting us just the interest (i.e., $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent) that we have to give to the Imperial Government, then there will not be much grumbling. I find from the Standing Order No. 142 of the Board of Revenue the rent charged for these houses is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital outlay and the annual repairs subject to the maximum of 10 per cent on the salaries and local allowances of the officers concerned. It is obvious therefore that these officials do not pay more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital outlay in all cases.

“ The result is that the higher-salaried officials have to pay only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent paying as they do from 3 to 6 per cent of the salary generally, whereas the low-salaried officials pay a maximum of 10 per cent rent. So if this House is satisfied to provide quarters for a rent of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital outlay, it may grant the votes that have been demanded by the Government. But I believe, Sir, that this will be an annual charge on our revenues, and unless the orders of the Board of Revenue concerning this are altered just to cover the amount of interest that we are paying on the capital outlay, I think the House should vote against the demand unless we are assured of such alterations. Now the officials not only pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent but are in certain cases exempted from payment of rent for (1) the non-arrival of the officials in certain cases, (2) where officials are on privilege leave or when they are on duty, and (3) when people in the lowest grade of service are put in charge of division when Deputy Collectors are put in places of the Indian Civil Service officers in charge of divisions and districts. I take for instance the official residences in Berhampur or at Chicacole where they are occupied by Deputy Collectors in places of Indian Civil Service officers. In these two places I find there has been actual loss of revenue. So the result of the Standing Order No. 142 of the Board of Revenue is that the low-salaried officials have to undergo trouble whereas the high-salaried officials have to pay only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital outlay without any hope of getting from them the actual interest for the money actually invested. If this House is prepared to give up the issued capital outlay on the houses and be satisfied with a rent of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent annually, paying as it does to the Imperial Government the interest on our debts at 6 or $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, if as has been alleged the Government are to run on a business scale, I am afraid we have first to change the rules that we have now, so as to get 6 and $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and that with a sinking fund. Thus I believe there will be little opposition and the House will be very glad to vote for the grant, because we are as much anxious as the Honourable Members on the opposite bench to see that our officials are better established and live as comfortably as we could hope them to be. I would, therefore, submit to the House that unless these changes are effected it would be better to invest our money on irrigation sources which gives a net profit of 6 per cent or more. I would, therefore, appeal to the House to consider twice before they vote and see that we either get the actual interest that we have to pay or refuse the grant.”

30th March 1921] [Mr. U. Rama Rao]

The following motion standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was deemed to have been withdrawn owing to the absence of the Hon’ble Member :—

‘13. To omit Rs. 40,000, provision for constructing a residence for the Collector of Coimbatore.’

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ If the Hon’ble the Minister gives me an assurance that this item is necessary and if the Honourable Members from Coimbatore also assure me that there is also urgent necessity for constructing residences there, I withdraw the motion No. 14.

‘14. To omit Rs. 40,000, provision for constructing a residence for the Collector, Coimbatore.’

The following motion standing in the name of Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar was not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

‘15. To omit Rs. 40,000, provision for constructing a residence for the Collector of Coimbatore (Public Works Budget item No. 14).’

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ The motion standing in my name reads as follows :—

‘16. To omit Rs. 40,000, provision for constructing a residence for the Collector of Coimbatore (Public Works Budget item No. 14).’

“ I will certainly move this resolution. I move this particular resolution for the reason that it is not a work in progress. The amount that should be provided for is Rs. 40,000. No estimate has been framed. The Hon’ble the Finance Member may now get up and say that the estimate has no doubt been framed but on account of the pressure of work it has not been included in the budget. Even if the estimate has been done and the work has been started, in 99 cases out of 100 estimated amounts fall far short of the actual amount that is going to be spent, sometimes double and treble. The estimates are more or less always exceeded. I take it for argument’s sake that this building is necessary for the Collector. But let us not launch ourselves upon a scheme before we know approximately what the cost is likely to be and for these reasons I move this motion.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ As I have already said I oppose this reduction. Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar said that I have stated that I wanted quarters to be furnished to all the subordinates. My goal is that and I have stated my reasons also. But that does not mean that we at once this year should supply houses for all the subordinates. As much as possible and subject to that condition that wherever it is absolutely necessary, I think, we have to supply quarters.

“ So far as Coimbatore is concerned there is absolutely no doubt that official residential quarters are necessary. Following that there is the item ‘ Acquisition of sites ’ for official residences for Rs 2 lakhs. If I remember right, the original plan which I have seen is I hope now continuing. I believe that this is Collector’s bungalow intended to be built on or close to the site that has to be acquired, and I may go a step from that and say that quarters on this place are intended to be built for the Collector, Judge, Deputy Collector, Tahsildar and all subordinate officers. In Coimbatore the residential quarters are far removed from the public offices and the subordinate staff finds it very difficult to go a long distance. On some days the subordinates have to stay in the office a little late at night, and they find it very hard to go home at a very late hour during nights. So far as

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [30th March 1921]

Coimbatore is concerned, plague has fortunately compelled many people to stay in bungalow quarters which are far remote from the ordinary residences; these were being occupied by European officers some ten years ago before plague came to Coimbatore and after that they had to vacate their residences for us excepting the Collector and the Judge who usually lived in one and the same quarters. The District Forest Officers, the Public Works Department officers and some other officers have got their quarters around what is called the 'Race Course', but unfortunately the Collector and the District Judge have not been provided with quarters. A few days before I found it very difficult to meet the Collector who went to another bungalow. I took some time to find out the house of the Collector. As for the Judge he has been very unfortunately situated and more so because in one murder case he had to try his own landlord. Therefore under these various circumstances and on account of the fact that the price of the land is becoming higher and higher, I am for the immediate purchase as, if any further delay is made in purchasing these sites, the cost will become higher still. Apart from other considerations, I repeat that buildings are absolutely necessary, and (if any reduction is necessary) I think this reduction may be made and the grant passed."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"There is no doubt that the Collector is wanting residence very badly and that he has been ill-treated.

"I should consider that some of these bungalows should be made available for these officers. At present the District Collector is turned out of his residence by his landlord and the District Judge will be turned out of his residence in the course of two or three months. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police should also be provided with a bungalow in the next year at least. The Inspector of Schools also wants a house. All these people have to be provided with houses. There is also the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies who is in need of quarters for himself and his office. There is also the Assistant Director of Industry who has to find a place to live in. Now what I would suggest is that the buildings now intended for Forest officers may be given to all these officers. So far as the Collector is concerned the building of the Conservator of Forests is now occupied by him and there are two other houses which are very good and which could be given to two other officers. This proposal I should like the Government to consider for the sake of economy and for the sake of convenience because quarters should as far as possible be near their offices and the District Judge and the Collector may like to live close to their offices. The only other thing that I wish to refer to is, as was pointed out by Mr. Krishnan Nayar, whether any estimate has been prepared. The provision may be sanctioned, but at the same time I would ask the Government to go into the matter deep and see how they can provide these quarters having regard to economy."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I am glad that it will not fall to me to serve in the Uriya Province, if that province is to be administered on the financial principles which Mr. Das has laid down. If I understand his speech aright, he desires to make the unfortunate officer for whom a residence is constructed pay rent not only for periods during which he occupies the building, but also for periods in which he is on leave, in addition to which officers of the permanent service are to make up the total rent if at any time the building is occupied by an officer who does not pay the full rent for the building. In addition to all this, he wants the rent to pay interest and maintenance charges and sinking fund as well."

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Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo (*interrupting*):—"I did not mean maintenance charges, Sir. It is only towards sinking fund, the business rent of which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter is so much speaking of. I meant that."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I should ask the Honourable Member the term of the sinking fund which he proposes and whether, if an officer occupied a building for the whole of the term, he would be prepared to give him that building. For, I would point out that supposing, for instance, the term were 30 years and an officer were to occupy the building for the whole of that time he would, if the sinking fund were included in the rent, actually have paid for the house by the time the 30 years was completed. Does Mr. Das propose in such circumstances to give him the house?"

"In the next place, Mr. Krishnan Nayar has laid stress on the fact that we have not got the estimates ready. With reference to this, I would point out that we have type-designs for Collectors' houses and that all that has to be done in order to prepare the estimate is to apply the local rates to the measurements entered in the type-design. As for the reason why this has not been done yet, I may say that it lies in the fact that we have been for years past trying to acquire the house which has been occupied by the Collector for generations past. The reason why we have not been able to do so is that the price was higher than what we thought it was fair to ask the tax-payer to pay. Therefore, as an alternative, we have acquired sufficient land for three houses in another area. This is a preliminary to a large scheme which will be discussed later. Meanwhile as soon as the present demand is passed, we shall get the estimates ready and begin as early as possible on the buildings for the Collector, the District Judge and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police. I am glad to see that the Honourable Members from Coimbatore have supported this proposal and Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar has given a list of persons for whom houses are required. I would only add that I have a very much longer list than that given by him. If all these officers are to be housed, we want a large area of land."

"I should like to point out that there are special reasons for undertaking such housing in Coimbatore. In the first place, as has been pointed out, the people are increasingly leaving the town on account of the plague and taking to residences on the outskirts and that has brought about great congestion there. At the same time this has been increased owing to the growing industrial expansion of Coimbatore which will grow very much more rapidly if schemes for the introduction of power and water to the town come to fruition."

"Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar has proposed that quarters should be provided for some of the Indian officers in the new sites already secured for town extension. I have no objection to make to that proposal. As regards the sites selected in what are known as 'the red lands,' the site has been chosen after very careful inquiry by a number of officers and finally after inspection by His Excellency the Governor himself and I hope the Council will take it from me that it is the best site that can be found in the neighbourhood of Coimbatore."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I think we should not embark lightly heartedly upon the very costly policy that is underlying all these proposals of the Government. I do not know what considerable amount of money the Government will spend this year in the construction of the houses. I do not know if retrenchment in establishments is going to be effected. I do not know what is going to happen if the headquarters of a district is shifted from one town to

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another. I do not know what is going to happen if the House commits itself to the expenditure under this head because we are voting for the whole expenditure. The result of this will be we will have to face additional taxation and I am opposed to additional taxation

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Not necessarily additional taxation. We can meet it from the loans."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I suppose loans are to be repaid and interest will be paid out of the revenues of this province. I submit we are embarking on a policy which will simply mean that there is going to be expenditure under this head year after year. Once the House commits itself to this new policy I think it will be very difficult to us to go back. It will be impossible for us to make invidious distinction. Time has come when we must face facts. If the House commits itself to the policy of Government finding housing accommodation not only for the very poor service but for highly paid services, let it do so with its eyes open and with a full sense of responsibility. I have no doubt whatever that in the next year we must have to face additional taxation."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I have no new arguments to advance. As I said I have no personal knowledge of the buildings at Madura and Salem and I shall be guided by the opinion of the members for those districts. My objection was that no estimate has been made and in any case there is no need at present for these buildings. I still maintain that position. Now in moving for reductions I wish we should see how far the Government will be prepared to give effect."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable Member has not told me whether he presses the motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I do not withdraw my motion, Sir."

Motion No. 16, Demand No. 27, was put to the vote of the Council and declared lost, 15 voting for and 38 against.

On the motion of Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao a poll was taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 9. Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar. |
| 2. " Ellappa Chettiyar. | 10. " Krishna Rao. |
| 3. " Narasimha Raju. | 11. " Bisvanath Das. |
| 4. " N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai. | 12. " U. Rama Rao. |
| 5. " Venkata Subba Rao. | 13. " Sadasiva Bhat. |
| 6. " Ramachandra Rao. | 14. " Seturathnam Ayyar. |
| 7. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 15. " Suryanarayana. |
| 8. " Krishnan Nayar. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. | 12. Mr. Ankinesu Prasad. |
| 2. " Mr. C. G. Todhunter. | 13. " Appaswami Nayudu. |
| 3. " Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib. | 14. " Appaswami Vaidiyar. |
| 4. " Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 15. " Arunachala Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar. | 16. " Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 6. " P. Ramarayanangar. | 17. " Muthu Chettiyar. |
| 7. " K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu. | 18. " Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 8. Mr. Richards. | 19. " Patro. |
| 9. " Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 20. " Shanmukham Chettiyar. |
| 10. Dr. Subbarayan. | 21. " Soundara Pandiya Nadar. |
| 11. Mr. Periyannayagam. | 22. " Ramalingam Chettiyar. |

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| 23. Mr. Subbarayudu. | 35. Mr. Arpudaswami Udaiyar. |
| 24. " Vellingiri Goundar. | 36. " Mascarenhas. |
| 25. " Tanikachalam Chettiyar. | 37. " Palmer. |
| 26. " Venkatratnam Nayudu. | 38. Raja of Ramnad. |
| 27. " Raja. | 39. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 28. " Guruswami. | 40. Abdul Razac Sahib. |
| 29. " Kesavalu Pillai. | 41. Muhammad Bavotti Sahib. |
| 30. " Madurai Pillai. | 42. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar. |
| 31. " Muttumaniackachari. | 43. Md. Padsha Sahib. |
| 32. " Venkatramana Ayyangar. | 44. Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 33. " Desika Achariyar. | 45. Mr. Numbermal Chettiyar. |
| 34. " Arumainatha Pillai. | 46. " Venkatrangayya. |

The motion was lost, 15 for ayes and 46 for noes.

2-15 p.m. The House adjourned for lunch at 2-15 p.m. and re-assembled after lunch at 2-45 p.m.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The next batch of items relates to the provision for the acquisition of site for official residences at Coimbatore. I find that 12 Honourable Members have notified this motion. I will call them in order."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the motion No 17, viz., *To omit Rs. 2 lakhs provision for the acquisition of site for official residences, Coimbatore*, that I beg leave to move for the acceptance of the House relates to an item of 2 lakhs for the acquisition of site for official residences at Coimbatore. In placing this before the House I dare say that I have no prejudice against any district and much less against Coimbatore. I have one point of view. In the consideration of one of the resolutions that came up for discussion bearing upon the quarters for the District Forest Officer, some principles that are to guide the Government were placed for the consideration of the House. I noted some sharp difference of opinion among some members of the House. But then I believe it was my friend Mr. Narasimha Raju who stated that in matters like this if it was found to be a case of real necessity it would be much better to leave the public revenues untouched, to float loan and raise money in the open market with a view to utilize it for such emergency purposes. I am unable to understand what special claims Coimbatore may have upon the exchequer. It seems to be against all precedent to allot such a large sum for the official residences. The provision is not for construction of buildings but it is for acquisition of site. If Rs. 2 lakhs is required for the acquisition of site, Honourable Members could easily perceive what amount construction of the buildings would really require. That is the position to which I would direct the attention of the members of the House. Much as I am in sympathy with finding out ways and means for ministering to the comforts of certain class of officers who presumably are in a state of difficulty, I venture to submit, from the point of view of the financial stringency that we must vote against it. The question is whether the work is of such an emergent character that it must necessarily be taken up on hand this year. And if the claim of Coimbatore is emergent instead of voting for two lakhs we may vote for more not by touching the revenue but by obtaining a loan in the open market. From the fact that so many as 12 Honourable Members have given notice of similar resolutions it goes without saying that a large volume of public opinion is against this allotment. It is a matter in favour of the motion which I have placed before the House for

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acceptance and bearing in mind the cautious words that fell from the President, that business has to be got through expeditiously, I simply commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, my reasons for proposing Motion No. 18 'to omit two lakhs for the acquisition of site for official residences at Coimbatore,' are that the acquisition is not very urgent and it can be postponed for some time. Officials in Coimbatore can get on for two or three years more in the present condition. I am not aware what officers require residences and whether the demand for residences is due to the high rent in the locality or to the difficulty in securing houses for rent. If it is for the former reason I do not think the rent to be fixed by the Public Works Department will be less than the prevailing rent in the locality. If the latter, I do not think even if the funds for the acquisition be now sanctioned the buildings will be ready for occupation within three or four years. The acquisition of sites can be postponed for two or three years. For these reasons I propose that this item may be omitted from the budget."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I also rise to move—

'19. That in the demand under 41-B—Civil Works—In charge of Public Works officers—Civil Buildings, the grant of two lakhs proposed for the acquisition of sites for official residences in Coimbatore be omitted.'

"I only wish to draw the attention of the House that by sanctioning this item we are, practically sanctioning a very large scheme of expenditure for the construction of residences. If it were absolutely necessary to have official residences, I should have expected the Honourable Member to come forward with a proposal for the official residences immediately required. That is one of the facts to which I wish to draw the attention of the House. So the matter does not seem to be urgent and may well be postponed.

"Secondly in the case of Coimbatore we have just sanctioned Rs. 40,000 for the quarters of the Collector. We have also had the suggestion of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyyar that it would be a matter for consideration whether some of the Forest officers who are now living outside cannot be removed to the premises of the Forest College after making some alterations for this purpose. It is true that some objections were pointed out; but it is a matter which requires the favourable consideration of the House to save a large amount of expenditure. Therefore for these two reasons firstly, that there is no imminent necessity and secondly, that we are indirectly being asked to sanction a much larger scheme of expenditure, about 20 or 30 lakhs, I think this item should be voted against."

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I have given notice of a motion.

'20. To omit Rs. 2,00,000, provision for the acquisition of site for the official residences at Coimbatore.'

"If this House is willing to provide official quarters as a matter of policy I request the House to grant it, be it in the year 1921-22 or in the coming year. But it must be sufficiently made out that the Government should run this on a business scheme without incurring any charge on the Provincial revenues. I do not really understand how some of my honourable friends said that this is a 'productive work.' The rent that we are getting is not at all 'economic rent' as remarked by the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter. It is only 3½ per cent on the capital outlay. It is decidedly a loss for we have to pay an interest of 6½ per cent. If

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really we are to get economic rent in the real sense of the term we will have to take the capital outlay, the interest we have to pay to the central Government, the repairs and a sinking fund for first and the third. The House under such circumstances will be glad to allow the grant because it does not touch the tax-payers. Therefore in moving this resolution I would like to say that all such items allotted on the head of official quarters should be carefully scrutinised and any item that does not give us an economic rent should be regarded as investment on unproductive work and as such should be deleted."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I have also given notice of a similar motion—

'21. To omit Rs. 2,00,000, provision for the acquisition of site for official residences at Coimbatore.'

"I do not think I can add anything useful to what has been said now by Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar and by Mr. Ellappa Chettiyyar. My point is that this year you cannot really provide these officers with residences. It will take some years before they can get houses. What is the absolute necessity for the quarters? It ought to be looked at only as an investment and not as a work of necessity. As a question of investment I doubt very much whether the consent of the officials to the increased rent which they will have to pay has been obtained and if it is not obtained I doubt whether there is any use in embarking upon this scheme. I do not know whether officers are going to agree to pay increased rent. I do not know also whether there is any Rule of Service binding them to accept increased rent. In the nature of things I think the Government will be obliged to be somewhat tender to its subordinates and if they find it is not possible for them to pay a higher rent, they will certainly raise a protest and the Government will be obliged to accept that also. Government could not deal hard with their subordinates as if Government is a landlord and they are tenants. In this state of things it would not do for the Government to place before this House for its consideration when we have grave financial difficulties and when the market is so unfavourable, a proposition of such magnitude."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Mr. President, the amount provided is 2 lakhs.

It is not a very small amount and we cannot spare such a large sum especially when we want to provide large sums for the non-gazetted officers and the village officers. On this ground of economy, I strongly plead that the amount of Rs. 2 lakhs be deleted from the budget."

'22. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs for the acquisition of site for official residences, Coimbatore.'

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NATAR :—"Sir, I wish to say one word with reference to my motion No. 23—

'23. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for the acquisition of site for official residences, Coimbatore.'

"Here again I assume for the sake of argument that the grounds on which the buildings are sought to be constructed are necessary. Here again the amount involved is a pretty large one and we have absolutely no details. We have no idea as to the total cost which this acquisition would involve. There is no figure given in the budget as to whether the Government have formed an estimate as to the probable cost of the land acquisition proceedings. How many acres are necessary? What is the value per acre for this building ground in that locality? How many acres can be purchased with these 2 lakhs of rupees? What is the intention of the

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Government with reference to the total acreage they wish to purchase? We have absolutely no idea about these points. In addition to all these we wish to know whether it is so very urgent as to be provided for in this particular year when we have so much difficulty for money as has already been pointed out by the Honourable Members for the last six or seven days."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I wish the Honourable Member would give me his string of questions one by one so that I might give him an answer to each. As regards the urgency of the matter, I would appeal to the Honourable Members who come from Coimbatore. I have already explained the reasons why we want to go ahead with the scheme. Coimbatore has been suffering continuously from plague and this has driven the people to the outskirts of the town. Meanwhile there is great industrial development going on which is increasing the prices of land, which, as Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar put it, are going up and up. After a number of inquiries by senior officers and by a committee, we have selected what we consider to be the most suitable land for an official colony which is to include over twenty officers. For the land which we have selected, there is another purchaser in the market and we think it desirable to buy it at once and not to let the matter stand over and pay twice as much a year or two hence. At the same time, I am prepared to admit that the figure in the budget is only a rough estimate which was fixed before the notification was issued. The figure entered in the notification under the Land Acquisition Act is 102.62 acres of land. As I have already stated, the first stage of the scheme is the building of houses for three officers for whom houses are most urgently required. We are actually at present in the position of having three senior officers who ought to be stationed at Coimbatore, living in places outside Coimbatore, because residences cannot be found for them. We have twenty more officers for whom houses are wanted. If that does not make a case for urgency, I don't know what will. It is quite true that part of the 102 acres may not be used immediately, but if we don't acquire it now, we shall find it occupied by somebody else and when we come to acquire it later on, we shall have to pay two or three times as much as we have to pay now. I appeal to the Honourable Members from Coimbatore to confirm me in this statement."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The array of opposition to begin with has been very strong and it requires not a little hesitation on my part to say a few words on this matter especially when the opposition comes from those who are seated on the same side of the House as myself. The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter has told us about the urgency of the matter. Many of those who have seen Coimbatore know that the whole town to the west of the railway station gets infected thoroughly with plague and unfortunately, plague is almost an annual visitor for us. To the east of the railway station almost all the important offices are located about two furlongs from the railway station and houses are springing up there only for the occupation of owners and not for rent. Whenever officers come they find it very difficult to find accommodation. I may give an instance. Once a Eurasian lady came to me and asked for permission to reside in the travellers' bungalow for a week and told me that she would afterwards go into camp for a long time. To those who may not know Coimbatore very well, I may mention that a large number of Brahmans, about 100 persons have put up small bungalows in what is called the Brahman extension and one of the conditions is that no non-Brahman shall be allowed to reside in that locality (Shame!). It may be a shame, but it is

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a fact; all that I can say is, it was taken under those conditions and they are perfectly entitled to stick to those conditions. I am only stating the facts and say that these non-Brahmans will suffer much if this grant is not given. Brahmans whenever they come are able to occupy in this Brahman extension for some time with others. But the non-Brahman officers find it very difficult to get houses during the time of plague specially.

"The result of this cutting down when the House has already sanctioned Rs. 40,000 would be that we are depriving the lower officers of the Government at Coimbatore from enjoying the benefits of having these houses. The Hon'ble the Finance Member stated that about 102 acres or so are proposed to be acquired. But he did not mention the competitors that are likely to come into the field. Messrs. Stanes & Co. are extending many of their works and are providing quarters for their subordinates. There is another rich competitor, Messrs. Tata & Sons, who have already purchased a large number at a little distance and who are now trying to purchase quarters for their officers. If the Government does not act up to the notification and purchase this site, there will be difficulty in acquiring lands at cheap prices or even for acquiring at all. So far as the necessity is concerned, it is absolutely necessary from an economic point of view that we should purchase these lands at once. As a matter of convenience also the sooner the buildings are put up the better for these subordinate officers. One question may be raised and that is how many houses are to be built. There are plans ready for 28 houses. The question may very well be asked as to whether we require 100 acres for 28 officers. I believe provision may at present be made for 28 higher officers like the tahsildar and others and later on small buildings may be put up for subordinate officers also such as sarishtadars, revenue inspectors, clerks and so on. It was because very great difficulty was felt, this House granted Rs. 40,000 for the Collector's building. Now if this item is not sanctioned it will only deprive the poor people of the benefits they will derive from these houses.

"The Government after considering questions of economy and convenience may come to the conclusion that 9 per cent of the capital outlay or 10 per cent of the salary whichever is lower may be fixed for rent. From every point of view it is absolutely necessary that the lands should be purchased now. If the Government like they may purchase a portion now, but there will always be difficulty in getting more lands afterwards. Honourable Members may know how difficult it is to get houses here. I have heard of some complaint from our Council Secretaries even that they are not able to attend to their work because they do not get good houses. If we want to get good work, efficient work and satisfactory work, I think we should allow these things to them. With these few remarks I support the grant and oppose the motion for reduction."

Mr. R. K. SHANMURHAM CHETTIYAR :—"I am afraid the Hon'ble the Finance Member cannot find in me such an eloquent and warm advocate as he had in the Honourable Member from Coimbatore who has just spoken. But with all that, I say, Sir, that some provision ought to be made for the acquisition of sites for constructing official residences in Coimbatore. My honourable friend Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar in appealing to the non-Brahman members of this House to vote against this motion pointed out the possibly imaginary difficulties under which non-Brahman visitors are suffering. But I may assure him and I may assure the Honourable Members of this House that the non-Brahmans of Coimbatore are not very enamoured of that elysium which goes by

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the name of Brahman extension. Apart from that Coimbatore is a place in which it is notoriously difficult for officials to get good residences. In addition to the many offices to which the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter referred there is the office of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and the poor Deputy Sanitary Commissioner himself is vegetating in a very inconvenient place.

"But, Sir, I have to say a few words upon the huge sum that is proposed to be expended on the acquisition of 102 acres of land which are proposed to be acquired in Coimbatore. Sir, in the allotment of this amount and also in the allotment of certain other amounts mentioned later on, I am reminded of old Midas who other if a property that is ordinarily worth Rs. 15,000 in the market is required by the Government, it is valued at enormously high rates, sometimes, even at 5 lakhs. I may safely assure this House that I know something of the locality in which this site is proposed to be acquired and that an ordinary purchaser could easily get these sites in Coimbatore at the rate of Rs. 1,000 per acre. But I see from the Hon'ble the Finance Member's statement that 102 acres are proposed to be acquired for these two lakhs. That is the only remark, Sir, which I have to make about the acquisition. Otherwise the proposal must be inevitably made sooner or later—the sooner the better—the Government must make some provision for the acquisition. I do not know if I shall be in order to propose an amendment to reduce the amount. But I will leave it to the proposer, Sir."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"As I have stated already there will be absolutely no doubt that some officers in Coimbatore will require residence and also with regard to other things mentioned by the Hon'ble the Finance Member some money is necessary. I do not think that Government would be able to undertake the provision for all those residences for the officers themselves. Also there is the question if the officers of the status of the tahsildar will be willing to go and live in a place like the one selected. I may state that there are some small bungalows very near to the site proposed for acquisition. They are removed from the town and there the wells are very deep. So, Sir, these are not very desirable sites for all the officers mentioned by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. It seems that about 85 acres are going to be acquired now. I have to ask whether it is necessary to acquire so much because there are seven or eight officials at the most for whom bungalows can be built on the site and to acquire sites for them at that high cost is, I think, an extravagance. I would request the Government to consider the question in this light and I appeal to them to reduce the grant."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I do not wish to bargain with Honourable Members for a lakh and twenty-five thousand. I can assure them our very best attention to the wishes expressed."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I agree to the reduction."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The Honourable the Minister, I think, had better make a formal proposal to reduce the provision by Rs. 75,000."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—"I move formally that the provision be reduced by Rs. 75,000."

All these motions tabled by seven Honourable Members to reduce the provision for the acquisition of sites for official residences at Coimbatore from Rs. 2,00,000 to Rs. 1,25,000 were put to the vote and carried.



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[Mr. U. Rama Rao]

The following motions were not made by the Honourable Members noted against each motion and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—

'24. To omit Rs. 2,00,000, provision for the acquisition of site for official residences, Coimbatore.'

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU :—

'25. To omit Rs. 2,00,000, provision for the acquisition of site for official residences, Coimbatore.'

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—

'26. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Acquisition of site for official residences, Coimbatore, Rs. 2 lakhs, be omitted.'

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—

'27. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for the acquisition of site for official residences at Coimbatore.'

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI :—

'28. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for the acquisition of site for official residences at Coimbatore.'

The following motion standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was deemed to have been withdrawn owing to the absence of the Honourable Member :—

'29. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a Deputy Tahsildar's office, with iron racks and out-houses, at Mulki.'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I formally make this motion :—

'30. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for quarters for the Revenue Divisional Officer at Atmakur.'

"I do not make any speech on this but I formally move it."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Mr. President, as I have already explained the necessity for this building I feel quite certain that this House which has voted in other similar cases will not hesitate to vote for this as well. This is merely an expenditure of not more than Rs. 5,000 in the year to come. Atmakur is one of those places where the Revenue Divisional Officers cannot find places to live in. For years past we find that every officer who was posted to that place was put to the necessity of occupying a small house attached to a chatram in the locality which is also used as a public eating-house. From the year 1913 when Mr. Raghava Ayyar was the Collector at Anantapur this question has been engaging the attention of the Government and I am quite sure that the Honourable Member representing Nellore, who is seated before me and whose knowledge of Atmakur is certainly more direct than mine, will bear me out when I say that in Atmakur there is no place which could be regarded as befitting the position of a Revenue Divisional Officer. Therefore it became necessary to consider the question of constructing quarters for the Revenue Divisional Officers there and the estimates were prepared long ago. But owing to our inability to undertake any expenditure of that description during the war, the estimate had to be postponed, although it was sanctioned so long ago as 1915. In view, however, of the fact that we are not anxious to embark upon new items of expenditure, where we can avoid it, and realizing, as I do, the feeling of the House that we must as far as possible be ready to minimize expenditure, we have also started an inquiry as to whether it

[The Hon'ble Mr. Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib] [30th March 1921]

may not be possible to acquire the present small house in which the Revenue Divisional Officer lives and to effect necessary repairs and improvements to make it a suitable residence for that officer. I do not insist on the construction of a new place. But if the alternative is possible and feasible, I might probably agree to the acquisition of the present building and to the necessary improvement being made to it. In any case the provision that I have asked for is so small that whatever plan I may adopt that money will be necessary. I hope therefore that Honourable Members will agree to its retention in the budget."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" In view of what has been stated, I withdraw my resolution."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motions standing in the names of the Honourable Members noted against each motion were not made by them and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo :—

'31. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for quarters for the Revenue Divisional Officer, Atmakur.'

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

'32. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for quarters for the Revenue Divisional Officer, Atmakur.'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadas was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'34. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for constructing a new taluk office at Conjeeveram.'

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'35. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for constructing a new taluk office at Conjeeveram.'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiayar was not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'36. That under rule 41. Provincial Civil Works, the provision of Rupees 20,000 for constructing a new taluk office at Conjeeveram be omitted.'

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. Bisvanath Das was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent :—

'37. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for housing the subordinate staff at Madras.'

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR in moving—

'38. That under rule 41. Provincial Civil Works, item for housing the subordinate staff at Madras, Rs. 10,000, be omitted'—

said :—" Before I speak on the subject may I know from the member in charge as to what class of subordinates is intended to be housed there ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I have some difficulty in answering this question directly. There is not an exact scheme before the Government and the scheme which has been prepared has been rejected. What happened was this. The original idea was to form a colony of menial servants, and we proceeded to invite proposals. For that purpose the Mylapore tank is now under consideration in connexion with the town-planning trust. We also considered the scheme for

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housing a large number of peons. So far as the menials are concerned it would be better to have the colonies nearer to the offices in which they should work and not a long way off. As regards the non-gazetted services, we hope to receive applications from House Building Societies and to advance money to them for housing purposes. There have been several discussions among the non-gazetted services regarding the question of forming their own House Building Societies. In that way the Government are trying to help the services."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" From what I have heard, Sir, I think it would be better that for this year this amount is not allocated for this purpose. I know that a scheme for expanding the town was under consideration since May last year, but it has since been abandoned. This is not a part of the town-planning scheme. And far from being an advantage to have the services located in that place it would be a disadvantage to them considering the difficulty in transit from such far-off place. Also there seem to be no definite proposals before the Government with reference to this. And it may not be desirable to spend money on that. So I move the resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I formally move—

'39. To omit Rs. 1,00,000, provision for housing the subordinate staff at Madras."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I formally give my support to this motion—

'40. To omit Rs. 1 lakh for the housing of the subordinate staff at Madras."

The following motions standing in the names of the Honourable Members noted against each were deemed to have been withdrawn owing to their absence :—

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—

'41. To omit Rs. 1 lakh, provision for housing the subordinate staff at Madras.'

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—

'42. To omit Rs. 1 lakh, provision for housing the subordinate staff at Madras.'

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" With reference to that I should like to say that I do not think there is any reason for saying that we have abandoned the scheme. What really happened was this. We have got the town-planning trust which has got a number of proposals in hand and there are various people that want sites. The Corporation wants to do something and that is what Mr. Molony is working at now. As soon as that is done we will fit in our schemes. I do not want the whole of the staff of the Government to be left out of consideration. They have already been waiting and need the help."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—" May I ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member if it has been definitely settled where to locate the houses for the subordinate staff in Madras ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I think I may say that it has been settled and I hope the Honourable Member will reckon the cost of the season ticket, if it is done elsewhere. Personally speaking, so far at least as the peons are concerned, it will be a hardship on them."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—" As the answer is in the affirmative, I oppose the motion. As the object of the provision of one lakh of rupees in the budget is to build houses for the poor subordinate staff of Government and

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib] • [30th March 1921]

as this will tend to remove to a certain extent the congestion in Madras, I welcome this move on the part of the Government."

3-30 p.m. Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"Sir, so far as this scheme is concerned, I don't believe that the Government has got any definite scheme before them and what the Hon'ble the Finance Member has said is that they are going to have some sort of definite scheme. But now that there is no scheme of that sort, there is no necessity to allot one lakh of rupees for this scheme. If the Government arrives at a definite conclusion as to what they are going to undertake to do in this respect, then it will be time enough for the Government to come and ask for the necessary funds and it will be within the power of the Finance Committee to sanction the amount. But so long as that scheme is not matured, I do not think that it is possible for us to give this one lakh. The one lakh of rupees for housing the subordinate staff is not to be used in Madras. The City Improvement Trust has been constituted and it is its duty to look after these things. There is no use in running schemes apart from or side by side with the Improvement trust. Therefore, this one lakh of rupees should go out of this budget."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I also consider, Sir, that there is no necessity for incorporating this provision in the budget when there is absolutely no scheme for it. I quite agree with Mr. Usman Sahib in thinking that congestion should be removed, and nobody will object to that principle. The only point is whether the time has come for incorporating the provision in the budget."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—"I agree, Sir, for the present to drop the scheme. I withdraw the demand."

The motion to omit Rs. 1,00,000, provision for housing the subordinate staff at Madras (Public Works Budget, item 19) was then put to the Council and declared carried *unanimously*.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, the motion that stands against my name is as follows:—

'43. To omit Rs. 1,00,000, provision for Government Press Buildings (Public Works Budget, item 20).'

"Sir,—We have no idea as to what amount of money it will cost us, because in the budget there is no amount of estimate stated. So, at this juncture when we are hard up for money, I think we will do well to keep the Government Press in the same building for some time to come."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachari was deemed to have been withdrawn owing to the absence of the Honourable Member :—

'44. To omit Rs. 1 lakh, provision for Government Press buildings.'

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Sir, this is another poor man's case. In reply to Mr. Devadas's speech, I have already given the reasons why we want to remodel the buildings which contain the Government presses. These reasons are, in brief, that the conditions under which the men are working are not satisfactory. As the Council is aware, we have presses working in three different places at present. The first of these is the old building in Mint Street. These old Mint buildings were not built for a press. They are ill-lighted, ill-ventilated and wholly inadequate for the work that has to be done and are quite unsuitable in every way. The question of replacing these buildings has been under consideration since the year 1909. In the next place, there is the Penitentiary Press where

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we can do a certain amount of printing, but both the buildings and plant are completely out of date and we could do much more work if we had a better arrangement. Lastly, there is the Lawrence Asylum Press which was acquired in 1912. That building was constructed for a press and is quite satisfactory. The question with regard to this is whether it is sound policy to have our presses scattered over three different places and to have in the leading shopping centre of Madras what is practically a factory industry. In addition to these, there is a proposal on hand for taking over the printing work of the High Court, which is now done by a private press, and we want to devise a scheme of concentration and improvement that will provide for all these four presses and at the same time secure more press work for educated prisoners in jails. All this means a very large scheme. At the same time it is an urgent scheme, because conditions in the Government Press are very bad. The whole scheme, as I have said, has been under consideration since 1909 and it is really very necessary to establish a big factory—that is what it comes to—and to carry it on properly. That is the reason why we have departed from the usual practice inasmuch as we have provided an estimate for a lump sum. I fully recognise that it is a large sum, but I am asking the Council to face it because I think it is desirable to place the Government in this matter in the position of a model employer of labour."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble the Finance Member whether the Government have given up the printing press at Mount Road and intend to amalgamate it with the Government Press building in the Mint Street, and if that were so, I am afraid, Sir, that the money which has been spent on the acquisition of the Press in Mount Road would rather go to waste. I should submit, Sir, that all that we have got to consider now is this, whether there is any necessity for one lakh of rupees this year. That is the only consideration we have now. In reply to Mr. Devadas's speech during the preliminary discussion of the budget, the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter said that the present buildings in Mint Street required a lot of alterations and that, therefore, this amount was essential. But in G.O. No. 79, Financial, dated 27th January 1921, issued on the report of the Superintendent, Government Press, I find, Sir, that the Superintendent in charge of the Government Press does not ask Government for any building or does not complain that he suffers from want of accommodation. If that is so and if we have any faith in the theory of the man on the spot, I think he is the best man to speak about it and I believe all of us will be justified in relying upon the words of Mr. Gilbert as to whether the amount of one lakh would be especially necessary this year. Now it is said that the High Court press also is to be removed to the Government Press buildings. If the press work in the High Court has been going on for so many years without the least difficulty, then what is the immediate necessity to do this this year when we have got a lot of stringent financial conditions to face. I would request the Hon'ble the Finance Member to consider the matter and see whether he could not postpone this thing for another year or two and especially also when you find, Sir, that on account of the Government Press work being now done in three different places, there is no duplication of work or anything of that sort. In these circumstances, Sir, I would submit that the one lakh now allotted is not at all essential or a necessity. I would in this connexion impress upon this House and also on the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Member the very good dictum laid down by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that it is only in essential cases where buildings are very, very essential and that for want of such buildings the work could not be carried on, we ought to allot money.

[Mr. T. Arumainatha Pillai]

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The Hon'ble the Finance Member has not stated any such conditions and therefore I submit, Sir, and the House will agree with me in coming to the conclusion, that the one lakh of rupees is not at all necessary this year. Let us wait and see what will happen."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I want only to say one word, Sir. I want to know what the opinion of the Chief Minister is upon this question especially as he has stated that it is not necessary and he is not going to press for it, and we would all like to know what his opinion on this question is."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"Sir, before we vote upon this motion, I think I must submit for the opinion of the Council that since the Government presses in the mufassal have been dispensed with and the work was transferred to the press in the metropolis, there is a complaint that the gazettes are not being issued properly and that the work is not being properly done and here we see, on the other hand, there are strikes and delays, too big a staff to manage and so on. In all districts, except in Ganjam, the district presses have already been done away with. The press work in a number of jails has been dispensed with and all the of difficulty in getting the work done and I think the time will come before long when the district work will have to be sent back to the districts. So, until that question is settled, there is no necessity for giving any additional grant on that account."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I am surprised in a House that is pledged to economy to hear complaints against an important measure of economy which the Government have carried through with success, namely, the concentration in Madras of the work formerly done in district presses all over the country. In the next place, Mr. Arumainatha Pillai suggests that the remodelling of the Government Presses is not an urgent matter because the Superintendent has not complained of it in his last report. I have already told Honourable Members that the question has been under consideration since 1909. If the Honourable Member wishes to see the complaints which the Superintendent has made, he should look back to the reports of 1909 or even earlier. He can hardly expect the Superintendent to repeat a complaint from year to year which he knows is under the consideration of the Government."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"I have looked into the report of 1921, dated 27th January, and there is nothing there."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Exactly, for the reason that the Superintendent knows that the discussion of the subject has been going on for many years and that we are trying to do something. That does not mean that he is satisfied with the conditions as they are, but he has learned, as other officers of Government have to do, to put up with what is given him."

"Then he suggested that what we ought to do is to extend the Mint Buildings. I would only ask him to come with me and see the Mint Buildings and see whether it is possible to do anything to extend that wretched building which is shut out from the road by the Ordnance office on the one side and by a cinema on the other. It is one of the most insanitary and uncomfortable buildings now in the occupation of Government. It is quite impossible to do anything to make a good job of a building like that. Then he said that the press working in the High Court has been going on

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quite well. I would only ask him whether he has not heard of a recent breakdown in the High Court arrangements when the Judges had not enough work to do because there were no printed papers ready for them."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"There are too many Judges, that is all."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"Whatever the number of Judges, is it good economy to keep them without work because the press is not ready to supply them with printed papers?"

"Next, I would appeal to the business members of this House to say whether it is possible to run a business like this when you have to split it up over three or four different places and shift the work about from one place to another."

"Lastly, it is said that the press building in Mount Road would be thrown away if we built somewhere else. That certainly would not be the case. We have a large number of offices for which better accommodation is required and this Government Press scheme is part of a general scheme for pooling all our Government buildings and then using the buildings which we have for those Government purposes for which they are most suitable. We have already a scheme for shifting to the Lawrence Asylum Press building another office that requires just such a building and for which that building would be admirably suited. But before we can do that we need a new press and what I put it to the House we want is a building on factory lines, large, open and airy, which will accommodate the machinery and men employed in the most suitable, sanitary and economic way. The provision we have put into the budget will be sufficient for carrying out the foundations of such a building."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I have no correct idea of this work. We do not know what the cost of this work is going to come to. I understand there is a ruling with respect to the local boards that the work should be finished before asking the Government for a grant in respect of the same work. Government should tell us exactly what the cost will come to before the motion is voted upon."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"I know while I was in acting charge of the Tanjore Jail we were running a printing press which was working with a profit to Government. It was subsequently abolished by some order of Government. If there is difficulty arising on account of strikes in the various presses, and if strike is becoming an epidemic as it seems to have become, would it not be wise to go into the whole matter as to whether we should not have several presses in different parts of the Presidency instead of one large press, where if strike occurs the whole work will be paralysed?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Unless the Honourable Member informs me definitely what the ultimate cost of the scheme is likely to be, I do not propose to vote in favour of this grant. We must have definite information because we are getting too many commitments. The argument will be urged next year both by the Minister and the Finance Member that 'the work is in progress. We have incurred some expenditure and cannot stop the work now.' It will then be urged that we should have asked these questions when the matter was under discussion. I should like to know therefore what the scheme will cost."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"I fully admit the justice of the Honourable Member's criticism. But I am afraid I am not in a position to give any reliable estimate at present. The matter was put into the budget because it

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is a matter concerning the health of a large number of workmen. If the members should prefer it, I am quite ready to refer the matter to the Finance Committee."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I suggest that this item be withdrawn? If it is necessary, it may be placed on the supplementary estimates at the August meeting. I am merely suggesting it as a method of dealing with this question."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"It will not be withdrawn. It is an important item and it will be pressed."

The motion was put and carried, 38 voting for and 37 against it.

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 20. Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao. |
| 2. " S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 21. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 3. " T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 22. Dr. C. R. Rama Rao. |
| 4. " K. P. Gopala Menon. | 23. " U. Rama Rao. |
| 5. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 24. Mr. K. Sadasiva Bhat. |
| 6. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 25. " M. R. Sathuram Ayyar. |
| 7. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 26. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. " A. Ramayya Panja. | 27. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 9. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 28. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| 10. " N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai. | 29. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 11. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. | 30. " T. Desika Achariyar. |
| 12. " A. Subbarayulu. | 31. " T. Arumainatha Pillai. |
| 13. " K. Suryanarayana murti Nayudu. | 32. " S. Arpudawami Udaiyar. |
| 14. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 33. " E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 15. " P. Venkatasubba Rao. | 34. " Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 16. " M. Ramachandra Rao. | 35. " Ahmad Miran Sahib. |
| 17. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 36. " A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib. |
| 18. " M. Krishnan Nayar. | 37. Muhammad Padsha Sahib. |
| 19. " L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. | 38. Mr. Govindoss Chathurbujadoss. |

Noes.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. | 19. Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandiya Nadar. |
| 2. " Mr. C. G. Todhunter. | 20. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 3. " Md. Habib-ullah Sahib. | 21. " S. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 4. " Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 22. " O. Tanikaachala Chettiyar. |
| 5. " " A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar. | 23. " M. C. Raja. |
| 6. " " P. Ramarayanagar. | 24. " L. C. Guruswami. |
| 7. " " K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu. | 25. " H. T. Kesavulu Pillai. |
| 8. Mr. F. J. Richards. | 26. " M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 9. " R. G. Grieve. | 27. " S. Muttumanikka Achariyar. |
| 10. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 28. " A. T. Palioer. |
| 11. " P. Subbarayan. | 29. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 12. " E. Periyannayagam. | 30. " Abdul Razzaq Sahib. |
| 13. " S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad. | 31. Hamid Sultan Marukkayar Sahib. |
| 14. " R. Appaswami Nayudu. | 32. Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 15. " V. Appaswami Vandayar. | 33. Mr. A. M. MacDougall. |
| 16. " C. Arunachalla Mudaliyar. | 34. " T. Namburumal Chettiyar. |
| 17. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 35. " P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 18. " A. P. Patro. | 36. Rev. E. M. Macphail. |
| | 37. Mr. R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo moved—

'45. To omit Rs. 2,00,000, provision for official residences for gazetted officers, Madras (Public Works Budget item 21).'

In doing so, he said:—"I am very sorry to have to move the motion that stands in my name; firstly because I find there is no hope of realizing the amount of two lakhs that we are going to spend on the construction of official residences for the gazetted officers of Madras. Sir, the tax-payers have a very great grievance

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against the Government in spending their money in this way and we as the representatives of the tax-payers have every right to reject the demand of grant that we are called upon to vote. Secondly there are other important items of activities in which our money might be better and more usefully spent—I mean the inauguration of a policy of extended system of irrigation sources. I find there are many districts in Madras, notably Ganjam, which are often attacked by famines. To counteract this tendency we will have to inaugurate very soon a policy of extended irrigation sources. If we are to do that we will have to contract loans and we have to go on extending canals and such other irrigation sources which are generally productive and protective. Thirdly, Sir, we have now the revised pay of these gazetted officers. The pay they now draw is quite handsome and I believe that with that salary they could live very comfortably in Madras. The reasons that were adduced in former grants, I am sure, will be absent here. It will not be said that Madras is a jungle place, and I am sure no member will come forward to put forth this argument. Undoubtedly, Sir, I find that the rents these official gentlemen pay do not come to the amount of interest that we ourselves are actually paying. For these reasons, I move the motion that stands in my name."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO moved—

'46. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for official residences for gazetted officers, Madras.'

4 p.m.

In doing so, he said:—"I support the motion on the ground of public health. Madras is overcrowded. The depressed classes are homeless. Sickness and epidemics are on the increase. Death-rate is high and infantile mortality is appalling. It is all due to overcrowding. Unless and until provision is made for housing the poor and the depressed classes, I am not for spending a pie towards gazetted officers. Till houses are provided for these houseless people, I am strongly against this resolution."

The following motions standing in the names of the Honourable Members noted against each motion were deemed to have been withdrawn owing to their absence:—

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—

'47. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for official residences for gazetted officers, Madras.'

Rai Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—

'48. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for official residences for gazetted officers, Madras.'

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"I beg to move—

'49. That two lakhs, provision for official residences for gazetted officers, Madras, be omitted.'

"I have no new arguments to add to what was said by me in support of my previous motions except one point. That is this: That non-gazetted officers are finding it very hard to make both ends meet; we say there are no funds to grant them any increases in their salaries; in such a state of things, it is not fair to vote such a big sum for residences for gazetted officers who are faring well. So I move that the two lakhs be omitted and utilized for the non-gazetted officers. I think there would be no difficulty for the Honourable Member in charge of this department to accept the motion as works have not been in progress nor

[Mr. S. Ellappa Chettiyar] [30th March 1921]

estimates sanctioned. With these words, I beg the Honourable Members to vote unanimously."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I wish to know where these houses are to be constructed and at what cost. I have nothing more to say on motion No. 50, viz. '50. To omit Rs. 2 lakhs, provision for official residences for gazetted officers, Madras'."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not going to add one word to what has been said by me and many others in this House about the undesirability of providing Government quarters for highly-paid officers. However I wish to say this, that for this also there is no estimate. The amount is very large. We do not know what the ultimate cost is going to be. I may assure the House that I shall watch the fate of this resolution with considerable interest for this reason. This House has already disallowed one lakh provided for housing the peons and subordinate officers in Madras; and after having taken that amount from the budget, as I submitted, Sir, I shall watch with considerable interest the fate of this resolution which seeks to delete from the budget double the amount intended for the benefit of the highly-paid officers."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, there is a feeling all over the country, I am sure I am not overdrawing the case, that these gazetted officers have an exceptional kind of treatment. They suffer more from surfeit than penury. There is increased scale, time scale, retrospective effect, etc. And now comes house accommodation. The fate of the non-gazetted officers, which is still hanging in the balance, has to be disposed of one way or the other. I will say it is rather invidious and unfair that we should go on piling favours one upon another in the case of the gazetted officers and leave the non-gazetted in the background. If this extravagant proposal is sanctioned, we are sure to lay ourselves open to accusation. It may be quite unintentional, but I wish to point out that the cases of the really deserving and suffering members of the non-gazetted service claim our foremost attention."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I have very little to add for the acceptance of this motion by the Council, as several members have spoken on this resolution. We have first to consider the necessity for improving the housing of persons of the labour classes, depressed classes and the menials. On various occasions our attention has been drawn to that aspect of it and we have not yet been able to do anything in that direction. Even a motion was considered this afternoon about the housing of menials and subordinate staff. Notwithstanding our feeling in the matter that something has to be done, we have not voted for that item, in the absence of a specific scheme to render help in that direction. When we have not taken any steps in that direction to help the poorer classes, I think we ought not to vote for this item."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I associate myself entirely with what has been said by Mr. Rama Rao. I only say it is a general policy and if there is one place more than another to which it can be well applied, it is Madras. It is very invidious to make any distinction between peons and clerks and gazetted officers. When we are providing accommodation for one class of officers, we must provide for the others also."

"It is said that the City is about to undergo extension and town-planning is to be carried on. I am perfectly sure that this provision for official residences may well wait. They can get on as they have been doing hitherto. Somehow they have

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been able to get on these years and they will be able to get on for some more years. If they wait, Government will appreciate them and members in this House and outside will still more appreciate them. I am not sure that the Honourable the Minister who is in charge of this department will agree to my motion."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, before I say anything, may I know on what site these buildings are intended to be put up? There is nothing in the budget about it nor is there any estimate given whether it is intended to put up the buildings."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TONDHUNTER:—"The Brodie Castle and the Grange in Adyar."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"With reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble the Finance Member, I invite the attention of the House to the interpellations of Mr. Raja and the answers given."

The following questions and answers were read to the Council by Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar:—

Question by Mr. M. C. Raja.

Q.—To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Public Works—

(a) to state the purpose for which "The Brodie Castle" and "The Grange" in Adyar have been purchased by the Government; and

(b) how much they have paid for the purchase of these two properties and what use they are put to at present, and what income they yield and whether the income is at all commensurate with the investment.

A.—(a) "Brodie Castle" was purchased by Government for use as a residence for Government officials and also with the intention of utilizing the site for the construction of other residences therein. "The Grange" was originally acquired by Government for the purpose of the Rajkumar College, but the idea of establishing such a college was subsequently abandoned. The house has been let by the Executive Engineer under the provisions of the Public Works Code to the Commissioner of Income-tax. Proposals are being drawn up for the construction of nine or twelve other residences in the compounds of "Brodie Castle" and "the Grange."

(b) The cost of "Brodie Castle" and the site was Rs. 1,16,342 and of "The Grange" and the site Rs. 1,56,235. The house "Brodie Castle" is at present let to the Commissioner of Salt at a rental of Rs. 225 per mensem and "The Grange" to the Commissioner of Income-tax at a rent of Rs. 200 per mensem. The Government of India have been addressed to fix the rent of "The Grange" at Rs. 250. The income is not commensurate with the investment, but it is expected to be more nearly commensurate with the investment when the other residences contemplated to be built in the compounds of these two houses are constructed.

"It follows from these answers that "Brodie Castle" bought originally for the Rajkumar College is to be utilized for residences and that from 9 to 12 residences are intended to be built there, and proposals are drawn up for consideration. But the investment already made is 2.73 lakhs, and we are asked to commit ourselves to the expenses of raising up more houses there. And yet we have not been told what they are going to cost. Probably we may be told at the end of the next year that it would in all cost 10 lakhs. You have already given 2 lakhs; that would all be thrown away. On this investment of 2 lakhs and 73 thousand we are getting two paltry sums of Rs. 200 and Rs. 250. We do not know what those buildings

[Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar]

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that are to be constructed there are going to cost. Before knowing that it will be very bad policy to give our assent. It may be that we shall have a muddle as in the case of Russellkonda Saw-mill scheme. It might be said by your passing two lakhs this year we entered into commitments for the required expenditure. I therefore oppose the scheme not merely on the ground that it is not right policy but also on the ground that people other than gazetted officers require this money very badly. Besides it is very wrong to invest money on a scheme without knowing what it is going to cost. In Coimbatore a sum of Rs. 40,000 has been asked for the Collector's quarters. Even at that rate for 12 houses it will come to 40 by 12 thousand or nearly 5 lakhs. We do not know what it is going to cost us actually. After all the return on such investments will be very poor. I therefore oppose the proposition."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI:—"The policy of Government till recently has been not to launch on house building even for the poor clerks and menials, but they were in favour of granting advances as recommended by the Salaries Committee. Apparently their experience at Coimbatore has changed their policy; for I see there is a provision of one lakh for house building for the poor (item 19, Public Works Budget) and another of two lakhs for gazetted officers (item 21, Public Works Budget).

"This Council, I think, should welcome such a policy and approve the provision of expenditure on house building on a large scale (for private agency cannot build houses as cheaply as Government can).

Gazetted officer's house—	Rs.
• Site 3 acres at Rs. 5,000	15,000
Building 80 × 60 or 5,000 sq. ft. at Rs. 5	25,000
per sq. ft.	25,000
First floor same area	5,000
Out-houses	70,000

Menial's house—	Rs.
12 × 25 or 300 sq. ft. at Rs. 1-8-0 per	450
sq. ft.	50
Site	500

"But houses are required both for high officials and low-paid clerks and menials. I have made some rough calculation* and find the capital cost of a house for a gazetted officer will be Rs. 70,000 at present, while that for a menial would cost Rs. 500. The loss to Government will be 8 annas per 100 per annum on their investment for the benefit of the poor, and annas six per 100 on

their investment for the gazetted officers. It is for this Council to decide whether they would advise the Government to build houses for the poor or gazetted officers, first.

"I am told, Sir, that the Bishops Gardens at Adyar has been purchased by the Concrete Construction Company of New York and that houses on up-to-date lines would be built within a year. I think therefore that the building of houses for officers may be put off, and the two lakhs provided for that purpose utilized for houses for the poor and the menials. At the inquiry by the Salaries Committee, it was elicited that there are 2,000 peons and 1,000 low-paid clerks in this City. House accommodation for these is urgent. I therefore suggest that item 21 be coupled with item 19 of Public Works Budget."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I find the attitude of some members of the House on this subject somewhat bewildering. So far as I understand it, it is this. They have just declined to sanction money for building houses for the subordinate and menial staff and having done so, wisely or unwisely, they will not for that reason sanction money for building for any one else.

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[The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter]

"I should like to state the problem to the House. There is no question that there is a great shortage of housing accommodation for all classes of people, especially from the point of view of the Government official. I think I am right in saying that you can count the European officers who have houses to themselves on the fingers of one's hands. Now, I don't think we can look to the speculative builder to relieve this shortage. It is true that a good many new houses are being built, but they are being built by Indian gentlemen for their own occupation, and none of these houses would be available for occupation by a European unless by chance for the first few months when it is unlucky to live in them. This being the state of affairs, I should like to state the position of Government. The Government have a number of excellent sites on hand lying idle. They can borrow money at a cheaper rate than other people and they have an engineering staff of their own. Supposing the Government were a private company, would it not be good business to use these sites and employ this staff in building houses out of borrowed money? And if it would be good business for a private company, is there not the greater reason that the Government should do it and so in addition relieve the congestion? The reason given on the other side is that money is required for the non-gazetted officers; that is quite true and for that reason the provision which was put into the budget for 1920-21 for building houses was cancelled. That reason held good so long as the provision was provision for building houses out of revenue. But the position is now changed. We have now power to borrow and the money which we are proposing to utilize for building houses in 1921-22 is borrowed money which will not be available for paying salaries. Then we have been told that we have not got the estimates ready. Now in building houses for Government officers we are bound by certain very strict rules laid down by the Government of India, as a result of which we have regular standard plans to follow. We have these plans, we have the sites ready and we have ready site plans for placing the buildings on the sites. All that remains is to apply the local rates to the standard plans and get contractors. The buildings can be begun at once if the Council votes the money. Again, it has been said that we are not getting an economic rent. I have already explained that the rules on the subject are under consideration. In any case it is not likely that we shall be able to build any house for a Government servant at the present time which would cost him less than 10 per cent of his pay. It has been pointed out that his salary has been raised. Well in that case the amount of 10 per cent which the Government would recover from him for the bungalow has also been raised. It is not likely that he would pay less than 10 per cent whatever the salary he draws. I would ask members of this House to apply this principle to their own cases. I am sure there are a good many here who would be very sorry to pay 10 per cent of their own incomes for the purpose of housing themselves."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member who has just spoken one or two questions? He said that plans and estimates are ready. Can he tell me whether the plans and estimates are for the nine bungalows which are proposed to be built? It is clear that that we are going to commit ourselves to the construction of nine bungalows which means an expenditure of 5 lakhs. It has been said that 2½ lakhs had been spent already on the Adyar scheme and the return is said to be Rs. 425 per month and this is considered to be remunerative rent. I am not quite sure what percentage this is on capital outlay but my friend says, it is 2½ or 3 per cent on an outlay of 2½ lakhs. My difficulty is if you once sanction these two lakhs we commit ourselves to an expenditure of six or seven lakhs. There are many schemes like water-supply and drainage schemes

[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu] [30th March 1921]

on which loan funds can be spent. The Hon'ble the Finance Member will have no difficulty in finding schemes to which these funds from the loan account can be transferred. If he brings forward any scheme by way of supplementary estimates we shall be in a position to consider the claims of the menial staff for buildings of the subordinate staff and of the superior staff and arrive at some conclusion as to what we should do. We shall then be looking at the question in a businesslike manner. Now that item relating to the menial staff has been omitted from the budget, it is also sound that this provision also should be allowed to stand over for the present. There is nothing improper in that course."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I support this motion. During the last half-an-hour there have been two questions before us. One was for the provision of housing accommodation for the poorer classes of Government servants and the other was for the higher officials. Objection was raised for the former and the Government yielded. A similar objection is raised now to the latter, namely, the provision of two lakhs of rupees to provide houses for higher officers. The Government does not yield. What a difference of treatment! This House should treat both alike. If the Government say that the position of higher officials is very difficult in regard to the finding of house accommodation all that I can say is that the lot of the poorer classes is worse still and almost intolerable. The House should have no hesitation in voting for the motion; otherwise we would give the impression to the public that we are unmindful of our duty to the poorer class of subordinates and are anxious to do all we can to give all facilities to the highly-paid officials."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" The Hon'ble the Finance Member's difficulty is about the loan account. He says that there is a difficulty in spending it on recurring expenditure such as payment to the subordinate service. I wish to know whether it is not in the province of the Finance Department to allot the borrowed capital for such items as the paddy-breeding farm in Tanjore and thus liberate the revenue account for purposes of the given nature."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I wish to emphasize that the comparisons frequently drawn between this case and that of the vote on one lakh for housing subordinate staff are not just. The latter proposal is on a different footing from the present vote for a provision for two lakhs for official residences, for gazetted officers. So far as the scheme for providing accommodation for the subordinate staff in Madras is concerned, I understand that detailed proposals have not been worked out; and sites have been acquired at a very high cost and there is some chance of making a recovery of the cost by building additional houses in the compounds which are in excess of the requirements of the existing houses. That is the first point. It has been brought out very clearly in the answer to the interpellation by Mr. M. C. Raja which was read out just now by Mr. Tanikachalam Chettiyar. That is the first point of difference.

"The second point of difference is the assumption that the measure of the difficulty of housing the peons, menials and other subordinate staff in Madras, is identical with the measure of the difficulty of housing gazetted officers. I am not in a position to say from first hand knowledge what is the degree of difficulty in finding housing accommodation of some kind or another for clerks, subordinates and the menials. But I am in a position to appreciate very decidedly the difficulty of housing gazetted officers in Madras. I have served in Madras from 1889 until

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now for many years and for various periods, and I have never known anything compared with the difficulty that at present exists in regard to the procuring of bungalows for gazetted officers. At the present moment a number of our higher officers are living in very unsuitable hotel accommodation or doubled up together because they cannot get houses for themselves. It is also the case that there are a certain number who have to live outside the limits of Madras. Some have been allowed by the indulgence of His Excellency the Governor to occupy portions of the buildings in Guindy, an arrangement which it may or may not be practicable to continue. This is an arrangement forced on us by the fact that accommodation is not available in Madras. I do not think it is desirable to continue a state of affairs which makes a posting to Madras, the headquarters of the Presidency, a lot which no talented young officer desires. That is the position to which we are now coming. Our desire is to gather at headquarters the pick of our officers, but are not likely to get them if they are unable to find decent housing accommodation in Madras. That is a serious position and this House ought to consider that aspect of the case before checking a long-delayed scheme for the provision of houses for gazetted officers in Madras.

"It is not a case of doing them a favour or of improving their condition for the economic rent will be paid; it is a question of doing them common justice. We do not want, Sir, our officers to be discontented with their position in Madras. But it is beyond doubt that they are now very discontented because they cannot get decent housing in Madras.

The motion was then put to the vote.

A poll was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. M.R.Ry. K. Adinarayana Reddi Garu. | 25. M.R.Ry. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar Avargal. |
| 2. " R. Appaswami Nayudu Garu. | 26. " P. Venkatasubba Rao Garu. |
| 3. " Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami Vaidayar Avargal. | 27. " Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu. |
| 4. " Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar Avargal. | 28. " M. C. Raja Avargal. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu Garu. | 29. " L. C. Guruswami Avargal. |
| 6. " S. Ellappa Chettiyar Avargal. | 30. " R. Kesavalu Pillai Avargal. |
| 7. " K. P. Gopala Menon Avargal. | 31. " M. C. Madurai Pillai Avargal. |
| 8. " B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu. | 32. " Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu. |
| 9. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar Avargal. | 33. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar Avargal. |
| 10. " Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju Garu. | 34. " Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar Avargal. |
| 11. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi Garu. | 35. " Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar Avargal. |
| 12. " Natesa Mudaliyar. | 36. " Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu. |
| 13. " Rao Bahadur A. Parasuramadosh Patro Garu. | 37. Sriman S. Bisvanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 14. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar Avargal. | 38. M.R.Ry. S. Muttumanikka Achariyar Avargal. |
| 15. " Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Panja Avargal. | 39. " Rao Bahadur C. B. Rama Rao Avargal. |
| 16. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal. | 40. " Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao Avargal. |
| 17. " K. Sarabha Reddi Garu. | 41. " K. Sadasiva Bhat. |
| 18. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai Avargal. | 42. " M. R. Seturathnam Ayyar Avargal. |
| 19. " N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai Avargal. | 43. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar Avargal. |
| 20. " S. Somasundaram Pillai Avargal. | 44. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar Avargal. |
| 21. " A. Subbarayudu Garu. | 45. " M. Suryanarayana Garu. |
| 22. " Diwan Bahadur S. Suryanarayana-murti Nayudu Garu. | 46. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal. |
| 23. " A. Tangavelu Nayakar Avargal. | 47. " Diwan Bahadur T. Dasika Achariyar Avargal. |
| 24. " T. C. Tangavelu Pillai Avargal. | 48. " T. Arumainatha Pillai Avargal. |
| | 49. " S. Arpudaswami Udaiyar Avargal. |

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Ayes—cont.

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| 50. M.R.Ry. Rai Sahib E. C. Mascarenhas Avargal. | 58. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 51. Mr. A. T. Palmer. | 59. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 52. „ Prabhakaran Tampam. | 60. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur Govindas Chathurbhujadoss Avargal. |
| 53. Abbas Ali Khan Sahib Bahadur. | 61. „ Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chetti Garu. |
| 54. Saiyid Diwan Abd-ul-Razzaq Sahib Bahadur. | 62. „ Rao Sahib Presinge Venkatarangayya Garu. |
| 55. Mustapha Ravuttar Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur. | |
| 56. A. D. Maliyammal Bayotti Sahib Bahadur. | |
| 57. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. | 7. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu Garu. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter. | 8. Mr. F. J. Richards. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 9. „ R. G. Grieve. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinisa Ayyangar Avargal. | 10. M.R.Ry. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar Avargal. | 11. „ P. Subbarayan Avargal. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. Ramarayaningar Avargal. | 12. Mr. E. Periyannayagam. |
| | 13. „ A. M. MacDougall. |
| | 14. „ P. W. Partridge. |

The motion was declared carried, 62 voting for and 14 against it.

The following resolutions were deemed to have been withdrawn, the movers being absent:—

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS—

'58. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for conversion of the Deputy Tahsildar's office into a Taluk office at Arantangi (Public Works Budget, item 26).'

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'59. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for conversion of the Deputy Tahsildar's office into a Taluk office at Arantangi (Public Works Budget, item 26).'

'60. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for new Collector's office at Vellore (Public Works Budget, item 27).'

'61. To omit Rs. 1,25,000, lump provision for additions and improvements to the three Government Houses (Public Works Budget, item 28).'

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR—

'62. To omit Rs. 3,00,000, lump provision for works in the Agency Division (Public Works Budget, item 29).'

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO—

'63. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for quarters for the Agricultural Demonstrator, Assistant, etc., at Nandyal (Public Works Budget, item 31).'

The following resolutions were deemed to have been withdrawn as they were not moved:—

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo—

'64. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for quarters for the Agricultural Demonstrator, Assistant, etc., at Nandyal (Public Works Budget, item 31).'

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO—

'65. To reduce by Rs. 2 lakhs provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for additions to Coimbatore Agricultural College and Research Institute (Public Works Budget, item 32).'

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[Mr. U. Rama Rao]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR—

'66. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for constructing quarters for the three Senior Assistants at the Agricultural College and also for the Imperial Assistant Director (Public Works Budget, item 36).'

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo:—

'67. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for constructing additional quarters at the Agricultural College (Public Works Budget, item 37).'

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO—

'68. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for constructing additional quarters at the Agricultural College (Public Works Budget, item 37).'

The following resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn owing to the absence of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu:—

'69. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for additional rooms for students at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I formally move, Sir, the resolution—

'70. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for quarters for four Imperial officers at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.'

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I oppose it, Sir, on the ground that it is absolutely necessary to have these quarters. This is not in the town of Coimbatore that these quarters are to be built, but it is on the grounds of the College which, as the Honourable Member may know, is something like three miles from the town. It is not possible for these officers to do any work without quarters to live in."

The motion was then by leave withdrawn.

The following resolution was not moved and therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo—

'71. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for quarters for four Imperial officers at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.'

The following resolutions were deemed to have been withdrawn, the mover being absent:—

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'72. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for quarters for four Imperial officers at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.'

'73. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for extensions for the Madura Industrial Institute.'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I formally move—

'74. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for constructing buildings for the Madras Trades' School.'

"This seems to be a new thing not provided for in the last year's budget and unless it is absolutely necessary it may be omitted."

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu] [30th March 1921]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I do not think it is correct to say that it was not in the last year's budget. I may inform the Hon'ble Member that there was a grant of Rs. 75,000 by the Government of India in 1918 and Rs. 1,00,000 in 1919. It is from the Government of India grant that this provision is made and I do not know if the Honourable Member proposes to give up the grant."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not press it."

The motion was then by leave withdrawn.

The following resolutions were deemed to have been withdrawn, the movers being absent :—

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'75. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for constructing buildings for the Madras Trades' School.'

Rao Sahib M. C. T. MUTTAYYA CHETTIYAR—

'76. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for the extension of the buildings of the Leather Trades' School.'

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS—

'77. To omit Rs. 49,500, provision for Fruit-preserving Factory at Coonoor.'

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to propose—

'78. To omit Rs. 49,500, provision for Fruit-preserving Factory at Coonoor.'

"I request my honourable friends not to misunderstand me that I am against industrial development when I move this resolution. I am more in favour of industrial development than of anything else. But I think the starting of a factory will be of no use as only the Anglo-Indians will continue to be benefited by it. So the factory on which this large amount is proposed to be spent is, in my humble opinion, not money spent for any substantial industrial development. I cannot understand the object of the Government in providing such a large amount for this factory when our country is suffering for *kanji*. Is this factory intended for the relief of the poor? In my opinion, there is no necessity for any such factory at all throughout the Presidency in any place. This amount may be well spent for a more advantageous purpose, such as a glass factory or a paper factory or a pencil factory or any such thing. With these few words I move the resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I am afraid, Sir, I cannot accept the motion of the Honourable Member. This factory has been under consideration for some years. That great friend of Indian industries, Sir Frederick Nicholson, was performing some experiments in his own house. On the basis of his impressions and finding that some good can be done to India, he suggested to us that a factory might be opened as an experimental measure, more as a training to thousands of our countrymen to see that the numerous fruits available in this country are not wasted in the manner in which they are done but exported to foreign countries. My honourable friend who moved the resolution did not seem to know the use of such a factory. Sir, I have got a list in my hand of the fruits available in our province—some of them in tons and some others in hundreds of tons: such as grapes, mangoes, limes, oranges, pomegranates, pine-apples, papaya, custard apple, jack and others. All these fruits are now being

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either used for ordinary purposes or allowed to rot and thrown away. Those that have ideas about foreign trade of preserving these fruits and sending them to other countries will realize what money is thus thrown away. Further, Sir, the thing has advanced to a certain stage and it is now too late to draw away from it. A lady has been engaged by Government and she went to England and perhaps to France also, and she was under training in the various fruit-preserving factories in those countries. And orders were also placed in some firms while Sir Frederick Nicholson was in England for the necessary plant. In fact Rs. 10,000 have already been provided by this Government for this building while another sum of Rs. 10,000 or more has been sent to England to purchase machinery. So at this stage it is too late to accept the resolution. But apart from it I oppose it on the merits of it. This will open a new trade for us and I do not know whether my honourable friend is aware of the fact that in the districts of Gōdāvari and Kistna mangoes, which, if exported to foreign countries, would bring us a good deal of money are now being thrown away or being converted into what is known as paste. And that, I understand, is also the case in Salem. I am sure the Honourable Member will realize the importance of a factory such as the one for which this provision in the budget is made."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, by way of reply to the Hon'ble the Minister for Development I wish to say that I am aware that the fruits named by him are sold here and they bring much profit to the owners of gardens. But I do not know in what way we shall be benefited by the factory. It will not be a paying concern; it will benefit not the whole section of the Indian community but only a section of Anglo-Indians. I therefore propose to press the motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I think, Sir, there is some misunderstanding as regards the purpose for which this factory has been started. I believe, Sir, that we are not using the fruits produced in the country to the same advantage as it is done in other countries. I think the factory is necessary for demonstrating the possibility of preparing jams and other delicacies. I think my honourable friend would welcome this proposal as an experiment. I will ask him to consider whether it is not feasible to continue the experiments for some time."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I am afraid I must support this resolution. In the first place, we have no idea as to the total cost that it will involve; we do not know where we shall be; we begin with Rs. 49,500 now and we do not know what it will ultimately require. Nobody has any idea of what the cost will be. At any rate, my Honourable friend the Minister has not told us in his observations anything about the cost. He said that it was very necessary, and from what he said my honourable friend was making a general statement that there were a large number of fruits which were going to waste and that they were going to be experimented upon. Are we going to make jam and such things and if so in what ways? I am afraid that without some definite idea as to the way in which this industry is to be carried on and the total amount that we are likely to spend, it is not right to support the grant. With reference to this particular item, I am sorry I find myself unable to support the grant."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"The policy of the House should be to support all grants which are made towards developing any industries that are started either as models or as trade schools. We may not know much about these fruit-preserving factories, but that is no reason why we should reduce the grant."

[Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

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Certainly the Hon'ble the Minister for Development will be able to give all the details to members who like to know them. I think it will be bad policy to deprive the Government of a grant which is required for such a good purpose as teaching useful industries by way of starting a fruit-preserving factory or any other factory and which will be ultimately of use to the country."

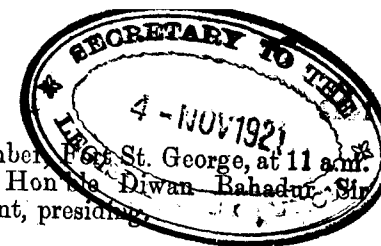
Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, there seems to be some lack of knowledge with regard to this matter in this House, and that seems to be the reason why this motion has been brought in. For the last four or five years, Sir Frederick Nicholson has been working at this question. There will be a great future for the fruit gardens of this Presidency, and for that matter of all India, if an industry like this is worked and shown to be paying. I believe that the cost of this factory is not going to be very much. It is only at the beginning it will cost something for machinery and other things required, and other costs will be very little. This is what I think Sir Frederick Nicholson said some time back, and he said that it was not likely to be very costly at all. The cost is not likely to be much more than Rs. 49,500, it may be a little more. It is not going to be a matter in which we should grant a large amount for a big scheme, and it is not a thing in which we may expect great demands in the future. It is a small industry and is almost like a cottage industry. No doubt, in the beginning it is to be worked by Europeans. But it is an industry which when once established everybody else can undertake. It is not a matter in which we should care for the cost in the beginning. It is an industry for all Indian fruit-growers. So I don't really see, Sir, why this motion should be made. This is an industry which will appeal to this House. That being the case, I don't think it would be fair for us to object to this grant."

At this stage, Mr. A. P. Patro applied for a closure of the debate, and the motion for closure was carried unanimously.

The motion was then put to the vote and lost—5 voting *for* and 59 *against*.

The Council then adjourned to 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 31st day of March 1921.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 31st day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15.]

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Report of Forest Conservator and Director of Agriculture.

540 Q.—Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(a) with reference to the answer to my question No. 180, dated 18th February 1921, whether the joint report of the Chief Conservator of Forests and Director of Agriculture was received;

(b) what action the Government propose to take so as to reduce the seigniorage on green manure; and

(c) to place the report on the table.

A.—The report has just been received and is under consideration.

Drainage and water-supply schemes.

541 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to place on the table a statement of drainage and water-supply schemes which are now ready for execution or which will be ready for execution in 1921-22.

A.—A statement * is placed on the table.

Exodus to the hills.

542 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member to state—

(a) what establishment will be taken this year by the Government to the hills;

(b) who the Secretaries are who will be with the Government during their stay in the hills;

(c) whether any of them, and, if so, who are connected with the department or departments in charge of the Ministers; and

(d) the arrangements made, during the absence of the Secretaries in the hills, for the transaction of the work in the departments in charge of the Ministers.

A.—(a) Under Secretaries of four departments, viz., Chief Secretariat, Law Department, Revenue Department and Local and Municipal Department, and the following establishment for all the Secretariats will be taken to Ootacamund this year :—

Superintendents	..	..	..	..	6
Clerks	..	..	..	..	19
Typists	..	..	..	..	7
Attenders and peons	..	..	..	..	70 (includes officers' peons).

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- (b) & (c) All the Secretaries will, as at present arranged, be at Ootacamund during the recess of the Council.
- (d) The work in the offices in Madras will continue, papers being sent to Ootacamund for disposal.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"From the answer to clauses (b) and (c), does it follow that the Members of the Executive Council as well as the Ministers will be at Ootacamund during the recess? I want information on that point."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I have already given the Honourable Member the information on that point in the debate on the Exodus."

Dredger "Coromandel" in Cocanada.

543 Q.—Mr. A. SUBBARAYUDU: (a) To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance, in reference to G.O. No. 14, dated the 18th January 1921, regarding the Administration Report of the Madras Port Department, whether the Government will be pleased to state the invested capital outlay on the Dredger *Coromandel* now lying in Cocanada;

(b) whether in view of the statement that the dredger has been laid up for three consecutive years 1918, 1919 and 1920 for want of hopper barges, the Government intend constructing hopper barges;

(c) to state the total maintaining expenditure for these three years in respect of the above dredger;

(d) to state if the Government wish to maintain the dredger and incur further expenditure on it without any return; if not, what action they propose to take in order to minimise the recurring expenditure;

(e) if it is a fact that the bar near the mouth of the Cocanada salt creek entering into sea is only 2' 6" deep at low water; and

(f) whether in view of the extensive sea-going trade, the Government will make any proposal for deepening it.

A.—(a) The original capital cost of the dredger with four hopper barges was 2.64 lakhs.

(b) The four hopper barges were sold in 1918-19 and it was then intended to build new ones when the finances of the port could afford it. It is now proposed instead to sell the dredger.

(c) The cost of maintenance and working for each of the years 1917-18—1919-20 is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	RS.
1917-18	12,880
1918-19	7,870
1919-20	7,109

(d) Vide latter part of answer to (b) above.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Government are advised that the physical features of the port of Cocanada are such as to render deep water-works almost impracticable from a maintenance point of view. The port will however be visited shortly by the harbour engineer and his recommendations will be considered.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to question No. 541 asked by Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st March 1921, page 1441 supra.]

- (1) Extension to Vizianagram water-works.
- (2) Ongole water-supply scheme.
- (3) Bellary water-supply scheme.
- (4) Coimbatore water-supply (Siruvani) scheme.
- (5) Gudur water-supply scheme.
- (6) Vellore water-works improvements.
- (7) Ellore drainage scheme.
- (8) Bezwada drainage scheme.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Before resuming the discussion of motions on the budget, I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has decided to prorogue the Council after the termination of business on Saturday the 2nd April 1921. I give this information in advance so that it may be useful to Honourable Members in adjusting their programme for the remaining three days. When the time comes for prorogation, it will be announced in proper form."

The Council resumed the discussion of motions on the budget.

II

DEMAND XXVII—CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED PORTIONS)

The following motion standing in the name of Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member did not move it:—

'79. To reduce by Rs. 1.37 lakhs provision of Rs. 2.37 lakhs for *Lawrence Memorial School, Ootacamund* (Public Works Budget item 58).'

The following motion was deemed to have been withdrawn as the mover was absent:—

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'80. To omit Rs. 12,200 provision for improvement to the site assigned as a play-ground to the *Tonlamandalam Progressive Union and Hindu Theological School, Madras* (Public Works Budget item 59).'

The following motion was deemed to have been withdrawn as it was not moved:—

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR—

'To omit Rs. 32,000 provision for improvement to the *Madras University Students' Club* (Public Works Budget item 60).'

The following motions were deemed to have been withdrawn as the movers were absent:—

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR—

'82. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works the provision for the *University Students' Club* be omitted (Public Works Budget item 60).'

Mr. M. C. RAJA—

'83. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Improvement to the *Madras University Students' Club, Madras*, Rs. 32,000 be omitted (Public Works Budget item 60).'

[Mr. M. D. Devadas]

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The following motion was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member did not move it :—

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR—

'84. That the sum of Rs. 32,000 provided for improvement to the Madras University Students' Club, Madras, be deleted (Public Works Budget item 60).'

The following motion was deemed to have been withdrawn as the mover was absent :—

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'85. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for improvements to the Madras University Students' Club, Madras (Public Works Budget item 60).'

The following motions were deemed to have been withdrawn as they were not moved :—

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS—

'86. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for improvements to the Madras University Students' Club (Public Works Budget item 60).'

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB—

'87. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Improvements to the Madras University Students' Club, Madras, Rs. 32,000 be omitted (Public Works Budget item 60).'

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'88. To omit Rs. 3,00,000, provision for acquisition of lands for the Queen Mary's College extensions (Public Works Budget item 61).'

"Sir, my object in moving for the deletion of this sum is not because I do not appreciate the education that is given to our girls in the college, but because we want money for more urgent purposes. Sir, it has not been shown that there is any urgency for acquiring lands for the extension of the Queen Mary's College. As we are all aware, there are four palatial buildings for the college and there are other smaller buildings as well. The students there, I understand, are only about 120 or 130 in number. Sir, when finances permit, it will be quite right to spend as much money as possible upon this college. But when we feel that we have not got enough money to carry on the affairs of this Presidency, and when we find there are a number of urgent demands now on our purse, I do not think we shall be justified in spending such a large sum as 3 lakhs of rupees on this college in one year. Sir, money is wanted for paying the non-gazetted officers. Money is wanted for finding houses for the Panchamas, for relieving them from the state of things which exists at present in Madras and other places. The owners of the cheris in Madras have given notice to their tenants that they should leave them within a month. Sir, as I mentioned on another occasion, the Civil Courts are granting decrees in favour of the landlords against the tenants and they give only a month's time to pull down their houses. There are houses, as I have already stated, which are worth even Rs. 10,000 and the owners are asked to pull them down and remove the material within a month or so. Again we find that labour which requires to be fostered and encouraged has not been given an adequate grant. These are the main reasons which induced me to come forward with this motion for the deletion of this amount. Sir, when finances permit, when we have got enough of funds, I will be the first person to vote, not merely 3 lakhs of rupees, but more for

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[Mr. M. D. Devadas]

the improvement of the college, and to see that it is placed on the same footing as 'Gerton' or any other Women's college in England. But till that time comes, I ask the Government not to spend such a large amount as Rs. 3 lakhs upon acquiring a site."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, I move—

'89. To omit Rs. 3,00,000, provision for acquisition of lands for the Queen Mary's College extensions (Public Works Budget item 61).'

"I only move this in order to elicit information whether the Government have entered into any contract for the purchase of these buildings and whether the contract is complete."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI in moving—

'90. To reduce by Rs. 250 lakhs, provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for acquisition of lands for extension of Queen Mary's College (Public Works Budget item 61).'

said :—"Sir, while I consider that the extension of the Queen Mary's College is desirable, I think that the amount provided is too much. I therefore suggest that only a sum of Rs. 50,000 be provided for the same in the budget year, utilizing the balance for other urgent purposes. I am only asking for a reduction and not for complete omission."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, as the motion is tabled in my name I request that I may be granted 10 minutes' time more to speak on the same."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Yes."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR made the following motion :—

'91. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Acquisition of lands for the Queen Mary's College extension, Madras, Rs. 3,00,000 be omitted (Public Works Budget item 61).'

In doing so, he said :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am constrained to oppose this grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the following reasons. I have pointed out on a previous occasion, that the number of girls receiving education in this college is only 132, and that they have substantial buildings put up and the grounds around them measure 11 cawnies. The grounds now proposed to be acquired measure about 2 cawnies and it is proposed to pay 3 lakhs of rupees for the land as well as the buildings. I consider it, Sir, a woeful waste of money and extravagance to pay 3 lakhs of rupees for two cawnies of land together with the buildings. It may be convenient that I should give this House a few facts and figures relating to the premises which now form the Queen Mary's College buildings together with facts and figures relating to the neighbouring land and buildings which are so tight to be acquired at a cost of three lakhs of rupees. In the year 1913 the Queen Mary's College and buildings formed the premises known as the Sea View or Capper House Hotel and consisted of 12 cawnies of land. It was owned by three brothers who quarrelled with each other like the cats in Aesop's Fables over a piece of cheese. The neighbour found his opportunity and became the owner of an undivided one-third share while litigation between the brothers was pending in Court. He obtained a firm grip on the litigation that was going on. He would not let go the grip until he was able to annex an acre of land to his own property at a cost of

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Rs. 2,800 per acre or Rs. 155 a ground. In the year 1914 the late Mr. Middlemast, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, negotiated with me as the lawyer acting for the owners of the property, for a lease for one year of the property known now as the Queen Mary's College, at Rs. 350 a month, which consisted of a very substantial building (now used as part of the College buildings) together with extensive out-houses; and after that acre of land was given away to the neighbour it consisted of 11 cawnies and one ground. Four or five months after leasing the property, the Government became so enamoured of the same that they decided to acquire it. Acquisition proceedings in the usual course through the Deputy Collector were taken and the buildings were valued at Rs. 45,500 roughly and the land 11 cawnies—three-fifths of it at Rs. 110 per ground and two-fifths at Rs. 70 per ground, so that Government paid for 11 cawnies Rs. 24,000 which works out at

11-15 a.m.

Rs. 98 per ground, while the neighbour paid Rs. 2,800 per acre for 18 grounds, now the adjacent owner, who has added one acre of land to his building and land which was $1\frac{2}{3}$ acres, has now $2\frac{2}{3}$ acres or two cawnies. After a period of only five years, it is proposed to pay him Rs. 3 lakhs for two cawnies or 48 grounds, together with buildings thereon whereas you paid only Rs. 24,000 for 11 cawnies. I am aware that the owner has constructed a small bungalow which is worth Rs. 20,000 on the acre of land annexed by him. From my own knowledge and from what has been mentioned to me by Mr. Namburumal Chettiyar, than whom there is no one more competent in this House to judge in these matters, the building on the land already owned by him with the out-houses is worth Rs. 30,000. All the buildings on the site are worth in all to-day Rs. 50,000. Therefore the additional Rs. 2,50,000 divided by 48 grounds (2 cawnies) gives a price of about Rs. 5,200 per ground. Is this House going to sanction Rs. 3,00,000 for the purchase of a land which is 52 times the price, Rs. 98 per ground, which the Government paid at acquisition of lands, or $33\frac{1}{2}$ times, Rs. 155, which the owner paid five years ago? I am aware that land has been going up in value but that is only 10 per cent over the cost price, or say even 20, 30, or 40 per cent at the highest. In one or two cases the price has risen over the cost price 100 per cent, but here the price which the Government is now proposing to pay is 3,350 per cent over the price which the owner paid in those days or 5,200 per cent over Government acquisition price. I can only just speculate as to what could be the reason for this enormous payment. I ask this House to consider in purchasing this site whether it would be well advised. It may be here mentioned that the property proposed to be purchased is the residence of the author of the famous letter to President Wilson of the United States of America written at a time when the Empire and its Allies were at breaking point and when the authorities were getting disappointed about the rate at which recruitment was proceeding."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to know, Sir, whether the Honourable Member is in order in referring to the authorship of a letter addressed to President Wilson to be taken as a circumstance in justification or otherwise of the purchase of the site."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"I do not know what mystery surrounds the transaction where the Government proposes to pay a cost which is 50 times what they paid five years ago and 35 times what the owner himself paid. It may be that the Government thinks that in paying this high price they are purchasing peace with the General of the Army of 10 million Indian soldiers who were ready to take the field at the wink of an eye from this President of the Home Rule League, or could it be that the property of a gentleman who held the highest

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position which was open to an Indian in those days and who after he retired began negotiations with the ruler of a foreign Government is worth purchasing at any cost and preserving as a monument under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, or could it be that the Government thinks that the girls in the Queen Mary's College are to be the mothers of the warriors of the 10 million Indian soldiers and that they should be trained in this hallowed site, or could it be that the bureaucracy is anxious to set itself right with its accuser who charged them with paying themselves fat salaries and fatter allowances and emasculating the country and its resources by paying this sum as hush money to their accuser? I am not able to find out what is at the bottom of this enormous valuation and why the advisers of Government propose to pay at Rs. 5,208 per ground while they acquired the neighbouring site at Rs. 98 per ground on the average. Rs. 98 was not arbitrarily arrived at by the Deputy Collector. He had precedents to go upon. He had made acquisitions for laying the Lloyd's Road for the Corporation of Madras out of this very property and it was at about Rs. 100 per ground. Later on from the same ground the Deputy Collector acquired another portion for laying drains for municipal works, and for widening the Beach Road for a footpath, and in all these acquisitions Government paid the owners at Rs. 100 per ground. The Deputy Collector refused to pay to the owners of the property acquired even Rs. 2,800 per acre. He held that Rs. 2,800 per acre did not represent a fair market price and that that price was the result of a compromise of disputes between neighbours and could not be relied upon as of any evidentiary value for the price of land and the Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court was of the same opinion. The owners were not paid even on the basis of Rs. 155 per ground which had been paid by the neighbours. Therefore I move that this item of Rs. 3,00,000 be omitted."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to make a similar motion—

'92. That the sum of Rs. 3,00,000 for acquisition of lands for the Queen Mary's College extensions, Madras, be deleted.'

"Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar said that we are going to pay an enormous price for this building, but my view is that the Women's College is a new institution, and we have to spend large sums of money on laboratory and other accessories very soon. It seems to me that so large a sum of money as Rs. 3 lakhs need not be spent on the acquisition of a site which is not at present necessary. After coming here I am told that another site on the other side of the college is also necessary for accommodating the college staff, for laboratory, hostel and other purposes. So it seems to me that the spending of a large sum of 3 lakhs at present is quite unnecessary. We are told that there is a small building there which can be utilized for the Principal or a professor. Unless it be that there is ample money available for spending on buildings, I would be chary of sanctioning such a large sum of money for a single building of that description. I think other arrangements can be made provided the large amount of 3 lakhs is placed at our disposal. It is for these reasons that I came forward with this motion."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, my motion reads thus :—

'93. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Acquisition of lands for the Queen Mary's College extensions, Madras, Rs. 3,00,000 be omitted.'

"In making it I want to know the reasons why so large a sum of money should be spent on the acquisition of this site."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Sir, it is fitting that the initial responsibility for making a statement on this motion should devolve upon me,

[The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson] [31st March 1921]

since the liability in this case is a liability inherited by the Ministry; and the Government have no desire whatsoever to place upon the Minister the responsibility of defending their previous acts.

"I will deal, Sir, in serial order with the criticisms made by the previous speakers. Mr. Devadas commented that no urgency has been shown for the purchase of the land. To answer that criticism I will refer to a statement which the Principal of the College has given under date the 23rd March. In regard to the question of urgency, it was within my personal knowledge that the council of the college and the Principal had for a long time past been pressing for additional accommodation for students. But I will not trouble the House with past history in that respect. I will merely state the position as it stands this week or rather as it stood last week. Miss de la Hey first takes exception to the existence of neighbouring houses overlooking residential institutions for Indian girls like Queen Mary's College. She says:

'The present occupiers (of the adjacent houses) have been most considerate to us, but if the houses are sold any kind of persons may come to them.'

"Now it had been for some time within our knowledge that the property in question was not unlikely to be sold, and that Mr. Subrahmanya Ayyar had received offers up to 2½ lakhs for the property. Miss de la Hey continues:

'The houses are absolutely necessary to us for hostel purposes. The present buildings, including the new central block, provide for seven members of the staff, 121 students and four kitchens. We need accommodation next July for at least eight members of the staff, 200 students and seven kitchens. The overcrowding this year has been most painful. Had I not been promised the extra accommodation of the houses in question, I would never have admitted so many students. It is to guard against the recurrence of such discomfort that I am so very anxious to have possession of next door houses.'

"That, Sir, is a brief statement of reasons as to why the acquisition of this property is a matter of urgency. I do not think there is really any question about it. Queen Mary's College has been doing admirable work and should certainly not be denied the accommodation necessary to continue it.

"Mr. Patro has asked whether Government are bound by any completed contract in this matter. I am grateful to him for putting that very pertinent question in a concrete form.

"As I am not a lawyer, I hesitate to commit myself without reservation to the exact legal effect of a series of documents, but as a plain man
11-30 a.m. I am bound to say that I think these documents do constitute an honourable undertaking in the matter. I understand that my Honourable colleague, the Minister for Education, will in all probability promise further examination of the legal point.

"But I should like at this stage to draw the attention of you, Sir, and of this Council to the fact that these transactions are not, as Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar says, 'shrouded in mystery'. When the arrangements for the acquisition were in progress and about to be completed, the facts were duly brought to the notice of the late Legislative Council. If Honourable Members will refer to the record of the proceedings of the meeting of that Council on 13th July 1920, they will find at page 22 the categorical statement in an appendix to the answer to question No. 23 that 'the Government have also undertaken to incur expenditure in 1921-22 on the following schemes (the first of these being entitled: "acquisition of two bungalows to the south of the Queen Mary's College, Madras, for the purposes of the college Rs. 3,00,000)".' Now, Sir, it is no part of my duty to blame this Council for the lapses of its predecessor, but I venture to suggest that, if this

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transaction was liable to the exception which is taken to it to-day, then some one in the late Legislative Council failed in his duty in not drawing the attention of the Government to the matter at a time when it would have been infinitely easier to withdraw from obligations which may now amount to a legal contract or an engagement morally binding upon Government now.

"I do not propose to follow Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar into his detailed analysis of the land valuation. I merely content myself by saying that at the time when the figure of 3 lakhs was fixed, the Government were aware that a specific offer of 2½ lakhs had been made for the same property and that the owner was not willing to accept it."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Whose offer?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I am sorry I cannot give the name. I am referring to a specific statement made by the owner's grandson. The Government had also before them the valuation of the land by the Collector of Madras and of the building by the Public Works Department. The valuation in respect of buildings is substantially the same as that given by Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar. I think it was Rs. 51,000 instead of Rs. 50,000. In the case of the land, which covers some 49 grounds, the valuation was 2.16 lakhs. Now, 15 per cent added to that total (2.16 + .51) does not fall far short of 3 lakhs. It is true that there was an unfortunate misconception at the initial stage of the negotiations which were conducted between the owner of the property or his representatives and the permanent Director of Public Instruction (Mr. Littlehales) as to whether these negotiations covered three pieces of land or only two. I do not think there is any harm in stating that at the initial stage. The Government were certainly under the impression that all the three items were included and that the valuation given covered them all. The third item, about which there was some doubt whether it was included or not, was valued by the revenue officers at Rs. 58,000. Subsequently, when the negotiations proceeded further and the owner of the property, or his representative, pointed out that they had all along been under the impression that only two items of the property and not three were included, negotiations were commenced—at the instance of my Honourable colleague, Mr. Todhunter—to see whether, in lieu of paying compensation in cash for the third item, an alternative site at the disposal of the Government could not be given in exchange. The object of the owner was to retain a small portion of land on which to build residence for himself. He was willing to give up the small portion of land lying to the west of the main block if other convenient accommodation could be given to him elsewhere in Madras, and an alternative piece of land has in fact been selected near the 'Grange' where the two roads from Mylapore and Adyar meet. It is next to the police station and can be made available for Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar and his relatives who, I understand, are prepared to accept it in lieu of cash compensation. This site is of no particular use to Government, though it forms part of the area which, but for the resolution of yesterday, it was intended to use for buildings to provide housing accommodation for Government officers.

"That broadly is the position in regard to this transaction. In respect of the general issue of land valuations I may say that there is hardly any question which gives the Government more embarrassment than the tendency of the Courts to enhance the valuations made by revenue officers in cases where it is decided to apply the Land Acquisition Act. It is our experience that, when a reference is made by an unsatisfied party to the District Court, doubtful points are as a rule

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given against the Government. The usual experience is that the valuation is substantially enhanced if the claimant chooses to pursue his claim up to the District Court; and if the matter goes further to the High Court the claimant is likely to get even more. I have known cases in which the initial amount has been multiplied many times over before the final award is given. This is particularly serious if the Government have taken possession of the land during the course of the acquisition proceedings, for they cannot then withdraw: and it is often necessary so to take possession because of the urgency of the work in issue.

"I do not think, Sir, that I need seriously notice Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar's suggestion that this money is being paid as hush money or as a means of negotiating peace with Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar's Home Rule Army of 10 million Indians who act on a nod from him. That suggestion, Sir, is far from any idea of Government. They were not induced by any fears, but they had decided views how they should deal with this property. They felt strongly that it was the only site which could reasonably be asked for the expansion of Queen Mary's College, and they recognized that property in this exceptional position commanded a special value. If it was a matter of negotiation between private parties the owner would not be likely to give up the site without liberal compensation. That is an aspect of the matter which it is well to bear in mind. There is another aspect. Before purchase by private negotiation can be put through, it is necessary to satisfy ourselves whether the existing owner's title is free from defects. I am not quite aware what decision my Honourable colleague has arrived at, or will arrive at, but I fancy the case is moving in a direction which may make it necessary to apply the Land Acquisition Act because the validity of the title is not beyond question. There was, I believe, previously an idea that if the owner gave an indemnity against all proceedings by third parties, we might pay him the amount which he had agreed to receive. That is a common expedient in land acquisition proceedings and the effect of it is that as the claimant does not pursue his proceedings beyond the lower court, the Government is safeguarded against embarrassing enhancement consequent on the light-hearted way in which the courts of justice are apt to give the benefit of the doubt against the defendant in civil proceedings relating to land acquisition.

"Remarks have been made by Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar regarding the great expense of this transaction and he has suggested that there is ample space to the north in which hostels might be built. I understand that part of that space will be required for science laboratories and that there must be some reservation for a play-ground. Finally may I remind the House that while the construction of Queen Mary's College is mainly met from Government funds, there are also substantial endowments? The Maharaja of Jeypore for instance gave a lakh towards the central block.

"If any Honourable Member wishes to have any further detailed information at my disposal, I shall be ready to give it."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg leave to oppose this resolution. From the speeches made in the House, I gather, Sir, that my friends do not object to the acquisition of land, but they take objection to the price paid for it for they think the price paid is far in excess of its actual value. Sir, the maxim *mens sana in corpore sano* which is often quoted in support of measures for the physical welfare or physical culture of our young boys applies with greater force in the case of our girls. I am speaking from experience, Sir, as

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one who for some time had to manage three girls' schools. When I say that if Indian girls are successfully to go through their course of studies without breaking down in health or without suffering the loss of physical energy which results from prolonged mental strain, we cannot be too careful about their health or be too solicitous for their physical welfare. Attention was drawn to the fact that there were two or three cases of enteric fever in the Queen Mary's College. Wherever enteric fever finds an entrance we may take it for granted, and I think some doctor members of the House will bear me out on this point that sanitary arrangements are far from satisfactory, and in order to prevent a recurrence of such disease it would be necessary for the Principal to avoid overcrowding, to see that there are enough rooms to which patients could be removed, to see that there is plenty of air and that there are extensive play-grounds and that kitchen arrangements are properly made and are up to date. I will not strain this point further, for I think objection was taken not so much to the expansion or extension as to the fact that the price which has been paid and which is really very high. Here, Sir, I will ask my friend not to lose sight of the fact that the Government have acted with the very best of intentions, that they have acted on the advice of their officers who are men on the spot and that probably they have done what they have done when they knew that the landlord was not willing to sell his property for any sum less than what was demanded by him and what was ultimately decided upon.

"The Hon'ble the Home Member has given us a clear categorical statement—
11-45 a.m. and Government if they have not entered into a specific contract—at least they have given their word—it cannot certainly be now violated. Therefore I would ask my friends to remember the fact that by insisting upon Government violating their pledges we should certainly be not only calling in question the *bona fide* transaction of Government but also place the Government in a very embarrassing situation.

"Again, Sir, it is our duty to stand by our Ministers—the people's Ministers. I know that all our Indian ladies, educated Indian ladies, are very keen on this point and do not like to be disappointed. They do not want that we should deprive them of the benefit that this extension will surely confer upon their children."

The Rev. E. M. MACPHAIL:—"Sir, I do not think it is necessary to discuss this much longer after the remarks that have been made by the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. I think it is perfectly clear that we are bound to carry this through. It is unfortunate that the value of house property has very much increased just at the time when this purchase was busy carried through. It is well known that there has been a great boom in house property in Madras and that houses have been sold for three or four times their former price. There is no doubt that it is desirable that Queen Mary's College should have these houses; only I should like to say that things that are regarded by other people as luxuries are regarded by Government as necessities. We who are not Government people have to cut our coat according to cloth. I have no doubt that Queen Mary's College needs more accommodation. I have no wish to say anything to injure Queen Mary's College, but I should like to say, while Government pours out money with both hands on this college, when any money is wanted for the Women's Christian College the Government often say that no funds are available. In view of the very large sums expended on the Queen Mary's College, I hope the Government will see its way to contribute liberally to the Women's Christian College as well which is also needing expansion and new buildings."

Diwan Bahadur T. DESIKA ACHARIYAR:—"I oppose strongly the reduction of the amount for the extension of the Queen Mary's College buildings. The

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purchase of the property has been contracted for, and the buildings and site have been taken possession of . . . (voices of no, no). I may have been misinformed; but some of my friends here say that the buildings and site have been taken possession of. Anyway after a contract of this kind the Government are bound to act on it. It is not for this reason alone that I oppose the reduction. We have been for a long time past expecting improvements in the college, and in this connexion I will read out a passage from the Report on Public Instruction: 'To cope with the continued increase in strength both the Madras Women's Colleges have had to extend their buildings and strengthen their staffs. The number of women students reading in men's college also slightly increased from 20 to 29, of whom 14 attended the Presidency College to study either for the Honours Degree course in English and History or for the Pass Degree in Mathematics and Science, since no provision has yet been made for these courses in the Women's College.' Apparently it is absolutely necessary that the extension should be made. It would be a retrograde measure to move here at this period of the day for the reduction of a provision made for the advancement of female education. With regard to the price, after the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Home Member, I do not think it is a matter for further deliberation or discussion."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given me to submit for the consideration of the House a few remarks of mine. Ordinarily I should have felt it a piece of temerity on my part to speak in favour of this grant after the strong adverse speeches by other honourable members. But in view of the lead given by two teachers I venture to follow suit. I confess, Sir, that at first I, too, was one of those who felt strongly that this grant was superfluous. But second thoughts induced a modification of that view; and the proverb is that second thoughts are the best. I hope it is so in this case. At any rate, Sir, I should submit my views on the subject."

"So far as I am able to gather, the objection seems to be three fold—first as regards the procedure adopted, second as regards the price to be paid and third as regards the purpose intended to be served. With reference to the procedure adopted, Sir, I should have no hesitation now, on this last day of the present official year, to say that it appeared to be extraordinary. Sir, whether I should have been able to make a similar pronouncement at the time when these negotiations were reduced to a legal contract, I am not quite sure. In other words, Sir, I think we ought to settle this question with reference to what could be and what was possible then, and not with reference to what should be and what—as I hope—will be done thereafter. I am, therefore, inclined, Sir, to bury the past with anticipations for the future."

"The second point is the price to be paid. Here, again, Sir, from my humble position in life, I should think the price to be rather extraordinarily high. But I am reminded of two facts that tend to change my view. The first is that this is a Government transaction; and we have all been habituated to what are called Public Works Department rates or otherwise Sirkar prices. Then, this is a transaction relating to house property in Madras. Coming from the mufassal, I have been taught that with regard to house property in Madras a fancy price is the rule. Here also, Sir, we have to accept this price by way of bowing to the inevitable."

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"The third point, Sir, is the necessity and the purpose served. It has been said that the institution badly needed accommodation. But there is one other point I would like to draw the attention of this Council to. I have given myself an opportunity to have a near view of the locality; and, in my humble opinion, I am satisfied as to the necessity for the acquisition of the two houses in the immediate neighbourhood of that college—both of them storeyed buildings. Not only in the interests of convenience and comfort but also for the decency and privacy of the young ladies such an action is necessary; as till now they must have been put to a great trial. I for my part, Sir, think that in a matter wherein not only the comfort but also the security of our female children is concerned, consideration of funds should not be allowed to prevail. Money ought to weigh as dust in the balance. I, therefore, trust that the House would be prepared to accept this view of the question and vote for the grant."

MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"I am thankful to the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson for the statement he has made. I am not quite sure whether the circumstances that I mentioned as to the low prices of purchase in previous years were borne in mind; but it must have been in the mind's eye of the Government or its advisers as to valuation and estimate when it was mentioned to them that an offer of 2½ lakhs of rupees for that property had been made. Those who have experience or knowledge of purchase and sale of land or who have appeared in land acquisition proceedings before Deputy Collectors and the Small Cause Court are aware of the trick which vendors occasionally play of producing firm offers in writing. I should not be misunderstood when I use a rather strong expression that Government has been bamboozled to believe this firm offer to be true and I am not without foundation in making such a statement before the House. Judges of the High Court, at least the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Sir John Wallis, was baffled by a firm offer in writing proceeding from this very House, the 'Beach House' offering to pay a good price for one of the three properties belonging to the P. Venkatachalam estate, either the 'Grange' or the 'Someford' or the 'Brodie Castle' (I don't remember which) when Government was intending to buy one of these properties while they were offered for sale by Messrs. Parry & Co. Offers in writing came from various people. The High Court had to adjourn the sale on more than one occasion for the sale being concluded at the price offered in that firm offer letter from the Beach House. Several adjournments were made in the hope that the sale would be concluded on the basis of that offer, but nothing came out of it ultimately. And my friend Mr. Devadoss will bear me out in this because I believe he was counsel appearing in this case. That an offer of 2½ lakhs was reported to have been made does not necessarily mean that it was a genuine offer."

12 noon.

If they have entered into a contract I ask why then add 15 per cent in addition? Why not proceed under Land Acquisition Act? Why not have it completely and properly valued by officers who can give information till the very last moment of the land acquisition proceedings? If you enter into a contract, why should you add 15 per cent? I am prepared to concede that this acquisition is necessary. I do not want to embarrass the Government if they have entered into a contract, and if the Government would consent to review the whole of the evidence before them and will also consider whether they cannot repudiate the transaction and proceed under the Land Acquisition Act paying a fair compensation, I have no objection to withdraw the resolution. May I have a statement?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I want to have the specific question repeated."

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Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" I want to know whether it is the intention of the Government to review this transaction to arrive at a price, and if necessary to have recourse to land acquisition proceedings. I am satisfied that this property might be required. I am not satisfied that such a large amount should be paid."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I understand it is my colleague's intention, and in regard to it he will be backed by the whole Cabinet to examine the question whether a legally binding contract for the transfer of this property has been completed. Secondly, he will consider whether, supposing that the contract is not binding in law, there is equitable obligation to give effect to the transaction. As for the application of the Land Acquisition Act it will have to be done in any case as there is some doubt as to the title to the property."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" If it is a question of legal obligation I am willing to withdraw the resolution. But if it is only on the ground of moral obligation, I fear I shall have to press it. I do not want moral obligation to stand in the way of Government doing their duty to the tax-payer. Moral obligation shall not be given effect to when there is no fair play on the other side."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I cannot bind the Government of which I am a Member to disregard moral obligations. The question whether there is a moral obligation will be investigated. This House will agree with me that it is not befitting the Government of Madras to take advantage of a technical point, unless it is amply proved that there has been fraud on the part of the vendor."

Mr. M. D. Devadoss did not press his motion No. 88, and the motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Similar motions Nos. 89, 91, 92 and 93 were, by leave, withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur T. Namberumal Chetti pressed his motion No. 90 to a division. It was put to the vote and declared lost.

The following motions standing in the name of Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar were deemed to have been withdrawn, the mover having been absent :—

'94. To omit Rs. 3,00,000, provision for acquisition of lands for Queen Mary's College extensions, Madras (Public Works Budget, item 61).'

'95. To omit Rs. 17,000, provision for electric installation to the central block for the Queen Mary's College, Madras (Public Works Budget, item 62).'

The following motions were not made, and therefore they were deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR—

'96. To reduce by Rs. 1 lakh estimate of 2 lakhs for College of Engineering (Public Works Budget, item 66).'

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO—

'97. To omit Rs. 30,000, provision for constructing a hostel for the Tirthapathi High School (Public Works Budget, item 68).'

'98. To omit Rs. 12,000 provision for constructing quarters for the Inspector of Schools, Sixth Circle (Public Works Budget, item 72).'

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS—

'99. To omit Rs. 5,000 provision for extending the District Munsif's Court at Bellary (Public Works Budget, item 72).'

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[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

The following motion was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member was not in his seat :—

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'100. To omit Rs. 1,000, provision for extending the District Munsif's Court at Bellary (Public Works Budget, item 77).'

The following motion was not made and therefore it was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS—

'101. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for additions and improvements to the District Munsif's Court-house at Tiruvallur (Public Works Budget, item 79).'

The following motion was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member was not in his seat :—

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'102. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for additions and improvements to the District Munsif's Court-house at Tiruvallur (Public Works Budget, item 79).'

The following motions were not made and therefore they were deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS—

'103. To omit Rs. 11,450, provision for improvements to the public office building to provide accommodation for the new District Court at Negapatam (Public Works Budget, item 80).'

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR—

'104. That under "41. Provincial Civil Works," provision for Rs. 11,450 for the new District Court at Negapatam be omitted (Public Works Budget, item 80).'

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—" Sir, I beg to move—

'105. That under "41. Provincial Civil Works" provision for Rs. 11,450 for the District Court at Negapatam be omitted (Public Works Budget, item 80).'

"I want to know whether this allotment is for the whole cost of constructing a court or only for part of it, since no decent court-house can be constructed for anything like Rs. 11,450."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" There is already a Public Works building there. It is for the purpose of improving that building to suit the District Court which has already been sanctioned. It is not for the construction of a new court-house."

The motion was not pressed and was, by leave, withdrawn.

The following motions were not made and they were deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS—

'106. To omit Rs. 55,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow and land adjoining the District Jail, Madura (Public Works Budget, item 87).'

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR—

'107. To omit Rs. 55,000, provision for acquisition of bugalow and land adjoining the District Jail, Madura (Public Works Budget, item 87).'

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Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS—

'108. To omit Rs. 21,500, provision for constructing a fly-proof kitchen in the new Central Jail, Vellore (Public Works Budget, item 88).'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO—

'109. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for constructing Town Police Buildings, Cocanada (Public Works Budget, item 102).'

Sriman BISVANATH DAS—

'110. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a second-class police station-house at Kondapalle (Public Works Budget, item 107).'

'111. To omit Rs. 5,900, provision for constructing quarters for Sub-Inspector, head constables, etc., at Racharla (Public Works Budget, item 111).'

'112. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for constructing quarters for Sub-Inspector, head constables, etc., at Vorava Kallu (Public Works Budget, item 112).'

'113. To omit Rs. 8,600, provision for constructing quarters for a Sub-Inspector, etc., at Kalahasti (Public Works Budget, item 117).'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR then moved—

'114. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for water-supply to the Police Recruits' School at Coimbatore (Public Works Budget, item 119).'

In doing so, he said :—"The Police Recruits' School forms part of Coimbatore. And there is a water-supply scheme for the whole town under consideration. The estimates and plans are ready, and the scheme is kept in abeyance only owing to a difference of opinion between the Government and the Municipal Council on a small point. The Government wanted to levy a tax of 10½ per cent, but the Municipal Council did not want to levy more than 8½ per cent. If the water-supply scheme for the whole city is begun, it may not be necessary that the Police Recruit School should be provided with a separate water-supply. The well has been purchased for the school at a distance of two miles from it and the idea is to lay pipes to the school from the well. I want to know, my only object is that, if the water-supply scheme for the town is to be taken on hand soon."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I cannot give any undertaking as to the execution of the water-supply scheme. It is a very expensive project and the Honourable Member himself is well aware of the straits to which the Government are put in the matter of financing drainage and water-supply schemes. But in any case it is absolutely impossible to hold up the subsidiary scheme of water-supply to the Police Recruits' School. As the Honourable Member will see from the details to be found against item No. 119 at pages 8 and 9 of the Public Works Budget, the probable outlay for the current year amounts to Rs. 26,000 and the budget provision of Rs. 20,000 merely represents further outlay necessary next year. The urgency of this particular work was specially brought to my notice by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police who described the great difficulties felt in the Police school owing to want of water-supply for bathing and drinking purposes. A grant of Rs. 53,000 found place in the original budget for 1920-21 but was resumed on account of the urgent demands for other purposes, after indents for pipes had already been sent Home. The Chief Engineer was asked whether the indent could be cancelled by cable, but advised against such a course, since if the general water-supply scheme for Coimbatore came into force in the near future, it would be feasible to use any pipes brought out for the Police school in connexion with the town supply scheme, or indeed for other water-supply projects."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I thank the Honourable Member for the information. I know the pipes have been actually laid for some distance. All that I want is that the Government should see that the requirements of the whole town and of the Government Jail and the Government Forest College are not left out."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motions were not made and therefore they were deemed to have been withdrawn :—

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO—

'115. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Western Range, Coimbatore (Public Works Budget, item 120).'

Sriman BISVANATH DAS—

'116. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Western Range, Coimbatore (Public Works Budget, item 120).'

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'117. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Western Range, Coimbatore (Public Works Budget, item 120).'

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS—

'118. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Western Range, Coimbatore (Public Works Budget, item 120).'

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR—

'119. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for residence for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Western Range, Coimbatore (Public Works Budget, item 120).'

Sriman BISVANATH DAS—

'120. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for constructing quarters for the District Superintendent of Police at Calicut (Public Works Budget, item 126).'

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR—

'121. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for constructing quarters for the District Superintendent of Police at Calicut (Public Works Budget, item 126).'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO—

'122. To omit Rs. 15,000, provision for constructing quarters for the District Superintendent of Police at Calicut (Public Works Budget, item 126).'

Sriman BISVANATH DAS moved—

'123. To omit Rs. 6,000, provision for constructing quarters for Sub-Inspector, etc., at Tiruvangudi.'

In doing so, he said :—"Sir, I am very sorry that I was under the impression that the Government would change the rules of the Board of Revenue in the matter. I do not know whether this House would be willing to provide quarters for officers in spite of their revised scale of pay which would cost a lot of money and would be a permanent charge on our revenue. Sir, as regards quarters for the District Superintendent of Police and the Inspector-General of Police there may be some reason, if reason at all it be called, for providing accommodation. The

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difficulty of accommodation may be felt in their cases, but I am not certain and I do not think that there is any pressing necessity in the case of sub-inspectors. They are our own men; they live with us and in our streets. And if preservation of peace is an important criterion of the Police, I believe they would be doing their duty better if they were to live with the people and in the open streets instead of confining themselves to police quarters which are generally away from the crowded parts of the locality. I am often informed that these sub-inspectors are entirely in the hands of the police constables in the police wards. They themselves seem to feel this. For independent action on their part and to bring them into more intimate touch with the people in the towns in which they live and also to give the people more facility for expressing their grievances to these sub-inspectors, I do hold that it is desirable that they should live with the people in the street. I therefore hold that there is no occasion and no necessity for providing quarters for sub-inspectors. Therefore I move the motion standing in my name."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"Sir, I think I had better at once, with your leave, invite the attention of the House to the fact that the Police Commission which sat in 1902-03 categorically recommended that suitable quarters should be provided for every police officer of and below the rank of a sub-inspector. That has been a cardinal feature of Police administration for upwards of fifteen years. If honourable members will refer to page 95 of the budget, they will find an entry of a lump provision of 2½ lakhs for the renting of houses for all sub-inspectors, head constables and constables in the mufassal for whom houses have not yet been rented. That is a feature of the recent revision of pay in regard to the Police. The only effect, therefore, of striking out the provision for quarters for a sub-inspector would be that we should have to pay him a recurring charge for rent. The only other point is the circumstances of this particular locality. I made particular inquiries in regard to that from the Assistant Inspector-General of Police, in Mr. Thomas' absence in camp. His note in regard to this item is: 'they cannot get houses and have to shift as best they can.' I venture to think that this House will agree with me that in such circumstances we must provide accommodation."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"I oppose the motion for this reason. Though the senior officers do not actually investigate cases and as such there is no need for providing them with houses, yet there is absolute necessity for providing quarters for the investigating staff, I mean the sub-inspectors, head constables and constables. It would be of considerable advantage that they should be in a particular locality."

Sriman BISVANATH DAS :—"Sir, I want to know what amount of money is paid a year to our sub-inspectors as house allowance."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I am sorry I cannot really answer that question off-hand. If notice is given, I will give the honourable member a categorical answer."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motions standing in the name of Sriman Biswanath Das were not made and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'124. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for constructing quarters for Sub-Inspector, etc., at Konakanamitta (Public Works Budget, item 133).

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'125. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for constructing quarters for a European Sub-Inspector, three Sergeants, etc., at Vepery (Public Works Budget, item 135).

'126. To omit Rs. 8,000, provision for constructing quarters for Sub-Inspector, etc., at Gingee (Public Works Budget, item 151).'

The following motion standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was deemed to have been withdrawn, the honourable member being absent :—

'127. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for the new General Hospital at Cocanada (Public Works Budget, item 157).'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, I formally move—

'128. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund.'

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—"I also move a similar resolution—

'129. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund (Public Works Budget, item 160).'

"I want to know whether housing accommodation is so very difficult at a place like Ootacamund."

Messrs. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar and Bisvanath Das formally moved the following motions standing in their respective names :—

'130. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund (Public Works Budget, item 160).'

'131. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund.'

'132. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund.'

The following motion standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was deemed to have been withdrawn, the honourable member being absent :—

'133. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for acquisition of bungalow for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund.'

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"Mr. President, the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund requires house accommodation. He is expected to live in the centre of the town and be of use to the people in the locality. As a matter of fact, the honourable members are aware that there are very few houses available at Ootacamund for permanent occupation. Especially of late, the house-rent has risen and every house-owner is anxious to get as much money during the season as he can. In these circumstances, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that Government should provide house accommodation for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund. After all, the amount of 25 thousand rupees budgeted is from the loan account and there is no reason why it should be grudged. It is expected that when the house is occupied the rent that would be paid would meet the interest. I see no reason why the reduction should be made."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, yesterday so much was told about the importance and necessity for Government providing accommodation for various officers of the Government. If that was so with the ordinary officers of

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the Government, the importance and necessity for accommodation is multiplied many a fold with regard to the medical officers of the Government. Medical officers ought to be as near the hospital as possible. In fact it is better that residential quarters are arranged inside the compound of the hospital itself, so that they may be in a moment's notice at the scene of danger, if there is any necessity for it in the hospital. It is with that intention even in Madras we have got residential quarters for Assistant Surgeons in the compound itself, as in the Royapetta Hospital. And it is for the same reason that the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of the Maternity Hospital are living in the compound of the hospital itself. Sir, when Major-General Giffard was the Superintendent of the Maternity Hospital, if, at dead of night, the Assistant Surgeon after trying a case of difficult labour telephoned to him, we would be surprised to see the Major-General on the spot before the telephonic message was completed to save not only the mother but give life to an asphyxiated child. So I request that this amount be sanctioned."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund is given the hill allowance, extra allowance and duty allowance. I do not see any reason why we must pay extra in the shape of a bungalow rent."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I should like to ask the Hon'ble the Minister whether the shortness of the sojourn of the Government to the Hills will have any bearing on house-rents at Ootacamund, and whether there is likely to be any chance of accommodation for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in consequence of the recent decision of the Government to cut short their stay at Ootacamund. I believe, Sir, in that way there may be additional accommodation; I do not say there is bound to be. If I am right in my conjecture, it is a matter for investigation whether any house already in possession of the Government may not be made available for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. Another thing that I want to know is whether the hospital at Ootacamund is a Government hospital. I believe it is not."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"It has been taken over by the Government."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"If so, I can only suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister to investigate this matter and not to take active proceedings in regard to this House."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Knowing a little about house properties in Ootacamund I just want to interfere in this debate to tell the House what my view is about house accommodation there. I am intimately connected with one of the largest house-owning proprietors at Ootacamund, and I can assure this House that house accommodation in Ootacamund is very, very difficult. Whether the Government propose to stay for six months or three months, that will not affect the congestion of house property there. Ootacamund is not merely becoming the centre of Southern India but of all India, the best hill resort for the whole of India. And we have recently, especially during the war—and that state of things must continue—residents from such distant places as Burma, China and Japan coming to stay at Ootacamund. I do not think that the proposed shortened stay of the Government will have any effect at all on the congestion of house property there. And I can say from my experience of landlords at Ootacamund that they are very averse to letting their houses on permanent tenure. I know, as a matter of fact, that very many of them would like to have temporary and not permanent tenants because the rent that is to be got from these houses is so varying that the landlords

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would prefer to speculate in them, year after year. In 1915, when the war just broke out I know of a house which fetched a rent of Rs. 1,800. Next year the rent rose to Rs. 2,500 and in the succeeding year to Rs. 3,200, and last year it rented for as much as Rs. 5,000. And I am perfectly certain that the landlord would not for anything in the world let the house on a permanent lease or even for a term of years to anybody. I certainly think it right to ask that a residence should be provided for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer at Ootacamund."

ABBAS ALI KHAN Bahadur :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is free quarters that is proposed or whether the officer has to pay rent for his occupation?"

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"It is not free quarters. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer has to pay rent. As to the information which my Hon'ble friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao wanted, it is premature to say what effect the limitation of the exodus will have upon house-rents at Ootacamund. It is not only the Government that go to Ootacamund but there are private individuals, vakils, judges and others who go there during the season. I do not think it possible to venture any opinion on the matter."

All the motions were then withdrawn.

Sirman BISVANATH DAS, in withdrawing his resolution, said :—"I am very

12-30 p.m. sorry that the House has committed itself to this policy, but I do not propose to intervene at this stage. At the same time I should

like to inform the House that they have committed themselves to a policy which would involve the taxpayer in great amount of tax, we not only lose capital that is invested in this building but also the rent that is recovered from these official occupiers which after all does not fetch more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital outlay while we have to pay an interest of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Well, we lose the capital outlay; we lose the money that is spent upon it for repairs, annually, or biennially, or triennially, whatever that be, and we at the same time have to pay something out of the revenue of the province annually to meet this deficit interest. I again repeat, Sir, I am very sorry that the House has committed itself to this policy, in view of the fact, that we have to undertake an extended policy of irrigation in an agricultural province like Madras which is now stunted and starved. But seeing that my friends are withdrawing their motions and in view of the fact that I received scanty support on a similar motion and now as I find little support from the House for this important motion, I withdraw my own resolution."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Mr. President, I beg formally to make this motion—

'134. To omit Rs. 29,000, provision for additions and improvements to the Rayapuram Medical School (Public Works Budget, item 167).'

"I wish to know the nature of the additions and improvements and to be assured that they are essential and necessary for the school."

Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu being absent, the following motion which stood in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'135. To omit Rs. 29,000, provision for additions and improvements to the Rayapuram Medical School (Public Works Budget, item 167).'

Mr. M. D. Devadas did not make the following motion which stood in his name :—

'136. To omit Rs. 29,000, provision for additions and improvements to the Rayapuram Medical School (Public Works Budget, item 167).'

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The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Sir, I inspected the place. The demand for special assistants is increasing and we do want to turn out more medical L.M.P.'s and the accommodation now is quite limited and in these circumstances, unless we sanction this grant, I do not think we can go on with the school work in future."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU did not press his motion and it was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"Sir, the motion that stands against my name reads as follows:—

'137. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for improvements to the General Hospital, Madras (Public Works Budget, item 168).'

"I have tabled this motion, Sir, for the purpose of knowing whether substantial additions are going to be made to the General Hospital, Madras, and, if so, whether the scheme for moving the hospital to the Spur Tank has been given up; because if the hospital is going to be moved to the Spur Tank, I don't think we shall be justified in spending a lot of money upon the present building."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'138. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for improvements to the General Hospital, Madras.'

"Sir, the previous speaker has already anticipated my remarks. If the General Hospital is going to be removed to the Spur Tank, any expenditure on it now is unnecessary."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I beg to move the same motion formally for the same reason—

'139. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for improvements to the General Hospital, Madras.'

Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar not having been in his place, the following motion standing in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'140. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Improvements to the General Hospital, Rs. 20,000 be omitted (Public Works Budget, item 168).'

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO did not make his motion—

'141. To omit Rs. 20,000, provision for improvements to the General Hospital (Public Works Budget, item 168).'

The motion was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Sir, as to the removal of the General Hospital to Spur Tank, it is a costly undertaking, and although we have not given up the idea, I am afraid it will be a long time before the scheme can materialize. It may take a number of years. Anyhow as matters stand the hospital is badly in need of quarters for nurses. I, therefore, cannot accept the motion."

The motions were by leave withdrawn.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'143. To reduce by Rs. 50,000, provision of Rs. 1 lakh for improvement of six hospitals [Public Works Budget, item 177 (A)].'

"Sir, I have tabled this motion for the purpose of knowing whether estimates have been prepared and if so whether work is going to be undertaken at once. If not, Sir, I would ask that the amount may be reduced by Rs. 50,000 which could be made use of for other purposes."

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The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Sir, estimates have been prepared and the repairs are very urgent. I suppose that is the information Mr. Devadas wants."

Mr. Devadas then did not press his motion. The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I move—

'144. That under 41-B. Civil Works—Civil Buildings, the grant of one lakh of rupees provided for improvements to the headquarter hospitals at Cuddapah, Kurnool, Ootacamund, Guntur, Tanjore and Masulipatam be omitted [Public Works Budget, item 177 (A)].'

"Sir, we have been informed in reply to the motion made by Mr. Devadas that estimates have been prepared, but I think it is absolutely necessary for us to have further information on the subject, because in column 6 referring to estimates for this work we find no estimates at all. It is only for 1921-22 that we find a lump sum provided. It is also necessary to ascertain how much is to be provided for each of these six different hospitals throughout the Presidency. If it is going to be done throughout the Presidency without any such information being given, that is a position which, I think, cannot be accepted. The House must have definite information before them before they vote on a motion of this description. Nobody is going to suggest that these improvements are not necessary, and that they are not to be undertaken, but it is only after the necessary estimates, etc., have been sanctioned that anything of that sort can be done. I therefore think it necessary, Sir, to move this."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I beg also to move—

'145. To omit Rs. 1,00,000, provision for improvements to the headquarter hospitals at Cuddapah, Kurnool, Ootacamund, Guntur, Tanjore and Masulipatam [Public Works Budget, item 177 (A)].'

"Sir, so far as Cuddapah is concerned, I think it is not in my opinion necessary to make any improvements at all to that hospital, because I find a good many buildings there within a spacious compound; only there are not many patients to occupy the buildings. The buildings have been erected at great cost but nobody can find patients for them; and that being the case, I fail to see why any improvement at all is necessary to that hospital. Of course I do not know personally about the other hospitals, and perhaps Cuddapah is put down first to indicate that that being a backward district, it is necessary to make improvements there first. However, confining myself to Cuddapah, this is my opinion, Sir, and I think these improvements may be postponed to next year at least."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Sir, the estimates have been prepared, but they are with the Superintending Engineer. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Decentralization Committee these estimates have not now to come before the Government. As for Mr. Narasimhacharlu's opinion that the repairs should be put off for the time being, I am afraid I cannot set aside the opinion of the experts who say that the repairs are required urgently and that without those repairs, the hospital cannot get on."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I am not convinced, even after the reply of the Honourable the Minister, of the necessity for withdrawing my motion. I have also, Sir, some regard for expert opinion, but when once it is known that the estimates have not been sanctioned. . . ."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (interrupting):—"May I question, Sir, the statement that the estimates have not been given the necessary sanction?"

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These estimates are estimates within the sanctioning power of subordinate officers. They do not come up to the Government. If we are to require my Honourable friend the Minister to sanction every petty estimate in the Presidency himself, we shall have to increase the number of Ministers; that is all."

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar demanded a poll.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"The motion is lost by 3 members voting for it and 50 against. Does the Honourable Member still wish a poll to be taken?"

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"May I say, Sir, that in a legislative assembly like this when division is being frivolously claimed, it is within the discretion of the President to over-rule such a demand?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"It is not for the Honourable Member to say that the poll is asked for frivolously. I hesitated, because we are working against time; still if the Honourable Member presses for it, I must take a poll."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—"I press for a division, Sir, for this reason. I want to have it on record which Honourable Members are for and who are against these repairs."

A poll was then taken with the following result :--

Ayes.		Noes.	
1. Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar.		3. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari.	
2. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.			
1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson.		36. Mr. A. Subbarayudu.	
2. " Mr. C. G. Todhunter.		37. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu.	
3. " Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ullah Sahib Bahadur.		38. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayakar.	
4. " Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar.		39. " T. C. Tangavelu Pillai.	
5. " Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar.		40. " L. C. Guruswami.	
6. " Mr. P. Ramarayaningar.		41. " R. T. Kesavalu Pillai.	
7. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu.		42. " M. C. Madurai Pillai.	
8. Mr. F. J. Richards.		43. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.	
9. " R. G. Grieve.		44. Mr. K. Sadasiva Bhat.	
10. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.		45. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.	
11. Dr. P. Subbarayan.		46. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.	
12. Mr. E. Periyarayanam.		47. " M. Suryanarayana.	
13. " K. Adinarayana Reddi.		48. Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar.	
14. " S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad.		49. Diwan Bahadur T. Desika Achariyar.	
15. " R. Appaswami Nayudu.		50. Mr. S. Arpudawami Udayar.	
16. Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami Vandayar.		51. " M. D. Devadas.	
17. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar.		52. Rai Sahib E. M. Mascarenhas.	
18. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu.		53. The Raja of Ramnad.	
19. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon.		54. Sri Meka V. Apparao Bahadur.	
20. " B. Muniswami Nayudu.		55. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan.	
21. " P. C. Muttu Chettiyar.		56. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.	
22. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar.		57. Saiyid Diwan Abd-ul-razzaq Sahib Bahadur.	
23. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.		58. Khan Sahib Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur.	
24. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar.		59. Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur.	
25. Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro.		60. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib Bahadur.	
26. Mr. P. T. Rajan.		61. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib Bahadur.	
27. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar.		62. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur.	
28. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja.		63. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.	
29. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.		64. Diwan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbhujadoss.	
30. " K. Saraba Reddi.		65. Mr. A. M. MacDougall.	
31. " W. P. A. Foundara Pandia Nadar.		66. Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chetti.	
32. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar.		67. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya.	
33. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai.		68. Mr. R. E. Rencontre.	
34. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai.			
35. " S. Somasundaram Pillai.			

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The motions were declared lost, 3 Honourable Members having voted for and 68 against them.

Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu being absent, the following motion standing in his name was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'146. To omit Rs. 1,00,000, provision for improvements to the headquarter hospitals at Cuddapah, Kurnool, Ootacamund, Guntur, Tanjore and Masulipatam [Public Works Budget, item 177 (a)].'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. M. D. Devadas was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

12.45 p.m. '147. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a District Registrar's office at Cocanada.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was, owing to the absence of the Honourable Member, deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'148. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a District Registrar's office at Cocanada (Public Works Budget, item 179).'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR moved--

'149. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for a new rest-house at Erode (Public Works Budget, item 186).'

In doing so, he said :—"I wish to say a few words in moving this resolution. There was a rest-house at Erode and on making inquiries I understand that it has been given to missionaries for a very good purpose and that they agreed in return to give the Government a rest-house. If that is correct information, they have to give the price. I believe they have paid the price already of the site as well as the building. If that information is correct, I do not understand why this sum of Rs. 5,000 should come under the head of expenditure on behalf of the Government."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU moved--

'150. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for a new rest-house at Erode.'

In doing so, he said :—"The construction of rest-houses is generally undertaken by local bodies and I do not know the reason why the Government should undertake the construction of rest-houses. I know in the case of the Public Works Department when works are in progress and when constant attention is necessary rest-houses are sometimes constructed for the convenience of the officers. If that is the case it may be a justifiable ground. I move this motion for the purpose of eliciting that information."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—"Sir, the Government undertook to sell away the existing rest-house which is an old building for a sum of Rs. 10,700 to the London Mission Society, this sum being payable as soon as another rest-house has been built by the Government. For the purpose of putting up another rest-house a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been allotted. In the meantime, I may inform the House that as a matter of fact a profit of nearly a thousand rupees was made on the Rs. 10,700 by the Government in the purchase of a new site for the new rest-house. So it will be a profitable transaction if the Government finishes the rest-house by utilizing this sum of Rs. 5,000 set apart for this purpose."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" So the transaction ends in a loss of Rs. 1,300. Rupees 12,000 is the cost of a new rest-house."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—" Originally the estimate was prepared for Rs. 5,750, but subsequently after the site had been bargained for it cost us only Rs. 2,500."

The motions were then by leave withdrawn.

The following motion which stood in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was, owing to the absence of the Honourable Member, deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'151. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for a new rest-house at Erode.'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR moved—

'152. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site at Ootacamund (Public Works Budget, item 187).'

In doing so, he said :—" It is not known as to why the Nilgiris Library buildings which seem to have their own history should be purchased now by the Government. The library seems to have been in existence for a long time and we are told that there have been some debenture loans also. Now the library seems to be in trouble and they want to sell it away. It is not known as to why the Government should go and purchase this library, especially at a time when the Government residence in the Nilgiris is being cut short and when some buildings which are owned by the Government might be available for the purpose. I do not think the dictum laid down by the Hon'ble the Minister, i.e., 'Do not reduce in the case of an urgent work' applies to this particular case. We have been very considerate till now and whenever the Government claimed urgency, we have passed all their grants. But so far as we are able to see, this condition does not seem to apply to this particular case. I therefore submit that this grant should be omitted."

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS moved—

'153. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site at Ootacamund.'

In doing so, he said :—" I wish to know whether it is proposed to make this Nilgiris Library a public library for the use of the public. If that is so, this amount should not be omitted."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR moved—

'154. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site at Ootacamund.'

In doing so, he said :—" I also want similar information as to whether the library is a public library."

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'155. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works, the provision for Rs. 32,000 for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site be omitted.'

[Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

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The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'156. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works, provision for Rs. 32,000 for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site be omitted.'

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, I wish to know whether the library is to be vested in the Government and managed by the Government or whether it is a public library which has to be purchased by the Government at a very high cost and to be given over to some body for the purpose of running it or whether it is a private library and what are all the circumstances connected with this transaction. And so I beg to move—

'157. That this Council resolves that under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings, Rs. 32,000 be omitted'.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'158. That the sum of Rs. 32,000 for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site be deleted.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao Pantulu was, owing to the absence of the Honourable Member, not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'159. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site.'

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU moved—

'160. To omit Rs. 32,000, provision for the acquisition of the Nilgiris Library buildings and site.'

In doing so, he said :—" I think it is clear that it is only the building that is to be purchased and there is not any library that is to be purchased. Perhaps the building goes by the name of Nilgiris Library buildings. I wish to know for what purpose it is being purchased, who is going to manage the library in it if there is in it any existing library and who owns it. I wish to have all these details."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" Mr. President, I fully recognize that this transaction needs full explanation to the Council, though I do not propose to go into the whole of the history of the Nilgiris Library, which goes back to the year 1860, when the Government made a transfer to a committee, which was the predecessor of the present committee, of an old dāk bungalow and a site which is one of the best sites in the whole of Ootacamund. The rules regarding such assignments were not so exact in those days as they are now, and the assignment was made without the conditions which would be attached to and the assignment was made without the conditions which would be attached to any similar assignment in the present day. The actual conditions that were attached were that the committee should erect a building suitable for public meetings and for a library and for a museum. The committee or its successors fulfilled this condition and erected a very fine building and improved the compound so that it now forms one of the finest sites in the whole station. The building was partly paid for out of money in hand and partly out of a debenture loan. Some of the amount borrowed has since been paid, but there is a sum of

[The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter]

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Rs. 32,000 still unpaid, and when after the war the rate of interest rose unprecedently, the holders of these debenture bonds wished to be paid back their money in order that they might invest it more profitably and the Library Committee found they were not entitled to refuse to pay it back. They succeeded in tiding over the difficulty for the time and meanwhile had approached the Government. At first we were not prepared to assist them, but on further consideration we entered into negotiations on the basis of placing the committee on the same footing as the Madras Literary Society. One reason for our doing this was that if we left the committee to borrow in the open market, it was possible that, at some future time, there might be a default in paying the interest and this important site or part of it might be sold up and got into undesirable hands, when if the Government wanted to acquire it, they would have to pay a higher price than they could acquire it for now. The agreement we made therefore was that we should pay Rs. 32,000, which is very much less than the value of the site and the building, and become the owners of the site and the building, on the understanding that we should allow it to continue to be used as a library so long as the present constitution continues, one term of which is that membership should be open to all classes: in other words, we placed the committee in very much the same position as the Madras Literary Society, for which the Government built a building which they leased to them at a favourable rate of rent. The committee have proposed one modification in these conditions, a modification which seems to suggest that we have been driving rather a hard bargain. This modification is that, if they are able to raise the money within twenty years and wish to buy the site and building back from us, matters should be restored to their present position. This is in brief the proposal, namely, that we secure the title of this very valuable site and building for a sum which is very much less than its value on the understanding that we allow it to be used for a library, the membership being open to persons of all classes."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I know what the proposed rent is?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I think it is the same rent that we charge for the Madras Literary Society, namely, Rs. 50 a month. We recognize that this is not an economic rent for the building. When the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao tabled a motion regarding the grant made to the Madras Literary Society, I was prepared to explain to the Council that what that grant really represents is the difference between the economic rent and the rent actually paid for the building used by that library. The arrangement with the Nilgiri Library is much the same. We give them a building at a favourable rate of rent instead of a grant."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I only want the information as to how much the repairs will come to and as to who has to pay for the repairs."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"We pay for the repairs; I cannot tell the Honourable Member what they will cost us every year. No doubt the Public Works Department will apply their usual percentage rate."

The motions were then by leave withdrawn.

The following motions were not made and were therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR—

'161. To omit Rs. 8,000, provision for constructing a rest-house at Mangalore.'

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[The Hon'ble the President]

'162. To omit Rs. 5,000, provision for constructing an inspection bungalow at Tuticorin.'

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS—

'163. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a building for the District Registrar's office, Cuddalore.'

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'164. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for constructing a building for the District Registrar's office, Cuddalore.'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR—

'165. To omit Rs. 25,000, provision for forming a road from Kunnavaaram to Ippur.'

Diwan Bahadur D. SESHAGIRI RAO PANTULU—

'166. To omit Rs. 10,000, provision for sanitary improvements at Chepauk.'

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR—

'167. That under 41. Provincial Civil Works—Sanitary Improvements at Chepauk, Rs. 10,000 be omitted (Public Works Budget, item 211).'

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The period of one day prescribed by His Excellency for the disposal of these motions having expired, 1 p.m. I will now put this demand to the House. The demand is

moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Subbarayalu Reddiyar for a grant not exceeding Rs. 103.70 lakhs. There have been reductions aggregating to Rs. 4.75 lakhs. So I put the demand as reduced to Rs. 98.95 lakhs to the Council."

Demand XXVII, as reduced, was then put to the Council and was granted *nem. con.*

The following motions for the reduction of total grant under Demand XXVII were declared to have lapsed for want of time:—

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU—

'159. That under 41-B. Civil Works, the lump sum of 3 lakhs proposed for the formation of a separate Subordinate Engineering Service and revision of pay of the Upper Subordinates, etc., be omitted (Public Works Budget, page 24).'

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR—

'407. That the provision of Rs. 49.83 lakhs, expenditure on establishment in detailed account 41. Civil Works—In charge of Public Works officers be reduced by Rs. 2 lakhs (Public Works Budget, page 24).'

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO—

'530. That under 41. Public Works Budget, Part III, the provision of Rs. 49,83,058 be reduced by 1 lakh (Public Works Budget, page 24).'

Mr. P. SIVA RAO—

'492. That the allotment of Rs. 1,05,00,000 may be reduced to Rs. 52,50,000 under 41-B.'

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR—

'202. That under 41. Civil Works, the provision of Rs. 1,30,37,286 be reduced by Rs. 8 lakhs (Budget, page 88).'

[The Hon'ble Mr. Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib] [31st March 1921]

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR—

'325. That under 41. Civil Works, the provision of Rs. 1,30,37,286 be reduced by Rs. 2 lakhs (Budget, page 88).'

DEMAND XXVIII.—FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCE.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—
"Mr. President, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 25 lakhs under the head Famine Relief. I may state that I do so with regret—regret that in the very first year when famine relief has become a provincial subject it has become necessary for this Government to launch themselves on this unfortunate expenditure, not merely to the extent of the annual contribution which is payable for this purpose out of provincial revenues, but also by borrowing with a view to meet the probable demands. At the present moment, Sir, famine has been declared in parts of the districts of Bellary and Anantapur. It might become necessary to take a similar step in the case of Kurnool where test works are already in operation; and it may probably also become necessary to alleviate distress in the case of Ganjam from which reports are not very satisfactory. The 25 lakhs that I now ask at the hands of the Council are intended merely to tide over the difficulties until the next monsoon period. If we have our south-west rains in June, as we hope we shall have, then probably it may not be necessary to ask for more grants. But if we are disappointed in that expectation, I fear that even this 25 lakhs for which I am now asking the vote of the House may not be sufficient. If conditions do not improve, it will be necessary for the Government to provide further necessary funds to cope with the situation. I think the House will realize that it is a responsibility which the State cannot under any circumstances avoid."

SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'That the demand of Rs. 25,00,000 under 43-A. (a) Famine Relief and Insurance—Famine Relief be reduced by 2 lakhs (Budget, page 191).'

"In doing so, I do not at all wish to insinuate that the allotment made under this head of expenditure is in any way extravagant or in excess of what is necessary. My only object in bringing the motion is merely to draw the attention of the House to the fact that it is far more desirable that we ought to do something which would minimise the chances of recurrence of famine rather than going on merely tiding over, as the Honourable Member said, momentary difficulties by providing temporary relief.

"The Ceded districts, the districts which I come from, are subject to frequent visitations of famine, the chief cause being absence of irrigation wells. In our province, there is hardly any other district which is so poor in the matter of wells as these districts. It is not necessary to say anything more than merely to state that generally in every village in these districts there is only one well. This solitary well supplies water only to persons who live close by. The absence of wells in the Ceded districts is due rather to the inability of the people there than to unwillingness or indifference on their part. Digging a well in this district is in fact a very expensive luxury. Water does not lie close to the surface. They have to sink deep. Besides the soil is very loose.

"I think it is hardly necessary for me to say that wells go a long way in the staving off of famine. If you peruse the famine reports of previous year you will see that in places where fields are irrigated by wells the yield is far great

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than in areas irrigated by tanks. This shows the immense help the wells afford to the ryots in the staving off of famine and also in mitigating its effects when a famine occurs. My suggestion is, instead of merely trying to tide over momentary difficulties, it is better for Government to earnestly try to make good this deficiency in the Ceded districts by spending the money in digging wells in all possible places. If the Honourable Member in charge of this department would give me an assurance that provision will be made for this purpose, I withdraw my motion."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—

"On reading through this motion it never struck me that the honourable mover was going to bring under survey a discussion of the matters to which he has now drawn my attention. My impression, on the other hand, was that he was going to make a distinct and definite recommendation for the elimination of the sum of 2 lakhs from the total grant of 25 lakhs. I am only thankful to him that he does not intend to apply the pruning knife even in the case of this demand! He has no doubt drawn my attention to certain principles of policy which should guide the Government, not merely for the purpose of tiding over a temporary difficulty which may arise, but more in the direction of action of a preventive nature. He, I believe, has laid emphasis on the fact that the construction of wells by the ryots is one of such measures. I am aware, Sir, that this is exactly the policy which the Government have pursued and intend to pursue. Wherever famine-relief operations are in progress, the nature of works is always a matter which is inevitably left to the discretion of the officer in charge, but all the same, insistence is laid on the fact that the works so selected shall, as far as possible, be of permanent utility, not merely providing labour for those who may need help, but also aim at the creation of works which should be useful to the people at large. And in that category we invariably put the development of irrigation resources as a matter of considerable importance. The provision of water for drinking purposes is another matter on which importance is also laid. When famine operations are in progress in any particular district, Government are quite ready to set apart a large sum of money for the purpose of giving loans to agriculturists to encourage them to dig wells in their lands and to make such other improvements as would be necessary to their existing water resources, and with that view we have made a provision of a sum of 12 lakhs in the coming year's budget. We have asked the Collectors of Anantapur and Bellary to encourage, as far as possible, the grant of loans to agriculturists both under the Land Improvement Act and under the Agricultural Loans Act. We are getting weekly reports from these Collectors as to the operations in these two directions. We have placed special funds at the disposal of the Board of Revenue to facilitate applications to the Collectors being promptly attended to. And in the next year, if it becomes necessary for us to indent on the Council for more money for the purpose of giving loans under these two Acts, we will not hesitate to come up with a fresh demand. I may assure the Honourable Member who has brought forward this resolution that all the matters he has drawn attention to have been engaging our attention, that we are doing what we can to help the ryots in that direction and that a major portion of the 25 lakhs which have been set apart for the next year will be utilized for the purpose of carrying out such improvements as will be of lasting benefit to the ryots."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"The Hon'ble the Revenue Member has, I am afraid, slightly misunderstood the object of this resolution. He stated that the policy of the Government has been to encourage works of public utility in those districts where famine operations are undertaken. The

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point for consideration is not so much as to what the Government should do after the declaration of famine in a particular area. It is true that after that stage has been reached, it is the object of Government to place some funds at the disposal of the local officers for the purpose of being spent on famine-relief operations.

“My honourable friend is perhaps aware that during the last ten years we had an item on the budget known as the famine insurance grant of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, which the Government of India used to place year after year at the disposal of this Government for being spent on measures intended to protect the districts which are liable to famine. This fund, Sir, year after year accumulated to 25 lakhs and under the rules of the Government of India when the grant accumulates to 25 lakhs it automatically lapsed back to the Government of India. The taking of effective steps against famine and securing a continuous expenditure on measures to protect the localities, especially the Ceded districts, against the effects of famine has been entirely neglected in the past by the Government. The object with which this famine insurance grant was made was that some measures like the digging of wells should be undertaken in areas when there is no famine, so that as large an area as possible might be brought under protection, and I believe it is the object of my honourable friend who has moved this resolution to suggest to the Government that that policy ought to be pursued and not so much to spend public funds after the stage of famine is reached. I would therefore ask my honourable friend the Revenue Member to examine this question carefully and to initiate a policy of taking measures not after the famine is declared but before that stage is reached, and he will find considerable material for this in the report of the Indian Irrigation Commission with which every one here is familiar. One of the points which I have said previously was that the Government should undertake to utilize this famine insurance grant in the Ceded districts and that they should charge also, if necessary, a water-rate for those wells. We are familiar with dasabandam wells in these districts where a water-rate is charged. It is certainly beyond the competence of the ryot to undertake these deep wells in the Ceded districts. Further, I suggest to my honourable friend that he should examine the police that a system of construction of wells should be introduced, that, if necessary, a water-rate may be charged for the water used from these wells and that as much area as possible should be brought under protection; and that is the object of this motion.”

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“Sir, I regret I am not able to follow my previous speaker in the matter of construction of wells as famine works. As far as my district is concerned, we cannot dig wells in a large scale because we have a large number of tanks and we also know that the officers of the Minor Irrigation Department conserve as many tanks as possible for that purpose. Only last year a large number of tanks were repaired and some are under construction. This being so, the policy of construction of wells is not very relevant to any general policy in regard to famine works. In the construction of famine works, the conditions of each district must be taken into consideration. Everywhere the conditions are not the same. Each district must be taken in framing a policy for famine works. As I submitted on a previous occasion, the policy is to be settled with a non-official committee including local officers; unless that committee in each district is asked to suggest ways, the general policy indicated of constructing wells will not meet the demands of the various districts. It is therefore no good to lay down any such general policy to the Revenue Member, and I would say that local officers should be asked by appointing a famine committee in each district, to study the conditions of the district to see what particular remedy could be applied to the local

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area. I have already given instances before, and I would not repeat them here. In the Chicacole taluk in my district wells were useful as they were expected to be. On the other hand the tanks are more useful for irrigation purposes and also for drinking water in certain parts.

“In order that the principle might not be misunderstood I would now submit that the Government may frame a policy in consultation with local non-official opinion in order to assist the District Collector that a suitable policy for each district or circle may be adopted, and the construction of wells is not the only means.

“Then, in the matter of meeting the famine grant, I understood Mr. Ramachandra Rao to say that it is for the whole Presidency that he would suggest the policy. But I would submit that in meeting the demands of the localities where there is scarcity, the local conditions should be studied and investigated before actual reports are sent up to the Government and Government before taking any final action should consult non-officials of that particular locality as to what measures should be taken whether in the way of providing permanent wells or tanks which will be beneficial to the interests of the district.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“May I rise to explain that my honourable friend has entirely mistaken the drift of my remarks? The proposal under consideration was made by a member who has come from the Ceded districts where rainfall is very short. We may have any number of tanks there but there will be no water. You must reach the underground water in the Ceded districts, and that is the point which I wanted to press.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“I support this grant in its entirety. I associate myself with everything which Mr. Ramachandra Rao has said. I come from Anantapur where there is now famine in two taluks, Gooty and Madakasira. Madakasira is a tract once known for its gardens. Now there is no water there. By way of insurance against famine in this tract, irrigation wells may be bored and water-rate levied. It is all a question of money. Steam borers may be employed as they do in America. Oil-engines may be installed to lift water.

“I had occasion to visit the taluk lately. I consulted people in the affected tracts. They are willing to combine and form into a credit society. I hope some good portion of the grant may be spent in this experiment.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“Sir, I want to say a word on this resolution. I would point out to the Hon'ble Member for Revenue that the present famine works consist of breaking stones and digging up earth, generally breaking stones by the road side. What my honourable friend (Mr. Ramachandra Rao) wanted was a policy of constructing wells for irrigation purposes as well as for drinking purposes where there is no drinking water. There are villages even by the road side where famine coolies are seen working, where there will be only one well for one single village consisting of 500 or 600 people and a lot of depressed classes about a hundred or so. These depressed or untouchable people cannot take water from that well, and have to wait and wait for hours and hours together till somebody turns up and is pleased to give a potful of water. In summer people of some villages have to walk 2, 3 and 4 miles to fetch water. All that we wanted is that this money which is spent on breaking stones may be spent for digging wells to supply water to the villages. It would be of permanent value and it could be done easily and cheaply now. I deprecate the mode of spending money and the nature of the task exacted in order to give relief to the people. Money may be spent in a better way, and that is by digging permanent wells in the villages for public use, especially for the depressed classes.”

[Mr. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib] [31st March 1921]

Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur:—"Sir, I am afraid my honourable friend Mr. Patro seems to have misunderstood the whole position. He seems to think that I have recommended the digging of wells even in places where there is not the slightest necessity for them. My object in moving this resolution was this, that, after finding out wherever it is necessary to dig wells, funds should be provided for the purpose of digging these wells, and in moving this I made particular reference to the Ceded districts, and if my honourable friend Mr. Patro had understood me rightly, he would surely have gathered that my object was not to recommend digging of wells all over the province, but to try and provide wells in particular for the lands in the Ceded districts. Again, Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Patro said that generally repairing and digging of tanks is more profitable than the construction of wells. If my honourable friend had seen the report of the Irrigation Commission—"

Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro (*interrupting*):—"I never said so."

Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur:—"With reference to what he said that the tanks when repaired would supply water to a larger area and were more useful than wells, he never tried to see what is required in these parts of the Ceded districts. It is a matter of common knowledge that wells are more useful at times of famine than tanks. My object, as I said at the outset in making this motion, is to request Government that some provision may be made for digging these wells not only by way of famine relief but as a permanent help to poor ryots, and that year after year some money must be spent for this and that if the Government thinks it necessary to get any remuneration in return for the money they spend, a water-cess, as suggested by my honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao, may be levied."

"In view of what was stated by the Honourable Member in charge, I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XXVIII for a grant of Rs. 25,00,000 for Famine Relief and Insurance was put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXIX—PENSIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 41.54 lakhs for pensions."

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu:—"May I ask the Honourable Member whether this is a complete item of pensions payable in England as well as here?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"Yes, Sir. Complete."

The demand for Rs. 41.54 lakhs was put to the Council and granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXX—STATIONERY AND PRINTING (FOR RESERVED DEPARTMENTS).

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 16.71 lakhs for Stationery (for Reserved Departments) and Printing."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai moved—

'To reduce by Rs. 23,000 the provision of Rs. 73,000 for packing and carriage expenses in contingencies under 46-A Stationery and Printing.'

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[Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

In doing so, he said:—"I want to draw the attention of this House that most of the stationery comes from England and the local purchases are very few. The packing charges in 1919-20 came to Rs. 25,868. The budget estimate for 1920-21 is Rs. 26,000 and the revised estimate is for Rs. 50,000. Within the last three years it has gone up to Rs. 73,000. I should like to have an explanation about that. At the same time I should draw the attention of the House to the fact that most of these articles come from England. I like to know if it is not possible to procure most of these articles from India itself. I think that this amount should include packing expenditure and many other things. Otherwise it is impossible that the package expenses only could jump up to Rs. 73,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"Sir, the explanation is that we are doing exactly what the Honourable Member wants us to do. The reason for the increase is that we are paying railway freight on country paper instead of steamer freight on English paper. I hope that in view of this explanation the Honourable Member will withdraw his motion."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai:—"It is stated, Sir, 'Freight on stores from England'."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that there is no entry against 'Freights from England'. The entry is against the item 'Packings and carriage of stationery and other charges.' The increase is due to the railway charges."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai:—"Both are put in under one head. Will the Honourable Member kindly tell us the amount of purchase done in this country and from England?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been put down tentatively on the basis of the expenditure made in 1920-21 and in anticipation of larger supplies of paper from the Bengal mills in 1921-22. The balance of Rs. 23,000 is to meet the packing and railway charges on consignments of stationery from Madras to places in the Presidency."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai:—"It is not quite clear. Here it is stated, 'Packings and carriage of stationery'. Further down it is stated 'Stationery supplied from Central Stores'. Where do they get them from? I am asking this only for our enlightenment, Sir."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter:—"It would take a very long time to enlighten the Honourable gentleman about all these purchases, and I am afraid it would weary the House if I were to give all the details. As the House is aware, there is a scarcity of paper in all markets and we have found great difficulty in placing contracts. We have tried both in England and in India. In both cases our contractors have found themselves unable to fulfil their contracts and we have had to change them from time to time. In the present state of the market it is impossible to say where we are going to get all our supplies for next year, but we are doing the best we can to increase the use of Indian-made goods."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai:—"I am not at all satisfied with the explanation, Sir. I think I should give it up as hopeless. I will withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai then moved—

'2. To reduce by Rs. 7,125 the provision of Rs. 18,275 for salaries of Deputy Superintendents in the Secretariat Press (Budget, page 194).'

[Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

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In doing so, he said:—"I would like to know why the Government have added two more Deputy Superintendents in 1921-22. There is one Superintendent on Rs. 600-40-1,000. Last year there was one Deputy Superintendent on Rs. 500-25-750. In the coming year there are three Deputy Superintendents. This year they have omitted one Assistant Superintendent. Perhaps they have promoted the Assistant Superintendent who was drawing Rs. 320-20-370 to the grade of the Deputy Superintendent. If so, what is the necessity for another Superintendent? Therefore I move for the reduction of the pay of one Deputy Superintendent. Last year there were four Superintendents and this year they have made them into five. The necessity for having another Deputy Superintendent is not apparent."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"What I have to justify, Sir, is an increase in the number of supervising officers in the Government Presses from four to five. The increase is necessary owing to the increase in the amount and complexity of the work to be done. To begin with, as was stated yesterday, in connexion with the extensions to the Government Press buildings, I wish to remind the House that there are a number of places in which press work is done. There is the main press in Mint Street, which is a badly lighted building and so ill arranged as to make supervising very difficult. Then there is the Jail Press at the Penitentiary where separate supervision is required and thirdly there is the Lawrence Asylum Press in Mount Road. In addition to these, we want to take over and reorganize all the printing work done for the High Court and this will involve the building of a new press which will have to be fitted with new and up-to-date machinery. The last task alone will need an expert printer to look after it. Meanwhile the amount of work has increased very largely. As Honourable Members are aware, we have concentrated in Madras the whole of the work that was formerly done in the district presses, and I am surprised to find that a House which is so keen on economies should object to this economy which the Government have succeeded in making. The number of copies printed has increased since 1897-98 from 52 millions to 111 millions in 1919-20. Latterly the census work and the elections have thrown a very large additional burden on the staff. It may be said that elections and censuses occur only at intervals. The same cannot be said of the work of this Council which has involved the printing of nearly 2,000 pages in the last three months involving the striking of 184,000 impressions and working by the men of 254 hours of overtime. As a result of all this, we had to allow three officers to go on sick leave in the course of last year. The Superintendent has, for a large part of the time, been carrying on single-handed. We have gone into the matter very carefully with the Government of India expert who is entirely in agreement with us as regards the increase necessary. I hope, in these circumstances, that the Council, which is itself responsible for so much of the increased work, will not refuse the demand."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR moved—

'3. That the sum of Rs. 31,715 provided for the salaries of the Secretariat Press be reduced by Rs. 16,715 (No. 46-D, page 194).'

In doing so he said:—"I do remember that in answer to the motion made by Mr. P. Kesava Pillai the Hon'ble the Finance Member said that the work had increased. But I find from the establishment that there has not been a single increase of the subordinate staff, i.e., in the composing department, the examining

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department, the press and the machine department. When the total number of subordinates is the same I fail to see the necessity for having another Superintendent. Therefore I think it is quite proper that the number of Superintendents should be reduced."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I have already explained why an additional supervising officer is necessary and would only add that for a long time past we have been carrying on the work with a single Deputy Superintendent or with none at all. The reason why there is no corresponding increase in respect of the provision for the staff supervised is a fairly simple one, namely, that a large amount of the work done is piecemeal. The staff that do this work come and go according as they are required and are paid for the work they do. They do not therefore come into the category of permanent staff at all."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XXX for Stationery (for Reserved Departments) and Printing was then put to the Council and was granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXXI.—STATIONERY (FOR TRANSFERRED DEPARTMENTS).

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"I introduce Demand No. XXXI, Sir, for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1.69 lakhs."

The demand was put to the Council and was granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XXXII.—RESERVE WITH THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I beg to move for a grant not exceeding one lakh of rupees for a reserve with the Finance Department. I think, perhaps, I owe a word of explanation to the Council about this demand. It is generally agreed that there should be some arrangement for a reserve and the arrangement varies in different places. In England they have what is called the Civil Contingencies Fund, from which the Government are allowed to borrow for current necessities and which they recoup as funds are voted. We have no arrangement corresponding to that in our rules and cannot incur any expenditure which is not actually voted by the House. At the same time it is clear that, as the year goes on, there will be new demands which will have to be placed before the House and there will be expenditure which we shall have to meet out of something other than the demands voted. For this purpose the Imperial Legislative Assembly have made provision for a reserve, while the United Provinces Council has taken provision for a small Civil Contingencies Fund. I do not think there is very much difference between the two plans. What I propose is that we should take, in the first instance, a reserve of one lakh of rupees and I hope that the House will consent, in cases of emergency and when the House is not sitting, to the Government incurring expenditure against that reserve subject to consultation with the Finance Committee and then recouping that expenditure by coming before the House for a supplementary grant. I shall shortly move for an additional grant which will add a further sum to this reserve in order to

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place certain funds at the disposal of my Honourable Colleague the Minister for Local Self-Government which he specially desires to have made available for expenditure during the course of the year."

The demand No. XXXII was then put to the Council and was granted *non* con.

DEMAND XXXIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I have the honour, Sir, to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 56 lakh under 33. Miscellaneous."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'1. That the sum of Rs. 5,000 provided for rewards for proficiency in oriental languages under No. 47 (Budget, page 198) be reduced to Rs. 1,000.'

"Sir, I see, from the accounts column on page 198 of the budget, that the actual amount spent in 1919-20 was Rs. 2,802. The budget estimate last year was Rs. 5,000 and it was reduced to Rs. 4,000 in the revised estimate, and the sum provided for in the present budget is Rs. 5,000. I think that there should be no rewards for proficiency in oriental languages as I believe that the officers who come out to India move very freely with us and they should themselves learn these languages without our having to offer any rewards for proficiency. I should also like to know why provision is made for allowances to the Language Examination Committee, especially if, as the Hon'ble the Law Member stated on a former occasion, the translators are also the gentlemen who are in charge of examinations in these languages. Therefore I should like to have information on these points and I would also state that there should be absolutely no reward for proficiency, as I believe all officers must understand that it is their duty to learn these languages and that very well."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I do not quite understand the Honourable Member. He wants to have no rewards for proficiency and yet proposes to give Rs. 1,000 for that purpose."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I found two items, Sir, 'rewards for proficiency' and 'allowances to Language Examination Committee'. I thought that this Rs. 1,000 may be necessary for providing for travelling allowances, etc., for the committee. I would have no objection to deleting this item also if the Hon'ble the Finance Member would consent to it."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I should like to know from the Hon'ble the Finance Member whether the learning of oriental languages by the servants of the Crown is of such great urgency that Government should spend money on it?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, Rs. 4,000 would not affect a very large number of gazetted officers. I may state to the Council that this grant is a long-standing one. I know for a number of years that officers—not only European officers but Indian officers also—have been qualifying themselves especially in languages. Really I do not know if the Council would very much insist on cutting out this small sum. It would be more or less unfair to any officer who is now studying these languages and I may say I had an application sent to me only last week from an officer who wished to qualify in a language. Rupees 5,000 for rewards would not very much affect the whole demand. As for the actual figures for the past years, I would say that the amount depends upon

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the number of officers that go up and we cannot really go on estimating exactly how many officers will come up for these examinations. It all depends upon the number of officers, it may be Rs. 1,000, Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I wish to say one word, Sir, with reference to this resolution and that not by way of reducing even by one pie this grant that is asked for. I wish to say one word with reference to the system in accordance with which these examinations in oriental languages are now conducted. For instance, those whose mother tongue is Malayalam or Tamil, who since the time when they learnt to lip, have spoken Malayalam or Tamil, are asked to undergo an examination in Malayalam and Tamil. I have no complaint against that. But who are the examiners? The examiners are some European gentlemen. I do not blame these European gentlemen becoming proficient in those languages. In the case of Malayalam for instance,—I do not like to use a very strong word which is often used by those who undergo these examinations and others—they say it is practically a farce. A European gentleman and a Tamil gentleman are placed on the same footing so far as Telugu is concerned. A Malayali gentleman and a European gentleman sit together and examine a Telugu gentleman in the Telugu language with reference to ordinary conversation, to see whether he is able to converse in the Telugu language. I put it to the Government whether it is not necessary to remove this system of conducting examinations and take away from them the bad odour which now attaches to them."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Sir, the principle of rewarding gazetted officers for learning languages which they are bound to learn in order to discharge their duties properly seems to be very bad. No doubt, Government have been rewarding these gentlemen for pursuing their studies in some other languages. They have been doing it hitherto, but I would like to know whether this Council would allow an item like this to be placed on the budget in order to reward European and Indian officers who are employed by Government and who must have interest to know the languages. They are even supposed to know these languages without being rewarded as if they were children. I do not think any temptation from the Government is needed to induce these gentlemen to study the languages by paying a reward. I object to the principle and I would ask the whole item to be deleted."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"Sir, many years ago I was the recipient of a language reward. I should like on behalf of those who come after me to protest against the excision of this provision. The language for which I got a reward was Sanskrit. It was no part of my duty, Sir, to make myself acquainted with Sanskrit, but I have found throughout my service that my study of Sanskrit both in England and in India was helpful to me in the discharge of my duties in this country. I should be loth indeed to take away the inducement to similar study from other gentlemen in the public service. Mr. Kesava Pillai and, I think, Mr. Krishnan Nayar have confused these examination rewards with the system of compulsory examinations."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I say one word, Sir, by way of explanation? My objection was not to the amount. I was talking of the conditions of these examinations and the system of conducting them."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I know, Sir, that the Honourable Member talked of the system, but he also said that certain officers described these

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examinations as a farce. I venture to think that this is a criticism which has never been applied to these reward examinations. It is applied to the compulsory standard examinations but not, I think, to the reward examinations. It is a matter of great difficulty to qualify for 'high proficiency' or the 'degree of honour' in Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam, because a high standard of literary ability is required. It is not merely a question of the ordinary colloquial knowledge necessary to carry on the administrative business.

"There is another aspect of the case. Mr. Kesava Pillai is indignant that officers should get any rewards for oriental languages. Now, if we lived in a province where there was only one language, he might perhaps be right. But in the province of Madras, unfortunately, there are very many languages. One portion of the province is, under the new regime, especially under my care; I refer to the Agency division. I am very anxious that inducements should be given for the study of the Koya, Khond, Savara and the other languages peculiar to that tract and that the system of rewards for qualifying in them should not be withdrawn. An acquaintance with those languages would be of no use to an officer who was transferred from divisional charge in those tracts, and as such charges are not likely to be held for very long periods, it is doubly necessary that direct inducements should be held out for officers to qualify in these languages. That, Sir, is a practical aspect of these reward examinations. I may again emphasize that they are open to all classes, or at least to almost all classes of gazetted officers including certainly Deputy Collectors."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Does the Honourable Member wish to say anything?"

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I would press the motion to a division."

On the motion of Mr. T. Balaji Rao Nayudu, a closure was unanimously agreed to.

The main motion was then put to the vote and declared lost, 15 voting for it and 40 against.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I beg to move—"

"2. That the provision of Rs. 25,000 made for petty grants and charitable donations by His Excellency the Governor at page 199 in detailed account No. 47-A. Miscellaneous—Donations for charitable purposes, be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

"Sir, I do speak with some hesitancy because it would be very sinful to stand in the way of charity being done and because we have all no doubt that the money placed in the hands of His Excellency would be very well spent for the purpose, but I move this on the principle that charity begins at home. While we are in need of funds for very many necessities, may we not postpone the charity to a more favourable occasion? That is the object with which this motion was made. It will be found from page 199 that the provision for this purpose is Rs. 25,000, whereas the amount actually spent was Rs. 14,914 for the year 1919-20, and the budget estimate was for Rs. 15,000 for the current year and no doubt that amount has been swelled to Rs. 25,000 in the revised estimate. But as I already submitted this amount provided for, namely, Rs. 25,000 may be reduced by Rs. 10,000, leaving Rs. 15,000 to be spent for this purpose."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I also move—"

3. That in the demand under 47-A. Miscellaneous—Donations for Charitable purposes, the grant of Rs. 25,000 proposed for petty grants and charitable donations by His Excellency the Governor be omitted.

"I think it is necessary to have a full statement as to the circumstances under which it came to happen that this amount of charitable purposes came to be debited under Provincial revenues and the circumstances under which the grant of Rs. 15,000 has been increased to Rs. 25,000 within these two years. We find in the budget for last year Rs. 15,000 and now it is Rs. 25,000. The circumstances under which the sum was increased to Rs. 25,000 have also to be placed before the Council, and before the increase is sanctioned we would like to have a complete statement."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, in opposing this motion, I take the same ground as was taken by the honourable mover, namely that charity begins at home. We all know how the expenses of every charitable institution in the country have increased with the rise of prices, while the remittances from abroad have decreased with the fall in exchange. Consequently it is necessary for charity to begin at home, that is, for the subscriptions given in this country to increase in order to make up the deficit. As for the question why the sum is debited to Provincial revenues, I don't quite understand what the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao's point is. The money must come out of somebody's pocket, and if the money does not come out of Provincial revenues, I don't know where he proposes it should come from."

"As for the propriety of such grants, I would invite attention to the fact that the Decentralization Commission recommended the placing of a small sum in the hands of each Collector in order to emphasize the personal nature of his rule and to enable him to remedy things that are wrong while on the spot during his tours without having to wait for all the formalities of plans, estimates and sanctions. If it is good for the head of the district to give twice by giving quickly and so increase his personal influence, how much more is this so in the case of the head of a Province. As I have said, the amount has gone up because prices have gone up. It is less than the amount given in Bengal or Bihar and Orissa. Last year there were no less than 120 different institutions benefited and if the amount is divided among them, it will be seen how comparatively small a sum each could secure."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I am in favour of this grant. I only want to draw the attention of the Honourable Member and I did draw his attention before, that the word 'native' might be omitted. I object to that word being used. It is so printed in the book Civil Budget Estimate, viz., as 'native choultries'."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I have no knowledge of the letter which the Honourable Member has written to me. The Cabinet will only be too glad to make the change which he desires."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"I do not think that Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao would persist in moving this resolution for adoption. There is one point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Member, i.e., the way in which this demand is expressed. There is something incongruous in this House voting a grant and calling it 'Charitable Donation by His Excellency the Governor.' It may be consistent with the respect that is due to His Excellency

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to call it 'Charitable Donation by His Excellency.' But yet I would suggest that the language be modified so as to really express the fact that it is money placed at his disposal to be used as he thinks necessary in the circumstances of each case. I may be putting it somewhat baldly, but I would be glad if the Hon'ble Member for Finance could find some shorter language more adequately expressive of the real purpose and which would be more consistent with the dignity of His Excellency the Governor."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I quite admit the justice of the criticism which the Honourable Member who has just sat down has made. I am not aware of the origin of the present head in the budget or whether it is one of the items which it is within our discretion to alter. If it is so, I shall be very glad in future budgets to alter the designation of this grant to 'discretionary grant'."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"If by withdrawing this resolution I may also get some *punyam*, I shall do so."

Both the motions were then by leave withdrawn.

Demand XXXIII was put to the Council and was granted nem con.

DEMAND XXXIV—PROVINCIAL LOAN ACCOUNT.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 9.50 lakhs for the purpose of repayment to the Central Government of part of the outstanding balance of the Provincial Loan account. As Honourable Members will perhaps remember, I opposed on their behalf the proposal that we should pay the whole of the outstanding balance out of our balances and I am glad to say that the Government of India have agreed to our spreading the repayment over a period of 12 years making the sum due only Rs. 9½ lakhs per annum. Incidentally, I would mention that the rate of interest which we pay on this sum is considerably lower than the rate which we should have to pay if we had to borrow money to replace it."

The demand was put to the Council and was granted nem con.

DEMAND XXXV—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I beg to move—

For a grant of sum not exceeding Rs. 30.29 lakhs for loans and advances by the Provincial Government."

The demand was put to the Council and was granted nem con.

At this stage the Council adjourned for lunch.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 3 p.m.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Council will now consider the further demands for grants by members of the Government."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I rise to a point of order, Sir. These further demands for grants by members of the Government are, I presume, made under rules 30 and 32 of the Legislative Council Rules.—The Madras Legislative Council Manual, Volume I, page 162. Rule 30 says:

'(1) No motion for appropriation can be made except on the recommendation of the Governor communicated to the Council.'

and so on. Again rule 32 says:

'(1) An estimate shall be presented to the Council for a supplementary or additional grant when—

(i) the amount voted in the budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year, or

(ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

(2) Supplementary or additional estimates shall be dealt with in the same way by the Council as if they were demands for grants.'

"A notice of these demands is the only thing placed in our hands and nothing more. I presume that this is under Rule 32. If it is under Rule 32, we ought to have in our hands an estimate expressly stating what the demands are for and how they are proposed to be met. These grants do not relate to any items included in the budget presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. We have so far dealt with all the demands made with reference to the various items included in the budget presented to us, and we have made also motions for reductions or omissions. It will be seen, Sir, that estimates are required to be presented in support of demands for grants and that supplementary or additional grants should also be supported in the same way as if they were demands for grants. No estimates having been presented in these cases, I submit that it is not in order to present this subject for consideration. Without estimates placed before the Council, it will not be possible for it to consider these further demands for grants."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I do not quite understand the Honourable Member. Perhaps the Honourable Member may succeed in making himself a little clearer. Is not the description of this Demand XXXVI—Medical (Victoria hospital)—Pay of the doctor in charge sufficiently clear?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"It is not, Sir. All that I find is, as was done in the case of demands for grants on the last occasion, a notice has been printed and placed in our hands. The previous notice was based upon a number of estimates placed in our hands. Regarding this supplementary notice, there are no estimates placed before us to give us information as to how these figures have been arrived at. For instance, it is stated that for arrears of pensions Rs. 1.20 lakhs is to be provided. We do not know at what rate or for how many officers or for what period, they are to be provided. There are here several cases like that—arrear salaries to Provincial Medical Service, arrear salaries to Provincial Engineering Service, and so on. For what period the arrears are to be paid and to how many officers, we do not know."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Have not these particulars been furnished already?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"No, not in the budget presented to the Council. If they were, I would not have raised this objection."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I should like to say a word on this subject from the point of view of the convenience of the Council. These are not supplementary demands properly so called. They are additional demands or grants which are made for the convenience, in the main, of the Council. The

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Council has been asking us to provide for additional expenditure in connexion with the non-gazetted officers and other matters. The Council is going to be prorogued on the 2nd April and if we do not make any additional demands for grants now, the non-gazetted officers and others will have to wait for their requests to be satisfied until the Council meets again in August. As I read the rules, there is no period of time prescribed for the moving of a demand for grant by a member of the Government. We have during the last few days been discussing the demands that were put up in the first instance and sundry of them have been disallowed. What we are now trying to do is to make use of the money that the Council has thus saved. If we do not do that now, we must wait to do it till August. That is the only alternative so far as I can see. As I understand the matter, in England the budget discussions are carried through a large part of the year and additional demands can be made in the course of these discussions, while under our old procedure after we had discussed the resolutions on the budget, we brought up a final budget in which we embodied the result of these discussions. There is no provision for this in the present rules. If we are to be prohibited from bringing forward any further demands, we cannot give effect to the wishes of honourable members. I submit, Sir, that there is nothing whatever contrary to the rules in our moving these further demands in order to meet the wishes of the Council and that the alternative is one which would be inconvenient to everybody concerned."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"It will be noticed, Sir, that we are placing these additional grants within the time-limit for the budget prescribed by His Excellency the Governor, i.e., within the nine days. The budget is not completely passed. If the budget is closed and if we want more money, we can go in only by way of supplementary budget. The budget is not closed and in the meantime if any necessity is felt for additional sums, the proper method of meeting it is to bring it before the Council before the budget discussions close. You will find, Sir, several items have become necessary and we ask for it within the time limited for the closing of the budget. I felt some difficulty as regards one of the Standing Orders which says that for resolutions, there must be 15 days' notice and for budget motions there must be six days' notice. All the same, with the permission of the Member of Government in charge of the particular department these resolutions for reduction of any new grants which are now to be asked for can be moved by the members within the six days' time. We are not asking for any supplementary grants but for additional grants within the time-limit prescribed for the budget."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I do not think there is any rule at all to justify this procedure. These demands can only be brought in as supplementary or additional grants. That could be done only when the budget has been passed and on or after the 1st April. Now there are several demands which are made in addition to the amount in the budget which has already been passed, and those items are closed. Nevertheless those amounts being insufficient, these further demands are asked for. I submit that rules are silent on the point. What is attempted is to put up a benevolent construction upon them to enable the Government to make these demands now. While the member will not have the right of moving motions, it may be that a member may allow a motion to be moved at short notice. I agree with Mr. Krishna Rao that estimates should be presented every time and whether it is a question of supplementary demands or additional demands it must be accompanied by estimates. The Standing Order says clearly that when the Government moves for reduction or

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addition of particular grants, it should give an estimate thus: estimate in 1.26 thousands, or three lakhs or five lakhs. That is how it is asked for. There is no detail at all given."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"May I submit, Sir, that the last speaker is not correct. It is provided under Standing Order No. 59 'When a resolution is under discussion any member may, subject to all the rules relating to resolutions, move an amendment to such resolutions.'

"As regards these items of estimate, may I submit that the bulk of the items are practically over. With regard to item I 'Medical' mention has been made by a certain member that it is a lump provision made for two years' salary. Those are items provided for in the current year's budget. The sums shown in item No. 1 are lacking and are unpaid. They cannot be paid hereafter unless they are freshly voted. That is not a new item. That is included in the present year's budget."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"As this is a matter of some importance in regard to the financial procedure which we have to follow in this House, I should like to say a few words. In the first instance the present question does not seem to be covered exactly by our present rules. The budget has been presented and if we are to follow the English practice the voting of supplies is not closed. I take it the time will only expire at 5 p.m. to-day and it appears to me to be that so long as supply is not closed it is a permissible practice, that additional grants, additional to those included in the budget, should be discussed.

"It seems to me that the discussion of supplementary or excess grants can only arise after the financial year begins. Then certainly any expenditure which the Government have to incur should be granted in this House by supplementary estimates. I do not wish to construe the rules too literally. I wish to ask you to recognise the present procedure which is in consonance with the English practice. At the same time, I would endorse all the remarks of my friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, as regards the necessity of details to be furnished along with the additional grants which the Honourable Member has chosen to present to the House. Otherwise it is impossible to criticise the proposals. I wish to raise this question and inform the Hon'ble the Finance Member that we will not be in a position to consider the supplementary demands until all these details are furnished to us. I think there is one item and that is the item which relates to Land Records. There is another one which relates to grant to public libraries. Several items are certainly new items and we have no information regarding these items."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I have considered this question. Having considered it, it is clear to me that these demands are being put forward under Rule 32 of the Legislative Council Rules. It says:

(i) When the amount voted in the budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purpose of the current year, or (ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

"Ordinarily, therefore, these supplementary demands should be made after the budget has been dealt with, when it is clear that the amount voted for any grant is insufficient or that any changes have arisen which were not contemplated when the budget was passed. That is very clear and in regard to the rules about notice, honourable members are aware that these demands were put into their hands some days ago, on the 26th or about four days ago, and their notices of motion in regard to these demands have been admitted in this House. None of

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them has been thrown out. They have had the opportunity at the same time to look into these things and I have no doubt the Council would be fully justified in proceeding with these demands. I quite recognise the inconvenience of these things being thrust upon the Council at a late stage and I would ask the Government to say in regard to these demands which of them are so urgent that they could not wait for the next meeting in July or August. If any of them could reasonably wait for the next meeting of the Council, I would suggest to the Government that those demands might lie over for consideration. However, if any of these demands are such that it is absolutely necessary to present them now, I am certainly prepared to put the machinery of the Council at their disposal for allowing them to be passed because they are urgent. I would ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member to say definitely which of these demands are of such a character that it would be prejudicial to the public interest to allow them to lie over till the next meeting."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" May I suggest, Sir, that it would be a convenient procedure for these demands to be examined briefly one by one. If there is a strong feeling expressed against any of them, they can be withdrawn. I think the Council would like to hear an explanation of the various items for demands and of course it will be open to them to vote or not to vote as they think fit."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I say a word ?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" No, Sir. We leave it to the Honourable Member to say which of the demands are urgent and which can lie over. If he feels that they must be carried through and they cannot wait for the meeting in July or August—we only want his word for that—and the machinery of the Council will be placed at his disposal for that purpose. It would facilitate our work if he could tell us whether any of those demands could wait for the next session. Otherwise the proper course would be to proceed in the usual way and deal with these 156 notices of objections to the new demands. I would appeal to the Honourable Member to look into these things. Also pray remember that our time will be up at 5 o'clock. If we admit this one series and if we get complicated, it will be an unfortunate state of affairs. Therefore my suggestion is that he should make an attempt to discriminate between what he considers vital and what he considers not vital."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I will endeavour to obey your instructions. Sir, Demand No. XXXVI is for the pay of a medical officer which has not been provided for in the budget. She has already joined her appointment. I regard it as vital that this should be sanctioned. Demand No. XXXVII is one that can be dispensed with, if the Council so desire, but it is for a small amount carried over from last year's budget which has been entered at the instance of a member of this Council, Mr. Venkatarangayya. Demand No. XXXVIII provides for the correction of a technical mistake in the vote which was carried, reducing the demand under Land Revenue by a lakh of rupees. Demand No. XXXIX is immediately necessary, among other things, in order that the staff which has worked through the month of March may be paid for the work done in that month. Demand No. XL can stand over if it is so desired. As regards Demand No. XLI, it is for the Council to say whether they wish immediate effect to be given to the report of their Committee or whether they would prefer that the non-gazetted officers should wait till August to reap the benefit of the Committee's recommendations. Demand No. XLII can stand over if it is so desired. I do not think

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we can postpone demand No. XLIII which is for the benefit of a number of very poor men. Demands Nos. XLIV, XLV, XLVI and XLVII provide simply for the restoration of lapses from this year's budget. These are sums sanctioned by the Secretary of State and ought to have been paid before the 31st March. They have not been paid because the matter has been under correspondence and the grants have consequently lapsed; but it would be very hard on the officers concerned to make them wait till August for this reason. Demand No. XLVIII has been put in at the instance of a member of this Council and it is for the Council to say whether Government should be allowed to move it or not."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, with regard to demand No. XXXIX, I would raise another question of order if I may be permitted to do so. It is put in as a demand for 1.10 lakhs of rupees for the Land Records Department. On a former occasion, the whole question as regards the Land Records Department was discussed. The budget amount of Rs. 2.57 lakhs included this sum of Rs. 1.10 lakhs now demanded and it was voted against by this Council. At the time of discussion the Government did not even bring an amendment to the proposition of reducing the whole demand, for the passing of 1.10 lakhs at least. The object of discussing any grant and voting for or against it will be frustrated if the Government are allowed to bring under the same head a later demand for a smaller amount. I submit that under the rules the Government have no power to bring any motion for an additional grant until long after the budget meeting."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I submit that this is a new demand. To adopt the language of Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao, it is in order to perform the obsequies of the Land Records Department that this demand is made. A similar demand has been made and granted in the Punjab with reference to the Publicity Board. The demand includes, for instance, the pay of the officers for the work done in the month of March and I hope that the Council do not propose to deny them that."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" If it is only for payment in the month of March, I have no objection."

DEMAND XXXVI—MEDICAL.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMAYANINGAR :—" Sir I beg to move demand No. 36."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir I beg to move

'That the provision of Rs. 15,000 for pay of doctor in charge of the Victoria Hospital be omitted.'

"I wish to know why this was omitted in the budget before. There appears to be a doctor in charge of the Victoria Hospital. There is no reason why there should have been an omission with reference to this."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMAYANINGAR :—" The hospital was taken over by Government in April and the matter as to who should pay the salary of the lady superintendent was under correspondence. Now it is nearly settled that Government has to meet her pay."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I understand that it was under correspondence at the time of the original budget and it was settled only now. If it is so I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.
Demand No. XXXVI for the grant of 15 lakh was then put to the Council and granted.

[The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter] [31st March 1921]

DEMAND XXXVII—EDUCATION (NON-EUROPEAN).

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"If I may explain the circumstances under which this demand has been made, Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar proposed that we should provide for a school of navigation. We tried for the whole year and got at a scheme successfully. In the last week Mr. Venkatarangayya has offered a building and some vessels. The amount has been allotted in the budget of last year but as it was not spent, it was intended to be spent this year. I hope the Council will not have any objection to grant this item."

Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, the question of opening this school of teaching navigation in our Province has been in abeyance for the last three years. When the number of sailing vessels has increased to a large extent we found a great difficulty to find men to navigate them and a request was made from Masulipatam and Cocanada that Government should open a school to train some Indians in navigation and a committee was formed by Government and it was discussed thoroughly by the committee and it came to the conclusion that it was desirable to open one school in the north and one in the south in Cocanada or Masulipatam and in Negapatam. Probably on account of the difficulty to secure funds it was dropped for the time being. Therefore at least now, since the number of these sailing vessels has increased, it is very desirable that such schools should be opened."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, my motion is that

'The provision of Rs. 10,000 for Education (non-European) be omitted.'

"In fact when I gave notice of this motion, I had no knowledge whatever and even now I am not very much better, as to what this amount is for. I propose to withdraw my motion if I am able to get information from the Government members on the following particulars. Is it intended for teaching navigation on the high seas or navigation in the rivers and inland canals and who is the person to teach and who are the persons to be taught? Is there any school of teachers or any building? I have absolutely no information on these things."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Mr. Venkatarangayya will give building free and also some vessels. The school will be opened at Masulipatam and will be conducted by Mr. Gibbon, a retired mariner who knows Telugu. If these answers will not satisfy him I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Though I have not got full information I am satisfied with the information given and I do not press my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XXXVII for a grant of 10 lakh of rupees was then put to the Council and was granted unanimously.

DEMAND XXXVIII—LAND REVENUE.

Demand No. XXXVIII was not moved and was allowed to stand over. The following motions under this demand were not moved:—

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR—

'That the provision of Rs. 30,000 for charges of District Administration be reduced by Rs. 100.'

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Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 30,000 for charges of District Administration be omitted.'

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I have raised a point of order. I want a ruling if it is relevant."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"It is irrelevant."

DEMAND XXXIX—LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENTS.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I beg to move for a grant of 1·10 lakhs under demand No. 39. This is with reference to the resolution of the Council passed the other day for the omission of a grant of 2·57 lakhs entered in the budget for maintenance of land records during 1921-22. The omission of 2·57 lakhs referred to above includes also the salary due to the subordinates employed in that department for the month of March 1921. It is impossible, Sir, to give effect to the resolution of the Council within the few days that were at our disposal to completely disband the staff employed in the department and scattered throughout the Presidency. An attempt is being made to disband as many as it is possible to do with effect from 1st May 1921. It will be necessary to pay the entire establishment not only for the month of March but also for April."

"The Government having seriously considered the question of the abolition of the Land Records Department have come to the conclusion that the whole of the superior establishment might well go. It is intended to retain revenue inspectors as a tentative measure until we are able to utilise the services of the ordinary land revenue inspectors for the purpose of taking over absolutely the duties of land record revenue inspectors as well. An experiment has been ordered to be started in two districts in the Presidency for that purpose and we are hopeful that it may prove successful and that it may be possible to do away with the entire establishment inclusive of the revenue inspectors with effect from 1922-23. For the purpose of doing so we want a sum of Rs. 1·10 lakhs and I move the House to grant it."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, my motion runs thus—

That the provision of Rs. 1·10 lakhs for Land Records Department be omitted.

"In giving notice of this motion I wanted to elicit certain information and I am now satisfied with the information furnished and I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"The Honourable Member has stated that superior staff will be abolished. May I ask him whether the post of the Director of Land Records was also abolished?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Director of Land Records is borne on the Indian Civil Service cadre and the Government will have to find some other work for him. All the Assistant Directors will go. The Director's post will also be abolished."

Demand No. XXXIX was then put to the Council and was granted.

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

[31st March 1921]

DEMAND XL—TEMPORARY SUB-COURTS, ETC.

Demand No. XL—Temporary Sub-courts and Munsifs' Courts, was allowed to stand over and the following motions in respect of that demand were therefore not moved :—

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—

'1. That the provision of Rs. 30,000 for temporary sub-courts, etc., be reduced by Rs. 100.'

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 30,000 for temporary sub-courts, etc., be omitted.'

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—

'3. That the provision of Rs. 30,000 for temporary sub-courts, etc., be omitted.'

DEMAND XLI.—INCREASE IN THE PAY OF CLERKS.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—“ This demand is intended to carry into effect the recommendations of the interim report of the Salaries Committee. I am aware that the Committee were not unanimous as regards the minimum salary and I am entirely in the hands of the Council as to whether this demand is to be granted or not. If this is allowed to lie over, it will have to lie over till August.”

Demand XLI was then put to the Council and was granted.

DEMAND XLII—RESERVE WITH FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Demand XLII for reserve with the Finance Department was allowed to stand over : the following resolution in respect of it was not moved :—

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

'That the provision of Rs. 5.50 lakhs for Reserve with the Finance Department be reduced by Rs. 100.'

DEMAND XLIII.—ARREARS OF PENSIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—“ This, Sir, arises out of the very recent receipt of orders making a small increase in the pensions of persons receiving pensions of Rs. 45 and less. We had no time to make the necessary calculation and give effect to them before the 31st March but I do not think that the Council will wish to defer till August a small matter of justice to those poor people.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“ Before this demand is put to the vote I should like to know from the Honourable Member whether there are any proposals to increase the pensions of all officers. The thin end of the wedge is now introduced with respect to pensions of Rs. 45 and less. Does it mean that we are to commit ourselves to a policy of sanctioning arrears of pension in respect of other officers? Are there any proposals to increase the pensions under consideration either with the Government of India or with the Secretary of State? As it is a question of policy that is being committed now, I wish to have information.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARULU :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

8-45 p.m. '1. That the provision of Rs. 1.20 lakhs for 'arrears of pension' be omitted.'

“ In doing so, I wish to be consistent throughout. And my object in pressing this matter before this House is that though it may be equitable to increase the

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pay and pension, still I do not think that it is equitable at all to give also arrears of pay and arrears of pensions. What the people wanted was 'please increase our salaries; please increase our pensions'. But they never said one word, Sir, 'please pay us as from such and such date'. Therefore what I submit is that it is not equitable to pay these arrears, especially when we want money for very, very urgent purposes. I would request the attention of this House to page 132 of the detailed account. It will be seen from there that the following words occur: 'for paying an allowance of Rs. 4 to teachers employed in elementary schools under the management of local bodies'; there is no provision made for the year 1921-1922 whereas for 1920-1921, Rs. 8,79,800 has been provided. Sir, I ask whether the payment to such people is a necessity or payment of arrears of pay and pension is an urgent necessity? You have raised the hope that these poor paid teachers will get some allowance of Rs. 4; but you propose not to pay them at all now. When this matter was brought to the attention of the Government, the Government said 'we have given you certain Acts; you have to work them and get money out of them and pay them.' My submission to that is, the Act has not come into force yet but comes into force to-morrow. When are we to work them and get money from the people? Sir, until we are able to get money—even then we may incur a large amount of odium in getting the taxation from the people—what I submit is why not for this year pay this amount and similar amounts which are necessary for more urgent purposes than destroy the hopes of the people? If you have got money by all means pay them; but when you have not got it why stint the people who are actually working and working at a very low paid salary? I submit therefore, Sir, that we should consider the equity of both sides. For my part I would say 'pay them who are actually working before paying arrears of increase in pay and pension'. I have also given notice of other resolutions and what I say may be deemed to be applicable to all. Therefore, Sir, especially when the Government says there is no money available, it is better to postpone to some date than to insist on the payment of these arrears and to leave the primary teachers unpaid.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ My point is this: Sir, I shall make myself clear by taking a specific case. I understand from the Honourable the Finance Member that the demand relates to low paid officers who get Rs. 45 and less. Suppose an officer is getting a pension of Rs. 20 and suppose he has been receiving it from 1st April 1920, what is meant by these arrears—is it intended now to give him an increase of pension say of Rs. 10? Is it intended to make his pension Rs. 30 from the 1st April and pay him for all these months?

“ Therefore it is that I move—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 1.20 lakhs for 'arrears of pension' be reduced by Rs. 100'.”

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—“ The Secretary of State has sanctioned this increase to take effect from the 1st of December 1920, for pensions beginning with those falling due on that date and it has to be given effect to accordingly.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ My point, Sir, is this. Is it intended to give an increase of pension to those who have been drawing their pensions for sometime? Is it intended to give an addition of Rs. 10 to an officer getting a pension of say Rs. 10? If so, Sir, I object.”

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“ I wish to ask, Sir, for one piece of information which I think has a material bearing on this point. You will have noticed so far that a certain amount has been mentioned to us as the

[Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar]

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probable revenue. Now in the demands, we have made certain reductions and the total amount of these reductions I believe comes to about Rs. 15 lakhs so far. The demands that are now made come to about Rs. 25 lakhs."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member will be so good as to confine his remarks to the grant of Rs. 1.20 lakhs for arrears of pensions."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"That is exactly what I am trying to do, Sir. I do not know from what funds we are to sanction this grant. So, I request the Government to give us some information as to what funds there are to pay these arrears if sanctioned which come to Rs. 1.20 lakhs?"

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Sir, the case of these pensioners is quite different from officers who were getting higher salaries in service. It is well known to the members of this House that the pensioners who recently retired from the imperial services have had their increments and they have been enjoying them for a long while. There is no murmur from the provincial gazetted officials to raise their pensions and it is not likely. As for myself, I am not going to ask for it. But as regards the lower paid pensioners of the Government the difficulty is in the case of those that get Rs. 45 and less. There was, I think, a scale published in the papers. And in their case the additions given are not much—some Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. Each of them gets 2, 3 or 4 rupees and I think Rs. 4 is the highest. In all they may get Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 after having spent about 30 or 35 years in Government service. We shall have to deal with them fairly as they do not find it possible to make both ends meet."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask for some information as to the approximate number of people who will be affected by this grant of arrears?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"I am not in a position to answer that exactly now. But I may answer some of the other questions. First with regard to that of Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, may I again explain that the bulk, the larger part of this new demand which is now in the budget for 1920-1921, lapses to-day and I want the Council to vote for this money again. Unless this is done, Sir, there is going to be a very great inconvenience. As to these arrears, as Mr. Balaji Rao said, the scheme has been published in the papers. Perhaps it will be the quickest way for me to read it out:—

"The question of ameliorating the condition of those pensioners who are dependent on small pensions has been engaging the attention of the Government of India for some time past and careful consideration has been given to various appeals for aid received from pensioners individually and from pensioners' associations. From the outset it has been recognized that those same economic conditions which necessitated a revision of pay in the case of Government servants must press hard upon the class of pensioners with small pensions, though other considerations are often present to mitigate in the latter case the immediate hardship of high prices. At the same time the Government of India were forced to recognize that an increase of pension on a comprehensive scale was a matter of the greatest difficulty owing to the large numbers of pensioners affected and the heavy increase of expenditure thus involved. It was therefore necessary to consult Local Governments whose resources were already depleted by the heavy charges for revision of pay as upon them would fall a very considerable part of the contemplated expenditure. The Local Governments are unanimous in their opinion that some relief should be given to poorer pensioners, although they are equally impressed with the difficulty of providing for the consequent expenditure even though that relief is

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strictly confined to cases of greatest necessity. After the most careful consideration of all the interests involved, the Government of India have reached a decision to which the approval of the Secretary of State has been accorded and they are therefore pleased to announce the following scheme which will be applicable to pensioners . . .

"And then comes the concluding passage 'the scheme will apply to pensions beginning with those falling due for payment on the 1st December 1920, and will be subject to reconsideration at the end of three years'.

"That has been published in the papers and pensioners have to get these small amounts all of which put together come up to Rs. 1.20 lakhs. There are a very large number of pensioners from peons up to those who were on salaries of Rs. 100 and to all of whom this should go. This grant is required to give the money for which we have got the Secretary of State's sanction."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"After hearing the Hon'ble the Finance Member, I withdraw my motion."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I am sorry, Sir, that I am unable to withdraw my resolution. It may be said that we allow it in the case of some and not in the case of some others. One word in reply to the Hon'ble the Finance Member. The amount that he said is available may certainly be used for the purpose mentioned by me."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"May I say, Sir, that it cannot be used for the purpose mentioned by the Honourable Member."

Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu's motion was then put to the vote and lost.

Demand XLIII was then put to the Council and was granted *nem. con.*

DEMAND XLIV.—ARREAR SALARIES TO DEPUTY COLLECTORS

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I beg to move, Sir, for a total demand of Rs. 4.24 lakhs being the arrear salaries due to Deputy Collectors. I may at once tell you, Sir, that this is a matter which has been pending in the hands of Government for nearly a year. Although the sanction of the Secretary of State and the Government of India was received more than a year ago, there were certain difficulties in the way of giving effect to this scheme, even after it received the sanction of the higher authorities. The matter was under correspondence and it was, I think, in June last that the Government finally published their scheme and that Government Order was also laid on the Editors' Table. I doubt not that honourable members are aware of the order issued by Government. There was a distinct promise made in that Government Order that the revision of salaries would take effect from the 1st December 1919, in the case of Deputy Collectors. Let me emphasise, Sir, that it was no special favour that was sought to be shown to the class of Deputy Collectors alone by allowing them retrospective effect to the scheme of revision of salaries but that it was consistent with similar revisions of salaries which had been sanctioned in the case of officers of other departments as well. And I would also add that in the case of officers belonging to certain other departments, not only were the intentions of Government to revise the scales of pay merely published, but that they have already been allowed to take advantage of the benefits of the revised scale, and above all they have also been permitted to draw arrears due to them from the 1st of December 1919. A similar course would have been followed in the case of the Deputy Collectors also, the order in their case having been

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received long ago as I already stated and published in June last. There has been, in the meantime, some correspondence between the Government of Madras and the Government of India in regard to the settlement of some cognate matters before giving effect to the scheme. It took some time for the settlement of these issues. When these matters were settled, I think it was about a couple of months ago, this Government set about to introduce the revised scale. It is evident, therefore, Sir, that although the sanction of the Secretary of State and the Government of India was secured to this scheme long ago, although the scheme was published in June 1920, and although definite promises were held out to them in regard to the scale of salary that will be paid to them, it will, I think, Sir, be a breach of faith on the part of the Government, if they go behind their own action. The Government Order of June last to which I made reference reads thus: 'The Secretary of State having sanctioned the lines on which the pay of the executive branch of the Provincial Civil Service should be revised with reference to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission, His Excellency the Governor is pleased to fix the following revised scales of pay for the members of that service.' It ends by saying: 'The new scales of pay will have retrospective effect from 1st December 1919. Separate orders will issue regarding the application of the new scale to the cases of officers now in service.' That, I take it, was a definite promise of the Government to the Deputy Collectors. That, I take it, is a promise which no Government should endeavour or attempt to break at this late stage. I think we must all recognize that our servants naturally look to us to protect their interests. Now here is a case in which after taking into account the various factors which had been brought to our notice by the Public Services Commission which gave its verdict six years ago and after protracted correspondence with the Government of India, we came to a certain decision. The preliminaries that were necessary for the purpose of giving effect to that conclusion have been gone through, the requisite sanction of the proper authorities obtained and the scheme also announced to the public, as well as to the officers concerned. And what are we now asked to do? Let us also remember that we are their masters and that they are our servants and that a promise which a master makes to his servant is intended to be fulfilled. I feel, Sir, that the honour of the Government is involved in this issue. It was in June last that this Government made the promise—it was not on the 17th of December 1920 when the Government changed that this Government Order was issued! It had been made deliberately after the sanction of the Secretary of State. But unfortunately there was unavoidable delay. Are they to be made to suffer for the consequential delay for which they are in no way responsible? After I took charge of this portfolio I discerned among them almost an air of despondency! I assured them that their case had already been considered and that the promise which the Government had made would not be departed from. We have accordingly provided the revised scale of salary in the budget for 1921 to 1922. The Government of India and the Secretary of State subjected the scheme to a very careful examination in the light of similar schemes from other provinces. In no other province has it been attempted to deny to this class of officers, or to any other class for the matter of that the benefit of arrear pay. I should only be sorry if our province alone was going to treat our hard-worked and loyal subordinates in a different manner from other provinces by denying them the advantage which officers of other provinces are already enjoying. We shall be creating an invidious distinction between one class of officers and another which will not certainly be healthy. I lay emphasis on the fact that this is an inheritance from the previous Government which we are bound to respect."

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Sir, I beg to move—

'1. That the provision of Rs. 4.24 lakhs for arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors be omitted.'

"In spite of the eloquent words with which the Hon'ble the Revenue Member has appealed to the House, I feel convinced that this provision of Rs. 4,20,000 is an unnecessary item. I do so because, as I have already submitted to the House, there are very many poor servants of the Government who are now suffering because they are not being given increases of pay. I have already drawn the attention of the House to the case of the primary school teachers. I now submit for its consideration that the pay of the non-gazetted services has not yet been revised. We provided no doubt 3 lakhs of rupees for raising the starting salary of clerks as recommended by the Salaries Committee of this House. But we have not taken any steps to improve their position and to make the improvements permanent. Now, Sir, there are the village munsifs who are clamouring for an increase of pay. There are ever so many classes of people who are clamouring for a higher pay and to have a living wage in these hard days. The question for us to consider is whether we are going to consider their claims or whether we are going to consider the claims of people who are highly paid. We do not at all object to their increase of pay. We have already consented to pay them their increased salary. But my contention is that the arrear salary shall not be paid. It has been said by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member that the Government have made the promise and it would be a breach of faith not to keep that promise. I say, Sir, that if the promise was made, it was always subject to the vote of this Council, as I was reminded by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. So, I submit, Sir, that the matter has come to us for vote. The Deputy Collectors also know something of law and will not grudge this because they know that the Government pleaded with great eloquence through the Hon'ble the Revenue Member but that the Council had to vote against it for good and substantial reasons.

"What I would say is that there are many persons, inferior servants of the Government, engaged in the mufassal in various services and at all this Council votes against the demand it

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does so, so that the amount may be available for them. And I think, Sir, the Deputy Collectors who are gentlemen of training and education and of loyalty will not at all speak ill of the Government. They will, on the other hand, consider my proposal reasonable and would not care to provide themselves while other persons were clamouring for increased pay. And then it is said that several other officials of other departments have been given increase of pay. In my opinion it was an unfortunate payment. If that also should have been considered by the Council, certainly there would have been some opposition to it. Sir, that point is not quite relevant to this thing. I therefore submit consistently with my endeavour to show to this Council that this item is an unnecessary item and therefore we can well refuse this grant."

The following motion standing in the name of Mr. Gopalakrishnayya was deemed to have been withdrawn, the Honourable Member being absent:—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 4.24 lakhs for arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors be omitted.'

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'3. That the provision of Rs. 4.24 lakhs for arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors be omitted.'

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"In moving this proposition let me assure the Council and also the public that it is in no feeling of hostility to the services that I do so but it is purely as a business concern to which this House has to commit itself. Two things have been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member. First that the Government have committed themselves to a policy and have openly declared that they granted their demand. So if that is not to be carried out it would amount to a breach of promise. In reply to that I shall only say that if the Government promised they did so at a time when they possibly thought that in respect of all services including the non-gazetted they would be able to mete out the same kind of treatment as to any one particular department or service. That was why the Government promulgated a policy of that sort. But now, Sir, in the present year of financial difficulty, when we find that the Government could not carry out that policy, so far as the non-gazetted officers are concerned, so far as the elementary school teachers are concerned, I submit, Sir, the state of things has arrived when the Government has to stop and see whether they could carry out a policy which would create deep discontent among the non-gazetted officers or would not deal with all the officers alike. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Member told us in his memorandum that there was a chance or there was a hope last year that the demand by the Central Government for contribution of 3 crores and odd might probably be reduced after the deliberations of the Joint Committee or later on. Probably it was that impression, that idea that there would be a large surplus to command and to pay all services that probably entered into this policy. But, Sir, after certainly having come to realize that there was no chance of a pie being deducted from our contribution to the Central Government, things have changed and therefore our policy has also to be changed, in accordance with the new circumstances. I plead, Sir, not for refusing any privileges which on principle should be given to anybody but for equality and fairness of treatment to all alike. Sir, I have already observed that in these revision proposals three points are involved. First is the raising of the minimum and the maximum salary. So far as that is concerned, we have no objection at all. This has been practically given effect to in the budget provision. The second is that in giving effect to it, to remove all grades existing before and to introduce a time-scale which automatically would work to the maximum in a number of years. And that policy also they have given effect to in the case of those officers, so much so, their salaries have been increased according to the time-scale. So far as that portion is concerned, it was not applied at all to the non-gazetted officers. The third is that the Government want to pay arrear salaries on the scale which they would be able to get if the whole scheme had come into existence some years before. So far as the principles are concerned we find that these two principles could not be given effect to in the case of the non-gazetted officers not because there was no sympathy with their case, not because they did not deserve it but because the finances were such that we could not do so. Sir, the feeling of discontent that we find is because they find one service is treated in a particular way and the same privilege is not extended to others and the feeling is quite natural in the case of the non-gazetted officers. They find their master, the gazetted officer, is treated in a particular manner and they in a different way. I rise to oppose this motion on this ground; that is that when the gazetted and the non-gazetted officers both have come to realize that the state of our finances is such that equal treatment cannot be given to them both, if there is to be suffering let that be on all alike."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I know that, in supporting this motion, I will be found fault with by many of my own friends

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[Mr. T. Balaji Rao Nayudu]

and subordinates who are now in the Deputy Collector's grade. There is no doubt that as salaries were increased in all departments, there is no reason whatever why similar increase should not be given in the case of Deputy Collectors also. The feeling in the country is that there is no justification for the enormous increase made in the salaries of the provincial officers of all departments, and especially for the time-scale pay introduced in all departments. I know, as a non-gazetted and gazetted officer and also as a pensioner, how the standard of living has gone high and what the cost of living in the case of a first-grade Deputy Collector would be. I do really feel, even with the knowledge above referred to, that the salaries now increased in all departments deserve no justification. As I have before once or twice stated, the Government, for one reason or another, had to raise the salaries of imperial officers and it necessarily followed that the salaries of provincial officers also had to be raised. This can't be helped now. But the payment of arrears of salary, by way of bonus or remuneration, is a thing which does not satisfy the country and the elected members of the House. Of course, the Hon'ble the Revenue Member said that the Government held out promises and they should be kept up. I quite agree with him. But most of these provincial officers, almost all of them are Indians, who are, in their heart of hearts, requiring, as well as we do, the progress of the country. Though they would not talk to a European in the same strain, yet they are as eloquent as ourselves in talking about the reforms, in getting more share in the Government of the country and so on. They are not a bit behind us in that respect. Not only the Deputy Collectors, but also the officers of the Judicial Department are as good as the vakil population in the matter of having all administration in our own hands. That being the case, I am sure, they would be wise enough not to find fault with the Government for not keeping to their promise. They know that in the altered state of circumstances, the Council has to vote against it and they will curse only the Council and not blame the Government or the Honourable Member in charge. So, in these circumstances I am opposed not only to the payment of the arrear salaries now proposed to be paid but also to the arrear salaries already sanctioned and paid to the officers of the Judicial Department, in whose case I would suggest that the arrears paid should be recovered, by gradual short-drawal from their future salaries."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I rise to oppose the motion for the omission of Rs. 4.24 lakhs for arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors. My reason is this. Every department of service has been given increased salaries and some have been given arrears. It is but proper that this department should also be given the arrears. Simply because the arrears were not provided for in the last year or so, they do not come in the original budget."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT (*interrupting*):—"I think it was said that they were provided for but not disbursed."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"They were provided for, Sir, but final orders were received from the Government of India on the 24th of February."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR (*continuing*):—"If this had been received earlier they would have got it and it would have been continued and it is quite reasonable that the salary which had been fixed and the progressive scale sanctioned by this Government and the Government of India should be given effect to from the date when the Government of India sanctioned the scale."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. We all know, Sir, that we have not yet satisfied the demands of the non-gazetted officers. The Hon'ble the Revenue Member has told us that a

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

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promise was made by the Government that they would pay the arrears of salary to the Deputy Collectors. I think it is the duty of the Council to see that these promises are respected and fulfilled. Further, it has been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member that we have to do justice to these persons since it is not their fault that the scheme for the increase of their salary was delayed. The Indian Civil Service men and the Indian Medical Service men had had their increase of pay and it is injustice to delay the payment of arrears in the case of these Deputy Collectors. If we do this injustice to the Deputy Collectors and thereby satisfy the demands of the non-gazetted officers, I think it is like robbing Peter and paying Paul. Sir, it had been pointed out by some honourable members that these gentlemen are all Indians. But I would tell the House that if we refuse the demand we would be doing injustice to our own brethren."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, if I venture to speak on this resolution, it is not because that I wish to cut down the salary that is earned by these Deputy Collectors but to draw the attention of the House to certain other portions of that valuable record, the Report of the Public Services Commission to which the Hon'ble the Revenue Member had referred. We have heard more than once in the course of this week eloquent appeals made on behalf of Government that they have been giving anxious consideration to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission and it had taken so much time while their subordinates had to be waiting. Yes, no doubt, they have given careful consideration to some parts which require investigation and have carried on correspondence with the Government of India and final orders had to be received from the Secretary of State which all took time. But there are, in the same recommendations, things which could be directly done by the Government without reference to higher authorities without time being wasted. Sir, I am, no doubt, aware of the fact that the Hon'ble the Revenue Member has only inherited what has been handed over to him by the previous Government on the 17th December but he asked us to honour the word given by the former Government in this connexion. Why did not the Government give effect to the recommendation of the Public Services Commission which said that there should be direct recruitment to the extent of 50 per cent? This is what they say on page 189: dealing with the services such as the Deputy Collectors, they say: 'We are impressed with the advantages that are here for the services being recruited in India under the system of direct recruitment. We accordingly advise that in the executive line, 50 per cent be laid down as the maximum amount to which promotion from the lower ranks should be procured. To that extent we also think that such promotion should ordinarily be from the subordinate services and not from other sources.'"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Is that quite relevant to the consideration of the payment of arrears to Deputy Collectors now in service?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think it is. The Honourable Member should confine himself to the particular issue, namely, the payment of arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors and the motion of Rs. 4.24 lakhs for that purpose."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (continuing):—"May I ask, Sir, when the Government makes a recommendation to pay arrears of salary and is itself in arrears with regard to the carrying out of the recommendations of the Commission, when the Government is in arrears with regard to some portion of its work, if this is not the time to point it out when else can it be done?"

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"There are other occasions in which the Honourable Member can bring to the notice of Government questions regarding the

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[The Hon'ble the President]

pay of other services. The question now is as regards arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors, and the Honourable Member should confine himself to that now."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I only pointed out that a very serious matter has been neglected for a very long time and that is in dealing with the method of selection recommended by the Public Services Commission."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member must stick to the question of arrear salaries."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir, and I say that the Hon'ble the Revenue Member should at least take note of that one fact, especially as he is new to the department, that there has not been a compliance with the recommendations and that therefore he should have recourse to direct recruitment as early as possible."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I merely wish to say, Sir, that if the Honourable Member had continued his statement, I would have had an opportunity of speaking on it, but I think it would be out of order now."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I feel it my duty to vote against the demand asked for by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member by way of protest against his not providing any amount to meet the case of the village officers. Sir, he has been eloquently urging the case of the gazetted officers and referred to moral obligations on the part of the Government which compelled him to give them the relief long overdue. I ask, Sir, whether he intends to do the same for the ill-paid village officers whose case is more miserable than that of any others."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur (interrupting):—"I think, Sir, I might at once explain in answer to the statement of my honourable friend on the other side and avoid probably a further speech on that matter by telling him what I told the House the other day, that I have already planned to receive a deputation of the village officers some time next month when I am free from Legislative Council work, and it is only after I have met them and heard their representations that I can come before the House with anything like a definite scheme. At the present moment I have no scheme and I am not therefore asking for any funds on their behalf."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR (continuing):—"If every money available is utilized in various other ways and if afterwards, he comes to the conclusion that village officers do deserve some enhancement of salary, I fail to see, Sir, where he would find the money to pay them their enhanced pay. The village officers are really a hard-worked class of men. Originally they had lands free of assessment. They had some customary emoluments to which they were entitled."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I must beg the Honourable Member to confine himself to the question of arrears of salary to Deputy Collectors. Of course on that I am to blame for having permitted a certain amount of laxity in this respect. If one member deals with one class of officers, another member might deal with some other class, and the question in regard to the arrears of pay of Deputy Collectors will develop into a general debate with regard to all arrears. Therefore I would appeal to the Honourable Member to confine himself to this question of arrear salaries of Deputy Collectors."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"My difficulty is this, Sir: I do not know how else I can bring to the notice of this House the question of village officers."

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I have to give to the Honourable Member exactly the same answer I gave to Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar, viz., that he has other occasions for bringing in motions on the subject. But now I cannot permit him to go outside the question at issue, and I owe a duty to the House to insist upon honourable members to confine themselves to the issues before the House."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"All I can say, Sir, is that Deputy Collectors have my sympathy, and the only thing that I want is justice to be done to others."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, in the course of the debate on demand XLIII, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar raised a question as to the source from which these various items are to be met. I understand from the Hon'ble the Finance Member that these were items which were provided for in the budget for the current year, and that they have lapsed in the course of this year. But in the course of his speech, the Hon'ble the Revenue Member was pleased to state that though orders had been passed, these amounts could not be paid because Government had not the required money in their hands to meet the demand. These two statements, Sir, are contradictory. If the lapsing is owing to other sources, I have a serious objection to vote to the grant, but if the lapse is because the amount originally allotted could not be spent during the year, my vote will be for the grant. I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Member will clear this point."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"May I answer that, Sir? From a note by the Accountant-General it has been ascertained that his revised estimate provides for the payment of arrear salaries during the current year in the following cases :—

LAND REVENUE—Deputy Collectors	LAKHS.
POLICE—Deputy Superintendents	4.24
MEDICAL—Civil Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons...	35
CIVIL WORKS—Public Works Department Provincial Engineering service.	3.80
	3.31

"These payments are provided for in the revised estimate for the current year, which expires to-day, and we cannot therefore pay the amount unless the Council votes the money again for next year."

"May I say, Sir, that when we put forward these demands, we had no idea that the fact that we had had to delay these payments was likely to be made a reason for suggesting that we should not make them at all. I know there has been a delay, which is much to be regretted, but if it is going to be urged that because of that delay we should now deny these men what was promised to them and what has actually been provided in the budget, then I think that it behoves the Government to enter a strong protest. It has been said that this is now a matter for the decision of the Council. That is quite true, but when the announcement that retrospective effect would be given to the new scale of salaries was made, it was not a matter that was subject to the vote of the Council. What has delayed the making of the payments was the fact that the last order of the Government of India accepting the method of recruitment suggested by the Government of Madras was not received till the 17th February 1921. Even then it was open to this Government to issue orders to the Deputy Collectors that they might draw these arrears of salaries in accordance with the orders issued in June last, but we were then on the eve of the budget debate, and we thought it was fair to the Council to

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let them examine the whole question of salaries from top to bottom before we made the payments, but I must say that when we allowed the matter to stand over, it never occurred to us that the Council was going, as a result, to deny the payment of these arrears *in toto*."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—"I wish to know, Sir, whether these arrears are calculated from the date of sanction or from the date of order giving effect to them."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—"The arrears are calculated from December 1919. As I have said, it was practically the action of the Government that has brought this under the vote of this Council. It was perfectly open to the Government to pay the money last February out of funds, which were actually provided in the revised estimate and all that the present motion asks for is that the money which stands in the estimate for this year and which has lapsed to-day may be put into the estimates again for the year that commences to-morrow. Therefore I must say it took me up by surprise to be asked to seize upon this money which has already been given in order to pay it to the non-gazetted officers or other people. I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the assumption that has been made that, though the non-gazetted officers are clamouring, their case received no attention whatever."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"I would request the Honourable Member to leave the non-gazetted officers alone. He must deal with the Deputy Collectors and their arrears of salary."

Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar moved for a closure of the debate.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—"Certainly, I am sorry to intervene. I am bound to keep my eye on the clock. Time before us is very short. I would simply appeal to the House to consider this and that is the reason why I am accepting the closure."

The motion for closure was put and carried.

The motion tabled by the two Honourable Members Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari and Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu for the omission of the provision of Rs. 4.24 lakhs for arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors under Demand XLIV were then put to the Council and declared lost, fifteen members voting *for* and forty-nine *against*.

Demand XLIV—Arrear salaries to Deputy Collectors, Rs. 4.24 lakhs, was put to the Council and was granted unanimously.

DEMAND XLV.—ARREAR SALARIES TO DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 35 lakh for arrears of salary to Deputy Superintendents of Police, in addition to the grants that have been made already. I should like to say in this particular case that the scale of pay was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in a telegram, dated the 23rd October 1919, that orders were issued directing that it should take effect from the 30th October 1919 and that the delay which has subsequently taken place is solely due to the correspondence with the Government of India and afterwards with the Secretary of State in regard to minor points of detail."

[The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar] [31st March 1921]

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. T. M. Narasimhacharlu was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'1. That the provision of Rs. 35,000 for arrear salaries to Deputy Superintendents of Police be omitted.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya was owing to the absence of the Honourable Member not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 35,000 for arrear salaries to Deputy Superintendents of Police be omitted.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'3. That the provision of Rs. 35,000 for arrear salaries to the Deputy Superintendents of Police be omitted.'

Demand XLV was then put to the Council and was granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XLVI.—ARREAR SALARIES TO PROVINCIAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" Mr. President, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 3·80 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Medical Service. In addition to the remarks which have already been made in the debate of the two previous demands, I have only to submit that the case of the medical service is peculiar. They have been very badly paid hitherto and their scale of pay has only recently been increased. Now if we do not pay arrears of pay, there would be a great deal of discontent among a very useful class of public servants."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Is it also from December 1919 ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" It is from a date much later than that. It is from 1st April 1920."

The following motion which stood in the name of Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'1. That the provision of Rs. 3·80 lakhs for arrear salaries to the Provincial Medical Service be omitted.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya was owing to the absence of the Honourable Member not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 3·80 lakhs for arrear salaries to the Provincial Medical Service be omitted.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'3. That the provision of Rs. 3·80 lakhs for arrear salaries to the Provincial Medical Service be omitted.'

Demand XLVI, for a sum not exceeding 3·80 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Medical Service, was put to the Council and was granted *nem con.*

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DEMAND XLVII.—ARREAR SALARIES TO PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICE.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—" I move for a grant not exceeding 3·31 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Engineering Service and I advance the very same reason as the Hon'ble the Finance Member advanced. In these cases, the recruitment was to the Civil Engineering and the recruitment was on 1st February 1920. Although recruitment took place under the orders of the Government on 20th October 1920, retrospective effect was given from 1st February 1920 and the amount was included in the revised estimates. The money might also have been drawn earlier but for certain audit objections that the Accountant-General raised. So the matter had to be taken before the Government of India and the order of the Government of India is daily expected."

The following motion which stood in the name of Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu was not moved by the Honourable Member and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'1. That the provision of Rs. 3·31 lakhs for arrear salaries to the Provincial Engineering Service be omitted.'

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya was in the absence of the Honourable Member not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn :—

'2. That the provision of Rs. 3·31 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Engineering Service be omitted.'

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO then moved :—

'3. That the provision of Rs. 3·31 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Engineering Service be reduced by Rs. 100.'

In doing so, he said :—" I want some information before I can withdraw this motion. I think, Sir, the principle that was followed in the formation of the Madras Engineering Service has raised a great deal of discontent among those that have passed out of the Engineering College. Out of those that pass from the Engineering College, only one is put in the All-India service and the rest have to seek employment either in the local bodies or in the municipalities."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR :—" It seems to me that the matter is not relevant. I am aware of the discontent. But this question of paying them their own salaries due is not by any means to be interfered with. I wish to know whether the Honourable Member is in order in referring to these matters."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Of course, the Honourable Member is in order because he has made only a small reduction of Rs. 100 to bring up this question. But I would appeal to the Honourable Member to consider whether he cannot do it in a little more leisurely way on another occasion. We have a statutory obligation to put the demands before 5 o'clock."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I will simply say this, that there is a grave discontent among the Engineers, who have passed out of the Engineering College. These upper subordinates who have put in 20 years' service and who were drawing only Rs. 150 till now start on Rs. 650 and one or two years afterwards they will retire on a pension calculated on Rs. 650. There is a great discontent among those

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

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who have passed out of the college after five years' course and I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members to this fact, so that enquiries may be made with regard to these."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. SUBBARAYULU REDDIYAR:—"The question that he raises cannot be settled now. The arrears of salary which have been promised have to be paid now. The matter that he referred to may be considered later on."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu was not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'That the provision of Rs. 3.31 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Engineering Service be omitted.'

Demand No. XLVII, for a sum not exceeding Rs. 3.31 lakhs for arrear salaries to Provincial Engineering Service, was put to the Council and was granted *nem con.*

DEMAND XLVIII.—PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar moved that a sum not exceeding 20 lakh be granted for public libraries.

Demand No. XLVIII was put to the Council and was granted unanimously.

III

CONCLUDING SPEECH OF THE FINANCE MEMBER.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Mr. President, I now beg to move the final motion that the budget as amended be passed. In so doing, I think the Council will desire to hear from me a brief description of the situation as it stands to-day as a result of these nine days of strenuous discussion. In the first place, I would mention one or two changes that have taken place in the opening balance of the estimates of the coming year. We anticipate that our opening balance will be improved on the whole by 18.72 lakhs. This is largely due to resummptions from local bodies and partly to betterment in the revenue.

"Apart from this, there will be increase in our resources due to the disallowances of demands made in this Council to the extent of 13.74 lakhs. The total increase is thus 32.46 lakhs. Out of this we have now used up 21.17 lakhs, including the additional grants which the Council have just voted. Out of this sum, 12.90 lakhs represents the re-allotment of sums lapsing into the opening balance and Rs. 8.27 lakhs represents new grants. The net result is to add a sum of Rs. 11.29 lakhs to the estimate of Rs. 35 lakhs as our closing balance for 1921-1922. Part of this sum may be stated to represent the disallowances under the head of Public Works which were provided out of loan funds. I hope, however, that it will be practicable as the year goes on to allot these loan funds to other works and so make revenue available, in order to increase the amount available for expenditure by my Hon'ble colleague the Minister for Local Self-Government.

"In conclusion, Sir, may I say a word of admiration and thanks to the honourable members of the Council for the ability, patience and moderation with which they have conducted their examination of this their first budget. I was at the outset compelled to apologize to them for the incomplete way in which the

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budget had to be prepared owing to the many revolutions in the system of administration for which provision had to be made in it, and if the motions on it were numerous, I fully recognize that the points which required elucidation were also numerous. I recognize, moreover, that the explanations given have received every consideration at the hands of this Council who have, as the additional demands moved will show, disallowed no more than was necessary to meet the urgent needs which they have at heart.

"May I in conclusion ask the members of this Council to join with me in a word of sincere thanks to the Finance office for the extraordinarily strenuous work they have to do (Hear, hear): first in recasting the whole form of the budget, next in recasting the whole of the demands for establishment under several heads, thirdly in dealing with a new loan policy and a host of new rules and laws at short notice and lastly in complying through it all with the greatest readiness by day and by night with demands for further information? I can assure the Council that if it had not been for the strenuous work of the Financial Secretary and Assistant Secretaries and their staff, it would have been impossible for the Government to put the demands before them even in the incomplete form that they have been able to. I beg to move, Sir, that the budget be passed."

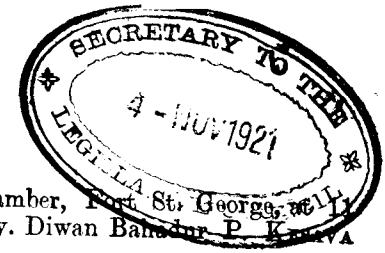
Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I do not know, Sir, whether the motion that the budget be passed is in order. So far as I can see all the demands having been complied with, possibly my honourable friend was thinking of the old Council and the old procedure and moved that the budget be now passed. However that may be, the Hon'ble the Finance Member has thanked the Finance Department for the incessant work which has fallen upon them and the way in which they did it. I think I must supplement this by thanking the Hon'ble the Finance Member himself. At the outset of this new reformed Council, he certainly had to meet many difficulties in framing the budget, in the construction of rules and generally in bringing the new constitution and procedure into line with the Reform Scheme and the rules framed thereunder. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of every member of this Council when I say that while we are endeavouring to enter on a new era of constructive work, the problem of finance will be the most important problem to tackle. In this attempt to set our house in order, I am certain that the Finance Member will have the co-operation of every member of this Council. With these words, I once again express on behalf of the honourable members our indebtedness to the Finance Member."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I wish to associate myself with every word that my friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao has said in connexion with the Finance Member. We are very grateful to him for the ready and sympathetic way in which he answered the questions put to him in connexion with the motions on the budget and for the very patient replies he has given to the speeches of the members of this House. I am sure that the House will co-operate with the Finance Member and see that the Reform Scheme is a success."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think it is necessary to put the budget as amended to vote. I think Mr. Ramachandra Rao is right.

"Now the House will adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 1st day of April 1921, M.R.Ry. Diwan Balaiah P. K. AVARAL, Deputy President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Virudupatti-Tenkasi railway.

544 Q.—Mr. M. R. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(a) to state why the proposed Virudupatti-Tenkasi railway is still in abeyance, it being high time now, since funds have been duly reserved by the Railway Board, for the construction of the line during 1920-21 as per the remarks on page 47 of the administration report for the year 1919-20;

(b) to furnish information as to whether the work may be put in hand during 1921-22.

A.—(a) The remarks quoted in the question refer to the Raipur-Parvatipuram line, not the Virudupatti-Tenkasi railway. The main reason why the latter project is now in abeyance is that the Railway Board are awaiting the result of a revision of the construction estimates and the estimate of traffic earnings. This revision is understood to have been ordered in May 1920.

(b) The Madras Government have done their best to push the project but fear it is not likely to be put in hand during 1921-22.

Interval on Fridays for prayer for Muhammadans.

545 Q.—Mr. M. R. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state whether the concession of allowing two hours' recess on Fridays to all Muhammadans for the purpose of their Juma prayer in all Government offices is being observed in Civil and Criminal Courts as well; and if not whether it may now be extended to those offices also so that the Muhammadan parties may not be inconvenienced in this, their all-important item of prayer.

A.—The rule in question does not apply to Muhammadan parties. They may ask the courts for permission to absent themselves for two hours for the purpose of their Juma prayer. The question and the answer will also be communicated to the High Court.

Muhammadans in Industrial and Fisheries departments.

546 Q.—Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(a) the number of Muhammadans employed in the departments of Industries and Fisheries on posts carrying a salary of Rs. 50 and upwards; and

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(b) the number of scholarships granted to Muhammadan students by the aforesaid departments during the year 1920-21.

A.—The Government have no information, but will call for it.

Railway line from Panruti to Trichinopoly.

547 Q.—MR. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(a) whether it is the intention of the Government to open a railway line from Panruti to Trichinopoly;

(b) if so, when the scheme will come into force.

A.—A line from Panruti to Trichinopoly has long been pressed by the Madras Government but there is no likelihood of the scheme coming into force until the Railway Board are in a position to allot funds for it.

Scholarship for the Bombay Victoria Technical Institute.

548 Q.—MR. M. C. RAJA: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state—

(a) if any scholarships have been recently awarded for study in the Bombay Victoria Technical Institute;

(b) if so, how many of these scholarships were granted and to what communities the scholarship-holders belong; and

(c) if applications were invited by advertisement for such scholarships.

A.—(a) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Three scholarships have been awarded, all to Brahmans. There were twelve applicants in all, of whom only one was a Non-Brahman and he was not qualified under the rules, being only a S.S.L.C. man.

Non-co-operation.

549 Q.—DIWAN Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member whether any circular has been issued to district officers about combating the non-co-operation movement and, if such circular has been issued, to place the same on the table.

A.—No local circular has been issued, but the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the general instructions to Government servants embodied in the recently published Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department, No. 632, dated 7th March 1921.

Assessment on dry lands in Anantapur.

550 Q.—MR. T. SIVSANKARAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Anantapur has ordered postponement of collection of assessment due on dry lands in Gooty and Madakasira taluks;

(b) whether in view of general water-famine in Madakasira taluk and distress in Gooty taluk, the Government propose to issue instructions to the Collector to announce immediately complete remission of dry assessment as a measure of relief and encouragement to the suffering village population in these two tracts;

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(c) what the total extent is of occupied assessed dry land in Gooty and Madakasira taluks and what is the area affected by the postponement order out of that extent;

(d) what the total demand is of assessment due on dry lands under occupation in these two taluks;

(e) what the total amount covered by the postponement order is;

(f) whether it is a fact that the order for postponement of collections has not been given effect to in respect of dry survey numbers when even a small extent of them happens to be covered by trees or crops; and

(g) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to the Collector to extend the concession of postponement to the case of all such lands irrespective of the fact of any fraction of the extent being covered by trees.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (g) The Collector has promised to submit detailed proposals for the suspension and remission of dry assessment in the Gooty and Madakasira taluks. His proposals are awaited. The Government will consider the suggestions when the detailed proposals are received.

(c), (d), (e) & (f) The Government have no information.

MR. T. SIVSANKARAM PILLAI:—"In answer to question 550, subdivisions (d), (e) and (f), the Government say they have no information. May I know when information will be called for and furnished?"

THE HON'BLE KHAN Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"As the whole matter is under the investigation of the Collector and final proposals will be submitted by him to Government, there is, I think, at the present moment no necessity to call for advance information."

Nadar representation in Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely Taluk Boards, etc.

551 Q.—MR. W. P. A. SAUNDARAPANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state the number of Nadar members in the district and taluk boards and municipalities in the districts of Tinnevely, Ramnad and Madura, giving in each case their number separately according as they are elected or nominated.

A.—The following statement is placed on the table:—

—	Tinnevely district.	Ramnad district.	Madura district.
District board ..	Three elected ..	Three elected ..	One elected.
Taluk boards .. {	One nominated .. Four elected ..	Four nominated .. Two elected ..	} Three elected.
Municipal councils.	One nominated .. {	Five nominated .. Six elected ..	
			} Two elected.

Pasturage in Tinnevely, Madura, etc.

552 Q.—MR. W. P. A. SAUNDARAPANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to give a list of the specific allotments that have been made in the districts of Tinnevely, Ramnad and Madura, for purposes of pasturage, from out of forest reserve lands.

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A.—It is not clear what the member means by specific allotments; but the total area of *reserved forests* closed and open to grazing during the year 1919-20 in the districts of Madura and Tinnevely *cum* Ramnad are as under :—

District.	Total area of reserve in the district.	Area closed for whole year.	Area open for whole year.	Closed or open for part of the year.
	SQ. MLS.	SQ. MLS.	SQ. MLS.	SQ. MLS.
Madura	660	78	582	..
Tinnevely <i>cum</i> Ramnad	425	301	88	36

Smallpox.

553 Q.—MR. A. SUBBARAYUDU : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government in reference to the fifty-sixth annual report for the year 1919 of the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, what steps the Government have taken to minimise the death-rate by smallpox in municipal areas, while the death-rate in the rural areas is much lower than in the municipal areas.

A.—The Government do not propose to relieve local bodies of their responsibilities in regard to vaccination.

II

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table the following notification issued by the Government under sub-section (1) of section 41 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 :—

NOTIFICATION.

“The Government being of opinion that the Municipal Council of Chirala is not competent to perform the duties imposed on it by law, hereby direct, under sub-section (1) of section 41 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, that it shall be superseded for one year from 11 a.m. on the 1st April 1921.”

III

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“I announce that, under Council Rule 33, His Excellency the Governor has directed that the Committee on Public Accounts shall consist of ten members of whom seven have to be chosen by the honourable members.”

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—“Mr. President, I beg to move that with a view to the constitution, in pursuance of rule 33 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, of a Committee on Public Accounts, consisting of ten members, this Council do proceed on the 1st April to elect seven members to be members of the said committee.

“I need not expatiate on this occasion on the duties of this committee. But I may perhaps remind the members of the House of the very large amount of work which it does in England during a large part of the year, where I believe the meetings are held once a week for several months. The constitution of the

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committee is laid down by the rules. It has to be appointed as soon as possible after the commencement of the financial year. That is why this has been moved the first thing to-day. I would ask you, Sir, to appoint an hour for the receipt of nominations for this committee in order that they may be settled before the Council rises.”

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“Honourable Members who wish to do so are requested to deliver to the Secretary their nominations, up to seven names each, by 2 o'clock to-day so that the members may be elected according to the rules.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“May I inform the Council that under the rules the election has to take place on the system of proportional representation, and if there are only seven nominations there may be no necessity for taking a poll? But if there are more than seven names nominated, a poll will have to be taken, and if Honourable Members have any nomination to make, I take it they will hand over the names to the Secretary.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“May I suggest that the matter be adjourned to 3 o'clock so that we might discuss it in the lunch interval and communicate the result to the Secretary?”

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“Yes: Honourable Members can discuss the matter during the lunch interval. The nominations will be closed at 3 p.m.”

IV

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—“Sir, with reference to the new Standing Order No. 89 which has been passed by the Council directing the appointment, at the commencement of each session, of a House Committee to consider and advise upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of members of the Council, I have the honour to move that the Council do proceed to elect six members to be members of the said committee. I ask you, Sir, to fix an hour within which nominations may be put in. I suggest that the same hour as for the Finance Committee, namely, 3 o'clock this afternoon, may be appointed for this purpose.”

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“Six members have to be elected for the House Committee. If Honourable Members agree upon six members, then they can give the list at 3 o'clock. If they do not agree, an election will be held.”

V

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—“Sir, as will be seen from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the object of this Bill is to do away with the condition of prepayment necessary for preferring revision petitions to the Standing Committee of the Corporation. At present when notices of increased assessment are served upon people, they have to prepay the tax within the prescribed time before filing their revision petition. This works a great deal of hardship, for many people, who are not in affluent circumstances, are unable to pay their taxes in advance, and therefore have practically to forego the concession of taking their case to the Standing Committee for revision. Now I may say, when revision petitions are placed before the Standing Committee, which is composed of representatives of the people, they take a sympathetic view and always try to

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reduce the tax wherever reduction is justified. In many cases the taxation is reduced. Therefore in order that this benefit of revision may be enjoyed by the poorer classes also, I propose to do away with prepayment as a condition necessary for preferring revision petitions.

"Again, the interests of the Corporation have also to be safeguarded. If the parties are not satisfied with the decision of the Standing Committee, they appeal to the Court of Small Causes. In such cases a provision as is stated in paragraph 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons is necessary, that is, that taxes assessed by the Standing Committee should be paid before such appeals are preferred.

"For these reasons, I beg that leave be given to introduce the Bill."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"In view of what my friend has submitted already, I am content to second the Bill. If in the course of discussion I have any suggestions to make to bring this Bill into agreement with mine, they may come in the form of amendments."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Mr. President, I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill, because it removes a real hardship on the part of the poor and middle class people. The rich can afford to pay taxes in advance, but the poorer classes cannot afford to do so. Also it is mostly on the poor and middle class people that the Corporation depends for its rentals. I therefore think that this Bill is necessary."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"The Council will remember that towards the beginning of this session there was a resolution moved by Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar to amend the rules in the Madras Municipal Act and the resolution was debated at length and at the conclusion of the debate I assured the honourable mover that the Government would have no objection to the amendment, provided it did not go beyond excusing the prepayment of tax at the first stage of the application for revision. Accordingly Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib has now given notice of a Bill amending the Madras City Municipal Act of 1919. Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar has given notice of another Bill to the same effect. Mr. Usman's Bill covers all stages of the application for revision. The scope of the Bill has therefore to be limited to the first stage of the application and I have no doubt that when the Bill reaches the committee stage the required changes may be effected to limit the scope of the Bill, so that it may cover only the first stage of the application. The Government do not propose to go back on the assurance they gave. Sir, on behalf of the Government I have no objection to the leave being granted."

The Council then unanimously granted leave for the introduction of the Bill.

VI

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Constitution of a Finance Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Mr. President, I beg to move the motion standing in my name—

'17. That this Council recommends to the Government that a Finance Committee of the Council be formed, consisting of nine members, of whom six shall be elected by the Council in such manner as may be prescribed by the President and the other three shall be nominated by the Governor, one of whom shall be the Finance Member, who shall be Chairman of the Committee.'

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"In opening the budget debate that has just been completed, I announced that the first task of the year 1921-22 would be a complete overhauling of our administrative machinery with a view to economy and that this overhauling was to be undertaken under the personal direction of His Excellency the Governor. In closing the first stage of the debate I referred to the share which could be taken in the matter by the members of this Council and particularly to the proposal which was made by Mr. Ramachandra Rao for the establishment of a Finance Committee. I also referred to the various committees that have been set up in England to deal with similar questions arising there.

"The most successful of the English Committee is the Public Accounts Committee, but as I have already pointed out to the Council, that committee constitutes not an economy machine, but a regularity machine. It has nothing to do with the determining of what money should be voted. Its business is to see that the money that is voted is properly spent. For this purpose, it will receive the audit and appropriation reports and it will also receive and inquire into the reports received from time to time in the course of the year of defalcations or other irregularities. My Honourable Colleague, the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government, has further proposed that it should in addition receive and examine the reports on the audit of the accounts of local bodies. For the purpose of its enquiries, it may examine representatives of the departments concerned from the Secretariat and if necessary summon the officers more directly responsible. The reports of its proceedings will be placed from time to time before the Council. This committee is two-thirds elected and one-third nominated and the Finance Member is the Chairman, and it works to a great extent along official lines. In the picturesque language of Commander Hilton Young: 'As soon as appointed by the House, the committee takes the treasury in one hand, the Auditor-General in the other, and goes a hunting in the expenditure for the year under review, as certified in the Appropriation Accounts. The Auditor-General beats the bush and starts the hare; the committee runs it down; and the treasury breaks it up.'

"The duties of the Standing Finance Committee will be quite different. Their main function will be to scrutinize proposals for new expenditure and to advise whether they should be accepted as suitable for entry in the next budget or in cases in which the expenditure is urgently required, whether a supplementary estimate should be moved. Again, as I mentioned in moving the demand for a small reserve, should cases of immediate urgency arise at a time when the Council is not sitting, I hope that the Council will approve of the Government incurring expenditure in anticipation of the approval of the Council after consultation with this Committee. When the budget season approaches, the work of the Committee will be more strenuous as it will be necessary for it to scrutinize all new proposals before they are entered in the budget and thereafter to advise, if the approved proposals cost more than the money available, which of them shall be given precedence.

"Lastly, we come to the question of economies. As the Council is aware, there have been numerous inquiries into this matter before and a considerable number of reductions in expenditure has taken place, but for reasons which are sufficiently obvious none of these inquiries have really gone to the root of the matter. It is not within the power either of heads of departments or of special officers to make the root and branch changes which alone will suffice to save the very large sums which are now required. Those changes need in many cases a complete change of policy, and in still more a sacrifice of efficiency, and what we have to face now is whether the time has not come to abandon a good deal of the

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meticulous detail in which work is at present done, and if necessary in so doing to make changes in policy and sacrifice a certain amount of efficiency. The plan which His Excellency the Governor has adopted to this end is to call upon each head of department to put up a scheme showing how he would work his department if he had to do so at four-fifths of the present cost. It will be quite open to him to show that any such reduction would result in great loss of efficiency or even in injury to the public welfare. This will be a matter to be considered. But what we shall get in the first instance is a series of schemes showing what we would have to dispense with in order to make a saving of 20 per cent. It is not to be supposed that all the schemes will be accepted, and it is to be hoped that the inquiries of some heads of departments will indicate lines of economy which can be adopted in all, and generally that the replies to the reference will indicate means of substantial economies even if they do not enable us to make the great saving of 20 per cent. However that may be, His Excellency proposes, as these schemes come in, to refer them to the Finance Committee for examination. The results of that examination will be placed before the Council so that I hope that by the time the next budget season approaches we shall have ready a complete set of proposals for the reduction of public expenditure.

"In asking you, Sir, to be good enough to prescribe a method of election to the Committee, we are following the example of the Government though we differ slightly from them in the matter of its composition. It seemed to the Cabinet that, as the Committee must be closely associated in all its work with the Finance Member, it would be desirable that he should take part in all their discussions. I need hardly remind the House that he is not personally in charge of any departments that have to do with the spending of provincial revenues."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I beg to second this motion. It is hardly necessary to explain that this proposal is intended mainly to bring under examination new proposals for expenditure, whereas the Public Accounts Committee is intended to check the public expenditure as sanctioned by the Council. I think the proposal is entirely sound and I have great pleasure in associating myself with this motion."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Sir, I want to say a word with reference to this proposal for a Standing Finance Committee. Now, this Committee is intended very largely to perform the functions of the old Finance Committee and may I suggest for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Finance Member to increase the number of this Committee to 12? The strength of the old Finance Committee was twelve, six non-officials and six officials. May I suggest to the Hon'ble Member for Finance to have the same number in this Committee as well? Sometimes it may happen that there may not be a quorum, and as it is possible there may be no quorum for some of the meetings, it is better to have as large a number as possible."

"May I move an amendment with your permission, Sir, to have twelve as the strength of the Committee instead of nine?"

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I second the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I would invite attention to the fact that this amendment is moved without notice. The number which is put down in my resolution is the result of very careful discussion in the Cabinet, and I think if honourable members were not satisfied with that, it would have been well that they should have given notice. I regret that I cannot accept without notice a proposal for the reversal of the arrangements we have come to after careful consideration."



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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment. So far as the number nine is concerned, it will be very convenient, and it is in accordance with the old tradition, the famous tradition of *Navagraham*. The resolution has been seconded by an Honourable Member from the north, Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu, and I, coming from the south, give my wholehearted support to the main motion."

At this stage the Deputy President read out Standing Order No. 60 (1), and as the Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter objected to the amendment without notice, the amendment was withdrawn.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

A Committee to revise the Famine Code.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The next resolution stands in my name. I shall put it off with the permission of the House for some other time in the day and move it when the Hon'ble the President is in the chair."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I rise to a point of order, whether it is permissible for the President to give himself the permission to move his own resolution out of the order entered in the agenda, according to which this resolution should be moved first?"

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Member will be pleased to observe that I asked the permission of the House to put it off."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I formally move that this resolution be taken tomorrow."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I second it."

The motion being carried by the Council, the resolution was deferred accordingly.

Enfranchisement of women.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, the resolution I beg to move is this:—

"19. This Council recommends to the Government that the sex disqualification prescribed in sub-clause (b) of clause (1) in rule 7 of the *Madras Electoral Rules for registration of the electoral roll be removed in respect of women and that the qualifications which entitle men to vote be made applicable to women.*"

"Sir, the first observation that I wish to make with reference to this resolution is this. It will be noticed that this resolution, if passed, will give women only the right to vote and not the right to stand as candidates for the Council. With reference to the latter right, namely, the right to stand as candidates for the Council, it is not within the power of this Council to give that power to women. That can be done ultimately only with the sanction of Parliament. The Government of India have to make rules and those rules have to be laid before the Houses of Parliament and have to be approved by them. Therefore, this legislature has no power to vote for granting the power for standing as candidates to women. One of the rules specifically says that women are now prohibited from standing as candidates. I do not at the present moment say one word with reference to the desirability or otherwise of enabling women to stand as candidates, because this Council does not possess that power. Therefore I restrict my motion to enabling them to vote in the election."

"What I wish to say next, Sir, is this: that this question of giving the power to vote to women came for consideration before the Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the House of Lords and that Committee did not ultimately give

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a decision on this question. What they decided and what exactly has been embodied in the electoral rules is this: that if in a particular province the Legislative Council of that province makes a recommendation that the power to vote be given to women, then the Local Government shall frame the necessary rules. That is the conclusion which was come to by the Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In accordance with that conclusion a rule has been embodied in the electoral rules. So it is in accordance with that that this resolution now comes before the House.

"Now, Sir, without going into the details of the qualifications requisite to enable a person to vote, broadly speaking, let us see who are the persons to whom the right to vote is not given. The persons to whom franchise is denied generally speaking are these: aliens, lunatics, imbeciles, idiots, children, criminals and women (*laughter*). Well, that laughter itself, I take it Sir, is an indication of the untenability of the position in which we have placed women at present. Let us now examine the reasons that are applicable to these different classes who are now excluded from the right of franchise. In the case of aliens, there are of course very good reasons why this power is not given to them. They owe no allegiance to the State and to the Crown and consequently they are rightly deprived of the privileges that the State and the Crown can grant. In the case of lunatics, imbeciles and idiots they are incapable of forming an opinion and so rightly they are deprived of the right to vote. In the case of the children also, reasons more or less similar hold good. Children are in the majority of cases incapable of forming sound judgment and so the right to vote is naturally denied to them also. In the case of criminals also, and reasonably they are deprived of the right to vote. Criminals are enemies of societies. They are not prepared to obey the laws of Government and society. It is therefore quite proper and reasonable that they should not be given any hand in the framing of laws which they themselves are not prepared to obey. Does any of these reasons apply to women, Sir? Emphatically not. Now, with reference to the power of forming judgment, some women I should say, Sir, are more capable of forming sound judgments than some men (*Hear, hear*). If we look to the professions, learned or otherwise, we find that the medical profession is largely manned by women. There is a large number of women who have adopted the profession of doctors and nurses. If there is any profession at all in which right judgment is necessary, it is the profession of medicine. As a matter of fact in the medical profession, questions of life and death often arise. Then again, Sir, women are largely employed in teaching and imparting instruction to young minds—a profession in which judgment of a very high order is necessary. If the point is to be one of capacity to form sound judgment, it is not right to deprive women of their right to vote. Then, if we look to the aspect of obeying laws and of being enemies or friends of society, certainly women are as law-abiding as men. I may go a little further and say that women are more law-abiding than men. If we look to the statistics, we find that there are five men criminals to one woman criminal, so that they are more law-abiding than men. On that ground there is no reason why they should be deprived of the right of voting. As a matter of fact, Sir, half the population of the province consists of women and they pay taxes. On that ground there is no reason whatever why women should be deprived of the right of voting. Then there is this curious anomaly, namely, that men clerks or men motor drivers who are employed under women, who pay a particular rate, have the right of voting, but the women themselves under whom they are employed have no power of voting.

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"Then sometimes other reasons are given for depriving the women of the right to vote. It is said that even if the right is given to them they won't come to the polling booths. This was what was stated at the time when it was proposed to give the right of voting to the men at large. As a matter of fact we find out of our experience at the last election that a very large number of persons quite contrary to the expectation of some came to the polls and recorded their votes. So that, if the right of voting be granted to women, it will be found that they will rightly and gladly avail themselves of the opportunity and will vote. Then it is stated that women do not take interest in public questions. Let me analyse that. It will be found, Sir, that in many of the important public questions women take more interest than men. It is not necessary that they should have any political training. Just look to our own household. Women find that the price of provisions goes very high. When the prices rise to four or five times, naturally their attention is drawn to the economic condition under which this state of affairs takes place. They find that their children, boys and girls, have to pay larger amount of school fees both in the case of grown-up boys and girls as well as in the case of young boys and girls. Then there are certain departments in which the assistance and advice of women will be more valuable than the assistance and advice of men. Take for instance maternity, the problem of child welfare, and the delicate questions of marriage and divorce. In these matters the mandate and opinion of the women electors will certainly be far more valuable than the advice of the men electors. It is stated, Sir, again that the ultimate basis of Government is physical force. Therefore women being weaker, women being *Abalas*, should not be given the right to vote. Well, if that argument is pushed to its logical sequences, I do not know where all of us shall be landed. In that case the right to vote should be given to the strongest man—the man with the greatest muscular power. Under those circumstances many of us, at any rate I, shall not be here. So, that argument does not hold water.

"Then it is stated that women themselves are not earnest and that they themselves do not make any attempt to get that right. Let us see how the facts stand with reference to that. When the Secretary of State and the Viceroy came to Madras, a deputation of Indian women waited upon them in December 1917. Then resolutions for the removal of sex disqualification were passed in every district and in the Provincial Conference as in Malabar, Coimbatore and other conferences. Then many of the Congress Committees have passed resolutions recommending the removal of sex disqualification in the matter of voting. The Muslim League passed a resolution in 1918 saying that women should be given the power to vote. Several witnesses appeared before the Franchise Committee and stated that the right to vote should be given to women. Then meetings of women were held all over the country and many telegrams were sent to high placed statesmen who are both in office and out of office in England. Then ultimately when the evidence of Lord Southborough was taken before the Joint Committee, he said that women themselves in India did not desire to have a franchise. Women in India were really astounded at it, Sir. As soon as they knew it, they raised such an indignant and loud howl of protest, Sir, as only women can raise (*Laughter*).

"And immediately they set their machinery in motion and meetings were held all over the country. Forty-five meetings of women's associations were held, cables were sent to the authorities in England and a deputation of men and women waited upon the Secretary of State in England in August 1919, and that is in addition to the first deputation in Madras. Women witnesses left India and appeared before the Parliamentary Committee. Then after that, in Madras, long

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before this resolution was known to the public, on the 28th of January, a large conference of ladies was held at Madras and they moved in very strong terms and passed a resolution that the right of voting should be granted to women. After it became known that this resolution was to be moved in this Council, honourable members of this House know the activity which women have been putting forward. They have held meetings all over the Presidency and sent deputations. A deputation waited on my friend the Hon'ble the Law Member and one deputation waited on my friend the Minister for Development. In fact they have been trying everything in their power to get this vote, and if ultimately this Council—I do not expect it, Sir,—if ultimately this Council is not generous to pass this resolution, though as I submitted I do not expect that contingency, the fault certainly will not be women's.

“Then, Sir, let us see whether they possess similar rights elsewhere. The right of voting is granted under the District Municipalities Act, and here I may mention, Sir, that, under the Local Boards Act, women are given the power even of standing as candidates for election to the local boards. Having given this power under the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act to women, are we now going to withhold that right from them? As a matter of fact, for municipalities and local boards, the qualifications for voting are much lower than the qualifications for voting for the Legislative Council and seeing that they possess the right to vote for those bodies, I do not think we shall be justified, after having granted them those rights, if we refuse to grant them those rights here.

“Then, speaking of the Legislative Councils, the Legislative Council in Travancore, an Indian State, has granted the power of voting to women. And certainly there is nothing incongruous and nothing unreasonable if we follow all these precedents and grant the right of voting for members of this Council to women.

“Then, let us see, Sir, what some of the best minds in India think about this question. I say, Sir, that some of the best minds in India are in support of the view that I respectfully place before the Council now. To take only some representative names from all communities, Sir Sankaran Nayar is very much in favour of this question and as a matter of fact when women witnesses went from India and appeared before the Parliamentary Committee, he rendered considerable assistance to them and rendered all facilities to witnesses to give evidence. I understand that he himself gave evidence before the Parliamentary Committee urging that the right of voting should be granted to women. Now, he is a Hindu. Another Hindu who occupies a very prominent position again, Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, the respected President of the Bombay Council at present, went even further. He presided at a meeting which sent a cablegram to the authorities in England urging that this right should be granted to women. These two gentlemen are Hindus. As for Muhammadans, there is His Highness the Aga Khan who is very much in favour of granting this right to women. There is also Mr. Isphani, another Muhammadan gentleman. So, there are gentlemen in the Muhammadan community who are in favour of granting this right to women. Then, there is Sir M. Bhowanagree, a Parsee gentleman, who is also in favour of this right being conceded to women. All the witnesses, Sir, who went from India and gave evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, I am referring now to men witnesses, deposed in favour of granting this right to women with only two exceptions.

“Then, it is stated, Sir, that if this right is granted to gosha women, they will not avail themselves of it. With reference to that, there are many questions

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for consideration and this reason should not be allowed to stand in the way of this right being granted to women. In the first place, some years ago, when the right of franchise was first granted to women in Australia officers were appointed—there it was men officers—to go to these women and take their votes. Here, similar officers may be appointed, women officers may be appointed to go to gosha ladies and take their votes. I understand from my honourable friend there (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Subbarayalu Reddiyar) that even now in Negapatam and Nagur where I understand there are large numbers of women voters, I suppose, in relation to local boards and municipalities, women are appointed to record the votes of gosha ladies. A similar arrangement may also be made in connexion with elections to the Legislative Council.”

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“May I ask the honourable gentleman where he got that information regarding the recording of votes by gosha ladies?”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“I got that information from my honourable friend who sits opposite, the Hon'ble the first Minister.

“Then there is another thing, Sir, and that is this. Gosha lady voters do not exist in all parts of the country. This is a privilege that is proposed to be granted and if some of those to whom this privilege may be granted are not willing to avail themselves of it, is that a reason, I ask the members of this House, why that right should be refused to others? It is a privilege and if some of those to whom the privilege is granted do not avail themselves of it, by all means let them not do so. In fact, Sir, I can think of no reason which is in favour of granting the right of voting to men which is not applicable to women also. If we grant this right of voting to women it would give a very great impetus to the spread of female education which all of us have so much at heart. Well, Sir, in 1884 when Mr. Gladstone gave the right of vote to the agricultural labourers in England, they were as a body very ignorant and one of the arguments advanced against Mr. Gladstone in those days was that the agricultural labourers were all ignorant, that they themselves did not desire to have the vote and that there was therefore no need to give them the right to vote. ‘Whether they wanted it or not, whether they desired it or not it is certainly good for them to have it’, said Mr. Gladstone, and he accordingly granted it with the result that education among the agricultural labourers developed very considerably and we now know what power they are in the land. Then the right to vote enhances the self-respect of those that possess the vote. Now, it is my experience and I believe it is the experience of all my friends at least of those who have come to this Council through the door of election that, at the time of election we are very polite, we all go to the voters and are ready to do anything for them. In England I have heard that the proudest aristocrats who generally do not condescend to look at labourers, when the time of election comes, go to the labourers' houses and kiss their children. Of course, we have not gone to that extent here, but certainly we have gone to the extent of being very polite to these voters, consulting their wishes and being ready to oblige them in all ways. So that, if the right of voting is granted to women, naturally their condition will be improved and their self-respect will be enhanced.

“Well, Sir, I do not wish to detain the Council very much longer. I may say, Sir, that in 1832 when the first Reform Bill was passed in England the right of voting was granted to men who possessed certain qualifications, but that right was denied to women. There were subsequent Reform Acts passed and under those Reform Acts also the right of voting was not granted to women, and it took 86 years before this mistake, this blunder, was remedied. It was only in 1918

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that the right of voting was granted to women, and it required the most terrific war the world has ever seen and the experiences during the time of that war to give this right to women. It was found during the time of war that women were as useful in the successful prosecution of the war as men themselves. They were employed even in factories where shells were manufactured and all those statesmen and all those common people who till the outbreak of the war were against the grant of this right to women unanimously approved of the grant of it and accordingly the Parliament granted that right to them about two or three years ago. Let not that mistake be repeated here and let us also, if possible, avoid the occurrences which took place elsewhere. We know that in England women broke glass windows, threatened Cabinet Ministers with the kidnapping of their children and on one occasion the present Prime Minister Mr. Lloyd George who has such a large share in shaping the destinies of this world was unable to defend himself against a woman who mistook him for Mr. Asquith the then Premier and who was then against women franchise and horsewhipped him on one occasion in a railway platform in Scotland. Let us not have such occurrences here and let us avoid the possibility of such things. I do not say that Indian women will do so; in fact there are many English women also who were against the doing of such things. In any case, let us avoid the possibility of such occurrences in this country. (A voice. 'What do you do if they beat you?') I would expose my back to them if they want to do so. I am not against them and I know they will not attack me.

"Then, I submit, Sir, that if not to-day, to-morrow the right will have to be granted to them. Why not give it to them to-day with grace and earn their undying gratitude? Madras has always been noted for its practical commonsense and business capacity, and this Council contains the pick of men from the Madras Presidency and represents the business capacity and practical commonsense of this Presidency. Why should we not give a lead to the other Presidencies and set an example by granting this right to women? With these few words, I leave this resolution, may I say, Sir, with a feeling of confidence not altogether unmixed with a feeling of trepidation, in the hands of my honourable colleagues."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"I beg to second this resolution. In my family a very strict gosha system prevails and therefore I rise to second this resolution most heartily because I do not think that that ought to be a matter which should prevent the giving of this franchise to women. A lawyer friend of mine has told me that under the General Clauses Act and under the Evidence Act a man includes a woman. I was expecting my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar to refer to that, but he has not been a practising lawyer perhaps for a long time and he has apparently forgotten it. I came across an inscription relating to Uttaramerur Chaturvedamangalam, I think in Tanjore district, from which I learnt that women even a thousand years ago were serving on several committees, such as, garden committee, tank committee, etc. If that is so, I fail to see why they should not be made eligible now with the advance of education and liberal views in the 20th century. I may cite an incident which happened in my father's time. There was a discussion as to who between the two the god Siva or the goddess Parvati was the greater. Mr. Chinna-swami Pillai, the late Tamil Pandit of the Madras Christian College, took part in that discussion. I believe some of the honourable members here may have known Mr. Chinna-swami Pillai. When the man who stood for Siva said that English-knowing people held always that Siva was greater than Parvati, Mr. Pillai who had a ready wit retorted by saying that he knew some English and the word woman contained the word man and 'he' was contained in 'she'. I really think that after the advent of Queen Mary's College, for which we

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allotted only yesterday 3 lakhs of rupees and with the general awakening in this country, women should not be denied this preliminary right of citizenship. I particularly wanted to support this motion even though my women are gosha ladies. I hope my Muhammadan friends will not object to this, taking the gosha system into consideration and thus ignore the larger issues involved in this matter."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—"The motion which has been put and seconded is not a matter which is definitely in charge of any member of Government. But it will be convenient if I explain the attitude of the Government in this matter. Under rule 7 of the Madras Electoral Rules, it is for this Council to decide whether or not to recommend the removal of the sex disqualification for registration in the electoral roll and, if such a recommendation is made, the Local Government have no other option but to make regulations providing for this. In these circumstances it is the opinion of the Government that it would not be right that any official influence should be exercised on the course of debate on this subject. If therefore any member of the Government, including any Minister, or any servant of Government or any Council Secretary should wish to speak or vote, he is entirely at liberty to do so on the understanding that no official influence shall thereby be exercised. As to my personal opinion, it was not my wish to speak on the subject at all; but I have no wish to conceal my view though I shall not vote on the issue. I am personally of opinion that this measure is premature, particularly so in the case of gosha women."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I do not think that I can usefully add anything to the exhaustive speech of Mr. Krishnan Nayar or to the telling and humorous speech which the Raja of Ramnad made in support of this resolution. I should like to make only a very little speech. I am unable to say that we are better than our mothers, sisters or daughters, and if we are entitled to vote I think I cannot deny to my mother, sister or daughter the same right. That after all is the root of the whole question. Upon this question there has been a great deal of controversy and I myself have attended many a debate on this subject and have awarded prizes for the best speeches made on this subject 'whether women should have votes or not'. I should, however, venture to say that women in Southern India are particularly fitted for the enjoyment of the franchise which the Government have now placed in the discretion of the male representatives of the male inhabitants of this Province. If one-half of Southern India is to be shut out from all political progress, if women are to be prevented from exercising their softening influence, their sweetness and light on public affairs, it goes without saying that the male representatives of the male inhabitants of the Province will be lamentably failing in their duty. Further the women of Southern India (I do not mean any offence to women elsewhere) are by no means lacking in the capacity which is necessary for discriminating between what is wise and what is unwise. They have as the experience of most of the honourable members in this House must tell them really got the governance of the household. They have really very much more influence and wholesome influence upon the male members of the household than is always recognized. It will be idle to deny them the right which has been conferred upon us. I only wish to say one word more and that is this. Public life will be immeasurably purified and strengthened by the arrival of women in the public life of this province. I am not altogether sorry for the moment that women are excluded from the assembly. I think we have got to fit ourselves here for their company. It is by the vote that political education can spread amongst our women and unless women take active part in shaping the destinies of the province I do not think there will be any great amelioration.

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Their wonderful imagination will solve many a problem of vital importance which man is unable to solve. I venture to hope that this resolution will be unanimously agreed to without a division. There need be no fear on the part of some of us that false personation will be easier in the case of women voters. Possibly it may be so. But precautions can and must be taken. It may be said that women are more liable to be influenced by their husbands, brothers or fathers or some of the elders of the family. As we are not giving universal franchise but only extending the limited franchise which has been conferred upon us there is no fear that this electorate will become unwieldy. It may be that the inclusion of women to the franchise will necessitate the alteration of the electorates. In some districts there are 50 or 60 thousand voters and in other districts there are 30 or 40 thousand. We need not hastily come to the conclusion that the conferring of franchise on women will necessarily mean doubling the existing number. I rather think that the percentage of women that will be really benefited will not be so large as to lead to serious practical difficulties. Even if it becomes too large the electorate can and should be remodelled.

"With respect to corrupt practices, I do not know whether they can be more easily practised in the case of women voters than in the case of male voters. For these reasons I think that this resolution is one which should commend the whole-hearted and unanimous support of this House."

MR. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"We, very often boast that we are highly civilized. But we forget that the position of the women in a particular society is the standard of the measure of civilization in that society. Considering the low position of our women we cannot call them civilized. If our women are not civilized we have no business to call ourselves civilized. Civilization means redeeming people from a low position, and improving their position in life. What we are now asking for is the ancient property of Southern Indian women. There was one woman, a great woman, called Koperundevi, the Royal wife of Pūta Pandian. Her advice was very often taken by her husband the King. Examples of innumerable other ladies may be mentioned. For instance, (1) Nachelliar (2) Kakkaipadiniyar, and (3) Auvayar and many others. These were all very learned ladies and they enjoyed equal rights and privileges with men. They were very independent. They were often consulted by kings in important affairs of State. Of the three Auvais, Auvai the first was the worthy sister of our great Tiruvalluvar. She was very often sent for by the then Chola, Pandia and Chera Kings. So, our ancient Dravidians were highly civilized.

"While these women were enjoying rights and privileges equally with men in ancient South India, some influence came from the north and then gave them a place equal to Sudras. Even the Brahman ladies are classed as Sudras. They are intended for the service of their male members. It is also said that according to Baratam women, sickly men, poor people and some others are unfit to be in the Council of State. Even now in Jaffna, women are given equal rights with men. The ladies there are very much better off than the Indian ladies. For they went out of South India and settled in Jaffna long before the Aryan influence came in. Again, in our country Sutte was at one time prevalent. There were also some other horrible customs and the women were never allowed to have a free will of their own. But fortunately the British Government came and with it many benefits. Sutte was prohibited by Lord William Bentinck in 1832. Gradually other privileges were extended to women. The Widow Remarriage Act and other Acts were passed. It is only when the ladies are emancipated that we shall be emancipated. We are now slaves to custom. We are unable to extricate ourselves from this difficult position. So we want help and it is

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only the ladies that must come to our help. If they are given equal rights and privileges, certainly they will teach us how to occupy a higher position. In all other countries women are given equal rights with men. Even in the Parliament they have got equal rights, and a lady is now a member of the Parliament. A lady is sent as a representative to the League of Nations in Georgia. Go to Rangoon and you will find that the trade is managed by the ladies. Sir, we forget the fact that we are moving and living in the midst of women. What is the earth called?—Bhūmadēvi. What is above our head?—Akasavāni. What is round us?—water, i.e., Gangādēvi. We are surrounded on all sides by women. We are helped by them and yet we refuse to treat the ladies at least as our equals. We derive all benefits from them and we refuse to give them any return. We are indebted to women for all that we enjoy. We are keeping all our female population in the dark. In family matters if there is anything bad we throw the blame on our wives. But if any good thing is to come, we take all the credit to ourselves. We cannot call ourselves civilized unless we give equal rights to our women. We want self-government. How can we get it single-handed? We cannot succeed in anything unless the men and the women work together. Suppose there is a carriage, and a small pony and a very big pony are yoked to it. How will they run? We must give our sisters, mothers and wives equal rights with us in every affair. Even the so-called Hindu Law which is based upon Smritis has denied the right to females, of holding property. But in Jaffna the women have got a right to the property. Such being the case, why should we not in India, we southerners, the descendants of the civilized ancients, give equal rights with us to our ladies? There are now among ladies, barristers and jurors. Even now in many matters, are we not consulting our wives? While we consult them secretly, I do not see any reason why we should not consult them openly. Respect women and we shall be respected. With these few words, Sir, I strongly support the resolution."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to oppose this resolution on behalf of my community. A year ago municipal votes were given to women and some difficulty has been experienced in the matter of exercise of votes by Muhammadan women. As a matter of fact I know that some people are taking recourse to irregular practices at the time of elections. Last year when the municipal elections were taking place I was present at a polling station and a Muhammadan lady was brought in a motor-car for the purpose of recording her vote. I thought that no respectable Muhammadan lady would come out like this, and I mentioned this fact to my friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar who was one of the candidates. We both simultaneously thought that it must be a case of false personation, and Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar objected to her vote being recorded. We then discovered that she was a servant woman who was not entitled to vote and had come there to vote, taking a bribe of one rupee. This is a fact and I hope that my friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar is with me in saying so."

MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (*interrupting*):—"Yes, it is true."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur (*continuing*):—"With regard to the Muhammadan community who strictly observe the gosha system, no franchise need be given to the women and there has been no demand whatever for such a thing. I anticipate a number of difficulties if this right is given to Muhammadan ladies. For example there will be cases of false personations which will lead to lot of election petitions being filed against successful candidates. In order to avoid them I say that at present we do not want any franchise for our

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women. If other communities want it, by all means let them have it. But with regard to our community there has been no demand whatever. It has been said that some Muhammadan gentlemen in England have spoken in favour of this demand. If half a dozen men who do not observe the gosha system hold that opinion, that does not mean that the whole community is in favour of it. I do not want that votes should be forced down the throats of Muhammadan women when they don't want them. One great difficulty in giving franchise to Muhammadan women is as I said before that there will be a lot of election trouble. I think that Government should come to our rescue and see, if the Council passes this resolution, that the Muhammadan women are left alone."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support the resolution now before the House moved by my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar. Mr. Usman Sahib has given us his experience of what the Muhammadan women voters did in a certain division. I also worked for one or two candidates in one or two divisions, though I myself was not a candidate and I can very well say from my personal experience—I had watched the last municipal elections in this city—that the women voters exercised their votes very intelligently and without much difficulty at all. Perhaps in a few cases there was some difficulty to induce these ladies to come to the polling booths and vote. As time goes on I am sure, Sir, that our women will understand the right which is given to them and will exercise their franchise rightly and in a proper manner."

"Now take a more general and broader standpoint. I would submit, Sir, 12-30 p.m. that we people here are very much clamouring for the education of women. We say that our daughters and sisters ought to be educated very freely and very highly too. Giving them the benefits of education which we have received, may I ask this House whether it would be right on our part to get up now and refuse the natural demand which must grow from the education which we have given them? If we do not want to give them the right to vote, then we ought not to have given them education. Then, again, for the progress and political salvation of India, it is not possible that India could obtain it by the aid of men alone. It is by our women also."

"Sir, let us imagine a family where the husband is a very much advanced politician and his wife does not know anything at all. One could very well imagine what a clog she would be upon the way of his progress. Anything which the man does outside connected with the salvation of India will be considered by the ignorant wife as being not essential and that it is mere waste of money. Now-a-days our ladies have risen beyond all these small ideas and they are as anxious as ourselves to see that India should progress. When these ladies are as anxious as ourselves why should we debar them from exercising this right of franchise? I was extremely glad to hear Mr. Somasundaram Pillai when he quoted ancient lore where our ancient women were so freely placed in the arts of administration and other things. After a number of centuries, could we deny this elementary right? There seems to be some misapprehension in some quarters that if we confer on women the right to vote they will also compete with us as candidates. Sir, personally I would not have any objection to that. I would be glad even to allow them to sit side by side with us as Members of the Legislative Council. I am one of those who voted for the franchise of ladies to become as candidates for district municipalities but we were out-voted. It would be sin on our part that we should refuse this elementary right which they are demanding from us. While in the Local Boards Act we have given women the right to stand as candidates along with us, there is no consistency in refusing to give them the right of franchise."

[1st April 1921]

[Mr. P. C. Muttu Chettiyar]

Mr. P. C. MUTTU CHETTIYAR :—"ஸ்திரீகளின்னுடைய சுதந்தர உரிமைகளைப்பற்றிய சமாசாரம் இந்த சபையில் விஜயம் செய்திருக்கிறது. முந்திய காலங்களில் பெரியவாள் எல்லாம் ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு ஒரு சுதந்தரமும் கொடுக்கக்கூடாதென்று ஏற்படுத்திய நியாயங்கள் அநேக காரியங்களை உத்தேசித்து வைத்திருந்தார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி நன்றாய் யோசித்தேன். காலத்துக்குத் தகுந்தபடி வந்ததைப்பற்றி ஆச்சரியத்துக்கிடமில்லை. திருஷ்டாந்தரம் பார்க்கலாம். எத்தனையோ நூற்றாண்டுகளாக, கர்நாடக இராஜாக்களும் சரியே, நம் துரைத்தனத்தாரும் சரியே, இந்த ஏற்பாடு கொண்டுவந்தார்களா? அவர்கள் புத்திசாலிகள் இல்லையா? அவர்கள் உலகத்தை எப்படி ஆண்டு வந்தார்கள் என்பதிலிருந்தே அவர்கள் புத்திசாலித்தனம் தெரியவில்லையா? அவர்களுக்கு மடந்தைகள் என்றும் பேதையர்கள் என்றும் பெயர் ஏற்பட்டு, 5 குணங்களையும் குறித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதாவது மடமை, அச்சம், நாணம் என்ற பல திருநாமங்களையும் பெற்றவர்கள். ஸ்திரீகளுக்கும் புருஷர்களுக்கும் குடும்ப விஷயத்தில் happiness உண்டாகும்படி முன்னமேயே அவர்கள் வேலைகளையும் விவஸ்தை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு பின் தூங்கி முன் எழுப்பவன் என்றும் பாராட்டிடுக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு அதிக நேரம் ஒழிவாய் இல்லை. அதற்காக "தெய்வந்தொழாள் கொழுநனைத்தொழுதுளாள் பெர்யெனப்பெய்யும் மழை" என்றும் வள்ளுவர் குறள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தன் நாயகனை பூஜிக்கவும், கிருஹ கிருத்தியத்துக்கு வேண்டிய சொற்ப விதையே (அதாவது moral and religious) வேண்டுமென்று முன் கர்த்தாக்களால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இயற்கையிலேயே ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு புத்திசாலியும் உண்டானபடியால் படிப்பைக் குறைத்துவைத்தது நியாயமென்றுதான் நான் நினைக்கிறேன். இதுமட்டுமல்ல காரணம். Zenana ஆயும், சில சமஸ்தானங்களில் குழந்தை பிறக்குமுன்னே Zenana ஆயும் இருந்தது. இதனால் ஸ்திரீகளுக்குப் பாவம் அதிகம் கிடையாது. ஆயசு ஜாஸ்தி. அவர்கள் மஹாலக்ஷ்மியினுடைய அவதாரமானதினால் எல்லா சுபமும் புருஷார்த்தமும் அந்த அம்மையார் மூலமாய்த்தான் பதிகள் அடைகிறார்கள் என்றும், அதினால் அவர்களை புருஷர்கள் புஷ்பத்துக்கு சமானமாகக் கொண்டாடத்தக்கதாக நீண்ட காலமாய் இது அனுபோகத்திலும் இருக்கின்றது. ஷட் கர்மம் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு, முக்கியமாக பதிக்கு தாயாகவும், ஸ்னேகிதனாகவும் இருக்கும்படியான சந்தர்ப்பமும் நேர்ந்திருக்கிறது. கொஞ்சப் படிப்பு சரி அல்லத்தான். Little knowledge is a dangerous thing என்று இங்கிலிஷில் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இக்கால தர்மமானது விபரீதமாய் மிகுந்த அறிவாளிகளாய் எவ்வளவோ ஸ்திரீகள் வந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஒரே அளவான படிப்பாளிகளுக்குள் (of equal qualification) ஸ்திரீகள் ஒரு மாத்திரை ஜாஸ்தி புத்திசாலியாய்த்தானிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் கைத்தொழில் மெச்சத்தக்கதாய்த்தானிருக்கிறது. Club, society, தேகப்பயிற்சி இவைகளெல்லாம் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. விசேஷ படிப்பினால் அவர்களுக்கு மேற்சொல்லிய ஒருவித பயமும் வேண்டியதில்லை. படிப்பினால் அறிவு தெளிவடைகிறது. தெளிவடைந்தால் நல்ல பலனைத் தான் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அதுதான் கற்றதின் பிரயோஜனம். புருஷர்களிலும் கற்றவர்களில் மூடர்களாயிருக்கிறார்கள். மஹாலக்ஷ்மியைப்போல் இருக்கும்படியான மாதுகிரோன்மணிகளும் ஒவ்வொரு ஸ்தானங்களிலும் சுதந்தரம்பெற முன்வந்தது மங்களகரமாய்த்தானிருக்கிறது. புராணங்களில் ஸ்திரீ தேவதைகள் சாரத்தியம், யுத்தம் முதலானவைகள் செய்யவில்லையா,

[Mr. P. C. Muttu Chettiyar]

[1st April 1921]

எப்பொழுதும் வராதவர்கள் ஒருபோதும் வரார். Local Board, Municipality களில் வேட கொடுக்கிற சுதந்திரம் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. ஆனால் (qualification) விஷயத்தில் தோது இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது. கல்லியாணக் காமிதம் மாதிரி குடும்பசகிதம்வந்து ஓட்டுக் குடுங்கள் என்று எழுதத்தான்வேண்டாம். ஆனால், ஒன்றுக்குப் பயப்படுகிறேன். ஜனங்கள் எப்படி அவர்களைப் போய் (ஓட்டுக்குள் இருக்கிறவர்களை) vote கேட்பது. இங்கிலாண்டில் வேலைக்காரர்களுக்கு கிராக்கி வந்ததுபோல் இங்குவராமல் இருக்குமா? சிசுக்களுக்கு அமிர்தம் கொடுத்துவளர்க்க டைம் (நேரம்) கிடைக்காது. அது சிசுக்களின் அதிர்ஷ்ட குறைவுதான். ஸ்திரீகளுக்கும் புருஷர்களுக்கும் சொல்வித்யாசம் இருப்பினும் அவர்களுள் வசிக்கிறபரமாத்மா ஒன்றே. ஆதலால், நாம் அவர்களை வித்யாசம்செய்யாது, அவர்களுக்கும் சோஷலாயிடுக்க, புருஷர்கள் அனுமதிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டியதுதான். மேலும் இப்பொழுதுள்ள சீமாட்டிகளை வைத்துமுந்திய பெரியவர்கள் ஏற்பாடு செய்யாததினால், அந்த ஏற்பாடு இவர்களைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தாது. ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு ஓட் சுதந்திரம் கொடுப்பதினால் பாதகமில்லை யென்றுதான் தோன்றுகிறது. ஆகையினால் சுதந்திரம் விரும்புகிறவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கத்தான்வேண்டும்.”

Mr. K. P. GOPALA MENON :—“The whole of the British Empire was ruled by Queen Victoria the Good. Anything that is good to the cause of India and to the whole world must in some way or other be due to the wisdom, the sagacity, and the high ideals of that benign Lady. When we come back to the ancient India and read the Puranas we certainly draw inspiration from those band of warriors such as Satyabama and Subadra whose posterity now ask what is their legitimate due. In recent years we have been giving them education and the University of Madras turns out every year a number of women graduates. Therefore it is needless to contend that women have not yet attained that stage to which they now aspire. I can very well understand the objections which are raised in certain quarters which to my mind do not seem to be quite reasonable. I come from the town of Madura where there was keen competition in a recent municipal election between a Muhammadan and a Sowrashtia Brahman, the former of whom happened to be my client. When the issue was at stake, respectable gosha ladies came to the polling booth and recorded their votes for the Muhammadan gentleman, the result of which was that the former won the contest even though the Sowrashtia gentleman was commanding very great influence in Madura town.

“I wish to point out to this House that it need not be moved by one single isolated specific instance referred to by my friend Mr. Usman Sahib. Are there not instances which go to show that women do deserve this franchise? Has not the time come when the right of franchise should be given to women? Take the case of any country in India. I could with some pride say that in Travancore and Malabar women are more advanced in education than in other parts of India. Are there not a number of instances when in times of danger and distress men take the counsel of the women? Are there not many instances where women have shown themselves deserving of this right of voting? Such being the condition it is very unjust to state that this most humble, most modest and deserving demand made by these ladies should be denied. Of course I do not think this House will deny this right when we have heard from a person like Mr. Krishnan Nayar who it was that first gave effect to it in Travancore the necessity for it throughout Southern India, and especially because the motion was supported by one who is an aristocrat of Southern India, I mean my friend, the

12-45 p.m.

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[Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon]

Raja of Ramnad, who I thought would not support the proposition. He has supported the resolution though his ladies are all gosha ladies and his view is that all ladies should have the right of franchise. I do not think anybody would deny this right. With these words I most heartily support the resolution.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“Sir, I give my hearty support to this resolution and on higher grounds. Every woman is a potential mother and every mother is the head of an administration on a small scale. In a family she presides. She is the scavenger. She is also the health officer, the doctor, the police man, the judge, the executive councillor and in my part of the country she is the Famine Commissioner also. In her Code between famine conditions and relief there is no test work stage. Above all she is the nearest equivalent to God on earth. This saying applies no less to the women of this country than it does in the country to which the English language belongs.”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“Mr. President, I support this motion and probably the House may be curious to know my reasons. Unfortunately the mover has forestalled most of my materials and I am practically stranded. We have now got the vote which has been conferred upon the mere male, subject, of course, to the qualification against children, lunatics and criminals. As my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar said, I have no desire that our women should take a place in the same gallery. I would not have any objection to children being there, but I would draw the line there.

“Our old old grand-father Manu devised a pretty comprehensive category of disqualifications but I do not remember them all, at any rate, my *Smriti* knowledge is getting somewhat rusty, but so far as my recollection goes, he did not put women in that category. I, Sir, a 20th century descendant of his, am not going to adopt that disqualification. I want to share the rights with my sisters. I do not think that the vote by itself is of such immense value that we should immediately try to cry for a monopoly. It may be said, Sir, that it is likely to be an expensive toy. We need not worry ourselves about it. If our sisters want it, we may give it though it is expensive. This is the 1st of April and if the result is disappointing, we can grow strong on its educational value. After all, Sir, they will be in a position to analyze and think about what we are giving them. Perchance they may be able to get at the grip of things essential. It may be possible that they may set us racing along the road to full responsible Government. Perchance it may be possible for them to keep us straight to prevent us from straying in pursuit of will-o'-the-wisps, or in search of mares' nests, after all it may do them good and do us no harm.

“The other point which I want to refer to has been already referred to by Mr. Krishnan Nayar. I have read of the lively times of the suffragist agitation in England, when the disease was acute. I have heard of prominent members of the Cabinet and responsible statesmen making a very hurried exit through dim back doors. I have heard that they had to sneak in, in strangers' cars without even a 'by your leave', and oftentimes I am told they had to beat precipitate retreats, leaving essential articles of clothing behind. We have also heard of window-breaking. No doubt we may not object to such treatment, for we want more ventilation on this bench but that would be a very drastic mode of getting it. Our sisters are not likely to adopt such a precedent. We are seven here. They may think we are responsible. If by chance this motion were to get defeated they may take their revenge on us. I am afraid, except with the possible exception of my slim neighbour, we are unlikely to muster sufficient agility to take flying exercises in an emergency.

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar] [1st April 1921]

"There is a third reason that is personal. The ladies wanted to wait on a deputation on me. Being my first experience, I was naturally fluttered and I tried to put off the deputation and promptly wrote to them that I would help all that I could in getting them the franchise. But they would not accept the evasion. They came in strength and I surrendered at discretion. I promised to support them. The House may accuse me of cowardice. I plead guilty. But I want to be honest and redeem my promise and I support the motion with fervour."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"This motion, Sir, has already received considerable support from various gentlemen and it is unnecessary to say anything in favour of the motion which has already been influentially supported. Ideals of ancient Indian womanhood have also been referred to. The granting of franchise to women at the present day is not at all inconsistent with those ideals. There are one or two speakers who spoke against the motion."

[A voice :—One speaker only.]

"The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson said that it was his personal opinion that this reform was premature. The Honourable gentleman is not here and therefore I do not wish to dilate at length on this theory of prematurity which is sometimes feistish with the officialdom in this Presidency. The Madras Government were not prepared for the reforms and they considered the reforms which were ultimately embodied in the statute as premature. I may say that this attitude is due to the conservative element in the Government of this province. I do not, for a moment, consider that the present reform is premature. I was one of those who as a member of a deputation to the joint select committee already committed myself to the view that the franchise to women should be conceded, and I still adhere to that view. Whatever has happened subsequently has not led me to change my views on the subject. The other day the Hon'ble the Finance Member made a reference to a character in the Pickwick papers. May I make a reference to the famous election at Eatonswell where the election agents of the candidate advised him to kiss the babies in order to please the mothers and also to present parasols to them. I do not think that we shall adopt Pickwickian methods in the country. It has been suggested that English women did not exercise any influence on parliamentary elections before the franchise was actually conceded to women. This is not a fact. The history of the Primrose league shows clearly that English women exercised considerable influence on the elections long before the franchise to woman was actually conceded."

"Sir, some suggestion has been made that if the franchise is granted there would be considerable addition to the electoral rolls. I do not think that this would be the case. There may be an appreciable addition to the register in Malabar and South Kanara where the system of holding property is different. In municipal towns the electoral rolls would contain a number of women voters; and on the whole the actual additions to the electoral rolls must be, in my opinion, comparatively small. The First Minister thinks that in the rural parts it is more than likely that the addition to the electoral roll would be slight and I agree with that view. Whatever it is we have no justification to deny the vote to women at the present day and I give my whole-hearted support to this proposal."

"In England, I believe that although the franchise to women meant an addition of eight million voters to the electoral rolls, the women who actually went to the polling booth were comparatively few, although they were given the right of sitting in Parliament, only one lady actually succeeded to get into Parliament. I should therefore think that there need not be any apprehension that this House is going to be flooded with lady members."

1st April 1921] [The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"There is no question of their sitting in the Council."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I am entirely aware of that fact."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (from the chair) :—"In view of a large number of requests to speak on this very important motion, I would limit the time to five minutes for each member to speak."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have very great pleasure to support this resolution brought forward by my honourable friend, and in speaking to-day, I do it with some diffidence because it is the 1st of April. Sir, many of the civilized countries of Europe and America have accepted this principle of women suffrage and have brought it into practice. In India, it is said, we do not know how to treat our women and some think that the position of women in our country is one of inferiority. But, Sir, I say that if the legal systems of a country is an index of its social condition, in India, the status of women is much higher both legally and morally than that prevailing in England. Invariably in English Law books you find, with regard to legal disabilities, children, lunatics, criminals and women are classed together. Unfortunately women are placed in a worse position than the first three. Children can become majors, lunatics can become sensible, and convicts after certain period get all right. But a woman never gets civic rights just as 'once a mortgage always a mortgage' so also 'once a woman always a woman'. As late as 1857 the Divorce Act that was passed is an eloquent testimony of the ideals of the English people in regard to the relationship of men and women. According to the Act of 1857 a man can claim to divorce his wife on the ground of infidelity on the part of the woman, but a woman can claim to divorce a man only on grounds of cruelty. That is the system of morality—one for the man and the other for woman. An interesting case in 1868 happened with reference to women franchise. It was considered that 'man' also included woman in every Act of Parliament so that certain women belonging to the Women Suffragist Movement wanted to be included among the voters. But the Judge in his judgment held that that interpretation does not hold good for purposes of that sort. Again, some of the women who had influence, got their names entered in the electoral rolls and claimed that once their name was entered they had a right to vote. But the Judge said that if this position is allowed, then the name of a dog or a horse cannot be removed if it is entered by a mistake. That speaks volumes and is an eloquent testimony . . ."

At this stage the gong was sounded indicating that the speaker's time of five minutes expired.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I suggest, Sir, that this being an important question, no time-limit should be insisted on?"

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (from the chair) :—"Then at this rate the discussion will go on for ever. I have therefore decided to allow 5 minutes for every member so that all members wishing to speak on the subject may have an opportunity of giving their views. However, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar may go on for another 2 minutes and finish his say."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"No, Sir. I prefer not to speak than to speak for 2 minutes. While other members had their own time I have to finish within 5 minutes."

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [1st April 1921]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I also have great pleasure in supporting this resolution. I know that there is a large opinion in this House, though not expressed yet, that is against this resolution and I know that some, who after coming here, have changed their minds in favour of the proposition. I have also heard the mention of 1st April. And I hope that it will not be that most speakers are speaking in favour of it and a majority votes against it. Sir, in this democratic House we have been arguing for these three months that there should be no difference of race or colour and it was always stated that provided there are equal qualifications there should be equal opportunities given to all. And I do not know the reason why if equal qualifications are there, sex should be a disqualification. Many reasons have been given as to why this right should not be given to our women. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson said he would not give his vote, but he was the first to speak against the proposition as he considered it would be premature. We have heard this question of 'premature' very often. Even for giving us, men, the vote, it was said that it would be premature. Mr. Muhammad Usman spoke about an instance of false personation in Madras; but that was only one instance. Sir, as the Municipal Chairman in Coimbatore, I had a great deal to do with the arrangements for the elections. In an important Muhammadan constituency there, it was not a Muhammadan candidate against a Hindu but both candidates were Muhammadans and I was approached by a large number of people for arrangements for the large number of gosha voters who were expected to be coming to the polling station and two lady teachers were asked to attend the polling station. I was myself present and witnessed a large number of lady voters giving their votes. And to avoid false personation the gosha ladies were willing to come to the polling officer and give their names and votes themselves. And therefore, Sir, I do not think that individual cases should stand in the way of women getting their votes. If any person wants to be in jail and if any person chooses to be in darkness, by all means let him do so.

1-15 p.m. "But, I repeat, let them not say that because of a few Muhammadans, it may even be the majority of the Muhammadan members of this House are against it, no vote shall be given to any Muhammadan lady."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I beg to offer a personal explanation. I made myself clear in my speech that I do not want to stand in the way of other communities. All that I want is that my community should be left alone."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—"I understand him. Because he wants no franchise he does not want any franchise for all the women of his class."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I cannot take a Brahman gentleman as an authority on Muhammadan law and customs."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR (*continuing*) :—"Are the Muhammadan ladies whom I have cited as an example to be deprived of their votes? When we give so much freedom to our women in our homes, why not give it in public also? When marriages are to be settled we go to our women and seek their advice. There is no reason why we should deprive them of their votes. It has been often said of Indian leaders that when they get a right fought for by them, they are not for giving it to others. Therefore when we are given franchise, it will be extremely selfish if we are against its being extended to others. I appeal to you, Sir, not to be selfish; having got votes for men, we should not deprive it for women."

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[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan]

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—"President, Sir, as a member of the Muhammadan community and having taken the views of the Muhammadan ladies, I have great pleasure in opposing the resolution. Opinions have been expressed that Indian women are not inferior to their brothers, and that equal privileges should be given to them. I call a spade a spade.

"It has become the fashion of the day to draw comparisons with England and other countries. But when we draw comparisons with England, I can only say that a sense of proportion is wanting. In England the ladies are able to exercise not only their vote but also many other rights. I know cases in India when a Judge asks the assessors 'Do you find the accused guilty,' they ask in return whether the accused is married or not. The assessors who are men of property are not able to discharge their duties well. How do you expect the ladies to use their votes properly? A previous speaker referred to the fact that Muhammadan ladies gave their votes in Madura. I myself wanted to secure votes. In Gorippalayam when I wanted to secure the votes of the ladies the husbands thought that it was scandalous for a gentleman to go and talk to a married lady. My friend Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar said that Muhammadan ladies came to the polling stations to vote. They might have given the names of the lady voters but might have been really people who are not voters. In this country where so many social customs restrict the freedom of women, it is premature to think that our women are educated enough to exercise their votes in a sensible manner. I am not against the grant of votes to women. But when we are struggling in the quicksands of custom, why should we have this additional weight hanging on our necks? A Muhammadan lady said: 'When you are fighting for the reforms, we are anxiously watching it. Come out successful. Then it will be time to have us in the Council.'

"In England, if I talk to an English lady it would be considered absolutely harmless. But I cannot ask the wife of an Honourable Member to give me her vote."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I belong to a party which is wholeheartedly for the political and social advancement of women. Women are born with equal intellectual powers with those of men. If social difference exists between men and women, they are all man-made ones. My highest ambition is to give women political privileges equal to men if it is practicable. From time immemorial our social customs were such that women were kept in complete subjection and ignorance. The Calcutta University Commission was struck with the social difficulties under which women were suffering. Only one per cent of our women are educated to-day. Political consciousness is the fundamental basis of all electoral franchise. Even for men here political franchise was given only recently. But it may be questioned whether all men are educated. I can only say that though men are illiterate they have got opportunities of getting educated by coming into contact with various political activities of the country which is denied to women in this country by social restrictions. If this privilege is given, most of the Hindu and Muhammadan women will be at a great disadvantage.

"I am glad in Malabar, Travancore and Cochin female education is progressing. I am also glad, thanks to the efforts of the missionaries who have contributed greatly for literacy in this land, our Indian Christian women are well educated all over the Presidency. I am not against this resolution and I am for giving immediately political rights to the women of Malabar and to Indian Christian women; but as for the others I will advise the Council to consider and then legislate. It was said by the Chairman of the Coimbatore

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municipality that many respectable Muhammadan ladies came and voted. In Triplicane (Chepauk division) which I represent in the Madras Corporation, it is very few Muhammadan ladies that came to the polling station.

"I am not against this resolution. As I told you before, the party to which I belong is always for the advancement of women. I request you to consider this aspect with regard to other communities and legislate in the best way possible. I will only request the mover of this resolution to restrict it to urban areas and also to put an age-limit."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, if I did not rise to have my say on this subject earlier, it was not that I needed to be persuaded, that I required to be shown by convincing arguments that this was a very desirable reform. Those that know me know that I should be believing all my past life if I did not stand by this resolution. My only regret is that there are said to be certain insuperable difficulties by way of statutory restrictions to the admission of ladies as members of this House. I shall be very glad if those great legal luminaries that are here be able to devise some short cut for attaining that desirable object. I hope that before long we shall be able to hail lady members and respectable ladies to give the benefit of their co-operation, their advice and support to the deliberations of this House. I am quite confident, Sir, that that will be an immeasurable gain, that it will add immensely to the value of the work and of the proceedings of this House. I may state that I for one do not think it very necessary to go elaborately into the arguments in favour of this proposition, either historical facts or psychological theories. For me at least the old dictum of John Stuart Mill is enough. 'Race (human race) is essential, sex is accidental.' I welcome this on that broad basis. Having said so much and having made my position clear, I wish it were possible to give a fair, calm consideration to some of the details that have been mentioned by previous speakers.

1-30 p.m. "For instance, a reference has been made to the gosha ladies. That is not a point to be easily brushed aside. It is a point that deserves the best, the most sympathetic consideration, because these parda-nashin ladies are restricted, in the way they are, partly from the force of custom and partly also by personal choice. Therefore, I think some sympathetic consideration has to be given to that point. Again, another matter that I would submit to the notice of this House is that a highly educated lady, a lady of real distinction in social status and position, once observed to me that, while she was heartily in favour of the extension of this privilege to her sisters, she should think it not unessential that a certain modicum of literacy should be required. I, as a polling officer on certain occasions in municipal elections, have vivid recollections of the very awkward position in which an illiterate voter is placed. He is there, if I may use the expression, a Buridan's ass between two heaps of hay. He does not know what to do. He finds that he has to make up his mind or go away, and making up his mind, he is in the dilemma of pleasing one and displeasing the other of the two competitors. That situation, though it may be a flea-bite for a male, is likely to lead to very undesirable talk in the case of a female. I, therefore, think that some small details of that kind should be given attention to, and should be provided for, when we carry this really laudable intention into an accomplished fact."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, it is strange that I should rise to strike a discordant note after the speech of my revered leader Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu. Connected as I am with the social reform movement of this Presidency for the last twenty-five years, it seems to me necessary that I should rise to ask

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for a postponement of a consideration of this franchise question for at least ten years more till the sitting of the Royal Commission for revision of Government of India Act. I have given my best thought and consideration to the question whether I should rise to ask for this postponement in view of the chorus of support that this motion has received at the hands of the members of this House. My first point is that the discussion of this question has altogether overlooked the social conditions of our society. The Hon'ble the Law Member has pointed out that vote, by itself, is nothing. I agree with him entirely."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I am sorry, Sir, I did not say so."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I understood him saying so, Sir. However, I am glad to be corrected if I am wrong. My own view is that a vote, by itself, is nothing. We have to emancipate our sisters and mothers from the great social restrictions which the selfishness of man, either by written or unwritten law, has imposed. We must emancipate them from the enforced widowhood from baneful influence of infant marriage, redeem them from the social restrictions under which they now suffer; unless we emancipate them from these, it seems to me that the granting of the franchise will come to nothing whatever. It may be that we have made the experiment in the local boards and municipalities. Under the old rules, there was a rule giving vote to a woman, but, after consideration, that rule was withdrawn. Again, a new rule has been made in the District Municipalities Act giving vote to women. Not only that, the Local Boards Act gives them also the right to be elected. If I consider the question from the purely theoretical point of view, I will not be satisfied with giving mere vote, but I will demand that women also should be allowed to stand and enter into this House. I shall not rest content until that privilege is given to women. But the social conditions of our country should be considered before this privilege of giving vote in the elections to the Legislative Council is given. Indeed, we are grateful and admire the work, the service to the country of the highly-talented and intellectual women that have been agitating the question both in India and in England; but what is the number of such women in this country? As far as education is concerned, we have the great Indian Christian community which is more highly educated than any other in this Presidency making no demand at present. We have heard also the voice of protest from the most important community, the Moslem community, and it will be in the nature of things to consider how far the application of the principle in the rural areas would be beneficial to the electorate. In considering the question of extending the franchise it should be noted that it should not be so extended that by the mere weight of numbers the whole scheme would prove a failure. If you, to-day, allow the franchise to your women, you are adding a large number, another half a million, to the electoral roll and by the weight of numbers the whole scheme is likely to fail. We have experience of recent elections to the Legislative Council. In our district there are 60 to 65 thousand voters and in others 80,000. Is it possible to be the people's representative in order that you may be able to represent the individual voters, without knowing their sentiments and feelings, political and social? We are here, no doubt, representatives of the people; but how many of us have consulted our constituents? We cannot represent their feelings on this question unless we have a mandate from the electorates. It is therefore absolutely necessary that this question should be further discussed in the country at large in the municipal councils, in the district boards and in the various electorates, so that the feelings and sentiments of the people, in general, may be ascertained. Until

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this is done, it seems to be futile, to be impracticable at present that we can vote one way or the other. So, while I am in sympathy with the resolution, I must say I will not be able to vote upon it until a referendum is made to the country."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, I am a representative of the Indian Christians and as such I cannot have two answers to this question. The Indian Christian who is the pioneer of female education in this country welcomes every step that is taken for the uplift of women. The fortunes of men are linked to those of women and they both rise or fall together as a poet has said. Unlike Mr. Patro and some other members of this House, I do not foresee any great trouble if this franchise is extended to women. In the late municipal elections, I should say, this women franchise proved to be a great success. One of the speakers spoke of false personation. That could, I think, be avoided if women are appointed as polling officers. The extension of the franchise will help the emancipation of women more quickly than anything else; for, I am sure, this will catch like wild fire and women will be more anxious to be educated. Under these circumstances, I feel very happy to support this resolution."

Mr. J. F. SIMPSON :—" Mr. President, I beg to support this resolution. As a member of the old Council, like my friend Mr. Arumainatha Pillai, I consistently voted on every occasion for equal rights for men and women. The only argument I have heard against this principle is that there is no demand for it, that the women of this Presidency do not want the privilege. I think, Sir, it is very regrettable if that should be so. In the words of the poet :

" 'Tis true, 'tis pity,"

" And pity 'tis, 'tis true."

" It is this state of affairs that this House should do all in its power to remedy. It is a maxim in business, Sir, that you must provide the facilities and the demand will come. If we provide the facilities, there is no doubt that women would take advantage of them. I consider that we should throw open the door and say : ' Madam, enter.' Mr. President, it seems to me that there is a great amount of suppressed excitement, nay, bubbling over-excitement in the House to-day. I wonder if the reason is because there are so many beautiful women present in the galleries, women from my own land and from my adopted land. I appeal to the House, to each member, not only to be gallant but to be reasonable and manly and pass this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, the leader of the House, told you that the attitude of the Government in this matter was to leave the members to their own free choice to vote for or against the resolution, to speak for or against it. I rise to tell you, Sir, that that is also the attitude of the Ministry in particular. A few days ago when a deputation of ladies did me the honour of seeing me, I had to tell them that there were two bodies whose opinion would control mine. One is that of the Cabinet and the other that of the party to which I have the honour to belong. Both these bodies have since agreed that in this particular matter each individual member in this House should be left to have his own free choice and if I now rise it is only to give expression to my own individual opinion.

" During my stay in England, Sir, one thing that struck me more than any other was the part which women were taking in the affairs of that country. Wherever I went, in the busy streets, in the shops, in the public offices, in the underground railways and tram-cars, I always found women taking such an

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important part that it occurred to me that it was possible that the greatness of that country was due to the equality of women with men. It also occurred to me that after all if we in this country did not rise to the level of equality with other nations, it was because of the neglect which men had shown towards their mothers and daughters. Why should we not have the benefit of their advice, their help and co-operation in the deliberations of a body like this? I am not in the least unmindful of the criticisms that were levelled at this. I can see that there are certain communities which find it very difficult to allow their women to go to the booth and vote. I fail to see however why a beginning should not be made in that respect. Certain conditions which my friend Mr. Natesan has suggested may well deserve the consideration of this House. For instance, Sir, if the proposition is to be carried as it is proposed, the age-limit to qualify women to vote will be 21 years; under the English law it is 30 years. I do not know if my Hon'ble friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar will propose that every young lady of 21 years shall be eligible to vote or whether he would consent to the thirty years' rule which prevails in England. Then there is the question of these communities. I do not really see why a community like the Muhammadans should not be omitted in the beginning. In that case, possibly, we may expect to receive the support of our Muhammadan friends and as for their community they are the best judges and we have no right to interfere with their matters. Then, Sir, there is the question of urban areas and local areas. So far as the towns are concerned, there can be no objection to admit this privilege. In the towns women are, like men, better educated and generally speaking more civilized than those in the villages. And perhaps superstitions, social customs and social barriers are larger in the mufassal in the villages than in the cities. If therefore this House is prepared to accept for the present the age-limit of 30 and to limit the proposal to towns and communities other than the Muhammadans, this movement has my hearty support. I merely throw out these suggestions for the consideration of the House."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, I rise to support the resolution. I do not quite understand, Sir, why we should go out of the way to justify a thing, which, in my humble opinion, does not require any justification at all. The basis of all responsible government is the payment of taxes. Man who pays tax is entitled to vote, but the woman who pays the same tax is not entitled to vote under the present rules. All that the present resolution wants is the removal of this disqualification introduced without any justification whatever. Sir, it seems to me that in a case like this it is not for the party who brings the resolution to support it by reasons, but it is for those who are opposed to it to give reasons for their opposing. The reasons so far given in the case of woman are that some women are not able to exercise their rights if given them. Well, Sir, are there not among men also huge numbers of men who are not able to exercise their franchise properly? Those of us who have gone to the polls only within the last three or four months know how many of the voters who have voted for us were illiterate people and how many of them were voting not according to their own convictions but on the dictation of somebody else. Therefore, if franchise is extended to women, I do not believe that they are going to behave very much worse than men. Then I say, Sir, that simply because some ladies do not want this franchise, it does not follow that others also do not want it. Well, Sir, all that need be said is this. It is not compulsory to any person to go to the polling booth; it is optional to every person. So if the right is given, it is for those to whom the right is given to decide whether they are going to take advantage of it or not; and so if the Muhammadans and their women are not prepared to have this right, all that is

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necessary for them to do is not to go to the polls. The fact that they do not want it is no reason whatever why this right ought to be denied as an elementary right to all those who pay the tax. Sir, it was also said that there was some difficulty in working it. If the right is once admitted, I do not see, Sir, why this difficulty should stand in the way of giving effect to it. After giving effect to it, it is for us to see what difficulty there is in the exercise of it. With regard to the way in which these things are going to be arranged, with regard to identification and any possible abuses, these are all matters for us to decide. It will be for us sitting here to decide in what way we can avoid abuses and to give effect to such of the rules as would avoid such abuses. The reason that there may be some abuses is not sufficient for us to refuse to grant franchise to women, to which, as I said, they are entitled. So I support it on the ground that it is only justice that is wanted and not generosity. In the case of an elementary right like this, I beg to submit that there should be no difference of opinion and on that ground I support it. I would only add that in the late Council this question came up twice, both when the District Municipalities Act and the Local Boards Act were passed and on both the occasions the Councillors were in favour of giving franchise to women, and I hope the House which is more democratic will unanimously vote for this motion."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, so far as the discussion has gone, only three non-official members of this House have sounded a note of dissent. I believe, Sir, some years ago, during the great war, it was Mr. Asquith that said that the world was rushing along at a giddy pace and that all ideas and ideals were undergoing great changes and transformation. Now with regard to the subject-matter of the resolution before us, it cannot be said that we, the representatives of the people, are rushing along at a giddy pace. It may perhaps be said by some that we are rushing along, but I must say that, if we are rushing along at all, we cannot be supposed to be rushing along at a giddy pace, but we are rushing along in a manner consistent with the spirit of the times and also consistent with the reasonable demands of our women. Oftentimes we call the fairer sex our 'better-halves.' The case of our better-halves is now embarrassing. Their case is now placed before us for consideration and decision. Now I ask this House to rise to the full height of the occasion and to act in a truly, manly and chivalrous spirit and by our action satisfy them, give them the position which we have given them all along and make them think that they are really our better-halves and not our worse-halves by conferring on them the privilege they legitimately demand and which we think they are legitimately entitled to. They do not ask us for partition; they do not want to cut down our rights; they do not want to deprive us of any rights which we have hitherto been enjoying. They only ask us to be permitted to share with us the enjoyment of the rights which we have been denying them, rightly or wrongly—probably the latter—for over so many years. It has been said that already at the time of the election we have had to face quite an unwieldy machinery and if to that unwieldy element be also added the womanhood, the machinery may break down. Well, I am not quite sure of that, and even if it comes to that, I, as representing the people, am prepared to face a much larger and more severe breakdown than denying the right of citizenship, the elementary right of citizenship, to our women. Permit me, Sir, to inform this House that the credit of conferring this privilege on women belongs in a sense primarily, solely and exclusively to the City of Madras; for I find, Sir, from section 48 of the Madras Act IV of 1919 that for the first time in the annals of this country, for the first time in the annals of this Presidency, the Corporation of

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Madras thought it necessary to confer upon the women of this city the privilege of exercising the right of franchise. Later on, that privilege was extended to the mufassal as would appear from subsequent legislations. It was also extended to mufassal municipalities and local boards, and I think it is now too late in the day to deny the women the rights which they justly claim and therefore I would appeal to the House to vote unanimously upon this proposition.

"There is just one word and I should like to mention that with a view to clear the air of a certain amount of mist. Turning to page 133 of the Madras Electoral Rules, we find this provision which appears to me to be in the nature of a safeguard intended to protect women or classes of women who do not want this franchise, because proviso to rule 7 says: 'Provided further that, if a resolution is passed by the Council after not less than one month's notice has been given of an intention to move such a resolution recommending that the sex disqualification for registration should be removed either women generally or in respect of any class of women, the Local Government shall make regulations providing that women or a class of women, as the case may be, shall not be disqualified for registration by reason only of their sex.' It is perfectly open to any large community not to elect to come under it, not to claim the privilege, and to permit itself to be under the ban of disqualification. Therefore I beg to submit that this is a motion that should be voted for. Let this Presidency have the credit of taking a lead in this matter."

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I rise to support this motion. I do not propose to speak very long. A friend of mine told me that women should not be allowed to vote because they would be under the influence of their husbands or their friends, but I should think that it is rather the other way. If the women are allowed to vote, they will exercise their vote freely and will not yield to any outside influence. Therefore they will use their influence to the best advantage and they will bring pressure to bear on their husbands and sons. So, on that ground I think the women should be given the privilege of extended franchise.

"Sir, one of the objections raised was that this would give rise to false personation, but I think that false personation would be resorted to more by men voters who are liable to all sorts of corruption than by women who are simple by nature and will not stoop to such illegal practices.

"Another objection raised was that only a very small percentage of women are educated; but if extended franchise is given to them it will induce them to study and take more interest in the education of girls; and if we had had a large number of women voters, our budget would not have shown such a poor provision for the education of girls.

"I therefore think that on these grounds and on the grounds urged by many of the previous speakers, this reform will have the hearty support of the whole House without any dissentient voice."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, I rise to support the motion. I know I cannot say much after the previous speakers who have so very eloquently spoken and exhausted the whole subject. One or two remarks I want to make.

"The two reasons urged are that the women are not far advanced and there is the gosha system, which proves an obstacle. But as soon as franchise is thrown open, there is nothing binding on all women to go to the booth and vote. Such of them as are willing may go to vote; others may not at all go. Even if particular portion of a community is unwilling to have the franchise extended, there may be some other parts of the Presidency where that particular section may desire to have

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the franchise made use of, and I do not see why we should ourselves place any restriction upon it. If it is thrown open to all, such of them who like it may make use of it.

"The second reason is that women are not sufficiently educated. But what percentage of our men voters are now educated? Have we not seen that everywhere in the case of the last elections, about 75 per cent of the men were illiterate and could not even remember the names of persons for whom they were going to vote? So also there is no difficulty about all the women not being literate.

"Another thing is that according to Hindu notions, or Hindu Law, almost all the property is registered in the name of the managing male member and so the number of women voters naturally will be very small for what is required is property qualification. We need not alarm ourselves that we are adding considerably to the list of voters. Even if the concession is given wholesale, I think, the female voters will be very few, because all the properties are ordinarily registered either in the names of their husbands, or in the names of their sons. So practically, the women voters will be very few and there need not be objection of any sort, at all, to give them the franchise, and I hope Mr. Krishnan Nayar will not modify the resolution. by restricting it in any manner."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"I have very great pleasure in supporting this motion. Before I proceed further, I may just take stock of the present situation as to how the question of women franchise stands. In the case of district municipalities, women are competent to vote, in the case of local bodies, women are not merely competent to vote but also they are eligible candidates. In the case of union boards, they are both competent to vote and to stand as candidates and in the case of Madras City elections they have been declared competent to vote. Now, Sir, this system has been in force for over a year and there have not happened any untoward results resulting from the extension of this franchise. As the chairman of a mufassal municipality, I know as a matter of fact how keen women are to exercise this franchise in the mufassal. I have arranged for a general election to take place on the 11th of this month and already there have been requisitions from the ladies that I should afford special facilities for their voting.

"The only question that arises for the consideration of this House is this: shall we be justified in classing women under the head of criminals, idiots, imbeciles and lunatics? The general principle seems to be very well recognized that a person who pays taxes should be entitled to vote. If at all we do not concede this privilege to women, it must be on the ground that they are not competent to manage their own affairs. Can we say for a moment sitting as we are in the first Reformed Council after having fought for our privileges so long, can we deny this simple privilege to members of the other sex? I think that is a vital point for our consideration and one of the tests of civilization is how we treat our women. We have all along been working for our political privileges and it remains to be seen how far we are going to extend the same privileges to the members of the other sex. As regards the objections of our Muhammadan brethren, let us not extend the privileges for members of their community. But I may say that in the case of municipalities the rules provide that some special arrangements should be made in the case of gosha ladies. If that would satisfy them, by all means let special arrangements be made for them. If there is a danger of false personation, I would ask my Hon'ble friend Mr. Abbas Ali whether there is not a chance of false personation even among male voters. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Usman Sahib was after all able to point out only one solitary instance in which there was an attempt

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made at false personation but that too was detected. I do not think that merely because one member of the community is not advanced, the other members who ask for it should also be deprived of this privilege.

"I want to say something regarding the proposal of the Hon'ble Mr. K. V. Reddi Nayudu who stated that we should fix the age limit at 30. When we have fixed the age limit at 21 for males, I do not see any necessity for fixing the age limit for women at 30. Merely because two Honourable Members of the Muhammadan community object to this, we cannot refuse these privileges to the whole community and whether we will be justified in doing so is another question.

"The question of removing sex disqualification is left open to us, and I do not think we can formulate any separate proposals in the case of women. The Joint Committee has reserved only the question of women franchise for our consideration and whether the sex disqualification should be removed. It seems to me that women also should be entitled to these privileges, and it is not open to us to place any restraint on their exercise of these privileges. With these words I heartily support the motion."

The motion for closure moved by Mr. U. Rama Rao was put to vote and carried.

Resolution No. 19 was then put to vote and declared carried, 47 voting for and 13 against.

A poll having been demanded, the same was taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 25. Mr. Venkatratnam Nayudu. |
| 2. " Mr. Ramarayaningar. | 26. " Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 3. " Mr. Venkata Reddi Nayudu. | 27. " Kesavalu Pillai. |
| 4. Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 28. " Ramachandra Rao. |
| 5. Dr. Subbarayan. | 29. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 6. Mr. Adinarayana Reddi. | 30. " Krishnan Nayar. |
| 7. " Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 31. " Siva Rao. |
| 8. " Gopala Menon. | 32. " Muttumanickachari. |
| 9. " Muniswami Nayudu. | 33. " U. Rama Rao. |
| 10. " Muttu Chettiyar. | 34. " Sadasiva Bhat. |
| 11. " Muthukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 35. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 12. " Narasimha Raju. | 36. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 13. " Natesa Mudaliyar. | 37. " Suryanarayana. |
| 14. " Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 38. " Venkatramayyar. |
| 15. " Ramayya Punja. | 39. " Venkatramana Ayyangar. |
| 16. " Ranganadha Mudaliyar. | 40. " Arumainatham Pillai. |
| 17. " Sarabha Reddiyar. | 41. " Arpadaswami Udayar. |
| 18. " Soundara Pandia Nadar. | 42. " Palmer. |
| 19. " Shanmukham Chettiyar. | 43. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 20. " Sivasankaram Pillai. | 44. Mr. Appa Rao Bahadur. |
| 21. " N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai. | 45. " Prabhakaran Thampam. |
| 22. " S. Somasundaram Pillai. | 46. " Simpson. |
| 23. " Suryanarayanaamurti Nayudu. | 47. " Venkatarangayya. |
| 24. " Tanikaachala Chettiyar. | |

Noes.

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| 1. Mr. Periyanyakam. | 8. Muhammad Abdul Rahman Sahib. |
| 2. " Appaswami Nayudu. | 9. Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib. |
| 3. " Arunaachala Mudaliyar. | 10. Mr. Bavotti Sahib. |
| 4. " Shanmukham Pillai. | 11. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 5. " Narasimhaachari. | 12. Muhammad Padsha Sahib. |
| 6. Abbas Ali Khan. | 13. Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 7. Abdul Razack Sahib. | |

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Neutral.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The Hon'ble Muhammad Habih-ul-lah. | 6. Mr. Somasundara Mudaliar. |
| 2. " Mr. Subbarayalu Reddiyar. | 7. " Tangavelu Nayar. |
| 3. Mr. Richards. | 8. " Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 4. " Ankineedu Prasad. | 9. " Krishna Rao. |
| 5. " Patro. | 10. " Biswanath Das. |

Forty-seven voting *for* and 13 *against* and 10 being *neutral*, the motion was declared carried.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 p.m. to meet at 3 p.m.

The Council reassembled after lunch at 3 p.m.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (from the chair):—"Government have accepted the resolution regarding the appointment of the Finance Committee. The method of election will be the same as for other elections. Members are kindly requested to deliver their nominations for the Finance Committee to the Secretary before 4 p.m. to-day."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Nominations for all the committees or for the Finance Committee alone?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I believe that for the nominations for the House Committee and the Accounts Committee the time fixed is 3 p.m., and for the Finance Committee 4 p.m. to-day."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"That is so. The nominations may be handed in within ten minutes from now. Meanwhile, we can proceed with the resolutions. The Honourable Members will see from the agenda paper that we have got 31 resolutions before us. They will oblige me, or they will benefit themselves, if they would be short in their speeches, so that the business may be completed before to-morrow—the day on which His Excellency the Governor is to prorogue the Council."

Provincial contribution to the Central Government.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"The resolution that I beg to move is as follows:—

'20 That this Council protests against the arbitrary manner in which the sum of 384.29 lakhs was fixed as the contribution due from this province to the central Government and recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council to make proper representations to the Government of India and the Secretary of State with a view to effect a modification of the same.'

"The Honourable Members of this Council are aware that a resolution on somewhat similar lines was moved in this Council in May last by the Hon'ble Mr. V. K. Ramanujachari. The matter was threshed out then in all its bearings, and it was unanimously accepted by this Council. I do not know what the outcome of that was. I am aware the Government of India have passed their budget for this year based on the recommendations of the Meston Committee and fixed the contribution from this province at 348 lakhs.

"It is therefore said that nothing will come out of the resolution that we are going to adopt now. I believe, Sir, that there is nothing like settled fact in politics. We are marching at a break-neck pace, so much so that everything becomes antiquated in one year. If we go on agitating, there is every chance that the whole thing may be revised, if not in the present year, at least in the next year. It is mainly on this belief that I have taken this opportunity to move this resolution. I do not propose to take back the Council to the history of how

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these contributions were fixed by the Meston Committee. Suffice it to say that out of the several heads that were set apart as provincial sources of revenue, there was a surplus of 576 lakhs, which they called the spending power of this province. On the calculation of the actuals for the year 1919-20, it was found that we could spend only 228 lakhs of rupees, and there would be a balance of 348 lakhs which, in the words of the Committee, we could not digest under normal conditions. That was the conclusion that the Meston Committee had arrived at. They themselves say in their report that the award was in some measure arbitrary and not equitable. It may not also be irrelevant here to point out that Madras has been levying the largest land revenue of all the provinces, and that we were very chary of spending money for the development of our resources which resulted in a surplus every year. The Meston Committee was of opinion that for some time we could not spend all the 576 lakhs even if we would. We felt this as a great injustice done to us, and it was with a view to express this feeling of injustice that a special meeting of this Council was held in last May and resolutions were unanimously passed requesting His Excellency the Governor to put forward the strongest possible protest against the award. We then made out a very strong case in our favour. Sir, we have a stronger case to-day, because I find that comparing the figures of 1919-20 with those of 1921-22 our expenses have increased to 352 lakhs. For purposes of our calculation, I take the budget estimate which we have now passed (it may be a rough calculation). On Direct demands we are spending this year 321 lakhs, while in the year 1919-1920 we spent only 207 lakhs. We are spending thus 114 lakhs more this year. On Civil administration, we are spending 679 lakhs, where as we spent only 509 in 1920. We have budgeted for an increase of 150 lakhs this year on this head. On buildings, roads and improvements, we are spending 34 lakhs more. We are spending more on all other miscellaneous minor accounts. On the whole, on our expenditure side there is an increase of 352 lakhs over the actuals of 1919-1920, which was the basis of calculation by the Committee.

"Sir, the Finance Member has budgeted for a deficit of 30 lakhs; there is also a loan of 70 lakhs for meeting what I would call our normal expenses."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"May I again say there is no deficit in the budget? The Honourable Member says that I have budgeted for a deficit of 30 lakhs as loan. It is adjusted in the loan of 70 lakhs which goes to the general resources, and the net result is that there is no deficit at all."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I welcome the correction. According to my calculation, it is 224 lakhs more than Lord Meston in his report thought that we would be able to spend. There is yet the subsidy to local bodies for elementary education. Sir, we have always found that in every budget the receipts when realized are always less than originally budgeted for, and the expenses often have a tendency to exceed our anticipations. I am afraid our financial outlook for the next year would be rather bad. Sir, we shall now examine the increase in expenditure under those heads which require further development. On Forests, we are spending only 19.54 lakhs; on Agriculture, 12.04; on Industries, 11.17; Medical, 14.45; Education, 35.4 Public Health 59. A very large percentage of this goes to meet the increased salaries of the officials and the cost of new appointments, and only a small modicum of it filters to those lines which help to effect any improvement. It is really a very regrettable state of things that on the dawn of the new era of the reforms, we are thus handicapped to take any initiative in the transferred branches of the administration. The Finance Member says—

'The schemes for advance are legion; whether in the direction of hospitals or schools, or sanitation or industries, railways, forests or roads, or ports or

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fisheries, there is no department which is not crying out for money and money in very large quantities.

"I really do not know under such a state of finance how we shall be able to carry out the reforms. Sir, the Meston Committee held out the hope that the amount which we now contribute towards the Government of India's deficit would be wiped out in the course of seven years. As ill-luck would have it, it is not going to be. The memorandum referred to already says,—

'Even the Meston Committee held out hopes that, although the contribution in the beginning would be 348 lakhs, it would be reduced in the course of seven years to 167 lakhs, and this gave us, not only the assurance of an increasing revenue, but also assurance of a sinking fund against which we could borrow in the interim. The Joint Committee has taken away all these hopes, and our contribution to the Government of India is left at 348 lakhs until such time as the Government of India are able to do without it.'

"Sir, I would only say that our prospect is indeed a gloomy one and as elected representatives of the people we would be failing in our duty if we did not protest against the unjust and unwarranted predicament we find ourselves in.

"Under the circumstances, I would request His Excellency the Governor to take proper steps to effect a modification of this contribution. His Excellency in winding up the debate last year was so convinced of the reasonableness of our case as to observe thus: 'My colleagues and I have listened with the deepest interest to the speeches which have been made by many Honourable Members during the course of this discussion, and I can assure them all that they have confirmed and fortified us in our determination to put forward firmly and fairly the strongest possible protest that we can against the conclusions arrived at by Lord Meston and his Committee.' He was kind enough to observe further on: 'I am reading the last paragraph of the proceedings—'I can therefore give Honourable Members every assurance that Government are generally in the fullest sympathy with the views that have been expressed. This is not the occasion for me to lay before you the details of our case, which has, I think, been sufficiently developed by Honourable Members to-day. What we ask for, what we have every right to expect, is absolutely fair treatment, and we claim that this matter should be settled from the point of view of principle and not from that of expediency; and with the recollection which many of you must have of unfair treatment in the matter of previous financial settlements which have seriously retarded the possibility of development in this province in the past, with the certain knowledge of the insistent demand for expenditure on development which comes before us from every department, we shall put forward our case in full confidence that the Government of India and the Secretary of State will treat us with absolute fairness, and not allow our Reformed Councils to start their work with a deep sense of injustice and wrong, which will inevitably be the case if Lord Meston's award is agreed to.'

"Sir, the subject is an important one and I am anxious that the House should give its fullest consideration to this with a view to help the Governor to put forward the strongest possible protest. I am sure that all the aspects of the question will be fully developed by abler hands that follow me and the resolution will be unanimously accepted."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I rise to second this resolution and I congratulate my honourable friend in having succeeded in bringing up this resolution before the Council at last on the first day of the new financial year. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao and myself tried to bring this up at the session held in February last; but we were not successful that time. But I am glad that after the discussion we had on the budget for 1921-22 and that after we

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have disposed of the various grants, we have come to consider this question. It is also a sense of relief that we are now considering a question regarding which there is bound to be absolute unanimity of opinion from all parts of the House, both from Government and from persons of all shades of opinion. We may take it from the point where His Excellency left it at the time of the discussion which took place in May 1920. As my honourable friend, the mover, has already drawn attention to what His Excellency said, 'we shall put forward our case in full confidence that the Government of India and the Secretary of State will treat us with absolute fairness, and not allow our Reformed Councils to start their work with a deep sense of injustice and wrong, which will inevitably be the case if Lord Meston's award is agreed to.' I take it that to-day we are discussing it, to use the words of His Excellency, to give expression to the views of this Reformed Council of a deep sense of injustice and wrong done to the country by Lord Meston Committee and subsequently by the Devolution Rules. There is no country in the world which places so much value upon the principle of heredity as this country. We are to-day to suffer and to give expression to a feeling of regret for the sins of our predecessors. We need not shut our eyes to the fact that owing to a wrong policy, a policy admitted to be wrong by the Government, we are in this predicament, paying a larger revenue and getting much poorer return for all the trouble we have taken in those years. It has been admitted by the Government and by all statesmen that this province is realizing more land revenue than any other province in the country. It is also admitted that for several years past the Madras Government have been accumulating balances and large surpluses. If you take these facts side by side, it is clear that much more of land revenue was realized than was absolutely necessary for the administration of the country. It is from the effect of that policy, whereby more of land revenue was realized than was necessary, whereby there were more of surpluses and balances which eventually attracted the attention of the Government of India, that we are now suffering. Sir, we are accustomed to suffer, and we cannot help suffering for the sins of our predecessors. But it is our duty to state as best as we can how unjust the treatment is. Sir, it was on the 1st April 1911, exactly ten years ago, that when the new changes in the financial settlement of 1911 were announced in the Imperial Legislative Council, the Member for the Government of Madras, the Hon'ble Mr. Andrew, referred to this aspect of the question and stated that the Government of India ought not to take advantage of this accumulated surpluses or balances of Madras of which he felt suspicious whenever the eye of the Finance Member of the Government of India was cast over these accumulated balances of Madras. He expressed some fear and hesitation whenever it was stated that Madras had ample balances at their disposal and was a wealthy province. It was this policy that is responsible for the fact that this Government have been contributing larger sums towards imperial finance than any other province in India. Is it our misfortune that this state of things should continue longer? When we had the Joint Report, known as the Montford Report, we expected that the time had arrived when these inequalities would be set at rest. But we were doomed to disappointment. They made proposals to the effect that each province should contribute 87 per cent of the gross provincial surplus which worked to our prejudice and which was calculated to place us in a very disadvantageous position. The authors of the report were prepared to admit that Madras and the United Provinces would suffer but they emphatically said that they were not bound to set aside all inequalities. But when the matter was again referred to the committee known as the Meston Committee for the purpose of making elaborate examination into these arrangements, we expected that it would give us an opportunity to have these inequalities removed. But with what

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result? The committee had to perform hurried tours from place to place examining official witnesses and a few non-official witnesses at selected places, and they made their recommendations. It is very unfortunate that the recommendations of the committee were calculated to perpetuate the evils of the previous system rather than to eradicate them. What is more important is that the principles enunciated by Lord Meston's Committee in their report were not calculated to render justice to this province which for a series of years was contributing very heavily towards imperial revenues. It was pointed out before the Finance Committee by the Madras Government as well as by others that in working out a standard of contribution towards imperial deficit, allowance must be made for large schemes of the Madras Government which had to be put off owing to the condition of the war. It was also pointed out that there were several schemes of improvement for which allowance had to be made. It was also urged that there was the question of the reorganization and improvement of the services which have been held over for a long time and that all these factors should be taken into consideration, as they cannot otherwise arrive at a correct conclusion as to the spending powers of the Government of Madras. Sir, one will be surprised to find the way in which all these important considerations placed before them by the Government were brushed aside. They did not even pay sufficient attention to the important factor as to the taxable capacity of the people before determining the contribution to be made to meet the imperial deficit. They referred to the utility and importance of these considerations, but in a very easy manner, I may say in a light-hearted manner, brushed them aside and arrived at a conclusion which is quite injurious to the best interests of our province.

"I wish now to draw the attention of the Council to the manner in which they treated this question. They said thus: 'How much of the expenditure held over during the war are clearly imminent if not already sanctioned, ought to be included in the calculation of normal expenditure? Where is the dividing line to be drawn between expenditure essential in the immediate future and expenditure foreseen as a future commitment? Ought a province to be penalised by an increase of its contribution, for strict adherence to economy during the war, while another province, which had increased its expenditure more freely, is rewarded by a reduced contribution?'

"Then we are certainly surprised to read: 'It has been urged upon us that this increased spending power will in fact be swallowed up by the higher cost of administration, by improvement of old services, or by inauguration of new. At this stage, however, we are considering merely the revenue side of the account. These future liabilities would have had to be faced by each province, if no Reforms Scheme had come.' Even to this fact they do not give due consideration in arriving at the conclusion. Again, Sir, they remark: 'In Madras and the United Provinces the windfall is so vast that it would not be employed profitably for several years.' This unfortunate statement has injured our unfortunate province. Again, they go on: 'On the other hand, their revenues do not promise any remarkable elasticity; economy has been strictly practised and considerable arrears of administrative progress are now due.' Sir, I would ask this Council to have a recollection of the discussion we had during the last nine days. Almost all the members of the Council wanted to advocate a policy of retrenchment and examine various items of the budget with the object of seeing whether any item could be omitted or reduced. The result of it has been that we have not been able to effect any substantial retrenchment. Can it therefore be stated with the budget figures now before us that there is no means of spending that large windfall which was bound to come in the revenues of the Madras Presidency? Even if there were any

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doubts in the minds of the Government of India as to the capacity of this province to utilize the additional resources, those fears must now be set at rest after a perusal of the budget which has been subjected to very careful scrutiny and examination for the last nine days. I think the Government of India will now examine the state of affairs of our revenues and reconsider their position and not act upon that theory, that wrong theory, that fallacious theory, upon which injustice has been done to this province.

"Sir, again, what is more unfortunate is that probably under the advice and also probably in consonance with the other declarations of the Finance Department of the Government of India it was thought that the question of the adjustment of provincial revenues is not a matter upon which inequalities can be set at rest. It is only that aspect of it which is more important. The committee say: 'It is of importance to realize the nature of this transaction. In the first place it implies no judgment on the merits of previous financial settlements with any province. The increase in revenues comes to the provinces as a windfall, or as a bye-product of a constitutional change. It is not due, as financial settlements have been in the past, to consideration of the financial needs of individual provinces. It cannot properly be quoted as an act of tardy justice to the provinces that gain by it. Clearly it has come about from political and not primarily from financial motives. It originates in the desire to secure a greater measure of devolution in the province, and in the endeavour to draw for this purpose a defensible line of financial partition between Local Governments and the Government of India.'

"While we consider that a windfall of this nature affords a suitable basis for initial contributions by the provinces, it is not surprising to find that its application requires some modifications in view of individual circumstances. After discussing these principles, the committee arrived at the conclusion that Madras could afford to pay in the first year 345 lakhs of rupees or 35½ per cent of the deficit. There is one redeeming feature which we do not find in the Devolution Rules. They at least provided that within the course of seven years this may be reduced to a standard contribution of 17/100 of the total deficit. It is also stated that in the course of six years this larger contribution may be reduced to 167 lakhs of rupees. There was at least the hope, as was pointed out by the Hon'ble the Finance Member, that relying upon this gradual reduction in the contributions, Government could at least raise loans and work out their schemes of expenditure. But unfortunately for us we find that a different turn was taken by the Government of India and the Devolution Rules have placed us in a worse position than before. We have not got the same standard of 17/100 fixed as before but of 17/90. We have only got a provision made therein which is of a very doubtful and precarious character. We cannot rely on rule 18 of the Devolution Rules which runs thus: 'In the financial year 1921-22 contributions shall be paid to the Governor-General in Council by the Local Government.' The Government of Madras will have to pay 348 lakhs. 'When for any year the Governor-General in Council determines as the total amount of the contribution a smaller sum than that payable for the preceding year a reduction shall be made in the contributions of those Local Governments only whose last previous annual contribution exceeds the proportion specified below of the smaller sum so determined as the total contribution and any reduction so made shall be proportionate to such excess.' The proportion for Madras is 17/90. There is no guarantee that it would be reduced. We have not even the satisfaction that the unsatisfactory recommendations of the Meston Committee will be given effect to. Therefore it is the duty of this Reformed Council to see that all the members of this Council unanimously give expression

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to this feeling of injustice. After receiving the representations of the Local Government, let the Government of India see that this injustice is removed at an early date."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (from the chair): "I will ask the Honourable Members if any more nominations are coming in. We want time for election."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER: "I had not proposed to take any part in this debate, but since it is the wish of the House that I should give expression to the view of the Government, I will state it very briefly. I need hardly say that the Madras Government have protested in season and out of season against this contribution. I venture to say that anybody who reads the protest of the Madras Government laid before the Meston Committee and subsequently before the Secretary of State for the use of the Joint Committee will say that we did our duty by the Presidency. I need hardly add that nobody was more disappointed than the Government when we received a telegraphic message to say that we were going to be treated even worse than the Meston Committee had proposed. It took a long time to understand what that telegram really meant. When we received the Devolution Rules, however, it was clear that we were placed in a much worse position than before."

"I would, however, like to remark that the case is not quite so bad as the honourable mover apparently considers it. His resolution refers to a sum of Rs. 384.29 lakhs as being our contribution to the Government of India. This is not really all contribution, but includes, in addition to the contribution of Rs. 348 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 36.29 lakhs which we collect for the Government of India and pay over to them in the shape of an assignment."

"As regards the details of the question, they were very thoroughly threshed out in the course of our debate last year and I do not think we need add very much to what was said on that occasion. Since then the Joint Committee have laid great stress on the intention that the contributions from the provinces to the Central Government should cease at the earliest possible moment. They have further said that they attach great importance to the fulfilment of this intention and are convinced that the opposition which the proposals of the Financial Relations Committee have evoked will be much diminished, if it becomes possible for the Government of India to take steps to ensure the abolition of the contribution within a reasonably short period. They trust that the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council will make it their constant endeavour to render the Central Government independent of provincial assistance at the earliest possible date."

Again the Finance Member of the Government of India in introducing the budget this year said:—

'Although no specified programme of reduction has been laid down, we are committed to the progressive reduction of provincial contributions—an undefined, but nonetheless certain, liability on the central revenues.'

"In another place he said: 'the fact that we are committed to reduce the provincial contributions must be borne in mind in discussing India's general financial position.'

"The only thing I would like to say with regard to that is that on present appearances the only way in which the Government of India can reduce the provincial contributions is by increasing the imperial taxation. Therefore I was somewhat disappointed in reading the Government of India financial debate to see how little part our representatives there had taken in pressing them to increase their taxation and so reduce the charge on the province."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I entirely associate myself with the Hon'ble the Finance Member in the statement that the Madras Government had done their level best to place the case for this province very strongly before Lord Meston's Committee. After the award was given it was forwarded to the opinion of the Local Governments and the despatch of the Local Government in criticism of that award will be found in one of the papers presented to Parliament which also contain the views of the Central Government and the views of the Provincial Governments on the subject of Lord Meston's award. The protest and the criticism which is very vigorous—and I think the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter is the author of it—deserves the perusal of every Honourable Member of this Council who believes that this award has resulted in a great deal of injustice to this Presidency. Sir, I join with the Honourable Member in the disappointment which has been felt that the Committee's labours should have actually resulted in recommendations which are not only more inequitable than the original proposals of the Government of India but also inconsistent with the principles set forth in the Reform report and accepted by the Secretary of State and the Joint Select Committee of the Houses of Parliament. It is perfectly true that the original proposals were very much better than the proposals of Lord Meston's Committee. We therefore thought that the Central Government will take the opportunity of announcing their policy to curtail these contributions. It is a matter of very great disappointment that no such announcement has been made by the Finance Member of the Central Government. I trust that this matter will be brought up by our representatives in the Legislative Assembly and that some policy which indicates the stages by which this deficit should be diminished will be set forth and adopted by the Central Government. Whether they will do it or not it is quite clear from the statement quoted by the Finance Member from Mr. Hailey's speech that the Government of India were keenly aware of the fact that the whole of this deficit should be got by taxation imposed by the Central Government. It is more than likely if that is the view of the Central Government the present level of taxation which has been inaugurated this year will probably be maintained and it may be that these deficits will be wiped out very soon and the provinces may be relieved from their present contributions. As to whether that is likely to happen soon is largely a question of public opinion and agitation from outside and protests from this Council. I heartily join my honourable friend in supporting this resolution for reconsideration. I have only one other remark and that is that the proposition that the aim of Imperial Finance should be to balance revenues and expenditure without any contribution from the provinces has been urged before Lord Meston's Committee both by the non-official witnesses as well as by the Local Government and I trust that this House would again endorse that proposition. On no other footing is it possible to meet the many claims of development such as education, sanitation and various other matters which were very largely in evidence in the debate during the last nine days. Sir, I think, if we are to make any progress I feel very keenly that there must be some change in the financial system. Now that Lord Meston's award has been very severely criticised by other provinces, I am looking forward to a very early reconsideration of the financial arrangements that have been come to. The other provinces are moving in this direction. As I have already stated at the time of the general budget discussion, Bengal has asked that the jute duty of 2½ crores should be paid over to the Province."

"In Bombay they are putting forward a strong demand for a portion of the income-tax. It is true that the Joint Committee made a slight recommendation that the provinces should have a portion of the

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income-tax. As has been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Finance Member the addition to our revenues on account of this recommendation is the magnificent sum of Rs. 69,000 per annum. As I have already stated, I would not be satisfied with freeing ourselves from this contribution of Rs. 348 lakhs to the Government of India. We shall have to put forward a demand for sharing some item of growing revenue of the Central Government. There is the income-tax which is a central source of revenue and I trust that the Hon'ble the Finance Member will take the opportunity of pressing for a definite share of it. With these remarks, I heartily support this resolution."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—"Sir, this resolution asks the Government of Madras to make some representation once more about its contribution to the Government of India and the Secretary of State, and about the inability of the Madras Presidency to contribute 348 lakhs of rupees. Of course, as the Honourable Member for Government said, the Government tried their best and made all possible representations, but they were of no avail. All members spoke of Lord Meston's award, but I think Lord Meston's awards will not stand. The other award of his, that of giving seats to non-Brahmans, falsified itself. So I hope this award also will not stand longer. But, however, we shall try once more, the trial costs nothing. I hope Government will be pleased, because they are also bound to maintain for purposes of Government all available funds, to make the representation to the Government of India. Of course, we know the result 'The Secretary of State and the Government of India see no reason to interfere or to reconsider' and so our request may be rejected. I am afraid that will be the result. But, however, when they see that we have been repeatedly asking them, they may yield to some extent. Of course they may have a lot of wants, and they may be in want of funds to meet all their expenses. We do not know all these things. What we know is this. We know our difficulties and shall put them before the Government of India. They may compare our difficulties with their difficulties and arrive at a conclusion on the question whether this contribution should not be stopped. With these few words, I beg to support this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg leave to take this opportunity of associating myself with the mover of this resolution in the hope that this Council will unanimously pass this resolution without a single exception. There cannot be two opinions on this matter throughout this province. For years we have suffered on account of the economy of our authorities. For years we have contributed monies to the Imperial Government while other provinces were benefited at the expense of Madras. For 40 years, Sir, Burma did not pay her way and she had to live upon other provinces. Bombay began as early as 1827-28 with a deficit of something like a million and a quarter and went on piling up that deficit year after year. Latterly her recent budgets were described as bloated budgets. In the beginning of this century Bombay received a sum of Rs. 518 lakhs for famine alone besides small subsidies and other grants. In the year 1911 when the Imperial Government distributed Rs. 104 lakhs, Bombay alone got Rs. 58 lakhs, while Madras got nothing. Even in the financial settlements, Madras was not fairly treated. When the permanent financial settlement was made in 1911, substantial concessions were granted to the major provinces, but save for a grant of 3 lakhs of rupees in the forest revenue, Madras received no substantial benefit. Bengal, Sir, has always been treated as the prodigal son for whom the fatted cow had been killed. Madras and the United Provinces remained the milch cows of the country. Such is the history of the financial relations of these provinces.

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"In the beginning, when the 'Montford' report was published, we thought on the basis of that report, namely, on the difference between the gross revenue and gross expenditure, that a sum of Rs. 188 lakhs would all be the sum that Madras would be called upon to contribute. Later on when the Simla Conference met in September 1919 on the above basis it was supposed that a sum of Rs. 211 lakhs would be demanded from this province. But to-day we find ourselves paying something like Rs. 348 lakhs or nearly a fourth of our revenue. Honourable Members are aware how all this difference arose. Lord Meston's Committee went out of the way and provincialized general stamps and thereby created a further deficit in the Imperial revenues. We are also aware that the windfall that was expected from the exchange problem also fell through. The result is that to-day we find that Madras is paying this huge sum. Well, Sir, we were told in England and later on in this country that our future progress, our future rights and the extension of this principle of progressive development in responsible Government will depend upon the progress that we show in our administration. Speaking as a Minister, I humbly warn the Government of India and the Secretary of State with the united voice of this House behind me that if these resources are not augmented and if this Ministry does not succeed, it will not be the fault of the Ministry or of this country, but it will be the fault of this unjust, inequitable and unjustifiable system of finance, which cripples our resources and retards our growth.

"Sir, when the Government of India was managing the irrigation system, Honourable Members are aware how badly Madras was treated. The Irrigation Committee suggested a scheme for nearly 20 years and advised that a sum of Rs. 44 crores should be spent on the great irrigation works of which Madras was expected to spend, or rather the India Government was expected to spend in Madras something like Rs. 15½ crores. I raised this question in the Imperial Legislative Council when I happened to be a member of that House and pointed out that between the years 1907 and 1908 a sum of Rs. 52,37,000 and odd was spent in Madras and something like Rs. 80,54,750 was spent in the United Provinces, while in the Punjab a sum of Rs. 7,98,60,000 was spent during the same period as capital outlay on productive works. What was the result of it? The result was that whereas we have not been able to execute the works which were so very important for our province, a large sum was spent in the northern part of the country, which is nearer the seat of the Government of India. The Kistna reservoir project to this day remains in the region of consideration. The Tungabhadra project is practically abandoned. The Cauvery project is in that unfortunate position of having been referred to an arbitration whose final decision seems to be coming only on the doomsday. I mention this simply to show how badly we were treated in the past by the Government of India.

"Well, with our resources so crippled, how is it expected that these reforms would be a success in this country? It would be very easy for people to expect that new taxation should be raised, but this House, consisting as it does of representatives entirely from the tax-payers and the landholders, will find it very very difficult—indeed it will be the last resort if it ever could be called a resort at all,—to impose any new taxation on land in this country. Such being the case, how do they expect that the Ministry, to whom is handed over the developing subjects of Agriculture and Industries requiring huge sums of money, to develop them if these monies are yet to come and our own resources are given away to the Imperial Government. I say it would not be possible for us to succeed and if those in authority desire that these reforms should succeed in this province, then I say that we must be treated more fairly, equitably and justly."

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The resolution regarding provincial contribution to the Central Government was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Appointment of district munsifs by the Government.

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, the resolution which stands in my name reads as follows :—

‘ 21. This Council recommends to the Government that the power of making appointments to the office of District Munsifs now vested in the High Court may, with a view to effect being given to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission, be taken into the hands of the Government such power being exercised with the advice of the High Court.’

“ Sir, the resolution that I move is not anything of my own. It is but a reminder to the Government of what the Public Services Commission has recommended and which has not so far as we are aware of been given effect to. We have heard during the last few days that the Government had been anxiously considering the recommendations of the Public Services Commission in several matters and after long correspondence with the Government of India and the Secretary of State had obtained sanction and were paying away moneys with arrears. Now Sir, I ask, why has not this portion of the recommendations of the Public Services Commission been given effect to? I shall refer the House to those portions of the recommendations which deal with this subject. As the House knows, this Commission was appointed by a Royal Warrant on the 5th September 1912. It perambulated over the country and has cost the country several lakhs of rupees. It has issued its report in the year 1916. In regard to the higher services, both in the Executive and Judicial—within the expression of ‘ the higher services ’ is also included the office of district munsifs—they have sent up the recommendations that the Government shall be the appointing authority to these offices and that Government shall be assisted so far as the executive posts are concerned by a Board of Selection and in regard to Judicial services, Government shall also be the appointing authority but that no Board of Selection need be brought into existence as the High Court and the Chief Court in places where there are no High Courts serve the purposes of a Board of Selection.

“ I will refer only to page 190 of the Public Services Commission Report, Volume I. Under method of selection recommended for the executive branch paragraph 53, it is stated : ‘ We are also satisfied that, whilst the main consideration in selecting recruits should be their intellectual fitness, it is also necessary to provide for the appointment of applicants of good but not of the highest educational qualifications, so as to give representation to the various communities and interests in the country. With this in view we recommend that a minimum educational qualification for all recruits be laid down, and that a committee consisting of three officials and two non-officials, and including two Indians, be instituted in each province to advise the Local Government in their selections for the executive branch of the service.’ This is with regard to the executive branch. Then I pass on to the method of selection recommended for the Judicial branch. On the judicial side the position is rather different. Here no suggestion for any competitive test has been made; whilst the high and chief courts in most provinces already perform the functions which we desire to see exercised on the executive side by our proposed committees of selection. It will be sufficient therefore to lay down that this procedure be made general. In such case the prerogative of Government to appoint all their officers would be established, but they should in every case act with the advice of the highest judicial authority available. To

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bring this about legislation would be required in certain provinces, and we recommended that this be undertaken. In paragraph 57 they say : ‘ On the judicial side the High Court enjoys statutory powers to appoint munsifs in Madras, and the Local Government does not intervene until the time comes for them to be made Subordinate Judges’. So my resolution is only a reminder to the House and to the Government that what the Public Services Commission have commended may be taken on hand immediately. In the same report under the Salaries of Judicial officers it is stated ‘ We accordingly recommend that probationers be given a salary of Rs. 200 a month, and that on confirmation officers be remunerated on a scale of Rs. 300—40/3—500,’ and the salary of the Sub-Judges is recommended at the rate of Rs. 600—40—800 a month.

“ While, therefore, Government have given effect to this, they have not given effect to the other recommendations. We are now asking the Government to undertake to do what has been recommended by the Public Services Commission—that it should take into its own hands the appointment of munsifs, such power being exercised with the advice of the High Court. I am aware, Sir, and I have pointed it out from the Public Services Commission Report, that this cannot be done without the statute being altered; and the Public Services Commission has recommended to the Government that steps may be taken to alter the statute. Is it only the view of the Public Services Commission or is it also justified that we should make this demand upon Government that they should take over the power of appointment of district munsif into their own hands? If proof or any evidence of the necessity is required, I shall give the House only a few figures to show how necessary it is that for the protection not only of the minority communities like the Muhammadans or the Christians but also the majority community consisting of non-Brahman Hindus, the appointment of district munsifs should be taken into the hands of Government. While the Public Services Commission was sitting and evidence was being given and the evidence that was tendered before the Commission was being published in the newspapers, the figures stood thus on the 31st March 1914. There were 169 district munsifs, 121 of them were Brahmans, 35 non-Brahman Hindus, 2 Anglo-Indians, 9 Native Christians and 2 Muhammadans; that is, 48 non-Brahmans including Mussalmans, Christians and Eurasians against 121 Brahmans. To-day or at any rate on the 1st of January 1921 we find a considerable addition to the number of district munsifs. But has there been an addition to the number of non-Brahman munsifs including Christians, Mussalmans and Eurasians? I am sorry to say, Sir, that this number has decreased by one while the number of appointments has increased by 30, and they have all gone to Brahman gentlemen. On the 1st January 1921 there were 144 permanent appointments of district munsifs. There were also 33 sub. *pro tem.* appointments and 32 acting appointments. Ten appointments were vacant. Thus the total number of munsifs actually working was 199. Out of the appointments 152 are being occupied, or rather were being occupied by Brahman gentlemen. Only 38 were occupied by non-Brahman Hindus, 4 by Mussalmans and 5 by Christians, so that the number occupied by non-Brahmans was 47. Though the number of appointments of munsifs has been increased by 30 or including the vacant posts by 40, the number of Brahmans only has been increased, but the number of non-Brahman Hindus and other communities has remained stationary or rather it has gone down. This is the state of affairs. Is it being contended at this time of the day that non-Brahmans have not been passing examinations in large numbers or have not been offering themselves in large numbers for the appointments? Then why is this state of affairs existing? I have also got figures for the years 1914, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919 and 1920. Starting from 1914, we have on the 1st October

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1914 as district munsifs, 123 Brahmans and 46 non-Brahmans. In the year 1916 we have 137 Brahmans and 45 non-Brahmans. In October 1917 the number of Brahmans has risen from 137 to 141 and that of non-Brahmans also has risen to 53. On the 1st July 1918 the number of Brahmans is the same, i.e., 141, but the number of non-Brahmans has come down to 50. On the 1st of October 1919 the number of Brahmans is 147 and that of the non-Brahmans 46. On the 1st of July 1920 the number of Brahmans is 149 and that of the non-Brahmans 51 and on the 1st of January 1921 this number of 51 has become reduced to 47, so that it can be readily said that the Brahmans have been progressing and all the non-Brahman communities have been stationary, not by any fault of theirs, for every one of them who has been appointed has been a B.A., B.L., and possesses the same degree of capacity; but apparently he does not possess something else, that is patronage. It cannot be said of a non-Brahman that he is stationary because he is wanting in brains; it can be said so, because he has not got a godfather. It seems to me from these figures that the High Court, instead of being a loving parent to all the communities, has been a godfather to one community and a step-mother to all the other communities. I say this because the figures which I have given prove that it has not been taking that paternal interest in all the communities which it has been taking in one particular class of individuals. I remember what the Hon'ble the Law Member has said the other day quoting the dictum of the Home Member of the Government of India, that Courts of Justice are not representative institutions. But I ask, 'is the Home Member of the Government of India a superior person to the Public Services Commissioners who made the recommendation that due consideration for all the classes should be given? No doubt, he occupies a very high position. But still his position is small and insignificant compared with that of the Public Services Commissioners. I may here remind the House that amongst the Public Services Commissioners was Justice Sir Abdur Rahim who fully endorsed this recommendation and this is not one of those recommendations to which he added a dissenting note. It was also said by the Hon'ble the Law Member that we must not do anything which interferes with the efficiency and the prestige of the Courts. I do not know whether by that remark he intended that prestige was the monopoly of one community which is fortunate enough to get large numbers appointed as munsifs or that by appointing non-Brahman communities in large numbers the prestige of the Government or the administration will suffer. When the non-Brahman students or candidates sitting at one table in the examination hall along with the Brahmans are able to pass, why should it be assumed that they are not able to maintain the prestige of the Judicial Department as well as our Brahman brothers do? Speaking on this subject I will again refer to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission which laid down what should be borne in mind in the matter of appointment to secure communal representation.

"At page 191 they say 'It remains to give the figures which we have had prepared to show the proportion of appointments including listed posts filled by Statutory Civil Servants and Provincial Civil Service Officers.'

"At page 192 it is said 'But in the nature of things no exact solution of it is possible. Not only census figures, but also influence, education, race characteristics and the number of qualified candidates available, are all points which have to be taken into consideration. . . . We have, therefore, preferred, as already explained, to rely on the exercise of the prerogative of Government to maintain a balance between the various interests.' As to census figures the number of non-Brahmans is 33 times that of Brahmans in the country. As to race characteristics, can it be said that non-Brahmans have not distinguished

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themselves in the Judicial Service and that there are not non-Brahman Judges quite as good as, if not superior to, the Judges of the other class? As regards the number of qualified candidates, the other day the Hon'ble the Law Member has said that the number of Brahmans is thrice that of non-Brahmans. But the number turned out by the latter is sufficient to fill all munsifs' appointments and is even twice the number, assuming all the appointments are given only to the non-Brahmans. I say that the interests of the various communities should be safeguarded by the method of communal representation. We in this country have always been fond of quoting Lord Morley both as a philosopher and as a politician. He was the one philosopher-politician that endeared himself to men of all classes in our country unlike others who were very much liked by one community and probably not so much by other communities. Lord Morley lays down this test with reference to appointments to Judicial Service. He says 'administration of the law is a great deal more important for the contentment and well-being of a community than most purely political questions.' Referring to Ireland he said that it was essential that the Government of that country should consist of a number of Catholic Judges and Magistrates to preside over the Courts. Can I not transpose the words and say that the judiciary in this country should have a number of non-Brahmans which now predominantly consists of Brahmans? Then he proceeds: 'Our six years of vigilant attention while in opposition to this side of Irish affairs had shown the paradox of magistracy—mainly Protestant in a country predominantly Catholic. We were bound to attempt redress of the balance. That was not so easy as it might seem. I scorned delights and lived laborious days in going with the Lord Chancellor through lists of Magistrates proposed to him.' Then he points out: 'and in the end we made a panel of new men not much behind the old in real respectability and not at all behind them in true judicial quality of mind. No scandal in the new was comparable with the scandal of the old and no ill came of it. We appointed 637 County Justices over the heads of the Lieutenants of Counties—554 of them Catholics, 83 Protestants. But consider the state of things after our felonious operation was over. We reduced the old Protestant ascendancy from between 3 and 4 to 1, to a proportion of rather more than 2 to 1.'

"So that it is more than essential that non-Brahman litigants, that is, litigants who come from the non-Brahman community, should as far as possible have their affairs decided and adjudicated upon by Judges drawn from lawyers who belong to their own community and lawyers who possess the same qualifications, the same judicial frame of mind and the same capacity as the Brahmans. I ask how is this test applied? I am afraid no test has been applied. It is only a question as to who is able to get the appointing officer in the High Court to back him up. There is also a great advantage in having this control or the right of appointment in the hands of Government rather than in the hands of the High Court. The Government is extremely sensitive to criticisms and does yield to public criticisms, but the High Court does not care. The only influence so far as I can see is the influence that the Brahmans bring to bear upon the Judges some of whom are also Brahmans, and apparently from what I have stated the right has been exercised very largely in favour of their own community rather than in favour of other men. In this connexion, I wish to draw the attention of the House to a certain feature in the administration report of the Madras Presidency. The last paragraph deals with the Muhammadans in the service of the Government. The last lines read as follows:—

'The percentage of Muhammadans to the total population of the Presidency was only 6.6, but nearly 14 per cent of the posts in the superior service were held by them.'

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"It is no doubt creditable to the Government that they have given a large number of appointments to Muhammadans when compared with other communities except Brahmans. But for the benefit of the non-Brahman communities if similar statistics are given with regard to the number of higher posts held by them in proportion to their number in population in the Presidency, it would throw much light.

"I now formally move the resolution which stands against my name."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—"The resolution relates to, if I may say so, a partition quarrel. Of course it is a long standing quarrel, because one community alone finds it easy to get all the appointments in the judicial service owing to the influence which that community can get from the High Court Judges. Of course generally speaking it is considered that non-Brahmans are not efficient. But this objection is raised even in cases of district munsifs. Well, there are many South Indian non-Brahmans who are M.A., M.L's., but when a vacancy arises the Brahman is appointed to the post because the authorities say that even though the Brahman is less qualified than the non-Brahman, the former is senior to the latter. Again supposing there is a non-Brahman who is senior to a Brahman applying for the post, then it is said that the Brahman is more efficient than the non-Brahman. In this way when there is seniority the Brahmans take advantage of seniority, and when there is efficiency they also take advantage of it. Of course they cannot say there are not sufficient number of non-Brahman vakils. But they can say we have not got sufficient number of Judges to speak on our behalf. It is unfortunate that none of our community was able to get High Court Judgeships when vacancies fell in.

"It is true that none of our members is there to take care of our interest. The Brahmans would argue as it would suit them. They will say that we are only a minority in the practising vakils and therefore we should be given the appointments proportionately. But they did not advance this argument in the election matter. They would say that what the non-Brahmans are doing is very good, viz., they do not send all their children to the Bar but they send them to several professions. These are made to produce wealth for the consumption by the Brahmans. We are producers of the wealth of the country and why should we not be consumers also? They rely much upon their intelligence for the purpose of consuming what is produced by others. This is coming on traditionally. Originally they were rishis and now they have become lawyers and doctors. They cannot cultivate lands because they cannot touch the plough. But they purchase lands and ask them to be cultivated by our people. So they never choose the profession which will produce wealth. That is why there is overwhelming majority round the Bar and that should not be the reason why there should be a similar number in the Bench. If at all justice could be done by the High Court Judges they should select from all the communities as recommended by the Public Services Commission. Now some time back when this question of removing the power of appointment from the High Court to the Government was thought to be agitated, one gentleman put a question in this Council to remove the power of the Government in respect of appointments above munsifs' grade to the High Court so that all of them may be filled by Brahmans; because they have got more influence in the High Court than in Government. I do not say they have got no influence in the Government. Now we are asking that Government itself should exercise the power which has been hitherto exercised by the High Court, of course on the recommendation by the High Court as in the case of Subordinate Judges. Some time back the High Court has recommended one name for the

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judgeship of the Small Cause Court and the Government wanted another name. But the High Court sent in the same name again. The Government finally gave the appointment to a non-Brahman,—I mean in the case of Mr. G. Kothandaramanjulu Nayudu who was appointed by the Government though the High Court suggested the name of Mr. Krishnamachariyar. For this purpose we want the power should be transferred from the High Court to the Government because we expect justice better from the Government. I do not mean to say that High Court Judges are not fit to adjudge justice. They do not know anything about these things. Every one would naturally consult his friend or neighbour in doing anything. Similarly the Judges consult their colleagues. The Brahmans say that they all are very intelligent people and that by their mantras they can win all. It is said in Panchatantram that Rajas and women are all influenced by persons who are near at hand. The Government was influenced by certain Brahmans only. Why should they blame the Brahmans? It is an instinct of human nature to help their own people in preference to others. So it is only natural that Brahmans are predominating everywhere. For instance take the case of crows. When they get any crumb they at once call for their class and see that all of them are provided with it. So also the Brahmans send wireless telegraph and appoint men of their own class to posts. When we quarrel with Europeans for posts we all join together, but there is a sub-quarrel here and of course it is this quarrel which has made Brahman and non-Brahman parties. We can do away with these things if our Brahman brethren allow themselves to become non-Brahmans. So with these words I support the motion."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, I feel somewhat embarrassed in opposing this resolution as I propose to do.

4-30 p.m.

But in so doing I shall as far as possible lay all Brahman prejudice. I have become too old and have been too orthodox to become a non-Brahman for the purpose of entering Government service or any other service. I have always been feeling, Sir, and I cannot disguise the fact that far too much of the intelligence of this country, Brahman or non-Brahman, goes into the Government service and makes its intelligence practically useless for the country. I do not deny that Government service is an honourable service but it is monopolising far too much of the intelligence of this country. I shall not and I am not holding a brief and I shall not ask any single Brahman to covet Government service and as far as possible I shall preach non-co-operation to them to this extent. As a matter of fact, Sir, a change has come in the tone and temper of this country and the fascination for Government service is fast dying out. I believe the Brahmans would not care a brass farthing if the Government posts are occupied by non-Brahmans.

"Now, Sir, let me deal with the merits. Crows or no crows we possessed intelligence and we do possess it. We can through that intelligence see what is required for the benefit of my country which is also the country of my non-Brahmans. Now the basis for this resolution is really the feeling which I recognize as existing among my non-Brahman brothers, viz., that their community is not fairly treated in the matter of appointment to the judicial service. I recognize it. There is that feeling and I shall deal with that feeling with the utmost respect. Now whether the feeling is based upon solid facts or not I shall deal in a moment. It will not be denied by anybody in this House that for the judicial service or for any other service, especially for judicial service, the primary quality should be the quality of efficiency. I do not think my non-Brahman friends will deny that. That being the primary concern we must next recognize the fact that the appointments of district munsifs are vested in the High Court under the law. These

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appointments are made according to certain rules which have been sanctioned by the Government. They prescribe the minimum qualifications necessary for appointment as munsifs. The qualifications are common to both Brahmans and non-Brahmans and I have great pleasure in noting from the speech of the mover that he does not want the qualifications to be different to non-Brahmans from what it is to Brahmans. I shall deal with the recommendations of the Public Service Commission which recommended that the appointing board should be under the control of the Local Government for the sake of uniformity. I shall deal with it in a moment. The first question is whether the High Court in the exercise of its patronage has been quite fair to all the communities. If they are possessed of equal qualifications I would adopt the principle that non-Brahmans should have preference over the Brahmans and my Brahman friends would, I am sure, not object to it; and with regard to certain communities I will go farther. There are certain communities you may call them by any name you choose; so long as any one of that community has the strength to overcome the obstacles created by their surrounding and attains the position of a B.A., B.L., and qualifies himself under the rules, I would prefer him to the most efficient Brahman. That I believe is the principle on which, so far as I know, the High Court has really acted on. I have got a statement made for me. The point which the Hon'ble the Home Member to the Government of India made was that in these matters it cannot be a census of population that could fix the proportion. The proportion can only be made out of persons who are all qualified. Subject to these rules where you have got equality of qualifications we must give preference to that community which is not adequately represented according to its population. That is the meaning and that alone could be the meaning of the Public Services Commission's recommendations or any other recommendations. Now, Sir, I have had a note sent to me by the Registrar of the High Court which I owe to the courtesy of the Hon'ble the Judges. I have got this, viz., the total number of persons who have applied to be appointed as munsifs in the year 1919; I take the year 1919, for the later list is only in course of preparation and I am not at liberty to disclose its contents as it has not been settled by the Judges. Before I read the note I shall tell the House how the patronage is exercised in practice, and the House can judge whether there can be any possibility of there being any undue influence on the part of any particular community in the exercise of discretion by the Judges. If any person possesses the qualifications or the minimum qualifications prescribed by the rules and he sends an application his name is registered. From that register a smaller list is prepared which represents the probable number of appointments which the High Court will have to make in the course of a year or 18 months. It is these persons who are taken in the selection list that are appointed, and I may say this for the information of the House, that unless the persons selected decline to be appointed the list is exhausted by the appointment of these persons before fresh persons are brought into the selected list. That is the general practice; these may possibly be explained, but so far as I know, no exception has been made in favour of the Brahman community.

“Now I shall give the figures. The number of persons who possessed the qualifications under the rules and who were willing to take up appointment as district munsifs and who had applied are for the year 1919—135 Brahmans registered themselves as applicants for district munsifs' posts; of the non-Brahmans 23 gentlemen registered their names as applicants for munsifs' posts; among the Muhammadans there was only one gentleman who registered himself as an applicant and among the Indian Christians there were three.

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Now, Sir, out of the 135 gentlemen among the Brahmans 21 were drafted into the selection list and that gives a percentage of 15. Out of the 23 non-Brahman gentlemen who were registered, 12 were selected and that gives you 51 per cent. The single Muhammadan gentleman was selected and that gives 100 per cent . . .”

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (*interrupting*):—“May I know, Sir, if it is that they registered themselves or the High Court registered them? I am in possession of a specific instance—or at any rate one of my friends here is in possession of it—where an applicant presented his application on the 5th February 1921, and in a letter to him on the 15th February it is stated that he has passed the age of 35 and therefore not eligible. My Honourable friend spoke of rules framed by the High Court, with the approval of the Government. Can my Honourable friend point to any authority for the rule fixing 32 years as the age-limit and whether it has been approved by the Government?”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*continuing*):—“I am going to deal with this question of age; but in regard to this I may at once say that the Public Services Commission recommended 27 years as the age. Then this Government, as I believe, thought that the age should be 30, and the age which is now prescribed by the High Court is 32. And when I deal with the other question, I shall submit to the House how if the age is extended beyond 32 it will be almost impossible to preserve the efficiency of judicial service. That is the opinion of the judges uncoloured by the Brahman or non-Brahman.

“Now, Sir, let me proceed. Out of the three Indian Christians who were registered two were selected which gives 67 per cent. And out of these 21 gentlemen among the Brahmans who have been selected 18 have already been appointed, three were left over and they will be appointed. Out of the 12 non-Brahmans, nine have been appointed. Appointments were offered to two but they declined. For this year, I am not going to tell you the number of selections because, as I have said, the information is not available. But, the total number of persons that are registered to-day is 216. Out of these 216, 168 are Brahmans, 41 non-Brahman Hindus, two Muhammadans, four Christians and one Anglo-Indian. That is the number registered and how much has been selected I am not in a position to say, but I have reason to believe that communities other than the Brahman have had favourable treatment.

“Now, I want to ask you this question; could there be a more capable selection committee which could make a better selection for judicial offices than the highest tribunal, the High Court of Justice. I am not giving my own opinion with regard to it; I am going to draw the attention of the House to the opinion of the high authority vouched for even by my friend, the mover of the resolution, viz., Sir Abdur Rahim who was a member of the Public Services Commission, who was for a long time a Judge of this Court and who was a Muhammadan and who naturally cannot be presumed to have Brahman prejudices. I will just read to you what he said with regard to this question, viz., whether the existence of the right of patronage in the High Court should be taken away from them, in order to vest it in a Selection Committee. This, Sir, is what he says. This is written about May 1919: ‘It would in my opinion be a distinctly retrograde measure to deprive the High Court of the power of appointment of munsifs merely on theoretical grounds or for the sake of uniformity.’ The Public Services Commission report aimed at uniformity. The recommendations are recommendations only. They have to be considered by the Local Government and then the recommendations have to be adopted as far as possible. I shall now proceed with his remarks.

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APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT MUNSIPS BY THE GOVERNMENT

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar] [1st April 1921]

"As the High Court alone is in touch with the profession from which the selections are made and have to be made, that is the most competent body to appoint munsifs. We know from experience that mere advice or recommendation apart from responsibility tends to distract from efficiency and not unoften leads to friction." The next sentence is very important, Sir, as the evidence of one whose personal knowledge and whose independence and impartiality, none would dream of questioning, 'I venture to state that our appointment of munsifs will compare very favourably with such appointments made in other provinces'—he is speaking, Sir, with some knowledge of Bengal also—'such as Bengal where the High Courts have only to select candidates and there was'—this is important, —'no sort of complaint from any one before the Public Service Commission of the way in which this High Court's power has been exercised for so long.' That concludes the question. I may as well read to you another passage because of the incidental interruption with regard to the age.

'As for the rules relating to recruitment to district munsifs' posts no appointment should ordinarily be made after 30 years of age.'

"I am not sure whether 30 was not the maximum age then, but I believe the High Court changed it to 32. With that modification the system of selection in this Presidency is being worked satisfactorily. There are not now chances of promotion from the subordinate services to the munsif's post and the bulk of the officers are selected from the Bar. Nobody questions the extreme efficiency of this branch of our service."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR (*interrupting*):—"May I ask for a piece of information from my colleague? Does the Public Service Commission insist upon these years?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*continuing*):—"I do not understand the question, Sir. The Public Services Commission prescribed the age of 27 with two years' probation instead of three years' practice."

"I would strongly deprecate the appointment of district munsifs immediately after the passing of the B.L. Examination. These matters, I may mention, every one of them, have been very exhaustively and carefully considered by persons eminently competent to judge them. Let me again cite the authority of that very learned judge. 'Even members of the Indian Civil Service whose general educational qualifications are high are not employed in trying civil cases before the age of 30'. After the age of 27 they had the two years' probation stage which the Commission suggested and that has always been considered useless by our High Court. Twenty-seven years as recommended by the Commission would not be of any benefit whatsoever to my non-Brahman friends. The two years suggested by the majority of the Commission is based upon an inadequate conception of the civil judges' work and can be of little use for the purpose of training. Sir Abdur Rahim continues: 'I am sure that under the system proposed by the Commission (that is appointing at 27 and having a two years' probation), if adopted, the quality of our district munsifs will suffer.'"

"The figures which I have given, and the considered opinion recorded in the minutes of Sir Abdur Rahim constitute, I venture to think, a sufficient vindication of the method adopted by the High Court in the exercise of their patronage. I am not going to trouble the House further, but I may just tell them this. All the learned judges finally decide, as to the persons to be nominated. The preliminary selection is generally left to the senior civilian judge who must have had considerable experience of the districts. Why this European judge, experienced in judging of facts, without any bias in favour of any one community, should put

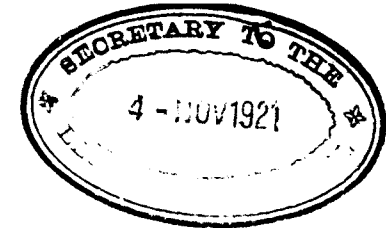
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himself under any influence, I really do not for a moment understand. I do not desire to say anything about my own personal experience during the short period I was there.

"My friend, Mr. Tanikachalam, asks why no effect was given to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission. It is a relevant question and I am here to answer it. The Public Services Commission's recommendations were very carefully considered by this Government, not once, but several times. They consulted the High Court judges and finally came to certain conclusions which they communicated to the Government of India along with other recommendations. One of the conclusions reached was that there was no need to change the system. Finally, Sir, we had a communication from the Government of India with the sanction of the Secretary of State which allowed the present system to continue. That, I believe, was so late as the 13th September 1920. I am therefore obliged to oppose this resolution."

The Council then adjourned to 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 2nd day of April 1921, M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. KRISHNA PILLAI Avargal, Deputy President, presiding.

I
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Coimbatore water-supply.

554 Q.—Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(a) whether the detailed estimates for the Coimbatore water-supply scheme have been received ;

(b) whether the Government have passed final orders on the estimates and on the proposal made by the municipality for financing the scheme ;

(c) if final orders have been passed, to state what they are ;

(d) if final orders have not yet been passed, to state in what stage the matter is at present ; and

(e) when the execution of the scheme is likely to be begun.

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The question of financing the scheme is still under consideration.

(e) It cannot be stated when the scheme is likely to be executed.

Government Press.

555 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

(a) whether it is a fact

(1) that the acting head examiner in the Government Press was convicted and fined for assaulting a subordinate in the office ; whether, subsequent to his conviction, the complainant in the case was dismissed, but no notice has been taken departmentally of the acting head examiner ;

(2) that the acting head examiner has been acting for two years without being confirmed, whether repeated complaints have been made as to his offensive behaviour and whether the Government propose to direct the Superintendent of the Press to make a satisfactory permanent arrangement relieving the acting head examiner of his responsibilities ;

(3) that the dismissed subordinate's appeal for reinstatement has been rejected by the Chief Secretary and whether the Government will reconsider his case ; and

(b) to state what action has been taken in regard to the increase of pay to technical hands in the Press.

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- A.—(a) (1) The Honorary Presidency Magistrates found that the acting head examiner had assaulted a reading boy. They also found that the nature and extent of the assault was exaggerated, and that it was to some extent the result of the insulting words used by the boy. The boy was dismissed for repeated insolence and insubordination, while the Superintendent held that the fine inflicted by the Court was sufficient punishment for a technical assault committed under provocation.
- (2) The Government have no information. The matter is one within the discretion of the Superintendent with which discretion they do not propose to interfere.
- (3) The appeal has been rejected and the Government do not propose to reconsider the case.
- (b) The Superintendent's proposals are under consideration.

Periyakulam-Kodaikanal Road Railway.

556 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SAUNDARA PANDIA NADAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

- (a) what steps the Government have so far taken towards the construction of the proposed Periyakulam-Kodaikanal Road Railway;
- (b) when the actual construction of the line is expected to begin.

A.—In G.O. No. 76 Ry., dated 28th April 1920, the District Board of Madura was requested to submit within six months a practicable scheme for financing the railway. In September 1920, the District Board asked that the consideration of the question might be postponed for two years. The Government have also since been making inquiries as to whether any private agency would take up the construction of the line, but no such offer has yet been received.

II

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Appointment of District Munsifs by the Government.

The Council then resumed the discussion of Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyyar's resolution No. 21 on the recruitment of district munsifs.

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, yesterday the Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar spoke on behalf of the Government. During the course of his speech he made certain statements which left me in some doubt as to whether he spoke as a member of the Government or as a Brahman supporting the cause of the Brahmans. On one or two occasions the discussions have been taking an unhappy turn that of Brahman *versus* non-Brahman or European *versus* Indian. When the question of the Indian Medical Service came up before the Council, the Leader of the House jumped from his seat to raise a point of order, and the next day the Hon'ble the Finance Member talked very vehemently on the same subject. And even during the course of the debate yesterday, the Hon'ble the Law Member was interrupted by one of the Members of the Cabinet."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR (*interrupting*):—"It was not an interruption. I only wanted to have a piece of information from my honourable colleague."

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[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju]

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*continuing*):—"Though it was a request for information, yet it was in the nature of an interruption. These are indications in themselves to show that the question of communal representation and the question of race and race are cropping up very often in this House. It is in the interests of the public as well as of the House to see that these questions are settled once for all satisfactorily either by compact or in a decisive manner so that the question may not crop up, so that we may not look into these matters through distorting spectacles. From the course of the debate, it is evident that there is a strong feeling among a certain section of the representatives in this House that the recruitment to the posts of district munsifs is not at all satisfactory. There is no use of criticising the conduct of the High Court. I shall not be a party to that sort of criticism. We always want to place the highest tribunal of the land on a very high pedestal of justice and impartiality. At the same time it is necessary that the Government as well as the High Court should try to meet the wishes of a large volume of public opinion, and see that the question is satisfactorily settled."

"Now coming to the preparation of the selection lists, yesterday the Hon'ble the Law Member was pleased to state that during the current year lists are being prepared, and of the 125 applications from Brahman candidates only 12 were selected. And of the 24 or 25 applications from non-Brahman candidates half the number was taken. The question is whether this is a satisfactory arrangement. When there is a large number of Brahmans already in this service, this selection list will not satisfy the non-Brahman community. I do not want to take away the power of recruitment from the High Court and place it with the Government. According to the peculiar condition of the country the Government has to appear as plaintiffs or defendants in certain suits. Therefore, if the recruitment is to be in the hands of the Government, the tax-payer will suffer sometimes. But it may be met by the argument that though the Judges as well as the Sub-Judges are being recruited by the Government, promotions are in the hands of the High Court. But, seeing the attitude of the Government that they are not prepared to meet the wishes of a large volume of public opinion and the opinion of the representatives of this House, I shall feel constrained to vote for this resolution if pressed to a division."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—"I think it will be convenient if I intervene at this stage of the debate in order to suggest a *modus vivendi*. I will make the exact suggestion at the end of my remarks which will not be very long. But I should like at the outset to say how deeply I share the regret of the last speaker at the turn which the discussions on this resolution took during part of the debate of yesterday. I recognize, Sir, that the issue of Brahman and non-Brahman is necessarily relevant to the resolution now before this Council. But I do deprecate, and I feel sure that the general sense of the House is with me in that respect, I do deprecate that this issue should be driven too hard. Particularly do I deprecate, Sir, the introduction of personal names into this House and of expressions which are calculated to hurt sensitive feelings on either side and in either party. Let me refer to the first point for a moment. The seconder of the motion introduced into debate an account of the circumstances or the supposed circumstances of a particular appointment to the Small Cause Court some time ago. I venture to think that if Mr. Somasundaram Pillai had thought twice before he allowed his tongue to carry him away in that direction, he would have checked himself before he mentioned names. It is obviously unsuitable that we should in this place discuss the issue whether the High Court recommended a particular officer and whether the Government accepted their recommendation

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or appointed some other officer to a specific post some time ago. Issues of that description cannot be properly discussed in the Legislative Council. If you will allow me, Sir, I should like also to say to the same honourable gentleman that some expressions in the course of his speech were calculated to hurt sensitive feelings. I think, Sir, in that respect also that if he had thought twice, he would have adopted some other phraseology and had not attempted to follow what I may perhaps describe as the methods of a court jester like Tenali Raman Pillai. A humorous and sometimes offensive style may be justifiable in a court jester but is hardly suited to the Legislative Council; and I think, Sir, that Mr. Soma-sundaram Pillai would do wisely to avoid such methods of speech when addressing his political opponents in this Council. I hope he will take what I say in good part and bear me no malice when I make that friendly suggestion.

"That enables me to come down to the practical issue of this particular debate. I take it that Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar's suggestion is that, if this resolution be passed, the Government on receipt of the recommendation of the Council should re-examine their position and consider whether it is not possible for them to bring in a Government Bill for the amendment of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873. He naturally thinks that the amendment of that Act should rather proceed as a Government measure than by means of a private Bill. And therein he is quite right. Now the Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar has explained that this issue has already been under examination by the Government comparatively recently, that the result of that examination was adverse to the introduction of amending legislation, and that when this conclusion was duly brought to the notice of the higher authorities, they acquiesced in it. The issue we have now to consider is whether any further examination of the question should be made. I think I may say on behalf of my honourable colleague and the rest of the Cabinet, including His Excellency, that we are quite ready to make such a further examination. This olive branch I hold out to Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar in the hope that it may be accepted with the result of closing further discussion of the present resolution. But I should like to say some words at least in justification of the position which the Government have hitherto taken up on this matter since my honourable colleague has inherited this question from me, and until the 17th December last I was myself in charge of the portfolio dealing with the administration of justice. Before me it was my old friend, Mr. Gillman, who held this portfolio, and in 1918, one of his last acts was to examine the question whether it was expedient to send any official communication to the High Court in this matter. He came to the conclusion that it was not. I myself examined precisely the same issue during the ensuing months and with the concurrence of the Government of Madras came to the same conclusion. It should not be understood that when the Government came to this conclusion, the comparative needs and the comparative rights of the Brahmans and non-Brahmans in regard to judicial appointments were overlooked by the Government. That was not the case at all. It was merely a question how best due consideration could be secured in regard to those issues. I cannot go into the details of the procedure which in fact was adopted.

"My honourable colleague has described from his knowledge as a Judge of the High Court what procedure is followed in regard to the preparation of selection lists and the appointment of munsifs. The feeling of the Government in this matter, if I do not misinterpret it, is, as aptly voiced by Mr. Narasimha Raju, that the appointment of judicial officers is perhaps better left in the hands of a body independent of the Government. That is not a fixed or a final opinion; there are

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arguments one way and the other, but that at least is one consideration making for the continuance of the existing practice regarding the selection of district munsifs. What we feel far more is that the Judges of the High Court are well seized of the considerations which make it advisable to give a fair share of these appointments to communities other than the Brahman community. Now, I venture to think, Sir, that the figures which were given by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar yesterday are conclusive proof that since those informal discussions and examinations in 1918 and 1919, due consideration has been paid to this issue by the High Court and the appointments that have been made have taken it fully into account. As the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar told us, in these matters it is only the candidates who apply for registration that should be considered. He has told us that in 1919 the High Court had before them 135 Brahman applicants, 23 non-Brahmans, one Muhammadan and three Indian Christians. Since then, the one Muhammadan has been appointed; two of the three Indian Christians have been appointed; nine of the twenty-three non-Brahmans have been appointed and two others of them have been offered and declined the appointments; that comes to eleven out of twenty-three. Of the 135 Brahmans eighteen have been appointed. I imagine that is about 12 or 13 per cent. Those figures, I venture to say, show conclusively that the High Court has, since the discussions of 1918 and 1919, paid very careful consideration to this matter and taken it fully into account. I do not wish to go over the grounds which the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar stated at the beginning when he emphasized, as you will remember, Sir, that the primary issue is a measure of efficiency; secondly, that no person can come on these lists unless he fulfils certain qualifications which have been prescribed and approved by Government; thirdly, though that is arguable, but still it is a principle which Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar has put forward and a principle which, I believe, the High Court invariably follows—namely, that given equality *caeteris paribus*, the non-Brahman should have preference over the Brahman and further that special preference should be given to men of the lower classes who have shown by their determination and grit that they can pass the law examination and possess an exceptional amount of character. Those are the principles, Sir, which I venture to say, the supporters of this resolution really desire.

"Mention has been made of individual Judges of the High Court. I am not going into personalities, but it so happens that the present senior civilian Judge has been a friend of mine from boyhood for upwards of 35 years. And I am as confident of his single-minded straightness in these matters as I can be in the case of any living human being. I should accept his judgment in these matters in preference to my own in the full confidence that he would weigh every issue and with the conviction that he is admirably fitted to judge the issues. It often falls to my lot, as well as to that of other members of Government, to have would-be district munsifs come and ask me to take interest with the High Court on their behalf. My invariable reply on such occasions is that they will find their case absolutely safe in the hands of Sir William Ayling. It is because I feel so strongly in regard to this point that I deprecate the suggestion that the High Court is not fair in the exercise of its choice. If it had been my lot to scrutinize the past exercise of patronage, I should have thought twice before condemning Sir George Parker or Sir Ralph Benson. I cannot for the moment think of any other name as I look back on the past, but it seems to me that it is very dangerous to suggest perverseness or lack of reasonable care on the part of the Judges of the High Court in this respect. It must be remembered that this Brahman-non-Brahman issue has only come before the public during quite recent years. In the

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days, for instance, of Sir George Parker the issue was under the surface, it had not come up; and in those days the educational standard of the non-Brahman was far lower than it is now. It would, therefore, not be fair to saddle the High Court of to-day with conditions which have arisen from the exercise of patronage in by-gone years. That is all, Sir, that I need say on the general issue.

"But there is one minor point, viz., the question of the age-limit in practice applied in dealing with applications to be registered on the list of applicants for the post of district munsif. Mr. Tanikachala Chettivar, as I understand him, demurs to the fixation of the age-limit of 32, whereas a statutory or executive order imposes the maximum of 35. I should like, Sir, to justify the lower limit tentatively, I do not say, finally and absolutely, because we shall specifically refer this to the High Court for examination along with the major issue. I may parallel the age limits in the case of the district munsif with the age limits in respect of competitions for the Home, Indian and Colonial Services in England which have varied from time to time. At one stage, when my Honourable Colleague, Mr. Todhunter, and I were fortunate enough to succeed in the examination, the age-limit was from 17 to 19; for many years thereafter it was from 21 to 23 or 22 to 24. Now one of the points of criticism which arises out of that change in limit is that if you have a lower age-limit you have a better chance of getting a proportion of good material because that material does not know what its potential capacity is. To instance a particular case, I will take the present Governor of the United Provinces, Sir Harcourt Butler. He came up to Balliol College as an under-graduate in my last year there, having passed the Indian Civil Service shortly after leaving Harrow. For reasons of family influence and personal abilities Sir Harcourt Butler would, beyond doubt, have had open to him in England a very distinguished career. I make no doubt whatsoever—or if that is a little too strong—I have little doubt that if he had entered Oxford as an ordinary under-graduate and taken the ordinary university course, we should in all probability not have had him out here, because by the time he was two and twenty he would have realised that a fine future lay immediately before him in England. As however, he was caught at the lower age, we in India have enjoyed the benefit of his great powers. That is only an illustration. But the same principle applies to the age-limits of 32 and 35 in the case of the district munsifs. I understand that the successful candidate normally passes his law examinations and becomes enrolled as a High Court Vakil at or about the age of 27. Now, the High Court very rightly lays down that at least three years of actual practice shall be an essential preliminary to entry on the district munsif's list. That is how the period of 32 years is arrived at, because the normal man cannot get into the list until he is 30; and it usually takes a period of two years after entry in the list to secure a fair chance of appointment. Let us suppose that the age-limit is altered from 32 to 35. What would be the result? It would mean firstly, the inclusion in the list of gentlemen who from defective capacity have failed to qualify in the normal period and are therefore below the average. Secondly, it would mean the inclusion of gentlemen whose practice has extended over 6 or 7 years; and I venture to say, Sir, that if gentlemen of that standing at the bar were willing to take up the somewhat low-paid appointment of district munsif after so many years of practice, it would not be an unfair inference that they lacked that measure of success at the bar which any normally efficient vakil might reasonably hope to obtain. In other words both these classes would come to the list and there would be a serious risk of the general level of efficiency of the district munsif falling below the present standard. These are points which must be examined if the whole

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issue is taken into consideration. There is yet a third point; and that is, that if the district munsifs were first appointed at the age of 35, it would take a good many years for them to rise through the various grades of district munsif and become sub-judges. Even now they become sub-judges late enough; but if a period of three years were added to the gauntlet which they have to run, if I may use the metaphor, the result would be that they would be still further beyond their zenith of efficiency when promoted to the grade of sub-judge. I imagine, Sir, that every lawyer in this House will confirm me when I suggest the extreme importance of having really efficient officers in that grade because of the great number and high value of the original suits that come before them. If, therefore, Sir, the age were raised from 32 to 35, I should personally be inclined to look on it as a retrograde step to be deplored because of the effect it might have on the calibre of our sub-judges. It must also be remembered that from the sub-judges we recruit a portion of our District and Sessions Judges, so that the effect would not be confined to the grade of sub-judges but would even extend to the higher grade judges. There is no necessity for me to ask the indulgence of the House any longer. I have only to reiterate, on behalf of my honourable colleague, the suggestion that this resolution should be withdrawn in order to enable the Government to take the step of consulting the High Court further in the matter."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, the discussion on this question that has already taken place in this House shows clearly and definitely that there is very strong feeling in the matter. I feel with my non-Brahman friends that they have a real grievance with reference to this question, and I believe it is the duty of the Government and of the High Court to take note of this feeling and this grievance and try to remedy them.

"My friend the Hon'ble the Law Member and also the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson referred to the figures of applicants amongst the Brahmans and non-Brahmans, Christians and Muhammadans for appointment as munsifs and drew certain conclusions from those figures. It seems to me, Sir, that the inferences drawn from the percentages based upon these figures are not quite correct. Provided the number of applicants is the same amongst the various communities, or approximately the same, the inference based upon percentages may be correct, but we find that there is a large difference in the number of applicants from these different communities. We have found that the number of applicants from the Muhammadan community was only one and to say that that gentleman was appointed a munsif and to argue therefrom that hundred per cent of the applicants from the Muhammadan community were granted appointments is, I think, rather fallacious. So that, inference based upon percentages cannot be accurate unless, as I said, the number of applicants from the different communities was more or less the same.

"After having stated this, viz., that the non-Brahman community has a real grievance in the matter, and that it is the duty of the Government and the High Court to take note of this grievance and to remedy it, I doubt very much whether the remedy suggested by my friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettivar, viz., to take away the power of appointment from the High Court and to vest it in the Government, is a very proper one. In any case I find it difficult to give a definite and clear opinion on that point. From the extract read by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar from the Public Service Commission's report, and from some other papers, it became clear, if I followed him correctly, that Sir Abdur Rahim's opinion"

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

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The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"It was, Sir, from a minute which he made as a Judge after the publication of Public Service Commission's report. In my humble opinion, Sir, the Public Service Commission's report referred to Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians: but not a word was said there about these particular classes about which we are talking."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*continuing*):—"I thank my honourable friend for kindly stating that it was from a minute of Sir Abdur Rahim. If I remember correctly, that minute states that the High Court is the best authority for the appointment of munsifs because they know the qualifications of the members of the bar who are applicants for munsifs' places, and, if I may say so without disrespect to Sir Abdur Rahim, it seems to me that that opinion is a very sound one. The Government have not that knowledge regarding applicants for munsifs' places which the High Court is expected to have and does have. So that, probably—and I express this opinion with some hesitation—it may not be advantageous to the non-Brahman community to take away the power of appointment from the High Court. There is some safety in a number of Judges, about 10 or more, sitting together and considering the question of appointments and making them, though experience has shown that, for no fault of the Judges themselves, the system hitherto followed has not been a decided success from the standpoint of the non-Brahmans. But I am sure that if the Government were authoritatively to send not only the decision that this Council may come to on this resolution, but also the discussions that have taken place in this Council with reference to this question, if the Government should send all the proceedings in connexion with this resolution authoritatively to the High Court, I am sure that the High Court will consider the effect of these discussions and I am equally sure that they will give effect to the desire of the non-Brahman community."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*):—"May I say, Sir, that it is the intention of the Government to communicate to the High Court the discussions that now take place. But I do not know what he means by 'authoritatively'."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"By 'authoritatively' I meant not informally or by a demi-official but, officially, say in the form of a letter from the Chief Secretary to the Registrar."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"The discussions that take place here will be officially communicated."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*continuing*):—"I am very glad to get that assurance, Sir, from the Honourable Member. If that is done, and I am glad to observe that it is the intention of Government to do so, I am sure the High Court will attach due weight and considerable weight to the opinions of the non-Brahman community in this Council. So that, as I said, Sir, though I fully agree with all the observations that have fallen from the members who have spoken in support of this resolution with reference to the real grievance of the non-Brahman community, I am not so certain whether it is necessary to take away this power from the High Court. Having regard to this, probably it seems to me that my friend the honourable mover of this resolution will be well advised in accepting the suggestion of the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson for withdrawing this resolution, after we have all listened to the volume of opinion in this House."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I beg leave, Sir, to submit for the consideration of the House a few humble observations"

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"The first observation, Sir, that I would seek to make is this, that the nature and the magnitude of this grievance ought to be fully and frankly realised. In this connection, Sir, it would have given me immense satisfaction if it had been possible, which I now find is not possible, to convey to the Hon'ble the President of the House, whose absence we all sincerely regret, not because of any want of efficiency on your part, Sir, but because I am told that the occasion is due to his indisposition. I say, I wish I had the opportunity to convey to the Hon'ble the President the sincere sentiment of heartfelt gratitude and of genuine admiration of myself and of many others in this House for the masterly manner in which he handled the situation and guided the debate when this 'ticklish' question was under discussion the other day. And I further wish, Sir, that a similar temper would prevail generally over the whole House, and the question would be viewed in its proper perspective, as a national issue, to be treated in a spirit of national responsibility."

"Sir, I believe it will be a woeful conclusion if it should be thought that these representations, loud as they might be, were mere sound and fury, signifying nothing. I do think, Sir, that it would be a dangerous misreading of the situation if it should be thought that these representations were after all only a clamour and a howl set up by a few selfish place-hunters, or that it was much ado about an imaginary grievance conjured up by a few sensation-mongers, or again that it was only a passing fit of distemper best treated with pitying silence. No interpretation of the situation would be correct unless it should be distinctly understood that these protestations and these representations were, if I may use the expression, only an echo, a faint echo, of an anguished cry occasioned by a deep-seated sore rankling in a host of feeling human hearts. I, therefore, wish, Sir, that it may be realised that, without exaggeration, barring an exception here and an exception there, exceptions few and far between, there is no non-Brahman family in this wide land, with a member who has received some education and has shown some promise, but can add its sad episode to this never-ending tale of disgust or distrust, of disappointment or dismay. I am anxious, therefore, that this question should be apprehended in its right proportions."

"The second observation, Sir, that I should like to make concerns what has been called 'efficiency.' 'Efficiency,' Sir, is a word of ancient repute; and at this latter day it may almost sound as heresy to enter into an investigation of that word. Nobody here but will subscribe to the general principle that efficiency ought to be the test; and yet, Sir, I hope I shall not be wide of the truth when I state that efficiency may mean different things in different mouths. It may mean in one mouth a passport, it may mean in another a scare-crow; it may stand in one context for a carefully cultivated capacity, it may stand in another context for what has been very significantly termed 'a successful academic camouflage.' On one occasion it may denote, Sir, the capacity to face a situation fair and square, on another the capacity to keep always on the lee-side of danger. Therefore, Sir, let us not place undue stress upon what is called efficiency. In our desire for hypothetical efficiency, let us take care that we do not make of this efficiency a Procrustean bed."

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"Again, Sir, here I may just for a moment dwell upon what are called statistics. I am a mere recruit in that field; and it should be unpardonable temerity in me to cross swords on this issue with a veteran like the Hon'ble the Law Member. But, at the same time, Sir, I may be pardoned for confessing that as the Honourable Member was quoting the figures, somehow, with the spontaneity of a book-worm, two considerations, two illustrations, crossed my memory. One of them is this. I may refer to those statistics that I am best acquainted with, I mean the statistics in the University calendar. There as I turn to what are called the percentages of passes from different colleges, I find that there is one college with a hundred candidates and 40 successes, scoring, therefore, 40 per cent of passes. There is another college with 10 candidates and 6 successes, thus scoring 60 per cent of passes. There is another college with a glorious record of 4 candidates and 3 successes, thus scoring 75 per cent of passes. Hence, it would seem from statistics that the last college was the most efficient and the first college the least efficient. But somehow the world, in its simplicity, goes its own way, patronising the first college with its hundred candidates and only 40 per cent of passes and leaving severely alone that extremely efficient college with its 4 candidates and 3 passes. Similarly, Sir, I may say that these statistics are not really very informing. Our Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar, has pronounced them 'fallacious.' Really, abstract figures as against concrete facts have little chance.

"Then I come to the other point that I would like to make. As the Hon'ble the Law Member was reading out these figures and was telling us how many applicants there were, how many selections, how many appointments, and in what proportion or percentage the appointments stood to the applications, all to point to an irresistible conclusion, somehow my thought was drawn as irresistibly to the story of that incorrigible unbeliever, who, taken into the temple of Neptune, shown the numerous votive tablets set up by grateful mariners that had escaped dangers to life, and asked whether Neptune was not the saviour of all sailors, inquired in his stubborn scepticism where was the list of those sailors who had been drowned. Similarly, Sir, when these figures were read out, I asked myself irresistibly the question 'where is the list of those that have not applied?'—all those that did not apply—because they dared not, because they could not have the heart to apply, because they could not command the accessories and requisites to a successful application? These are the vital facts against the statistics. Then in that connexion, if I may just for a moment refer to the parallel case which has been cited by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House, namely, the parallel of the fluctuations of the age-limits with reference to the Civil Service, I shall request the honourable gentleman to note the parallel fact, namely, in India quite a storm of agitation was raised when the age was fixed as from 17 to 19 and to say whether they are to be condemned if the non-Brahmans follow that example in this case.

"Then, Sir, after all, what is the place of efficiency in good administration? Is a well-ordered state to be content, Sir, with sporadic, spasmodic, individual and sectional efficiency; or is it not its chief function to secure an all-round national efficiency? In other words, is a wise and benevolent Government to rest satisfied with rewarding good results actually achieved; is it not more imperative to stimulate good results by a judicious and timely encouragement? Is a modern State to follow the policy of a well-kept hotel—'first come, first served,' or the policy of a well-regulated household—'fostering care for all members?' I, therefore, venture to think, Sir, that this efficiency ought not to keep us blind to the great issues involved in this question.

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"Another observation that I wish to make, if time permits, is this: though unfortunately an unpleasant form is at times given to these representations, to these complaints, yet I beg to submit that there is no inevitable necessity for thinking that to make these representations and to urge those grievances must imply the casting of a slur upon the integrity of the High Court or of the powers—that be. I wish to point out, Sir, that really the grievance emanates from this notorious fact that a certain practice, a wide-spread practice and a most appalling practice, has been allowed somehow to prevail for decades, if not for generations. I do not wish, Sir, to dwell long upon it, defining it and dilating on what it really signifies. It is enough for me to say, Sir, that somehow a practice has been current for a long while, which practice obviously postulates that to the prizes of posts and power, of status and influence, the prime claim—the prescriptive right—is vested, virtually, in the members of one or the other of two particular communities. Which those particular communities are, I do not propose to name. Suffice it to say that they are two communities numerically small but close-knit, and, therefore, like all small and close-knit communities, wide-awake to their own interests and to the signs of the times. They have construed these signs of the times for full advantage to themselves. Here lies the root of the matter. But the times have changed; and, if I may say so, the worm under the foot has begun to turn. Hence, I wish to urge, Sir, that these representations, in their real spirit, constitute a humble appeal to the High Court, whatever be the uncouth form in which that spirit is embodied. Thus, we intend nothing more than a mild reminder to their Lordships of the High Court (if, as a book-worm, I may put it so) nothing more than a gentle touch like that of the Laputan flapper which now and then told His Lordship that wide-awake attention was solicited to the cause in argument before him. Having said this, Sir, I am not very particular that this resolution should be pushed to a division. It is enough that we make these representations; and we have every reason to believe and to hope that due consideration will be given to them.

"One last word, Sir, and I have done. These representations are, at the first instance, being made to that august body, the bench of the High Court. That is a body, that is a bench, outside this House. May I not, however, say that these representations, in their fundamental issues and fuller treatment, apply to another august body, to another bench of equal respectability and of equal responsibility within this House, I mean, the front Government bench?

"The other day, Sir, referring to himself and to his colleagues, the Hon'ble the Finance Member said, in the poet's immortal phrase, 'we are seven'. Those who are acquainted with the significance of these golden words know how 'we are seven' stands for all that is pure and all that is loveable, all that is loyal and all that is devout. Actuated by such noble aims, held together by such solemn ties, as they work together, I humbly pray that they may prove our *sapta rishis*, wise men and true, good men and just, to carry on the administration wisely and loyally, and thus unswervingly to discharge their lofty duties, in redressing this and similar grievances, in righting this and similar wrongs."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, the chief point insisted upon by the Honourable the mover of this proposition is that the different communities in this province should be adequately represented in the Judicial service. Now the principle underlying this proposition is no new one. It was recognized long, long ago by the Government. If we turn to the instructions issued to the Collectors, we find the following words: 'The Collectors should be careful to see that the subordinate appointments in their districts are not

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monopolised by the members of a few influential families. Endeavours should always be made to divide the principal appointments in each district among the several castes. A certain proportion of tahsildars in each district should belong to castes other than Brahmans, and it should be a standing rule that the two chief revenue servants of the Collector's office should be of different castes. I take it, Sir, that these principles are meant to apply to the Judicial service also. But, as a matter of fact, it may be urged that these principles exist only in theory but are not applied in practice. If it is so, I ask who is the party responsible for this state of affairs. The Hon'ble the Mover of the proposition may answer, 'the Brahmans'. If so, I venture respectfully to differ from him. It is neither the Brahman nor the non-Brahman who is responsible for this disparity in the representation. It is really the non-Indian high officials who are responsible for this disproportionate representation in the services. Our Brahman brethren care for appointments more than the non-Brahmans. It is natural on their part that they should try all methods to get employment for themselves. But the gift is not in their hands but in the hands of the non-Indian official who employs them. He is under no compulsion to select from a particular class. He insists on higher qualifications, I do not know why. Is it because he wants the sphere of his choice to be restricted much to his convenience or is it for some other reason?

"Now, these Judicial appointments are said to be made by the High Court. The High Court does not consist entirely of Brahman judges, but the majority of them are non-Indians. It is in their power to select whomsoever they like. But if they still appoint people from a particular class, the majority of judges should be held responsible for it. If they make appointments directly, it goes without saying that they are responsible for them. If, on the other hand, they allow the recommendations of their colleagues to pass un criticised by them, even then I say their responsibility is not the less.

"Regarding the raising of the age limit to 35, I am unable to see the dreadful results anticipated by the Hon'ble the Home Member as a result of such increase. Though I am for the raising of the age limit to 35, I do not want that the 55 age limit should be extended by even one year. By all means, let the qualifications be B.A., B.L. It should be possible for the High Court within these limits to make the appointments more representative in character. In saying so, I should not be understood to mean that the non-Brahmans will be satisfied if the appointments are given to only one community among their class. I am told that out of the 38 district munsifs, more than half of them are from a single sect of the non-Brahman community. This is not as it should be. It should be the endeavour of the Government, as well as of the High Court, in the interests of good administration and in the interests of the numerically strong but really more backward communities, some people should be recruited from each of such communities to high offices. I know that such a recruitment has a very beneficial effect on the people concerned. Do you doubt that the appointment of a Muhammadan judge like Sir Abdur Rahim or a Muhammadan Executive Councillor like the Hon'ble Muhammad Habib-ullah Sahib Bahadur is not a standing incentive to people of their communities to educate themselves and to emulate the example of their distinguished co-religionists? The other day, in my wanderings in a village, I saw the people of the depressed classes making themselves merry by festivities. I made enquiries and tried to ascertain the reason. The reason was that one of their community had been raised to the Union membership. Not content with mere rejoicings only, they further resolved that they should thenceforth send their children in larger numbers to schools so that

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more members may be found in their own community for such appointments. I am not, Sir, for penalising birth either in the case of the high or the low classes. We should all, without any difference of caste or creed, recognize the existence of inequalities and do our best to raise the backward classes."

The Rev. E. M. MACPHAIL:—"I should like to know whether this is relevant to the subject."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I am only replying to some of the arguments advanced that the non-Brahman community was not properly represented. I say that adequate representations might be achieved by other means. I appeal to all members of the House to try to raise the backward classes to a higher level. Unfortunately for us, one of the means for achieving that object is through public appointments.

"Having stated so far, I hope I shall not be misunderstood if I raise my voice against this proposition. The proposition is to transfer the power of appointment of district munsifs from the High Court to Government. I honestly believe that the change, if given effect to, would be against the interests of common people. As matters stand at present, the police constable, the forest guard, the salt peon, every one of them thinks he is the master of the poor people. Why? Because he thinks he has got the whole of the executive behind him to support whatever he may do. I think, Sir, this system should be put an end to as early as possible. The magistracy are weak and succumb to the pressure, consciously or unconsciously, exercised on them by the executive in all directions. If there is the separation of the executive from the judicial, do you think that the official prosecutions would invariably result, as they more or less do now, in convictions? I think not."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I rise to a point of order."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR (continuing):—"If this resolution is given effect to, the result would inevitably be the postponement of the separation of the executive from the judicial, and perpetuation of a grave injustice to the people. So would I say that this resolution should not be passed by this Council."

Mr. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, I wish to say a few words at this stage of the debate, reluctant as I am to intervene in it. My particular justification for intervening is to see that we do not lose sight of the main issue. Nobody will accuse me of having been against adequate representation of the non-Brahman community either in the services or in the matter of seats. I certainly differ from those who gave evidence in England against the principle that there should be no representation of communities. I hope all will agree that those who are engaged in the task of nation-building should arrive at a reasonable compact as soon as possible for the purpose of putting an end to this most critical and acute dispute. Unless we solve this, I do not see any chance of making any progress in any direction. But I do feel strongly that the method which has been adopted is not the right method. I do not see why Mr. Tanikachalam Chetty or his friends should not bring up a direct and definite resolution asking for such and such percentage of representation. I think myself that this question would sooner or later have to be faced, faced by this House, by this Government and by the authorities elsewhere. It is not reasonable to adopt this indirect solution of placing patronage in the hands of the Government. While I admit that there is a strong feeling in the non-Brahman community that there is not sufficient representation in the services, there is equally a strong feeling in the Brahman community that this agitation is not really based upon reason.

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It is not necessary for me to canvass the reasons for the one view or the other, but I should certainly say that the only view which we can take is that the independence of the subordinate judiciary is a matter of great importance and requires, as a fundamental condition, that its appointment should be in the hands of a high judicial officer or officers in this province and that it should not be in the hands of the Government. The judges of the High Court are appointed by the Crown on the advice of the Local Government, and may be trusted and should be trusted to appoint the subordinate judiciary, including the munsifs on proper grounds.

"I do not agree with the recommendations of the Public Services Commission that the appointment should be in the hands of Government. In England, the Lord Chancellor appoints under a section of the County Courts Act all the county court judges corresponding to district and sub-judges here in this province; and we also find that in England the Government appoints the magistracy, stipendiary and other magistracy, but this principle is by statute recognized, namely, that the subordinate judiciary is appointed by high judicial officers. The fact that the Lord Chancellor may be a Member of the Government and changes with each Government does not militate against the fact that the Statute entrusts to a high judicial officer this patronage. I do not think that there can be any objection, or there should be any objection to vest this patronage in the Chief Justice of the High Court, otherwise the responsibility is merged in numbers and who made the selection cannot be known. That is my general position. I should like to state as clearly as possible that it will not do for us, however sound the cry of the non-Brahman community may be, that we should endorse in this Council such a retrograde policy as this, that we should vest in this Council, subject to the fluctuations of partizan influences, the power of appointing the judiciary which should, above all things, in order to function most satisfactorily, be above party and should be absolutely independent. Therefore, appointments and promotions and dismissals should vest only in an independent body. I have said nearly everything that I wished to say upon this. At the same time, I agree with Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu, when he said that there is a feeling in the non-Brahman community. I would appeal to all communities to arrive at a satisfactory solution of this burning problem in this province and see if a solution cannot be come to by a compact between the leading men of both communities. I realize the difficulties of such a compact. The question should be properly faced either by the executive Government or by the Ministers of the Council, so that we may not be distracted in our ordinary work of progress and nation-building by communal questions cropping up every five minutes in this House. I do not think I shall be justified in criticisms on speeches that were made after the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson's handsome explanation of the position and the counsel which he has given to Mr. Somasundaram Pillai and to those interested in this resolution. I am a peace-maker as much as he, and perhaps more than he, and I do strongly deprecate attempts like these, made by Mr. Somasundaram Pillai, unconsciously no doubt, and he will excuse me, I am sure, my saying that it will not do either to achieve his object or to achieve the unification of both the communities, which, I presume, he has as much at heart as I, to indulge in the kind of language he indulged in; nor was it at all fair on the part of Mr. Tanikachalam Chettiyar to accuse the Brahman judges of the High Court of partiality in the matter of patronage vested in the High Court. The whole system of patronage has been explained by the Law Member and Sir Lionel Davidson. I would like to appeal to all sections of the House, that they should arrive at a reasonable compact. But whether they arrive at a reasonable compact or not, the non-Brahman community are in a

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majority in this Council and they can take their own decision. Therefore, I appeal both to the non-Brahman community and the responsible Government which has been partially introduced in this province to see that the Brahman community gets as much protection, as much recognition at their hands, as any other community. The ministers and members cannot run the Government purely on a communal basis. They must run the administration purely on a national basis. It is impossible for me to realise how responsible men from the ministerial benches can really advance the communal argument so very much as they seem to do. I wish that my intentions in this matter should not be misunderstood. I have been always for communal representation as to seats and in services; as a temporary expedient, as a transitory measure which is desirable to be adopted in the conditions of this province, for the purpose of welding together the two great communities into one homogeneous whole, without which no such thing as progress or development can be made in this province, no such thing as a sound nationalism can be built up. Therefore, I merely confine my observations to the particular question of patronage being put into the hands of Government and I only deprecate the criticisms of the Brahman community as a whole or of the Brahman judges, while not at all disagreeing with the need for an adjustment for which the non-Brahman community is asking, namely, that they should have due representation wherever they have not got it yet."

Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"After hearing the arguments by the Leader of the Government and the olive branch he waived, I thought further discussion to be unnecessary. But, considering the arguments advanced by the Hon'ble Law Member, it seems to me a word or two is necessary in order to press home the purpose of this resolution. Sir, I could be as vehement and as furious in condemning every particular expression, but I do not wish to do so at this moment; I can do so perhaps with greater vehemence and greater reason. My advice to the non-Brahman friends is that they should not look upon these services as anything that would give to them dignity or self-respect. The non-Brahmans are possessed of large extents of land. Among them are the landlords, merchants and commercial men. If they really want to have national development, national progress, they should look more and more to the development of industries and to the development of agriculture, and leave alone the services to those persons who cannot contribute in any way to the efficient and economical advancement of the country. But, Sir, in this country, the holding of offices takes with it certain dignity, certain position and certain influence. So, if this position and this influence is to be denied to these persons, who have the largest stake in the country, it is but natural that those persons should feel that they should have a legitimate share of it. The feeling is very strong in the rural areas. When I say this, I echo the feelings of the vast population that the recruitment in the matter of judicial appointments is not at all satisfactory. I yield to none in my admiration for that august body, the High Court. Nor do I yield less in any way to appreciation of the manner in which the Government have been running the administration. But it must be said that something is wrong somewhere. The statistics show that the appointments that have been made hitherto, the way in which the patronage is distributed, the way in which selection is made, do not at all meet the wishes or requirements of the people. Therefore, I wish to point out both to the Government and to the High Court that the method of present recruitment is not satisfactory and a better system of recruitment is desirable.

"But it is necessary, in the interest of the people, that this selection should be such as to remove the very large amount of discontent that is

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prevailing in the non-Brahman population. I have seen, Sir, not in one district, but in several districts, this feeling is so intense and so strong that unless early steps are taken to remove this discontent we do not know what will come up next. I have seen, Sir, even uneducated people, even cultivators, expressing to me that this arrangement of distribution of officers has not been satisfactory. Well, there are equally efficient men available among the non-Brahmans, and I do not see why their claims should be overlooked and why any particular community should be exclusively selected. My friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has pointed out that the rule has come into existence long ago, and instructions have been issued to District Collectors in the matter of selection to treat all communities with equity and fairness. When Government in their impartiality have been issuing these instructions, it is necessary to inquire into the complaint before the Government; it is for them to see that these instructions have been effectively and reasonably carried out, whether that complaint comes from one quarter or other, from one class of people or from a handful of other people; all classes are entitled to a reasonable and fair hearing by the Government. I am glad the Hon'ble the Leader of the Government has stated to us that the matter will be inquired into. But it is necessary to impress upon the Government that the present method adopted by the Government in recruiting for the judiciary is not at all satisfactory and does not meet the wishes of the people of this Presidency."

The Rev. E. M. MACPHAIL:—"Mr. President, it seems to me that there are two points that arise in connexion with this question. One is, which is the body that should make these judicial appointments; should it be the judicial body or the executive body? Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar has referred to the way in which appointments are made in England, but, as a matter of fact, the appointments in England are made by the executive. The Lord Chancellor, in whom is vested the power of appointment in England, makes the appointment not as a member of the judiciary but as a Member of Government. Almost all legal appointments are made on purely party lines. Young lawyers as soon as they have donned wig and gown, go about the country making political speeches with a view to establishing a claim on their party, and, when appointments are made, usually the appointees are selected from the adherents of the party in power. When that party goes out of power, the appointments are made from the followers of the party that comes into power. I regret that this is the policy followed, and with reference to the question as to who should make the appointments, I think it is desirable that this power should continue to be in the hands of the High Court."

"The second question is, how does the High Court use its power? There can be no doubt that most of the people who have received these appointments have been Brahmans. Now, I do not think that I shall be accused of being an anti-non-Brahman in my sympathies, for I think the Madras Christian College has produced an unusually large number of non-Brahman graduates, not a few of whom I am happy to see in this House. But I think, in fairness to the High Court, it must be remembered that while only a small number of non-Brahman gentlemen become vakils, practically all the Brahman students of my History classes in the Christian College cross the road to the Law College and come out as B.A., B.L.'s. Consequently, there is a very much larger number of Brahmans applying for district munsifs than any other class. I think we must remember this when we criticise the High Court's action."

"One Honourable Member has pointed out the iniquity of the European, and has told us it was owing to the presence of the European that the Brahman is in the prominent position that he holds at the present day. There is some truth in

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that. Before the war a German remarked that it was not the Englishmen who were ruling the country, but it was the Brahmans who were ruling the country. But things have changed in many ways and the non-Brahman wishes his share. But the question arises, 'is it necessary, because in the past the High Court have been making these appointments from the Brahmans, to take the power of making appointments away from them now?' Is it not better to leave the High Court this power—the power of making judicial appointments—and to put before it the desirability of having consideration with regard to the number of those to be appointed from the different communities. I heard a young man from the Indian Christian community say lately that he had very little chance of being appointed by the High Court, because there are no Indian Christian judges. In the same manner, the non-Brahmans made the same complaint because there were no non-Brahman judges. These men came to me to ask for recommendations to the European Christian non-Brahman judges, but at the same time they have always told me that a great deal depended on having the support of an Indian judge."

"Hence I do think that it is desirable something should be done to safeguard the claims of other communities and that, as the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson has suggested, the High Court should be asked to be very careful in making appointments to see that some, if not a very definite, proportion of the appointments should be given to each community. It is clear that in spite of the rules laid down in the past certain communities have been neglected in the past in the making of appointments by the Executive, but this is being gradually remedied and now that the Executive is turning its attention to the claims of other communities to appointments, I think it will be quite sufficient if, instead of taking this power from the High Court, the power is left to them, but at the same time they are asked to pay due regard to the representation of the communities. If this action does not produce the desired result, then further action may be taken by the Government hereafter."

Mr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, thanks to the assurance given to us by the Hon'ble the Home Member. But what we want is not the safe proportion of the number of applications received, but a proportional representation of the various communities in the distribution of these appointments. In spite of the able defence made, and the arguments advanced by the Hon'ble the Law Member yesterday, the glaring fact remains that young people, energetic non-Brahman High Court vakils, were not recruited into the service though they were available. We have nothing to say against the highest tribunal in the land in delivering their judgments and we have got the highest respect for it. But my esteemed friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, when he brought forward this proposition, was only voicing forth the bitter feelings of the public. There is a strong discontent that the High Court is not exercising the patronage vested in them according to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission. There is a strong feeling that the High Court is impervious and in-sensible to the public feeling. It is not efficiency that stands in the way, Sir, for all those that apply for these appointments are High Court vakils, unless efficiency means 'no non-Brahman'; efficiency has become a word of terror to the non-Brahman, the less it is used the better. There are efficient men among the non-Brahmans, not only to accept the district munsif's appointments, but to occupy the highest places in the judiciary. Sir, they are available even in this very Council. Non-Brahman efficiency has been proved beyond doubt in such eminent judges like Sir Abdur Rahim, Justice Tyabji and Sir Sankaran Nayar, and the present Justice Krishnan."

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"Coming to the age limit, Sir, I was of opinion that 35 was the age limit given by the Government; but I was corrected yesterday and that 32, I learn, is the age limit given by the High Court. But in observing this age limit, red tapism is carried on with a vengeance. For instance, a friend of mine who had travelled to England and returned to India and who made himself felt in England, told me that when he applied for a district munsif's place he was told that he was 32 years and 2 months. Sir, if the High Court thinks this as over-age, is not the Government to offer him a special place, taking into consideration his efficiency? There is another instance, Sir, of one young friend of mine who applied for a district munsif's place on the 5th of February 1921. On the 7th February he completed his 32nd year. On the 11th of February he receives a communication that he was over-age. Is there any more glaring instance of red tapism being applied with a vengeance? As I already said, there are efficient men among non-Brahmans both for the lower and the higher services of the Judicial Department, and I therefore request the Council to vote for the transfer of this patronage from the High Court which is impervious to public feeling to the Government which, we believe, will be amenable to public feeling."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS:—"Sir, after hearing the eloquent speeches of some of my honourable friends for whom I have the greatest regard and admiration, I must clearly express here that I shall have to oppose this resolution. If I oppose it, Sir, I do not do it on the ground that I am against this principle of communal representation, because it is a principle that has been already admitted by the Joint Committee of Parliament, and it ill behoves on my part to speak anything against it. I oppose it, Sir, on the ground that my community finds no place here. Communal representation, I find, is confined to the representation of Brahmans and non-Brahmans, not in the Telugu and Tamil districts but in the southern districts. So far as the Oriyas are concerned, there is no feeling of differentiation between Brahmans and non-Brahmans. We waited on a deputation on His Excellency the Governor and we represented to the Meston Committee to make ourselves clear that, so far as Madras Oriyas are concerned, the distinction should be between the Telugus and the Oriyas and not between Brahmans and non-Brahmans. I must inform you, Sir, that this feeling of Brahman and non-Brahman is a thing alien to ourselves and we wish that it should be alien in future also. For, the less of this contagion spreads into us the better and happier for us. I beg of the Government to see that no contagion of this disaffection enters into our community. While thus condemning a division which we Oriyas hate, I feel it my duty to impress in the clearest terms that the interests of my community have long been neglected as we have been in the tail end of the province, our interests are neglected, our growth is not cared for and are allowed to be over-ridden by an intermediary community upon this House. I know what sympathy our friends the party in power have for us. One instance will make us clear how far we are neglected."

"Yesterday, I had occasion to appeal to some of my friends with regard to the representation of the different classes in the three committees which we had the honour to elect. I knew that we are in a minority and I knew that we will be neglected. The result of my repeated request was that the Raja of Mandasa, for whom I appealed most earnestly, was given a place in the Housing Committee which he would never condescend to accept. So this is the sort of communal representation which we are offered, and I shall be the last man to have such communal representation. I very earnestly advocate that each community should find its own place and find its interests better guarded and better looked after by proportional

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representation in all public services of the Government. The Oriyas in point of their numerical strength occupy the fourth place in the Presidency, and, after all, how many judicial appointments are held by them? There are only two persons in the cadre of munsifs. So I must enter my strong protest against the way in which the interests of my community have been neglected. However, I do not see any reason why this patronage of appointing munsifs should be taken away from the High Court and be placed in the hands of the Government to make it all the more a party game. It will be better if certain principles are laid down by the Government so as to provide all the communities, and the High Court is called upon to follow and observe those principles. True it is that the High Court have not yet followed the principle of proportional representation of the different communities. I cannot blame them for that. We shall have a just grievance, if they do not follow it after the Government have decided to follow it as a matter of principle. With these words I oppose this resolution."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I must confess that at the conclusion of the debate yesterday evening I went away with very unhappy feelings that in this Council we should be setting up precedents somewhat inconvenient which will lead us to great difficulties hereafter. But after the conciliatory speech which the leader of the House made to-day, it seems to me altogether unnecessary not only for me but for every other member of the House to refer to the expressions which gave offence yesterday. I do not therefore refer to this aspect of the debate and shall proceed to make a few observations which arise on the question."

"The first of these is whether we are right in continuously referring to the High Court in the terms in which some of the members have been doing during the last few days. I might, perhaps, inform the House that there is a distinct rule in Parliament that if the conduct of any judges is proposed to be discussed in the House it should be by a substantive motion. As this is a matter affecting the integrity of the High Court as an institution, I might invite the attention of the Honourable Members to a paragraph in May's Parliamentary Practice. It is as follows: 'Certain matters cannot be debated save upon a substantive motion which can be dealt with by amendment or by the distinct vote of the House. Among these may be mentioned the conduct of the Sovereign, the heir to the Throne, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Governor-General of the Dominions, the Speaker, the Chairman of Ways and Means, Members of either House of Parliament and Judges of the Superior Courts of the United Kingdom, including persons holding the position of a judge in a court of bankruptcy and of a county court.' These matters cannot, therefore, be questioned by way of amendment, or upon a motion for adjournment under Standing Order No. 10. For the same reason, no charge of a personal character can be raised, save upon a direct and substantive motion to that effect."

"I submit to this House that the High Court as the highest institution administering justice is entitled to all respect from all sections of the House, and I deprecate as a precedent these reflections on High Court judges and charges of a personal character against that distinguished body which administers justice in this Presidency. Well, Sir, there are limitations to that rule which I do not wish to refer to at present. But I do submit to this House that under cover of a motion or in the discussion of a motion raising questions of recruitment it is not right on our part to make all the suggestions that have been made in the course of this debate about the conduct of the judges."

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"The second point to which I invite the attention of this House is that this question of withdrawing the power of making appointments of the judiciary from the High Court raises a very important question relating to the separation of the judicial functions from the executive. In regard to criminal courts, Honourable Members are aware of the great volume of opinion in favour of the separation of the judicial functions from the executive. Speaking of the present distrust of criminal courts, Sir Harvey Adamson, the Home Member of the Government of India, in 1908 said: 'The inevitable result of the present system is that criminal trials affecting the general peace of the district are not always conducted in the atmosphere of cool impartiality which should pervade a court of justice. Nor does this completely define the evil which lies in not so much of what is done as in what may be suspected to be done; for it is not enough that the administration of justice should be pure; it can never be the bedrock of our rule unless it is also above suspicion.'

"Now, Sir, in view of these considerations, it has always been the trend of Indian public opinion that the High Court should be the body who should have all powers connected with the administration of justice in their hands. I appeal to my Hon'ble friend Mr. Tanikachalam Chettiyar to consider this aspect of the question. It may be that some Honourable Members may not be able to agree with this principle. I submit that we had better leave these matters to the High Court and to leave it to them for finding ways and means of doing what we want them to do. This has been suggested in this House by two Honourable Members—the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson and Rev. Mr. Macphail—two gentlemen, who are neither Brahmans nor non-Brahmans. It may be that they are Brahman Europeans or non-Brahman Europeans. I do not know what their exact classification is.

"I have only one other remark to make, and it is this. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu said that we should take note of the signs of the times. We are perfectly aware that a growing volume of opinion has come into existence that the non-Brahman communities should have their adequate share of appointments in the Government service. We recognize this fully. Speaking for myself, not as a member of a community but as representing a territorial constituency in this House, I fully endorse everything that has been said to-day and yesterday by the Hon'ble the Law Member and the Hon'ble the Home Member. If their views are to be adopted for giving effect to the wishes of the mover of this resolution, I fully associate myself with them. Sir, it has been suggested by my friend Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar that it is better to leave the patronage in the Chief Justice. I am afraid I cannot agree with him in that view. The analogy of the Lord Chancellor making judicial appointments had been mentioned in the course of the debate. I may, perhaps, say that the conduct of even the Lord Chancellor was not beyond criticism in England. Lord Halsbury was often criticised for many of the appointments made by him. In this province one of the judges of the High Court was in charge of the Judicial Portfolio till 1910 and there were complaints. It was said that the patronage was exercised by the senior civilian judge. I believe the change made in 1910 was for the purpose of constituting all judges of the High Court into a committee. That aspect of the matter has been referred to in the dissenting minute of the Hon'ble Sir Abdur Rahim. Whatever may be the solution to this question, I wish to assure Honourable Members that myself and many Honourable Members sitting in this House are not at all opposed to any system by which adequate representation to all communities may be found in the public services. I may not agree with the method of the honourable mover,

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Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I should like to have my say on this question. When we examine the question of the representation of the Muhammadan community in the Provincial Judicial Service, we find that there is no Muhammadan out of four permanent and four acting and temporary district judges. There is no Muhammadan out of 25 permanent sub-judges and 23 temporary and acting sub-judges. There are two out of 135 permanent district munsifs and three out of 65 temporary and acting district munsifs. Now, Sir, the appointments to the judicial services are made by the High Court, and this is our position. When we examine the position of the members of my community in the Provincial Executive services, appointments which are in the hands of Government, we find that they have recognized the principle of communal representation."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*):—"I rise to a point of order to enquire whether the examination of the distribution of Muhammadans in the Provincial Executive service is really relevant to the issue on the method of appointment of the district munsifs."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur (*continuing*):—"Our position is much better in the Provincial Executive service because it is in the hands of Government, a body which recognizes the principle of communal representation in all its appointments at least as far as the Muhammadan community is concerned.

"With regard to the question of the representation of the Muhammadan community in the Provincial Executive service, since Government recognizes the principle of communal representation, a large number of Muhammadans have been entertained as Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars and in due course they get promoted to the Deputy Collectors' grade and there is always a Muhammadan Collector and sometimes two. Now, at the present time, there are two gentlemen in the cadre of Collectors—one is on leave and the other is distinguishing himself so much as Commissioner of the Madras Corporation. From the point of view of my community, I may say that it is represented much better in the Provincial Executive service because the appointments in that service are in the hands of the Government and Government is amenable to public opinion. But, at any rate, the appointments in the Judicial service, being in the hands of the High Court and since the High Court is not amenable to public opinion, the state of my community there is very very bad. That is my point. I may say this, Sir, that I do not see any reason why appointments in the Judicial service should be made by the High Court. The Legislative Council has been brought into existence on the democratic lines, and here we have got the representatives of the various communities. The Honourable Member of the Government in charge of the Law Department will always be here and will have first-hand information as to what the feelings of each community are with regard to communal representation. I, therefore, think that it would be much better that this question should be placed in the hands of the Government but not in the High Court."

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Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Sir, I quite sympathise with the honourable mover in his endeavours to secure more appointments in the Judicial branch for members of his community. I quite realise, Sir, that there has been acute discontent as to the mode and the result of the recruitment that now prevails in this department. I am always alive to the fact that due regard should be had to the interests of the various communities, provided that all other circumstances are equal. Now, my object in rising to speak on this resolution is not to continue a monopoly for the members of any particular community which has been represented hitherto, but my object is to deprecate strongly and to protest against some of the unwarranted attacks made against the High Court, the highest tribunal in the land, the palladium of justice. My object is also to point out that whatever may be the remedy, the remedy suggested in the resolution is not a most desirable remedy. Now, Sir, I draw the attention of the House to one or two points as to what this resolution means. It consists of two parts. It asks for the transfer of patronage from the High Court to the Government, and then a reason is stated for the proposed step and that reason is the recommendations of the Public Services Commission should be carried out. In other words, it recommends that the Government should carry out the principles of communal representation and it is for that purpose that this resolution asks for this transfer of patronage to be made. First, we should confine ourselves to this particular question. It is not so much the question of recruitment that is raised in this resolution. If it is only the question of proper recruitment to the judiciary that is raised in this resolution, I may at once tell the honourable mover that this is not the mode of approaching this question. The best mode is to approach the High Court itself, through the Government. The Hon'ble the Home Member has given us the assurance that this question would be further examined by the Government, and a promise was also made that a verbatim copy of the whole discussion would be sent up to the High Court for their earnest consideration. When all this was done, I sincerely expected and fondly hoped that the honourable mover would see his way to withdraw his resolution, but it is very unfortunate that he has been allowing discussion to go on ahead, in spite of the best assurances that were given first by the Hon'ble the Home Member and also by the other Members of this House.

"Now, Sir, as regards the transfer of patronage from the High Court to the Government, what would it mean if we vote for this resolution? If we vote for the transfer of patronage from the High Court to the Government, does it not mean that we, as a responsible body sitting in this House, are casting a slur upon that august tribunal? There is much said against the High Court by some members. I regret to note that it has been charged with a Brahmanical bias, it has been charged with abuse of powers, and it has been charged with the insinuation that it is subject to that subtle Brahman influence running underneath. Is there any foundation for all these insinuations and the most unwarranted attacks? No doubt, the honourable mover has quoted statistics to show that the number of district munsifs appointed from a particular community is very small, and that by itself does not convince anybody that the interests of any particular community have been ignored, or that the interests of any other community have been favoured. As regards the statistics that were quoted by the Hon'ble the Law Member yesterday, they should be enough to convince anybody that if there is any disparity in numbers, it could not be helped in the present state of things, and he also quoted statistics to our satisfaction as to the available qualified material which the High Court have got in filling up these appointments. The proportion should be, not as the honourable mover has contended, 1 to 41 for the community

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represented by 41 millions or so, but it should be with reference to the qualified men available. I do not think, Sir, that the honourable mover contends for a moment that the qualifications which are now prescribed for the posts of district munsifs should be dispensed with; I do not know what the principle he contends for is. I am heartily for the principle if it only means that, all things being equal, preference should be given to non-Brahmans. If it is put forward in that manner, nobody can have any possible objection. But if it means, Sir, that, efficiency or no efficiency, fitness or no fitness, qualifications or no qualifications, the posts should be filled up by non-Brahmans to keep up that proportion of 1 to 41, then I must beg leave to protest against it. Now what is asked for is transfer of patronage from the High Court to the Government. The local Government have enunciated their policy. They have been following the policy laid down by Sir William Vincent. Sir William Vincent speaking on behalf of the Government of India in answer to an interpellation in the Council of State stated that the High Court Bench is not a representative institution. Whatever reason there might be, Sir, for introducing this communal representation in the Councils of the country where policy is initiated, I see no reason whatever for the introduction of that principle into the public service. But I am strongly opposed to the resolution for this reason, as in my opinion the High Court should continue to have the patronage in such cases. It is for the simple reason, as the Hon'ble the Law Member has stated, that the High Court in regard to recruitment, very well knows the Bar, and can judge of the capacity of the members thereof and it is also most desirable that the Judiciary in the land should be quite independent of the executive. The Executive should not have any hand in making appointments to the Judiciary. It is no doubt true that the Public Services Commission recommended that in order to secure uniformity or unanimity this patronage should be taken over by the Government. I am, however, strongly of the view that the power of making appointments to Sub-Judges' and also to District Judges' posts should be transferred to the High Court if it is only meant to secure uniformity of practice.

"Now, Sir, the last reason and a very important reason is this. In England this patronage is vested in the Lord Chancellor for the reason that the Judicial Department should be placed above party lines. I now ask the honourable mover, who the other day was expressing his satisfaction at the introduction of Parliamentary practice into this Council, in regard to appointments of Ministers in the country, why not the Parliamentary practice be adopted in this case as well? Why should we deviate from the custom or practice followed in England, time-honoured customs which have been coming down for a very long time? Now that this is a time when a small instalment of Parliamentary government has been introduced in this country, the reason, Sir, is all the more strong that patronage in regard to Judicial appointments should not be vested in the Government but that it should continue to be in the hands of the High Court. Sir, for the very strong reason that if we pass this resolution, we shall be condemning the High Court, I oppose it."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I rise more to give expression to my feelings of deep regret that this question has been raised at this the first session of the Council. We all realize that we have got into the Council to make the Reform Scheme a success in opposition to those of other schools of political thought who are of a different opinion. We even realize and appreciate that it is our duty to co-operate with the Ministry as far as possible to make the Reform Scheme a success. A perusal of the proceedings of the Council from its inception--from its first meeting--must have satisfied everyone that we have, as

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far as possible, been trying to achieve that object without any sectional differences whatever. So far as the question before the House is concerned, it raises the question of due representation of all interests in the Judicial services. If that is the only object, I may say at once that this House is with the mover. There is no one in this House who would advocate anything but a due representation of all communities in all branches of the public service. The only point that has been raised in the specific resolution before the Council is that this should be effected by a transfer of the authority hitherto vested in the High Court to the Executive Government. I may preface my remarks by saying that I am perfectly indifferent as to the result of this resolution. At any rate, I may give this House a warning that even the Executive Government cannot be always relied upon in the matter of appointments. Let us not continue in a feeling of dissatisfaction without having at the same time a correct grasp as to what persons of various classes have been saying about the distribution of patronage by the Executive Government. Members of the Government change and we have to rely upon the personnel of the Government for the time being. Can it be stated that any one sincerely believes that a Government consisting of the Cabinet will be in a better position to judge of the capacity and the qualifications of the persons concerned than the Honourable the Judges of the High Court? If we have a feeling of dissatisfaction, is it the right method to supplant that machinery and substitute a machinery which I am not sure has satisfied a large section of the public.

"One remedy suggested is 'why should we not communicate our wishes to the Honourable the Judges of the High Court?' They are the best persons that can appreciate these sentiments. There is only one other point which requires some consideration. Every one in this House, whether for or against the resolution, has been saying that we must not sacrifice efficiency in the matter of Judicial service. I do not think the honourable mover of the resolution has ever suggested that we must, in the distribution of these appointments, sacrifice efficiency. That condition being satisfied, there ought to be no difficulty whatever in continuing the present method of selection, no doubt, with such further modifications as may be found necessary. Having said so much regarding the resolution before the House, before I sit down I only wish to express that we must be all anxious to remove all difference, bitterness or dissatisfaction amongst us. If the cause of bitterness is due to a large number of appointments being held by any one community, I think the members of that community can very well undergo a slight sacrifice, as suggested by the Hon'ble the Law Member, by not going in for these appointments for some time, at least till this irritation and discontent subsides. Till we realize that there is no difference of opinion between all classes, I advise them to undergo, in the larger interests of the country, some slight sacrifice."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Sir, I understand that the honourable mover of the resolution is going to withdraw his resolution. But he is not allowed to do so. One member after another is rising and speaking."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I think he is going to reply."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I am not going to deliver a long speech. The resolution before us is a very simple one and may be disposed of in ten or fifteen minutes. What made the matter a burning question and brought about so much discussion and protracted debate was the unfortunate reference to the question of efficiency made by the Hon'ble the Law Member in the course of his speech yesterday. It is very regrettable that the Hon'ble the Law Member, an

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eminent lawyer of long experience, should have brought into the discussion this question. I do not think that the reference would have been appropriate even 25 years ago. At any rate, it is certainly not appropriate in the twentieth century when education has made so much progress and civilisation has so much advanced. There were intellectual giants even in good old days, and certainly there are such giants now. The test of efficiency is not colour, creed or caste nor even the hallmark of the University. It is a quite different thing. I have got an experience of fifty years both in the public service and the quasi-public service. I have seen men both efficient and inefficient in all classes. Ability to cope with the work is all efficiency and nothing more. Of course the honourable mover of the resolution has made out a strong case in favour of non-Brahmans on the strength of the statistics and in view of the recommendations of the Public Services Commission. But I do not agree with him in this request to transfer the power of appointment of district munsifs from the hands of the High Court to those of the Government. Such a transfer will affect seriously the prestige and honour of the High Court. The assurance given by the leader of the House, the Home Member, on behalf of the Government that he will set matters right in communication with the High Court is quite sufficient, and I request my honourable friend, the mover, to withdraw his resolution."

Khan Bahadur QADIR NAWAZ KHAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, much has been said already on this subject by various speakers and anything that I say may be superfluous. But I wish to take this opportunity to say a word or two as an elderly member of this House. I would very respectfully say that we must avoid in our discussions anything that is calculated to bring about feelings of bitterness. That will defeat the very purpose for which we are fighting. It is always wise to avoid all personal references, as has been said by the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson, and to look at the matter dispassionately and impartially and come to some conclusion. That the exclusion of non-Brahmans from the Judicial Service is a standing grievance, is accepted by all and recognized by all. But unfortunately the question has been discussed as if it were a racial question, which it is not. I request the House to consider the matter in a dispassionate way and not with any feelings of hatred."

Mr. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, the question before the House is very clear. The mover of the resolution wanted that the power of making appointments of district munsifs now vested in the High Court should be transferred to the Government, that power to be exercised not arbitrarily but 'with the advice of the High Court'. The grievance now put forward is a long-standing one. Various conferences held in different parts of the Presidency have discussed the question. In the year 1919 the non-Brahman Conference held in Trichinopoly passed a resolution practically in the terms of the resolution now before the House. Now the Hon'ble the Home Member has said that the matter will be considered by the Cabinet and a decision arrived at. I think that it is better for us to see that this resolution is passed so that the Government will take the matter immediately into consideration as the opinion of the majority of the House. Again the question of efficiency has also been before the House. How can we say whether a man is efficient or not unless we give him an opportunity to prove his efficiency? Unless a man is appointed to a particular post, how can we say whether he is fit to hold it or not? There are many non-Brahman vakils who have brains. They only want opportunity. I request the House once more to see that this resolution is passed and that a long-standing grievance is thereby redressed."

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Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—" I want to say a word by way of explanation, Sir. I have been misunderstood by some of the Honourable Members of the House. The simile I used was not my own but was taken from a great author. I never wanted to wound the feelings of anybody. I should be the last person to do that. If any of the Honourable Members felt offended by my remarks, I beg their pardon. I want to see no enemy left in the world when I die."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" Sir, I wish to say a few words by way of personal explanation. The last speaker has urged that this matter should be pressed to a division. I should like to say, Sir, that the assurance that I have given is not binding upon the Government unless the resolution is withdrawn. I thought when I made that offer that it would check the continuance of debate on this very delicate subject. I take it, Sir, that if this resolution were carried by a majority of the House, it could hardly be construed otherwise than as an indirect censure of the High Court. It was that very contingency that I particularly wished to avoid, when I offered further consideration in consultation with the High Court. I therefore request you, Sir, to allow me to repeat my appeal to the mover of this resolution not to press it to a division. If it is withdrawn the whole of this debate will be communicated to the High Court and the matters in issue will be considered both by the High Court and the Government."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I believe I have been considerably misunderstood, particularly by my friends on the opposite benches, with reference to the purpose and the object of the resolution which I have moved. It has been interpreted—or if I may say so, misinterpreted—that it was intended to cast a slur on the High Court. Far from it—it was not my intention. My intention was to draw attention to the great heartburning that exists amongst all the non-Brahman communities. The resolution was moved only for the purpose of asking the Government that effect should be given to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission that the power of appointment of district munsifs may be taken over into the hands of the Government, such power being exercised with the advice of the High Court. So far as the Judicial branch is concerned the scheme that the Public Services Commission laid down is that the appointments should be made by the Government with the advice of the High Court. I carefully bear in mind the offer that the Hon'ble the Home Member made and the olive branch he held out for me to accept. I was and I am prepared to accept it with both hands. But I was afraid that he began to justify the existing practice which we have been complaining about for a long time. And it is only on his assurance that the whole proceedings and the remarks made by several other members would be communicated to the High Court that I have allowed the discussion to proceed."

" When on another occasion, this subject came up as a side issue on the question of payment of increased salaries to district munsifs, the Honourable Member for the University said that the angle of vision of the Brahmans towards non-Brahmans has changed. But I am afraid from the speech made on this occasion that the angle of vision has not changed. We have discovered the cloven hoof. He says that nobody will have the courage to insist upon the resolution being pressed. Does he mean that it will not be carried? My friend Mr. Siva Rao stated that the remedy suggested is not correct. What do I suggest as a remedy? I only ask for what was recommended by the Public Services Commission Report. It was only yesterday that I heard for the first time that communication had been going on between the High Court, the Local Government, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State that while

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they seem to have accepted some of the recommendations of the Public Services Commission they have not approved of the recommendation as to transfer of power of appointments to Government, and that sanction of the Secretary of State for not accepting came some time in November 1920. Why was that communication carried on in private?"

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON (*interrupting*) :—" May I say, Sir, that the correspondence was confidential."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (*continuing*) :—" Very well, while the Public Services Commission did its work in public and its recommendations were made public, communications regarding the carrying out of the recommendations or refusal to carry out should also be made publicly. But why then communication in so far as it related to those recommendations be kept as a confidential document until yesterday afternoon? If they were made public, would it not have given an opportunity for the non-Brahmans who were hoping that they would have some redress of their grievances if the recommendations were given effect to to express or reaffirm their views and to point out how they would be affected if the recommendations were not given effect to. I think it behoves me to answer some of the main points that have been raised in the course of the discussion; while condemning some unguarded language of a member of this House, the Hon'ble the Law Member used much more violent and passionate language. It has been said that a change has come over the Brahmans and that they have now realized they made a mistake in entering Government service in large numbers."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—" I never said that; I said that the Government is monopolising far too much of the intelligence in this country. Whether Brahman or non-Brahman it does not affect."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (*continuing*) :—" It was stated that Brahmans will hereafter so far as Government service is concerned non-co-operate."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—" I did not say that. What I said was this: I would advise non-co-operation to this extent though it is a very honourable service."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR (*continuing*) :—" That is the impression which many in this House have formed and I am compelled to deal with it by way of answer."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR (*interrupting*) :—" That is what I meant and that is what I say."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" At any rate it is the impression of a certain section of the House who clearly complained to me when the Hon'ble the Law Member said that the Brahmans will not seek Government service and that they care a brass farthing for such service. If my honourable friend has stated so, I may at once assure him that he is a false prophet. To prove that he is a false prophet, I need not go very much beyond the statement which the Honourable Member produced yesterday as having been furnished to him by the Registrar of the High Court. It showed that while the number of applications which came for the posts of munsifs from the Brahmans in the year 1919 was 135, in the year 1921 the number was 168. Thus the number has increased by 33. These figures do not indicate that the Brahmans generally are going to non-co-operate with the Government offices however much they may advise others to practise non-co-operation. These figures do not indicate that there is going to be a revolt of the Brahmans against Government service. Another incident to prove that there is not going to be a revolt of the Brahmans against service may also be mentioned

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here. There is to be vacancy in the office of Assistant Registrar on the Original Side of the High Court consequent on the retirement at the end of this month of the Deputy Registrar and if rumour is true, not less than fifty applications have been received from Brahmans. This does not indicate that Brahmans are going to non-co-operate or that they are going to revolt against Government service.

"Then I believe we have been challenged that the Brahmans are superior in intelligence, and that they have the quality of efficiency and that stands against non-Brahmans. May I ask, Sir, by what test or examination the Government have discovered that Brahmans alone possess intelligence and efficiency?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am sorry, I never said that. It is not right. What I said was efficiency is the right test. I never said that Brahmans alone possessed efficiency."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"The implication was that non-Brahmans were inefficient. I put the question: Is it a fact that we are not efficient? I may tell the House that an examination or rather a scrutiny of the results of public examinations for about fifteen years has been made. It has disclosed that number for number, that is to say, for 100 non-Brahmans against 100 Brahmans, non-Brahmans have been more successful than the Brahmans. Only the number of applicants belonging to the Brahman community was rather large or larger than from amongst the non-Brahman community. Then it is said that the non-Brahmans are not as intelligent as the Brahmans. Have all the non-Brahmans, district munsifs, Sub-Judges, District Judges and High Court Judges, been inferior to Brahmans? Thus the claim for superior intelligence and efficiency is as ill-founded and untrue as it is audacious. It is a myth fondly nurtured and assiduously circulated for consumption by European High Court Judges and high placed Government officials. The truth is that if non-Brahmans had been given the opportunity they would have surpassed the Brahmans.

"I am afraid that this much-abused expression 'efficiency' has been used as a cloak to cover a multitude of sins against non-Brahmans. In the same way that the bureaucracy was saying that efficiency would suffer if Indians should be admitted into the inner chambers of the Cabinet before the Morley-Minto Reforms were granted to Indians, now our Brahman friends who have appropriated to themselves all the high offices which were thrown open to Indians by the Minto-Morley Reforms are urging this very bar of efficiency against the non-Brahmans whom they are seeking to exclude from high offices. As I said, this lack of efficiency exists only in the imagination of the Brahmans.

"Now, it is the recommendations of the Public Services Commission that the appointments of munsifs should vest in the hands of Government and it is in regard to that that this resolution is moved. That is all that I ask for.

"Then, Sir, it is said it is only Mr. Justice Ayling who was in charge of selecting applications for the posts of munsifs. I have not the slightest suggestion to make that he has done anything out of the way, but it so happens that heads of offices are sometimes doing wrong without their knowing it. Up to the year 1910, as my friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao said, this power of making appointments was in the hands of a single Civilian Judge. I do not believe that much complaint was then being made. It might have been made by some Brahman friends who did not get as many appointments as they wanted. But it is after Mr. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar was raised to the Bench that a claim was made by him that the selection of appointments should be made by all the Judges, even though the preparation of the list of applicants should be in the hands of a senior

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Civilian Judge. From that time forward, there was a conclave to make appointments. The Civilian Judge who is making the appointment does not know many of the mufassal men excepting some applicants who come from Madras. The bulk of the applicants who are aspirants for the munsif's posts come from the mufassal. Of course the Civilian Judge has to make the appointment really upon the recommendations of some officers. The applications, I think, cannot be sent direct to the High Court. Our grievance is that all applications have to be transmitted through the District Judge and very often the District Judge depends upon the recommendation of the Public Prosecutor or the leading practitioner or the Sariahtadar of his Court who as a rule happens to be a Brahman. They recommend only the Brahman practitioners in whom they are interested. Thus the applications of non-Brahmans do not filter into the hands of the Civilian High Court Judge.

"My honourable friend says that there were only 41 applications from non-Brahmans as against 165 of the Brahmans. Is he in a position to state that the 41 applications are the total number of applications received or are they other than those which have been returned to the applicants on the ground of overage, or various other technical objections? That number is only after elimination of all those other applications which were not retained in the office.

"This is a serious state of affairs for the non-Brahmans. I would draw the attention of the House for the purpose of rectifying this long-standing defect. The fact is that in 1914 there were 121 Brahman munsifs and 48 of other castes. In the year 1921 the number of Brahman munsifs was 152 and other castes 47. We have to get an explanation and it is our duty to bring it to the notice of this Council how this state of things could be rectified.

"My friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao remarked that it is not proper to direct an attack against the High Court Judges. The High Court does not exercise its jurisdiction judicially, but it exercises only administrative jurisdiction which is done by the Government in respect of Subordinate Judges and District Judges. It is a mere chance that the power of appointment is vested in Judges instead of in any other agency. My honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao also remarked that I should not move this motion as it casts a slur on the High Court. May I ask the Honourable Member whether when the Hon'ble Mr. V. K. Ramanuja Achariya brought a resolution for reduction of the number of the High Court Judges and in that connexion he discussed so many things against the Judges, did my friends on the opposite benches raise any protest against the resolution or speech as casting a slur on the High Court?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"We were in a different Council then and governed by a different procedure."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Was not 'May's Parliamentary Practice' applicable to this Council then?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"At that time we had certain other specific rules of procedure which we were bound to follow."

Mr. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"May's book was in existence even then."

"I wish to point out that the age limit of 32 is unauthorized. It is the age limit fixed by the High Court. On what authority has it reduced the age of 35 fixed in the Civil Service Regulations to 32?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"The High Court has got power to fix the age."

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MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"I want to know whether the age fixed by the High Court has been sanctioned by the Government and if it was approved by the Government, then a correction slip must have been attached to that article of the Civil Service Regulations which has prescribed the age limit as 35 to enter into Provincial Judicial Service. Have we not known a Brahman gentleman who though on the wrong side of 50 has been appointed in the year 1913 to the High Court Bench? Was he not also allowed to be in service beyond 60 years to enable him to earn a larger pension? That had happened because he was a Brahman gentleman. Why should the non-Brahmans be made to suffer by this age limit as sometimes they pass their B.L. at over 32? If I may be pardoned for making a personal reference, I passed my B.L. in my 33rd year. Under the rules if I wished to enter service as a district munsif, I must wait for three years after passing the B.L. Why should I not be employed as district munsif at 36 or 37? Would I be found to be a cripple if I reached 36 or 37 years? Why should not candidates be allowed into service at late age while they are not particular as to the benefits of pension? It is really a hardship on the non-Brahmans who pass their examinations and are qualified like Brahmins to hold the posts, but are precluded from entering judicial service by this age limit. I would strongly suggest that the age limit should be extended to 35 and that the present rule which fixed the age limit at 32 should be abrogated. With these words and with the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Home Member, I have great pleasure in withdrawing the resolution."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Communal representation in judicial service.

MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"I believe it will not be necessary to speak at length on this resolution. The resolution runs as follows:—

"22. This Council recommends to the Government that, with a view to giving effect to the recommendation of the Public Services Commission recruitment to Judicial offices may be made directly from the Bar and that such recruitment may be made for the next five years from amongst non-Brahman Hindus, Christians and Muhammadans so as to secure a due representation of all the different communities in the Judicial service."

"The statistics that are available for July 1920 show that in the cadre of District Judges there are four Brahmins and absolutely no non-Brahmins. In the cadre of the Sub-Judges there are in all 18 Brahmins and non-Brahmins are 13 as against 18. In the District Judges there is none. In 1914 there were three District Judges of whom one was a non-Brahman. In 1916 there were two Brahman Judges and two non-Brahman Judges. In October 1917 we had two non-Brahmins and two Brahmins. In 1918 we had two non-Brahmins and two Brahmins. In 1919 we had three Brahmins and no non-Brahman. In 1920 there were four Brahmins and no non-Brahman. Among the Sub-Judges the number which was five in 1914 rose to nine as regards non-Brahmins and continued to be nine and in 1919 it was ten. So this is consistent with what I have said in connexion with the previous resolution. There is not much disparity in the number of Brahman and non-Brahman Sub-Judges because the power is vested in the Government and they are somewhat fair. That is because the proportion of 11 to 18 or 13 to 18 is very much more than 41 to 163 munsifs. So far as the District Judges are concerned we are rather going backward than forward. That being so, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Public

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Services Commission has recommended that there should be a representation of the various communities. They say as follows:—

"We have therefore preferred as already explained to rely on the prerogative of Government to maintain a balance between the various interests. This will be possible under the system of recruitment already recommended."

"That refers to direct recruitment from the Bar, and they further say:—

"As regards Judicial branches in all provinces except Punjab and Burma, direct recruitment should be made and ministerial officers should no longer be promoted."

"At page 172 the Commissioners say that under the system of pure competition, it is necessary to see that representation of all classes is made in Government Provincial Service and that would secure efficiency and public confidence. So I say if the various communities are not properly represented the Government would necessarily suffer in efficiency and public confidence. Mr. Morley says that it is scandalous, that in an essentially Catholic country justice should be administered by a number of Protestant Judges. So also in a country which is essentially populated by non-Brahmins and who are 97 per cent while only three per cent are Brahmins it will be scandalous if a large number of Brahmins are found in the public service. The discrepancy which exists in the higher Judicial Service must be put down. How can that be achieved? That can be achieved by recruitment for the time being only from the classes which were hitherto neglected. Therefore it is that I propose that for five years to come, recruitment may be confined only to non-Brahman classes so as to bring a re-adjustment and to appoint such number in the services as may be said to be a fair representation of all communities. I now formally move my resolution."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"I second the motion."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to deal with this matter at any great length. We had a long discussion on the previous resolution as regards proportional representation in judicial services. The word 'efficiency' was used by me and a caveat has been entered against the adoption of that principle with regard to recruitment to Judicial services. There is absolutely no difficulty in adopting a standard of efficiency and it is that standard of efficiency which has been laid down in the rules. Among those persons who are capable of judging the qualifications of persons to be appointed as district munsifs I presume the High Court is one which is capable of judging the quality of persons who can be appointed to the judicial posts; I would say, they are the best judges who can set up a particular standard of efficiency. Apart from the question of the munsifs whose appointment vests in the High Court the Subordinate Judges are now generally taken in by way of promotion. As regards District Judges, a portion of them will be taken in directly from the Bar by way of recruitment. As regards the posts of High Court Judges they ought to be, subject to statutory limitations, recruited straight from the Bar and the most efficient Brahman or non-Brahman—let that not worry us—should be appointed to the High Court Judge's post. Fortunately the Secretary of State is not contaminated with this Brahman or non-Brahman virus. The Government has not been accused of flouting the public opinion in the matter of communal representation so far as it lay with them. This resolution, the House will notice, requires that recruitment to judicial offices, as of not only munsifs, but of Sub-Judges, District Judges and the High Court Judges, may be made directly from the Bar. I, Sir, as a member of the Bar, would have absolutely no objection to that. But there are certain limitations prescribed which this Government is

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bound to obey and subject to that alone there is any possibility of direct recruitment. That has been settled by the Secretary of State after anxious consideration of the Public Services Commission report and we the Local Government are not entitled to go beyond it.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the last portion that there should be no appointment from a particular community for the next five years, I am afraid that it is not a practical problem, whatever grievances my non-Brahman friends might have as regards inadequate representation.

"I want to say that my friend Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar has been specially quoting Lord Morley's dictum. I am afraid he is making a mistake with regard to the class of officers about whom he was speaking. The Justices of the Peace in Ireland are not Civil Judicial officers at all. Most of them have, I believe, large political duties also. It is with regard to these classes of officers that Lord Morley was speaking."

MR. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR :—"I beg leave, Sir, to support this resolution. I want the Honourable Members of this House not to misunderstand me when I say that I too have a grievance. At the outset, Sir, I wish it to be clearly understood that my object primarily is to avoid the racial question and raise the controversy to a higher plane where it admits of being considered calmly, dispassionately, and in the abstract. It is also my object, Sir, to place our courts of justice and especially the highest tribunal in this Province, which has commanded the respect and esteem not only of the people of this Province but also of eminent jurists in England, beyond party cavil. Objection has been taken to the principle of recruitment on the ground that it is a distinct violation of a specific recommendation made by the Public Services Commission. The Hon'ble the Law Member has drawn our attention to the fact that this principle is adhered to as far as possible and that the recommendation has reference not to the numerical strength of the respective communities, but to the number of duly qualified and duly registered lawyers in them. To be frank, Sir, I thought I had a grievance. So far as the community which I represent is concerned, a Tamil Catholic in the Judicial service is a *rara avis*, nay, not even a *rara avis*, not even the *phoenix* of classic mythology, because he simply does not exist, nor has he existed for the past ten or fifteen years. It might be that the community itself is to blame; it might be that the people whom I represent are not sufficiently organized, have not been clamorous or assertive or demonstrative. Whatever it be, I think, Sir, there is a grievance and there is no harm in drawing the attention of this House to it. Here is a statement of a simple fact which shows that representation, on the communal principle, might be rendered more adequate.

"My second observation is with reference to the courts of justice. A resolution of this kind is perfectly harmless, and by being given effect to will redress what may be termed a party grievance. I wish that the grievance I have put forth will be duly considered. I am not going to inflict on the House my jeremiads, my wailings like those of the party to which Danto belonged and which he compared to *vedova sola e di e notte chiama*. I only plead for more adequate representation in the interests of our courts of justice. I wish that they should be raised above the dusty atmosphere of politics, that they should be placed beyond the reach of party criticisms, party antagonisms. Political parties have been in existence ever since Solomon was a boy. And especially after the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms there have been introduced popular institutions and political parties competing for political power, for power also in the various departments of administration. But I wish that political parties should as much

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as possible stand for definite political issues and that our august tribunal should not be dragged into this controversy. Therefore if I press forward the interests of my community, in common with the interest of other communities, it is just for effect being given to this resolution and attention being drawn either of the officers or of the institution making appointments to a more equitable distribution of all these offices. I make bold to press my grievance in the hope that it will certainly be redressed. So in the interests of justice, and in the interests of our popular institutions and the smooth working of political parties, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by my friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar."

MR. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—"I want to support this proposition for this reason. It has been granted that there is a sufficient number of B.L.s among the non-Brahmans; it is also admitted that there are a sufficient number of efficient non-Brahmans among them, but the fact remains that there are not a sufficient number of district munsifs appointed. It is necessary therefore, to give preference to them for a short time. However, I am not for closing the door altogether against the Brahmins. Let them be appointed, let them have, say one to three or two to three or some such proportion till the proportion comes all right. Of course there are sufficient number of non-Brahmans who are sufficiently educated, but they are backward in not coming forward to press their claims. If this is done there will be sufficient number of non-Brahmans represented and there will be non-Brahman High Court Judges in a very short time. So with these few words I heartily further support this proposition with the modification. Of course, if the majority of the House do not accept the modification, as a non-Brahman I must vote with the non-Brahmans."

The resolution of Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar was then put to the vote and carried.

A poll was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi.	Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
" S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad.	" A. P. Patro.
" C. Arunachala Mudaliyar.	" T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar.
" T. Balaji Rao Nayudu.	" A. Ramayya Punja.
" P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.	" K. Saraba Reddiyar.
" K. P. Gopal Menon.	" W. P. A. Soundara Pandiya Nadar.
" B. Muniswami Nayudu.	" R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar.
" P. C. Mutta Chettiyar.	" S. T. Shunmugam Pillai.
" A. T. Muthukumaraswami Chettiyar.	" S. Somasundaram Pillai.
" N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai.	" A. T. Palmer.
" A. Subbarayada.	" M. V. Appa Rao Bahadur.
" K. Suryanarayana murti Nayudu.	Abbas Ali Khan Sahib.
" T. G. Tungavelu Pillai.	Abdul Razao Sahib.
" O. Tanikachalam Chettiyar.	Abdur-Rahman Khan Sahib.
" W. Vijayaragava Mudaliyar.	Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahiman Sahib.
" M. C. Raja.	Mr. Ahmad Miran Sahib.
" P. Kesava Pillai.	Mr. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib Bahadur.
" M. C. Madurai Pillai.	Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib.
" S. Muttumaniikka Achariyar.	Qadir Nawaz Khan Sahib.
" S. Arpudaswami Udayar.	Muhammad Faisha Sahib.
" M. D. Devadas.	Usman Sahib.
" E. C. M. Mascarenhas.	Mr. P. Venkatarangayya.

Noes.

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson.	Mr. F. J. Richards.
" Mr. Todhunter.	" C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.
" Mr. Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib.	" P. Siva Rao.
" Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar.	" T. Namburumal Chettiyar.
	Rev. E. M. Macphail.

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Neutrals.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Subbarayulu Reddiyar.
 " Mr. P. Ramarayaningar.
 " Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu.
 Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
 " P. Subbarayan.
 " E. Periyarayanakam.
 " R. Venkataratnam Nayudu.
 " M. Ramachandra Rao.
 " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
 " M. Krishnan Nayar.
 " A. S. Krishna Rao.

Mr. K. V. Ramaohari.
 " U. Rama Rao.
 " Sadasiva Bhat.
 " M. R. Seturathnam Ayyar.
 " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
 " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
 " M. Suryanarayana Garu.
 " K. S. Venkataratnam Ayyar.
 " C. V. Venkataratnam Ayyangar.
 Raja of Ramnad.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2 p.m.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 2-45 p.m.

Mixed Committee to advise economy in public expenditure.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO moved—

'23. That this Council recommends to the Government that with a view to secure economy in the several departments a mixed committee of officials and non-officials may be appointed to scrutinize the public expenditure in this Presidency and to make suitable proposals in connexion therewith.'

In doing so, he said:—"It is a well-known fact, Sir, that the expenditure has of late grown out of all proportion in all departments of the Government. Some of the additional expenditure is due no doubt to the payment of additional salaries and I may say that this additional expenditure has been necessitated mostly and largely by the rise of prices which has prevailed of late. This has been referred to in the Memorandum by the Finance Member in presenting the budget for 1921-22. Take any head. For instance, we have the Revenue, or Police, or Public Works Department. In all cases, the expenditure has grown more than a hundred per cent. Now take for instance the expenditure under the head of Land Revenue. It has been referred to in paragraph 10 of the Memorandum. In the year 1890-91 the expenditure under the head of Imperial services was Rs. 10,53,000; it rose to Rs. 11,56,000 in 1913-14 and to Rs. 12,09 lakhs in 1921-22. So also in the case of the Provincial services in the same department it has risen from Rs. 4½ in 1890-91, to Rs. 8 lakhs in 1913-14 and to Rs. 12.85 lakhs in 1921-22. I may also refer to the inferior services in the same department. It has risen from 5 lakhs in 1890-91 to 11 lakhs in 1921-22. So far as the village menials and talaiyaries are concerned it has risen as well. So far as these talaiyaries are concerned it is necessary for us to consider whether it is not possible to reduce them to a certain extent.

"In the case of the general administration as the result of the Reforms the expenditure had grown by leaps and bounds. I may just refer to the four Executive Council Members where there were only three, in addition to the three Ministers and a number of Secretaries, Council Secretaries included.

"Under the head of *Administration of Justice* it is said, 'The charges for Administration of Justice have increased in the last 30 years from 43 lakhs to 128 lakhs.' In the Police department also it is noted that the expenditure has increased by more than a hundred per cent. There were only 27 sub-inspectors in 1891-92. They have been increased to 1,528 in 1921-22; head constables have risen from 2,327 to 3,588. 'The pay of the ordinary constables was increased from Rs. 8 rising by increments to Rs. 11 in 1913-14, to Rs. 10 rising by increments to Rs. 13 in 1916, and it is now proposed to fix it at Rs. 17 rising

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by increments to Rs. 22'. It is necessary to consider, Sir, whether all this expenditure is necessary, whether it is not possible to reduce the strength and number of constables and of the police talaiyaries. Whether as a result of the appointment of the sub-inspectors the retention of the inspectors is desirable, also deserves our serious consideration.

"As regards *Education* a lot of money is wasted on inspection work. A scheme has been sanctioned to have one Inspector for each district and one sub-assistant inspector for each taluk. As a result of this scheme we shall have about 19 Inspectors and 211 Sub-Assistant Inspectors in addition to 244 Supervisors of Elementary Schools.

"As regards *Agriculture* also, though it is a department for which expenditure need not be grudged, considerable sums of money have been spent, or are about to be spent, on the appointment of the so-called experts, Agricultural Chemists, Economic Botanists, Soil-Physicist, Agrostologist, Mycologists, etc.

"In the Judicial Department a large number of temporary Courts have been established and the number of High Court Judges has risen from 8 to 12.

"In the Public Works Department the expenditure has grown to large proportions. I may say for the information of the Council that new departments have been created and new appointments have been made since 1917 and it is a serious matter for the consideration of the Council whether all these new departments are necessary, and the new appointments ought to be continued. In the matter of General administration it is to be considered by the committee whether it is necessary to retain the Board of Revenue any longer now that we have strengthened the Secretariat and there are Ministers in addition to the Executive Council members. The Government are also quite alive to this aspect of the question and in paragraph 35 of the Memorandum the Hon'ble the Finance Member states: 'It has been urged that retrenchment should go with reform, and on this point the remarks of a newspaper writer on the budget of a sister province are very much to the point. "Neither this nor any other province," he says, "could possibly afford to pay adequate wages to their present establishment. In view of the rise in the cost of living, demanding in turn substantial increase in the cost of personnel, Government must do what every other business concern has done, overhaul its administrative machinery with a view to economising labour, securing a higher individual output, and thereby finding some compensation for the much higher cost". It is exactly this that I am seeking to achieve by the appointment of this committee. And then 'He adds very properly "Economy cannot begin and end at the reduction of a few clerks and patta-wallahs. It must go right through the machine". I may remark with the writer in the newspaper if the committee is going to reduce the number of clerks in every department and to make three clerks drudge where 12 have been working I shall not rest content with that result. 'It must go right through the machine.' 'In the ensuing year it is proposed, under the direct guidance of His Excellency the Governor, to continue investigations of the same sort right through the machine.' It is for the Honourable Members to scrutinize the expenditure of this Presidency, and propose reduction wherever possible. However well-intentioned he may be, His Excellency the Governor cannot very well supervise this work. It is for this purpose that I am asking for a committee to be appointed with certain powers. The Hon'ble the Finance Member will remember that when the same subject was brought up before the Council some time ago he was as much anxious as any of us to secure economy in administration. I remember the words he used on that occasion. He said that this province was suffering

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from 'meticulous details of administration.' It is these 'meticulous details of administration' that it is sought to put a stop to by this committee.

"I am also aware in this connexion that a certain Government Order has been issued recently calling upon the several heads of departments to make proposals with a view to cut short the expenditure by about 20 per cent. That, I suppose, is a preliminary step and is a necessary step to be taken before the committee is appointed. The committee, Sir, must have some material. It cannot be said that there is no necessity for the appointment of this committee because the Government have issued that circular. It may be that heads of departments may stick to the old strength, the usual strength of their staff; they will not like to propose any reduction because they may have some sort of attachment to their staff. It is not likely they will effect, they will propose any retrenchment in their respective departments in a dispassionate manner. It is therefore but just and meet that this question of retrenchment should be considered by a committee; probably the heads of departments have to be examined by the members of the committee either way, whether they vote for the expenditure or for retrenchment. All these materials ought to be made available for the deliberations of the committee. So the appointment of a committee even after proposals are invited by the Government becomes necessary. Now, Sir, I say in the resolution that such a committee shall be appointed and it should be a mixed committee of officials and non-officials and they must have powers to go round, to take evidence, to go to the central places to examine the needs of several departments and make comprehensive schemes of reduction in several departments; they must have the necessary power to make recommendations even with regard to certain departments the expenditure on which is classed as non-votable. If, as I stated, it means reducing a certain number of clerks in certain departments I do not think we would have achieved our object. Any committee which we propose must be vested with full powers of proposing retrenchment in all departments in the case of all officers whether they are imperial, provincial or subordinate. Now, Sir, without dilating any further, I can say, the Government themselves feel the necessity; they are willing to undertake the inquiry. I only suggest the personnel of the committee to help them in this matter, to take evidence, to go round and to suggest retrenchment wherever possible. With these words, I move the resolution."

Retrenchment in departments of Government.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS:—"Mr. President, Sir, the resolution standing against my name runs as follows:—

'24. That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee of the members of this House be appointed to inquire, take evidence and report what retrenchments could be effected in the various departments of the Government without prejudice to their efficiency.'

"My object in bringing forward this resolution is to induce the Government to appoint a strong committee to inquire into what retrenchment can be made in the various departments of Government. Sir, it is the complaint of at least the lay people, people who are outside the Government, that there is a good deal of overlapping in the various departments of Government; in a good many departments there is a good deal of unnecessary multiplication of work necessitating the retaining of a number of hands; and that in some offices there are a number of officers not having enough work to do. Now, considering the fact that our finances are limited and that we want money for a number of objects and also considering

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that at present it is inadvisable that we should raise money by fresh taxation it is incumbent upon us to take stock of what we have, and to see whether we cannot make retrenchment here or there, in order not only to save money but to make the administration as efficient as possible. We should try our very best to see how things could be done in the best manner with the least expense possible. It is not necessary for me to go into particulars; it would be invidious, I am afraid, to distinguish one department and say, 'this is over-manned' or say of another 'this is under-manned.' All that I say is there is a loud complaint everywhere that there is a good deal of wastage in the sense that there is a good deal of unnecessary work thrown upon certain establishments necessitating the retaining of a number of hands and that there is a good deal of over-lapping. If this could be avoided, Sir, considerable economy could be effected. It is a well-known fact that in an office, first, the clerks in the lower grades go into the papers and make notes and probably the superintendent again revises and probably another makes a third revision and the matter comes before another for a fourth revision and finally it comes before the officer who passes it. It is the view of some people that if you employ an efficient hand in the lower grade and make him responsible for a proper precis of the facts to be placed before the officer, one revision would be quite ample under the circumstances. It is by employing too many hands and some of them ill-paid and some not quite efficient on account of the salary offered to them that you do not have that kind of efficiency which would otherwise be expected. I am for limiting the number of officers, and the number of clerks and for paying them well and making them do their work properly. In a number of departments there are officers whether they belong to the gazetted or the non-gazetted grades who have to do over again the work done in some other department, because there is over-lapping. But, if you allow one department to be solely responsible for the work till it comes up before the Government, or the Cabinet or any other body that is ultimately responsible, then I think that would be sufficient to meet the ends of administration. Sir, it is not necessary for me to dilate upon this subject. At the time when the budget was discussed, it is within the knowledge of every member of this House that a number of motions were made to the effect that such and such an officer was unnecessary, such and such an office was unnecessary and so on. It is not necessary for me to go into the details; all that I say is that the Government should appoint a proper committee—I confine my committee to the members of the House in my resolution, but I do not want to have a hard and fast rule. It is quite open to the Government to appoint members of this House as well as others for the purpose of taking evidence and saying what retrenchment could be effected without in any way impairing the efficiency of the administration. With these few words I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House."

* Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, I have also given notice of a similar resolution.

"In his resolution, Mr. Devadas wants to lay down the procedure to be adopted by the Council; and in my resolution I want to suggest the remedies that are possible, that are to be gone into with regard to giving effect to the resolution. I say, Sir, that retrenchment can be effected either by reducing the number of appointments or reducing the salary of appointments or by changing the cadre of the appointments or by re-organizing the departments or by any

* Vide page 1608 below.

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other means. I make it as comprehensive as possible. Mr. President, for the last two weeks we were engaged in scrutinizing the budget of the next year. There we found the opinion of the Council was more or less unanimous that in some departments there were too many officers, some departments themselves were not wanted and the work of others could be done by some others. The budget discussion was not the time for us to go into all these things in detail. If I can interpret the view of the Council in these matters, in addition to effecting economy in some directions, they were distinctly of opinion that in other directions a comprehensive inquiry was necessary. For instance, I can give one or two examples. The Land Records department was thought to be unnecessary altogether. In the department of the Commissioner of Labour the Council thought there were too many officers and at least some reduction should be made. Of course there is the further question whether the department itself is necessary, in view of the fact that we are increasing very largely the Co-operative department. And then with regard to the Survey department we find that we have too many officers and so on. The opinion of the Council was expressed that with respect to many of the departments an inquiry was necessary in all these directions. Sir, it is not necessary for me to go into this question at length at present because, after the discussion of the last two weeks, the Council is, I believe, satisfied that a committee like this is necessary. I only want, Sir, that when the committee is appointed, it should be distinctly informed that it was open for the committee to go into all these matters mentioned by me. Otherwise it may be said that some of the persons appointed are already in service and that they cannot be dispensed with; or, it may be said that the committee can only make some retrenchment in some departments taking the departments as they are and cannot make recommendations to abolish them. Unless it is made clear to the committee that they can make recommendations in a comprehensive manner we will be defeating our object. It is in that view that I mention these matters in the resolution. I wish to say only one thing more. On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter a Financial Committee was appointed this morning. We do not yet know who are the members of it, what the functions of the committee are going to be. The Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter said that this committee would take evidence and make recommendations. Whether it is open to them to take evidence in the manner in which Mr. Devadass wanted evidence to be taken and inquiry should be held and whether they will be going into the matters I have mentioned in my resolution is a matter about which we want enlightenment from the Hon'ble the Finance Member. If it is only going to be a standing Finance Committee which will not begin work at once on the lines suggested by us, there can be no use in such a committee. If, on the other hand, the committee is specially intended for the purpose of going into these questions then probably, no new committee is necessary. So, whether a separate committee is necessary or not can be decided only after the Hon'ble the Finance Member explains the functions of the Financial Committee. With that reservation I beg to support the resolution now before the House."

Committee for reduction of establishment.

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I have given notice of a resolution in the following terms:—

'50. That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of officials and non-officials be formed to inquire and report as to the best way of reducing the establishment charges in all departments (1) by reducing establishments both in the lower and the higher grades; (2) by reducing the pay of officials drawing over Rs. 1,000 a month whenever possible; (3) by reducing the work now required to be

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turned out; (4) by substituting Indian for European officers; and (5) by such other means as may appear reasonable.'

"Sir, I want to say just a few words. I am one of those that think that so far as the Government as at present constituted is concerned, there are two things, prestige and patronage; the Government of India seems to be full of these two things. My own goal in bringing forward this resolution is that all public officers should receive a minimum salary of Rs. 100, the maximum of Rs. 1,000. My own view is that almost all the Government servants should be receiving their pay between these two extremes. So far as the minimum of Rs. 100 is concerned, I do not want to say anything now, for, we are gradually rising to that position. In England, we are told that £3 a week is the lowest wage for a wage earner. But so far as the higher appointments are concerned, we are told that the British Government pays much higher for its establishment in England than any Government elsewhere. Compared with Japan and America, we are told that the pay of officials in England is rather higher than that in these countries. It has been over and over again admitted that the pay of Indian officers, officers of the higher public services in India, is much higher than the pay given to the various officials in England. Therefore, the pay that is given to the officials in India is much higher than the pay given in any European country or in America or in an advanced Asiatic country, like Japan. It is therefore necessary that the curtailment should be made all through. There is no use of curtailing here or there, either at the topmost or the lowermost ranks or in the middle of the services. If there is to be a satisfactory change it must be, I submit, from the top to the bottom. Economically, the reduction of the number will serve in two ways so far as India is concerned. First, we will save a large sum of money so far as the salaries paid to these officials are concerned. Secondly, it will have a very good direct economical effect in releasing a large number of hands who are now engaged, somehow or other in Government services and waste their time in preparing statistics, etc. Their services will then be placed at the disposal of the country and in industries, trade and commerce they will be more useful to the country than merely doing this drudgery work. I can give a few instances where the establishment can be curtailed. I will deal with some of the lower grades. I was talking to a high officer the other day and he was telling me as to how he was asked to give a statistical figure showing how many were given one strike, how many two, how many three, and so on. He had to compile a statistical return and waste his time as to the number of people to whom a particular number of strikes was given. If we come to the village officers they have to make returns, more often imaginary than real, of the cultivation every month and the returns are to be handed over to the revenue inspector by the twenty-fifth of every month. Feeling this impossible, all these people very often prepare wrong returns, incorrect returns, I do not say false returns. If, on the other hand, these are asked to be made once in three months or so, the purpose for which these returns are made, viz., to give a correct idea of the acreage of a particular crop under cultivation, will be satisfied and there will be no necessity for over-work both by the village officers and by the revenue inspectors. In some cases, the work is so unnecessarily heavy that poor people suffer much as for instance in the Registration department. No doubt a little change in the law may be necessary but it serves no purpose whatever to say how many lands were leased out for 100 or 200 rupees or how many mortgaged for those particular sums. It will be very desirable to make registration of leases up to Rs. 500 or so and sales and mortgages below Rs. 1,000 optional and not compulsory.

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“ Now we know as to how it is necessary to undergo much trouble for a man who borrows Rs. 20 or 30 or 40 in order to mortgage his land ; for he has to travel 20 or 30 or 50 miles, and take two witnesses more often than one and also the writer of the document generally. So, Sir, he has to pay a large sum of money for getting Rs. 40 or 50. I have taken some trouble to collect statistics, but if the Government gets authoritative statistics, it will be seen that a very large percentage of the documents now registered relates to mortgages, or sales below Rs. 100 or less. So if only this suggestion is adopted, it will be very clear that a very large reduction can be made in the number of the sub-registrars and also a very great inconvenience can be avoided for the poor ryots who have to borrow small sums of money. These of course are so far as the sub-registrars are concerned. As for the lower grades in general, I may repeat once more what the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter said at the last Council, that the percentage of officials of lower to those of higher grade in this Presidency is six times more than in Bombay or Bengal. One of the reasons for this is that the higher officials, the European officials, do not know the vernaculars and therefore more clerks are required for translation, etc. In the interests of the parties also it is extremely necessary that less note work is made and more of direct looking as much as possible is done by the higher officials. So far, Sir, there can be no doubt whatever that if proper means are found out and if a proper committee is appointed, there will be a large reduction in the number of lower grade officers and therefore naturally in the grade of higher officers also. As has been observed by the previous speaker, the committee should be given exact powers to recommend the abolition of Imperial appointments also. Otherwise it may abolish 50 constables or 50 peons, whose pay will come to about half the pay of the Collector or some special officer. It was stated in the memorandum of the Hon'ble the Finance Member that 15 per cent of the personnel in the Salt department was reduced, but I am very doubtful whether there was any reduction of even one per cent, so far as the expenditure is concerned. I do not want again to say that a number of appointments in the Agricultural and the Forest departments are unnecessary. It is very much to be regretted that so far as the Forest department was concerned, the gallant knight that leads the Government Bench said that there was not even one Indian fit to be a Conservator of Forests. It is very unfortunate that such a statement should have been made. We know as a matter of fact that in that department people who had been once superseded and who had even retired have been now promoted, and such appointments I do not think will be of great use so far as the Government is concerned. Therefore I think a large number of reductions can be made in the higher appointments also and without that there is absolutely no use of this committee. It may be said on behalf of Government that His Excellency and the Government have asked various departments by a Government Order recently issued that they should try to effect 20 per cent reduction, not of the personnel, but of the expenditure. But I am very doubtful, if some such committee is not appointed, whether there will be any use in that Government Order or in the representations that are likely to be made by the various departments ; because we know that several officers were appointed before with special instructions to recommend reductions and the result was the reduction of about two taluk clerks, and two clerks and four peons in the Collectorate, and probably the salaries derived by the special officers appointed to investigate into the matter may yield interest which will be equal to the pay of these officers that have been recommended to be reduced. I think there is a great feeling so far as the villagers are concerned that there are too many departments created and that means so much of worry for the village officers and through them to the

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public at large as after all the village officers do not pay anything out of their own pockets, but fleece the villagers on the whole to make supplies to the various officers. Therefore the lesser the number of departments, the better, so far as the villagers are concerned. I therefore expect the Government to accept this resolution and appoint a committee to reduce the salaries both as regards the appointments in the lower grade and also those in the higher grade.”

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—“ Mr. President, may I with all respect to this House say that we have been talking long enough of economy and that it is time that we get to work. As I have already reminded the House, there was a proposal over a year ago for a committee to go into the question of economy, a proposal which I was only too anxious to accept, but which the mover never moved. When the matter was discussed in July last, I expressed my readiness again to go into the matter, but we got no further. In opening the budget debate, I laid stress upon the necessity for a thorough overhauling of the whole machine, in words which Mr. Siva Rao has quoted, and finally in closing the debate, I explained what we proposed to do and accepted the proposal of the member of this House who, I think, has more experience of committee work than any other, the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao, that we should appoint a Standing Finance Committee to go into such matters. In accepting that proposal I tried to explain to the House, what I would like to press upon them again now, that the mere appointment of an indefinite committee is not a panacea for all ills. I referred then to the committees that had dealt with similar questions in England, and in view of what has been said to-day, I think I cannot do better than repeat to the House the remarks which I made at the close of the budget debate. I then mentioned first the Select Committee on National Expenditure, which is very much what we are being asked for now, and I referred to the report which they had just issued on the Munitions department, in the debate upon which it was said that they had examined only 3 per cent of the expenditure and that, if they examined the remaining 97 per cent at the same rate, it would take them the rest of their lifetime to do so. I also referred to the remark of Mr. Bonar Law who wound up the debate by saying ‘ We set the committee up to help the Government to save expense and they have not succeeded in so doing.’ I then referred to the committee on estimates in respect of which Commander Hilton Young in his book ‘ National Finance ’ says that the bogey of parliamentary criticism really was a check upon Ministers and that when this bogey was materialised into a committee which could not get a quorum to meet, the check disappeared. Then I referred to the Committee on Public Accounts which is the most efficient they have in England and which I hope will be a most efficient machine here, but as I have said before, that committee is a regularity machine and not an economy machine. Lastly I referred to the procedure which has just been adopted in England of appointing small committees of three to go into the work of each department in turn and I said that I was waiting to hear how these committees were succeeding in their work. Pending hearing further on that point, I accepted the proposal of my honourable friend opposite (Mr. Ramachandra Rao) that we should appoint a Finance Committee for this purpose, and we have appointed a Finance Committee. Since two-thirds of the members of that committee are elected by this House, I hope it is going to be a strong committee. That being so, I fail to see the necessity for adding another committee to that which we have just appointed.

“ I should like to refer here for a moment to the various proposals for economies that have been put forward. I do not propose to go into the details which

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the Honourable mover has referred to. It is sufficient to call attention to one instance, namely, that the difference to which he has called attention in the number of sub-inspectors of Police is the difference due to the adoption of the recommendations of the Police Commission. I do not suppose we want the committee to reopen questions like that. What I should like to explain is what I may call the three branches, or perhaps I should say the three grades, that have to be considered in this question of economy. In the first place, there is regularity, that is to say, action to ensure that the expenditure does not exceed the estimates and that the rules and regulations are complied with. Though this is in the main a mechanical business, it is also an exceedingly unpopular business, and I personally shall be only too thankful to have the Committee on Public Accounts to share with me the unpopularity which at present rests upon my shoulders. In the next place there is what I may call departmental economy, that is, the carrying out of services already prescribed in the most economic way. This is what Mr. Devadas has referred to. We must always realize that returns have a tendency to increase and multiply, and clerks with them, that new business methods are constantly being created, the application of which can be made to reduce the amount of labour employed and that in this way a periodical review of departmental methods is desirable. I may here mention the example of another Government, which a few years ago used to employ an officer whose chief function was to go round whenever an office asked for more staff and investigate their methods with a view to showing them how to do their work more economically. In this province several such reviews of methods have been made. One most elaborate inquiry was made by my hon'ble colleague, Sir Lionel Davidson, in 1909. Others on a smaller scale followed and finally the matter was gone into in the most detailed way by Mr. Loftus Tottenham whose proposals have just been applied. It is complained that these inquiries have resulted only in the reduction of a clerk here and a return there. That is perfectly true. That is all they were intended to do and all that they can do without an alteration in policy. The real truth is that, for a root and branch economy, nothing but a change of policy will suffice, and here I would ask the House whether policy is a matter to be delegated to a committee, and I would invite their attention to the fact that the order of appointment of the Select Committee on National Expenditure expressly declares that their object was to inquire whether any plan can be advantageously adopted to enable the House by Select Committee or otherwise more effectively to make an examination, not involving criticisms of policy, into the details of National Expenditure. On this, the authors of 'the system of Financial Administration of Great Britain' note as follows:—'It is of importance to note that, in providing for the appointment of a committee, care was taken to exclude from its province any consideration of matters of policy. It was felt that any attempt to bring into existence an organ that would share, or in any manner participate, in the responsibility for the determination of a programme of work would weaken or dissipate the complete responsibility for the direction of public affairs now vested in the Ministry, and would thus be a direct inroad on that principle of Cabinet Government and Ministerial responsibility which is the keystone to the whole constitutional system of Great Britain.' That, I think, Sir, is the answer to the proposal that we should institute a roving commission with instructions to inquire into anything and everything else. We shall have a Finance Committee sitting here and, as regards the work to be done by that committee, we have in the orders which have been referred to arranged for the collection of materials for their inquiry. I should like to invite attention to the importance of this. Experience shows that it is perfectly useless to have a roving committee to look for materials, but if we have

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a definite committee with definite materials before them to get to work upon that is quite a different matter. We have sent out to heads of departments an order to make suggestions as to how they would carry on their departments if they had to make a retrenchment of 20 per cent, and when we have received their replies, we shall have a large amount of materials for the committee to advise upon. As for the other suggestions, we have a very large number to digest in the speeches that have been made in the course of the budget debate. Therefore if that committee gets to work—and I am going to ask it to meet me as soon as possible to arrange its programme of work—it will have the materials ready for it and I hope it is going to be as efficient a machine as any fresh committee that we could appoint with instructions only of a general nature.

"I should like to say one word more, Sir. We have been told that a great deal of work arises from unnecessary statistics. May I remind the House that the House itself is responsible for asking for a very large number of statistics? I regret to say that the Finance Department have been snowed under during this session and that there are a large number of questions involving the compilation of the most intricate statistics with which they have been unable to deal and which will take months to reply to if honourable members insist upon a reply being given. In fact, I was going to ask honourable members before they dispersed to say whether it is really necessary to carry on the compilation of all the statistics asked for. If so, I may have to ask the House for a special staff in order to enable the department to answer all the outstanding questions before the next session. Finally, may I ask the Honourable Member who moved this resolution whether a question such as No. 555 on to-day's agenda paper is one calculated to help to save work and staff? If the whole machinery of the Government is to be set to work to inquire into every case in which a small boy has received a smack on the hand for impudence, it cannot be expected that we should be able to reduce the work done in the office."

MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask what would be the cost of a committee if it has to do effective work?"

THE HON'BLE MR. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"If the Honourable Member would give me a sample of a committee which has done effective work, I shall be glad to inform him what the cost of the work was."

RAO BAHADUR A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, there are now four resolutions under discussion asking for the appointment of committees to inquire and report about public expenditure and about the best way of effecting retrenchment therein. I will particularly draw the attention of the Council to two of the resolutions wherein specific suggestions have been made, to that moved by Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar wherein he suggested that without impairing efficiency steps ought to be taken to reduce the establishment, to alter the cadre and reduce the salaries and to another resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member for Coimbatore wherein he suggested that steps should be taken to reduce the pay of officers drawing over thousand rupees and to effect other alterations. I do not expect this House to adopt these suggestions without further consideration. I wish to point out the necessity that arises for the appointment of a committee to go into this question. I quite appreciate the Hon'ble the Finance Member's statement that when we have just appointed a Finance Committee for examining various proposals, there might not be any further need for a further committee. That statement requires some consideration. That committee consists of two-thirds of elected members and nobody can possibly object to the appointment of

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such a committee. I for one would suggest that this task might be entrusted to this committee itself with definite directions. I do not think this House is particularly anxious to have a different committee for the purpose of carrying out the objects underlying all these resolutions. The Finance Committee is a representative committee consisting of two-thirds elected members of this House and of three members nominated by His Excellency the Governor including the Finance Member. That is a committee which might be entrusted with this task. What we all want is that its functions should be altered and it must have a definite mandate from this House that retrenchment should be effected in all directions. It is therefore, in the way of suggesting the terms of reference that we need concern ourselves while on this subject. About the composition of the committee whether it is the same committee or a different committee, it is perfectly immaterial.

"We have also been warned by the Hon'ble Mr. Todhunter about the dangers that sometimes arise by the appointment of committees because instead of effecting retrenchments they generally enhance the expenditure."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*interrupting*):—"The Honourable Member is not quoting me correctly."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU (*continuing*):—"He referred to the appointment of committees in other countries wherein attempts were made to reduce expenditure but they did not succeed."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER (*interrupting*):—"That is correct. But that does not mean that they increased the expenditure."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"If that is correct, I am satisfied. I am glad to have that information. So far as this House is concerned, another important circumstance for consideration is whether the committee can lay down a policy. Incidentally the Hon'ble Finance Member told us that there is a committee of seven, meaning thereby, the Cabinet, for laying down the policy and asked us whether we wanted another committee or whether we would entrust this matter to the Finance Committee. I think we have to disagree with him so far as this matter is concerned. The discussion in this Council for the last two months must have convinced every one that we have been complaining against the increase of salaries and allowances in all directions. That is the burden of our song, though as a result of the deliberations we did not succeed in effecting retrenchment to any substantial extent more especially in the reduction of salaries or travelling allowances. If we only take the trouble of comparing the provision made in the last year's budget under the head of travelling allowances with the provision made next year under the same head, the increase under that head alone comes to several lakhs of rupees. A motion was made for the reduction of allowances at an earlier stage of the discussion and when it affected the Collectors and other high officers, the motion was not carried out in this House. There were a few other motions under the head of travelling allowances; but owing to a feeling of despondency that these motions might share the same fate they were either withdrawn or not pressed to a division and in one or two cases they did not succeed when pressed.

"I, Sir, am unwilling to entrust this question of laying down the policy for effecting retrenchment in salaries or allowances to a committee consisting only of the official members of the Cabinet. I believe, Sir, that the question of laying down a policy which is likely to affect the salaries and allowances of the Cabinet cannot be

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entrusted to them. It will be more than human if we expect the honourable members of the Cabinet to come forward and say that the salaries of the Executive Councillors and the Ministers are high. This question can only be considered by an independent committee of the House and not by the members of the Cabinet themselves. It is for that reason I suggest that there must be an independent committee to suggest a definite policy in that direction. Sir, it is not by merely examining the establishments of certain officers or by merely reducing the establishments here and there that we can hope to succeed in effecting a substantial retrenchment. It is not possible for us to suggest any alteration in the cadre of the various services or any alteration in the pay of the subordinate officers, so long as we cannot suggest any alteration in the pay or allowances of superior officers. It will be inhuman and cruel on our part if we try to effect retrenchment on those lines in the case of officers below if we cannot express the same opinion in the case of the Executive Councillors or the Ministers. We may or may not succeed in carrying out that object in the case of the Executive Councillors; probably we have to go to the Secretary of State and make further representations. But in the case of the Ministers we have to consider whether it can be decided by this House or by a higher authority. Whatever may be the course we may eventually adopt, if a committee is to be appointed it should carefully consider the question of effecting retrenchment. It must be an independent committee in a position to make an independent recommendation. If its recommendations are approved by the House, it will be time enough for the House to take such steps as can be constitutionally and legally taken for the purpose of giving effect to these proposals. I am quite willing that this question of retrenchment instead of being entrusted to a separate committee may be entrusted to the Finance Committee which has been appointed. I do not think there can be any difference of opinion regarding the other items which have been referred to in these resolutions.

"It had been suggested that there may be a reduction of establishment. That may be done, I am sure, after examining the circumstances of each department. I also want this House to come to a decision and express an opinion about the revision of salaries and allowances. It is true that as it has been passed already it may not be possible to effect a reduction at once. But if the House agrees to a reduction of the salaries and the allowances there are various ways in which it can be effected. It might bring some rules into operation in the case of new appointments and in the case of vacancies to be filled in future. But these are matters of detail which can be worked out later on. I would insist upon this House effecting retrenchment in the salaries and allowances beginning from the officers above and not from those below. For this purpose, I would request the appointment of an independent committee fully representative of this House. But I do not want to duplicate the machinery if the Government are agreed that this question should be entrusted to the Finance Committee which has been appointed. If the Government are not willing to entrust it to this committee which has been appointed at their instance, I would urge the appointment of an independent committee for that purpose. With these remarks, I beg to support this resolution."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, I am a great admirer of things western. I admire the lines on which the Government is carried on in this country. I admire the munificent way in which its officers are paid. I admire the grandeur in which public officers move. But I am not an admirer, Mr. President, of the amount of unnecessary correspondence that goes on in the public offices. This red-tapism is a source of great expenditure in this country. This mode of correspondence not

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only increases the work but it delays work. It results in the increase of the staff and it also results in the increase of expenditure on stationery. I believe some method should be adopted immediately to see that this unnecessary correspondence that goes on in public offices is curtailed.

"There is another feature of the Government department that always struck me with wonder and surprise; and that is the slovenly way in which work is carried on in public offices. I am not aware of the 3-45 p.m. hours of work prescribed for offices of the public department but it seems to me that these men take to their work in a very slovenly manner. Offices start, I suppose, at 11 o'clock and clerks go to these offices at 11-30, and then they will sit in their seats and be talking over matters and getting their hair dry, and go on with their work at a very slow speed and come away, I suppose, as soon as the clock strikes 5. I have no idea of the closing hour of offices. It has been my experience to see clerks going to offices as though they have no one to control them. I think if different methods are adopted for getting real work out of these men, a great deal of expenditure can be saved. Of course, people complain that there is much work, much work, much work in these Government offices. But I do not believe them. The Government should be more vigilant, and like a private gentleman they must see that work for the money paid is turned out. It is not the fault of the British Government; I believe, it is the result of Indian methods in the British Government that has been the cause of this deterioration of efficiency in work. So I emphasize on these few points. The first is that unnecessary correspondence should be curtailed and the second is that the hours of office work should be insisted on and proper work should be exacted from the men concerned."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I move that the question be now put."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I am in some difficulty as regards the closure. I see that the Deputy President who is moving for the closure was presiding till now here. I doubt whether the question has been sufficiently debated on."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Yes, Sir."

The motion for closure was put and carried by 42 votes to 9.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I will now put the main question to the House, the resolution proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Siva Rao (No. 23)."

A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 14. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 2. " K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 15. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 3. " S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 16. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 17. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 5. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 18. Mr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 6. " K. P. Gopala Menon. | 19. " P. Siva Rao. |
| 7. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 20. " A. S. Krishna Rao. |
| 8. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. | 21. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 9. Mr. A. T. Palmer. | 22. " Govindoss Chaturbujadoss. |
| 10. " E. C. M. Mascarenhas. | 23. " Ahmad Miran Sahib. |
| 11. " M. D. Devadas. | 24. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 12. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 25. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 13. " K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar. | |

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Noes.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 19. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 2. " Mr. P. Ramarayanangar. | 20. " O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. |
| 3. " Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 21. " T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 4. " Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 22. " M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 5. " Mr. C. G. Todhunter. | 23. " R. T. Kesavulu Pillai. |
| 6. " Sir Lionel Davidson. | 24. " L. C. Guruswami. |
| 7. Mr. E. Periyannayagam. | 25. " W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 8. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 26. " S. Muttumanicka Achariyar. |
| 9. " R. G. Grieve. | 27. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 10. " F. J. Richards. | 28. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. |
| 11. " V. Appaswami Vandayar. | 29. The Rev. E. M. Macphail. |
| 12. " S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad. | 30. Mr. P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 13. Rao Sahib P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 31. " T. Numberumal Chetti. |
| 14. Rao Bahadur A. Parasuramdooss Patro. | 32. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 15. Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 33. Munshi Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 16. " W. P. A. Saundara Pandia Nadar. | 34. Khan Sahib Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 17. " A. Subbarayudu. | 35. Saiyid Diwan Abd-ul-Razzag Sahib Bahadur. |
| 18. " S. Somasundaram Pillai. | |

The resolution was lost, 25 voting for and 35 against it.

Retrenchment in Departments of Government.

Next, the resolution of Mr. Devadas, No. 24, was put and a poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 15. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 2. " S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 16. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 3. " T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 17. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 4. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 18. Mr. K. V. Ramaohari. |
| 5. " K. P. Gopala Menon. | 19. Sriman Biswanath Das. |
| 6. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 20. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 7. " T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 21. " A. S. Krishna Rao. |
| 8. " A. T. Palmer. | 22. " S. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 9. " E. C. M. Mascarenhas. | 23. " M. Ramaohandra Rao. |
| 10. " M. D. Devadas. | 24. " Govindoss Chaturbujadoss. |
| 11. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 25. Ahmad Miran Sahib. |
| 12. " K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar. | 26. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 13. " M. Suryanarayana. | 27. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 14. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson. | 19. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 2. " Mr. C. G. Todhunter. | 20. " O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. |
| 3. " Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 21. " M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 4. " Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 22. " R. T. Kesavulu Pillai. |
| 5. " Mr. P. Ramarayanangar. | 23. " L. C. Guruswami. |
| 6. " Mr. K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 24. " W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 7. Mr. E. Periyannayagam. | 25. " S. Muttumanicka Achariyar. |
| 8. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 26. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 9. " R. G. Grieve. | 27. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. |
| 10. " F. J. Richards. | 28. The Rev. E. M. Macphail. |
| 11. " C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 29. Mr. P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 12. " V. Appaswami Vandayar. | 30. " T. Numberumal Chetti. |
| 13. " S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad. | 31. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 14. Rao Sahib P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 32. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar. |
| 15. Rao Bahadur A. Parasuramdooss Patro. | 33. Munshi Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 16. Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 34. Khan Sahib Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 17. " A. Subbarayudu. | |
| 18. " S. Somasundaram Pillai. | |

The resolution was lost, 27 voting for and 34 against it.

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, I think, has formally moved his resolution (No. 25)."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I have not formally moved it. I supported Mr. Siva Rao. Now I am going to move it."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Before Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar moves his resolution I should like the Honourable Member to explain on what ground he contends that this resolution of his raises a question different from what has been disposed of. I shall allow the Honourable Member to have his say before I give my ruling."

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"The resolution of Mr. Devadas has reference to economies within the departments of Government. But mine comprises economies by reorganizing the departments and by changing the cadre of the appointments, and so it goes much further than Mr. Devadas's resolution and it cannot be said that it is excluded by the disposal of Mr. Devadas's resolution."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Having heard what the Honourable Member had to say, I am of opinion that this resolution No. 25 raises substantially the same question as has been disposed of in the two previous resolutions. I therefore rule it out of order now for further discussion. Has the Honourable Member, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, anything to say with regard to his resolution No. 50?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I have nothing more to say, but I leave it to you, Sir."

The two following resolutions were then ruled out of order on the ground that they raised substantially the same question as the two previous resolutions:—

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—

"25. *This Council recommends to the Government the appointment of a committee of the House to investigate the feasibility of effecting economies in the several departments under the Government without impairing their efficiency by reducing the number of appointments in them, by reducing the salary of any appointments, by changing the cadre of the appointments, by reorganizing the departments or by any other means.*"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—

"50. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of officials and non-officials be formed to inquire and report as to the best way of reducing the establishment charges in all departments (1) by reducing establishment drawing over Rs. 1,000 a month whenever possible; (2) by reducing the pay of officials required to be turned out; (3) by reducing the work now required to be turned out; (4) by substituting Indian for European officers; and (5) by such other means as may appear reasonable.*"

A committee to revise the Famine Code.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"I understand that Mr. Kesava Pillai's resolution has been standing over on account of the fact that he has been presiding in the chair. I will now ask him to move his resolution."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I am deeply grateful to you, Sir, for coming in to-day at 4 o'clock, in spite of your indisposition, and allowing me

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to move this resolution which is very important to those people who are employed on famine-relief works in the Ceded districts. I move formally—

"18. *That this Council strongly recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of officials and non-officials be at once appointed to revise the provisions of the Famine Code of 1914, after prompt and necessary inquiry regarding wages and allowances in general with particular reference to the affected areas the basis, of conversion, of the grain into cash, the conditions enforced on the test works, the case of the dependants of the labourers during the test period, to the circumstances required to convert the test into relief works, the classification of labour, and such other cognate matters so as to make Government relief timely and effective.*"

"I beg to submit, Sir, that the Famine Code was framed after the great famine of 1877 by a committee under Sir James Caird. It is very elaborate and very ably drawn up, and I have no doubt it is in all its details remarkably conceived and put into form. But it lacks heart! This code has been, like the law of the Medes and Persians, unalterable in the eyes of the officials. Once before, in 1877 itself, I may state for the information of this Council, in the great famine there was a conflict between the Government of India and the Government of Madras. Those gentlemen who are interested in famine affairs will do well to read the two volumes written by William Digby, called the 'Famine Campaign in Southern India.' Five millions of people died in the great famine. His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, and that wonderfully, clever and good man Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner at the time, fought against the policy of the Government of India to reduce the rations at that time. It was rather a titanic struggle between the Government of Madras and the Government of India under Lord Lytton. Honourable members here may or may not remember what happened then. I saw myself with my own eyes thousands and thousands of people dying in the camps and other places in consequence of the reduced rations given under the orders of the Government of India by its delegate Sir Richard Temple. It was called 'the Temple ration', or 'the one pound rice ration plus six pies.' This reduction operated on the coolies in such a way as to kill them by thousands. We have got accounts of the great famine of that year, which are all recorded in these (Mr. Digby's) books. Then the Duke of Buckingham with the chivalrous support of Dr. Cornish addressed the Government of India and the Secretary of State and then they reintroduced the higher rate. It will be very interesting to read this great conflict between the two Governments, and I am of course giving credit to the Madras Government.

"Again, Sir, I would refer you to the ration given afterwards. There was a conflict again in the year 1892 when there was a famine. People in Madras assembled in public meetings and protested against the rigours of the Famine Code. I myself moved at the Mahajana Sabha Conference held on the 19th April 1892 the following resolution: 'While heartily thanking the Government for what it has done and proposes to do to relieve distress in districts at present affected by the famine, this conference is of opinion that a strict adherence to the scale prescribed by the Famine Code is producing a good deal of hardship and that the rates of rations should be raised at least to 2 lb. a head per day for a man, 1½ lb. for a woman and 1 lb. for a child exclusive of the allowance for condiments.' When the Government of Madras was thinking of revising the Famine Code, the famine was over.

"Again, Sir, in 1897 there was a famine, when we met in Madras and moved resolutions. Sir Sankaran Nayar presided on the occasion. The Hon'ble Mr. Jambulingam moved the resolution and I seconded it. It was as follows: 'While

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thanking the Government of Madras for their order, passed to mitigate the excessive rigour and short-sighted economy hitherto pursued in their famine policy, this conference urges that, in order to keep the labourers in health and strength, more liberal wages should be paid, and that in view of the hardship the ryots are subjected to from failure of crops and want of fodder for cattle, that Government be pleased to afford facilities for free grazing, besides granting relief by Takavi loans and remissions of revenue to pattadars paying less than Rs. 30 a year to Government.' The Government of Sir Arthur Havelock at that time supported by the expert opinion of Dr. King more or less agreed with the public view that was expressed in the resolution. The Honourable Member for Government would not give me either a copy of the correspondence or the Government Order though I applied for it. He will not place all the cards on the table. I addressed the Government and begged that I might be given —."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I at once explain, Sir, that it is not my intention to conceal any correspondence from the public gaze of this House but in as much as my honourable friend asked for a copy of the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India, I was precluded from furnishing this copy under the orders of the Government of India."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"The Honourable Member might have at least given me a copy of the Government Order in which a reference is made to the correspondence that passed. Sir, you will kindly see from this Government Order what the Government admitted and they say: 'The modification of the provisions relating to wages requires the sanction of the Government of India and that Government will be addressed separately on the subject. In the meantime the Board will issue such instructions to district officers as will enable the latter to pay the labourers the full value of the wages permissible under the code. The prices ruling at the villages near the relief works should be taken for calculating the money value of the wages, not the prices ruling at the kasba of the taluk which as a rule are lower,' and so on. Well, I got this Government Order as it appeared in the *Hindu* at that time.

"Here is the Government Order. It is No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. I wanted to know if the Famine Code should not be revised. I went and saw the famine coolies with the help of an assistant surgeon. A number of them were anæmic and all of them were more or less famine-stricken and I put it in the *Madras Mail*. It was stated in an editorial note that just at the time I visited the village called Thondapadu the Surgeon-General and the Famine Commissioner visited certain camps in Bellary which were said to be the worst, that it was rather a very difficult task to distinguish between these famine coolies and the ordinary coolies and so I might be mistaken. Rather it is a serious reflection on the Government of the country to state that ordinary coolies were in no better condition than famine coolies of the country. Further, the editor said: 'We believe that the whole system of famine administration was the subject of a Special Commission in 1901. Every point of difficulty which had arisen in 1897-98 was doubtless considered by that commission and presumably alterations suggested by the Government of Madras did not commend themselves to the Commission.' Now, Sir, this information could never have come from any other source than the Government office."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur (interrupting):—"I will at once deny the statement that it was inspired by Government."

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Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I should have thought so. The editor's note discloses, Sir, the hand of somebody who is in the confidence of the Government.

"Now, Sir, I want to state that the Government is very reasonable, very humane, and they with all the information supplied to them by men on the spot should be moved and come to some agreement with Simla in judging famine conditions in the Ceded districts and should revise the provisions of the Famine Code. Sir, I am one with the Madras Government of 1897. If there is going to be a continuity of policy in dealing with the famine coolies, I expect the Madras Government to support their policy maintained in 1897.

"One other point I wish to submit to the consideration of the House is the need to change the provisions of the Famine Code. The officers always give a fraction less than the fraction provided in the Famine Code and never a fraction more. When in Bengal there was a famine and when Sir Richard Temple was in charge of it he was very liberal in giving rations. He gave one and a half pounds of rice. Then the Duke of Argyll, the Secretary of State, said: 'Give a fraction more and never a fraction less.' But some how or other when the question comes to be considered at the table surrounded by the Commissioners they reduce the scale and increase the task. Again, it may be within the recollection of the Hon'ble the Home Member that in 1897 the famine question was tackled very earnestly. The officer in charge that year Mr. LeFanu wanted to save the people and went from district to district. The Government of India sat upon him and sent the Hon'ble Mr. Smith, Commissioner of Sindh, to check the operations. As this has been always the famine policy of the Government, the subordinate officers have been always afraid to report the real state to the higher authorities lest they should be labelled incompetent. They fear that the report will be taken as an exaggerated version. We know that we have in Mr. Buckley a capable and sympathetic Famine Commissioner. We know we have a very kind and sympathetic officer in the Hon'ble Mr. Habib-ul-lah. This gentleman took the trouble of visiting the various famine-stricken places. He must have been convinced of the abject poverty and distress of the people. And yet, Sir, when my friends Mr. Patro and Mr. Das spoke of the famine conditions in the Ganjam district my honourable friend flourished the Famine Code. That Code must be changed. I can give instance after instance in order to show that the diet mentioned in the code is insufficient. I challenge the Honourable Member on the other side if he can dispute any of the points raised about the test works. In the ordinary test works they want to make them most unattractive to the villagers. What do they do? They give additional work to the standard work and the women and men have to break stones under a scorching sun. Even after the famine was declared the Government have not taken away the additional task. They have to walk a distance of four miles and five miles and sometimes six miles from their place of residence before they reach the works. What do they do there, Sir? The Honourable Member replied the other day that there were avenue trees. They break stones just by the roadside. In many places there are no avenue trees. I picked some sample stones which could not be broken. I forgot to bring them here. The women sitting on either side of the road have to break stones from morning 6 to evening 6 with an interval of two hours, all the time exposed to the severe Indian summer sun. Then only they are able to earn wages hardly sufficient for a single ordinary meal. I have got the authority of experienced doctors who say that for Bellary and Cuddapah the average daily allowances of dry cereal for a labourer is 77½ tolas. I have no time to quote the details. I

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want to push this resolution through and appeal to the House whether they under the changed conditions of the system of Government would allow these coolies, these agriculturalists to starve to death and make them a prey to the very next pestilence, plague or cholera. I ask this House if it is not interested in keeping up the health of these people. In one place one economist whom I quoted in 1892 says: 'In India a ryot represents revenue. A large portion of the revenue of the country—two-fifths—comes from the land. If the people die, the land lies waste, and no kist is paid. In this Presidency, in the latter half of 1887, two and a half million acres less than the average were cultivated. This, at a moderate estimate, means the loss of nearly a million sterling in land revenue—not for one year only but long series of years. Then village trades people, the weavers, the shoemakers, the watchmen who depend upon a share in the produce as the reward of their services, also do not get what they should and therefore die. Their absence as well as that of the ryots and coolies is felt by the State in a diminished salt tax return, not to speak of the other indirect taxes.' Now, Sir, in this resolution I am going to point out several modifications that are required such as the task imposed and the wages given. It is stated, Sir, that the Collector shall have the power to reduce the task on the appearance of general signs of deterioration of health. The doctor says that it is not possible to observe deterioration. Some of them when they are famine-stricken, you may take it, are overtaken by death already. It will be too late before they can decide as to whether there is deterioration or not. That is the doctor's contention. I will quote a few authorities here. Sir R. Christison said that unskilled constructors of dietaries in famine times should be somewhat modest in respect to their knowledge. Doctor Cornish wrote about this. He showed that the inquiries proved that Sir Richard Temple of one-pound-ration fame 'was in error in supposing that his (Dr. Cornish's) remarks had reference to the dietaries of Europeans when he was at special pains to point out that an independent investigation, conducted by 20 or 30 medical officers in the mufassal civil stations and checked by his (Dr. Cornish's) own independent inquiries and observations, showed that the minimum grain allowance of a man in health and in doing usual work was not less than 24 ounces and that it was frequently double that quantity in favourable seasons.' What is given here to a first-class worker is 90 tolas of grain. He is supposed to use 55 tolas for food and the rest for condiments, etc. The second-class worker is given 50 tolas. These are the rates found in the Famine Code. Why this Famine Code is allowed to remain God alone knows. Even in the face of the strong resolution of the Government of Madras, the Famine Code has not yet been revised. I have got a number of things and too many materials to be submitted within the limited time. I am full of the subject. I challenge any Member of the Government to dispute any of my facts. Let them go and inspect the works and see how our labourers suffer.

"As Doctor Cornish said: 'In many cases the tongue is quite denuded of its usual coating, and is preternaturally clean, while the lining membrane of the mouth is unusually red and tender. In others there is a redness of the tongue at the edges, and cracks and fissures on the fur on it, denoting an irritable condition of the mucous membrane throughout the intestinal tract. I observe, too, that a considerable number in the camp have spongy and discoloured gums, indicative of approaching scurvy, and of some deficiency in the diet.'

"The labourers are self-respecting as a class. They do not want to go abegging. I pointed out an instance to the Hon'ble Mr. Habib ul-lah. We paid a surprise visit to a labourer's house at Thondapadu. There were the house-wife, the old man and

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his son. The woman resented our entrance lest her poverty should be known. I persuaded her to keep quiet and we examined the house. There was only one and a half seers of ragi flour for eight souls and a little bit of tamarind and chillies for chutney.

"That shows the depths of poverty to which these people were reduced. They had not a handful of grain in their pots and yet these people resented to be known as poverty-stricken. They wanted to keep up their self-respect with their neighbours. Such people flock to these hard works running in the hot sun, some people bringing stones from a distance of 2,000 yards. Especially in the Ceded Districts walking on the black cotton soil heated by the sun is very difficult as it is very very dry and they have to walk seven times which means sixteen miles a day. After these stones are broken they are heaped on one side, and no allowance is made for rejected stones. They say that the workers should be very careful in picking these stones. Among these workers there are Lingayats, there are Muhammadans and there are Kurubas who would never come out of their villages unless they are driven by dire poverty and distress. All these people are not paid sufficient wages and are not taken care of sufficiently. No doubt the male members in many instances leave their homes to seek work elsewhere, but their women and children remain at home until they return. They have not sufficient wages given to them for their hard work. Some of these people may be engaged in digging wells which may be more profitable. Breaking stones on the roadside is a very hard work especially for women and children. Children of ten years of age and above are made to work. The rules about these works should be revised. The theory that deterioration should begin before any increase in wages could be given should be abandoned. There are many other points which I would like to urge but I cannot do so for want of time, and I hope all my honourable friends would support me. I want to urge upon the Government that, if they want to do any good, a committee should be appointed at once and they should go and inspect every place and examine the local conditions. If the Government say that it would be done after famine is over, I am afraid it would not be done at all. That has not been done hitherto, and even the Madras Government failed to do it. I appeal to the honourable members who represent the people and who look after the interests of agricultural labourers that they should all support the resolution with one voice and I hope the Government also will support me because I am only vindicating what they had done in 1897."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, it is unnecessary to say that I rise to second this resolution. The previous speaker has traversed the history of this question from the year 1897 down to the present day. I shall take up the matter from where he has left and see if the Famine Code needs modification with reference to existing conditions. The Famine Code says that the principle of famine relief is to grant the lowest wages sufficient to maintain persons in health. I would like now to examine if the provisions of the Famine Code are calculated to bring about this result. I contend that they do not. First, take the case of allowances. The Famine Code fixes a certain scale of wages which is supposed to meet the need of the workers. Now, Sir, according to the Famine Code, the foodstuffs provided for workers contain 253 nitrogen grains and 7,864 carbon grains. Now, to compare this with the food given in the jails, it is necessary to have regard to the fact that the diet given in jails is also the minimum necessary to keep a person in health. The provisions given in jails are calculated to yield 459 nitrogen grains and 9,426 carbon grains, as against the 253 and

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7,864 grains respectively provided in the Famine Code. So it will be seen that the wages paid to these people under the Famine Code are far less than what should be provided for on the basis of the jail diet.

"Now, how are these wages paid to these people? When the work is a test work, coolies work for six days in the week and on the seventh day they have no work and are expected to shift for themselves. This arrangement is, I contend, unfair to people working under famine conditions. The wages given to them during the six days must be sufficient to leave them a little margin by means of which they can get on on the seventh day when they have no work and get no wages. But there is no such provision in the Famine Code, to be given effect to, when the test work is under operation.

"Again, Sir, in making payments to these people, wages are calculated with reference to prices prevailing in the nearest market. One would therefore expect that the market so selected would be somewhere near the work spot so that the people who are working there may easily go to the market and purchase the necessary grain with the money given to them. But such is not the case at all. A coolie will be working at a certain place and the nearest market with reference to which his wages are paid is sometimes fifteen miles away from that place. These coolies are expected not only to work seven to eight hours a day but, in order to feed themselves, they should go a distance of fifteen miles, purchase their provisions there, cook and eat their food, return fifteen miles and be ready for work next day by 7 early in the morning. This is a severe hardship. I am not speaking at random. There is in the Bellary district a test work near Virapuram railway station. I asked the Hon'ble the Revenue Member to let me know if the Government had not ruled that the wages given to these people should be with reference to prices obtaining in Bellary, and I asked also information as to how far from Bellary the place of work is. But the Honourable Member was good enough to say that he had no information. It does not matter, as I am in possession of the required information. The distance from Bellary to the workspot is fifteen or sixteen miles. The result of choosing a distant market for calculation of wages has been to reduce the daily wages by not less than 37 per cent in the case of men, 38 per cent in the case of women, and 33 per cent in the case of children. If it is assumed that one measure of grain is necessary for a man's consumption for a day, he can no longer obtain with the wages paid to him one measure but only two-thirds or even less, and we cannot expect hard-working coolies to keep healthy upon that slender meal. If the Famine Code permits such a low wage, it should be revised without any delay.

"Again, Sir, the kind of grain given to them is that ordinarily sold in the bazaar, but I expect that the 90 tolas prescribed in the Famine Code for a male adult refers to or ought to refer to the grain intended for consumption and not for sale. As in the process of cleaning a considerable quantity is lost, coolies should really be paid more, if in the end, they are to have 90 tolas of cleaned grain fit for consumption.

"As regards the outturn, I beg to submit to this House that the work which these coolies are expected to turn out is far in excess of any reasonable requirements. I looked into the Jail Code to see how much work a convict sentenced to hard labour is expected to do. He is expected to excavate 56 cubic feet of earth and to break 6 cubic feet of hard stone into metal or certain specified dimensions. But in a famine work, a male coolie is told that he should do 90 cubic feet of earthwork, which means nearly double the usual work. The Famine Code also

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says that when a work is started to relieve distress, the work expected of a man must be three-fourths of the work that is done by an ordinary man in ordinary times. If 100 cubic feet of earthwork is the ordinary work of a man, the work that he should do in famine is 75 cubic feet. If according to the Jail Code 56 cubic feet represents the normal work, three-fourths of that or 42 cubic feet represents the outturn for a man in famine works. Instead of that, the Code extracts two times the work from him.

"Then, take the metal that he is asked to break. Three-fourths of 6 cubic feet would work up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet of hard metal, which is the expected outturn in a famine work. But he is asked to break 6 cubic feet of metal while on a test work the coolies are asked to break 7 cubic feet of metal. So, I say, the outturn required of the work people both on a test work or on a famine work is far too high.

"Then, there is a rule that two months should elapse before famine is declared in an area and relief is granted to the people, on the regular famine scale. I submit, Sir, two months is far too long a time. First of all, the authorities are very slow to start the test work; they do so, after a great deal of correspondence on the matter. From the reports submitted to the Government by several Collectors, we find that test works were not started till distress had prevailed for three months and more and after there had been a good deal of emigration into the neighbouring provinces. This insistence on two months works a great deal of hardship.

"There are a number of other items which require to be looked into. As regards the classification of workers, in factories and other places children below 12 are not entertained for work. But according to the Famine Code, children of 10 to 12 years of age are treated as third-class workers. That needs revision. As regards distance, when a test work is started, people come from very long distances. The Honourable Member from Anantapur said that they come from places as distant as 6 miles. I go even further and say that they come from 9 miles. If you take the villages named in the report of the Bellary Collector and calculate their distances from the place where the test work is going on you will find that they extend up to 8 or 9 miles, or even 10 miles. Now if the people come from such distances, I submit that the work required of such people should certainly be less than what is expected of the worker who lives near by. I do not want to go into other details. In fact, there are many points which require to be examined and which can be looked into only by an independent non-official committee. I expect that the Government would welcome such a committee. They may perhaps suggest that this inquiry may be taken up after the famine is over, but I object to that. We have to suggest many revisions to the Famine Code and if the Government take exception to any of those suggestions, we want to be in a position to substantiate our statement by actual inspection of the places where test or famine works are going on. So, I think it is but fair that the Government instead of holding this inquiry sometime later, should take it up now so that they may judge whether our recommendations are acceptable, or not with reference to conditions which they can at any time examine. With these words I second this resolution."

4-45 p.m.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"Will the Honourable Member for Government be able to finish his reply within 15 minutes?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir, I may have to take a full half hour because I have to read extracts from a number of books."

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"No doubt, it is a very important matter. The Council has heard the speeches of the Honourable Members in favour of the resolution and it may not be able to vote without hearing what the Government Member has to say. I think we must give the Revenue Member a reasonable time for his reply. I hope he will be as brief as possible."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I shall be as brief as possible, Sir."

"Mr. President, Sir, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the honourable mover of this resolution has been actuated by the loftiest motives in bringing up this resolution before the House; nor have I the least hesitation in my mind that the honourable seconder, who has taken considerable interest in the recent famine operations of Bellary and Anantapur, has been actuated by similar motives in seconding it. My honourable friend Mr. Kesava Pillai has confessed that the Madras Government all along have maintained an attitude of large-heartedness, consideration and sympathy in the conduct of their famine policy; and I can assure the honourable member that that attitude of the Madras Government will undergo no change whatsoever in the future. He has—and I am glad he has done so—taken us back to the history of the famine policy inaugurated in India in the year 1882, and he has very rightly pointed out that the famine policy of 1882 owes its inception to that great calamity which visited India in general—I mean the great famine of 1876—1878. The first Famine Code, therefore, Sir, which the Madras Government framed for the guidance of their officers to combat the famine in this province was in 1882. Simultaneously with the attempt of the Madras Government to frame a Code for local application, the Government of India as well as the Home Government had appointed a very influential committee for the purpose of suggesting remedial measures to cope with future famines. The Secretary of State was good enough to send down a draft of the first Famine Code for all India. But, be it said to the credit of the Madras Presidency, the Government of India, while issuing a general Code for application throughout India, were carried away more by the draft which the Madras Presidency had framed than by the draft which came from the Secretary of State. This Code of 1883 was styled merely as a 'Provisional Code.' After the year 1883 and in the light of the observations which the Famine Commissioners had made in their report of 1882, the Government of India constantly examined the question as regards the sufficiency or otherwise of the provisions which had been made in the first Famine Code of that year. After an elaborate examination of the issues, after consulting various Local Governments on the defects which they might have noticed and after the experience which had been gained in regard to the famine operations which were conducted between the years 1883 and 1897, the Government of India appointed another commission whose report probably is available to every honourable member. That was the Famine Commission of 1898 which surveyed the whole situation once again, took into account the experience which each province had gained in the matter of famine which had occurred in the interval, revised the provisional Code of 1883, and incidentally also the Code of the Madras Province which had been framed in the year 1897 and gave the benefit of their final conclusions in their report of 1898. The Famine Commission's report of 1898 was again subjected to an elaborate investigation by the Government of India in their famous resolution of 1900. It was then suggested that each Local Government would do well to appoint a small sub-committee of officers from its own province for the purpose of suggesting what further modifications of the Code

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of 1883 and of the Code of 1897 were essential. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Government of India made in their despatch of 1900, this Local Government appointed a committee. That committee, Sir, had before it the experience in the matter of famines which had occurred in this very Presidency between 1899 and 1900."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI (*interrupting*):—"May I know, Sir, the names of the members who constituted that committee?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. Elwin and Mr. Morrin."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"No Indians!"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur (*continuing*):—"After carefully considering the report of this Committee, the Madras Government again framed for the third time a Code which issued in 1905. Subsequent to this two other tracts of the Madras Presidency had come under the baneful influence of famine. It was found as a matter of experience that a few provisions of the Code of 1905 needed further modification. After due examination and in the light again of the experience gained in the famine operations between 1905 and 1914, the Government of Madras issued its fourth publication of Famine Code. It is that publication which is now in force and it may well be claimed on its behalf that it represents the net results of experience gained from and after the famines of 1876 which visited not only this Presidency but which visited India as a whole; and it may be regarded to embrace the sum total of the experiences and the recommendations made by more commissions than one. Well, Sir, I have laboured this point to this extent for the purpose of convincing the House that any amendments, alterations or modifications of any existing Code or Law or Rule necessarily follow experience gained on their working with reference to concrete cases to which that is applied. We have no doubt some experience gained in the recent famine of Ganjam and we are, in the light of that experience, considering the desirability of effecting improvement to the present Code. We have now got the famine operations in vogue in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur, and let us only hope that these operations will not be of long duration. Let us hope that the monsoons in June will set in in proper time and that these operations will then cease. If, as a result of working the provisions of the existing Code of 1914, we find that some provisions that are contained therein need alteration or revision, I can assure the honourable mover and the honourable seconder that Government will only be too glad to receive any representations on this matter. It is not, I think, Sir, quite correct to say that the non-official agency is at the present moment deprived of watching and taking note of the existing operations in the Bellary and Anantapur districts. I think their position is perfectly secure under the Famine Code. The Famine Code contemplates, nay, lays it down imperatively, that wherever there are famine works in operation, the Collector shall constitute a committee of non-officials for the purpose of helping him in the conduct of the famine operations. While that is so, I expect, Sir, that the Collectors of Bellary and Anantapur have either already done so or will be doing it immediately. In any case, it will be open to this non-official committee to be in touch with the works in operation, to note if there are any defects in the existing rules, and to bring from time to time to the notice of the Government any representations which they may wish to make in this matter. If as a result of their personal knowledge and personal experience in the matter of the working of the rules they consider still that the appointment of a committee will be necessary to overhaul

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the Code,—I mean the Code now in force—I think it will be time enough for them to consider that question. I think, Sir, that at the present moment the suggestion for the appointment of a committee is premature.

“The Government are perfectly willing to do what they can to remove the rigidity or rigour of any existing provisions, but one thing I think I am bound to say: Famine-relief is not expected to be worked under very elastic rules. The very name ‘test work’ implies that it is a test employed for the purpose of realizing the real situation. A certain amount of rigidity would be essential in such test works. Of course I am not at all going to say that that would mean that the rules should be so hard and fast as to militate against the very rudimentary comforts and essentials of human existence. Some comparison has been made between the rations given to convicts in the jail and those that are given in our relief camps. I may state that the analogy between the two is absolutely not relevant. For, as I told you, Sir, already a test work is practically a test for the purpose of ascertaining whether distress is so deep in a particular tract of the locality as to justify the Government in the expenditure of the State funds for the relief of those people. And for the purpose of establishing the existence of a real genuine and deep distress, it is very essential that we ought to apply rigour in the early stage, but when once that stage has passed, when once there is the recognition of the fact that there is real and genuine distress, after the application of the rigidity of the rules, that area at once gets proclaimed as ‘famine-stricken’ and the rules which follow are certainly more liberal than the rules which precede.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR (*interrupting*):—“May I add that the rigour that the coolies get is also more?”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur (*continuing*):—“I said that they were more liberal. I have been thinking of the fact that when famine is declared in any particular area, it is open to the Collector or the officer who is conducting these operations to establish kitchens to feed the incapacitated, the old, and the young children in arms, besides giving wages to the able-bodied members of those families who are able to work. These facilities are often extended even in the case of test works. That is what I meant, Sir, when I said that the declaration of famine brought certain blessings to the people and that declaration of famine must be preceded by certain test works and that test must inevitably be more rigid than the test to be applied in the case of actual famine-relief operations. My friend, I think it was Mr. Kesava Pillai, who referred to the necessity of revising the Code with regard to the test work, the wages and the age limit. Presumably he referred to the code of 1914. The matter is under correspondence between the Government and the Board of Revenue on the basis of certain experiences which we have gained in the famine relief and test works in Ganjam district and we are now investigating into this matter and it will probably be open to me in the light of the experience which I am going to gain from the working of these rules in the Bellary and Anantapur districts to suggest amendments to the Code as they become necessary. I will repeat that the Government have never been slow to take advantage of the experience which they have gained from other operations. I have shown this is the fourth edition of the Famine Code which is now under discussion. The first one was in 1883, the second in 1897, the third in 1905, and the fourth issued in 1914.

“There was one complaint made by the seconder in regard to the calculation of wages. Wages are calculated according to the rate at which articles of food sell in the nearest market. We have to base our calculations upon some fixed and

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reliable data but when it becomes necessary, the moment an area is declared famine-stricken, the Collectors are authorized to open bazaars in the famine area itself. And then it is open to men who work in the famine-relief camp to secure their provisions from those bazaars. The rates of provisions are regulated by the officers in charge. All the difficulties which my friend seems to be referring to are difficulties at the early stage when the State has yet to make up its mind one way or the other. When once we recognize famine and make up our mind to spend a large sum of money, we apply such tests as are necessary to ascertain real distress. We have already declared famine in the Bellary and Anantapur districts. That declaration was issued on the 7th March 1921 and all the rigidity of the rules in these two districts will no more operate. I am sure that the two Collectors who are in charge, whom I have personally known and for whom I have the highest regard, will work the provisions of the Code with kindness, sympathy, and with large-heartedness. I may at once assure the House that in such cases in which it becomes necessary to deviate from the general rule we are prepared to consider any exemption of those rules. If any such cases are brought to my notice by official or non-official agency, I can assure the honourable members that those suggestions will receive my best attention.”

Sriman BISVANATH DAS:—“I move that the motion be now put to vote.”

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—“I think it is a serious question. Practically all that we have had is a statement by the honourable mover and no discussion. I am extremely sorry that there is no time to deal with this question satisfactorily. I think we can bring forward this question again at the next meeting of the session. The debate has to stand over.

“Honourable members have been furnished with an agenda of questions and answers. They came only this afternoon. Under Standing Order No. 8 the proper time for putting questions and giving answers is the first hour in the morning. If it is the wish of the honourable members that these questions and answers should go into the proceedings, I shall order accordingly. It is entirely for the honourable members to decide.”

The House having signified its assent, the following questions were put and answered.

III

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15--

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—
The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Promotions of clerks ‘passed and unpassed (exempted).’

557 Q.—Mr. M. R. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

(a) to state whether passed and unpassed (exempted) clerks are being treated alike in making promotions according to their seniority as per the Educational Notification published in page 734 in Part I-B, No. 194 of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 16th November 1920;

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(b) to state the number of unpassed exempted clerks serving in the Tinnevely district and the instance or instances, if any, during the current official year, in which promotion or promotions were conferred absolutely in accordance with their seniority; if such a course is not adopted whether the Government will be pleased to take steps to see that the above Government Order is given full and practical effect to at least in future.

A.—The notification in question only declares the eligibility to appear for special test examinations of candidates who have been exempted from the examination rules for admission to the public service unless specially prohibited and does not refer to the question of promotions.

Salaries to Government officers.

558 Q.—Mr. M. V. APPA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state (approximately) the total amounts spent as salaries to Government officers and staff drawing a pay of—

- (i) under Rs. 200 per month before last year's revision;
- (ii) over Rs. 200 per month before last year's revision;
- (iii) under Rs. 200 per month after last year's revision;
- (iv) over Rs. 200 per month after last year's revision;
- (v) the total amount of increment on salaries over Rs. 200 given with retrospective effect.

A.—The Government regret that it has not been possible to compile the information asked for in time to be furnished in the course of the present session.

Muhammadan representation in Tellicherry Municipal Council.

559 Q.—Mr. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

- (a) if it is a fact that three Muhammadans only were returned to the Tellicherry Municipal Council by election out of seven candidates in all the wards;
- (b) whether the number is sufficient in proportion to the Muhammadan population of the municipality, and compared to the number of those returned from other communities; and
- (c) whether the Government intend to nominate one or more Muhammadan councillors for the municipality.

A.—(a) The Government understand that three Muhammadans have been returned to the Tellicherry Municipal Council in the elections held under the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, but they have no information as to the number of candidates who stood for elections.

(b) & (c) The points raised by the member will be considered by the Government when appointments to the new Council are made.

Sanitation.

560 Q.—BHASKARA RAJA RAJESWARA SETUPATI *alias* MUTTURAMALINGA SETUPATI, (RAJA OF RAMNAD): To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government if it is a fact that the sanitary conditions in several big towns are very unsatisfactory particularly those of Madura, Coimbatore and Salem?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

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Provincial Police Service.

561 Q.—BHASKARA RAJA RAJESWARA SETUPATI *alias* MUTTURAMALINGA SETUPATI, RAJA OF RAMNAD: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(a) if it is a fact that the revised scale of pay sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Provincial Police Service with effect from 30th October 1919 has not yet been given effect to, although the scale of pay of the Imperial Police notified at the same time has been;

(b) if it is a fact that there is a good deal of discontent among the Provincial officers with regard to their position, pay and prospects and that those officers have submitted memorials to the higher authorities protesting against the scale of pay sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and, if so, what action has been taken on those memorials;

(c) whether in view of the fact that the Secretary of State has sanctioned that 33 per cent of the posts of Superintendents of Police should be filled up from Indians and that one-third of this number should be promoted from Deputy Superintendents, the Government will be pleased to take steps to fill up immediately the latter posts by promoting Deputy Superintendents now in the service; and

(d) if it is a fact that the Indian Officers in the Imperial Police Service have not yet been given the benefit of their new rates of pay, although two years have passed since the rates were given effect to in the case of European Officers.

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. The original orders affected certain classes of Deputy Superintendents adversely and further correspondence with the Government of India and the Secretary of State was therefore necessary. The final orders of these authorities have been received and will be given retrospective effect at an early date.

(b) Memorials have been submitted by members of the Provincial Police Service asking for a further consideration and improvement of their position. These have been forwarded with this Government's recommendations to the Government of India who are now considering them and have promised to pass final orders as soon as possible.

(c) The Honourable Member is not correct in his assumption that 33 per cent of the posts of Superintendent of Police are at once to be filled by Indians.

(d) The rates of pay for Imperial Police officers as finally revised were introduced both for European and Indian officers with effect from the same date, namely, 1st January 1920. A previous revision had taken place in 1919 in respect of the Imperial Service, but did not apply to Provincial Service officers appointed to "listed" posts.

Vacancy in the Engineering College.

562 Q.—Mr. M. D. DEVADAS: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education whether it is a fact—

(a) that Mr. Cartwright, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the College of Engineering, Guindy, was on furlough throughout the year 1919–20 and that no one was appointed in his place;

(b) that when Mr. Cartwright returned from leave about July 1920, he was appointed Acting Principal in place of Mr. James who had gone on leave; and that no Professor of Mechanical Engineering was appointed in his place;

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(c) that for the last two years there has been no Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, Guindy; and

(d) whether the Government propose to appoint a Professor of Mechanical Engineering to the College.

A.—Yes.

Public health and drainage works in Madura.

563 Q.—MR. K. P. GOPALA MENON: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(a) what amount is estimated to be spent on the drainage works in Madura;

(b) how many more years the work is to go on;

(c) if it is a fact that the condition of the roads in Madura town cannot be improved on account of the drainage works;

(d) whether the Government is in possession of statistics of the number of attacks and deaths by bubonic plague in Madura from the time the epidemic set in till now and if so, whether the Government would be pleased to place that on the table.

A.—(a) The estimated cost of the Madura drainage works according to the latest revised estimate is 38.21 lakhs.

(b) The Government have no definite information in the matter.

(c) An estimate amounting to 1.77 lakhs for the improvement of the roads damaged by the drainage works is under scrutiny in the Public Works Department.

(d) Yes. A statement is laid on the Council's table.

Mortality among Muhammadans.

564 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether—

(i) the Government will be pleased to state what steps have been taken with reference to paragraph 7 of G.O. No. 80 P.H., dated 26th January 1921,

(a) to ascertain the causes of high mortality among Muhammadans, and

(b) to counteract the same;

(ii) in view of paragraph 25 of the abovesaid G.O. No. 80 P.H., dated 26th January 1921, referred to above, the Government will be pleased to state the causes for the reluctance shown by qualified men to accept service as health officers under local bodies; and

(iii) the Government intend to direct a thorough inquiry into the state of affairs and to take immediate steps to set right matters.

A.—(i) (a) & (b) The Sanitary Commissioner has been requested to examine the reasons for the high mortality among Muhammadans and his report is awaited.

(ii) As far as the Government can ascertain, the unpopularity of the service of municipal health officers is due to
(1) the uncertainty of tenure of appointments under local bodies; and

(2) the inadequacy of the pay attached to the appointments.

(iii) The question of provincializing the service of health officers and of improving their pay and prospects is engaging the attention of the Government.

* Vide Appendix I on page 1634 infra.

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Compartment system in S.S.L.C.

565 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state if any and what steps have been taken by the Senate of the Madras University in the matter of the introduction of the compartment system in the School Final Examination as is done for the Intermediate and B.A. Examinations.

A.—The Government have not yet received any communication from the Senate in the matter.

Urdu-knowing Inspectresses of Schools.

566 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Education if it is not the fact that Urdu-knowing Inspectresses for Muhammadan Girls' Schools are a great desideratum and whether the Government be pleased to take early steps for the appointment of such Urdu-knowing Inspectresses for the aforesaid institutions.

A.—The Government do not consider that there is any necessity at present to provide special Inspectresses for the existing small number of Muhammadan Girls' Schools.

Revision of salaries.

567 Q.—MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

(a) to state when the orders relating to the revision of salaries in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Services Commission in regard to each of the public services were passed:—

(i) by the Secretary of State,

(ii) by the Government of India, and

(iii) the Provincial Government of Madras;

(b) to lay on the table all such orders;

(c) when orders revising the salaries of Provincial gazetted services were passed in each department by the Government of Madras;

(d) to lay the same on the table;

(e) in the case of which of the services effect was given to the proposals for revision of pay retrospectively;

(f) whether in the Judicial Department the revision was given effect to fully in all the districts and whether all arrears of increase of pay have already been paid;

(g) and if not, whether the Government propose to stop further payments.

A.—(a) & (c) A statement is laid on the table * showing the dates on which orders were passed about the revision of the salaries of the All-India and Provincial services by—

(i) the Secretary of State (where the dates are known),

(ii) the Government of India; and

(iii) the Madras Government.

(b) & (d) The Member is referred to the papers published on the subject, information about which is given in the statement.

* Vide Appendix II on page 1634 infra.

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- (e) The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 472 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd March 1921.
- (f) The Government have no precise information.
- (g) The answer is in the negative.

Staff of the Secretariat proceeding to the hills.

568 Q.—MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

- (1) to lay on the table a statement of the strength and other particulars of the subordinate establishments of the different departments of the Secretariat proposed to be taken to Ootacamund in April or May 1921 and to state
- (a) the number of Brahmans among them and
- (b) the number of non-Brahmans, Christians and Muhammadans;
- (2) to lay on the table a similar statement for the last three years; and
- (3) to state whether it is a fact that all the clerks of some of the departments of the Secretariat proposed to be taken to Ootacamund in April or May 1921 belong to one community, and if so, which community.

A.—(1) & (3) The statement below gives the information asked for:—

Departments of the Secretariat.	Superintendents.				Clerks including typists.				Menials.			
	Brahmans.	Non-Brahman Hindus.	Christians.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Non-Brahman Hindus.	Christians.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Non-Brahman Hindus.	Christians.	Muhammadans.
Chief Secretariat including Executive Council.	1	..	..	..	5	4	2	1	1	35	3	18
Finance Department.	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	4	1	1
Revenue Department.	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	8	..	3
Revenue (Special) Department.	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	6	..	1
Home Department.	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	5	1	2
Public Works Department (including Irrigation)	1	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	5	2	7
Local and Municipal Department.	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	6	3	..
Total ..	4	..	1	..	22	7	4	1	1	69	10	32

- (2) The answering of the question in detail would involve an expense in time and labour which the Government do not feel justified in incurring without some explanation of the purpose to be served.

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Telegraphic communication in Gingee (South Arcot).

569 Q.—MR. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no telegraphic communication in the Gingee taluk of South Arcot district, though it is a centre for ground-nut merchants; and

(b) whether the Government cannot take early action for opening telegraphic communication to Gingee.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) in December 1915, the Government sanctioned the proposal to open a telegraph office at Gingee and requested the Postmaster-General (Traffic), Madras, to arrange for opening it after the close of the war, but owing to the shortage of telegraph materials, the proposal was not carried out. It will be taken in hand as soon as sufficient materials are available.

Section 7 (3) of the District Municipalities Act of 1920.

570 Q.—MR. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government what the minority classes are in section 7 (3) of the District Municipalities Act of 1920.

A.—The reference is to communities which cannot secure adequate representation by election.

Increase in expenditure due to revision of pay, etc.

571 Q.—MR. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to lay on the table statements showing the increase in expenditure on account of the revision of the pay and allowances in the year 1920-21 as compared with that of 1919-20—

- (1) to all subordinate establishments of the Government, whether permanent or temporary;
- (2) to all servants of the Government in the Provincial services; and
- (3) to all servants of the Government in the Imperial service.

A.—The approximate expenditure during 1919-20 and 1920-21 on account of the pay and allowances of the several services under the control of the Madras Government is as follows:—

	Approximate expenditure in	
	1919-20. (LAKHS).	1920-21. (LAKHS).
	RS.	RS.
Subordinate services (including village officers).	356	451
Provincial services (including gazetted officers not specifically treated as belonging to All-India and Provincial services)	56	70
All-India services	51	61

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Physiology and hygiene in primary and secondary schools.

572 Q.—Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government and the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to lay on the table a list of primary and secondary schools in which provision has been made for the teaching of elementary physiology and hygiene, giving the qualifications of the teachers in those subjects and the number of hours per week, and the number of days in a year devoted to these subjects.

A.—The information required is not available and the Government are not convinced that the very large amount of labour involved in getting it would be justified by the value of the results.

Medical inspection of schools.

573 Q.—Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government if he is prepared to refer the question of medical inspection of schools to a committee consisting of educationists and medical men and medical women, both official and non-official.

A.—The suggestion will be considered.

Law College, Madras.

574 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state—

(a) what principle governs the appointment of professors in the Law College, Madras;

(b) whether the bar of seniority applies to the said appointments;

(c) if it is a fact (i) that every time there arises a vacancy in the Law College there is a call for applications by advertisement,

(ii) that there was an advertisement inviting applications for the vacancy that arose on the appointment of Mr. Madhava Nayar, B.A., Bar-at-Law, as Government Pleader,

(iii) that there was no advertisement of the recent vacancy occasioned by the appointment of Mr. Mir Zain-ud-din as Third Judge of Small Cause Court,

(iv) that the members of the staff of the Law College, barring the Principal, are entitled to no pension,

(v) that there is every three years a revision of appointments in the Law College, and

(vi) that the appointment as professors of Mr. Paul Appaswami, M.A., Bar-at-Law, Chief Judge, Small Cause Court, Mr. Lakshmana Rao, B.A., B.L., Professor, Law College, and Mr. Mir Zain-ud-din, Third Judge, Small Cause Court, was made without reference to the principle of seniority;

(d) on what principle appointments of professors have been recently made to fill the recent vacancy occasioned by the appointment of Mr. Mir Zain-ud-din as Third Judge, Small Cause Court; and

(e) if it is a fact that a memorial that Mr. K. Subrahmanya Pillai, M.A., M.L., Tagore Professor, should be appointed to the said recent vacancy, was sent to the Minister in charge of Education by the students of the Law College, Madras.

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A.—(a) & (b) Appointments to the Law College are made by Government after considering the recommendations of the Director of Public Instruction, who invariably consults the Principal and the Law College Council. Appointments to professorships are ordinarily made by selection from the Assistant Professors and seniority is taken into consideration when making such selections with due regard to efficiency and standing at the bar. But there is no rule that Assistant Professors have any priority of claim, and appointments to professorships may be made direct from persons not already on the staff.

(c) (i) Not always.

(ii) The answer is in the negative.

(iii) There was no advertisement as the acting vacancy in the professoriate was filled by the senior among the Assistant Professors *pro tem.* until the return of Mr. Kunhi Raman and was then to be filled by the appointment of Mr. C. Kunhi Raman on his return.

(iv) The members of the teaching staff, except the Principal, are only part-time officers who are allowed private practice. They are therefore not entitled to pension.

(v) Appointments are for a term of three years, but it does not follow that a revision of appointments is made in respect of the staff as a whole at the end of each triennium.

(vi) The answer is in the affirmative in the case of Mr. Paul Appaswami and in the negative in the cases of Messrs. K. P. Lakshmana Rao and Mir Zain-ud-din.

(d) The member's attention is invited to answers to (a) & (b) and (c) (iii) above.

(e) A memorial was received after the appointment was filled up.

Famine in Kurnool district.

575 Q.—Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) to lay on the table the list of villages affected by famine in the Kurnool district; and

(b) to state

(1) what test or relief works have been started in the Kurnool district;

(2) the places at which and the dates on which they were respectively

started; (3) the average daily attendance of coolies, from week to week, on each work from the time it was started;

(4) the average daily attendance on each work; and

(5) whether the Government intend starting more works than those that have already been started; and, if so, where and when.

A.—(a) Famine conditions do not prevail in any part of the Kurnool district.

(b) (1) (2) (3) & (4) Two test works are in progress, one the Gadiyemula-Miduthur road work at Miduthur in the Nandikotkur taluk and the other in the Kurnool taluk. The first was opened on 15th February 1921 and the second on 15th March 1921.

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The average daily attendance on the two test works up to the week ending 19th March 1921 was as follows.

	Nandikotkur taluk.	Kurnool taluk.
Week ending 19th February 1921 ..	185	..
„ 26th February 1921 ..	None attended the work.	..
„ 5th March 1921 ..		..
„ 12th March 1921 ..		28
„ 19th March 1921 ..	None attended.	300

(b) (5) Additional test works will be opened, if such a step proves necessary.

Remission in Kurnool district.

576. Q.—MR. K. SARABHA REDDI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(a) whether orders remitting assessment have been passed in the case of any villages in the Kurnool district;

(b) if so, in the case of what villages and on what scale;

(c) the average outturn in annas and pies of the affected villages on which the scale of remission has been based in each case; and

(d) whether orders suspending collection of revenue have been passed in respect of any villages, and, if so, in the case of what villages, and in relation to what kists.

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The attention of the Member is invited to the answer to question No. 354 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 21st February 1921.

(d) Suspension of the collection of kists, till next fasli, has been approved in respect of villages in which the outturn of crops did not exceed two annas. The Collector's definite proposals for specific tracts are awaited.

Economic condition of Kurnool.

577 Q.—MR. K. SARABHA REDDI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to lay on the table the several reports of the Collector of Kurnool sent from time to time during the current fasli on the state of the season and the condition of the people in the affected taluks of the Kurnool district.

A.—The Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by placing the reports on the Council table. If the Honourable Member desires to have copies of the reports for his personal use, they will be supplied to him.

Floods in Trichinopoly.

578 Q.—MR. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state with reference to the answers given to question No. 337 on 21st February 1921—

(a) whether the further reports of the Collector of Trichinopoly have been received on the recent floods in the district;

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(b) if so, (1) what steps the Government propose to take to remedy the distress of the poor people rendered homeless by the damage, and (2) whether the Government have arranged for remission of the land revenue to such of those lands as are affected by the floods; and

(c) if not, whether the Government will call for the reports immediately, and pass orders before the commencement of jamabandi in the district.

A.—The further report of the Collector has been received. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to G.O. No. 615, Revenue, dated 11th March 1921, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Taverns in Nilgiris.

579 Q.—MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the recommendations of the Collector of the Nilgiris to close one of the existing liquor taverns, and in spite of the recommendation of the Excise Advisory Committee at Coonoor to close two of the existing taverns, the Board of Revenue has sanctioned the opening of two new taverns in addition to all the existing ones;

(b) whether the Board of Revenue has proposed to keep open at Ootacamund on market days (Tuesdays) liquor taverns which in the current year are closed on such days;

if so, to state the grounds on which the decision was arrived at; and

(c) to place on the table the recommendations of the Collector of the Nilgiris and of the Excise Advisory Committee at Coonoor about the licensing of liquor taverns for the year 1921-22, and the orders of the Board of Revenue thereon.

A.—(a) The Excise Advisory Committee, Coonoor, recommended that the beer and arrack shops at Coonoor should be closed. The Collector did not support either recommendation. The Board made no changes in the number of shops at Coonoor. It did not sanction the opening of two new taverns or shops there.

(b) The Board has decided to keep open at Ootacamund on market days the arrack and beer shops which have been closed on such days during the current lease. This order was passed on the recommendation of the Excise Advisory Committee and the Collector, the chief reasons being that the closure on market days had led to a large increase in consumption of the more unwholesome foreign liquor and to the coolies absenting themselves from their employers for two days instead of one.

(c) The recommendation of the Excise Advisory Committee is placed on the table.* The communication of the Collector is confidential.

Drainage channel in Srivaikuntam taluk.

580 Q.—MR. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue in reference to my question No. 209 at the Council meeting, dated 18th February 1921, whether it is a fact that the Collector has ordered

* Vide Appendix III on page 1636 infra.

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that the work of the drainage channel construction in question should be dropped and a certain amount of the ryots' contribution which had been collected and deposited in the Government Bank should be refunded; and

(b) to state whether as a rule the ryots are bound to pay a contribution towards the cost of construction or improvement of an irrigation work like the one in question.

A.—(a) From the answer given to question No. 209 it will be seen that the scheme has not been ordered to be dropped and that arrangements are being made to recover the balance of contribution amount due.

(b) Each case is dealt with on its merits. In the present case the ryots offered to contribute and the Government agreed to carry out the work accordingly.

Rules made by His Excellency the Governor under section 49 (2) of Government of India Act.

581 Q.—MR. S. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to lay on the table the rules and orders made in exercise of the two rule-making powers conferred on His Excellency the Governor by section 49 (2) of the Government of India Act.

A.—As at present advised, the Government are not prepared to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—" May I ask you, Sir, if I would be in order to put a supplementary question ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—" Yes."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—" May I know what difficulty the Government is feeling in laying the rules and orders made in exercise of the two rule-making powers conferred on His Excellency the Governor by section 49 (2) of the Government of India Act. More especially that these rules are framed under section 49 (2), I should like to know what difficulty there is in placing these rules on the table ? "

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—" I can add nothing to the answer as at present advised."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD (referring to his own questions Nos. 560 and 561, when his turn had passed):—" Would you allow me, Sir, to put a supplementary question ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—" I cannot."

Lands and buildings for Queen Mary's College.

582 Q.—MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education with reference to the provision in the Public Works budget of 3 lakhs of rupees for acquisition of lands and buildings for the Queen Mary's College—

- (i) to state (a) what value has been placed on the buildings,
- (b) what value has been placed on the lands, and
- (c) what is the area of the lands;

(ii) to lay on the table all the papers relating to the proposed acquisition and the valuation and the negotiations with the owner.

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- A.—(i) (a) Rs. 51,000
 (b) Rs. 2,16,437-4-0 } exclusive of 15 per cent compensation.
 (c) 49 grounds 1,732 sq. ft.
 (ii) a copy of G.O. No. 297, Home (Education), dated 1st March 1921, is placed on the table.*

MR. O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR: " May I be permitted to read that estimate ? "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—" I understand the Honourable Member to say that he wants to have access to that estimate."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON:—" Sir, I was in charge of the department at that time. I will examine that point. "

Travelling allowance.

583 Q.—RAO BAHADUR K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state the amount of travelling allowance drawn from the 1st April 1920 till 31st December 1920 by each of the following officers with the number of officers:—

- (1) the Assistant Commissioner of Labour,
- (2) the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies,
- (3) the Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkari,
- (4) the Assistant Director of Land Records,
- (5) the Deputy and Assistant Directors of Survey,
- (6) the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.

A.—The departments are already more than fully engaged with the compilation of statistical information asked for. It is regretted that it is not possible to furnish the information now asked for before the close of the session.

" Pentland " dredger in Negapatam port.

584 Q.—RAO BAHADUR K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

- (a) what the cost is of the " Pentland " dredger which lies in the port of Negapatam;
- (b) how long it has not been working; whether it worked at any time and, if so, how long;
- (c) what the cost is of the establishment that is being maintained for its upkeep; and
- (d) whether any steps were taken to dispose of the same if it was found to be useless for the purpose for which it is intended.

- A.—(a) The cost of the dredger " Pentland " was Rs. 90,500.
 (b) The vessel has not been working since November 1917. She commenced dredging on the 1st February 1915 and worked till October 1917 with intervals during which she was laid up for repair.
 (c) The cost of the establishment at present is Rs. 138 per mensem.
 (d) The question of disposing of this dredger is awaiting decision till she has been thoroughly inspected by the Harbour Engineer.

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Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to state when it is likely to be disposed of?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER:—"The information will be found in the answer already furnished to (d)."

Non-official committee to advise grant of agricultural loans.

585 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) whether the Government have any idea of appointing a small non-official committee of landholders of each taluk in the matter of advising the grant of agricultural loans to avoid complaints;

(b) what the total amount is of loans granted in each of the taluks in Tanjore district in 1919-20; and

(c) whether the loans are being returned easily or there is any difficulty in collecting the instalments.

A.—(a) The Government do not contemplate the creation of non-official committees for the purpose.

(b) & (c) The Government have no information.

Strike by karnams in Tanjore.

586 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(a) if it is a fact that any karnam or village munsif of the Tanjore district struck work on account of his not being given increased pay;

(b) how many of each kind and in each taluk struck work;

(c) how many of them were (i) dismissed, (ii) suspended, (iii) fined, (iv) were not punished;

(d) how many of the punished men were restored to their appointments, and, if so, on what conditions; and

(e) whether the Government work was delayed or interfered with on account of the strike in any place; if so, what arrangements were made to carry on Government work.

A.—The Government have no information.

Rao Bahadur K. S. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Will the Government call for information?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I should think that such a procedure is unnecessary, because Government have no direct dealings with the subordinates."

Panchayat courts in Salem and Coimbatore.

587 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member—

(a) to state how many panchayat courts have been sanctioned for the districts of Salem and Coimbatore respectively, and how many of them have already been opened and how many are in working order; and

(b) whether the Government have any intention of increasing their numbers in the near future, and if so, when.

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A.—(a) The number of village panchayat courts sanctioned for the Salem and Coimbatore districts is 53 and 60, respectively. The Government have no information as to how many have been opened and are in working order.

(b) Collectors have been instructed to submit proposals for the institution of panchayat courts in all suitable areas within their jurisdiction.

Municipal administration in Chirala and Repalle.

588 Q.—MR. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(a) whether any reports have been called for and received from the Municipal Chairmen of Chirala and Repalle and the District Collector of Guntur, on the present state of the above municipal administrations; if so, to lay them on the table;

(b) if it is a fact that the District Collector, Guntur, and the Chairman, Chirala Municipal Council, have recommended the abolition of the Chirala municipality;

(c) whether the resignations of the Municipal Councillors of Chirala and Repalle have been accepted; and if not, why?

(d) whether notice to supersede has been given to the Municipal Council of Chirala and whether any objections have been received; if so, will the Government reconsider the matter?

A.—(a) Reports have been received from the chairmen of the municipal councils and the Collector of Guntur, but the Government do not deem it advisable to place them on the table.

(b) The chairman of the Chirala municipality recommended its abolition, but not the Collector.

(c) No acceptance of the resignation of a councillor is necessary under the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920.

(d) The council was called upon to show cause why it should not be superseded. After considering the objections received, the Government have passed orders superseding the council from 1st April 1921.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 563 asked by Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd April 1921, page 1622 supra.]

Statement of plague attacks and deaths in the Madura town from the week ending 11th December 1920 to 19th March 1921.

			Attacks.	Deaths.
Week ending 11th December 1920 ..	..	..	13	7
Do. 18th " "	..	..	29	16
Do. 25th " "	..	..	26	16
Do. 1st January 1921..	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Do. 8th " "	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Do. 15th " "	..	..	64	46
Do. 22nd " "	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Do. 29th " "	..	..	179	134
Do. 5th February "	..	..	129	102
Do. 12th " "	..	..	103	102
Do. 19th " "	..	..	63	54
Do. 26th " "	..	..	88	79
Do. 5th March "	..	..	60	51
Do. 12th " "	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Do. 19th " "	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Total ..			754	607

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 567 asked by Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd April 1921, page 1623 supra.]

Name of the service.	Date of Secretary of State's sanction to the revision (where known).	Date of the order of the Government of India communicating the Secretary of State's sanction.	Date of the order of the Madras Government about the revision.	Remarks.
<i>All-India Services.</i>				
Indian Civil Service (including Provincial Civil Service officers holding listed posts).		13th Feb. 1920.	8th May 1920.	The resolution of the Government of India was published on pages 322-326 of Part I of the <i>Fort St. George Gazette</i> , dated 24th February 1920.
Indian Police Service ..		17th Feb. 1919.	11th July 1919.	The order of the Madras Government was placed on the Editors' Table.

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Name of the service.	Date of Secretary of State's sanction to the revision (where known).	Date of the order of the Government of India communicating the Secretary of State's sanction.	Date of the order of the Madras Government about the revision.	Remarks.
<i>All-India Services—cont.</i>				
Indian Forest Service ..	....	3rd Nov. 1919.	23rd Dec. 1919.	The resolution of the Government of India was published on pages 2160-2161 of Part I of the <i>Gazette of India</i> , dated 8th November 1919.
Indian Educational Service (Male Branch).	27th Nov. 1919.	2nd Jan. 1920.	17th May 1920.	....
Indian Educational Service (Female Branch).	25th March 1920.	27th Apr. 1920.	21st June 1920.	....
Indian Agricultural Service.	....	10th June 1920.	29th Nov. 1920.	The resolution of the Government of India was published on pages 853-854 of Part I of the <i>Fort St. George Gazette</i> , dated 29th June 1920.
Indian Service of Engineers.	....	22nd Oct. 1919.	10th Nov. 1919.	The resolution of the Government of India was published on pages 2147-2149 of the Supplement to the <i>Gazette of India</i> , dated 1st November 1919.
Imperial Branch of the Civil Veterinary Department.	....	25th Aug. 1920.	10th Nov. 1920.	The resolution of the Government of India was published on pages 1157-1158 of the <i>Fort St. George Gazette</i> , Part I, dated 14th September 1920.
Indian Medical Service ..	....	7th Aug. 1919.	4th Sep. 1919.	The notification of the Government of India was published on pages 1520 and 1522 of Part I of the <i>Gazette of India</i> , dated 2nd August 1919.
<i>Provincial Services.</i>				
Madras Civil Service (Executive).	28th Jan. 1920.	9th Feb. 1920.	....	Final orders not yet passed.
Madras Civil Service (Judicial).	28th Jan. 1920.	19th Feb. 1920.	25th Aug. 1920.	The orders of the Madras Government have been placed on the Editors' Table.
Madras Civil Medical Service.	1st Sep. 1920.	8th Sep. 1920.	15th Dec. 1920.	
Madras Educational Service.	27th Nov. 1919.	2nd Jan. 1920.	15th July 1920.	The order of the Madras Government has been placed on the Editors' Table.
Madras Police Service ..	....	....	....	The order of the Madras Government has not yet issued.
Madras Agricultural Service.	....	10th June 1920.	1st Oct. 1920.	The resolution of the Government of India has been published on pages 853-854 of Part I of <i>Fort St. George Gazette</i> , dated 29th June 1920. The order of the Madras Government has been placed on the Editors' Table.
Madras Engineering Service.		1st Apr. 1920.	13th Aug. 1920.	The resolution of the Government of India was published on pages 886-888 of the Supplement to the <i>Gazette of India</i> , dated 10th April 1920. The order of the Madras Government has been placed on the Editors' Table.

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Name of the service.	Date of Secretary of State's sanction to the revision (where known).	Date of the order of the Government of India communicating the Secretary of State's sanction.	Date of the order of the Madras Government about the revision.	Remarks.
<i>Provincial Services</i> —cont.				
Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests.	....	29th May 1920	9th Mar. 1921	....
District Registrars ..	....	2nd Apr. 1919	27th Apr. 1919	The order of the Madras Government has been placed on the Editors' Table.
Deputy Sanitary Commissioners not belonging to Indian Medical Service.	29th July 1920	10th Sep. 1920	14th Dec. 1920	....
Deputy Superintendents in the Civil Veterinary Department and Assistant Principal of the Veterinary College.	....	25th Aug. 1920	3rd Feb. 1921	The resolution of the Government of India has been published on pages 1157-1158 of Part I of <i>Fort St. George Gazette</i> , dated 14th September 1920.
Gazetted officers of the Survey Department.	....	....	....	} Revision has not been finally sanctioned.
Gazetted officers of the Salt and Excise Department.	....	....	....	
Chief Boiler Inspector and Boiler Inspectors.	1st Sep. 1920	8th Sep. 1920	2nd Oct. 1920	....

APPENDIX III

[Vide answer to question No. 579 asked by Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd April 1921, page 1629 supra.]

Recommendation of the Excise Advisory Committee for Coonoor Town, dated 1st November 1920.

PRESENT :

Sub-Collector,
Circle Inspector, and
Messrs. Landon, Klyne and Haughton.

The Committee by a majority are in favour of the total closure of the beer shop and arrack shop and the restriction of the F.L. 2 shops to the sale of foreign liquor only, and the closing of the F.D. 2 shop on Sundays and the usual holidays including Pongal and before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. on week days, the above to be tried as an experiment for one year.

The Committee has no recommendations to make in regard to the ganja and opium shops.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 582 asked by Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd April 1921, page 1631 supra.]

G.O. No. 297, dated 1st March 1921.

READ—the following papers :—

(i)

G.O. No. 659, Education, dated 4th June 1920.

ABSTRACT.—Acquisition of land—Houses adjoining the Queen Mary's College for Women, Madras, and belonging to Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar—Private purchase for Rs. 3 lakhs—sanctioned.

(ii)

Letter—from A. R. L. TOTTENHAM, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Collector of Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—the 21st June 1920.

No.—A. 1-961-20.

[Reference—G.O. No. 659, Home (Education), dated 4th June 1920.]

I have the honour to inquire whether Government only wish to acquire S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2 with the houses standing on them, or whether they wish also to acquire S. No. 1016 which is vacant land also belonging to Dr. S. Subrahmanya Ayyar. Please see sketch enclosed. (To be kindly returned.)

(iii)

Memorandum No. 1213 B-1, dated 25th June 1920.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for very early report.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

(iv)

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES, M.A., Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—Ootacamund, the 7th July 1920.
No.—R. C. 759/W.B.

I have the honour to return herewith the enclosures received with Government Memorandum No. 1213/B-1, dated 25th June 1920. In making my recommendation to Government for the private purchase of the lands adjoining the Queen Mary's College for Women S. No. 1016 was included as well as S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2. Mr. M. S. Sankara Ayyar informs me, however, in person, that he was under the impression that S. No. 1016 was excluded from the offer which he made of selling the property for Rs. 3 lakhs. I

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am not prepared to recommend the purchase of S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2 alone for Rs. 3 lakhs since the valuation of the land and buildings has been estimated by the Collector of Madras and the Public Works Department respectively as follows:—

Land. S. No.	Extent. GDS.	SQ. FT.	Value.		
			RS.	A.	P.
1014	17	20	76,537	8	0
1015-2/B-2 ..	18	218	81,409	12	0
1016	14	1,494	58,490	0	0
Total ..			2,16,437	4	0

Buildings which stand on S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2 Rs. 51,000.

2. Mr. M. S. Sankara Ayyar is leaving Ootacamund to-day for Bangalore where Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar is at present residing. He will discuss the matter further with Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar and let me know in Madras towards the end of next week the result of his discussion.

3. I recommend that the matter be kept in abeyance until receipt of a further communication which I hope to make to Government after I hear the result of the discussion which Mr. M. S. Sankara Ayyar has with his grandfather Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar.

(v)

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. G. GRIEVE, Acting Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 23rd August 1920.

No.—R.C. 759-W.B.

In continuation of this office R.C. No. 759-W.B., dated 12th August 1920, regarding the acquisition of land for the additional accommodation of the Queen Mary's College for Women, Madras, I have the honour to state that Mr. M. S. Sankara Ayyar came to see me to-day and stated explicitly that in the course of his negotiations with Mr. Littlehales, he never intended his offer of Rs. 3 lakhs to include S. No. 1016 and that he never agreed to part with this part of the property. He gives as his reason for declining to part with it the fact that his family then would be without any property in Madras on which to build a house to live in. He also stated that the only condition upon which they would be willing to consider the surrender of S. No. 1016 would be if the Government gave or sold to them 'The Grange'. This, I presume, is out of the question.

2. Mr. Sankara Ayyar has been able to put forward some ground for presuming that it was the intention of Government to acquire only S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2. In a letter from the Collector of Madras No. A. 1-961, dated 1st July 1920, the heading of the letter to him is "Land acquisition, Mylapore, R.S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2" and in the same letter there is

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enclosed a letter from the Government Solicitor regarding the title to the property which begins "The properties intended to be purchased bear S. Nos. 1014 and 1015/2", now subdivided to No. 1015-2/B-2.

3. It seems to me clear that they include in their offer only two of these survey numbers and not S. No. 1016, and so far as I can see there is nothing on record to tie them down so as to make it include the three survey numbers.

4. The question therefore for Government's decision is whether Government is prepared to spend such a large sum of money as Rs. 3 lakhs on the two S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2 and the buildings which stand on these numbers when their total value, according to the Collector and the Public Works Department, is only about Rs. 2,09,000. I will only add that it is necessary for the college to have additional accommodation at as early a date as possible and that it would be a pity if the property passed to other hands. Mr. Sankara Ayyar said to-day that he has now an offer from a Bombay man to pay Rs. 4½ lakhs for the plots in question.

Order—No. 297, Home (Education), dated 1st March 1921.

In modification of G.O. No. 659, Home (Education), dated the 4th June 1920, the Government are pleased, after

Two houses on R. S. Nos. 1014 and 1015-2/B-2.
R. S. No. 1016.

further consideration, to direct the acquisition of the lands and buildings adjoining the Queen Mary's College for Women, Madras, noted on the margin and belonging to Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar and others. The owners are prepared to sell the properties to Government for a total sum of three lakhs and for an assignment to Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar and his grandsons of a piece of Government land, equivalent to R.S. No. 1016 in extent. They are also prepared to wait until April 1921 for the payment of Rs. 3 lakhs. The Government have decided to accept the above offer and to grant to the owners the piece of Government land at the corner of the Greenway Road and the Adyar Bridge Road immediately behind the small police station. This grant is subject to the condition that the design of any building which it may be proposed to construct on the site should be approved by the Chief Engineer.

2. The Collector of Madras is requested to examine the title to the property in consultation with the Government Solicitor, and if it is found that the transaction can properly be completed by private negotiation, he should at once take steps to effect acquisition in accordance with Board's Standing Order No. 90. In case of any doubt about the title, Mr. M. S. Sankara Ayyar has consented to give the Government a bond indemnifying them against any damages in which they may be held by any counter-claimant to the properties.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madras.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Revenue Department.
" Finance Department.
" Public Works Department.

Copy to M.B. Ry. M. S. Sankara Ayyar,
Beach House, Mylapore.

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IV

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that in pursuance of the motion by the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson that the Council do proceed to elect six members to be members of the House Committee under Standing Order No. 80, certain nominations were made in view to the election of six such members; of the fifteen nominees all except the following six withdrew before election; and as the number of candidates left for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, I hereby declare, under rule II (4) of the Regulations for election of members by means of the single transferable vote, that all the six members have been duly elected. The names of the candidates are—

- (1) Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai.
- (2) Mr. P. T. Rajan.
- (3) The Raja of Ramnad.
- (4) Mr. M. C. T. Muttayya Chettiyar.
- (5) The Raja of Mandasa.
- (6) Dr. C. B. Rama Rao.

" I have further to announce, under Standing Order No. 80, that I have nominated to the House Committee the following two members to serve on the Committee in addition to the Deputy President, as ex-officio Chairman, and the Secretary to the Council as ex-officio Secretary to the Committee :—

- (1) Mr. J. F. Simpson.
- (2) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.

V

THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter having on the 1st of April 1921 moved that the Council do proceed on the same day to elect seven members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts, under Council Rule 33, twenty-six nominations were made by members of this House with a view to the election of seven members for the Committee. Three of the nominees having withdrawn before election, an election, in accordance with the regulations made by the President for election by means of the single transferable vote, was duly conducted by the Secretary as Returning Officer. As many as 23 candidates were ballotted for. The following seven members have been declared elected as a result of the ballot :—

- (1) Mr. A. P. Patro.
- (2) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib.
- (3) Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar.
- (4) Mr. M. D. Devadas.
- (5) Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar.
- (6) Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
- (7) Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.

" Under rule 33 of the Legislative Council rules His Excellency the Governor has nominated the following three members to the Committee on Public Accounts :—

- (1) The Hon'ble the Finance Member (Chairman).
- (2) Diwan Bahadur T. Desika Achariyar.
- (3) Mr. J. F. Simpson.

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VI

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter having moved on the 1st April 1921, with the assent of this House, that this Council should recommend to the Government that a Finance Committee of the Council of nine members be formed at once, of whom six should be elected by the Council in such manner as might be prescribed by the President, and the other three nominated by the Governor, one of whom should be the Finance Member as Chairman of the Committee; and His Excellency the Governor in Council having accepted this recommendation, the Deputy President, who presided over the proceedings on the 1st April 1921, directed that the election of six members should be held in accordance with the regulations for elections by means of the single transferable vote. Thereupon 26 members of this Council were nominated as candidates. Two of the nominees having withdrawn before election, the remaining 24 candidates were ballotted for at 5 p.m. on the 1st April 1921. The election was duly conducted by the Secretary as the Returning Officer and the following six candidates were declared duly elected in accordance with the regulations for election by the single transferable vote :—

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. | (4) Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| (2) Mr. O. Natesa Mudaliyar. | (5) Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. |
| (3) Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar. | (6) The Raja of Ramnad. |

" In accordance with resolution No. 17 passed at the meeting of the Council on 1st April 1921, and accepted by the Government, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to nominate the following three persons to the Finance Committee of the Council :—

- (1) The Hon'ble the Finance Member (Chairman).
- (2) Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
- (3) Dr. Gilbert Slater.

VII

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROROGATION OF COUNCIL.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" I have to inform this House that His Excellency the Governor has communicated to me an order intimating his pleasure that this Session of the Council be prorogued with effect from the close of our work to-day."

The Council was then prorogued at 5-25 p.m.

As a result of the prorogation the following resolutions standing in the agenda were not taken up for discussion and were deemed to have lapsed :—

VIII

RESOLUTIONS LAPSED.

- *Agricultural loans and irrigation facilities to Adi Dravida ryots.*

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—

26. (a) This Council recommends to the Government that agricultural loans be given to the Adi Dravida ryots on the security of darkhast lands assigned to them for the purchase of bullocks, agricultural implements, seeds, manure, and for sinking wells, to enable them to cultivate such lands;

(b) that the said loans shall become payable in small instalments after five years from the date of the loans; and

(c) that facilities for irrigation be afforded as far as possible in respect of lands assigned to Adi Dravida ryots.

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Investigation of Ayurvedic and Unani drugs.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—

27. This Council recommends to the Government that an expert Indian pharmacologist with laboratory and other equipments be appointed at an early date to investigate and report on the uses of the several drugs used in Ayurvedic and Unani treatments.

Occupancy rights to Malabar kamam tenants.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

28. This Council recommends to the Government that a Bill providing for grant of right of permanent occupancy to kamam tenants in Malabar in their holdings be introduced in the near future.

Quarters to Government officials.

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—

29. This Council recommends to the Government that no amounts shall be spent from the current revenues of the province for the construction of quarters for Government officials except in the case of officials who are to be provided with quarters according to the rules now in force and that they shall in future be constructed from borrowed capital.

Translation of assessees' accounts.

Rao Sahib M. C. T. MUTTAYYA CHETTIYAR :—

30. This Council recommends to the Government that Rule 17-A framed under the Income-tax Act, 1918, requiring the production of accounts with a true translation thereof in English or in one of the vernaculars of the Presidency be withdrawn and that the said rule be cancelled.

Vocational training in secondary schools.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO :—

31. This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to enable local bodies to afford vocational training in industrial and technical subjects in the secondary schools under their control.

The saw-mill at Russellkonda.

Sriman BISVANATH DAS MAHASAYO :—

32. In view of the fact that the District Board of Ganjam made a proposal in 1917 to start and work a saw-mill at Russellkonda, this Council recommends to the Government that the management of the saw-mill which the Government are establishing in Russellkonda under the management of Messrs. Parry & Co. be placed in the hands of the District Board of Ganjam as was previously arranged.

Scholarships to Indian Christian students.

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—

33. This Council recommends to the Government that twenty monthly scholarships of Rs. 12 each be given to deserving poor Indian Christians reading in any of the colleges in the Presidency—the scholarships to continue from the Junior Intermediate to end of the B.A. Pass or Honours courses.

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Exemption from examination fees for depressed classes.

Mr. M. C. RAJA :—

34. That this Council recommends to the Government that candidates for the S.S.L.C. Examination belonging to the Adi Dravida and other depressed classes be exempt from the payment of the examination fee.

Dispensaries for cheris in Madras.

Mr. M. C. RAJA :—

35. That this Council recommends to the Government that the cheris in Madras be grouped into four divisions and to each of such divisions a qualified lady L.M.P. stationed who should be provided with a small dispensary and telephonic connexion with the Government Maternity Hospital so as to be able to attend to maternity cases in these cheris.

Non-stipendiary medical students.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—

36. This Council recommends to the Government that paragraphs 142 and 190 of the Madras Civil Medical Code, under which medical graduates and L.M.P.'s who have paid for their education are also required to give a bond to serve the Government for a definite period on their entering Government service as assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons, respectively, be abrogated.

Hygiene in primary and secondary schools.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—

37. This Council recommends to the Government that, with a view to spread the knowledge of hygiene, steps be taken at an early date to introduce hygiene as a compulsory subject in all the primary and secondary schools in the Presidency.

Sale of abandoned hospital-site, Cochin municipality.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—

38. This Council recommends to the Government that the abandoned site of the hospital in British Cochin be parcelled and sold by public auction.

Medical and maternity aid to cheris in Madras.

Mr. M. D. DEVADAS :—

39. This Council recommends to the Government that the cheris in the city of Madras be grouped into convenient units and that a sub-assistant surgeon be appointed to each of such units to give free medical aid to the inhabitants thereof and to look after the sanitation of the cheris; and also that qualified midwives be stationed in each of such groups to render maternity aid to the women thereof.

Honorific for Oriya names.

Sriman BISVANATH DAS MAHASAYO :—

40. This Council recommends to the Government that 'Srijut' and 'Mahasayo,' the recognized honour, etc., Oriya expression be adopted by the Government in addressing all Oriya public gentlemen and Oriya officers cancelling the expression of 'M.B.Ry.' and 'Garu' as has been laid down in G.O. No. B. 101, dated 12th February 1921.

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Temporary clerks to be made permanent.

Mr. K. P. GOPALA MENON :—

41. That this Council recommends to the Government that the temporary posts of all clerks in the Public Works Department of more than three years' standing be made permanent, and that such temporary service be taken into consideration in fixing the time-scale of pay.

Conservancy lanes in Cuddalore municipality.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR :—

42. That this Council recommends to the Government that the opening of conservancy lanes in the Cuddalore municipality as per municipal council resolution, dated 23rd February 1921, may be dropped.

Chirala municipality—abolition.

Mr. P. V. SUBBA RAO :—

43. This Council recommends to the Government that the municipality of Chirala be abolished and the area be constituted into suitable unions.

Repalle municipality—abolition.

Mr. P. V. SUBBA RAO :—

44. This Council recommends to the Government that the municipality of Repalle be abolished and the area be constituted into suitable unions.

Agricultural high school for Guntur.

Mr. P. V. SUBBA RAO :—

45. This Council recommends to the Government that an Agricultural high school be opened for the district of Guntur.

Jurisdiction of District Courts.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

46. This Council recommends to the Government that a notification be issued under section 3 of the Indian Companies Act empowering every District Court in this Presidency to exercise in full the jurisdiction conferred by the Act.

Age-limit for District Munsifs.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—

47. This Council recommends to the Government to advise the Hon'ble the Judges of the High Court not to alter the age-limit prescribed for the candidates for District Munsifs' appointments, even if they wish to do so, without giving reasonable time and previous notice to intending candidates.

Amendment of darkhast rules.

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—

48. This Council recommends to the Government that in view to affording to the poor among the landless and depressed classes greater facilities of obtaining

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lands for cultivation, the Government may be pleased to amend the existing darkhast rules so as to throw open to applicants the assessed waste lands with trees held on tree-patta by a third party in all cases in which the tree-tax falls short of the land assessment.

Expansion of land revenue.

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—

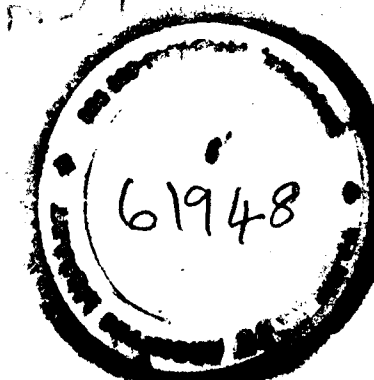
49. This Council recommends that the Government may be pleased to take, at an early date, the necessary steps towards expanding the land revenue by extending the cultivation and irrigation of lands.

Amendments to Resolution No. 47.

Mr. K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—

- (i) Omit the word 'advise' and insert in its place 'recommend to'.
- (ii) Omit all the last words beginning from 'even' and ending with 'candidates' and insert in their place the following words :—
"and not to disregard the principle of communal representation in the matter of such selection and appointment".

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



தவணைத்தாள்.

சே. எண் : ம. எண் :

[illegible]

S.F. 259A-6-1,00,000-30-1-84.