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TO THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

February & March 1925

VOLUME XII—Nos. 1 to

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Resolution <i>re</i> Adi-Dravidas, increase of scholarships to the —	1848
Somasundara Mudaliyar, Mr. T.—	
See Questions and Answers.	
Somasundaram Pillai, Mr. S.—	
Budget. General discussion on the —	1975-1977
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.—	
Budget. General discussion on the —	1910-1914
Srirangam temple—	
Resolution <i>re</i> repairs to the —	1823-1829
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Budget. General discussion on the —	2056-2058, 2069
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Suryanarayana Mr. M.—	
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Tangavelu Nayagar, Mr. A.—	
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The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 26th February 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR AVARGAL, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were sworn in :—

- (1) Mr. NORMAN McIVER MURRAY.
- (2) M.R.Ry. CHETTUR MADHAVAN NAYAR AVARGAL.

II

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.]

Extension of the Criminal Tribes Act in Ramnad, Madura and Tinnevely.

792 Q.—Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether there is any attempt to extend the provisions of the Criminal Tribes Act to Maravars in the Ramnad, Tinnevely and Madura districts ; and if the answer is in the affirmative, in what stage the matter is ?

A.—There is no proposal before the Government to extend the provisions of the Criminal Tribes Act to Maravars generally in the districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely, but they have recently received a recommendation for the application of sections 3 and 10 of the Act to the Sembanad Maravars of Akkramesi in the Ramnad district.

Travellers' bungalow at Kodaikanal.

793 Q.—Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) (a) how long the Collector of Madura occupied the travellers' bungalow at Kodaikanal during the last season ;

(b) whether it is a fact that that bungalow was occupied continuously for some months by the families of the Collectors and District Superintendent of Police during the last season ; and also

(c) whether it is a fact that no other building could be had there for other travellers ; and

(2) if the information is not in possession of the Government, to kindly call for it and place it on the table ?

A.—(1) (a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(2) The Government do not consider it necessary to call for the information.

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The **RAJA OF RAMNAD** :—" May I know why the Government consider it unnecessary to call for the information? Kodaikanal is a sanatorium and the travellers' bungalow there should be made available to the visitors. If the Collector was occupying it continuously for two or three months, I really think it is a question of public importance, and Government should call for the information to find out whether it was a fact, if not for taking action, at least for preventing a recurrence in the coming years. So, may I request the hon. the Minister to call for the information?"

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" I do not think that the calling for information in this case will serve any purpose."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister in whose charge the bungalow is, whether it is in the charge of the Municipality or the District Board?"

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" I think it is in charge of the Municipality."

The **RAJA OF RAMNAD** :—" May I correct the hon. the Minister? My information is that it belonged to the District Board."

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" Quite possible."

Jain representation on local bodies in South Arcot.

794 Q.—**Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR** : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (1) how many Jains were elected and nominated to the local boards and the municipalities in South Arcot district;
- (2) whether the Jain community is not a minority class;
- (3) whether the Jains are not living all over the district; and
- (4) what is the reason for not nominating Jains to the above local bodies?

A.—(2) The answer is in the affirmative.

(3) The answer is in the negative.

The latest census report shows that there are a few Jains in four taluks and no Jains in three taluks.

- (1) & (4) There is no Jain on the South Arcot district board or on any of the councils in the district. The Jains form only 0.2 per cent of the total population of the district. In making nominations to district boards and municipal councils, the Government endeavour to provide for the representation of the more important minorities not otherwise represented. As regards taluk and union boards the Government have no information, but the hon. Member may ask the presidents of the district and taluk boards by whom the appointments are made.

Visvakarma community in local boards and municipalities of South Arcot.

795 Q.—**Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR** : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (1) how many members of the Visvakarma community were elected and nominated to local boards and municipalities in South Arcot district; and
- (2) what is the reason for not nominating members of the Visvakarma community?

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A.—In regard to the municipal councils and the district board, the hon. Member is referred to the latest Annual Civil List. In making nominations to district boards and municipal councils the Government endeavour to provide for the representation of the more important minorities not otherwise represented. As regards taluk and union boards, members of these bodies are appointed by the president of the district board and the president of the taluk board respectively. The hon. Member may address the presidents concerned in the matter.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to say where the latest Annual Civil List referred to in the answer is available?"

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" I think a copy of it can be had in the library."

Visvabrahman representation in the Madras Corporation.

796 Q.—**Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARIYAR** : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if it is the intention of the Government to nominate a member of the Visvabrahman community to a councillorship in the Corporation of Madras in accordance with the answer to my question No. 454 (c), dated 1st September 1921, as there are vacancies in the nominated seats?

A.—The claims of the minorities will be considered according to their relative importance in the city.

Nomination of Mr. Sivaramaswami Pillai to the Negapatam taluk board.

797 Q.—**Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA** : With reference to the answer given by the Government to question No. 650 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 22nd December 1922 regarding the Adi-Dravida representation in the Negapatam taluk board, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether the name of one Mr. A. Sivaramaswami Pillai, Honorary General Secretary of the Depressed Classes Society of South India, Vice-President of the Adi-Dravida Jana Sabha, Chidambaram, and acting Head Clerk of the Stationary Sub-Magistrate's office, Negapatam, was recommended by the Hon'ble Sir A. T. Marakkayar Sahib Bahadur, M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar, the successive presidents of the Negapatam taluk board, and also by M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar, the President of the Tanjore District Board, for nomination to the said taluk board;

(2) whether it is a fact that a representation was sent by Mr. A. Sivaramaswami Pillai to the Government regarding this nomination on the 24th November 1922; if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter; and

(3) the number of Adi-Dravidas registered as voters in the electoral roll of the Negapatam taluk board?

A.—(1) & (2) M.R.Ry. Sivaramaswami Pillai was not nominated as a member of the Negapatam taluk board as he was only a permanent clerk in a taluk office and acting head clerk in a

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sub-magistrate's office. Moreover the recommendation of the President, District Board, in his favour and his own further representation were received after the vacancy was filled up.

(3) The Government have no information.

Remedy for famine conditions in Kurnool.

798 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that famine conditions prevailed in portions of the Kurnool district during the last two years;

(ii) whether it was not so this year also; and

(iii) if so, whether the Government have considered the desirability (a) of throwing open the closed reserve forests for grazing, (b) of reducing the grazing fees for cattle, etc., and (c) of allowing free grazing, wherever necessary, at least for agricultural cattle?

A.—(i) Yes.

(ii) The condition of the district cannot as yet be described as 'famine'.

(iii) The matters referred to are within the discretion of the Collector and the Chief Conservator of Forests who will consider the desirability of granting the concessions should necessity arise.

Extent of cultivable land in Kurnool district.

799 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the extent of cultivable land (a) in the Yerramalais, and (b) in the Nallamalais (plains) of the Kurnool district?

A.—The Government have no information.

Temporary sub-assistant surgeons.

800 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the number of reserve sub-assistant surgeons in the Headquarter hospitals; and

(2) the number of temporary sub-assistant surgeons still in service?

A.—The information is not available, but will be called for.

The District Courts of Tanjore.

801 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the average number of (i) civil appeals, (ii) original suits and (iii) sessions cases registered and disposed of, respectively, in the three years ending 1919 by the District Court of Tanjore;

(b) the corresponding numbers for the year following the bifurcation of the district into Tanjore East and Tanjore West for judicial purposes;

(c) the average annual recurring cost of the court before and of the courts after bifurcation; and

(d) the extra capital expenditure incurred so far as the result of bifurcation?

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A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the statistics of civil courts for the years 1917, 1918 and 1919.

(b) The figures of institution and disposal of (1) civil appeals, (ii) original suits and (iii) sessions cases in the two district courts during the year 1922 were:—

	Criminal appeals.		Original suits.		Sessions cases.	
	Institutions.	Disposals.	Institutions.	Disposals.	Institutions.	Disposals.
District Court, Tanjore—						
East	420	341	1	15	44	29
West	341	291	1	13	57	34

Per annum.

RS.

(c) Before the bifurcation 80,000

After bifurcation 1,35,000

(d) Rupees 14,176.

Rewards for proficiency in oriental languages.

802 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the names of officers and others, if any, who were given rewards for proficiency in oriental languages and the sums paid to each during the last year and up to date in the current year?

A.—The information asked for is furnished in the statement appended.*

Muhammadian representation in superior service.

803 Q.—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of Muhammadans holding posts with an annual salary of Rs. 5,000 and above and the names of the 62 officials in receipt of an annual salary ranging from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000 referred to in paragraph 277 of the Madras Presidency Administration Report for 1920-21?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List.

Government Muhammadan Hobart Training School for Mistresses.

804 Q.—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have in contemplation the appointment of two advisory boards, one consisting of purely lady-visitors and the other of gentlemen-visitors with a view to offer suggestions for the better working of the Government Muhammadan Hobart Training School for Mistresses, Royapetta?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Nomination of Muhammadans to local boards.

805 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAH: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the names of the district boards and the taluk boards wherein Muhammadans are not nominated as members?

A.—So far as district boards are concerned the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the latest Civil List. As regards taluk boards the Government have no information, as nominations to taluk boards are made by presidents of district boards.

Travelling allowance drawn by presidents of local boards.

806 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAH: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the names of the taluk boards and the district boards whose presidents have exceeded the maximum travelling allowance that is permissible to them under the Government Order pertaining thereto?

A.—There is no limit at present to the total amount of travelling allowances that may be drawn by presidents of district or taluk boards.

Muhammadans selected from the Presidency to the Military College at Dehra Dun.

807 Q.—SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Muhammadans from the Madras Presidency receiving training at the Military College at Dehra Dun which prepares students for admission into the Royal Military College at Sandhurst;

(b) the procedure adopted to select candidates for admission into the said Military College at Dehra Dun; and

(c) whether the sons and other relations of ex-military men are given any preference in the matter of such selection?

A.—(a) There are none.

(b) Candidates fulfilling the prescribed conditions in respect of age, scholastic attainments and physical fitness and able to pay the fees are first interviewed by His Excellency the Governor aided by a selection board consisting of two non-official Indian gentlemen, an officer of the Education Department and an officer of the Indian Army not below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The names of candidates whom the selection board considers suitable for nomination are sent up with His Excellency's recommendations to the Army Department of the Government of India, together with all the applications received. Selection is thereafter made by the Army Department from among these candidates according as accommodation at the College becomes available.

(c) Yes. In the allotment of vacancies which is determined mainly in consideration of the numbers of the male population of each province and of its contribution in man power to the Army from the outbreak of the great war to the present time, a certain proportion is reserved for the sons of Indian officers of good service nominated by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

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Anglo-Indian and Indian employees on the M. & S. M. Railway.

808 Q.—SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) the number of first-class railway stations on the M. & S. M. Railway;

(2) how many of the above stations are in charge of Anglo-Indian stationmasters and Indian stationmasters respectively;

(3) the number of guards employed by the M. & S. M. Railway drawing Rs. 100 and above, and how many of them are Indians and Anglo-Indians respectively;

(4) the number of traffic inspectors employed by the M. & S. M. Railway and the number respectively of Indians and Anglo-Indians holding the said office;

(5) whether the M. & S. M. Railway Company has provided midwives to attend maternity cases in the families of their employees; and

(6) whether it is a fact that in the Locomotive Department of the M. & S. M. Railway the scale of pay for Anglo-Indians is very much higher than that for Indian employees who are engaged in the same work?

A.—The Government have no information.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"It is not a matter concerning the Local Government; and I do not think there is any reason why we should request the railway authorities to state the number of first-class railway stations, etc. If the hon. Member wishes to obtain the information, the Government will afford him the facilities that they have."

Classification of areas on a linguistic basis.

809 Q.—SRIMAN SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to my question No. 609, the basis on which certain districts have been declared as Telugu and certain tracts as Oriya;

(b) if preponderance of population speaking a particular language be the basis, whether the figures given in Appendix to G.O. No. 103, Public, dated 4th February 1922, relating to Telugu and Oriya populations, are correct;

(c) why the G. Udayagiri and Balliguda taluks in the Agency district have been left out altogether from the Appendix II in G.O. No. 658, dated 15th August 1922; and

(d) whether by the classification of areas into Telugu and Oriya in G.O. No. 658, dated 15th August 1922, Government intend to exclude the use of any one language from the present bi-lingual areas, especially in the Ganjam district?

A.—(a) The object of Appendix II to G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922, was to show the districts in which Telugu-speaking people should be given a preference over Tamils and the tracts in which Oriya-speaking people should be given a preference over Telugus.

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- (b) The Government have no reason to doubt the correctness of the figures given in the Appendix to G.O. No. 103, Public, dated 4th February 1922. Various inferences may, however, be drawn from them.
- (c) G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922, made no reference to Kondh tracts.
- (d) The answer is in the negative.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" With reference to answer to clause (b)—viz., ' Various inferences may however be drawn from them '—may I ask what are the various inferences that can be drawn? Can I have one or two instances of the various inferences from the Government Order."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The nature of the inference will generally vary with the gentlemen who draw it. The inference which we drew is based upon knowledge of the particular area."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I want to know the inferences the Government is drawing from the Government Order and not the inferences that a particular gentleman may draw from it."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" That is the inference on which the question is based."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Is not the preponderance of the population speaking a particular language the test for making that language the language of the place?"

Abolition of the Anantapur municipality.

810 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government called upon the Anantapur municipality to show cause why it should not be abolished in view of the failure of all the members to make the oath of allegiance to the Crown, before the issue of the notification announcing its abolition;

(b) whether any meeting of the municipal council was convened by the chairman to give an opportunity to members to take the oath of allegiance;

(c) why the Government did not act under section 41 of the District Municipalities Act; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the Council a full statement of the reasons for the step?

A.—(a) & (d) Government Order No. 2281, L. & M., dated 22nd November 1922, is laid on the table* and the attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 3 thereof.

(b) Meetings were held in March and April 1922, but the members did not take the oath until after the lapse of the three months prescribed in Act II of 1922.

(c) The Government were advised that action could not be taken under section 41.

President of the Bellary district board.

811 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the Government refused to accede to the request of the district board of Bellary to elect its own president; if so, the reasons for the same;

* Vide Appendix B on page 1795 infra.

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(2) whether it is a fact that the present nominated president was not a member of the board at the time of nomination; and if so, whether his simultaneous nomination for both the membership and presidentship of the board is not opposed to sections 12 (1) and 14 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act; and

(3) whether the present president holds any other office under the Government; and if so, whether this will not affect the efficient discharge of all his duties?

A.—(1) The answer is in the affirmative.

The Government did not accede to the request of the district board as they considered it premature.

(2) The answer to the first part of this clause is in the affirmative and to the latter part in the negative.

(3) The answer is in the affirmative; Government see no need to express an opinion.

Nanguneri hospital, Tinnevely.

812 Q.—Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state why, in spite of the poor daily attendance at Nanguneri hospital, Tinnevely district, it is not yet reduced from an assistant surgeon's station to a sub-assistant surgeon's station?

A.—The Government have no information. No proposals have been received by the Government for reducing the Nanguneri hospital to the status of a dispensary.

Assignment of lands to ex-war service men.

813 Q.—Mr. T. SOMASUNDARA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table—

(a) all Government Orders from 1914 up to date in connexion with the assignment of lands to ex-service men, combatants and non-combatants;

(b) the extent of lands assigned from 1914 till now to them, district-war, and the revenue that would be payable on them if they were assessed under the ordinary revenue rules; and

(c) the extent of jaghirs or assignment of revenue that have been granted to them from 1914?

A.—(a) The following Government Orders are laid on the table*.—

G.O. No.			
62	Revenue, dated 10th January 1916.		
267	" "	"	7th February 1916.
88	" "	"	15th January 1917.
3646	" "	"	17th November 1917.
2936	" "	"	12th August 1918.
22	" "	"	4th January 1919.
1808	" "	"	29th May 1919.
1888	" "	"	10th June 1919.
1842	" "	"	2nd August 1920.
870	" "	"	14th April 1921.

* Vide Appendix C on page 1796 infra.

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(b) The Government have no information.

(c) Assignments of land revenue amounting in each case to Rs. 600 per annum have been made to twelve Indian officers. No jaghirs have been granted in this Presidency.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB :—"It is said in answer to clause (c) that assignments of land revenue amounting in each case to Rs. 600 per annum have been made to twelve Indian officers. Will the hon. Member be pleased to say how many of these officers are Muham-madans?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I am afraid I have no information."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB :—"Will he be pleased to get the information?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"If the hon. Member wishes it, I will be quite pleased to give him the information, but I do not think this need be published in the proceedings of this Council."

APPENDIX A

[Vide answer to question No. 802 asked by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1923, page 1789 supra.]

List of officers and others who were granted rewards for proficiency in oriental languages.

Name.	Amount paid.	Name.	Amount paid.
1921-22.	RS.	1921-22—cont.	RS.
Mr. S. Ranganathan ...	2,500	Mrs. G. H. Harvey ...	100
Mr. C. H. Gadsden ...	500	Mrs. M. Champion ...	200
Mr. S. Wadsworth ...	500	Mrs. H. T. Reilly ...	100
Mr. Ramanath Mitra ...	250	Mr. J. Mathai ...	80
Mr. C. F. Randall ...	240	1922-23.	
Mr. E. Howe ...	240	Mr. S. Ranganathan ...	500
Mr. P. Venkataramana Raju.	240	Mr. L. M. F. Barrett ...	240
Miss O. O'Reilly ...	240	Mr. E. H. J. Stewart ...	240
Miss D. Frank ...	240	Mr. R. McIntosh ...	240
Sergeant W. C. Sparks ...	240	Mr. C. E. Sweney ...	500
Mr. N. J. Joseph ...	240	Mrs. Sullivan ...	100
Miss G. Hobday ...	240	Mr. K. Gopala Nambiyar,	250
Miss M. Hoorgewarf ...	240	Sub-Assistant Surgeon,	
Mr. R. Platel ...	240	Ganjam.	
Mr. A. J. Williamson ...	240		

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APPENDIX B

[Vide answer to question No. 810 asked by Mr. P. Siva Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1923, page 1792 supra.]

G.O. No. 2281, L. & M., dated 22nd November 1922.

All the members of the Anantapur Municipal Council having failed to make the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown within the period of three months prescribed in section 3 (2) of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, II of 1922, have vacated their seats on the council. The municipal council has thus ceased to exist though Anantapur Town continues to be a municipality and, so long as the notification constituting it as such continues, the provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act have to be deemed to be in force in the area.

2. The question of bringing into existence a new council in a manner not inconsistent with the existing law has engaged the anxious consideration of the Government. After examining the merits of various alternative proposals, they have decided to abolish the existing municipality itself under section 5 and to publish immediately under section 4 (1) their intention to constitute the area afresh as a municipality.

3. The proviso to sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Madras District Municipalities Act requires that, before a notification abolishing a municipality is issued, the Government should communicate to the municipal council the grounds on which they propose to do so, fix a reasonable period for the municipal council to show cause against the proposal and consider its explanations and objections, if any. No municipal council is now in existence and it is not possible to comply with this condition. The Government, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, direct that the municipality be abolished.

4. In exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 4 (1) (a) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Government hereby declare their intention to constitute Anantapur into a municipality.

5. The necessary notifications have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*—vide Notifications Nos. 795 and 796, dated 21st November 1922. They should be published in English and Telugu in the District Gazette.

6. The Senior Translator to Government is requested to arrange to have the notifications translated without delay and forward them to the Collector of Anantapur for publication in the District Gazette. The Collector is requested to report the date of publication of the notifications in the District Gazette.

7. When, after the expiry of the six weeks allowed for the receipt of objections, if any, the area is declared a municipality under section 4 (3) of the Act, all the members of this municipal council will be appointed by the Government under section 368 of the Act. The Collector is requested to submit his proposals as early as possible for the appointment of municipal councillors. The Collector will also take immediate charge of the balance of the municipal fund and all other property of the council and arrange for applying them, so far as may be to the discharge of the liabilities left by the council and the promotion of the safety, health, welfare and convenience of the inhabitants of the abolished municipality. He should, within a

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week of his receipt of this order, report the amount required for keeping things going, the balance available in the municipal fund and the measures he proposes for covering the deficit, if any.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

F. J. RICHARDS,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Anantapur.
 " Chairman of the Anantapur Municipal Council.
 " Secretary, Legislative Council (with notification 1 for being laid on the table of the Legislative Council).
 " Surgeon-General.
 " Director of Public Health.
 " Director of Public Instruction.
 " Sanitary Engineer.
 " Registrar-General of Panchayats.
 " President, District Board, Anantapur.
 " Accountant-General.
 " Senior Translator to Government.
 " Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

APPENDIX C.

[Vide answer to question No. 813 asked by Mr. T. Somasundara Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1923, page 1793 supra.]

(1)

G.O. No. 62, Revenue, dated 10th January 1916.

The Board of Revenue submits, for the orders of Government, a letter from Risaldar Hari Singh in which he suggests the grant of land to those who are willing to join the army.

Miscellaneous.

The Board of Revenue considers that the proposal is impracticable as sufficient land to meet the requirements of every recruit is not available. The Government consider that the objection will not apply if the grant is of waste land usually granted on darkhast and is restricted to villages from which recruits are drawn. His Excellency the Governor in Council is accordingly pleased to empower Collectors to give preference in disposing of darkhasts to applicants who were themselves recruits or who were the father, mother or brother of recruits actually accepted for service with the colours.

2. The lands which were reported in Board's Resolution Mis. No. 2982, dated 11th October 1915, to be available for grant to Indian soldiers who have distinguished themselves in the war, or to their heirs, should not be assigned.

(True extract)

L. DAVIDSON,
Secretary to Government.

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(2)

G.O. No. 267, Revenue, dated 7th February 1916.

The Board of Revenue will be informed that all recruits who have enlisted since the beginning of the war should be allowed the concession contemplated in G.O. No. 62, Revenue, dated 10th January 1916.

Miscellaneous.

(True extract)

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
Copy to the Public Department (War).

(3)

G.O. No. 88, Revenue, dated 15th January 1917.

The Government accept the proposal of the Collector of North Arcot to extend the application of G.O. No. 62, Revenue, dated 10th January 1916, to Indian soldiers in active service whose applications for land are supported by their commanding officers. If the soldier belongs to a ryotwari village, he should be granted lands in his own village, if available. If he belongs to a zamindari or whole inam village or if there is no land available in his village, lands in an adjoining village may, at the Collector's discretion, be assigned to him. These orders do not authorize the assignment of lands reserved for Indian soldiers who have distinguished themselves in the war.

Miscellaneous.

2. The Government cannot accept the proposal to grant lands to village officers and agree with the Board of Revenue considering that they can be given special rewards in some other form, when necessary.

(True extract)

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

(4)

G.O. No. 3646, Revenue, dated 17th November 1917.

Miscellaneous.

The following instructions are issued in regard to the grant of land on darkhast to recruits and men on the active list of the Indian Army:—

(1) Men who have enlisted whether before or after the outbreak of hostilities in the combatant ranks of the Indian Army will be given preference for purposes of darkhasts in their own villages or elsewhere.

(2) Men newly recruited will be permitted to put in their darkhast applications immediately on enlistment and the land for which they apply, if available for assignment, will then be set aside and not assigned to any

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other applicant. In deciding whether land which has been cultivated under sivayijama is available for assignment, Collectors should take care that hardship is not caused to the sivayijama cultivator.

(3) When such a recruit has served for six months, his Commanding Officer will be asked whether his service has been satisfactory, and, if his report is favourable, the applicant's darkhast will then be granted.

(4) Grants of land under these rules will be subject to the condition, which should be entered in the patta, that the land shall not be sold, mortgaged or otherwise alienated within a period of ten years without the written permission of the Collector. A breach of this condition will render the grant liable to cancellation.

(5) An application from a soldier with less than six months' service at date of application will be treated as in rules (2) and (3).

(6) In the case of men who have already served for not less than six months in a combatant unit the darkhast application should be submitted through their Commanding Officer and if it is forwarded with his support, the darkhast applications will be accorded special preference as in rule (1).

(7) Should a recruit or enlisted soldier be invalided from the Army permanently on account of disablement or sickness contracted during the war his application, if supported by his Commanding Officer, will receive preference as in rule (1). The condition as to rendering at least six months' service need not be insisted on in such cases.

(8) The concessions contemplated in these rules are confined to darkhast from recruits or soldiers themselves and do not extend to application from their relatives or their wives; but in the case of a soldier dying on active service an application from his nearest male relative, if supported by the Commanding Officer of the deceased soldier's unit, will be treated as in rule (1).

(9) Grants under these rules may be made under the orders of the Collector whose powers of grant to each applicant will be limited to 5 acres of wet land and 10 acres of dry land as a maximum. The maximum area should however only be granted in special cases and for special reasons. Assignments proposed in excess of the maximum should be submitted for the sanction of the Board of Revenue. Collectors are further authorized in dealing with such cases to waive the collection of the value of trees existing on the land up to a maximum value of Rs. 50.

(10) These rules do not authorize the grant to soldiers of lands specially reserved for distribution after the war in G.O. No. 2462, Revenue, dated 4th November 1915.

(True extract)

A. R. KNAPP,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

„ all Collectors.

„ Members of the Provincial Recruiting Board.

„ the General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.).

„ the Divisional Recruiting Officer.

„ all Assistant Recruiting Officers.

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(5)

G.O. No. 2936, Revenue, dated 12th August 1918.

READ—the following paper :—

Suggestions of the Board.

4. As to the conditions on which lands may be offered, the Board suggests the following :—

(1) The land shall be held free of assessment and tax for one or two lives according to circumstances.

(2) The land shall not be alienated, on pain of resumption, for so long as the exemption from assessment and tax lasts.

(3) On the expiry of the term of freedom from assessment and tax full assessment shall be leviable, subject to periodical revision at resettlements.

(4) The land should be brought under cultivation at once; but where the nature of the land is such that immediate tilling is impossible a period shall be prescribed, with reference to the conditions of the case, within which it should be brought under cultivation. Failure to bring the land under cultivation within the time prescribed will render the grant liable to resumption.

(5) The land should be held subject to the condition of loyal behaviour and active support of Government in any time of trouble or disorder. A breach of this condition will involve resumption, either temporary or permanent, of the whole grant or of such portion of it as the Local Government may determine. The Local Government shall in all cases be the final authority to decide whether this condition has been violated.

NOTE.—In conditions (2), (4) and (5) 'resumptions' means 'resumption of the land'.

The Board recommends that the value of trees on the lands granted should not be demanded, except in cases where the land was previously reserved forest and the growth has not been removed prior to grant.

Order—No. 2936, Revenue, dated 12th August 1918.

The Government of India have specifically stated that the unit of allotment should approximate as nearly as possible in value to the sum of Rs. 3,500 as fixed in the Punjab.

The Government accordingly consider that the number of units available should be calculated on this basis; no sufficient reason is adduced for adopting the lower figure of Rs. 2,100 proposed by the Board.

2. Calculating on the basis of a unit value of Rs. 3,500, the number of units available now and in the near future amounts to 629 according to the statement submitted by the Board of Revenue. The Government trust that it will be possible to make good the remaining number of units required out of land in other districts.

3. It appears from the Board's Proceedings that the extent available for assignment in the several districts has been materially modified since the receipt of B.P. No. 2932, dated 11th October 1915. The Board is requested to submit a statement showing the revised area available in the several districts with information as to the number of units provisionally allotted to each district.

Any important modifications in the area reserved in the several districts should in future be reported to the Government.

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4. As regards the conditions on which the lands are to be assigned, the Government consider that it will be sufficient to prohibit alienation for a period of ten years. The other conditions suggested by the Board of Revenue have the approval of the Government.

5. The Government consider that the recovery of tree value may be waived unless the trees are of special value or are worth more than Rs. 500. They further consider that the recovery of demarcation charges should be waived altogether.

(True extract)

M. YOUNG,
Tempy. Addl. Secretary to Government.

(6)

G.O. No. 22, Revenue, dated 4th January 1919.

2. At present Collectors are authorized to waive the value of trees on the land applied for up to a maximum of Rs. 50. The Government wish to extend the concession further and accordingly direct that in the case of applicants under the Government Order quoted the value of trees on the land should be waived up to Rs. 500. Collectors should further see that patta is issued immediately a darkhast from a sepoy or recruit is granted, without waiting for subdivision.

(True extract)

M. YOUNG,
Tempy. Addl. Secretary to Government.

(7)

G.O. No. 1308, Revenue, dated 29th May 1919.

The Government direct that the provisions of G.O. No. 3646, Revenue, dated 17th November 1917, should be made applicable to discharged combatant soldiers provided that—

Miscellaneous.

(1) application is made within twelve months from the date of discharge, and

(2) the applicant's discharge certificate shows that his service has been satisfactory.

2. When land is granted under this scheme to a discharged soldier, particulars regarding the survey number, classification, extent and assessment of the land granted and the date of the grant should be noted on the discharge certificate.

(True extract)

A. F. G. MOSCARDI,
Tempy. Addl. Secretary to Government.

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(8)

G.O. No. 1388, Revenue, dated the 10th June 1919.

2. All grants of land under G.O. No. 3646, Revenue, dated 17th November 1917, should be subject to the condition that the lands should, on pain of resumption without payment of compensation, be brought under cultivation within a period to be specified by the Collector in each case.

Miscellaneous.

(True extract)

A. F. G. MOSCARDI,
Tempy. Addl. Secretary to Government.

(9)

G.O. No. 1842, Revenue, dated the 2nd August 1920.

With the approval of the General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) Division, the Government have decided to withdraw the darkhast concessions allowed to sepoys and men on the active list of the Indian Army in G.O. No. 3646, Revenue, dated 17th November 1917, and subsequent Government Orders and extended to discharged sepoys in G.O. No. 1308, Revenue, dated 29th May 1919. This order will apply only to applications which are received subsequent to the date of the order.

2. Military service should, however, be taken into account in deciding rival claims to grants of land under the darkhast rules. The necessary amendments to Board's Standing Order No. 15 will be made when the redraft of that standing order which has been referred to the Board of Revenue is taken into consideration.

(True extract)

E. S. LLOYD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

(10)

G.O. No. 870, Revenue, dated the 14th April 1921.

The Government approve the Board's proposal that officers and men who actually served in the late war, whether as combatants or as non-combatants, should be accorded preferential treatment in darkhast cases. They accordingly empower Collectors to authorize the assignment of lands to persons possessing military service as interpreted above, in preference to other claimants subject to the following conditions:—

(i) This concession is limited to three years from the date of this order.

(ii) Applications from those in service should be submitted through Officer Commanding and will be considered only if they are recommended by him.

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(iii) Applications from persons discharged from the Army should be accompanied by their discharge certificates on which, prior to return to the applicants, should be noted the details of grants, if any, sanctioned.

(iv) The preferential claim should be limited to a single grant and the grant should not ordinarily exceed 5 acres of wet land or 10 acres of dry.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

E. S. LLOYD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ all Collectors.
„ the Development Department.

III

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Act, 1922, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 29th January 1923.

IV

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(1)

The SECRETARY laid on the table the hon. the President's Order *, dated 8th February 1923, nominating the hon. the Raja of Panagal as the Chairman of the Select Committees appointed to consider the Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

(2)

The SECRETARY also laid on the table the † proceedings of the 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th meetings for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on the 31st January and the 2nd, 5th, 6th and 8th February 1923, respectively.

V

COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONS AND POSITION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I present the report of the Committee appointed by the Council to examine and report on the question of the functions and position of the Deputy President. Hon. Members have the report before them, and they will notice that the Committee suggests that there should be an amendment to the Standing Orders with regard to the delegation to the Deputy President of the powers of the President. With regard to the other question which was mooted, namely, as to the intervention of the Deputy President in the debates of this House, it was suggested by the Committee that the matter should be left to convention and need not be specified by definite rules. I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage to offer any remarks, as I have to move formally under each Standing Order that the matter should be referred to a committee. I therefore present the report.”

* Vide Appendix D on page 1848 infra. † Vide Appendices E to J on pages 1849 to 1854 infra.

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VI

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

(1)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Under Standing Order No. 76, I have to ask whether the hon. the Law Member has the leave of the House to move the following amendment :—

New Standing Order after Standing Order No. 79.

After existing Standing Order No. 79 insert the following as Standing Order No. 79-A :—

‘ 79-A. The President may, by order in writing, delegate to the Deputy President all or any of his powers under the Standing Orders.’

“ Does any hon. Member object? (After a pause).

“ No hon. Member having objected, I hereby declare that the hon. the Law Member has the leave of the Council to move his amendment.

“ The draft amendment has to be referred to a Select Committee of which I should be the Chairman, and the Deputy President, the Advocate-General and a Chairman of the Council to be nominated by me should be members. I hereby appoint the Rev. W. Meston, one of our chairmen, to be a member of the Committee. The remaining members, six in number, shall be elected by the House by means of the single transferable vote. I have to appoint a period within which notice may be given by any member desiring to propose a member or members for election, and I hereby fix 1-30 p.m. to-day as the time within which nominations should reach the Secretary.”

(2)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has given notice of the following amendment to the Standing Orders :—

Between Standing Orders No. 79 and 80, insert the following as a new Standing Order :—

‘ The President may at any time delegate all or any of his powers under the Standing Orders either to the Deputy President or to one of the panel of Chairmen for the time being.’

“ Does any hon. Member object? (After a pause).

“ No hon. Member having objected, I hereby declare that the hon. Member has the leave of the House to move his amendment.

“ As on the previous occasion, I appoint Mr. Meston, one of our Chairmen, to sit on the Committee which will have to examine this amendment, and the House will have to elect not less than six members for the Committee. For this also the time for nominations to reach the Secretary will be 1-30 p.m. to-day.”

(3)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu has given notice of the following amendments :—

Standing Order 5 (2).

(1) *For Standing Order 5 (2) substitute the following :—*

‘ 5 (2) (i) For regulating the order of non-official business, separate ballots shall be held in respect of (a) notices of bills and

[The President] [26th February 1923]

- (b) notices of motions other than those in respect of bills and other than those for the omission or reduction of budget demands.
- (ii) The precedence of motions as determined by each ballot shall hold good for 30 days after the ballot is held, exclusive of the day on which the ballot is held.
- (iii) Members shall be at liberty to include in any ballot motions previously balloted for and not yet actually moved in Council.
- (iv) Notwithstanding sub-order (ii) above, any motion which is under the consideration of the Council at the time of an adjournment shall be taken up as the first item of non-official business on the next day to which such business stands adjourned.
- (v) Not less than fifteen motions according to the order of priority determined by ballot shall be set down for any day appointed for non-official business. But all the motions balloted for under sub-order (i) (a) above shall be taken up for discussion before those under sub-order (i) (b) are taken up.

New Standing Order after Standing Order 65.

(2) *After Standing Order 65 insert as Standing Order 65-A with the heading—*

Motions not otherwise provided for.

‘65-A. A member desiring to make a motion which is not in the form of a recommendation addressed to the Government and which is not otherwise provided for in the Rules and Standing Orders shall, unless the president otherwise directs, give six days’ notice of the same. Such motions shall in regard to admissibility, be subject to the same reservations and restrictions, so far as the same are applicable, as resolutions on matters of general public interest.’

“Does any hon. Member object to giving leave for moving the changes proposed by the hon. Member, Mr. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu? (*After a pause*). No hon. Member having objected, I hereby declare that the hon. Member has the leave of the Council; these amendments also will go to the Select Committee of which Mr. Meston will be one of the members, and the other six members will have to be elected by the Council. I hereby appoint 1-30 p.m. as the time before which notices of nomination shall reach the Secretary.”

VII

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Grant XVII.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, Sir, 11-15 a.m. I beg to move—

that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 11,262 under 32-B. Medical Hospitals and Dispensaries for the refund of the contributions erroneously paid to the Government by the District Board and the Municipal Council, Madura, on account of the maintenance of the Headquarter Hospital, Madura, for the year 1921-22.

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Grant XVII—cont.

“ Under the arrangement by which the Government took over the management of the headquarter hospitals, the local bodies which were responsible for the management of these hospitals had to pay a contribution to the Government; but in pursuance of a resolution passed in this Council, the Government waived the recovery of those contributions. By some mistake the District Board and the Municipal Council, Madura, paid the contributions according to the old order of things and these amounts have to be refunded to them. Since no provision has been made in the current year’s budget it has been found necessary to move this supplementary demand.”

The motion was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.”

Grant XXVI.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ Mr. President, I beg to move—

that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 11,500 under Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers—Agriculture—Improvements to the water-supply of the Agricultural College estate, Coimbatore.

“ Sir, this is an application for the transfer of funds from one head to another and involves the question of transferring the funds to the Public Works Department because they execute the works. At present there is some water-supply to the College estate. There are three wells known as No. 60, the College well and the Farm Yard well. The samples of the water in No. 60 were pronounced as unfit for domestic use by the King Institute some time in 1920, and since then the Director of Agriculture has been asking for a better water-supply. We have at present two engines both of which have become old and not sufficient to supply this need. It is proposed to purchase an engine, a pump and some pipes. The total cost would be 14,000 and odd of which only 11,000 is asked for. The rest will be met by reappropriation from other heads.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ There is an old engine. What is to be done with it? Is it to be sold away and the money utilized for the water-supply improvements in question, and is it in addition to this, that the amount demanded is required?”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ I may mention that it is proposed to repair the old engine and send it to the Millet Station where it will be utilized. So far as this scheme is concerned, I may also mention that it has been before the Finance Committee twice; and on one occasion when they discussed it they wanted that Messrs. MacDougall and Wood should examine the engine. Both of them examined it and found it to be thoroughly satisfactory. When it went again to the Finance Committee they accepted it.”

The motion was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, I beg to move—

that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1 lakh under 41-A. Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers—Grant to the Malabar District Board for the repair of the damage to communications caused by the rebels in the recent Mappilla rebellion.

[The Raja of Panagal]

[26th February 1923]

Grant XXVI—cont.

"Hon. Members are aware that the District Board has suffered serious loss on account of the recent Mappilla disturbances. A number of communications, roads and bridges have been seriously damaged and the District Board has had to pay considerable amounts to repair them; but it has not been able to meet the expenditure and this year's budget has a large deficit. It is proposed to make this grant of Rs. 1 lakh so that the Board may finance these things and maintain them."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know whether this amount would be enough to completely repair the communications which have been destroyed, or whether it is really an instalment grant to restore them. My hon. friend has not given us any information as to whether by means of this grant only a proportion of the expenditure or the whole of it is to be borne by provincial funds. I wish to have this information."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"This grant is intended to cover the expenses which the District Board has already incurred. Next year we may have to make other grants."

The motion was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

VIII

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

The further consideration of the resolution * moved by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar which had been adjourned to this day on the 6th February, was resumed.

Irrigation facilities in the famine-affected districts—cont.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I must in the first place acknowledge that Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has made out a strong case, but it would be useful in this connexion to trace the history of the matter because, the narration of that history will, I take it, Mr. President, be itself an answer to much of what fell from the hon. Member and would incidentally be an answer also to some of the matters sought to be suggested in one or two amendments which are, or may be, before the House. It is undoubtedly a fact that famines are a feature of the district. It is also an admitted fact that these famines are largely the result of deficient rainfall and that one of the remedies lies in the improvement of irrigation facilities; and there is no gainsaying this that the Government and the people stand much to gain by the initiation and execution of irrigation improvements. It may be remembered that, as early as 1917, the hon. Mr. P. Siva Rao moved a resolution in the Council for deputing a special officer to investigate and report on the starting of protective irrigation works in the Ceded districts. Mr. Clarke who had been deputed to study the question and submit a report before the arrival of the Irrigation Commission, conducted his labours between 1901 and 1903. His report and the report of what subsequently transpired were placed on the table in answer to the motion of Mr. Siva Rao. The Government then explained that they had made a thorough and exhaustive investigation (I am reading the answer of Mr. Gillman) into the possibilities of protective works in the Ceded districts

* That this Council recommends to the Government that special steps be taken to improve the irrigation resources of Bellary and the neighbouring districts comprised in the famine zone of the Madras Presidency.

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and that they were in possession of information showing the nature of the works and the progress made and where decision had been taken and the nature of that decision. That was the state of the matter in 1917.

"Later on, the same hon. gentleman, Mr. Siva Rao, put a question and in answer, a list of irrigation projects and a list of sanctions were amongst the papers laid on the table. As I mentioned, the report prepared by Mr. Clarke, which was a very exhaustive one, was placed on the table of the House, and subsequently, in 1918, a list of irrigation projects, investigated in the Ceded districts, was also placed on the table. In August 1921, a special division was formed for the examination of various irrigation projects in the Presidency. Unfortunately that division had to be closed on 30th April 1922 owing to the necessity for retrenchment. But the report of the Executive Engineer, Mr. Morgan, also a very valuable document, is under consideration together with various projects referred to therein and, in this connexion, I may mention incidentally that the grant in 1922-23 for the Tank Restoration Scheme was originally fixed at Rs. 43,000 as against Rs. 83,000 in the previous budget grant. I have already mentioned that the abolition of the Special Projects Division became unavoidable, and it was certainly a set back, because it has been proved that ordinary establishments cannot work out these projects expeditiously.

"The position may be shortly summarised thus. So far as the Ceded districts are concerned, there is no prospect at the present moment of treating any of the projects as productive. They must all be treated on the basis of being protective. There are only four projects in this connexion which can be treated as practicable, one of them being the Welgode project, the second the Thokkapalli project, the third, the Thippappalayam project and the fourth the Duvvaleru anicut. There are other projects also which had to be abandoned as they were located in places where there was no sufficient rainfall and no prospect of receiving proper supplies. Among these may be mentioned the Gudanapad project, the Krishnapuram project and the Gazuladinne project and the reason for having to abandon these projects are elaborated in the report which was placed on the table in answer to Mr. P. Siva Rao. In the Cuddapah district the preliminary reports in respect of two projects were received in 1905, viz., Papagani and Pullampet, but they were not favourable on account of the insufficient return on the possible outlay. Therefore, for the time being, complete investigation was abandoned. Gauging observations were not made after 1905; but instructions have now been given that the gauges should be read.

"There were a few projects in these districts which had to be abandoned owing to the uncertainty of supply and on engineering grounds. Of these projects one is the Dorigalu project in the Bellary district. The biggest protective work is the Tungabhadra project which was estimated in 1906 to cost 16.45 crores and to yield a net revenue of 34 lakhs. At the present rate it is estimated that about 30 crores would be the cost of that project. Even excluding the Nellore portion of the project, the present cost is estimated to be not less than 20 crores. The reservoir across the Chinna-hagari was abandoned after investigation as local conditions were reported to be unfavourable. There are no other protective works in the Bellary district which can be assumed to come within the range of practical politics. The rainfall in Bellary is less than in Kurnool and the schemes that depend for their supply on local rainfall have

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not got much chance of proving successful. In the Anantapur district, the Upper Pennar project was investigated but had to be abandoned as the water-supply from the project was shown to be so precarious that it was found to be of not much use as a famine-protective work. For the completion of the investigation of the projects that are still pending in the Ceded districts, the services of the Projects Executive Engineer would have been very useful but owing to the financial conditions that division had to be closed down in April 1922.

"With regard to the amendment of my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, I may point out that in the Coimbatore district though there are no large irrigation works there are a large number of smaller irrigation works."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. The amendment of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has not been moved and it is not before the House for discussion. The hon. Member will not be in order if he deals with that amendment."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"That is the state of things at present. It is granted that as early as possible some projects will have to be taken in hand; but everything depends upon the financial conditions. From the financial aspect of the matter it will be seen that unless we are in a much better position than we are at present, we cannot take all the bigger schemes on hand at once. Careful attention will however be paid to the investigation of smaller works whenever such proposals are brought forward."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"Sir, I was very glad to hear the hon. the Law Member with regard to the work that was being carried on in the direction of improving the irrigation resources in the Ceded districts. It is very unfortunate that this irrigation question should have been put off on account of retrenchment. There are several other items of expenditure which could have been put off without loss in preference to this; but unfortunately this item had to come under the retrenching axe."

"I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the smaller sources of irrigation in rural areas require to be immediately attended to. In Kadiri taluk of my district the rainfall is very scanty and greater facilities for irrigation ought to be given by way of grants and loans for digging wells. The Boring and the Engineering department must be deputed to find out places where water can be had easily. If only money is spent a little more liberally, it would not be impossible to find out places where water facilities could be had on a larger scale. Particularly, I would mention the Madagasira taluk and the Agalli range over which a great deal of controversy has been going on for the last two years. Nearly a year ago, I moved the district authorities as also the Government to bestow some attention on the matter of improving the irrigation facilities with a view to give an impetus to *areca* industry. The people in that taluk have more than once represented not only to me but also to the authorities, the great possibilities that exist in the direction of improving the irrigation facilities there. All that they require is the digging of certain spring channels. But that work has not been taken on hand on account of the unfortunate cry of retrenchment. Some time ago, an explanation was given that it was a matter which required consultation with the Mysore State authorities, I would like to impress upon the Government the immediate

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necessity for drawing the attention of the Mysore State to this important matter and to see that something is done to improve the irrigation facilities in that taluk. I have had many occasions to go into the interior of the district, only to find the tanks completely empty. They are all considered to be fit monuments of Government's failure to improve the irrigation facilities. The people there say: 'What has the Government done for us? With all the Reform Scheme and with all the enormous burden of taxation imposed upon us, no attention has been paid to improve the irrigation facilities!' It was only in September last, I invited the attention of the district authorities to the absolutely neglected condition of two small tanks, one Gandhi cheruvu and the other Gandam cheruvu in Kadiri taluk. I wrote to the Collector drawing his attention to the ruin into which these tanks had fallen for the past several decades. I also heard that a few years ago, investigations were carried on with regard to the repair of one of the tanks, namely Gandhi cheruvu. But I received no reply to my communication to the Collector. It is the boast of the Reforms Scheme that the people's views would be carefully considered; and yet, when a representative of the people goes before the authorities with certain grievances, he is not even vouchsafed a reply. It was open to the Collector to say that he had deputed such and such an officer who would investigate into the matter. I even sent a reminder, but I had no reply at all from him."

"The most important things necessary for the people are cheap credit, facilities for manure and irrigation facilities. So far as cheap credit is concerned, I must acknowledge, with thanks, the efforts made by the Co-operative department in this matter. With regard to manure also great efforts are being made, particularly in my district, to supply manure to the people. Thanks to the Collector and the Chief Conservator of Forests, something tangible is being done to facilitate the procuring of manure by the people. With regard to irrigation, I beg to say that a special officer ought to be deputed to be continually on the look-out for local irrigation sources. The Boring and the Pumping department should be deputed to help the ryots whenever they are in need of help for sinking wells. I beg to submit that special attention ought to be paid for the four districts comprising the Ceded districts and the ryots in all the taluks should be asked whether they will avail themselves of the facilities offered to them. No doubt, it is absolutely necessary that the bigger works, like the Tungabhadra works, should be taken on hand as soon as possible. Along with them what is more important is to locate the areas where the spring heads exist—such do exist in many parts of my district—and to see that their potentialities are developed. I therefore submit that much remains to be done by the Government, apart from what the hon. the Law Member has been saying as to what has been done by the Government in regard to this particular branch of public good."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, the hon. the Law Member has given the Council a very interesting account of all the pending projects relating to the Ceded districts. He also referred to the Tungabhadra project and to the various stages at which all the pending schemes stand. A special officer was put on this duty and owing to financial stringency further attempts at investigation had been stopped. I admit that all these are certainly steps which many of us in the Council are aware of. I submit, Sir, that in spite of all that the hon. the Law Member has said in

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regard to this matter, there is absolutely no doubt that this question of protective irrigation works for the Ceded districts has not received the attention it deserves. This neglect is due to various causes. The protective works were hitherto in the hands of the Government of India and the rules laid down by them were far too stringent to enable the Local Government to give effect to any of these schemes. Now that irrigation is a provincial subject, I submit that the Local Government should release to some extent the stringency of these rules and lay down what works should be regarded as productive and what as protective. I submit that the whole question should be viewed from an entirely different standpoint.

"It was many times suggested in this Council that one of the ways in which protection from an irrigation standpoint could be afforded to the poor ryots of the Ceded districts was to touch the underground waters and not necessarily to rely upon surface drainage. I must say here that the question of deep-well-irrigation has not been satisfactorily tackled by the Department of Public Works. The whole question of well-irrigation was gone into by the Irrigation Commission and that Commission took a view which was endorsed by this Council. When a few years ago when this very subject was brought up by me before this Council, it was stated that there were difficulties in the adoption of the policy of giving protection by well-irrigation works. I submit that the present conditions require a reconsideration of what the Irrigation Commission had to say on that subject. Hon. Members who were in the Minto-Morley Councils are aware that a sum of 2½ lakhs used to be set apart year after year for what is known as 'Famine Insurance Grant'. That accumulated to 30 lakhs of rupees. Practically on account of the indifference of the Government of the day to famine protection in the Ceded districts and on account of the financial arrangements then in force, this accumulated sum of 30 lakhs intended for famine insurance was absorbed in the funds of the Government of India. Under our present rules, we have also got an arrangement by which a sum of 6½ lakhs should be set apart for famine protection. Even this amount, if accumulated year after year, will form part of the Governor-General's balance unless it is spent by the Local Government on famine relief. So, if this amount of Rs. 6,61,000 which we are accumulating year after year is not spent upon this very necessary work, the result would be that the Government of India would again come down and take away the amounts intended for famine insurance. (Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai: Hear, hear). I ask my hon. friend seriously to consider whether the time has not come when a different policy should be followed and whether it is not absolutely necessary in these districts to afford every protection to the ryots by placing underground water at their disposal to the extent to which it is possible. If this amount of 2½ lakhs is spent continuously for a number of years more, I am certain that the people of the Ceded districts would be highly thankful to the Government for doing something at least to relieve the distress in those areas. Sir, I broached this subject some time last year. I urged on the consideration of the hon. Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah who was then in charge of the irrigation portfolio the absolute necessity for having a well-defined programme so far as the Ceded districts were concerned. I am sorry to say that it has received no consideration at all. I again urge on the hon. the Law Member who is in charge of irrigation the imperative necessity for spending 2½ lakhs, year after year, by digging wells in the affected areas. That is the first thing that I would ask the hon. the Law Member to consider.

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"Secondly, my hon. friend the Member in charge of Irrigation has mentioned a number of projects, in regard to which a sum of 30 crores of rupees would have to be spent. When dealing with that subject, I think he will take into consideration the working of such small projects, as the digging of spring channels, etc., mentioned by my hon. friend Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai, and see what can be done to afford relief to the Ceded districts. I think the time has come not to examine and re-examine those schemes, but to see that some relief is done to the Ceded districts, by doing something which is more tangible. We have examined and re-examined schemes sufficiently long. With 6½ lakhs of rupees at the disposal of the Government from year to year for constructive works, I should think that some relief has been done to these districts. I do not know whether the hon. the Member in charge of Irrigation is either accepting or opposing the resolution. From the trend of his speech I take it that he is not in antagonism with this resolution. If he says that the funds which are available will be utilized in doing something which will give relief to these Ceded districts, I think he will be satisfying the Council. As I said, the whole question of protective policy is now entirely in the hands of the Provincial Government, and, certainly, they can initiate a new policy. I consider that the past policy has been too rigorous to enable any work of construction to be carried out. I think that a more elastic policy should be adopted by the Government in irrigational matters so as to enable them to make a beginning in that direction, though not to give effect to large schemes in their entirety."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I should like to take the leave of the House to move the amendment standing in the name of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, who is absent here to-day."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to inform the hon. Member that this amendment is out of order, because it goes beyond the scope of the original motion. The original motion reads:

To improve the irrigation sources of Bellary and the neighbouring districts comprised in the famine zone of the Madras Presidency.

"Unless it is contended that Coimbatore is a neighbouring district of Bellary, I think the amendment is out of order."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Cannot the hon. the President waive his objection?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think I can do so. If the hon. Member wishes to benefit the district of Coimbatore, he may bring in a separate motion to that effect."

The amendment was disallowed.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name as follows:—

"After the words 'Government' insert the words 'a committee of Government experts and non-official members of this Council be appointed to enquire into and report upon the most urgent, suitable and economical irrigation schemes for specially protecting the' and omit the words commencing with 'special' in line 2 and ending with 'neighbouring' in line 3".

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"In seconding this amendment I wish to say that although big schemes which have been and are being investigated cannot be given effect to for want of funds, I think that small schemes such

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as the digging of deep wells, etc., which has been referred to might be taken up. These things, surely, can be done at present. With these few words I support the amendment."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I am afraid I must oppose this amendment. The reason is very simple. There is nothing in reality which any committee such as is contemplated in the amendment can achieve on this particular topic. All schemes that can possibly be conceived of in connexion with irrigation facilities in these districts and the works relating to them have been investigated thoroughly over and over again. The hon. mover of the amendment may perhaps look into the report which is placed on the table of the House. That report gives as much information as is likely to be elicited by this committee, and investigations subsequent to it have also elicited considerable information. It seems to me that if one reads the investigations that were made in the year 1922 by Mr. Morgan, the Executive Engineer, one will find that a committee can do no useful work in this connexion. What is needed on all hands is finance, and it seems to me that the committee cannot take us any further in that direction."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"As a reference has been made by the hon. the Member opposite to me in regard to the possible accumulation of famine insurance funds and the dangers and risks attendant on their appropriation by the Government of India, I think I should explain the position correctly to the House. I may at once state that the arrangements under which the famine insurance fund has now been made a provincial charge differ absolutely from the arrangements under which it was originally under Imperial control. At the present moment a certain amount of money is earmarked in the general revenues of the province for the purpose of being spent on what is called famine-relief works or irrigation of a protective nature. Year after year, we are bound under the rules to earmark a certain amount of money, and this amount is always at the disposal of the Local Government for being spent on famine or protective works as the case may be. My hon. friend opposite has read a certain rule which makes him fear that this money will again lapse to the Government of India unless the provincial Government exercises sufficient vigilance. Under the new dispensation I may say, Sir, that the object of the rule is not to enable the Government of India to seize the money and utilize it for their purpose, but merely to make it obligatory on the Government of India to pay the interest on the funds which have accumulated over the famine insurance fund. The rules from 2 to 10 on page 130 of the 'Devolution Rules' will clearly indicate that this money is entirely at the disposal of the Local Government. The rule reads thus:

The Local Government may, in any year, when the accumulated total of the famine insurance fund of the province is not less than six times the amount of the annual assignment, suspend temporarily the provision of the annual assignment.

That is to say, if the Local Government has a sum to its credit which represents six times the annual grant, then it suspends further payment. But the money so accumulated is at the disposal of the Local Government and it is available for expenditure either on famine or protective works as the circumstances of the case may demand. This arrangement has been in force from 1921-22. It was in the budget of the year 1921-22 that this Government for the first time earmarked 6½ lakhs of rupees on expenditure for famine. May I not remind the House that in the same year the Government was faced with a critical situation of which the House is fully aware? The

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House will also remember that in that year the Local Government had to spend not merely 6½ lakhs which had been ear-marked from the general revenues of the province, but for the purpose of relief we had to utilize the balance of amount available in the year 1921-22. When we came to the financial transactions for the year following, namely 1922-23, which has not yet terminated, it was feared that we should have to budget for a larger sum because the famine which had threatened swept once more the whole of the Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool districts and in that year the famine was at its worst, and the Government had to spend more money. Only one lakh of rupees has been entered in the budget on account of famine insurance fund and the remaining 5½ lakhs of rupees is proposed to be carried forward to the next financial year. For the first time when famine insurance funds became a provincial subject, did we expect to have anything like 11½ lakhs of rupees at the disposal of the Local Government. But how much of that money is to be spent on protective works and how much of the expenditure is still to be postponed is a matter which it is not possible for me to dive into. I think the apprehensions of my hon. friend opposite that the whole of this money will continue to be seized by the Government of India are not well-founded.

"One other remark made by the hon. Member representing Anantapur district I feel bound to answer. He has counselled us that we had better indulge in the policy of making large advances to cultivators to enable them to dig wells. If only the hon. Member will be good enough to compare the figures of loans which have been from time to time made to the landholders in the Ceded districts in the last three years, he will, I am sure, find that Government have done their best to help the agriculturists. The loans that were advanced in the last year in the Ceded districts were not less than 17 lakhs of rupees. In no year were the loans so heavy, and even in the next year when there was a fear that the loans would not be available to the same extent as in the previous year, the Local Government decided to continue the policy of lending to agriculturists as much money as it was possible for them to earmark in the budget which was still a deficit budget."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"I only want to offer a word of explanation. The other day when the village officers recommended certain applications for loans from the agriculturists they were found fault with and even threatened to be punished. I can understand the district authorities threatening to punish the village officers in their usual course of business, but to proceed to punish the village officers on the ground that they induced some ryots to apply for loans is a thing which seems to me unreasonable."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur: "I did not realize that when the hon. Member made those remarks he had this particular instance in his mind. That is, of course, a very peculiar instance which resulted in no less an individual than the hon. Member himself proceeding to investigate the circumstances under which that incident happened. I suppose he will realize that, in these days, the Government will appreciate the suggestions put forward by hon. Members and they will be quite ready to resort to remedial measures.

"But the fact remains that the loans that have been granted by this Government during the last three years have shown such a progressive increase that it would be rather heartless to complain that Government have not taken that aspect of the matter into consideration.

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"Then, Sir, he made a small reference to the improvement of certain tanks and the constant and persistent neglect of the local authorities in attending to it. He referred particularly again to Adoni and Madoni. The hon. Member, I suppose, is fully aware that I myself inspected these two tanks in the month of December to find out what the real cause of the complaint was, and I think I have assured the hon. Member already that I have called for plans and estimates and taken the necessary steps. I hope to remedy as early as possible the very reasonable complaint which those villagers put before me."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"I thank the hon. the Revenue Member, Sir, for the assurance."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I am glad, Sir, to express our gratitude to the hon. the Revenue Member for travelling in a double bullock cart to Madoni and Adoni in order to elicit the facts. There were some indiscretions committed by the local officials in asking the village officers why they should not be punished for inducing the ryots to apply for loans, and we were glad that the hon. Member visited those places. I am also glad that he has stated that the prayers of the ryots were quite reasonable. I think the hon. Member said that we people of the Ceded districts within the famine zone gave no rest to the Government and that they had always to be considering what sort of campaign they had to wage against the famine that recurred there. I think they will have more rest if they give more anxious thoughts to providing us with protective works. In his very able speech my friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has pointed out that few works have been added by the British Government to the irrigation works that had already been built there by the Vizianagram Rajas. Most of the tanks and most of the protective works and even the channels in the Bellary district were constructed by the Vizianagram Dynasty, and most of the tanks even now go by the name of the descendants of that Dynasty. I am afraid that with all the paraphernalia the Government have, they have not been able to do much by way of improving the conditions there. That is a very sad feature. The people of the Ceded districts are a very sturdy and strong people; but unfortunately they have not been provided with sufficient irrigation sources. No doubt the Government were ready to give such relief as they chose in famine times, but I am afraid they have not spent enough in providing the people with proper protective works. The big scheme of Tungabhadra and similar projects may not take effect; but there are very many small projects that can be undertaken and executed. For instance, there is the Kannambadi project that will benefit the people of the Anantapur district. Then, if a channel is dug in the Chinna Hagari, it will benefit the people of Kalyandrug. This has been before the Government for years together, but they have not paid much attention to it. We are very glad to see the hon. Member, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, on that Bench and congratulate the people that such a popular member and champion of the poor ryots has been selected to administer Law and Irrigation, and I hope that in his time something will be done to benefit the poor people of the Ceded districts. The Government should not be scared away by the poor income they might derive. It is their duty to protect the people from the effects of famine and I fully trust that they will do what they can and pay special attention to us who are within the famine zone. We acknowledge with gratitude what the hon. the Revenue Member has done in the way of

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giving us relief; but I hope he will co-operate with the Law and Irrigation Member in giving us more protective works so that there may not be room for any further complaints. Sir, there is one feature in the district administration to which I should like to refer. The lower officials are always afraid to report the real state of affairs. I do not know how it happens, but at any rate I think the hon. Member is fully aware of it. We have brought it to his notice so often that the village officer is afraid"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member must confine himself to the irrigation question."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I wanted to impress upon the hon. Member that the difficulties of the people were not brought fully to the notice of the higher authorities. It is the bounden duty of the Government that they should provide irrigation works so that people might not have any difficulties to complain of. That was the object with which I said that, and I hope the hon. Members, both of whom happen to be Indian members, will be able to enter into the feelings of the ryots who suffer from a chronic state of famine in those parts of the Ceded districts."

"With these few words, I appeal to the hon. Member to accept the resolution and pay much attention to provide us with at least the smaller sources of irrigation."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before proceeding further, I should probably point out to hon. Members that I am allowing the discussion to proceed upon both the original motion and that the amendment. Strictly, we must dispose of the amendment first; but I am allowing a general discussion so that, at the end of it the mover of the original motion and the mover of the amendment may see whether they should press their motions or not."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, Mr. Innes, the Director of Industries, Madras, in his evidence before the Industrial Commission has pointed out that Madras will always remain mainly an agricultural country, and agriculture should be the main look out of the Government of Madras. Very often we have been making provisions against famine and scarcity besides creating a Famine Insurance of Rs. 6,61,000. It was only two years back that we had to spend about 38 lakhs against famine for two divisions of Ganjam. I believe if half of that amount had been spent on irrigation works, we could have saved that expenditure and had a peaceful and contented peasantry."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In Ganjam?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Yes, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Then I fear it is out of order."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"I beg to point out, Sir, that the amendment includes Ganjam also."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It refers only to the famine zone of the Madras Presidency. Is Ganjam in the famine zone?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Yes, Sir, it is not only in the zone, but it is a den for famine and scarcity."

"Then we are told that there are protective and productive works. Looking into the reply given to the resolution moved by the hon. Mr. Patro in the year 1921, we find that there are a lot of productive works investigated by

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the Government in the Ganjam district. The hon. Member for Government, while accepting the resolution, gave us an undertaking that Government would take up the work of Surada supplement as soon as possible. Two years have since elapsed. Many Government Executive Engineers, and often hon. Members, have visited the place and nothing is yet within sight. I, therefore, believe, Sir, that the promises that are so often held out to us by the Government Bench are, if I am allowed to remark, like cakes made only to be broken. I have reason to believe also that the Government of Madras have not applied to the Central Government for loans for productive works; because, in his reply to a certain question put by an hon. Member from Madras in the Council of State, the hon. Mr. Sarma has remarked that he has, as a matter of course, granted all such applications for loans for irrigation works. We are very sorry to express here that, in spite of our repeated requests, prayers and appeals to the hon. Members of Government, they have not cared to select any work, be it productive or protective, to be taken up for the last two and a half years, nor even cared to apply to the Government of India for loans. In these circumstances, Sir, we believe that a committee of experts, with specially some members of this House on it, is necessary to look into the whole question. It may be that no money will be necessary for this committee. It may be that the committee may have to select some works that have already been investigated by the engineers and they may select some works which are very urgent and at the same time may be productive to the Government.

"With these few words, Sir, I very heartily support the amendment of my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, the hon. the Revenue Member was telling us that the Government have been spending so much money every year to relieve the sufferers in the famine zone. If permanent improvements are made in irrigation, I do not think the Government will be obliged to spend so much money hereafter.

"I take this opportunity of congratulating the hon. the Law Member, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. He is a popular member first and then only a nominated member of the Government (Hear, hear). So, I request him not to get into the official groove by opposing everything which the Members of this Council bring forward, but to chalk out a new path for himself, to help us in all our grievances and to see that, though he does not appoint a committee, he undertakes at least to improve the irrigation of the Presidency, not only in the famine zone, but in all the places where irrigation is lacking. With these few words, I leave it to the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation to see that all possible things are done for improving the irrigation of our Presidency. I beg leave to withdraw the amendment."

The amendment of Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I support the resolution now before the House. These districts suffer almost every year from famine. The resolution refers to the improvement of irrigation resources of Bellary and the neighbouring districts. From the hon. the Law Member's speech I understood that certain projects were undertaken and are pending investigation. But by irrigation resources the mover means not only the big projects referred to by the hon. the Law Member, but also other sources. I had just been

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looking into a note wherein numerous minor resources are referred to. I think that, in the interests of these districts, something must be done. From what I heard from the hon. the Revenue Member I understand that no provision has been made in the budget in the direction of improving the irrigation resources in question. I think it is quite necessary in the interests of these famine-affected districts that sufficient provision should be made for improving the existing resources. Even small rivers, oadis or jungle streams might be improved and a good supply of water can be diverted by means of small dams for purposes of supplementing the existing sources as well as for extending the wet cultivation. With these words, I support the resolution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I thank the hon. the Law Member for the compliment he paid me in saying that I have made out a strong case for my resolution; and I dare say that he does not mean to stop with an expression of his sympathy merely in words, but that he is going to back it up by practical action. I have specially put my resolution in a form which should be acceptable to the Government. I have not asked them to commit themselves to any particular scheme or schemes even. All that I have asked the Government is that they should take special steps to improve the irrigation resources of the districts in the famine zone which, for all practical purposes, are the Ceded Districts. In the course of my speech I ventured to refer to very many schemes which might be considered and taken on hand by the Government. I referred to some old schemes. I referred also to some schemes which are under investigation but of which, apparently, the hon. the Law Member is not aware. For example, I know gaugings are taken with reference to the project called Bairavatippa project, which is to put up a dam across Haguri between a village called Bairavatippa in Kalyandrug taluk and Tallikera in Rayadrug taluk. So far as I am able to judge, it is considered to be a feasible scheme and will surely protect a large area in Rayadrug and Kalyandrug taluks. There is already a channel called Basavannagudi channel in the Hospet taluk, and I think there is an estimate ready or almost ready for a lakh and more for the extension of this channel which, if executed, will bring an additional extent under irrigation and increase the protected area correspondingly. There is again a feasible scheme which the Government can undertake by connecting two hills in a reserve called Sogi by means of a bund. Thus there are ever so many projects which the Government may undertake. I also referred to the Tungabhadra project, but I took care to suggest that that project either in its entirety or in some modified form might be taken up for execution. The hon. the Law Member said that the Tungabhadra project had been considered in all its details and nothing more could be done by appointing a committee to go into the whole matter. I am not quite so sure about that. He said, for example, that if the Nellore portion was taken away, the cost will be reduced by as much as one-third. I think Ouddapah and some portion of Kurnool might also be excluded, and if this is done, there will be no necessity for a very costly reservoir in the Bellary district. The object in view, so far as Bellary and Anantapur districts are concerned, can be achieved by taking two channels direct from the river. If we cut the canal as high up as is feasible for us to do, the necessity for excavating such deep and wide channels as were formerly contemplated, will disappear and the cost of excavation and connected works will be proportionately less. There is another

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project called the Kistna project. If this is taken on hand, I think part of Kurnool and Cuddapah will be served by it, and there is no use trying to achieve the same object by the more costly Tungabhadra project in its original form. I thought that by the amendment suggested by Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, all these aspects of the matter might, if necessary, be once again considered by the Government, and that they might embark upon such schemes as are likely to yield the maximum results at a minimum cost. But it is not necessary even that Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar's amendment should be adopted by this House for the Government to take action in the direction indicated. Even my resolution gives the Government free scope to take the necessary steps in the matter and to do the best possible thing under the circumstances. Really, I do not know, Sir, why the hon. the Law Member, after his admission that both the Government and the people stand to gain by improving the irrigation facilities in these districts, should hesitate to accord his support to this resolution. Perhaps I am mistaken in so thinking.

"I shall only refer to one thing more and that is this: The hon. the Law Member's predecessor in office, or rather his predecessor but one, the hon. the Revenue Member who then had the portfolio of Irrigation in his charge, gave us an assurance that he hoped to see the Tungabhadra project put into execution. I take it, Sir, if this Government is a continuing Government, as it is always claimed to be, that his successor in office, the present Law Member will accept my resolution and show that the Government were sincere when the first promise was made. All the Members who have spoken have given their support to this resolution as they are bound to on a proposition of this sort. Look at the enormous loss of human life that is taking place. How many lakhs and lakhs of cattle have died on account of lack of rainfall and for want of pasture? Look at the huge sums spent upon worthless famine works, which do not bring any return worth mentioning, but are simply carried on to provide work for the people and, practically, for no other purpose. Look, again, Sir, at the enormous loans advanced under the Loans Act. If only the House will take the trouble of adding up all these figures, I am sure it will find that the sum total is much more than what they will have to spend on the Tungabhadra project even in its original form. I, therefore, implore the hon. the Law Member and the House to give their sympathy for this resolution by accepting it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, by more than one hon. Member the suggestion has been made that, in view of the statement made by the hon. the Revenue Member and what I have myself stated, I ought to accept the resolution. If I feel unable to accept the resolution, it is not because I am failing in sympathy towards the objects sought to be served by this resolution, but solely and simply because it is impossible to commit the Government in any way at this stage, with the budget discussion in front of us and not very far in front of us. Having in view the many urgent necessities which have to be met, and also having in view the general situation that is likely to follow the budget, it is impossible to say anything more than to accept generally the spirit of this resolution without committing ourselves to the resolution itself. I may at once mention, Mr. President, that it is not because the Government are oblivious to the advantages sought to be gained by the various schemes which have been referred to at length, it is not because the Government are not anxious and do not propose to take on hand such schemes as are feasible

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and can be pushed through as being within the range of practical politics, that I rise up and say that I cannot accept the resolution. I may say that there are two or three matters of detail referred to in the speech of the hon. mover, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, which have already received the consideration of the Government. Take, for instance, the question of the dam across Hagari about which something was said. It is now demonstrated that after the constructing of the Madikanam dam, that project is one which is not feasible. Again, with regard to the modification of the Tungabhadra scheme, we have heard something about it from Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. That is a matter which has already been contemplated by experts and is actually under consideration. It will thus be evident to the hon. Member that almost every one of the schemes which have been advocated from the floor of this House have been and are engaging the earnest attention of the Government. It is because of the financial aspect and the financial outlook that the Government feel themselves unable at the present moment to accept the resolution."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"May I be allowed, Sir, to move for an adjournment of this resolution? After being told by the hon. the Law Member that the difficulty in accepting this resolution lies in the fact that the budget is in front of us and not very far in front of us, I propose that this resolution be taken up for further consideration at the first opportunity after the budget discussion is over. I therefore beg leave to move that the further consideration of this resolution be adjourned and be put as the first item in the non-official agenda after the budget discussion. I do not think, Mr. President, that very many words are required from me, especially after what my hon. friend, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, has stated, for commending my proposal for the acceptance of this House."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried and the further discussion of Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar's resolution was adjourned to be put as the first item in the non-official agenda after the budget discussion.

Committee to examine into the forest grievances in the Kurnool district.

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That this Council recommends to the Government that a special committee of officials and non-officials besides the mover of the resolution and an experienced District Forest Officer be appointed to examine into the pressing forest grievances in the Kurnool district and concert measures for redressing the same.

"Sir, this is not the first occasion when a resolution of this nature has been brought before this House for discussion. In the last August sessions of this Council my hon. friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, moved a resolution requesting to appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to examine into a few aspects of the forest grievances in the Coimbatore district, and I am glad to be able to say that with the sympathetic support of the several hon. Members in this House the resolution was carried by a clean majority. I consider myself peculiarly fortunate in commending my resolution to the kind acceptance of my hon. friends, as I feel confident that with the accumulation of literature on the subject of forest grievances as the result

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of the valuable discussion by the several members, I can claim the same unstinted support for my resolution. I am sure that when an advanced district, like Coimbatore, has had the best consideration of the House, the most backward district, like Kurnool, in which people seem to be born with a double dose of original sin, and which I have the honour to represent, will not fail to claim your indulgence in the matter. The average general condition of the ryots in relation to the Forest Department is most deplorable, and the less said of the amenities of the people the better.

"As I said in August last on the motion of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, the ryot in the Kurnool district being highly illiterate and obsessed with a feeling of fear of the official is not able to seek for the redress of his grievances but bears everything in silence; and the fact that he does not appeal to the powers-that-be against the unjust vagaries of the Forest Department should not prompt anybody in this House to infer that he is safe and that to ask for anything is like crying for the moon.

"To those of you in the advanced stage of the modern conditions of civilized life, a consideration of the woeful difficulties of the dumb-driven cattle may look belated; but to them I would say that it is on the goodwill and contentment of these low people depends the economic prosperity of those in the higher strata of society.

"Sir, I have toured round most of the forest lying villages, and the innumerable complaints that I have received from the people regarding the intolerable disadvantages they are under have forced me to bring this motion before the House.

"The allocation of grazing areas has been done without any regard either for the situation of the villages or the needs of the people living in them. Most of the grazing grounds have little or no water facilities for the cattle that spend a pretty long time in them. The pitiable sight of the dumb-driven cattle walking listlessly home to quench their parched-up throats staggers my sense of humanity. In very many cases, accidental trespass by cattle in the contiguous grazing areas of another forest district or of a different range in the same district, the avoidance of which is humanly impossible, is declared culpable and the cattle that so trespass are at once impounded. I am not exaggerating matters in the least if I say that the grazing areas appear dry without any grass for cattle, and I am lost in amazement at the attitude of Forest officers responsible for such allocation. Not this alone. Only the other day I was a personal witness to the peculiar difficulties in certain villages where reserves are situated so close to the cultivated lands that the minute a bull places one of its legs on the other side, the rules are violated and the owner is made to pay heavy penalty for the breach of the inexorable laws of the Forest Department.

"When the difficulties in the way of the ryots are so many and varied, the miserable condition of their cattle needs no special mention. They are sleek and hungry-looking, and unfit to render efficient service to the owner. The Government is no doubt satisfied with the reports of their Forest subordinates that large areas of grazing grounds have been set apart for the benefit of the ryots. Like the old adage that the wearer knows where the shoe pinches, it is the ryot that can suitably understand the work of the departmental people. A great portion of the allotted area is either a naked

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rock or nothing short of one wide expanse of foliage without even a patch of grass on it looking as if it is a fit ground for a cricket tournament. Prickly-pear and a lot of useless shrub cover the ground leaving practically nothing for cattle to graze upon. Calling for specific instances of the vagaries of the Forest officers and asking for representations to be made to the Government on the difficulties of the ryots must be dismissed as a passing fad, as nothing else will serve the purpose than that the people should be taken into the confidence of the Government and steps be taken to improve their condition.

"I believe I shall not be over-riding the hobby if at this stage I call the attention of the House to the untold difficulties put in the way of the agriculturist by the Forest Department. The agriculturist has no place to live in this world if he does not provide himself with the implements requisite for his operations. I wish to know what provision has been made by Government to meet the demands of the ryot in this respect. The hon. the Member for Government in the course of his reply to the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, was pleased to remark that if in any particular area there was difficulty in getting wood for agricultural implements, all that was necessary was to represent the matter to the local Forest officers whose duty it was to give their sympathetic consideration. It is therefore evident, without any shadow of doubt, that the Government have not cared to make provision for the supply of agricultural implements to the ryots at large as a matter of course and that they do not care to do so till representations are made to the Forest officers. Compliance with the demands of the people in this respect must be *inter alia* the main function of the Government, and the Government should not wait to improve things on the representation of the ryots. The apprehensions of the hon. Member for Government, indicated in his speech referred to above, that if the land is made available for the public, the whole area will be deprived of grass, timber and leaves, and the local inhabitants will then naturally wish to encroach upon adjacent forest which it may be necessary to reserve for climatic reasons, are not well founded. The hon. Member will pardon me if I push this logic a little further and say that at this rate we will one day arrive at a stage of affairs when the whole world will become barren and present a sordid and sombre appearance without even an inch of verdure on it. This distrustful attitude on the part of Government towards the ryots in general is conducive to little good, and the sooner the impression is wiped out the better it will be for all.

"I refer to one more difficulty. There are no Government fuel depots at all in the Kurnool district. There are some private ones; but they are very few and far between and do not sell at reasonable rates. I also learn that large quantities of fuel are exported to other districts, and the little stock left has to be purchased at a considerably high price. It is a matter for urgent inquiry at the hands of Government. Want of provision for leaf manure is a standing grievance, and with the absence of irrigation facilities the difficulties become keener.

"These then are a few of the several troubles confronting the people in the Kurnool district. What with the high percentage of illiteracy and what with the harrassing operations of the Forest laws, the helpless condition of the average ryot is most harrowing.

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"I am not asking for much, and a committee of officials and non-officials, including myself as indicated in the resolution, does not demand any great expenditure of money. Even if it does, it will not be misspent considering the extreme backwardness of the district. My district boasts of having one of the best forests in the Presidency; but, as ill-luck would have it, we have to cry with the poet

Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink.

"I am not coming from any rich district to represent the cause of absentee landlords. I am not asking for the indulgence of the House to vote for the opening of factories or granting of State-aids for the industrial regeneration of my district. Nor am I here to espouse the cause of the people of the Kurnool district for a larger measure of independence in the administrative concerns of the country. My constituency does not want to be represented at the League of Nations or at the International Conference held at Geneva. It does not want to knock at the gates of Westminster for the speedier realization of self-government in India. We of the Kurnool district live in a microcosm of our own. Our life is inseparably bound up with the administration of the Forest Department.

"Believe me, Sir, I speak simple, unalloyed truth when I say that in every village in my district the prevailing superstitious belief among the masses was that the late German War was a providential infliction of punishment on the British Government for "Gohathi", which means cruelty to cows evinced in the stringency of Forest rules with regard to grazing in forests.

"Like the Spanish Moor who said that as he was nude and had not the soft parts of conversation, he would deliver a round, unvarnished tale, I plead my inability to give myself up to any amount of loquacious indulgence. I have put the fact of the matter before you in a nutshell, and as you are men with a highly developed sense of civic consciousness, I beseech you to show your charity for the weak people of the Kurnool district whose difficulties I so feebly echo in this House. We have no stalwarts amongst us to compete with you in the industrial field, nor have we amongst us intellectuals to adorn the highest offices of Government. We are tillers of the soil; we are breeders of bulls; and we therefore crave for that which enhance our prosperity in this direction. When the history of the Legislative Council comes to be written, the pen of the historian must leave the page blank for the constituency of the Kurnool district. When we bestir ourselves for re-election we must present to our voters a *tabula rasa* and ironically remind them of the story of the Bruce and the Spider and ask them to vote for us. So, I earnestly appeal to you all to unanimously vote for this resolution as in the words of Portia 'It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.'

"In the earnest hope that this my humble prayer on behalf of a humble people and on behalf of the famishing *Gosamudayam*, i.e., cattle, the chief wealth of my district, will receive the best attention of the House, I commend the resolution for your kind and sure acceptance."

Mr. M. NARAYANASWAMI REDDI:—"I second this resolution, and in doing so I assure the Government that the appointment of the committee will not cost it much. On the other hand, the appointment of such a

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committee will inspire confidence in the minds of the people, and many of the grievances that now press on them will be removed. There is no other way of redressing the wrongs complained of by the ryots than by the appointment of a committee as recommended in this resolution."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Mr. President, when on a recent occasion, we discussed in this House the question of the appointment of Forest committees, I said that while I was not willing to agree to the appointment of roving committees to ascertain where grievances existed, I was perfectly willing, whenever a case was made out, to appoint an *ad hoc* committee for a particular district to inquire into such grievances as might be brought to our notice. That is the test which I propose to apply to the resolution we are now discussing. Taking as it stands on paper, the resolution, at first sight, offends my criterion inasmuch as it asks me to appoint a committee to examine pressing forest grievances, but does not indicate what they are. But my hon. friend, the mover, in the very moving appeal which he made to the House on behalf of his district, has indicated in detail certain number of grievances which I should confess seem to justify the appointment of a committee of inquiry. As regards the *personnel* of the committee, I am prepared to accept my hon. friend's suggestion that it should consist of officials and non-officials and should include both himself and an experienced Forest officer. I do not think I need take up the time of the House much longer. I hope that my hon. friend will be satisfied with the unexpected departure from the bureaucratic groove (hear, hear) and the committee which is to be formed will perform its duties so successfully that he need not labour under the apprehension of another German War being brought upon us."

The motion was put to vote and carried.

Repairs to Srirangam temple.

Rao Sahib T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

That this Council recommends to the Government the imperative necessity to take early steps to repair the Srirangam Ranganadhaswami temple.

"Sir, in moving this resolution, I may say that, unlike other temples, this temple is specially privileged. This is a temple which has been in existence for a number of years and has been endowed with a large number of lands and villages. Prior to the Muhammadan rule, the temple had nearly 57 villages under its control. Under the Muhammadan rule, they took over all the 57 villages, but the last of the rulers was kind enough to give the temple half the income derived out of the villages, which amounted to Rs. 42,582. In the first year after the British annexation, Mr. Wallace, the then Collector, fixed Rs. 40,178 as allowance, and subsequently it ranged from Rs. 35,000 to 48,000.

"When the temple authorities complained and sent petitions to the Board and the Government that they were being hard put to find money, the Collector was asked to investigate and report upon the question of increasing the annual allowances. He reported:

It should be understood that as the allowance of the pagoda was formerly so much higher than it at present is, the pagoda should always possess claims on the Government for the performance of such repairs as it might actually require.

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"This is the decision which the then Collector arrived at; and it released all voluntary offerings to the pagoda, which were then set apart as a fund for repairs, for the other expenses of the pagoda. The report of the Collector was accepted by the Government, and, since then, a sum of Rs. 5,000 and odd per annum was withheld by Government and kept as a fund for repairs out of the original allowances for the temple. The Board, in its letter of the 23rd May 1842, refers to the surplus funds and says it was left for future decision. So it is clear, on a perusal of these papers, that the Government, through the Collectors, was asked to give its opinion, and it said that the temple did require certain repairs, and that it was ready to execute them. The Collector's report was practically accepted. If his report of the 14th February 1828, that the temple would always have claims upon Government for its repairs, were not then accepted, there could have been no surplus funds as referred to in the Board's letter of 1842."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—

"Sir, various quotations are read from documents not on the table of the House. Board's proceedings, Collectors' letters and various other Government communications are being read, and extracts from them are not available to the House. I feel it necessary to have provided myself with all the documents to infer that that was the only conclusion arrived at."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not see what the point of order is. I quite see that it is inconvenient that the hon. Member should read from Government Orders which have not come to the notice of the hon. Member for Government."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Not merely to the Members of Government, but I say they are not before the House as well."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"But it is not the function of non-officials to lay orders of the Government on the table of the House. If the House wants them, the proper procedure will be to ask the Government to lay them on the table. But the hon. Member, the mover, is responsible for the accuracy of what he is reading. I take it he accepts the responsibility."

Rao Sahib T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—"Yes, Sir. I may point out that a memorial was submitted to Government, and it made clear that there was no attempt on their part to ask for any increase of the Mohini allowance but only they wished to see that the general repairs to the temple which were agreed to many years ago should be carried out. It is wrong to think that any attempt has been made by the authorities to claim any allowance for the upkeep of the temple besides repairs. What we mean is that the amount withheld from the original scale and kept as a deposit for the execution of repairs of the temple, as stated in the Collector's letter of the 14th February 1828, may now be utilized for the said purpose. This question does not arise in the case of other temples. It is a special order in the case of this temple. This aspect of the question should be taken into consideration. There has been no distinct understanding in the case of other temples that the Government should meet the expenses of repairs as in the case of this temple.

"Further, this is a temple of great antiquity. It has been so recorded by the Collector and others so long ago as 1818. Spiritually, this temple has been considered to be one of the foremost in importance, and it is known as the Bhuloka Vaikuntam. So it is the duty of the Sovereign, the State, to

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preserve such institutions in good order. Thus, not only from the fact that the temple had vast properties taken over by Government, but also from the archaeological point of view, it is necessary that the Government should undertake the necessary repairs to the temple. The repairs necessary are numerous and are due since 1828. The immediate repairs are to the tower in the goddess sannadi, the side walls and the flight of steps in the western side of the sacred tank within the temple called 'Chandra Pushkarani' and also the Teppakulam, the 1,000 pillared mantapam, the top-floors of the inner mantapams, the stone pavements of almost all prakarams, the tower near the vegetable market between the North Uthra street and the North Chittra street, some of the boundary walls of the temple, besides some small repairs here and there in several places. For nearly a century no repairs seem to have been executed in this temple. The temple is not only ancient but is of the greatest spiritual value and archaeological importance. In these circumstances, the Government should feel it their bounden duty to do the necessary repairs. With these words, I move my resolution for the acceptance of the House."

Diwan Bahadur Sir T. DESIKA ACHARIYAR:—"Mr. President, I do not think that in this House it is necessary for anybody to embark upon a discussion about the sacred character of the Sri Ranganatha's shrine. Nor is it necessary for me to point out to anybody in this House that the temple requires extensive repairs. The whole matter was from time to time brought to the notice of Government through various channels, but no attention has so far been paid to this crying necessity for repairing the temple. It may be asked as to what this House has to do and as to what the Government has to do in the repairs of the temple. The whole of the matter was carefully examined many times, and I think it was forcibly urged on more than one occasion that a large sum of money belonging to this particular temple was in the hands of the Government and that it was earmarked for the purpose of carrying out necessary repairs to the temple. I do not think I shall be doing anything which is not correct if I state that the hon. the Raja of Panagal, when he was last in Trichinopoly, was informed of this matter and the whole case was represented to him and he promised his sympathetic attention to this matter. The whole thing resolves itself into this: Has not the Government the money belonging to this temple? Was not this money earmarked for the purpose of repairs to this temple? Is not this temple in a hopeless state of disrepair at this moment and is the Government not going to do what we in Srirangam and Trichinopoly think that it is its paramount duty, namely, the carrying out of the necessary repairs? With these words, I second the motion.

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, the mover and the seconder of the resolution have spoken enough on the archaeological and historical importance of the temple, so that I do not find I have anything to add to their remarks. There is a Sanskrit saying: 'Palanath Achyutham padam', that is to say, by renovation one attains eternal bliss. The virtue in renovation of a temple which is old is greater than in creation or building of a new one. That this temple was wanting in repairs was acknowledged years ago. Keeping the old temples in order is a duty that falls on the Government, more especially in this case, because the Government have placed a portion of the marai to the credit of the temple year after year. Moreover, repeated assurances have been held out that repairs would

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be attended to when actually required, and I think it is high time that the Government should help to keep the temple in perfect order."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"Mr. President, with reference to this matter, I may give a little incident which happened some five or six years ago. The hon. Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar, who was in the then Indian Legislative Council, asked information regarding the endowments of this temple and their income. The answer then given was that it was purely a matter for the Local Government. Taking the cue from this, I asked the question in the Local Legislature and the answer was that the Government had no information. I know that several memorials were subsequently sent to Government and that copies of them were sent to Members of the Legislative Council, and I do not think the Government gave any information on the matter. So, I request the hon. Member for Government to give us the exact amount of income realized from the villages which are now under the control of the Government."

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I beg leave to move my amendment which reads thus :

Omit all the words after 'Government' and add the following :—

'that a committee be appointed consisting of—

- (1) the hon. the Revenue Member,
- (2) the hon. the First Minister,
- (3) the Collector of the district,
- (4) the President of the District Board, and
- (5) Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai,

to examine (a) the necessity for repairs to the Sri Ranganathaswami temple at Srirangam from the point of view of (i) the safety of the building, (ii) its archaeological importance ; and (b) the measures necessary to ensure better sanitary arrangement within its precincts.'

"Sir, in moving this amendment, I beg to assure my hon. friends, the mover of the resolution and his supporters, that I do not move it with any want of reverence or sympathy towards the temple. I do not in the least wish to retard the progress of repairs to the temple. My idea is that the work has, no doubt, to be undertaken as it is very necessary ; and from what the hon. the mover and the seconder of the resolution said, I am inclined to think that the Government are bound to undertake the repairs. At the same time, Sir, as the matter has come to this stage and since we are asked to send a recommendation in the name of this House to the Government to take steps, I think it is right that we should know what the matter is likely to cost and where the money is to come from. The hon. the mover and the seconder have told us that there is a large sum of money in the hands of Government, the aggregate income of the villas taken over by Government. Still, I think it would be better to have an idea of what the requisites are, whether the repairs now recommended by the mover are absolutely necessary and whether the proposals suggested by him cannot be improved upon in the light of the present information and knowledge with regard to the sanitary arrangements of the temple. Therefore, Sir, I beg leave to move this amendment for the acceptance of this House. There are in the committee, I propose, both the mover and the seconder of this resolution, and I am sure the committee will be in a position to go into the matter thoroughly and ensure the repairs being undertaken at an early date. With these few words, I beg to move my amendment."

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Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I second the amendment, Sir."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I am not now so much concerned with the historical, archaeological or religious aspect of the question under consideration as I am merely to consider the demand which this resolution implies that the provincial revenues should shoulder the responsibility of the renovation, embellishment and repair of the Srirangam temple. To borrow a legal phraseology, I might more properly ask the House, Sir, to consider whether the Devasthanam authorities can very well urge that they have a 'cause of action' in this case ; and if they have a cause of action, against whom ? My hon. friend, Mr. Tangavelu Pillai, has taken us back to the very ancient history of this institution dating back, I suppose, to the period when the institution was under the control of the Hindu kings. Into that sealed book I dare not penetrate ; for, I am not able to glean any information as to the circumstances or conditions under which this institution was being maintained by the Hindu kingdom.

"It is, I believe, reasonable to assume that, as devasthanams in those days formed, and even in these days do form, part of the administration by the Hindu kings, it was regarded that such charges should be met out of State funds and help was given more or less as a religious obligation. Beyond that I think I cannot draw any inference.

"A statement has been made that so many as 57 villages constituted the grant in favour of this institution during the pre-Muhammadan period and that the first Muhammadan ruler who succeeded in his conquest seized those villages from the control of the devasthanam and allowed a money grant instead. Well, Sir, from the very careful inquiries which were made some time back into matters dating back to nearly more than a hundred years ago, we have not been able to trace any justification for that statement at all. Nor is it possible now to make another inquiry and find out whether such a state of things did exist. The only matter about which we are able to get accurate information upon is the fact that the Nawab of Walajah, who first succeeded the Hindu kings, allowed a monetary grant in favour of this institution, and that that grant continued until the year 1801 when he was succeeded by the British rulers. From and after 1801, and until 1842, when the policy in regard to the administration of religious institutions was changed by the Court of Directors, this institution was under the management of the local officials on behalf of the Local Government. A fixed annual grant in the shape of what is called the Mohini allowance was made, but the money was certainly not paid into the hands of any individual from out of the treasury. Bills relating to this institution were presented to the district officers and they were honoured from out of the allowance, a separate account of course being maintained in the treasury as regards the disbursements from out of the annual grant. In the year 1842 the institution changed hands. It passed from official control into the control of the members of the devasthanam committee. This was no doubt done under an executive order, but the House is well aware of the fact that this executive order was subsequently ratified by an enactment called the Religious Endowments Act XX of 1863. During the period that this institution remained under the control of the Government officers we have accounts which have been traced out now from very old records maintained in the Central Records Office,

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Madras, showing that this institution was repaired off and on from out of the funds belonging to the temple. Probably, I ought to have mentioned at once that when the institution was under the control of the Muhammadan ruler the annual allowance was made upon the condition that all the offerings made to the temple should be credited to the Government treasury. But when the British took over the administration, they roughly prepared an estimate—a budget rather—of the expenses that might be necessary, and they very magnanimously allowed the offerings made to the temple to form part of the temple funds. So that we find in the accounts not merely the annual grant that used to be made out of the public revenues, but also the collections made in the temple constituting the offerings from the devotees, and the two amounts put together were found sufficient not merely for the transaction of the daily routine and ceremonies of the temple, but also for the purpose of repairing the temple from time to time. The accounts have been scrutinized from 1801 to 1842, and they prove this fact. When the Act of 1863 was passed it was made quite clear in its very preamble, which begins:

Whereas it is expedient to relieve the Board of Revenue and the local agents in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal and the Presidency of Fort St. George in Madras from the duties imposed on them by Regulation 19 of 1810 of the Bengal Code and Regulation 7 of 1817 of the Madras Code.

I shall not weary the House by reading the whole preamble, but will only draw attention to the following important words found therein:

The appropriation of endowments made for the maintenance of such religious establishments, the repair and preservation of buildings connected therewith, etc.

When this law was passed it made it sufficiently clear that what passed from the Government officials who were administering the institution until 1842, and who ceased to administer it under the Act of 1863, to the temple authorities, was not merely the annual Utsavam and the daily feeding of the poor, but also the repair of the temple.

“Now, this being the clear position, it is not at all easy for the Government to accept the liability proposed. And may I warn the House that if they accept it they will, I am afraid, be raking up a very old sore and thereby rendering themselves liable to obligations which, neither under the law nor under equity, it can be said they are responsible for? It may be that when my hon. colleague the Minister for Local Self-Government visited Srirangam he was waited upon by a deputation, and it may be that he has expressed his sympathy for the temple and promised to do all he could for renovating it. It may be that even if I should go and see that temple I may say that it will be desirable to get it repaired. But this does not mean that liability must be borne by the Government, especially in a matter like this in which there is no legal or moral obligation.

“So, I am afraid, Sir, I cannot accept the resolution as it was originally worded. Now, a happy *via media*, if I may say so, has been suggested by the hon. Member from my district, who, probably realizing the responsibility which this resolution would cast upon us, is content that this question may be investigated. So far as this proposition is concerned, let it not be considered by the House that I am so absolutely irreligious that I do not wish even to agree to an investigation into the question. I have myself seen Srirangam more than once, and through the kindness of the Dharmakartas I have seen the very valuable jewels which that temple is in possession of (Laughter). I have seen its opulence, wealth and all that sort of thing.

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However, I am not at all standing in the way of the temple being renovated if it possibly can be, and I have no objection to agree to the committee suggested, so that it may go into the question thoroughly and find out if there is any truth in the fact that this temple is of a very real archaeological importance and if its preservation will be something like a compliment to the community at large. I hope that during the investigation by this committee, the community at large will also show their sense of responsibility and try to help the Government as best as they can, not merely with evidence, but with funds as well” (Laughter).

Rao Sahib T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—“I accept the amendment moved by Mr. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar, Sir.”

The amendment was then put and carried.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—“Sir, I only want to ask the hon. the Revenue Member, who has certainly spoken with a great deal of sympathy for religion, whether, as a matter of fact, there are any savings accumulated in the Government treasury under these allowances. The accumulation has been affirmed more than once, and I also know that Mr. Narasimha Ayyar brought forward a number of resolutions on the matter. I have heard my hon. friend the Revenue Member talking of his interest, his sympathy, etc., but I have not heard him fully as to whether, as a matter of fact, before the temple was handed over to the committee or to the present management, there was a certain amount of fund to the credit of this temple in the accounts of the Government. That matter has not at all been answered. It is true that the committee that may be appointed may go into the question, but my friend the Revenue Member's suggestion seems to be that the committee would be appointed and the local residents would have to pay for the repairs and that the Government would take the credit of having repaired the temple (Laughter). The real object of this amendment is to commit the Government to do something in the matter; and, if my hon. friend agrees with me on that essential question, there is absolutely no objection to the matter going to the committee. But if, after the matter goes to the committee, the Government say that they are not responsible and that the local residents must repair the temple, then it seems to me that the local residents may as well do it without the intervention of my hon. friend. Therefore, I think, that my hon. friend should make it sufficiently clear that there is a certain amount of fund in the hands of the Government to the credit of the temple and that the Government realize their responsibility in the matter. It is only then that this committee will be really effective. We have been discussing the question of diversion of funds for the last fifteen days in the Select Committee on the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, and here is a case where the Government seem to have, according to some statements, money to the credit of the temple for several years, and I do not know whether it is not certainly an appropriate example of cases where the funds which are certainly due to the temple are still outstanding without being spent.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“I may at once assure the House that there is no outstanding balance in favour of this institution in the Government treasuries.”

The resolution as amended was then put and carried.

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Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB :—“ Sir, as the hon. the Minister for Education has already opened the IV form in the school at Guntur, I am not going to move the following resolution :—

That this Council recommends to the Government to raise the status of the incomplete secondary school for Muhammadan boys at Guntur to that of a high school.”

Improvement of minor irrigation works, etc.

MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, the resolution 1-15 p.m. standing in my name runs thus :—

That this Council recommends to the Government that for minor irrigation works and tank restoration schemes a sufficient sum be set apart to undertake and complete the improvement of irrigation, the repair, restoration and construction of tanks and channels in the districts and areas which are not served by major irrigation works.

“ Sir, in dry districts like Coimbatore, Salem, Ramnad, Tinnevely, in the Ceded districts and in districts like Chittoor and Nellore, there was a general cry, more than once expressed, for more and more irrigation. Even the existing minor irrigation works are not properly cared for, and it is a well-known fact that the people there suffer very much from drought and famine. No doubt, the Government has provided more than enough of facilities to investigate the possibilities of irrigation in these districts. As a matter of fact, a great deal has been done, and still continues to be done, in the preparation of reports, estimates, plans for schemes costing several crores of rupees, and these schemes, records and plans inundate the record rooms. But these proposals that may be said to have been put into execution are only a few, namely, the Periyar project and the Divi pumping station. When comparing the amount of expenditure on the numerous projects under investigation, those sanctioned, abandoned or proposed to be investigated for the past several decades, with the total amount spent on projects completed, I should venture to submit that the figures perhaps exceed in the case of the former, viz., ‘ investigation works.’ Again, when comparing the sum total of expenditure of both the projects pending sanction, investigation, etc., and those completed, taking the country as a whole, the proportion of benefit to the country may be surely said to be in an inverse ratio to the sum total spent by the Irrigation Department. So much for ‘ major irrigation head’.

“ Then, what about minor irrigation? We have tank restoration schemes and investigation of small minor works. I do not know for how long this tank restoration scheme is going on. But I think the period must be fairly long. From what I find from the allotments made in the past two years’ budgets towards expenditure on minor works, I think not much is done. Either it must be due to works not yet ripe for sanction or investigation not being finished or investigation pending; or, as I am inclined to think, it may be due more to the fact that the important nature of such works has not yet been fully realized, as the time, energy, zeal and enthusiasm of the Public Works Department are absorbed more in very big schemes and projects costing lakhs and crores. The very name ‘ tank restoration work’ implies repair only and not new undertakings. To elaborate on the usefulness of minor works in these dry districts will only be a waste of time, as hon. Members of this House from such districts are not unaware of the supreme benefits of the minor irrigation works. But I beg

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to submit to the House a few important points I have observed. The minor works, after all, are easy of execution with a minimum of cost, labour and time; and result in immediate and everlasting benefit to the country. The cost of investigation is nothing, since we have a machinery many times stronger than is necessary. Besides, it has innumerable advantages in several ways, direct and indirect. By a regular and systematic investigation of these works, the needs of the district become more self-contained by increase of wet crops and garden crops under wells which get good underground water-supply by the existence of small storage tanks. There will be a general rise in the level of sub-soil water, which, besides improving supplies to the existing wells, will give inducements for sinking more wells in those areas, and further there will be a general improvement in the condition of cattle also on account of more fodder and more water. There will be an increase in the perennial flow in all streams which irrigate existing wet lands. Further, all these will ultimately benefit the major irrigation sources lower down. A reference to the answer given recently to question No. 529 put by my hon. friend, Mr. Devarajulu Nayudu, will convince the House of the huge waste that has occurred in the irrigation schemes under major heads. The answer given by Government to question No. 619 put by my friend, Mr. Sarabha Reddi, regarding holding of conferences of ryots by the Executive Engineers, shows what importance is attached to this matter by Government also. But so far I know, the holding of such conferences may be said to be a theory but not a practical thing.

“ Speaking of my own district, numerous investigations were made under major heads, as for instance the projects of Amaravathi, Siruvani, Bhavani (upper and lower), and finally Cauvery, all of which on account of one reason or other have not taken any shape whatever. Under minor heads, even the existing tanks have not been improved well enough and some may be said to be in disrepair or about to be given up as abandoned. Portions of them have been given away as rewards for services or auctioned in many parts of the Salem district. From the questions put by my hon. friends, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar and Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiar, it may be found that even in places like Kollegal where there are more favourable natural facilities for improving minor sources of irrigation, proper attention has not yet been paid to them in spite of mahazars from the ryots. Here, the advantages are greater since the ryots are willing to contribute substantial portions of the cost of such works. It is a paramount duty of the Government to encourage such interests and opportunities. I may submit here that encouragement should also be given to private construction of irrigation works where such works do not clash with the interest of Government or other irrigation sources.

“ I was glad to hear from the hon. the Law Member replying on a resolution moved by my friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, that in regard to the Ceded districts a special division was created also for the investigation of productive works. But, unfortunately, it has been abandoned on account of the retrenchment scheme. With regard to the same question, the hon. the Revenue Member made a reference to the acceptance of reasonable help from ryots in parts of Bellary, etc., and he promised to do what he could in the matter of repairing tanks and other minor sources. Is this not an instance, Sir, how even in such famine zone areas such works have been neglected for the past several decades in spite of a great number of investigations, special division parties and tank restoration schemes? This minor

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undertaking may well be said to be one that should come under, and engage the immediate attention of the Public Works Department, as these works, if taken up at once, will develop themselves easily and rapidly and will confer a lasting benefit on the development of agriculture which is the mainstay of our country. Also, it will be a great credit to the Department of Agriculture, more than any amount of advertisements, advice and demonstrations in the areas concerned. Our country is purely agricultural. Have we progressed enough in utilizing all the natural possibilities that exist and all other facilities the State is bound to give? Development work should be begun according to the natural facilities and conditions that exist. To speak generally, Government is said to have the welfare of the country at heart; but what they do to achieve that object is a matter of satisfaction to themselves alone and not to the people at large. Development of natural resources should first mean the investigation and the utilization of all possibilities in this line of minor and major irrigation works which alone will lead to practical progress and permanent prosperity, so that a sure foundation may be laid for the construction of other innumerable forms of activities and development works which modern thought and civilization compel us to do.

"I therefore commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House, and request the Government to give effect to it. I specially request the hon. the Minister for Development to give his weighty support to this resolution."

Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar seconded the resolution

At this stage, the Council adjourned for lunch.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m., the hon. the Deputy President, presiding.

The following new Member was sworn in:—

M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR AVARGAL.

Amendments to the Standing Order No. 79 of the Council proposed by the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—With reference to Standing Order No. 77 the following members have been nominated for election by the Council:—

- (1) The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I.
- (2) The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
- (3) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu.
- (4) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
- (5) M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
- (6) M.R.Ry. C. Ramalinga Reddi.

"As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, 6, I hereby declare all the above-mentioned candidates to be duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of a single transferable vote."

Under Standing Order No. 77 the hon. the President has nominated a Chairman of the Council, viz., the Rev. W. Meston as a member of the Committee.

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Amendments to the Standing Order proposed by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"With reference to Standing Order No. 77 the following members have been nominated for election by the Council:—

- (1) The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I.
- (2) The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, C.I.E.
- (3) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu.
- (4) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
- (5) M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
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"As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, 6, I hereby declare all the above-mentioned candidates to be duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of a single transferable vote."

Under Standing Order No. 77 the hon. the President has nominated a chairman of the Council, viz., the Rev. W. Meston as a member of the Committee.

Amendments to the Standing Order No. 5 (2) and the insertion of a new Standing Order after Standing Order No. 65.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"With reference to Standing Order No. 77 the following members have been nominated for election by the Council:—

- (1) The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I.
- (2) The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, C.I.E.
- (3) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu.
- (4) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Bahadur.
- (5) M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
- (6) M.R.Ry. C. Ramalinga Reddi.

"As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, 6, I hereby declare that all the above-mentioned candidates are duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of a single transferable vote."

Under Standing Order No. 77 the hon. the President has nominated a chairman of the Council, viz., the Rev. W. Meston as a member of the Committee.

The discussion on resolution No. 67 was then resumed.

Improvement of minor irrigation works, etc.—cont.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I had expected that a motion would be brought forward similar in substance to the one which was carried in relation to the motion brought forward by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. But inasmuch as no such motion is before the House, let me here narrate certain facts demonstrating, according to my showing, that the Government have not been unalive to the paramount necessity of looking into this matter and taking all the steps that could be

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devised for the purpose of serving the object which the hon. Member had in view when he proposed this motion. Here, as on the previous resolution, the main difficulty is the universal difficulty, viz., that of finance. It may be within the recollection of some of the Members of the House that as early as 1917 a resolution was moved in this Council more or less on the same terms as the present. Then, the hon. Member, Mr. Gillman, assured the House that so far as the financial circumstances allowed the Government would increase and keep on increasing the budget allotment for minor irrigation works. The budget estimate for the current year was 6.28 lakhs of which the allotment for Tank Restoration Schemes was 2.98 lakhs. The budget as prepared was for 6.30 lakhs for this purpose. Increased allotment was being made in pursuance of the resolution of 1917 for a couple of years and higher figures were kept up, but in 1921-22 owing to the financial stringency, out of the allotment of 21.93 lakhs, a sum of 0.23 lakh was surrendered as a result of retrenchment placing some of the items under non-urgent works. In the current year the allotment comes up to 28.13 lakhs. It seems to me that the Government have been keeping in mind the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission which will be within the recollection of hon. Members. I take the liberty of summarizing the resolutions of the Irrigation Commission's report. They say that the cost of completing tank restoration schemes would be about 195 lakhs, and they recommend that the work of tank restoration should be prosecuted vigorously and the grant for the same increased until the work is completed. To that policy the Government decided to adhere. With this object an informal conference was held; but, owing to the financial stress caused by the war, two of the tank restoration schemes were abolished. This subject was reopened in 1918 and an investigation is now being carried on by a special officer. Estimates on new works are now being sanctioned irrespective of the rate of return. The Government are fully alive to the importance of minor irrigation works, and the state of finance is the chief obstacle to things being given effect to. Under these circumstances I would suggest for the consideration of the House whether the same procedure that was followed in the case of the previous resolution would not also be adhered to in the present case."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"There is an amendment in my name, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"If you will give me leave, Sir, and the House also will give me leave, I intend moving adjournment of this resolution."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member Mr. Biswanath Das is on his legs. Let us finish his amendment first; then the hon. Member can bring his motion for adjournment."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I thank the hon. Member for Irrigation for the kind information he has given. It seems that retrenchment has very seriously affected this item. However, since we are adjourning this resolution till after the budget discussion, I shall just move my amendment formally. The amendment that stands in my name runs thus:—

After the words 'tank restoration schemes' in the second line, insert the words 'an advisory committee in each district and that.'

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"So, the resolution as proposed to be amended by me would read thus:—

That this Council recommends to the Government that for minor irrigation works and tank restoration schemes an advisory committee be constituted in each district and that a sufficient sum be set apart to undertake and complete the improvement of irrigation, the repair, restoration and construction of tanks and channels in the districts and areas which are not served by major irrigation works."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"I second it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I am afraid I cannot accept the amendment. Let us for a moment consider what the amendment means. The amendment suggests that 24 advisory committees ought to be elected in the Presidency for the purpose of considering this matter. If the object of the hon. mover of the amendment is to have non-official opinion properly adverted to and due weight given to it, there is absolutely no objection to such non-official opinion making itself felt. In fact, every suggestion that emanates from the hon. Members of this House will be paid due attention to by the officers concerned. Moreover, it seems to me that no useful purpose will be served by having 24 committees to consider this matter. Most of the materials have been gathered and the only thing remaining to be done seems to be the putting into execution of the plans already devised. That is the only question remaining to be solved. It is not advice that is wanted; but it is finance. Not that the Government disdain advice; they are willing to take it from whatever quarter it comes; but in the present circumstances, when all the materials are already there, what is wanted is money and not this system of 24 advisory committees."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I am in favour of the motion made by my hon. friend, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar. I think that no useful purpose will be served by having committees for each district and I therefore request my hon. friend, Mr. Biswanath Das, to withdraw his amendment. We have already a list of several minor irrigation works for each district and reports are continuously received by the authorities as to which of the irrigation works are in need of repair and which are not. Occasionally, proposals are also received for new works that may be advantageously started. When we have all these data readily available, I venture to submit that there is no particular reason for the appointment of separate committees for each district as suggested by my hon. friend, Mr. Biswanath Das. But I do say, that the Government must increase the allotment they have been hitherto giving for minor irrigation works. I know that the Collector of Bellary has been bitterly complaining that the Government have been mercilessly reducing the amount under minor irrigation works. I think it is a very bad policy to limit the amount that is absolutely necessary to keep these irrigation works in good repair. If such a policy is continued, we shall live to regret it. A time will come when all these minor works will fall into utter ruin and they will be rendered completely unfit for use. I am therefore very strongly in favour of the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, namely, that the Government should provide a sufficient sum for minor irrigation works and tank restoration schemes and undertake the repair, restoration and construction of tanks and channels in areas which are not served by major irrigation works."

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Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Sir, there is no more useful object of expenditure than irrigation works, and I myself have on many occasions brought this matter to the notice of the Government and the Council. There are more than 40,000 irrigation sources in charge of civil officers. The Irrigation Commission clearly stated that not less than 20 lakhs should be spent every year on the repair and maintenance of irrigation works. One of the officers connected with the Irrigation Commission says that if irrigation fails, everything will come to a dead loss. These are the very words of that officer. No doubt the Government feel the necessity for providing adequate sums for irrigation works. But I would request the hon. the Law Member not to plead want of funds. Where there is a will, there is a way. I would only say that if only one-fourth or one-third of the amount that is spent annually on civil buildings is spared—I do not in the least suggest that the money is not well spent—many of the irrigation works can be kept in proper repair year after year. I should consider the money spent on civil buildings to be a luxury and that spent on irrigation works an absolute necessity.

"If we want that the land revenue should be realized without any difficulty, we must make adequate provision for improving the irrigation facilities. There are several tanks in Tinnevely and other districts which are in an awful state of disrepair. The *kalingulas* are all shattered, the bunds are breached and year after year the revenue officers are obliged to give remission of assessment on this account. The Irrigation Commission has pointed out that the neglect of the minor irrigation works chiefly accounts for the poverty of the ryots. In these state of things, the usual cry of want of funds cannot be raised. I think a large portion of expenditure under certain other heads should be retrenched and the requirements of the irrigation works should be immediately attended to. I am sure that if the hon. the Law Member assures us that as much money as possible will be spared for this purpose, the hon. mover will withdraw his resolution. Formerly, a separate department was created for this purpose, called the Tank Restoration Department, and they were carrying on this work. They also submitted hundreds of reports for the improvement of minor irrigation works, and I think all those reports are lying idle. No steps at all were taken for carrying out the recommendations made in them. Some time afterwards, there was a scheme dividing the whole presidency into six divisions and each division was proposed to be placed in charge of an Engineer under the Tank Restoration Department. That proposal too did not come into fruition. The people everywhere are impoverished owing to the neglect of the irrigation sources. I therefore request the hon. the Law Member to give us an assurance that the matter will be expedited and that a sufficient sum will be spared for the improvement of these irrigation sources. If such an assurance is given, I am sure the hon. mover will gladly withdraw his motion."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member, Mr. Biswanath Das, withdraw his amendment?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, the reason why I want the advisory committees is this. I know there is a tendency among certain officers to give old tanks on pattas in spite of vehement protests from the villagers. It is only to put an end to such tendencies that I want this advisory committee for each district.

"The Public Works Department officers are holding meetings of ryots once in a year in each district. I myself with my hon. friend, Mr. Rath

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attended one of such meetings and we saw several villagers flocking to such meetings from several parts of the district."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I simply wanted to know whether the hon. Member was withdrawing his amendment or not. He has no right to begin a second speech."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"It is only to avoid these things that I suggested the appointment of a committee. As I find that the sense of the House is not in favour of a committee, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The original motion of the hon. Member, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, is now before the House for discussion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move that the consideration of this motion be adjourned to a date immediately after the disposal of the budget for consideration along with motion No. 53 of my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar."

Mr. W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The resolution of the hon. Member, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, was accordingly adjourned for consideration immediately after the budget.

Addition of details to Chapter IX of the annual administration report.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA:—"Sir, I beg to move:—

That this Council recommends to the Government that in Chapter IX of the Report of Administration of the Madras Presidency published every year by the Government, a section be devoted to the number of persons belonging to the depressed classes who are in the service of the Government, as is done in the case of Muhammadans.

"Sir I do not think that many words are necessary for commending this resolution for the acceptance of this House. My request is a modest one and I hope the Council will accept it."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB seconded the motion.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:

Insert the words 'and other backward castes numbering four lakhs or more according to the latest census of the Presidency' between the words 'classes' and 'who'.

"Sir, I do not think many words are necessary to commend this amendment for the acceptance of the House. We are all very anxious to uplift the backward communities, whoever they may be and to whatever class they may belong. It seems to be the fashion nowadays to confine our attention to one or two communities neglecting the interests of the less fortunate communities who are not perhaps able to make their influence felt as much as the other communities are able to do at present. I think, Sir, there are many communities which are perhaps more backward than the Muhammadans and the members of the depressed classes. Here I want to make it very clear that I do not for a moment suggest that the attention that we are now

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bestowing on the uplift of the depressed classes and our Muhammadan brethren ought in any way to be slackened. But I do contend that other communities, who for some reason or other are not able to make their influence felt should not be ignored. Take, for instance, the Yenadis, the Koravars; they are as backward as, and perhaps more backward than, the members of the depressed classes or our Muhammadan brethren. I do not think that any the least attention is being paid to their betterment. Take the case of the Boyas who are numerically very strong. Nothing has been done for the advancement of their education. There are also several other communities which need as much attention as the members of the depressed classes or the Muhammadans. It is for this reason that I have made bold to give notice of this amendment to include every backward community numbering four lakhs or more. It cannot be said that a community numbering four lakhs and more deserve no special consideration at the hands of the Government."

Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" I beg to second the amendment."

3 p.m. The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Mr. President, I must point out to the House that I approach this resolution with a good deal of want of preparation. There was some misunderstanding as to who was the Member in charge who would be responsible for the matter involved. I mention that it may be the Leader of the House who is not here. I am afraid I must ask both the proposer of the resolution and the proposer of the amendment to accept my assurance that the possibility of inserting these statistics in the Administration Report will receive very careful consideration. At the present moment I can see no objection to the addition of these statistics; but there may be practical difficulties in complying strictly with the terms of the amendment. I therefore hope that the mover will withdraw his resolution."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" I am extremely thankful to the hon. the Home Member for giving me such an assurance, and I beg to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, may I request you to let me know what becomes of my amendment."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" As the original motion is withdrawn, the amendment falls through."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think the amendment drops because the original motion has been withdrawn."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I think, Sir, that my amendment should have been put to the House before the sense of the House was taken on the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Raja, to withdraw his resolution."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think there is no use pursuing the matter. The original motion is withdrawn and there ends the matter."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I want your ruling, Sir, whether the amendment should not have been put to vote first and whether a resolution could be allowed to be withdrawn before the amendment was disposed of."

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The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" In the circumstances of the present case, I think the House was not in favour of the amendment of the hon. Member Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. I think the matter had better end there."

Agricultural Demonstrators to do propaganda work.

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That this Council recommends to the Government that agricultural demonstrators be required to visit every village in their jurisdiction and do propaganda work instead of restricting their activities to a few chosen centres.

" Sir, I believe I am voicing the feelings of the House when I say that on the successful agricultural operations of the people depends their economic prosperity. The old traditional methods of tilling, sowing, manuring, etc., must give way before the scientific methods of agriculture propounded by the Development Department. My colleagues in this Council need not wonder when I say that, in spite of the creation of a separate department and the varied activities in which it has been interesting itself to develop and divert into fruitful channels the natural resources of the country, our people in the Kurnool district, save a few that live in important places, are not aware, even to this day, of the existence of an Agricultural Department. Much less therefore can these illiterate people be expected to know the *raison d'être* of this department. As a great man once said, 'the nation is in the cottage'. It is reasonable therefore that if the department should justify its existence its work should be seen advertised even in the smallest hamlet that lies cut off far from the maddening crowd. But the picture presents a different phase. Is it not therefore our first concern to place the *modus operandi* on a sounder basis? A good lot of spade work by way of preaching and convincing the uncompromising ryots is therefore necessary. The general practice of handing a few specimens of improved stuff to the agricultural maistri—about whose credentials the less said the better—and ordering him to go round to popularise the introduction of these stuffs is, to speak the least, reactionary. I have heard many people telling me that they have been swindled by these maistris and the use of the specimens involved great expenditure of money and unfruitful labour. The opinion of one man in the village is the opinion of all. The activities of the maistri are therefore arrested and the benefit expected of him is considerably poor.

" No man, who has his head about him, can for a moment lift his little finger against the useful work proposed to be done by the Agricultural Department. It is therefore clear that propaganda work of a superior order is highly necessary to break through the impervious ignorance of the masses and their instinctive tendency to cling to everything that is old and hereditary. The agricultural demonstrators are the only fit persons to take on hand this propaganda work and to make sufficient headway in popularising the improved methods of agriculture. The present practice of getting this work done by maistris should be put a stop to, and the whole work should solely devolve on the demonstrators. It has been my experience that these demonstrators move about only a few important villages in their jurisdiction and never for a moment think of touring about the interior villages which are as good, if not better, for agricultural operations. It is only when they are compelled to visit every village in their limits periodically and do propaganda

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work they can come into actual contact with the ryots at large. Above all, the success of the department particularly depends on the opinion of the people, and the best way of educating the people is by getting effective propaganda work done by demonstrators. With these words I beg to commend the resolution to your kind acceptance."

MR. M. NARAYANASWAMI REDDI :—" I beg to second the motion before the House. The acceptance of this motion would mean the enlargement of the staff of demonstrators to enable them to visit the villages for the purpose of helping the ryots by demonstrating to them the improved methods of agriculture. But the hon. Minister for Development may say that everything depends on financial facilities, and that he will be the first man to help the ryots if financial circumstances permit him. I beg to point out that every opportunity should be utilized for benefiting the agricultural population, and the only way of doing it is by giving effect to this resolution. I trust the hon. the Minister will see his way to accept this resolution."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, the Government realize the object with which this resolution has been moved. Speaking for myself I am entirely in sympathy with the motive underlying this resolution. As the hon. Member, the mover of this resolution, said the ryot is an uncompromising being. He is also, if I may put it so, conservative; and when propaganda work of this kind is carried to him the first impression that is perhaps formed in his mind is that the suggestions of the demonstrators are innovations intruding upon the practice to which he and his ancestors are long bound by custom. The demonstrator finds it somewhat difficult to influence the ryots to take to new methods which he is prepared to explain to them how to introduce; and if the ryots are not taken farther than what they are doing at present it is not because, as has been pointed out by the seconder of the resolution, of the fewness of the demonstrators.

"The resolution asks that these demonstrators should visit every village in their jurisdiction. I wonder whether the hon. the mover of the resolution realized what it would mean. I would at once point out to him how many taluks there are within the jurisdiction of the fourth circle near Madras, and how many demonstrators are in charge of these taluks. In the North Arcot district, we find that there are two demonstrators and one assistant demonstrator. The demonstrators have 332 villages in one division and 361 in another; 713 in the third and 529 in the fourth, making up a total of 1,935 villages. Taking again the South Arcot district, there is one demonstrator and one assistant demonstrator. We have got two taluks and there are 524 villages in one taluk and 724 in the other. In other words these two demonstrators—a chief and an assistant—have to look to 1,248 villages. In Chingleput district, we have similarly one demonstrator and one assistant demonstrator. There are 627 and 687 villages respectively in their jurisdiction, making a total of 1,314 villages. In Chittoor we have got one demonstrator and one assistant demonstrator and there are 474 and 511 villages in their jurisdiction, making up a total of 985 villages.

"Well, if these figures are taken into account the hon. Members of this House will notice that even in the limited circumstances I have mentioned, the number of villages in the jurisdiction of each of these demonstrators—I have not mentioned the total number of villages in each district—is something like 400 to 500. My submission is that if an officer is asked to visit every

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one of these villages, it would mean that he would not have a single day for a single village. In other words the energy and attention of these officers would be dissipated over a large area. Practically absolutely very little can be done. If on the other hand their energy is concentrated on a particular area or a group of villages, the result will be that he can devote his attention to a particular place more often than once. It is not enough if the demonstrator visits a village once, but it is necessary that he should not merely visit on occasions of distributing manure, at the time of sowing seeds, and so on, but on different occasions and point out to the villagers the advantages that will be derived by the introduction of the improved methods of agriculture. The only way to meet the difficulty is that we should have a large number of demonstrators and as the hon. the seconder has pointed out it would mean again finance. As for that question if the House is ready to give its support to a large amount of expenditure in this direction, I think something can be done and I assure my friends that I shall do everything in my power to give effect to their wishes, but everything depends upon the funds and the support which the House is prepared to give."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

Itinerary lady-instructor for the Northern Circars.

3-15 p.m. Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR-RAHMAN SAHIB :—" President Sir, I rise to move—

That this Council recommends to the Government the appointment on a monthly salary of Rs. 60 plus Rs. 40, travelling allowance, of an itinerary or travelling lady-instructor for the Northern Circars with a view to instruct girls in technical and industrial arts and to teach weaving, sewing, drawing, embroidery, knitting, lace-making, etc., to the women in general, and to the helpless widows in particular, so as to enable them to eke out their livelihood as instructors in girls' schools.

"Sir, in these days of costly living, the desirability of women belonging to other than rich families seeking for themselves some means by which they can do some work and supplement the income of male members is being increasingly felt; and in the case of a large majority of widows and helpless women, such a course has been found to be absolutely necessary. The days are long past when a rich member of a family felt it his bounden duty to support his relations far and near. Some years ago, in a conference of female inspecting officers of this Presidency, it was resolved that immediate steps should be taken for the improvement of home industries such as (1) rug weaving, (2) embroidery, (3) lace-making, (4) knitting, (5) sewing; but no practical steps were taken. On the representation of Mr. R. Ganesh Sastri of Berhampur, industrial classes were attached to the training schools for mistresses. These classes are not popular as no facilities such as separate scholarships, etc., are given. In March 1920, Mr. K. Venkatappiah moved a resolution for opening industrial and technical classes in all secondary schools for girls, etc. The hon. Mr. Littlehales was then pleased to say that there were such classes in the secondary schools for girls; but I am informed that there are no such classes and no girl-student went up for any technical or industrial examinations. He also admitted that drawing and sewing were already compulsory subjects. When Mr. K. Venkatappiah asked a question why technically qualified drawing and sewing mistresses were not

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appointed in certain girls' schools of the Telugu districts, the Director of Public Instruction was pleased to say that qualified instructors were not available. He also said that widows were not generally willing to attend the industrial classes. I do not know how he came to this conclusion. Among Hindus and Muhammadans, helpless widows always try to live by means of some industrial work. As there are no female instructors and as there are no proper facilities, many helpless women cannot learn any industrial or technical art. Thousands of girls' schools are established. In these schools drawing and sewing are compulsorily taught. But these two compulsory arts are not properly taught as the heads of these institutions discourage these arts for some unknown reasons. If these arts were carefully taught, people would have been benefited and thousands of helpless women would have been qualified. It is easy for women to pass in technical and industrial examinations as they need not possess very high general education. Moreover, many helpless women can be easily induced to appear for them as decent salaries are given to industrial and technical instructors. Many gosha women can live happily by home industries, as there is no necessity to go beyond the four walls of their houses. If we want to encourage home industries and technical arts, we must have a school for training some women who can work as instructors. For want of funds no training school can be started in the near future, nor a number of decent scholarships be provided.

"Under these circumstances, if a travelling Indian female instructor for all Telugu districts on a monthly expenditure of Rs. 100 is sanctioned, I am confident that several helpless women can be induced to qualify in industrial and technical arts of at least drawing, sewing, embroidery, knitting and lace-making. As the Christian Missionaries started several industrial and technical schools in southern districts, almost all Christian helpless women are living by home industries. In these days of non-co-operation, if we appoint an Indian female as travelling instructor for all the Telugu districts, we can ask her to advise the Indian women not to withdraw their children from schools and engage them in spinning as the Government are trying to provide all facilities for the improvement of industrial and technical arts. By the acceptance of my resolution, there will be an expenditure of Rs. 1,200 a year. The various advantages that can be gained by the immediate appointment of a travelling instructor like the lecturers of music and kindergarten, who are appointed for European schools on high salaries, are apparent. Almost all the industrial and technical arts require instruction for some days only and students can afterwards practise at home without the aid of an instructor and can pass the examinations by constant practice. If the travelling instructor stops at least a month or two in any municipal town, he will be able to secure many helpless women to take up the above-named home industries. This will benefit many gosha non-Brahman and Muhammadan women in the Telugu districts. My resolution being simple as it is bringing good to the helpless women and not having any bearing on the party question, I hope all the members of this House will gladly extend their hearty support to it. With these few words, I commend the resolution to the members of the House.

"Just a word, Sir, and I have done. The Government are spending more than Rs. 8,000 for scholarships in industrial schools. Almost all the schools are located in Tamil districts which are started by Christian Missionaries. Further, itinerary female instructors are appointed to give instruction in

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music in European schools, whereas, no provision is made in the Telugu districts. The Government say that for want of qualified hands no instructor can be appointed for sewing and drawing which are compulsory arts in girls' schools. Most of the Hindu and Muhammadan widows are starving for want of work, particularly home industries. No country can prosper unless women are made to work. In Bengal an association is started for the improvement of home industries which is patronized and helped by the Bengal Government, whereas in this Presidency no attempt is made by the Government in this respect. Hence, it is desirable that the Government should accept my resolution."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—"Sir, I beg to extend my whole-hearted support to the resolution moved by my friend, Mr. Munshi Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Sahib, which is intended to enable the helpless women to earn their livelihood, and I think this is a resolution fit to be accepted by the House."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—"Mr. President, the only complaint that I have heard raised by the mover of this resolution is perhaps an unusual one to hear from these benches. The question of helping the industries which my hon. friend has referred to is one which has been engaging the attention of the Government in my department for some considerable time. In particular, the question of lace-making and kindergarten work have occupied the attention of my department. We know that there are a good deal of comparatively unorganized industries on these lines throughout the whole of the Presidency. In some districts in the south, they have taken the form of work organized by missions, like the Salvation Army; and they are also regulated by private individuals to a considerable extent. In the Kistna district, I am informed that lace-making has made very great progress in the past. Last year, however, owing to the general depression in trade in America, very great difficulty was experienced in finding market for the Indian products. The Victoria Technical Institute, I believe, found it very difficult last year to sell a very considerable quantity of lace made by them. Now, Sir, this condition is a very serious one for these industries and the Government are devoting a good deal of attention to the matter with a view to find out a remedy.

"My hon. friend recommends to the Government that a lady-instructor should be appointed on a monthly salary of Rs. 60 with a fixed travelling allowance to tour in the Northern Circars and instruct girls in technical and industrial arts and in cottage industries generally. I have been asked by the Government to examine a much wider proposal, viz., that a lady should be appointed with somewhat a larger salary to organize not merely instruction in lace-making, knitting, embroidery and so forth in the Northern Circars, but to organize these industries throughout the Presidency, and also, not merely to organize the manufacture of these articles, but try to arrange for the supply on a wholesale scale of the materials required in the industry and find markets. It must be obvious to the House that it is little use organizing manufacture if markets are not available to the extent to which the article is manufactured. It is, therefore, obviously of equal importance, Sir, that markets should be found and developed, when found, to keep pace with the progress of the industry in which money is invested. So, these are proposals which my department is at present examining. I am sorry I cannot give the House any further details regarding these proposals,

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because, at the present time, the examination of what to me, Sir, is a most complicated question has not proceeded far enough for me to be able to dogmatize to even the smallest extent on this subject. But I would like to assure the House that we have the object with which this resolution was framed very much at heart, and I think that, in course of time, the proposals I shall be able to make to the Government will be on a wider scale than the proposals contained in the resolution as now framed and will aim at developing the industries which have been particularized in this resolution not merely in the Northern Circars, but throughout the Presidency. I hope that the House will accept the assurance that I am now giving them and that my hon. friend will be content to withdraw his resolution on the assurance that I have been able to give this day and not press his resolution."

Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB:—"Sir, after hearing the Director of Industries and the assurance he has given, I do not want to press my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

Committee on retrenchments.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Sir, I beg to move—

That this Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of officials and non-officials with a majority of the latter be appointed to investigate and report as to what economies and retrenchments can be effected in the administration of the Government of Madras in all its departments without impairing their efficiency.

"I would not have liked to move this resolution, Sir, in view of the fact that a Retrenchment Committee is already sitting in Madras. I want some information, Sir, as to what that Retrenchment Committee is doing, and unless we have some information about that Committee, I would like this resolution to be discussed by this House. I want to know how much money has been spent on the Committee, or what work that Committee has been doing. That Committee, as I understand it, is differently constituted from the Committees that were appointed either in Bengal or in any other province. The Standing Finance Committee has been our Retrenchment Committee with some new Secretary. The House would like to know what work this Committee has so far done. It is therefore with the idea to obtain information with regard to the Committee that is now sitting that I move this resolution formally."

Mr. M. SORYANARAYANA seconded the resolution.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I fear that a resolution similar to this has already been disposed of by this House
8-30 p.m. recently, and hence this cannot be moved now."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Will the hon. Member please say when it was disposed of? On what date?"

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I don't remember the exact date; but I think that a similar resolution was moved by Mr. Ramalinga Reddi and was carried as amended by Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I cannot take note of a point of order like that. A point of order should be specific."

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The resolution of Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo was put and declared lost. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo demanded a poll and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 8. Rao Bahadur C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 2. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 9. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 3. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. | 10. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 4. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 11. Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 12. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib. |
| 6. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. | 13. Khan Sahib Muhammad Atdur-Rahim Sahib. |
| 7. " S. Muttumanikkachari. | |

Noes.

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|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Tothunter. | 14. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ullah Sahib Bahadur. | 15. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 3. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 16. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 17. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 18. Khan Sahib A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar. |
| 6. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 19. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib Bahadur. |
| 7. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 20. Khan Sahib Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib. |
| 8. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 21. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 9. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar. | 22. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | |
| 11. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. | |
| 12. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | |
| 13. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | |

Thirteen having voted for and 22 against, the resolution was declared lost.

Increase of scholarships to the Adi-Dravidas.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA:—"Sir, I beg to move—

That in view of the poverty of the Adi-Dravida and other depressed classes aggravated by the increase of prices and the increased cost of living, this Council recommends to the Government that the value of the scholarships given by them at present to pupils in primary and secondary schools and students in colleges belonging to the above classes be doubled.

"Sir, it is not necessary for me to make a long speech in commending my resolution for the acceptance of this House. It is a well-known fact that members belonging to the depressed classes are backward not only in education but also in wealth. I am only asking that the value of these scholarships may be doubled so as to enable the students belonging to the depressed classes to continue their education without any difficulty whatsoever. At present it is very difficult for them to purchase the necessary things, like books, etc. The cost of living also has increased. By doubling their scholarships we shall be enabling them to undergo their school and college courses successfully. With these few remarks, I commend this resolution to the House."

Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI:—"Sir, the depressed classes are generally very poor. One of the reasons why education does not make a great way among them is their poverty. It seems to me that education alone will raise them from their low condition. Of all the facilities and benefits which the Government confer on the depressed classes, nothing is so important and essential as education. I would go so far as to ask the Government to give

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all possible help to the pupils of the depressed classes, even at the risk of cutting short the expenditure incurred in other directions. One of the ways of giving better facilities to the education of the depressed classes is giving increased scholarships so as to enable them to prosecute their studies. I therefore request the hon. Members to extend their sympathy and support to the resolution. With these words, I second the resolution."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, the only reasons which the hon. mover has adduced for the acceptance of this resolution are that the depressed classes, including the Adi-Dravidas, are poor, that the prices have risen, and that the cost of living has increased. He wants that the value of the scholarships given to them should be doubled. Poverty, I venture to submit to this House, is not the particular monopoly of the Adi-Dravidas or other depressed classes. In my own district, there are various agricultural and other labouring classes, the mere sight of whom draws sympathy from every one. The labouring classes are working hard and the students belonging to those classes also have very many difficulties. Similarly, in my district, I know the Oriyas are in a backward state. Even free scholarships in the case of Oriyas is an urgent necessity. Taking the Ceded districts or any other district for the matter of that, we find that the difficulty is not particularly of one class or one community but that it is a difficulty common to all.

"Again, the object of the grant of scholarships is not to maintain the pupils, i.e., feed them, clothe them, provide them with luxuries or maintain the families of the pupils. The object of giving a scholarship is to give help to such pupils as are not able to pay their school fees proper, that is, to assist them to a certain extent. It is on this basis that scholarships are awarded. The depressed classes come under what we call 'backward classes' in the Educational rules. The 'backward classes', including the depressed classes, have been provided with certain kinds of scholarships. If I present the House with the figures giving the value of scholarships to the depressed classes, it will at once realize that the amount that is now given is more than the fees that are to be paid by these pupils in the schools or colleges in which they study.

"In secondary schools, the fee payable annually by a pupil belonging to the depressed classes is Rs. 11 from I Form to III Form and Rs. 21 from IV Form to VI Form, these being half the standard fees. Against these the annual value of scholarship payable by the Government is Rs. 36 in the middle school and Rs. 72 in the high school. Government have also instituted 15 free remissions in secondary schools for the depressed classes and these may be held in conjunction with scholarships. Where both the scholarship and free remission are granted jointly to a pupil, the whole of the scholarship will be available for buying books and other necessary things. As regards colleges, the fee payable annually by a pupil of the depressed classes amounts to Rs. 41½ for the Intermediate classes and Rs. 53 for the B.A. classes. The annual value of the Government scholarship available for these pupils is Rs. 109 and Rs. 168 respectively. Thus, though the fee payable in the B.A. class is Rs. 53, the value of the scholarship is Rs. 168. It will, therefore, be seen that the scholarships already awarded by the Government can be utilized by the recipients in meeting a portion of their cost of living. It will not be possible for the Government to meet the entire cost of living, and sometimes the cost of living, not only of the pupil but also of his whole family. The

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question was discussed, I think, in 1919 when my friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, moved a resolution recommending the award of stipends to pupils of the depressed classes undergoing elementary education.

"The question of giving aid to all the deserving poor pupils of the backward classes, not only of the Adi-Dravidas and depressed classes but of all poorer classes including the Muhammadans, was considered by the Government in another form and proposals were placed before the Finance Committee. But the Committee was not able to support the proposals because the cost involved was found to be very great. So, we are not unmindful of the state of the backward classes. To ask that the scholarships now given should be doubled is not at all a reasonable request to make. Secondly, the Director of Public Instruction has told us that there are many poorer boys in the Brahman community, and the scholarships, which, some of them are getting are not adequate, and that only a very small sum is left for their expenses after paying the school fees. The State cannot be expected to undertake all the expenses of the poorer pupils including boarding, lodging and clothing. Private philanthropy must come to the relief of the backward community and help to improve their lot. So, to demand that the scholarships now given should be doubled in their value on account of the increased cost of living is not at all a reasonable proposition. I regret, therefore, I am not able to accept this resolution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing against my name, viz.—

For the word 'depressed' substitute the word 'backward' and for the word 'doubled' in the last line substitute the words 'suitably increased'.

"I may state that the speech of the hon. the Minister has cleared the ground considerably for me. My object in tabling the amendment was that the benefits intended to be conveyed to the poor classes was not to be restricted only to members of the depressed classes but should be extended to members of all backward communities. But I do not see the point made out by the hon. the Minister that the scholarships hitherto given by the Government were not meant to feed, clothe and protect the individual recipients, as well as the families to which they belonged. I do not think anyone made a claim of that sort. It is quite clear from the figures furnished by the hon. the Minister for Education that the scholarships given not only enabled the recipients to pay their school fees but left them something over to meet their necessities. What is suggested by this resolution is that because the Government have already promised to bear a certain proportion, expressly or by implication, of the cost of living and as prices have since increased considerably, the Government should really continue to afford the same relief which they had promised once by suitably increasing the scholarships now. When I tabled this amendment, I had in my mind the financial difficulties the hon. the Minister would have to face. So, in order to make the resolution of my friend, Mr. M. C. Raja, more readily acceptable to Government, I suggested that the scholarships might be suitably increased. In view of the admitted fact that the help given, if any, should be extended to other communities, and in view also of the fact that the Government are in some form or another committed to helping students by meeting a certain proportion of the cost of their necessities of life, I should say that the time has come to increase the scholarships which they sanctioned in circumstances which no longer exist so as to make them suitable to the present changed conditions."

[26th February 1923]

MR. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI seconded the amendment.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" I accept the amendment."

The amendment was put to the House and carried.

The main motion as amended was then put and declared lost.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar demanding a poll, the House divided as follows :—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. M. Appalarasayya Nayudu. | 9. Sriman Sasibushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 2. Mr. A. Subbarayudu. | 10. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Masorenas. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 11. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " M. Ramachandra Rao | 12. Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| " Pantulu. | 13. Sri Meka V. Apparao Bahadur. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 14. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 6. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. | 15. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 7. Mr. S. Muttumanikkaohari. | 16. Mr. R. T. Kesavulu Pillai. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. | |

Noes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I. | 9. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad | 10. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| Habib-ul-Jah Sahib, Kt., C.I.E. | 11. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 12. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib Bahadur. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi | 13. Khan Sahib Munshi Muhammad Abdur- |
| Nayudu. | Rahman Sahib. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 14. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaak Sahib. |
| 6. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, | 15. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla |
| C.I.E. | Badsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 7. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 16. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib |
| 8. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | Bahadur. |

The hon. the President gave his casting vote against the motion, and the motion was declared lost.

The House then adjourned (at 4 p.m.) to meet again at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 27th February 1923.

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

APPENDIX D.

[Vide page 1803 supra.]

Order passed by the hon. the President.

Under Standing Order No. 40 (3) of the Standing Orders of the Madras Legislative Council, I nominate the hon. the Raja of Panagal to be the Chairman of the Select Committees appointed to consider the Bills to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
President.

8th February 1923.

(True copy)

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Council.

[26th February 1923]

APPENDIX E.

[Vide page 1803 supra.]

Proceedings of the twenty-fourth meeting for 1922-1923 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held at Fort St. George on Wednesday, the 31st January 1923.

PRESENT:

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I. (Chairman).
 - (2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
 - (3) " Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
 - (4) " A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
 - (5) Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur.
 - (6) Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL.
 - (7) Mr. C. E. WOOD.
- (Messrs. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR and P. SUBBARAYAN did not attend.)

Read proposals for the opening of three new sub-registry offices at Bhattiprolu (Guntur), Tandarai (North Arcot) and Valathi (Villupuram) (estimated cost Rs. 5,184 per annum).

The Committee recommended that provision should be entered in the budget for 1923-1924 (class I).

2. The Committee scrutinized the budget estimates for 1923-1924, Part I, under the following heads :—

- (1) Irrigation budgets (XIII and XIV ; 15, 16 and 55).
- (2) 5. Land Revenue.
- (3) 32. Medical.
- (4) 33. Public Health.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th February 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

APPENDIX F.

[Vide page 1803 supra.]

Proceedings of the twenty-fifth meeting for 1922-1923 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held at Fort St. George on Friday, the 2nd February 1923.

PRESENT:

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I. (Chairman).
- (2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
- (3) " Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
- (4) " Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
- (5) " A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
- (6) Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB.
- (7) Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN.
- (8) Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL.
- (9) Mr. C. E. WOOD.

Read again proposals for extensions to the sub-jail attached to the Taluk office at Karur, Trichinopoly district. (Estimate Rs. 16,980 ; provision proposed for 1923-1924 is Rs. 10,000).

[26th February 1923]

At the meeting held on 8th January 1923—vide paragraph 12 of the proceedings—the Committee asked for figures of the average jail population and of the number of prisoners which the present jail would accommodate. The information was furnished to the Committee.

The Committee recommended that provision should be entered in the budget for 1923-1924, if possible (class II).

2. *Read* again scheme for improvements to the Madura headquarter hospital (cost Rs. 21,300).

At the meeting held on the 8th January 1923 the Committee asked for fuller explanation of the necessity for the works in question. Further information was furnished to the Committee and the position was explained by the Surgeon-General who was invited to be present. The Committee recommended that the scheme should be provided in the budget for 1923-1924 under class I.

3. 34. *Agriculture—Veterinary charges—Budget for 1923-1924.*—The Committee were, with reference to their request in their proceedings dated 9th January 1923, furnished with details of the provision of Rs. 50,000 for anti-rinderpest and other sera and Rs. 24,000 for 'other contingencies'.

4. The Committee scrutinized the budget estimates for 1923-1924 (Part I) under the following heads:—

25. Jails and Convict Settlements.

35. Industries.

5. 25. *Jails and Convict Settlements.*—The Committee recommended that the Retrenchment Secretary should examine the question whether the supervision and establishment charges could not be reduced.

6. 35. *Industries.*—The Committee recommended that the question of the necessity for the appointments of the officer on special duty under the Director of Industries on Rs. 600 and the Special Officer for the Exhibition on Rs. 500 be further examined.

7. The Committee recommended that the Retrenchment Secretary should examine the necessity for the continuance of—

- (1) the Madura Technical Institute,
- (2) the Dyeing Expert, and
- (3) the Oil and Soap Expert.

8. *School of Arts.*—The Committee considered that the contingent charges were high in relation to the receipts and needed further inquiry by the Retrenchment officers.

9. *Other miscellaneous experiments.*—The Committee recommended that the provision of Rs. 19,000 should be reduced to Rs. 12,000.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th February 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

26th February 1923]

APPENDIX G.

[Vide page 1803 supra.]

Proceedings of the twenty-sixth meeting for 1922-1923 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held at Fort St. George on Monday, the 5th February 1923.

PRESENT:

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I. (Chairman).
- (2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR AVARGAL.
- (3) „ Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR AVARGAL.
- (4) „ A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR AVARGAL.
- (5) Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB.
- (6) Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN.
- (7) Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL.
- (8) Mr. C. E. WOOD.

(Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR did not attend.)

Read scheme relating to the grant in 1922-1923 of Rs. 7,500 to the Madura Municipal Council for relieving the poor affected by the recent floods in Madura.

The Committee recommended acceptance of the scheme.

2. *Read* scheme for increasing the strength of the office establishment of the Registrar-General of Panchayats from three to five clerks.

The Committee were unable to recommend any addition to the staff of the office.

3. *Read* scheme relating to the staff for the starting of co-operative societies for depressed classes in districts to which the special operations of the Labour Department are to be extended in 1923-1924 (the cost for three districts amounts to Rs. 8,100 per annum).

The Committee recommended that the provision of Rs. 8,100 should be entered in the budget for 1923-1924 under class I.

4. '34-A. *Agriculture*'—*Budget for 1923-1924.*—With reference to the request of the Committee at their meeting of the 9th January 1923, they were furnished with details of the lump provision of Rs. 50,000 for district experimental cultivation, Rs. 7,000 for 'other contingencies' of the Agricultural Engineer and Rs. 13,000 for working charges and other contingencies of the Botanical Gardens, under '34-A. Agriculture' in the budget estimate for 1923-1924.

5. The Committee scrutinized the budget estimates for 1923-1924 (Part I) under the following heads:—

- (1) '46. Stationery and Printing.'
- (2) '26. Police.'

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th February 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER

[26th February 1923]

APPENDIX H.

[Vide page 1803 supra.]

Proceedings of the twenty-seventh meeting of 1922-1923 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held at Fort St. George on Tuesday, the 6th February 1923.

PRESENT:

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I. (Chairman).
- (2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
- (3) " Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
- (4) " Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
- (5) " A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
- (6) Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB.
- (7) Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL.
- (8) Mr. C. E. WOOD.

(Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN did not attend.)

The Committee scrutinized the budget estimate for 1922-1923 under '8. Forest'.

Under the item 'Pay of officers' under the minor head '8-c (b) Forest—Establishment', the budget for 1922-1923 is Rs. 6.70 lakhs, the revised for 1922-1923 is Rs. 6.48 lakhs, while the budget for 1923-1924 is Rs. 7.15 lakhs.

The Committee desired that the reasons for these changes should be more fully explained.

2. The Committee desired the Retrenchment Secretary to examine the question of the necessity for the staff of supernumerary rangers for whom a provision of Rs. 11,800 is entered in the budget for 1923-1924.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th February 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

APPENDIX J.

[Vide page 1803 supra.]

Proceedings of the twenty-eighth meeting for 1922-1923 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held at Fort St. George on Thursday, the 8th February 1923.

PRESENT:

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I. (Chairman).
- (2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
- (3) " Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
- (4) " A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
- (5) Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur.
- (6) Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN.
- (7) Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL.

(Messrs. T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR and C. E. WOOD did not attend).

Read proposals relating to the provision in the budget for 1923-1924 of a grant of four lakhs and a loan of four lakhs to the Madras Corporation for water-supply and drainage works.

[26th February 1923]

The Committee recommended that provision should be made in the budget for 1923-1924 (class I).

2. Read scheme relating to the provision in the budget for 1923-1924 of 3.25 lakhs for the payment of compensation for losses sustained during the Mappilla rebellion.

The Committee recommended the budget provision, but would ask that, before actual distribution is made, they should be advised of the principles on which it is proposed that the money should be distributed.

3. Read scheme relating to the provision in the budget for 1923-1924 of Rs. 40,000 to meet the expenditure of the Forest Department in connexion with the Empire Exhibition.

The Committee were of opinion that the scheme was not yet in a sufficiently advanced stage for any provision to be made and that, if necessary, a supplementary demand should be moved.

4. Read proposals relating to the renewal of the agreement of Mr. Duncan, the Assistant Superintendent of Stationery.

The Committee recommended the acceptance of Mr. Duncan's terms, viz., that he should be engaged for a further period of three years on a pay of Rs. 600 for the first year, Rs. 650 for the second year and Rs. 700 for the third year, the agreement being terminated on six months' notice on either side, and that he should be provided with free passage Home at the end of the three years.

5. The Committee scrutinized the budget estimates for 1923-1924 under the following heads:—

31. Education.
22. General Administration.
41. Civil Works.
- Loans and Advances.

Under *Education* the Committee recommended that additional budget provision be made for 1923-1924 under the following items:—

(a) *Vocational education*.—The total provision of one lakh to be raised by .25 lakh.

(b) *Grants to District Educational Councils for building grants*.—The provision of .90 lakh to be raised by .15 lakh.

(c) *Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges—Furniture grants*.—The provision of .20 lakh to be raised by .20 lakh.

(d) *Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools—Furniture grants*.—The provision of .25 lakh to be raised by .10 lakh.

(e) *Subsidies to local bodies for Secondary School buildings*.—The provision of .20 lakh to be raised by .30 lakh.

6. *Buildings for the Victory Hall, Children's Hospital and Medical School for Women*.—The Committee recommended that a provision of one lakh for acquisition of land be entered in the budget for 1923-1924 to be met from sinking fund loan.

[28th February 1923]

7. A statement showing the financial position of the Madras Government in 1923-1924 as it would be if the recommendations of the Finance Committee were accepted was read and recorded after discussion.

8. With reference to the Committee's request at the meeting held on 9th January 1923, they were furnished with a note showing details in regard to the provision in the budget for 1923-1924 under "34. Agriculture—Botanical Gardens" on account of up-keep of other public gardens and parks.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
10th February 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 27th February 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR Avargal, 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.]

Communal representation in the taluk boards of Malabar.

814 Q.—Mr. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the total number of taluk board members in all the reconstituted boards in the district of Malabar ;

(2) the total number of seats filled by nomination in all the taluk boards ;

(3) the number of Muhammadans, Brahmans and representatives of the depressed classes nominated and elected to all the taluk boards and the names of the boards where there are no Adi-Dravida members ;

(4) whether it is a fact that a Saraswath Brahman was recommended for nomination as a member of the taluk board by the president, Kottayam taluk board, where no Brahman was elected and that he was not nominated by the president, district board ; and

(5) the number of Mappilla members on the Ernad taluk board and whether no Mappilla was nominated to the said board ?

A.—(1) One hundred and seventy-six.

(2) Forty-three.

(3) & (5) The Government have no information.

(4) Members of taluk boards are appointed by the president of the district board and the Government have no information.

Grant to municipalities.

815 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the total amount of the Government grant given to each municipality in the Presidency for the year 1921-22 ?

A.—A statement is laid on the table.*

Bungalows owned by the Madura District Board Engineer at Kodaikanal.

816 Q.—Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many bungalows the District Board Engineer, Madura, owns in Kodaikanal either in his name or in the name of his family ;

* Vide Appendix A on page 1866 infra.

[27th February 1923]

(b) whether the properties were acquired after his entertainment in the service of the district board ;

(c) whether such acquisitions are permissible ; and

(d) whether the travellers bungalow at Kodaikanal belongs to the municipality or the local board ?

A.—(a), (b) & (d) The Government have no information.

(c) The acquiring of property by District Board Engineers is permissible subject to the submission to the president of the district board concerned of an annual return showing the property acquired.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I request the hon. the Minister to call for the information ? We are getting very much accustomed to the kind of reply such as ' The Government have no information ' . Yesterday the hon. the Minister said in reply to a question by Mr. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu that the travellers' bungalow at Kodaikanal was in charge of the municipality. According to my information, I said that it was in charge of the local board. Now here again, there is a question asked whether the travellers' bungalow belongs to the municipality or the local board, and the answer is ' The Government have no information ' . It is quite possible for the Government to get the information and I do not think, after all, it will cost much trouble to the Government. Further, it also raises the general question of principle whether district board engineers can acquire property in their jurisdiction. I think we as well as the public are eligible to know exactly as to what their actual rights are ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the point involved is purely a matter for local administration. If the hon. Member is particular to have the information, he can ask the local board concerned. I already told the hon. Member yesterday that it would not serve any public purpose to call for the information. "

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" Am I to understand that no question concerning a local body can be asked in this Council. Is that what the hon. the Minister wishes to indicate by his reply ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I did not imply that. I only said that in this particular case, it would not serve any public purpose. "

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" Sir, you will kindly permit me to observe that the Government have no information in this particular case, and yet the Government do not think it necessary to call for the information ? "

Representation of depressed classes in local boards.

817 Q.—Mr. K. A. KANDASWAMI KANDAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at present the presidents of taluk boards and district boards do not nominate members of the depressed classes and other backward communities but nominate persons who have been recommended to them by others ?

A.—The Government have no information.

The attention of the hon. Member is in this connexion invited to Notification No. 13 published in Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 2nd January 1923.

[27th February 1923]

Communal representation in the cadre of probationary revenue inspectors.

818 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that notwithstanding the eligibility of holders of S.S.L.C. certificate for the post of probationary revenue inspectors, district collectors in this presidency generally insist upon the possession of a B.A. degree by candidates for the said post and that in consequence thereof very few Muhammadans are probationary revenue inspectors ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Visvabrahman representation in the local bodies of Tinnevely district.

819 Q.—Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he received a memorial with a copy of the proceedings of the Visvakarma Sanmarga Sabha, Tinnevely, regarding the nomination of a member of the Visvabrahman community to the Tinnevely Municipal Council, and district and taluk boards ; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter ?

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

(b) The claims of the Visvakarmas are borne in mind along with the claims of other minorities when nominations are made. Nominations to taluk boards are made by the president of the district board.

Elections to the district and taluk boards, Chingleput.

820 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the president of the Chingleput district board issued instructions to the taluk boards of Tiruvallur and Saidapet for the election of the president and members of the district board on one and the same day, while on that day the election of the president alone was in the agenda of the Chingleput taluk board ; and if so, the reason for treating the Chingleput taluk board differently from other boards ; and

(2) whether the election of the Vice-President of the Chingleput taluk board took place after the nomination of Mr. V. Vijayaraghava Achariyar ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" Will the Government at least try to get the information ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I have no objection to call for the information. "

Midday meals for Adi-Dravida pupils.

821 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : With reference to item No. 15 of the proceedings of the twenty-first meeting for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on 20th January 1923, will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to lay on the table the scheme relating to the provision of midday meals for pupils of the Adi-Dravida and other depressed classes ?

[27th February 1923]

A.—No definite scheme relating to the provision of midday meals for pupils of the Adi-Dravida and other depressed classes has yet been drawn up. The proposal was examined by the Director of Public Instruction.

Assignment of waste lands in the Presidency.

822 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to call for and lay on the table a districtwar statement of waste lands of—

(a) more than 100 acres,	(c) more than 500 acres,
(b) „ 200 „	(d) „ 1,000 „

assigned on darkhast in the various districts of the Presidency and the names of the assignees with their caste, etc.?

A.—In the absence of information as to the number of years over which the search is desired the Government are not prepared to undertake it.

Deputy and Assistant Secretaries in the Local Self-Government Department.

823 Q.—The RAJA OF RAMNAD: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the necessity for appointing a Deputy Secretary in the Local Self-Government Department and how long the appointment is intended to be continued?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 768 at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated 2nd February 1923.

It is expected at present that the appointment will be necessary at least till the 12th April 1924.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—“ May I know why the 12th April is fixed for the continuance of the appointment, and whether it has any reference to the exodus?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“ At present it is expected that the extra work will continue till the 12th April.”

Grazing fees in Guntūr and Ceded districts.

824 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) the different rates of grazing fees prevailing in Guntūr and the Ceded districts; and

(2) what the necessity is for such variation?

A.—(1) The rates of grazing fees prevailing in Guntūr and the Ceded Districts are as follows:—

	Per cow unit.	
	RS. A.	
(i) Guntūr	0 8	
(ii) Kurnool	0 8	Non-penta cattle.
	1 0	* Lambady cattle.
	1 0	Penta cattle.

* Cattle required for bona fide cultivation pay the grazing fee of 8 annas per cow unit sanctioned for the district.

27th February 1923]

	Per cow unit.	
	RS. A.	
(iii) Bellary (Harpanahalli range only).	0 8	Penta cattle.
Other ranges	0 3	Do.
(iv) Cuddapah	1 0	Sugali cattle, West Cuddapah.
	1 0	Nellore cattle.
(v) Chittoor	0 8	Local cattle.
(vi) Anantapur	0 8	Do.

(2) The rates have been fixed by Government with reference to the circumstances of each district, or part of a district, namely, the condition of forests and the demand for grazing, the aim being to bring the incidence of grazing as far as circumstances permit within the possibility of the forests. In the case of migratory cattle coming from other areas the rates are necessarily higher as the local cattle are considered to have the first claim on the State forests of the area to which these cattle belong.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“ I find that the rate per cow unit in Harpanahalli range is As. 8. I wish to know whether that rate is in force in the current year?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“ My information is that it was in force when this answer was prepared.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“ Am I to understand that the grazing fees were levied at As. 8 per cow unit in that range in this year?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“ My information is as given in the answer.”

Sri Meka V. APPARAO Bahadur:—“ In paragraph 2 of the answer, the Government say that in the case of migratory cattle coming from other areas, the rates are necessarily higher as the local cattle are considered to have the first claim on the State forests. Have the Government considered the point that the rates for such migrating cattle should be higher?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“ Yes, Sir ” (laughter).

Forest rangers.

825 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (1) the number of forest rangers in the department;
- (2) the number of supernumerary rangers; and
- (3) the number of rangers in charge of ranges?

A.—(1) The number is 201 against a sanctioned cadre of 207.

(2) There are 30 supernumerary rangers.

(3) The number of rangers in charge of ranges is 157. Of the remaining 44 posts, i.e., the difference between 201 and 157, 25 posts constitute the leave reserve and the remaining 19 posts are intended for working plans, research and special work.

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Forest College, Coimbatore.

826 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (1) the number of students in the Forest College, Coimbatore;
- (2) the number of professors in the College;
- (3) how many of these belong to the Imperial and how many to the Provincial service;
- (4) whether the Principal has got any teaching work to do in the College; if so, how many hours per diem;
- (5) the pay of the Principal; and
- (6) whether the Conservator at Coimbatore cannot look after the duties of the Principal in addition to his own?

Students.

- A.—(1) Senior division 29
 Junior division 26
- (2) The Principal and four Instructors.
 - (3) The Principal and the First Senior Instructor belong to the Imperial Forest Service. The remaining three officers belong to the Provincial Forest Service.
 - (4) The Principal delivers lectures when in headquarters on Utilization and Forest Economy. He has no fixed hours and lectures when he finds time. In camp, the Principal accompanies the students on their excursions and gives practical instruction.
 - (5) Pay Rs. 1,000; overseas pay Rs. 250; duty allowance Rs. 150; that is to say, Rs. 1,400 per mensem.
 - (6) No.

Outturn of crop in Bellary district.

827 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the Board's Standing Orders on the subject of remission of dry assessment, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the outturn in annas which constitutes a normal or average crop in the several taluks of the Bellary district;
- (b) the outturn in annas which constituted a normal crop when the outturns were classified under heads varying from Rs. 1-4-0 to nil; and
- (c) the outturns which represented the bumper crop when the maximum outturn was fixed at Rs. 1-4-0 and the outturn which represents the bumper crop at present?

- A.—(a) 12 annas.
 (b) 16 annas.
 (c) 20 annas and 16 annas respectively.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know the reason why 16 annas which should naturally represent a normal crop was changed to 12 annas?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Which is the particular case that is referred to, Sir?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"In paragraph (a) of the answer 12 annas is said to constitute a normal crop. I wish to know why the change was effected from 16 annas to 12 annas, while naturally a full rupee should represent a normal crop."

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"That was under the then orders of the Government of India."

Amount of loans outstanding in famine-affected areas.

828 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place on the table a copy of the half-yearly report for the period ending 31st September 1922 as to—

- (1) the amount of the loans outstanding out of the total advances made in the famine-affected areas during the official years 1920-21 and 1921-22; and
- (2) the amounts which at the date of the report were found to be irrecoverable and deserved remission?

A.—(1) The following amounts were on 30th September 1922 outstanding out of the total advances made during 1920-21 and 1921-22 in the famine-affected areas:—

District.	1920-21.				1921-22.			
	Land Improve- ment Loans Act.		Agriculturists Loans Act.		Land Improve- ment Loans Act.		Agriculturists Loans Act.	
	Principal.	Interest.	Principal.	Interest.	Principal.	Interest.	Principal.	Interest.
Anantapur.	Rs. 7,460	Rs. 581	Rs. 21,040	Rs. 1,567	Rs. 52,300	Rs. 408	Rs. 1,47,485	Rs. 1,284
Bellary ..	48,777	288	27,683	571	2,15,707	..	2,94,897	..
Kurnool ..	2,020	8	2,005	45	24,857	..	60,930	..

(2) None.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"A resolution was passed in this House recommending that the interest on loans granted for relief of distress should be remitted. I wish to know whether under this resolution any amount was remitted at all?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Deserving cases have not yet been brought to the notice of the Government and when they are so brought, they will be considered."

Selection board for admission into the Veterinary College.

829 Q.—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the question of appointment of a selection board in regard to admission to the Madras Veterinary College was ever considered by Government and, if so, why it was not included in the number of institutions specified in G.O. No. 636, dated the 20th May 1922?

A.—The question has been engaging the attention of Government for some time and orders constituting a committee are under issue.

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Irrigation wells in the Ceded districts.

830 Q.—SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB: With reference to the motion made by me on the budget demand of Rs. 25,00,000 under 43-A (a) Famine-relief and Insurance at the Council meeting held on the 31st March 1921, and the suggestion made in the course of the debate thereon for setting apart and spending money from year to year in digging irrigation wells in the Ceded districts as an insurance against famine and the assurance given by the hon. the Member for Revenue that a major portion of the 25 lakhs set apart for the following year would be utilized for the purpose of carrying out such improvements as would be of lasting benefit to the ryots, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what portion of the said 25 lakhs has since been spent in digging irrigation wells in the Ceded districts; and

(b) whether the Government propose to ear-mark for this purpose a portion of the money allotted to famine-relief and insurance from year to year?

A.—(a) A sum of six lakhs was sanctioned as loans to ryots in the famine-affected areas of the three districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool; but the Government have no information as to how much of this amount was actually spent by the borrowers on the sinking of wells.

(b) The question of utilizing the famine insurance fund towards the grant of loans for digging irrigation wells in the famine-affected districts is under the consideration of Government.

Appointment of Health Officers in the districts.

831 Q.—SRIMAN SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is proposed to appoint a Health Officer to each district from 1st April next; and

(b) what additional expenditure would the scheme involve and what portion of it is proposed to be met from provincial revenues?

A.—(a) Yes, except in the Nilgiris.

(b) The average annual cost of the salaries and allowances (other than travelling allowances) of district health officers is estimated at Rs. 1.74 lakhs which will be met by the Government from the annual grant given to district boards in aid of general resources. The travelling allowance of the officers will be paid by the district boards.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—“Am I to understand from the earlier portion of the answer, that is, (a), that the Government insist upon the appointment of a Health Officer for each district?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The idea is that every district board should have its own health staff.”

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—“The latter portion of part (b) of the question was, what portion of the money is met from the provincial revenues, and the answer is to the effect that it will be met from the annual grant given to district boards in aid of general resources. Am I correct in assuming that they are going to pay nothing at all to district boards in addition to what they are giving now?”

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“It is only earmarked from the general grants. The local bodies have been given grants in aid of general resources, a portion of which is earmarked for this expenditure.”

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—“Then, it means that there is going to be no additional grant for this purpose for district boards.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I have already stated that a portion of the grant given for general resources will be earmarked for this purpose.”

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—“That is the old grant.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Yes.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“Is it not a fact that the grant was earmarked for second-class roads and were not the district boards asked to utilize from this grant a portion for the salary of the health officer?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“It is not earmarked for second-class roads only, but it was being utilized for that purpose. At present the Government propose to earmark a portion of it for public health.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—“I should like to know from the hon. the Minister whether the result of this action would be to divert some of the funds now available for second-class roads to health purposes and whether consequently there will be no reduction in the grants which were being made for the maintenance of roads?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“If I understand the hon. Member aright, what he means is whether the local bodies will be getting any extraneous help. They are being allowed other sources of help; for instance, the taking over of the headquarters hospitals gives them the opportunity to spare the amount they were hitherto spending upon these hospitals. There may be other sources also available to these bodies.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“Does it not follow that in consequence of this new policy of the Government, the district boards should be asked to reduce the length of their second-class roads?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“It does not necessarily follow.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—“To that extent the general grant would be reduced. In other words it means that the grant given to the local bodies would be reduced hereafter to the extent of the maintenance of the health staff.”

Superintendent of the Berhampur District Jail.

832 Q.—SRIMAN SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that a full-timed Superintendent is proposed to be appointed for the Berhampur District Jail;

(b) what is the extra expenditure which such proposal involves;

(c) what is the average number per month of prisoners that were confined in the Jail last year; and

(d) what has necessitated the proposed appointment of a full-timed Superintendent in the face of the present financial stringency?

A.—(a) Yes, with effect from the 1st April 1923.

(b) Rs. 105 per mensem.

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- (c) The daily average number of prisoners confined in the Jail during 1922 was—

January ...	219.07	July ...	320.97
February ...	217.18	August ...	296.25
March ...	208.25	September ...	281.00
April ...	254.50	October ...	276.45
May ...	296.08	November ...	247.53
June ...	261.13	December ...	218.61

- (d) The appointment of a full-timed Superintendent was found necessary for the efficient administration of the Jail.

Goomsur forest, Ganjam.

833 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the average cost per cubic foot for felling timber in the Goomsur forests;

(b) what is the average cost per cubic foot of carting timber from the different forests of Goomsur to the Russelkonda saw mills; and

(c) what is the average cost per cubic foot of timber sold to the Russelkonda saw mills?

A.—All these matters have recently been examined by an expert in Commercial accounting. It is impossible to answer the question until his report, which has now been received, has been considered by the Government.

Survey and settlement in the Presidency.

834 Q.—Mr. T. SOMASUNDARA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state

(a) whether with reference to the answer given by the Government to question No. 1282 by M. R. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar Avargal, on the 16th February 1922, the Board of Revenue has issued a circular to Collectors saying that action under Act III of 1905 should not be taken as regards channels and pathways in patta lands under 20 links in width and not marked as detail in the plan; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay it on the table?

A.—A copy of the circular issued by the Board of Revenue to all Collectors without reference to the interpellation of the hon. Member herein referred to is laid on the table.*

Private deaf and dumb schools.

835 Q.—Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR: With reference to the assurance given by the hon. Sir Lionel Davidson at the Council meeting dated 18th August 1920, that the Government will be quite ready to give assistance in the most liberal fashion to any private agency for the instruction of the deaf and dumb, will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(1) whether any assistance has been given to the private deaf and dumb school at Madura which has been working since October 1920;

* Vide Appendix B on page 1867 infra.

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(2) whether the Government have now any information as to trained teachers available for this institution out of the nine referred to in Sir Lionel Davidson's speech and in the answer to question No 622 (c), dated 12th October 1921;

(3) whether it is a fact that one teacher was lent for only three months by the Palamcottah school to the Madura school on a written condition that the teacher should teach the Bible and Christian prayers, and that even after this condition had been agreed to by the Hindu Manager, the teacher left the institution on 1st April 1922 and the Palamcottah Manager declared herself unable to supply any more teachers;

(4) whether it is a fact that the deaf and dumb school at Madura has been most successful in teaching the deaf to speak, as certified to by the hon. the Minister for Education and Her Excellency Lady Willingdon, and nevertheless the Board of Examiners declined to grant teachers' certificates to any but the candidates from the Mission schools;

(5) whether it is a fact that the only expert on the Board of Examiners was the Manager of the Palamcottah school who had imposed the condition recited in clause (3);

(6) whether the Government intend to recognize the school at Madura which has done such good work and which is the first one started by non-Christian agency; and

(7) whether it is a fact that district boards are allowed by Government to contribute to the funds of the Palamcottah school but not to those of the Madura school for deaf and dumb?

A.—(1) Orders have been issued for the payment of a grant to the Deaf and Dumb School, Madura.

(2) All the teachers trained at Palamcottah have been employed in the deaf and dumb school at that place with the exception of two. Of these two, one has given up teaching owing to ill-health and the other is employed in the C.M.S. High School, Palamcottah. The management of this institution has been asked by the Director of Public Instruction whether this teacher cannot be made available for teaching work in a deaf and dumb school.

(3) The answer is in the affirmative. It is understood, however, that the manager of the school at Madura himself offered to sign an agreement to the effect that, if a teacher were sent to the school, he should be given freedom to teach the Bible and take prayers; the teacher sent from Palamcottah left the Madura school on the 22nd March.

(4) A report on the working of the school has been called for.

(5) The manager of the school at Palamcottah was the only expert.

(6) The school has been recognized.

(7) The payment of contribution by a few local bodies to the Palamcottah Deaf and Dumb School was sanctioned by Government prior to 1919 and the contribution of Rs. 400 already paid by the Madura district board to the deaf and dumb school at Madura was also sanctioned in 1922. The present policy of the Government is to refuse to allow the funds of local bodies to be spent in helping private schools which are being directly aided from provincial funds.

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APPENDIX A.

[Vide answer to question No. 815 asked by Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th February 1923, page 1855 supra.]

Name of municipality.	Amount of grant given in 1921-22. RS.	Name of municipality.	Amount of grant given in 1921-22. RS.
1. Anantapur ...	3,03,583	41. Bezwada ...	31,824
2. Hindupur ...	6,819	42. Ellore ...	8,984
3. Tadpatri ...	6,000	43. Masulipatam ...	16,710
4. Gudiyattam ...	12,982	44. Palacole ...	340
5. Tiruppattur ...	8,515	45. Kurnool ...	15,759
6. Tiruvannamalai ...	1,566	46. Nandyal ...	6,567
7. Vaniyambadi ...	3,735	47. Bodinayakanur ...	375
8. Vellore ...	15,482	48. Dindigul ...	9,950
9. Walajapet ...	10,681	49. Kodaikanal ...	2,321
10. Chidambaram ...	3,699	50. Madura ...	1,11,446
11. Cuddalore ...	8,972	51. Palni ...	1,987
12. Villupuram ...	4,817	52. Periyakulam ...	969
13. Adoni ...	19,033	53. Calicut ...	39,645
14. Bellary ...	15,455	54. Cannanore ...	9,615
15. Hospet ...	10,101	55. Cochin ...	7,760
16. Chingleput ...	3,347	56. Palghat ...	11,053
17. Conjeeveram ...	7,863	57. Tellicherry ...	30,964
18. Saidapet ...	5,462	58. Nellore ...	22,077
19. Chittoor ...	7,169	59. Coonoor ...	13,809
20. Tirupati ...	9,980	60. Ootacamund ...	49,088
21. Coimbatore ...	18,702	61. Sivakasi ...	144
22. Dharapuram ...	2,593	62. Srivilliputtur ...	3,657
23. Erode ...	3,800	63. Virudupatti ...	1,341
24. Pollachi ...	608	64. Salem ...	17,789
25. Tiruppur ...	5,827	65. Kumbakonam ...	10,891
26. Udumalpet ...	5,708	66. Mannargudi ...	3,983
27. Cuddapah ...	24,585	67. Mayavaram ...	13,148
28. Proddatur ...	5,535	68. Negapatam ...	50,844
29. Berhampur ...	11,173	69. Tanjore ...	4,065
30. Chicacole ...	6,480	70. Tiruvalur ...	35,099
31. Parlakimedi ...	5,933	71. Palamcottah ...	3,096
32. Cocanada ...	8,198	72. Tinnevely ...	21,422
33. Peddapuram ...	89	73. Tuticorin ...	1,12,391
34. Rajahmundry ...	6,483	74. Srirangam ...	1,991
35. Chirala ...	5,000	75. Karur ...	9,126
36. Guntur ...	1,500	76. Trichinopoly ...	16,718
37. Narasaraopet ...	10,363	77. Anakapalle ...	4,902
38. Ongole ...	8,532	78. Bimlipatam ...	7,398
39. Tenali ...	2,696	79. Vizagapatam ...	7,617
40. Mangalore ...	11,707	80. Vizianagram ...	9,100

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APPENDIX B.

[Vide answer to question No. 834 asked by Mr. T. Somasundara Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th February 1923, page 1864 supra.]

**Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement),
Mis. No. 894, dated 30th May 1922.**

In a number of cases recently submitted to the Board, Collectors have recommended the defence of suits regarding encroachments in respect of channels, pathways, cart-tracks, etc., running through patta lands. More often than not, these are not marked in the original survey plans, although they may be shown in the resurvey plans. The channels are not recognized sources of irrigation, nor are they or the pathways and cart-tracks, etc., separately registered and demarcated.

2. These channels, pathways, etc., have been in existence for so long without protection from Government that it may be assumed that the private interests concerned in their maintenance will continue to suffice for their protection.

3. It seems therefore unnecessary for Revenue officers to interfere with encroachments of this kind except where Government interests or important public interests are involved, or where it is a case of an important man taking undue advantage of his position and attempting to deprive others of a right acquired by long user. Except therefore in such cases these petty encroachments should be ignored and the Land Encroachment Act should not be applied and Collectors should see that Government is not dragged into what are really private feuds in which the Government has no real interest.

(True extract)

S. V. NARGUNAM,
for Secretary.

II

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act, 1923, which was passed into Law at the meeting of the Council held on the 30th January 1923, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 21st February 1923.

III

BUDGET SPEECH.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ Sir, I beg leave to submit the third and last budget of the first combined Government of the Presidency of Madras and of this Council as at present constituted.

Preliminary.

“ When I submitted my first post-Reform budget within a few weeks of the constitution of this Council, I said I was submitting a ‘ carrying-on ’ budget, that is, one which provided merely for

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carrying on the policy of the old firm until the new partners should have had time to make themselves acquainted with the working of the concern and to advise as to the developments that they desired. Before they could do so, we were caught up in a financial crisis, and by the time of our second budget the cutting off of our supplies and the increasing cost of our staffs had rendered it necessary for us to call up all our resources and to cut costs in all directions in order to escape bankruptcy. We have now settled down to the new taxation and to the new scale of pay of establishments, which was one of the main causes of the crisis, and I hope that the other causes that contributed to it have to a great extent abated. The question for the consideration of the Council to-day is how far our present circumstances justify our resuming some of the essential activities which last year we were compelled to suspend.

"To enable us to do that, I think it is necessary that we should have a stock-taking of our assets and our liabilities; and, to understand that clearly, I think it is desirable that we should commence with a brief review of the development of the firm and its activities.

"I am frequently asked why it is that this Presidency, with its great resources, is so little developed, and why in certain matters, more especially education and medical relief, we have such a much lower standard of expenditure than one of our neighbours. That question has been answered—and emphatically answered—within the course of the past week by an authority who has no rival either in statesmanship or in exact knowledge of the two provinces that are compared. Opening a short line of railway which has been twenty years a-building, His Excellency Lord Willingdon said: "I wish such occasions as this could happen more often than they do. Ever since I have lived here, I have seen the greatest need for development in every department of our administration, but the financial situation is such that very little can be done. You all know the main reason well enough and I need not dilute on it, namely, the unfair contribution which we pay towards the expenses of the Central Government. The completion of this railway is a ray of light in these gloomy days when, owing to want of money, one has continually to abandon schemes which would be of immense advantage to our people." And by way of commentary on that statement I think perhaps it may be of interest to the Council if I give them a few instances of figures from a statement which I have had prepared converting our revenue and expenditure for the past 30 years from the old basis to the basis of the Reforms period and showing what would have been our position if we had been given throughout the treatment which is now recognized as equitable treatment.

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Financial situation of the Presidency till 1920-1921.

"Thirty years ago, in 1892-1893, we were, as we are to-day, in the position of budgeting for a deficit. The revenue given us to spend was 302 lakhs, while we could not possibly carry on with less than 318. If we had had the present settlement, we should have been in receipt of a revenue of 756 lakhs and our expenditure on the new basis would have been 403; in other words, our contribution in those days was nearly one-half of our gross revenue on the new basis.

"Ten years later, in 1902-1903, we had arrived at an exact equilibrium, but we were not much richer than before. Our total figures for revenue and expenditure were 367 lakhs. Had we had the new settlement, our revenue would have been 917 lakhs and our expenditure 471, so that again very nearly half our gross revenue went to the Government of India.

"By the beginning of the war, in 1914-1915, things had improved somewhat, but we were again in a position of budgeting for a deficit. Our revenue was 757 lakhs and our expenditure 822, but if we had had the new settlement, our revenue would have been 1,261 lakhs and our expenditure 841, leaving a contribution of 423.

"Then followed the four war years (1915-1916 to 1918-1919), in which expenditure was restricted in every direction, with the result that we came out at the end with a balance of 210 lakhs, a very great sum indeed for Madras, though it was much less than the balances accumulated by more fortunate provinces, and is indeed less than one of them can still boast.

"In the first budget after the war, that for 1919-1920, we had a revenue of 886 lakhs and provided for the expenditure, in addition to the revenue, of 75 lakhs out of the accumulated balances, which gave us a total expenditure of 961 lakhs; but again, if we had had the new settlement, there would have been no need to draw on our balances. Our revenue would have been 1,481 lakhs and our expenditure 983, leaving a margin of 498.

Financial situation in 1920-1921 to 1922-1923.

"I now come to the three budgets of the period of the Reforms (one while they were in the making and two while they were in force),—three years of hope deferred and unexpected reverses.

"The budget of 1920-1921 was prepared at the time of the visit of the Meston Committee; and at that time it was confidently expected that the Government of India's deficit would be reduced to six crores. The previous year had turned out better than was expected and we had still 195 lakhs in hand. Our revenue on the

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old basis was estimated at 983 lakhs and our expenditure at 1,133, leaving a deficit of 150. On the new basis, the figures would have been 1,631 and 1,151, converting the deficit of 150 lakhs into a surplus of 480, while our contribution, on the basis of a 6-crore Imperial deficit, would only have been 190. With a surplus like that due to us in the coming year and with the confident hope that any contribution that was taken from us at first would be reduced steadily in future years, we thought ourselves justified in launching out into some of our many deferred schemes. We never did so, however. Even when we were preparing the budget, we were considering anxiously the question of the increase of salaries, for which we made a provision of 95 lakhs. By the end of the year we had had to increase that to 128 lakhs. Even that, however, proved far short of the necessities, and so in 1921-1922, when the first budget for the new Government came to be made, we found this consideration swamping everything else with the result that the provision for increase of salaries was raised to nearly two crores.

	1921-1922.		1922-1923.	
	Budg. t.	Actuals.	Budget.	Revised.
	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.
Opening balance.	46.60	58.78	Nil.	Nil.
Revenue ..	1,670.89	1,579.11	1,642.74	1,635.16
Charges ..	1,707.61	1,677.59	1,684.79	1,652.84
Deficit ..	— 36.72	— 98.48	— 42.05	— 17.68

a deficit of 37. The year had scarcely begun, however, when we met another great set-back in the temporary success of the non-cooperation movement, which cut down our revenue from Land Revenue, Excise and Forests and increased our charges in Malabar and on the maintenance of law and order generally, with the result that the actual revenue amounted to only 1,579 * lakhs, or 92 less than the estimate. On the other hand, we were able to make a reduction of 30 lakhs in the expenditure, keeping that down to 1,678 *.

“That brought us to the budget of 1922-1923, when our revenue was still at a low ebb, while, with the rest of India, we were still not out of our difficulties in respect of the revision of salaries. In addition to this, the Council imposed upon us a further bill on account of the village headmen amounting to nearly 35 lakhs

* These are the figures appearing in the Civil Budget Estimate. The total revenue figures for 1921-1922 include about 38 lakhs being a portion of the income-tax receipts (Devolution Rule 15) and the total expenditure figures of that year include an assignment to the Government of India very nearly equal to that figure. From 1922-1923 onwards, only the net revenue from income-tax is included on the receipts side.

Our revenues for that year were expected to amount to 1,671 lakhs * and our expenditure, including the contribution, to 1708 *, leaving

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of rupees a year, while they declined the taxation to meet it. Consequently, in the final budget we had an estimated revenue, including the new taxes that were passed, of 1,643 lakhs and an estimated expenditure of 1,635, leaving a deficit of 42. I am glad to be able to report now that we have a better showing in the revised estimate than we made in the budget. The revenue, it is true, has fallen somewhat short of what we hoped, largely owing to the fact that our estimate of the Stamp revenue under the new rates was over-sanguine. On the other hand, the receipts under Land Revenue, Irrigation, Excise, and Administration of Justice have been better than the estimate. At the same time, we have succeeded in reducing the charges to 1,653 lakhs as against the estimate of 1,685, the net result being that our deficit as now anticipated is reduced from 42 to 18 lakhs.

Summary of the financial situation at the end of 1922-1923.

“So much, Sir, for past history, which I may sum up by saying that we were starved till the Reforms, and that from the date when we saw an era of prosperity opening up before us we have had to put up with postponements, due first to the Government of India's inability to balance their own budget, second to enormous new commitments for salaries, and third to the temporary success of the non-co-operation movement. And so we come to the commencement of 1923-1924 with the revenue recovering, the non-co-operation movement at least quiescent, the Malabar rebellion over, and the revision of salaries, we hope, practically at an end. But before we go on to consider what we are entitled to spend in the year that is to come, I think it is right that we should take stock more exactly of our position, making up our minds what is the real amount of damage suffered in the course of these three years' buffetings. From the figures I have given, it will be seen that we have budgeted for deficits in successive years of 75, 150, 37 and 42 lakhs, or 304 lakhs in all, at first sight a staggering figure. But in point of fact we are not really out of pocket to this very large extent. In the first place the

	Deficit.	Budget.	Actuals.
		LAKHS.	LAKHS.
1919-1920 ..	75.25	4.36	
1920-1921 ..	150.32	147.15	
1921-1922 ..	36.72	98.48	
1922-1923 ..	42.05	17.68	
Total ..	304.34	267.67	

total I have given the Council is the total of our budget estimates. The actual sum by which we expect to be short at the close of the year 1922-1923 totals, not 304 but 267 lakhs, and against that figure we have to set the sum of 210 lakhs which we had in hand at the close of the war, so that we are actually out of pocket by 57

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lakhs. Even that figure, again, does not accurately represent the extent of the dead-weight debt that we have incurred, because against the 57 lakhs we have, I think, a right to set 29 lakhs which are invested in industrial enterprises, some of which are profitable, and 22 which we have spent on works of permanent utility which it is therefore fair to charge in part to posterity and to meet out of loans. If we decide to deduct these two amounts from the 57, the total amount of our dead-weight debt is only 6 lakhs. And this again will be covered by the repayment of capital which is provided for in 1923-1924.

"This conclusion—that we have practically no dead-weight debt at all—will, I think, be such a startling one to honourable gentlemen who are used from our long tale of deficits to regard the Presidency as almost hopelessly involved that, I think, it will be as well to verify it by another means. The process I propose to adopt is the following: I will take in the first instance the figure given by the Accountant-General of loans between Central and Provincial Governments (*vide* page 226 of the Budget) from which it will be seen that the total amount upon which we shall be paying interest at the end of 1922-1923 to our one creditor, the Government of India, is 1,158 lakhs. I will deduct from that, first, loans of what I may call the remunerative kind, that is, loans which pay their way, and secondly, loans the repayment of which it is fair to spread over a generation on the ground that the money has been spent on works of permanent public utility. The balance will be the amount we have borrowed for current expenditure. The loans of the former class, which cover the greater proportion of the whole amount, come to 1,089 lakhs. Out of this sum, 875 lakhs represent roughly the expenditure incurred on irrigation works up to

(Pages 216-226, *Civil Budget Estimate*.)

	LAKHS.
Irrigation outlay—	
Up to the end of 1920-1921.	875.25
In 1921-1922 ..	+7.19
In 1922-1923 ..	+7.33
Local bodies ..	84.57
Madras Port Trust and Port authorities.	14.91
Agriculturists ..	94.52
Zamindars ..	1.34
Miscellaneous ..	3.83
Total ..	1,088.94

the time of the Reforms. In this connexion, I might perhaps remind the Council in passing that the Central Provinces Retrenchment Committee have raised the question whether the Government of India are entitled to charge us interest on the portion of this sum that was spent, practically out of current revenues, on protective irrigation works, which amounts in our case to about 75 lakhs. The further outlay on productive irrigation works since the Reforms amounts to 15 lakhs. Eighty-four lakhs

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are lent again to local bodies who are responsible for the charges of the loans; 15 to the Madras Port Trust and other harbour authorities who are similarly responsible; 95 to agriculturists; 1 to zamindars; and 4 for miscellaneous remunerative purposes. As regards this sum of 1,089 lakhs, therefore, I think the Council need feel no anxiety. The money is either well invested or lent again to other people who are fully responsible.

"As to the further sums which I propose to add, there may be not quite such a full feeling of security, but at the same time I think we are entitled to claim that they represent expenditure which clearly should be debited to Capital and not to Revenue. The first of these is the sum I have already mentioned of 29 lakhs, which represents approximately the present value of our investments in industrial enterprises. It is true that we do not expect every one of these enterprises to pay its way, but at the same time I think we can never expect to do anything in the way of industrial development if we are to wait until we can find money from revenue for the purpose, and I put it to the Council that the proper course is to treat each new enterprise developed by Government as if it were a separate limited company with a definite capital, and to let it budget each year for its estimated profit or loss, after allowing for interest on capital advanced, which thus becomes a sort of debenture loan. By this means we shall have a clear idea of what each of these enterprises is doing, and if any of them makes a heavy loss or has to write down its capital on the ground that an experiment has failed, we shall debit that loss or the amount of the capital written down to the

Water-supply and drainage schemes (page 167, *Civil Budget Estimate*).

	1921-1922.	1922-1923.
	LAKHS.	LAKHS.
Mufassal ..	5.61	3.97
City ..	10.00	3.00
	15.61	6.97
	22.58	
In 1921-1922: Ordinary Public Works (page 216, <i>Civil Budget Estimate</i>) ..	11.30	
	33.88	

should pay its share and therefore it is fair that the amount spent

revenue of that year. In the next place, a sum of 11.30 lakhs for expenditure on certain works included in the Public Works programme has already been debited to the capital account in the year 1921-1922. To this I propose to add a further sum of 22.58 lakhs which has been spent since the Reforms on works that are equally of permanent public utility, namely, water-supply and drainage works in large towns and especially in the town of Madras. These are works for which it is only equitable that posterity

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should be met from a loan in the first instance, the loan being paid off by equated payments, in other words, the repayment being spread over a series of years, instead of being met out of the budget of a particular year. If we add these figures together, we have a total of 1,152 lakhs, and if we deduct that from the Accountant-General's figure of 1,158 lakhs, we have the same figure of 6 lakhs representing our dead-weight debt up to the end of the current year which was arrived at by deducting the opening balance at the close of the war from the actual deficits in the years since it closed, and that, as I have said, is less than the amount of capital which we propose to repay in 1923-1924.

"That, Sir, sums up our loan position. We have borrowed 1,158 * lakhs and reinvested 1,152 lakhs. We have a dead-weight debt of 6 lakhs, which we shall repay next year. If we had had the Meston Committee's settlement, we should have had an addition to our income of 29 lakhs in the current year, with an addition of 58 lakhs to follow it in 1923-1924. The Joint

According to Meston Committee settlement.		RS.	
1921-1922	..	348	
1922-1923	..	319	
1923-1924	..	290	
1924-1925	..	261	
1925-1926	..	226	
1926-1927	..	197	
1927-1928	..	167	

Committee gave us in lieu of that smaller substance a dazzling vision of the total remission of our contribution of 348 lakhs of rupees and emphasized their intention that this should take place at the earliest possible moment. The fact that at the beginning of our third budget the "reasonably short period" over which this reduction was to be spread has yet to begin leaves us, Sir, it is true, in a position of hope deferred, but not, I think, in a position of despair.

Retrenchment.

"Before entering upon the question of the revenue we hope to obtain and the expenditure we propose to meet from it in 1923-1924, I should like to turn again for a moment to the three ways we have so often considered of increasing the one or reducing the other.

"Of the first, the increase of taxation, it would have been unnecessary for me to say more than that no further increase is at present proposed or contemplated, if it had not been for the cynical advice of a member of the Legislative Assembly that Madras should set her house in order by following the lead of other provinces in a bold policy of retrenchment and additional taxation. I shall deal with the question of retrenchment in a minute, only pausing here to

* After deducting repayments.

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say that, if the hon. gentleman in question had read the recently published despatches of the Government of India and the Secretary of State he would have realized the extent to which Madras was leading her would-be leaders in that matter. As for the new taxes, the additions to the Stamp and Court Fees schedules came into effect from the 1st April 1922 in only four provinces out of seven, and Madras was one of the four. The increase in the Registration fees was imposed in only two provinces, and Madras was the first to impose it with effect from the 1st March 1922. It is true that we have not the Amusements taxes of the two great cities for the reason that we have not the amusements upon which to impose them, but, on the other hand, we have a higher rate of taxation under Land Revenue, Excise and Local Rates than other provinces in India so that again our would-be leader is leading us from a long way behind.

"Of the second, the reduction of the contributions, I would say this: that our position under the settlement, such as it is, seems to be finally secured. It seemed to be secured before by many assurances and by statutory rule, but, as the Council are aware, those assurances were broken, and that rule was altered without our having an opportunity to protest. We have now the assurance of the highest authority, the Secretary of State, that the settlement stands; while the Government of India have promised us that there shall be no more departures from the rules, except after consideration of any proposal for the same by an impartial committee before which each province should have an opportunity of stating its case. We have more than that. We have, if we can believe the newspaper reports, the assurance of the hon. Sir Basil Blackett that there will be no question of reconsidering the Meston settlement at any rate until the contributions have been remitted. Let me read the exact words: "He assured the Assembly that in the matter of contributions the Government was not keeping quiet. It was pledged so to shape its financial policy that it might lead to a reduction and eventual extinction of the provincial contributions. The Government had been strenuously working for that policy . . . The balancing of the Imperial budget would be the first real step towards that reduction and eventual extinction of the provincial contributions to which they were looking forward. As for the Meston award, the time might come when, after the contributions had been wiped out, it might be desirable to reopen it. He disagreed with fixing any time-limit for the abolition. They might perhaps be able to do it in less than six years." That, Sir, is a statement of the case for which I am sure the Madras Presidency will be deeply grateful to the hon.

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gentleman who has so recently taken charge of the Government of India's finances.

" I now come to the third way of improving our condition, the way of retrenchment, on which I should like to say a few words. I have received within the last few days a string of questions as to how often the Retrenchment Committee have sat, how long they have been sitting, what subjects they have been considering and how many pages of report they have written, and much more to the same effect, which all seem to suggest that there is a feeling of dissatisfaction in some quarters at the fact that we are not, as some other Councils are, in a position to consider the proposals of our Retrenchment Committee. Now, I do not for a moment wish in any way to disparage the work done by the Retrenchment Committees in other provinces, on which some of the best brains in India have been engaged, with the result that they have produced a mine of suggestions and have cleared the ground by setting before us the conclusions of these able brains upon numerous questions upon which we have been or are now engaged. But I should like at the same time to present the Council with a few of the conclusions at which I have arrived from a perusal of the reports and a comparison of them with the work done here.

" In the first place, I should like to say that some of these committees were appointed as much as two years ago, and ours only four months ago, but that at the same time retrenchment has been actually in progress here meanwhile, and orders have actually issued on quite a number of the questions which other committees have only now recommended to the consideration of their respective Governments.

" In the second place, I should like to add to the fact that many of the subjects they have dealt with have already been dealt with here, the fact that many others of their recommendations deal with reductions in expenditure on objects on which we spend nothing.

" Lastly, I should like to say that our Committee has adopted a method of procedure which, while it bulks less in the public eye, will, I hope, be more effective in the matter of the actual reduction of expenditure than that adopted in some other provinces. What we are endeavouring to do is, not to put forward general considerations and leave it to the Government to work out the details, but to get down from the abstract to the concrete as part of the campaign, and in consultation with the representatives of departments, to work out proposals in detail which, if they are approved, will not require any further examination before they can be put into effect. May I add, Sir, while I am on the subject of our proposals and the

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proposals which are made to us not bulking in the public eye that we have received certain proposals which have been acclaimed in other provinces, on the part of the hon. the President and the hon. the Ministers offering to accept a reduction of salary, which are among those that are going to be considered and reported upon by the Retrenchment Committee. (Applause.)

" Let me now take two instances of the comparisons I am making. Various committees have proposed a reduction in the expenditure on travelling allowance. One of them recommends in specific terms a reduction, which is estimated at seven lakhs, to be made by the adoption of certain principles which are proposed. We actually made a reduction, not of seven but of ten lakhs, last year. At the time of the budget we were busy with the revision of the rules, which I may assure hon. Members is a matter of infinite complexity. By July we had a complete set of new rules ready to be placed before the Finance Committee. They were approved in August and issued with effect from 1st September, so that we have now not only the substantive reduction, but also the detailed revision of the rules complete.

" Let me take another case of even greater interest—our old friend, the allowances. As the Council are well aware, these were referred, as long ago as 1919, to the Salaries Committee who wrote 50 pages about them. The net result, as we saw last year, was imperceptible. Since then we have had many discussions, and we have had a complete list of them compiled by the Accountant-General. The fact that it took his office no less than seven months to compile it will be an indication to the Council of the amount of detail involved. This fact alone was sufficient to prevent our coming to a satisfactory conclusion until our Retrenchment Secretary was appointed at the end of September last. He has spent the greater part of his time since then, both before, after and during the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, in tracing each of these thousands of allowances to its source, and in classifying and analysing them, and I am sure that the members of the Retrenchment Committee will bear testimony to the great success that has attended his efforts. I had hoped, if it had not been for his detention in Delhi, that the Committee would have been able to complete their examination of the whole case in time for the budget. As it is, we are now sitting on the subject practically *de die in diem*, and I hope that we shall be able to make detailed recommendations to the Government in the course of the ensuing month. When I say that on a question of this magnitude other committees which were appointed as much as two years ago have only got to the stage of making a general recommendation that

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the question of the allowances be examined, I hope I shall satisfy the Council that we have not much to learn from them in the matter of procedure, but are leading our would-be leaders again.

"These are two instances of a more or less general nature. Where departments are concerned, we have special committees at work preparing the ground in almost every instance. Thus the hon. Sir Muhamamad Habib-ul-lah, with the aid of an official committee, has made a complete overhaul of the forms and accounts kept in connexion with settlement operations and has made a substantial reduction in them. Following that, he has held a conference of officials and non-officials to re-examine the policy pursued in matters of survey, and settlement from top to bottom. The hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar has attacked the question of arrears in Civil Courts with the aid of two eminent judges, and has arrived at arrangements which, it is hoped, will in course of time effect a considerable reduction in expenditure. He has also appointed a committee to re-examine the whole organization of the Police force. The hon. Mr. Knapp has placed an experienced Forest officer on special duty to discuss, in consultation with the Retrenchment Secretary, the practical application of a series of propositions for reduction in expenditure in the Forest Department which were formulated by the Retrenchment Committee. The hon. the Raja of Panagal has appointed a committee to overhaul the expenditure in the departments of Medicine and Public Health. The hon. Mr. Venkata Reddi Nayudu has appointed another to examine a matter which has frequently been referred to in this Council, namely, the question whether it is not possible to reduce the proportion of supervising officers to officers who come into direct touch with the ryot, while the hon. Mr. Patro has long since appointed an influential committee to examine the whole question of the cost of works done by the Public Works Department, having already dealt with the establishments both in that department and in that of Education. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the various inquiries that have been or are being made, so much so that, when we came to make for the Retrenchment Committee a tabular statement of all the proposals of all the other provinces and to note against each the corresponding action taken here, we found that a majority either did not apply or had already been dealt with, while of those that remained all but a very small number could be disposed of by a reference to committees that are already sitting. And to set against these few we have numerous proposals that have been tried and put into effect in Madras to which there is nothing corresponding in the report for any other Province.

"As to what the net result of our Committee's enquiries will be, it is ill to prophesy. But I sincerely hope that it will be a

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saving sufficient to cover any sum which the Council may decide to draw from balances for current expenses.

Revised Estimate for 1922-1923.

"So much, Sir, for our general position and our hopes. I now come to the figures for the current and the ensuing year. As the Council are aware, we budgeted for a total revenue of 1,642.74 lakhs and a total expenditure of 1,684.79 lakhs, leaving a deficit of 42.05 lakhs. Our revenue has fallen short of expectations and amounts to only 1,635.16 lakhs, the head chiefly responsible for the decrease being Stamps, in which there is a shortfall of 36 lakhs. This shortfall has been partly counterbalanced by an improvement in Land Revenue, Irrigation, and Excise and by the realization of fines levied in Malabar. On the other hand, our expenditure (1,652.84) has also fallen short of the estimate (1,684.79) by a sum of 31.95 lakhs. The chief reductions occur under the heads of Public Health, Interest on Debt, Stationery and Printing, Education and Agriculture. Against these have to be set increases under the heads Police, Jails and Civil Works, which have in most cases formed the subject of supplementary demands. The final result, as I have said, is that the deficit has been reduced from 42 to 18 lakhs.

Budget Estimate for 1923-1924.

"For the ensuing year we anticipate a revenue of 1,683.49 lakhs, and subject to the	
Total expenditure as in Civil Budget	LAKHS.
Estimate	1,719.07
Deduct water-supply and drainage schemes (12 lakhs); and grant to the University (1.50 lakhs) ..	—13.50
	1,705.57
Add repayment of loan	17.92
Total expenditure ..	1,723.49
Total revenue ..	1,683.49
Deficit ..	40.00

approval of the Council, we are putting forward proposals for an expenditure of 1,719.07 lakhs. These figures, however, are somewhat misleading, because, as in the old budgets, they include certain items of expenditure on capital account such as water-supply and drainage schemes. If we omit these and add a total sum of 17.92 lakhs for repayment of debt (9.50 towards the principal of the old Provincial Loan Account and 8.42 towards the principal of the short-term loans obtained from the Government of India during 1921-1922 and 1922-1923), the total expenditure will be 1,723.49 lakhs against a total revenue of 1,683.49 lakhs. We thus arrive at a net deficit of 40 lakhs. It is for the Council to say whether the prospects of a remission of our contribution in the near future or of a large reduction through retrenchment are sufficient to justify this overdraft.

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"The figures are explained in detail in the Finance Secretary's memorandum, and I shall therefore not weary the Council with any prolonged discussion of them.

"The heads of revenue which are chiefly responsible for the increase are Excise (+ 47.29) and Stamps (+ 17.45). Under Land Revenue an increase is expected from the Tanjore resettlement, but this is offset by the fact that the opening balance of Land Revenue demand for the year 1923-1924 will be reduced by better collections than were anticipated in 1922-1923. The excise revenue has recovered since the cessation of the Gandhi agitation. Under Stamps we expect to get a fuller benefit from the new taxation.

"As regards expenditure, as I explained last year, we have to allow for a normal increase even in relation to what I may call "standing sanctions" owing to changes in prices, the operation of the time-scales, the necessity for providing further supplies and services for growing institutions and so on. And the original estimates of the heads of departments for 1923-1924 for the carrying on of the services which have already received the sanction of the Council, i.e., the services which were included in the final budget for the year 1922-1923, amounted to no less than 32 lakhs in excess of our estimated revenue. The figures have been cut down drastically in the Finance Department with the result that the final figure for these standing sanctions is 7.63 lakhs less than the revenue. To this it is proposed to add a sum of 40 lakhs from overdraft to finance new schemes. The schemes selected include, first, those marked down by the Finance Committee as being schemes which must be carried out if there is not to be a break-down in the departments concerned and, second, a very few out of those which the Committee designated as schemes of such importance that provision should be made for them if it possibly can be.

"The following is a list of the principal items:—

"Under Forests we have Rs. 53,000 for further developments at Russellkonda, Rs. 16,500 for improvements at Mount Stuart, and Rs. 35,000 for establishment to work under the Chief Forest Engineer. Under Registration we have Rs. 10,000 for opening six new registration offices. Under Irrigation we propose to spend 1.14 lakhs from loan money on productive works and 1.36 from revenue on other works. This does not include the taking up of any large new project, but the Council will, I think, be interested in the provision of Rs. 21,000 for raising the level of the Red Hills Tank. Under Administration of Justice we have Rs. 1,70,000 for opening nine temporary sub-courts and five temporary district munsifs' courts. Under Jails we have Rs. 31,000 for plant for use in jail manufactures at Coimbatore; under Police

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Rs. 70,000 for the formation of a body of military police on the East Coast and Rs. 21,000 for increasing the strength of the Armed Reserves in Salem and North Arcot. Under Education we have Rs. 2,15,000 (of which, 1.50 lakhs will be met from short term loans) for the Madras University, Rs. 21,000 for completing the provision for science classes in Queen Mary's College, Rs. 7,200 for increasing the pay of Assistant Professors in the Law College, Rs. 15,000 for boarding grants to Indian orphanages, Rs. 12,300 for the employment of three additional Sub-Assistant Inspectresses of Girls' Schools, and Rs. 10,000 for the deputation of a member of the Madras Educational Service to England and for the institution of scholarships for two Indian women. We have also resumed the giving of building grants, which were almost entirely suspended last year, 3.75 lakhs for aided institutions and 1.50 lakhs for schools under local bodies, besides a grant of .27 lakh for the net cost of secondary schools under those bodies.

"Under Medical we have Rs. 54,000 for the special equipment of the new headquarter hospital at Vizagapatam and Rs. 3,800 for additional staff at the same, Rs. 26,000 for the opening of a medical school for women at Madras, Rs. 8,000 for deputation of a medical officer to England for training in the treatment of mental diseases, Rs. 14,000 for the opening of three new dispensaries in the Agency, Rs. 34,000 as grants to local bodies for medical buildings, Rs. 33,000 for the provincialization of the establishment of the District Medical Officers and 3.20 lakhs (in addition to the usual 1.80 lakhs) for grants towards the maintenance of medical institutions by local bodies. Under Public Health we have Rs. 12,000 for the long-deferred appointment of a Public Analyst, Rs. 6,000 for the employment of an anti-malarial brigade in the Agency, and a total provision of 12 lakhs (which we propose to debit to short-term loans) for water-supply and drainage schemes. Under Agriculture and Co-operation we have Rs. 55,000 for the establishment of a central millet-breeding station at Coimbatore, Rs. 8,100 for the starting of more co-operative societies for the depressed classes, Rs. 5,500 for improvements of dairy cattle, Rs. 8,000 for special demonstrations of improved methods in agriculture and Rs. 21,000 for the opening of a sugarcane station at Anakapalle. Under Industries and Fisheries we have Rs. 26,000 for the purchase of machinery for toy-making, and Rs. 43,000 for a variety of minor schemes. The sum of Rs. 1,50,000 for the British Empire Exhibition, which is shown under Miscellaneous Departments, also belongs rightly to this head. Under Labour we have Rs. 1,85,000 for extension of the operations of the department to new districts and Rs. 8,000 for extending those of the special officer in the Kallarnad, Rs. 30,000 for construction of working men's dwellings at Puliantope,

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Rs. 30,000 for scholarships, Rs. 13,000 for opening an industrial school at Perambur, and Rs. 10,000 for establishing a hostel for Adi-Dravida students.

"Under Civil Works, out of a total of 9 lakhs, 3.68 go towards the long-delayed programme for housing the police, 1.63 to medical buildings, .76 to buildings connected with industries, .36 to education, .62 to jails, .96 to administrative buildings, .60 to residences and .20 for the investigation of the scheme for sanitary improvements connected with the Cooum river.

"A further sum of three lakhs has been set down for the provision of quarters for officers and clerks on a remunerative basis in anticipation of the recommendations of the committee that has been sitting on this matter; and a provision of 1 lakh has been made as an instalment towards the construction on the Marina of the combined Victory Hall, Medical School for Women and Hospital for Women and Children. The total cost is estimated by the committee presided over by the hon. the Raja of Panagal at about 20 lakhs, of which a sum of nearly 6 lakhs will be met from the subscriptions collected by the Victory Hall Committee and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' Children's Hospital Committee. The total provision of 4 lakhs for these two schemes will form a debit against short-term loans.

"In addition to the usual trunk road grant, a provision of 4 lakhs has been made for grants to local bodies for roads and bridges, of which 1 lakh is for the restoration of communications in Malabar damaged during the rebellion.

"Finally, under Miscellaneous we have a provision of 3.25 lakhs as compensation to be paid for losses sustained during the Mappilla rebellion. That of course is quite distinct from the question of loans.

Grants to Local Bodies.

"Over and above all these, it is proposed to make a lump grant of 17 lakhs, the primary object of which is to relieve of indebtedness to the Government certain local boards whose expenditure is in excess of their revenue. Such a grant, I am well aware, is open to the gravest objection, and while endeavouring to explain it, I propose at the same time to seek the advice of the Council as to the means by which the necessity for any such grant may be avoided in future years. The questions which it raises are those which lie at the root of the whole question of local fund administration, namely, what are the services which should be discharged by local bodies and what are the resources out of which the charges of those services should be met. And, while these are subjects upon which volumes have been written, it is very difficult to find in those volumes any

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clear guidance as to the line of demarcation to be drawn between the spheres of local and provincial duties and finances. The natural tendency in the first instance is to seek guidance in England, but here we are met at the outset with conditions which are the exact opposite of the conditions in India. Not only are the rates there equal to 50 per cent of the whole taxation, whereas in India they are certainly less than 25 per cent and in many places they are only 10 per cent, but also their grants are distributed with reference to a number of local and special principles which it is very difficult to apply in this country.

"If we seek guidance in the history of local institutions in this country, we find that the only definition of the services which they should perform is that they should be such as will evoke local interest, local sympathy and a local sense of responsibility and a local readiness to be taxed or to contribute in some other form. As an instance, we find it accepted in 1865 that the watch and ward of a town is a first charge upon its rates. In the elaborate discussions that preceded the enactment of 1884 what Lord Ripon asked local Governments to do was to survey the whole field of administration and decide which out of the many activities of Government might be handed over to local bodies. It was also proposed to hand over with these activities certain definite sources of revenue, including the pound fees and the licence tax, which was afterwards converted into the income-tax. While, however, these were not finally handed over in Madras, the local boards, with which we are at present concerned, did take over a very large variety of functions and paid for them out of the resources provided by the Act. These bore a much higher proportion to the ordinary revenue

Grants from Government.		Grants from Government.		than the re- sources belonging to local boards do now, and there was very little in the early years given in the shape of grants. In 1889-1890 the amount for the whole Presi- dency was less than 4 lakhs of rupees. Even in 1904-1905 it was less than 11
LAKHS.		LAKHS.		
1889-1890 ..	3.86	1913-1914 ..	100.72	
1899-1900 ..	9.95	1914-1915 ..	100.09	
1904-1905 ..	10.62	1915-1916 ..	69.46	
1905-1906 ..	22.81	1916-1917 ..	57.59	
1906-1907 ..	21.11	1917-1918 ..	75.98	
1907-1908 ..	22.77	1918-1919 ..	102.29	
1908-1909 ..	27.53	1919-1920 ..	101.27	
1909-1910 ..	29.01	1920-1921 ..	86.13	
1910-1911 ..	29.52	1921-1922 ..	110.78	
1911-1912 ..	47.03	1922-1923 ..	122.44	
1912-1913 ..	70.92			

NOTE.—The figures from 1915-1916 include the expenditure incurred by Government on services taken over from local bodies.

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lakhs. It was then raised by the Government of India to a figure which for the next six years averaged 25 lakhs a year.

"Thereafter came the period of the opium surpluses, which demoralized the finances of all India. The Government of India did not realize these surpluses till the time of their budget. They then disbursed them to the provinces which had schemes ready. No prudent province that was working to make its revenue cover its expenditure had schemes and estimates ready for expenditure hugely in excess of revenue; and, consequently, this province got a very small share of these doles and the bulk of what it did get it disbursed by transfer to local bodies for schemes which they were capable of executing themselves. Under this policy the grants jumped in 1911-1912 from 29½ to 47 lakhs, in 1912-1913 to 80 lakhs, and for 1913-1914 and 1914-1915 to 101 lakhs and 100 lakhs, respectively.

"As I have said above, the disbursement of these enormous doles demoralized the finances of the whole of India, and I am afraid laid up a legacy of trouble for both the Provincial Government and the local bodies in this Presidency. Institutions were set up which could only be maintained if the income of the local bodies were to be permanently enhanced. Much money, it is to be feared, was wasted on what were called minor sanitary works and much more that was allotted to similar works was never spent and was ultimately resumed. In the three war years, 1915-1916, 1916-1917 and 1917-1918, the grants had to be reduced, though they were still maintained at an average of 67·68 lakhs, which was much higher than anything given prior to 1912. In 1918-1919 and 1919-1920 they exceeded the high water-level of 1913-1914 and 1914-1915. In 1920-1921 they were reduced again to 86 lakhs, but in 1921-1922 they were again raised to a higher figure than anything on record previously, namely, 111 lakhs. In 1922-1923 that figure was increased to 122 lakhs and now we are proposing to raise it to 140 lakhs.

"I should say in passing that the figures from 1915-1916 include the amount of expenditure incurred by Government on behalf of local bodies, for instance, on the maintenance of district head-quarter hospitals, which at one time were a charge upon the local bodies and have now been taken entirely under Government control. This is one of several instances of varying policies in respect of what I have said is the main issue at the root of the whole matter, namely, what are the functions properly to be allotted to local bodies and what are the resources from which they are to be paid for. As has been seen above, we first handed over to local bodies

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everything that we thought could best be controlled by the inhabitants of the localities, and later, during the period of the doles, urged them to further efforts in these directions. When the doles ceased and when later, owing to the rise in prices, they became involved like everybody else in difficulties in carrying on their ordinary administration, we started the opposite policy of relieving them of functions. But we have not done it on any fixed plan and the result is a set of arrangements that are satisfactory neither to the local bodies nor to the Government.

"I should like to refer here to one special instance of a variation in policy which has given rise to a good deal of controversy. At the very institution of local self-governing bodies we made over to them practically all the communications in the Presidency with the exception of the Buckingham Canal and a few very special roads. But we handed over with them in the first instance a grant for the maintenance of trunk roads which at first amounted to 17 lakhs, was reduced in 1871 to 11½ lakhs, then further reduced in 1876-1877 to 2½ lakhs and was finally made an end of in 1884. The resources of the local bodies were not really equal to the maintenance of these roads and some fell into decay, while on others important bridges were washed away which could not be restored. The question of providing further assistance for this important service was long under discussion and was one of those examined by the Decentralization Commission who recommended among other things that local Governments should take over direct charge of roads of general trade and through traffic. We put up proposals accordingly to the Government of India in 1917, suggesting that we should take over 4,500 miles of trunk roads at an average cost of not less than Rs. 300 a mile, and asking for an assignment. The Government of India were unable to give an assignment during the war and told us to wait for the re-adjustment of the finances under the Reforms. We were so much impressed, however, with the necessity for relieving local bodies in this matter that in 1918-1919 we made them a special grant of 20 lakhs to enable them to restore the roads after the wear and tear of the war and in 1919-1920 we gave another grant of 6 lakhs for the same purpose. In the budget for 1920-1921 we went further and made a definite provision for taking over the trunk roads. But as I have told the Council, that budget was one of many schemes none of which came to fruition owing to the enormous amount of money required for the increase of salaries, and this particular scheme was changed in the course of the budget debate. A non-official member suggested in modification of it that, instead of the work being done by the Public Works Department, the local boards should undertake

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it as agents of Government, and the hon. Member then in charge of Local Self-Government, in accepting that proposition, added that the grant should be paid on presentation of accounts after the close of the year. In other words, he postponed the payment to 1921-1922.

12 noon. "It has been complained of late years that this postponement of the grant amounted to making the boards advance an equivalent amount of their own money for Government works, and that leads me to the discussion of a very tangled financial question. Let me explain in the first instance that when the boards were under the Collectors, the latter, who were responsible at the same time for the expenditure of the boards, for the collection of the land-cess and for the distribution of a good many of the grants, and who were also responsible for keeping the treasury accounts, were able to overdraw from the Government from time to time when expenditure was in excess of receipts and to set everything right when the receipts came in at the close of the year. Nor did it matter to them that the amounts debitable to district boards, taluk boards and union panchayats were not clearly distinguishable in the first instance in the accounts. The position of affairs became, however, very different when the boards were taken under non-official control and their offices entirely separated from the Collectorates. It might have been supposed that the check of bills drawn against the budget, coupled with the operation of section 117 of the Local Boards Act regarding the maintenance of a working balance, would provide a similar guarantee against overdrafts. But among several causes which tended to defeat these checks was the false security afforded by the fact that nearly all the boards had standing to their credit large balances out of the previous grants from the opium surpluses. The facts are not yet very clear, but it may be assumed that in 1920-1921 the expenditure on the trunk roads was met out of these and part of the money previously spent by the boards upon them diverted to other objects. Towards the close of that year, it was decided to resume grants for works which had not been commenced, and the attempt to give effect to this decision revealed the extent to which the boards had been depending upon these balances of grants, which should have been earmarked. In 1922-1923 they had, like the Government, to incur large expenditure on increase of salaries, and at the same time it would seem that some of them extended their enterprises in a way which their revenues did not warrant. Nor, although they were so hard pressed, have the boards been very prompt in realizing their dues either from the payers of taxes or from the Government. In fact, I have only within the last few days seen a case in which a number

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of boards had failed to recover large sums due to them by Government, some of which had been outstanding since 1918-1919. Accordingly as the year went on it became increasingly evident that there were quite a number of the boards that had drawn sums from the treasury which they had no revenues to cover, while others had overdrawn against sums which they have yet to collect. What the extent of the excess of liabilities over assets is has yet to be ascertained, but the total amount as last reported of the general overdrawal is something over 15 lakhs of rupees. An official committee has now been set to work and we hope will get the matter threshed out in a few weeks.

"The amount which is thus overdue being practically equal to a year's grant for trunk roads, it would be a very satisfactory way of dealing with the situation that has arisen if we could straight away give the boards an advance grant on account of trunk roads for 1923-1924, in addition to the post-payment grant for 1922-1923, and then cry quits. But I think hon. Members will agree that it is the first duty of a responsible local body to pay its way and that therefore the first thing we must do is to ascertain the exact amount of the excess of liabilities over assets and enable the deficit boards to pay their debts. I sincerely hope that, to a great extent at any rate, we shall be able while doing this to meet the difficulty about the trunk road grants. We may assume that even the deficit boards will, if we include the post-payment for road work done in 1922-1923, have moneys due to them in some shape or another sufficient to cover the great bulk of their liabilities. If so, there will be money to spare out of the 17 lakhs approximately equal to what is due to the boards that are not in deficit. I feel sure my hon. colleague, the Chief Minister, will agree that it would be most unfair that the boards which have kept out of debt should come worse off in the matter of this grant than the boards which have not, and I rely therefore with confidence on him so to distribute this grant as to set this longstanding controversy at rest for good and all.

"This temporary settlement, however, will still leave the chief problems unsolved. These are the functions properly to be performed by local boards, the manner in which a regular supply of funds for those which the boards are unable to finance out of their revenues should be ensured, and the conditions, if any, which the Government should impose upon the performance of services for which they pay the whole or part of the cost. As I have intimated, this is a matter in which little help is to be got either from English practice or from the history of local self-government in this Presidency. A great range of activities was laid upon local bodies, while in the early days they had resources sufficient to

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- finance the majority. At the same time, while these resources were often supplemented by large public subscriptions, a great amount of the work was done for them by Government departments. As a consequence, there is little doubt that the advance was much greater in the richer districts than in the poorer, and this tendency was aggravated when the Government of India gave what is now known as the 14 lakhs grant on a percentage basis. It was apparently in an attempt to correct this to some extent that an order was passed in 1915 offering to pay half the initial and recurring cost of hospitals and dispensaries which were newly opened in places which did not then possess them. But the net result of that has, I believe, been to produce the most alarming anomalies, since now a board that was enterprising and made early provision for medical relief gets no grant while one that lagged behind till 1915 and then opened several dispensaries still secures half the cost of them all. Further anomalies resulted, especially in the case of schools, during the demoralizing years of the doles, some boards opening very many more than they could possibly maintain out of their own funds, while others were more prudent and looked to the future. And now in the last stage of the adjustments under which we have begun to take back the cost of specified services we have created fresh anomalies. Boards which had opened schools which they could not maintain have asked the Government to maintain them on the net cost basis, while those that were more prudent have had to do without schools. Finally, we come to the situation that has led to the present proposal and we have the position that, if it is accepted, boards which are bankrupt are relieved from debt while those which have played the game will have cause to regret their prudence.

"There is no doubt that this is all wrong, and it was because of the haphazard manner in which State assistance was given that the Government in 1919 appointed a very strong Committee to place the matter on a better basis. The report of the Committee forms an admirable treatise on the whole subject, but unfortunately, perhaps as a result of the wealth of suggestions contained in it, the Government have not yet succeeded in getting matters on to a satisfactory footing. The Committee divided services into 'national', 'semi-national' and 'parochial'. The 'national' were to be paid for and controlled by the State, the 'parochial' to be paid for by the local bodies and the 'semi-national' to be a joint charge and responsibility. The contribution of Government might be determined in several ways. It should not except in special cases be a general grant-in-aid of the resources of local bodies. It might form a percentage of expenditure or it might take the form of the payment of particular parts of the expenditure. It might be used to improve efficiency by ensuring services being rendered in a particular way.

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It might be used to correct inequalities between districts. All this was very admirable in the abstract, but the difficulty arose in applying it to concrete cases. Let us assume that the Government have a sum of 140 lakhs of rupees to distribute in 1923-1924. What is to be the manner of the distribution of that sum over services first, and among the bodies afterwards? What, in the first instance, are the semi-national services? The Committee tell us that it is difficult as between these and those of a parochial nature to draw anything but an arbitrary line. Is that line horizontal or vertical? Are we to say, for instance, that medical relief is 'semi-national' and roads 'parochial', or are we to say that trunk roads are 'semi-national' and village roads 'parochial'? Then again as regards the method of giving the grants, which of the various ways suggested is the best? Is it better to give a larger grant per mile for roads or to provincialize establishments, and if you provincialize establishments, who is to determine what is the establishment necessary for each district? Supposing, in one district which is better off, there is a much larger establishment in proportion to the work done than in its neighbour, is the Government to stereotype that inequality at the general taxpayer's expense? Or, again, take the question of medical relief. We have taken over all the head-quarter hospitals. Some of them are in old buildings that need early renewal, while others are in buildings comparatively recently built by the local bodies out of funds locally raised. Are the bodies which found the money entitled to any credit? Similarly with dispensaries, where we have the anomaly of one taluk getting grants for all its dispensaries, while its neighbour gets none. Is that to be continued? And finally is it not the duty of the Government, supposing that it undertakes, say, a great proportion, or almost the whole, of the cost of medical services, to see that medical institutions and medical officers are distributed throughout the country roughly in proportion to population, or is the location of these institutions to continue as it is? And if these questions present themselves as regards what is past, a similar series of questions will present themselves as regards the future. Who is to determine where new institutions which Government is to pay for are to be placed? Take, for instance, a net cost school, which is in other words a Government school. Is the initiative to come from the Government or from the local bodies, and if from the latter, how are we to arrive at an arrangement under which, on the one hand the boards will be able to obtain definite subsidies for services rendered, and on the other the Government will be able to ensure that no more than a fair share of the total revenue is devoted to this department? These are some of the questions that seem to me to call for a decision before we can arrive at any satisfactory

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scheme of assistance to local fund finance. On the one hand, we cannot commit ourselves to subsidies in different proportions to a number of different services without knowing what expansion in those services and so in the demand on the treasury is probable. On the other hand, if we tell local bodies that they will continue to receive a certain proportion of the revenues as a whole, then it is difficult to see how any particular locality can settle what sum it is entitled to expect. The whole question appears to me to be the most difficult of the many difficult ones which surround our post-Reform finance and I venture to think that it deserves a fresh inquiry by some of the best brains the Council can command.

Conclusion.

12-15 p.m. "That, Sir, brings me to the end of my story. To sum up, we anticipate an income of 1,683·49 lakhs of

	LAKHS.	rupees, and if the Council swallow their repugnance to lump grants and pass this lump grant of 17 lakhs to local boards, our expenditure will amount to 1,723·49 lakhs from revenue and 81·37 lakhs from loans, thus leaving a shortage under revenue of 40 lakhs. Now, as I have
(1) Irrigation—Capital Expenditure.	9·30	
(2) Loans to local bodies, agriculturists and others.	54·57	
(3) Housing schemes	3·00	
(4) Victory Hall	1·00	
(5) Water-supply and drainage scheme.	12·00	
(6) University	1·50	
	<u>81·37</u>	

said, we shall begin the year with a shortage of 6 lakhs, or to be more exact 5·45 lakhs. We shall pay off in the course of the year an instalment of capital borrowed amounting to 17·92 lakhs, of which 8·42 lakhs represent repayment of short term loans and 9·50 lakhs repayment of the old Provincial Loan Account. As, however, there is no reason why the Provincial Loan Account should be financed from revenue, we may reckon this repayment also as equivalent to

	Total expenditure.	Re-payment in		repayment of short term loan.
		1922-1923.	1923-1924.	
	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	
1921-22. Water-supply and drainage schemes.	15·61	..	..	Now, our sinking fund loan, if the Council accept my proposals on the subject, will amount at the end of 1922-1923 to 33·88 lakhs, and the
" Ordinary Public Works	11·80	..	..	
	<u>26·91</u>	1·10	1·17	
1922-23. Water-supply and drainage schemes.	6·97	..	·28	
	<u>33·88</u>	1·10	1·45	
		<u>2·55</u>		

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repayment due in respect of this amount at the end of 1923-1924 is roughly 2·55 lakhs. If we deduct this sum, our repayment of capital will amount to 15·37 lakhs as against our deadweight debt at the end of the year of 45·45 lakhs. In other words, we shall close the year on the basis of the present budget with a national debt of 30 lakhs of rupees in round figures. I leave it to the Council to say whether we are justified in involving ourselves to this extent. On the one hand, all sound finance abhors a deficit, and, as we have so often been told, it is the primary duty of a responsible Government to make the normal revenue cover the normal expenditure. On the other hand, we have a net income of 1,335 lakhs with a hope of a normal increase sufficient to cover the normal increase in expenditure and a further hope of an addition, owing to the removal of the contributions, up to 1,683 lakhs. In addition to this, we have a retrenchment enquiry in progress and, as I have said, I sincerely hope that its results will be sufficient to wipe out the comparatively small amount of debt which the Government propose to incur. I need hardly say how much I regret having to present another deficit budget to this Council, and I leave it to the Council to say whether we should proceed to revive our activities to the extent which the budget allows or should in the course of the debate to come attempt to cut it down again to a figure at which the revenue will cover the expenditure.

"In conclusion, I should like to say a few words about the processes by which this budget has been brought before the House. For our first budget after the Reforms we had no Finance Committee. When we came to the second, the Finance Committee were faced with an almost impossible task. They were very properly anxious to scrutinize every detail, and that meant the scrutiny of something like 300 pages of close print, full of items which offered scope for enquiries at every page. At the same time they were beset by a bewildering number of schemes for increases of salaries on the one hand, for reduction of charges on the other, the result of which it was extraordinarily difficult to foresee, while above all loomed the certainty of a considerable deficit. In dealing with the budget for 1923-1924 they have had a simpler, if no less arduous, task. In the first place, we have been able to divide up the budget into 'standing sanctions,' which means items that have already received the approval of the Council, and 'new schemes,' which have yet to go before it. In the case of the former, while there is much calculation and adjustment of detail to be done, there is no question of policy to be considered, while the latter need consideration of matters of policy, sometimes from quite a number of points of view. Accordingly we were able this year to let the standing sanctions, or Part I of the budget, go through the mill of the Secretariat

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and Financial scrutiny and come before the Committee only when all the excrescences had been pruned off. The new schemes on the other hand have to be examined in considerable detail, often with the aid of heads of departments and others. That done, there arises the difficult question in these deficit years which of them are to have precedence over the others, and for that purpose the Committee have adopted a fourfold classification—class I being schemes which are in the opinion of the Committee essential to the carrying on of the administration; class II those that are very urgently necessary; class III those that it is advisable to put into effect as soon as funds can be found; and class IV schemes that the Committee do not recommend.

“I have said that this arrangement renders the scrutiny of the budget a simpler matter, but no less arduous, and I think that the Council owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Committee for the way in which they have given up their time and neglected their own affairs to attend during the last few months no less than 20 meetings on Finance and 12 on Retrenchment, or on the average one in every four days. May I add for myself that I think these meetings have been most beneficial in bringing together the official and the non-official points of view? I have learnt to appreciate, if not always wholly to accept, many a point of view that at first seemed opposed to all the traditions of thirty odd years of work. On the other hand, the hon. the non-official Members have shown the greatest tolerance and understanding when officials have put before them the difficulties and inconveniences involved in giving practical effect to particular policies.

“The net result has been greatly to facilitate the consideration of the budget in the Cabinet, as I hope it will in the Council. And in that connexion may I just say one concluding word? In past budget debates hon. Members have sometimes put forward motions which they said they had moved simply for the purpose of eliciting information. The Finance Secretary and I have tried this year to make the budget as clear to every one as we possibly can. If, however, there are points that are still obscure, or if it seems that I have been performing something like a conjuring trick in reducing our accumulation of deficits to a dead-weight debt of six lakhs, which will be repaid next year, may I say that Mr. Lloyd and I will hold ourselves at the disposal of any hon. Member who would like to have any of the figures explained? If by this means we can clear preliminary questions out of the way, we shall then be able to devote the ten days of detailed debate to a full discussion of the major questions of policy that arise.”

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IV

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING TIME LIMIT FOR
GENERAL DISCUSSION ON BUDGET.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“Before I adjourn the House to the 1st March when the general discussion of the Budget will commence, I should like to mention that under sub-rule (3) of Rule 28, I have fixed a time limit of 15 minutes for each hon. Member's speech on that occasion. The afternoon of the third day will be wholly at the disposal of the hon. Members of the Government to make their replies.”

The House then adjourned at 12-30 p.m. to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday the 1st March 1923.

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

The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 1st day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR AVARGAL, 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.]

The Retrenchment Committee, Madras.

836 Q.—Rao Bahadur V. APPASWAMI VANDAYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

- (i) to state how many times the Retrenchment Committee met ;
- (ii) to lay on the table the report, if any, submitted by the Retrenchment Committee and to state what action has been taken thereon by the Government ;
- (iii) to state when the labours of the Committee are expected to be over and when final report will be considered by the Government ; and
- (iv) to state how many officers have been appointed as Secretaries, Additional and Assistant Secretaries to the Retrenchment Committee and the extent, the scope and the nature of work turned out by each of such officers ?

- A.—(i) Nine meetings were held between the 27th October and 9th January. Meetings were resumed on the 23rd February on the return of the Retrenchment Secretary from Delhi.
- (ii) No report has been submitted.
- (iii) It is too early to state when the Committee will complete their work.
- (iv) One Secretary and one Joint Secretary. The Secretary has dealt with salaries, allowances and with the Forest Department and Publicity Bureau. The Joint Secretary has undertaken the examination of Local Self-Government. Both are Members of the Legislative Assembly and have been carrying on their work in addition to their duties in the Assembly which has involved their absence from Madras for a considerable period.

Presidents of taluk and union boards of Chingleput district.

837 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state why the presidents of all the taluk and almost all the union boards in the Chingleput district did not stand for election to the respective boards and why and how they were nominated as members to these boards ?

- A.—The Government have no information. Members of taluk and union boards are appointed by the president of the district and taluk boards respectively.

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Loans to agriculturists in the Kurnool district.

838 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (1) the amount of loans advanced during the last three years to agriculturists for relief of distress in the famine areas of the Kurnool district;
- (2) the amount that has fallen due in the current year under each head, principal and interest; and
- (3) the amount, if any, suspended or remitted or recommended to be suspended or remitted under each head, principal and interest?

A.—Figures for loans for 'relief of distress' under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are not available separately from those for other loans under the same Act.

The depressed classes in the Ceded districts.

839 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (1) the amount spent by the Labour Department during the last three years for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes in Bellary and the other Ceded districts respectively; and
- (2) whether any attention is paid to the condition of other backward classes other than Adi-Dravidas, e.g., Madigas, Korachas, Yanadis, and if so, to what classes and in what directions?

A.—(1) Rupees 26,052 on the provision of drinking water wells in Kurnool and Bellary and starting a cottage industry in Cuddapah.

- (2) Yes; attention is paid to all sections of the depressed classes so far as funds permit.

Advances to members of the Panchama Settlement, Molagavalli, Bellary district.

840 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (1) the amount of loans advanced each year to the members of the Panchama Settlement on the disafforested lands near Molagavalli, Bellary district, after its formation;
- (2) the amounts that were due for payment by the debtors year after year since then; and
- (3) the amount realized out of the demand of each year?

A.—The Government have no information.

A Reformatory school for girls.

841 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (1) whether as in the case of boys who may be sent to the Reformatory school at Chingleput, there is any institution in this Presidency to which juvenile girls may be similarly sent; and

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(2) if there is no such institution, how courts are required to deal with utterly helpless juvenile girls who, though guilty of some offence or other and convicted by them, are likely yet to be reformed, if placed in healthy surroundings?

A.—(1) No.

- (2) Government have the matter under consideration but have not yet been able to devise any scheme or issue any instructions on the subject.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, it is stated in the answer that the matter is under the consideration of the Government but that they have not been able to devise any scheme or issue any instructions on the subject. May I know the approximate time within which orders will be passed?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I am afraid I cannot say when the consideration of the matter will be finished and when orders will be passed."

Abolition of Rayadrug division and Siruguppa taluk in Bellary district.

842 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Government invited any criticism by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette* or otherwise in respect of the proposals to abolish the Rayadrug division and the Siruguppa taluk of the Bellary district;

(2) whether the people of Hirehal and adjoining villages of the present Bellary taluk and of Naganathanahalli and other villages of the present Adoni taluk submitted petitions objecting to the transfer of their villages to Rayadrug and Alur taluks respectively;

(3) whether and, if so, when and how the Government propose to give an opportunity to all concerned and hear their objections, if any, to the contemplated changes before sanctioning or confirming them;

(4) when Siruguppa taluk and Rayadrug division were formed respectively; and

(5) whether even before the formation of Siruguppa taluk and the constitution of Rayadrug division the villages of Naganathanahalli and others in its neighbourhood and Hirehal and its adjacent villages were included in Adoni and Rayadrug taluks respectively?

A.—(1) No.

(2) A mahazar was received purporting to be from the ryots of Hirehal, Lingammanahalle, Siddapur, Obalapur, Tajirhal and Hirdhal villages.

(3) The Government have sanctioned the scheme as a measure of retrenchment and do not propose to invite public criticism.

(4) 1st October 1910.

(5) Naganathanahalli was in Adoni taluk and Hirehal in Alur taluk. The Government cannot make any statement in regard to neighbouring or adjacent villages unless the villages are specified.

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The Amaravathi bridge.

843 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the masonry work of the Amaravathi bridge had been washed away during the recent floods at Karur;
- (b) the extent of damage amounting to; and
- (c) the estimated cost of renewal?

A.—The masonry work of the Amaravathi bridge was not affected by the recent floods.

The Retrenchment Committee, Madras.

844 Q.—Mr. T. SOMASUNDARA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

- (1) when the Retrenchment Committee was appointed and how many sittings it has held till now;
- (2) how many Retrenchment Secretaries have been appointed and for what period;
- (3) whether the Committee has made any report or suggestions about retrenchment;
- (4) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy on the table; and
- (5) whether any of the suggestions have been adopted in framing the budget for 1923-24?

A.—(1) On the 22nd September 1922. Ten up to 23rd February.

- (2) Mr. R. W. Davies was appointed Retrenchment Secretary on 6th October 1922 for a period of six months in addition to his duties as a Madras representative in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. T. E. Moir was also appointed a Retrenchment Secretary in addition to similar duties, but has only been able to spend a few days in Madras since such appointment, owing to his services being required by the Government of India.
- (3) The Committee has made several such suggestions.
- (4) The report has not yet been submitted to the Government.
- (5) The answer is in the affirmative.

II**ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.**

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce that the Madras Stamp (Further Amendment) Act, 1923, which was passed into law at the meeting of the Council held on the 6th February 1923, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 24th February 1923."

III**ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE DATES OF SITTING OF THE COUNCIL DURING MARCH.**

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It will probably be convenient to hon. Members if I inform them that, when the general discussion on the Budget comes to an end day-after-tomorrow evening, the House will be adjourned to

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Monday, the 12th instant, when the voting of grants will begin. That voting will be closed on Wednesday the 21st. It is proposed to devote the 22nd to the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill; and, if any time is left on the 23rd after the voting of supplementary grants, that time as well as the 24th, 26th and 27th will also be devoted to the same Bill."

IV**GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.**

Diwan Bahadur Sir T. DESIKA ACHARIYAR:—"The hon. the Finance Member has very properly devoted more than a third of his Budget memorandum to the so-called 'grants to local bodies'. He observes that lump grants are open to the gravest objection and concludes, with a reference to the possible objection this hon. House might entertain, to swallow their repugnance to them and pass this grant of 17 lakhs to local bodies. I do not know what exactly the author of the *Arthashastra* would have said to this. But as one interested in local fund administration for a number of years, I entertain a natural disinclination to any such process being or having to be undergone before this hon. House is enabled to accept this provision of 17 lakhs to meet the immediate needs of local bodies. I may at the outset say, Sir, that it is not possible for me to understand exactly what these 17 lakhs are for. I see from the Budget memorandum that some boards have overdrawn to the extent of 15 lakhs, but I have no doubt that the majority of the boards have not done so. There is another matter which must engage the attention of the House irrespective of this in coming to a conclusion whether these 17 lakhs should be allotted to local bodies.

"Let me explain myself. While I am grateful to the hon. the Finance Member for consenting to insert this provision in the Budget to relieve local bodies of a situation which is not of their making, I must say that this is not a grant, or a charitable dole, but a very tardy and inadequate attempt to pay back to local bodies advances made by them in the shape of services duly rendered—services which are national in every sense of that term, viz., the maintenance of trunk roads. The facts stand as stated in paragraph 23 of the Budget memorandum:

The resources of the local bodies were not really equal to the maintenance of these roads and some fell into decay, while on others important bridges were washed away which could not be restored. The question of providing further assistance for this important service was long under discussion and was one of those examined by the Decentralization Commission who recommended among other things that local Governments should take over direct charge of roads of general trade and through traffic.

"In so far as these remarks relate to the realization by Government of the necessity to afford relief to local bodies in this matter, the Government made provision in the years 1918-19 and 1919-20. In the Budget for 1920-21 a definite provision of about 16 lakhs was made for achieving this end. I was one of the non-official members who pleaded that district boards should continue to maintain trunk roads as agents of Government. I did so because the boards were maintaining a large and efficient establishment working economically and expeditiously and because this work had been done by them for a large number of years. Were this work done by any other agency, I am sure the cost to the Government would have been much more than 16 lakhs, particularly when the roads had to be brought into order after the havoc caused to them by the phenomenal traffic which passed over

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them for want of railway facilities for the transport of goods-traffic during the War. If the hon. Member then in charge of the Local Fund portfolio said that the amount could be paid in 1921-22 he could not have meant to repudiate liability for expenditure incurred in 1920-21. His statement on the other hand, by implication, conveyed the admission that Government were responsible for such expenditure in 1920-21, but they could not pay it at once as they were faced by a severe financial crisis. Thus, the amount spent by local boards in 1920-21 was an advance repayable by Government to local bodies. These trunk roads, from that year, had to be maintained at an average expenditure of Rs. 500 a mile, a standard which, left to themselves, the local boards could not have adopted. Sir, the position carefully examined is this: The Government never paid to local bodies for expenditure on trunk roads incurred by them in 1920-21, and owed this amount to local bodies on 31st March 1921. They propose to pay this debt in 1924 and this provision in the Budget of 17 lakhs for relieving the so-called indebtedness of local boards is said to be a grant. I have to assert with all the emphasis at my command that it is but a tardy effort by the principal to pay his agent for the latter's services rendered duly three years ago. Surely, in the circumstances it cannot be said that there is any lump grant to be swallowed with or without repugnance by the hon. Council.

"While on this subject, I may say that I am not yet certain as to what exactly these 17 lakhs are intended to cover. I was told that some boards had overdrawn to the extent of three, four and five lakhs and if it is to pay them that these 17 lakhs are provided, I should say that an additional sum of 17 lakhs ought to have been provided by the hon. the Finance Member for the purpose I have pointed out and this Council ought to sanction it. It may be that in certain districts, owing to difficulties in the collection of land revenue and land-cess the district boards had been so crippled as not to be in a position to undertake the works which had to be done by them without overdrawing; but when the land revenue and land-cess of those boards are collected, the Government could naturally recoup themselves. On the whole, I submit that instead of the so-called 17 lakhs, lump grant if the Government had provided for 30 or 32 lakhs,—16 lakhs for the payment of the debt due to the local boards for the maintenance of trunk roads and 16 lakhs to relieve the boards which have overdrawn,—it would have really relieved the situation. As the hon. the Finance Member has himself pointed out, I do not think that boards which have not overdrawn should be made victims for those which had.

"The advice of the Council is sought in this connexion as to the means by which the necessity for lump grants may be avoided in future years, and the answer is indicated by the Finance Member himself. Determine at once definitely the services which should be discharged by the local bodies and indicate at once the resources out of which the charges for these services should be met. Ensure a regular supply of funds for the functions which must be done by the boards. I wonder why it has not been done all these years. I may here point out that the main revenue of local boards is the land-cess and this cess is not collected till the last four months of the official year. If, in the meanwhile, the trunk roads should be repaired and made ready for inspection by the Superintending Engineer on the 1st January, who is to pay for this? And from what funds? What is the meaning of the so-called post-payment for the maintenance of trunk roads? No contractor of mine would at any time do work without payment for materials supplied and what

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is the meaning of Government saying 'you better do the work this year, we will pay next year'? (hear, hear, from Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai). Where are the boards to find the money?

"With much of what the hon. the Finance Member says about the example of England not enabling us to solve the problems relating to the relations between local and provincial finance, I am in agreement. There is no doubt that conditions here are peculiar. Local bodies have, from time to time, and in ever increasing degree, been asked to render national service, but they have been allowed only a limited revenue by Statute and the charges for services rendered by them have been never adequately paid.

"With reference to the progressive increase of contributions to the local bodies, paragraph 108 of the Explanatory Memorandum of the Finance Secretary, may be read.

The expenditure under this head has been one of progressive increase rising from 46.92 in 1911-12 to 143.24 in 1921-22, or by 250 per cent. During this period the number of schools increased from 31,052 to 40,647 or by 31 per cent and the number of scholars from 1,280,066 to 1,837,022, or by 43 per cent. The expansion was mainly under elementary education, the increase being 44 and 50 per cent respectively. The increased expenditure was not merely in the direction of expansion of education, but considerable amounts were spent on the improvement of the pay and prospects of the teaching staff, on the opening of additional training schools and the enhancement of the rates of stipends.

"Now it is stated that the expenditure under the head of Education has been one of progressive increase from the year 1911-12 in the very period which has been referred to by the hon. the Finance Member, I beg to point out that, so far as local bodies are concerned, they were not guilty of extravagance or improvidence; on the other hand, they wanted to improve education, especially elementary education, by utilizing the funds given by the Government for the creation of more primary schools. It is only from the year 1911-12 that contributions to local bodies also show a progressive scale of increase. From the figures which have been furnished to us I see that the expenditure on education, particularly elementary, has increased just in the same way as the contributions from Government have also increased. It will be interesting to know how much of the contribution paid by Government represents the charges of elementary education which was justly recognized in 1911-12 as a national and not a parochial concern. The Government also seem to have realized that sanitation and water-supply were national needs and grants were made for this purpose with instructions for their utilization. It may be useful to ascertain what the proportion of the expenditure under this head from 1911-12 is to the progressive contribution to local boards referred to by the hon. Member in paragraph 20 of his memorandum.

"Reference was made to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee and the imperfect definitions therein of the terms 'national', 'semi-national' and 'parochial'. The Committee was presided over by Sir Habib-ullah and was composed of able and experienced officials and non-officials. I do not say therefore that their report contains the last word on the relations between local and provincial finance. I agree that the whole question has to be examined afresh, and welcome a committee which will definitely and speedily solve the problems raised by the existing situation. But my point in this connexion is that the report of the Finance Relations Committee has been before the Government for some time and no action of a definite character has so far been taken on many of the recommendations. I have also to point out that where the grants to local bodies were recommended to

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be withheld by the Government the recommendations were readily accepted, but where obligations were imposed upon the Government to find more money for services rendered, they were hardly considered.

"I do not want to waste the valuable time of the House by citing instances, as these must be within the reach of the departments concerned. The Government, after promising to maintain trunk roads and postponing payment for their maintenance, were faced with the problem of finding money for acceding perhaps to the recommendations of the Salaries Committee. Some Secretariat genius suggested the resumption of all provincial grants not expended without reference to the expenditure incurred on trunk roads. Thus, 20 lakhs were at once withdrawn from the credit of local bodies and yet they were asked to advance 16 lakhs for provincial expenditure on trunk roads. These 20 lakhs have yet to be restored to local bodies. If they were once earmarked for certain specific purposes, should they not be allotted for the same purposes? Just as the Government, as pointed out by the hon. Member, became involved in difficulties in carrying on their ordinary day to day administration, owing to the rise in prices and wages, we the local bodies also had the same difficulty. I have not forgotten the well-known G.O. No. 499 which was practically a direction to servants to demand higher wages. This naturally created a situation difficult in the extreme and their difficulty was not a little aggravated by the provision for the payment to schoolmasters. An army of schoolmasters who received Rs. 4 per month for one year could not be expected to work willingly and contentedly with a smaller allowance in the next year. The salaries of medical subordinates were also increased without consulting local boards. They were likewise faced with the problem of having a contented engineering establishment, when they found Government employees in the Public Works Department receiving increased salaries and lump sums as arrears of pay. I draw attention to these facts in order to show that the local boards in the discharge of their duties have not been extravagant in spending the increased grants made for services rendered, that the Government have paid for those services in a haphazard manner, and that this is responsible for many of the problems indicated in the Budget memorandum.

"Local Boards in India are of statutory creation. They have taxed themselves to the utmost. Land has been taxed to the extreme limit. When the new Local Boards Act was passed there was therefore a provision made in the V Schedule of the Act enabling the Government to assign the Boards a portion of the Excise revenue. This provision has so far been a dead letter. The matter has been brought to the notice of this hon. House, but the Government disregarded the representation. There is absolutely no comparison between local rates in western countries and the resources of local bodies of statutory creation here. It is not possible to develop the point here any further. All that I need observe now is that local rates in the west had a different origin and history from the land-cess here. There is therefore no force in the observation that local bodies raise only a small percentage as rates. Nor is there any point in the criticism that local bodies have been receiving ever increasing contributions from the State and their appetite in this respect is voracious and omnivorous. If the contribution rises from 4 to 140 lakhs it has to be seen in what proportion the services rendered by them to the State have also increased. It will be useful to ascertain to what proportion of the total expenditure by local bodies has

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been borne by Government. It cannot be over 30 per cent. For rendering national services we cannot raise rates locally; the correct and logical thing to do would be to assign a portion of the State revenue for this purpose in any form the Committee may propose. You create local bodies by statute; you provide them with a limited and non-progressive revenue; you give out hopes of assigning to them a portion of the Excise revenue and are unable to do it; but you ask them to undertake ever increasing national services incommensurate with their slender means. In these circumstances, if you pay for the services rendered, can you say, 'here is an importunate and improvident set of local bodies whose demands are ever increasing'?

"I have, Sir, placed before this Council a few of the many points of view from which the extremely difficult question which has been so ably discussed by the hon. the Finance Member has to be approached. I trust that the question will be solved soon and local bodies will be exonerated from the blame of overdrawing from the treasury.

"Having dealt with the main point in the hon. Member's lucid exposition of the various difficulties, in paragraph 27, which surround post-Reform Finance as far as they affect local bodies, I do not think that under the circumstances better provision could have been made for the various purposes which fall under the head of local boards' administration and education, and I therefore think it unnecessary to dilate any further on the allotments made. I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on his lucid memorandum."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has to be congratulated on his lucid analysis of facts and figures in this year's Budget which he has made as clear as he possibly can. The Budget speech is a carefully considered statement of a sound financial policy. There is still need for economy; for, in the first place, we have a deficit Budget, and, secondly, this Presidency, with its great resources, is so little developed and in certain matters, more especially education and medical relief, it has a much lower standard of expenditure than one of its neighbours.

"In considering the ways and means of effecting economy the hon. the Finance Member mentioned certain facts which I think require to be slightly modified and added to. Thus he expressed the hope that the revision of salaries is practically at an end. This can only apply to the gazetted services. The non-gazetted services and the teachers have, still their grievance. With a view to allay discontent and promote efficiency, it behoves that something more should be done to place these bodies of men in a position where they may be expected to discharge their duties with cheerfulness and contentment, with real zeal and enthusiasm.

"The Finance Member then refers to the receipts under Land Revenue, Irrigation, Excise and Administration of Justice which have been better than the estimate. The revenue under Excise cannot be relied upon as a permanent asset in the Budget estimate. With the growing sense of the evils of intemperance, and with the expansion of legitimate propaganda work by social reform and temperance leagues, the demands by local bodies for closing the taverns and liquor shops in their territorial limits, which need not necessarily imply a conscious political aim, seeing that not only temperance but even total prohibition has been brought about by legislation in the United States, and what affects one body of men cannot be a matter

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of indifference to other bodies of men, the Council may find it later on desirable to yield to genuine popular demand and forego a part of its revenue under this head.

11-30 a.m. "As for land revenue and taxation in general, the hon. the Finance Member himself admits that this presidency has a higher rate of taxation under land revenue, excise and local rates than other provinces of India. In other words, from his own admission, a very good case is made out for abandoning all thought of further taxation, and this House will be grateful to him for his assurance that no further increase is at present proposed or contemplated.

"Thirdly, he has reviewed the history of retrenchment in this province, which, he rightly says, is far ahead of other provinces in this respect. There are, however, one or two things which call for special remark. The abolition of subordinate posts, if carried too far, may result in impairing efficiency or may seriously interfere with the normal growth of departments. There is one direction in which, I think, retrenchment can be truly effected. There has been much talk in this House of the Indianization of the services. Now, Indianization of services, as I understand it, and as every patriotic Indian who has at heart the economic prosperity of his country must understand it, means two things. First of all, it means determining and fixing the number of posts which should indispensibly be filled by European members of the Civil Service or other European officers possessing special qualifications or expert knowledge. Recommendations will have to be made to the hon. the Secretary of State for India, through His Excellency the Viceroy's Government, and the relative strength of the European and the Indian element in the higher services shall have to be arrived at. In the meantime, Indians will have to be associated with European officers in generally increasing numbers and afforded opportunities of receiving the training, the knowledge and experience which will fit them for independent charges. Secondly, Indianization of services means, and must always carry with it, a fair reduction of the salaries paid to Indian officers. This, I shall be told, will result in disparity; but the disparity will not and cannot be a real grievance. For, in fixing the salaries of the higher posts attention was paid only to those circumstances which would enable members recruited from the United Kingdom to carry on their work efficiently amidst new surroundings and under trying climatic conditions, far away from their home and from their kith and kin. These factors do not, I think, operate in the case of Indian officers working in their own country and for their own people. Also, the services had to be rendered attractive in order to draw the best brains and the best type of men. The hon. the Finance Member himself disclosed to the House the fact that the hon. Ministers have made proposals for the reduction of their salaries. We are also told that the reduction of the salary of the hon. the President is under consideration. Although the hon. Member was not prepared to tell us the nature and extent of these reductions, still it is reasonable to hope that the example set by the hon. Ministers will prove contagious in the very best sense of the term, and will extend to the higher services where Indians are employed. It may very well extend to the Indian Members of the Executive Council (hear, hear).

"Education, Sir, is one of the matters which unfortunately, in the present financial stringency, continues to be treated in a niggardly fashion. As the hon. Member himself has admitted, it is one of those matters where the

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standard of expenditure is lower than in other provinces. It is gratifying to state that the giving of building grants, which was almost wholly suspended last year, has been resumed. But there are one or two things which fill one with surprise. I, for one, cannot understand why out of a provision of 7 lakhs recommended by the Law and Education Department for grants to aided institutions, not even two-thirds, not even half, was recommended by the Finance Committee under classes (1) and (2). The present provision of 3.75 lakhs will, I fear, hardly cover the actual liabilities of the Education Department. Then, a sum of Rs. 2.15 lakhs has been provided for the new University of Madras. This is as it should be. But I am simply amazed to find that no provision has been made for the much-talked-of Andhra University, and that no amount has been ear-marked for certain mufassal centres to enable them to attain to a higher level of efficiency and to raise well-founded hopes that the creation of one or more universities there will become realities or realisable events of the not distant future. On the whole, however, it is but fair to admit that the provision made this year is much higher than what was made in the previous years; and, considering the present financial stringency and the deficit, it would perhaps be rash to press the matter further. I would only emphasise that, considering the importance of education as a lever for raising the intellectual and moral tone of the people, a more liberal policy will have to be adopted in future—a policy which will surely make for progress.

"As for local bodies, after the elaborate consideration of the matter by my hon. friend, Sir Desika Achariyar, it is unnecessary for me to say anything in detail. But one word I should like to say. If it is true that the local bodies had not a fair conception of the nature of the work which they were expected to do, it is equally true that the Government themselves had not a clear knowledge of their own mind in this respect. Therefore, in estimating the liabilities of the local bodies and analysing the causes that had led to them, I fear the hon. the Finance Member is unusually scrupulous and unnecessarily pessimistic. On the contrary, in spite of the confusion that prevailed and in spite of the Government themselves changing their policy—now handing over works to them and then taking them back—it is very creditable to these local bodies that, by sheer force of habit or the traditional policy handed down to them, they have been able to do good work. My friend is not satisfied with the 17 lakhs of rupees offered by the hon. the Finance Member: he likes to have the sum doubled. But to me the only remedies seem to be: first, to apply the 17 lakhs to cover all their deficits; and, secondly, to evolve a very good scheme. The local bodies will then be in a position to start a work with a clean slate and with a clear knowledge of the duties they have to discharge, with a definite scheme or programme before them."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, the days of this Council are already being numbered and in a few months more we may be called upon to meet our electors and settle accounts with them. I, for my part, Sir, am ashamed to face them with these woeful tales of huge debts and heavy deficits in our finance, which have been recurring for the past four years consecutively. The debts representing the sum total of the last four years' deficits amount to an appallingly large figure of 267 lakhs. But, thanks to the ingenuity of the hon. the Finance Member, this debt has, by a clever process of reasoning and shuffling of figures, been made to dwindle itself to a modest sum of only six lakhs. Even this amount, the hon. Member

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assures us, we shall be able to wipe out in the course of next year. So, I am glad I may be able to show a clean slate to my constituents at least in this respect.

"Now, as to the deficit for next year, the hon. the Finance Member says that, if we are anxious to have a nice handsome garment prepared to clothe the administrative body with for the coming year, we must be ready and willing to provide him with extra cloth in the shape of an additional 40 lakhs. Otherwise, he will perforce be obliged to cut the coat only according to the cloth. Such a coat, however uncouth, stiff-necked, short-handed and tight-waisted it may be, must be worn and patiently borne too. He is reluctant to suggest additional taxation. He has already exhausted his resources in that direction. The enhancement of the stamp fees, the court fees, the registration fees, etc., is enough to pinch the pockets and wound the feelings of the people. He does not want to court any more unpopularity. But all the same, he sees in the amusement tax the shadow of a likely suggestion from some of the councillors. Unlike his hon. colleague, the Raja of Panagal, he is cautious and desirous of avoiding controversial topics. We know our Chief Minister, the hon. the Raja of Panagal, is straying abroad and striving to seek 'fresh fields and pastures new' to feed his famished offspring, the local bodies. He has unfortunately hit at the religious institutions—a field where even angels fear to tread. But the hon. the Finance Member is made of a different metal. He knows by taxing amusements, he will be incurring the displeasure of the aristocrats of the Presidency, especially of the city of Madras, both European and Indian. So, he skilfully brushes that question aside and coolly makes us believe that we have no amusements at all to tax. Sir, have we not already enough shows, cinemas, theatres, and the like in the city which are daily filling their coffers to the brim? Have we not had during the past three months a grand *tamasha* performed at Guindy to which an almost unparalleled and unexampled congregation, rich and low, had assembled from the city and its suburbs? For what purpose? Not particularly to witness the races there, but to bet and lose their hard-earned savings and return home crying, with hands covering their faces, only to lead thenceforth a life of misery and abject poverty. This amusement may all be very well for the rich, but what about the poor, who have been tempted to stake their all, and have been ruined for life? Sir, in my opinion, such an amusement ought not to be permitted, but if it is going to be perpetuated at all, why not we tax the race club to the extent of 50 per cent of the profits as in Bombay, so that the unhappy sufferers may find some solace in the thought that the club, while inflicting untold miseries on many a family, is at least a means of lightening the burden of the general taxpayer to the extent of its annual contribution to Government?

11-45 a.m. I am informed—I am subject to correction—that the Race Club at Guindy has earned a net profit of 13 lakhs this year.

If this be true, we can safely rely on an annual income of six lakhs. I therefore urge the levy of an amusement-tax in this presidency at an early date, the income being set apart for primary education or medical relief or the removal of congestion in the city. We have a right to claim for a substantial share in the profits of the race clubs, the cinemas and theatres, and I trust the hon. the Finance Member will not miss this golden opportunity of distinguishing himself and earning the gratitude of the helpless masses.

"In order to meet the deficit of 40 lakhs, the hon. the Finance Member is somewhat over-sanguine and hopes to get a remission of our provincial

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contribution to the Central Government in the immediate future. I, however, am not prepared to place any reliance on the promises made by the Central Government."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I may say I gave expression to no such hope. Perhaps I may tell the hon. Member about the telegram which has just been received. It says :

The Finance Member regretted that no beginning could be made this year in reducing the provincial contributions, and urged all who had that interest at heart to support him in securing a balanced central Budget, as, by doing so, they would be hastening the day when the contributions would be reduced."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"We have already, times without number, exhibited our 'milch cow' pale and bled white, both in the Council Chamber and the Assembly Hall at Delhi, but still the authorities remain unmoved and insist on their 'pound of flesh'. What guarantee is there that they will so soon be converted and moved with pity and come to our rescue at this critical juncture? Perhaps it may be, if not a hope shattered, a hope deferred, which makes our hearts sick. It is therefore a matter where we have 'to wait and see'; and to hope to get any income from this source to meet our present deficit will be a vain attempt.

"The next suggestion of the hon. the Finance Member is to meet this deficit from out of the savings likely to accrue from further retrenchments anticipated in the course of the year. What those retrenchments are and what sums they are likely to fetch are questions which he is unable to answer at present. We have noticed that all cuts made hitherto were mostly among the menial and the ministerial staff and none among the Ministers, the Council Members and others who adorn the top of the present administrative framework. An axe aimed at the top, which is heavy and burdensome, leaving the roots alone will help the healthy growth of the tree sprouting fresh blossoms and yielding sweet fruits. We have heard in other parts of India Ministers and Council Members voluntarily surrendering a portion of their salary, with a view to replenish the depleted treasuries of their respective provinces. Even in Madras, I understand, our worthy President, who is a valuable asset to this Council and who is our guiding star gifted with immense potentialities and powers, has already intimated his intention to forego a thousand rupees per mensem from his salary to relieve the ever-growing burden of the poor tax-payer (loud applause). We have to hear from our Ministers who are the representatives of the tax-payers in this House what they intend to do and how much they intend to sacrifice. Any sacrifice made by them at this crisis, though belated and liable to be misunderstood as in electioneering tactics, would be welcome (laughter); and I hope it will bear the same proportion as that offered by our President.

"As regards the Executive Council Members, although the air is thick with the rumour that the present strength will be reduced by one, there has been no official announcement as yet to that effect. I trust that this question will receive due consideration at the hands of the Government at an early date. Whether the deficit of forty lakhs is going to be covered up or not by the means suggested by the Finance Member, there is a fair chance of the actuals going down, as in the current year, and certain unnecessary items in the Budget expunged in the course of the Budget Debate. To cite an instance of the latter type, I find a provision of Rs. 52,000 made for improvements connected with the Russellkonda project. Already the project is of doubtful

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utility and until we are sure that it will prove to be remunerative, we shall not be justified in spending further sums on it, especially when the financial equilibrium of the province is considerably disturbed. Let us however risk a chance and allow the deficit of forty lakhs to stand as desired by the hon. the Finance Member. I have unbounded faith in his foresight and knowledge of matters of finance; and I am sure he will try to make both ends meet somehow.

"In closing, I offer my hearty congratulations to the hon. the Member in charge for the clear, lucid and, I am tempted to say, enticing manner with which he has presented his Budget before the Council."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, the opening speech of the hon. the Finance Member has been, if I may say so, particularly lucid. It has indicated in a clear manner the financial position of this Presidency. We have had deficit budgets for the past several years, and successive deficit budgets are likely to have a depressing effect in the minds, not only of the Members of this Council, but of all people in the Presidency; but the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter has tried his best to remove this depressing effect: he has made strenuous attempts to show that, after all, there is no reason for despair or alarm. He has stated, Sir, that, in spite of the deficits, we have practically no dead-weight debt except six lakhs. In spite of his attempt to cheer us, there is the stern fact facing us, viz., the current year ending with a deficit of 18 lakhs and the coming year being expected to close with a deficit of 40 lakhs.

"The hon. Member has given prominent place in his address to the question of the contribution of 348 lakhs from the revenues of this Presidency to the Imperial revenues. So long as Sir Malcolm Hailey was in charge of the finances of the Government of India, the attitude of that Government was not only unsympathetic towards this Presidency but it was even definitely and positively hostile. But after the transfer of the Finance portfolio from his hands to the hands of Sir Basil Blackett, a change has come over the views of the Government, so far as this Presidency and other presidencies similarly circumstanced are concerned. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter has quoted extracts from the speech which the hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India made about ten days ago in the Assembly. Let us hope that in the speech he will make to-day in the Assembly (speech on the Budget of the Government of India for 1923-24)."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has probably not heard what Sir Charles Todhunter said a few minutes ago. Will the hon. the Finance Member read the telegram again?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I would repeat the melancholy news.

The Finance Member regretted that no beginning could be made this year in reducing the provincial contributions and urged all who had that interest at heart to support him in securing a balanced central Budget, as, by doing so, they would be hastening the day when the contributions would be reduced."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"We shall certainly do so.

"The hon. the Finance Member referred in his speech to the work of the Retrenchment Secretary and the Retrenchment Committee. It is unfortunate that the work of this Committee could not be completed before this Budget was prepared. However, Sir Charles Todhunter tells us that the Secretary is completing his labours, and the report of the Committee will be placed

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before the Government early next month for their consideration. Even if it is not possible to reduce and abolish all the allowances completely, still if a definite and appreciable reduction can be made both in their number and their amount, I consider the present Budget as fairly satisfactory. Let us hope that the Retrenchment Committee and the hon. the Finance Member will really be able to reduce the allowances by at least 40 lakhs, so that there may be no deficit whatever in the coming year.

"Then, Sir, a very large portion of the speech of the hon. Member was devoted to the lump sum grant of 17 lakhs which he proposes to make to the local bodies in order to enable them to discharge their obligations. The question, as has been said, bristles with difficulties. But leaving aside for a moment all these difficulties and complications, I believe the House will readily allow this grant in spite of its natural and reasonable reluctance to make lump sum grants. The work of the local bodies consists of the primary duties of any civilized Government. They have to look after public health, communications, medical relief, sanitation and primary education; and these are duties which no Government which professes to be civilized can afford to neglect. This work is by statute delegated to the local bodies and it is impossible for them with the funds at their disposal to discharge these functions satisfactorily. The hon. the Finance Member has emphasized in his speech that the rates and cesses in this Presidency are so high that they cannot be raised any further. In fact, they are higher than similar rates in other parts of India, and without a material contribution from the coffers of the Government, it will be impossible for these bodies to carry out their functions and obligations satisfactorily. I therefore hope that instead of

showing its usual repugnance to lump sum grants, the House
12 noon. will sanction the grant in this case to the local bodies.

"It is stated in the report of the Financial Secretary that the question of dividing the expenses between this Government and the Imperial Government with reference to subjects such as Income-tax and Salt, which are wholly Central subjects, and Abkari which is wholly provincial, is under correspondence with the Government of India and under the consideration of this Government. No further details are given in the report. I hope the Finance Member will, in his reply, elucidate this a little more. I hope he will say what portion of it is under correspondence and what portion under the consideration of this Government. With reference to that portion which is under consideration of this Government, I hope he will also tell us how far the consideration has progressed.

"Then, with reference to the figures which are entered in the Budget Estimate, it is difficult, Sir, in very many cases to understand the principles or the basis on which they are calculated. No doubt, I know very well, that, after all, Budget calculations are only calculations and it will not always be possible to calculate to an exact figure the income and the expenditure for a coming year. Nevertheless, some fairly successful attempt should be made by the Finance Department to calculate the figures with reference to both the income and the expenditure. To illustrate what I mean, I shall refer to some items. This House may remember, Sir, that last year, when the Stamp Fees and the Court Fees Amending Acts were introduced for consideration, it was mentioned to us that the additional revenue expected was about 70 lakhs. But the calculations of the Finance Department in this matter have been wrong to a very large extent;

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for, we find that the actual income is 36 lakhs less. I do not, for a moment, forget the fact that the Budget figure for 1922-23 was for the whole of the income expected under Stamps and Court-fees. Nevertheless the fact remains that from the anticipated income they have been able to realize only 19 lakhs less under non-Judicial. With reference to the anticipated income from Judicial Stamps we note a difference of 17 lakhs. Under the two heads together, Judicial and non-Judicial Stamps, there has been a difference, between the anticipated and the actual income, of 36 lakhs, i.e., more than 50 per cent. Seeing that there is this difference, seeing that the Government have not been able to realize a major portion of the anticipated income, it is curious that they have budgeted again for an increased income of 10 lakhs in 1923-24. Of course if they calculate on the basis of the revised figures it would be reasonable. But they have not done so, and, I think, Government have not gained by past experience in the matter. Going to another head of income, XIII. Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept, if we look to the net receipts, there is an excess of nearly 2.5 lakhs. They budgeted only for three lakhs and odd and if they were able to derive two lakhs more, there must be something fundamentally wrong in the calculations. I need not multiply instances; I may just refer to another entry under 15. Miscellaneous. They budgeted for two lakhs and in the revised Budget the amount has increased by nearly five lakhs. I have read the Financial Statement with reference to these figures and I must say the explanation is very unconvincing. These discrepancies between the Revised and the Budget Estimates show that the calculation proceeds upon a wrong basis. If we go on to the figures under expenditure, we find, for instance, under General Administration, the expenditure as was budgeted has increased by 41 lakhs. The original figure was less than a crore and that has increased by 41 lakhs."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"It is time that the hon. Member finishes his speech."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"With your permission, Sir, I will conclude by saying this. I was criticising the figures of the Finance Member. I have a great deal more to say, but as I have already said, if by the efforts of the Finance Member and by those of the Retrenchment Committee the Government are able to reduce the deficit of 40 lakhs, then in my opinion the Finance Member will have really made an honest and sincere attempt to present a fairly satisfactory Budget."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, the hon. the Finance Member has introduced his Budget in a speech which for lucidity and meticulous details it is hard beat; and I take this opportunity of offering him my congratulations. In the course of his Budget speech he expressed his regret at being constrained to present another deficit Budget in the coming year. This is not the first occasion in which the House has been presented with a deficit Budget. Things have been going on in this fashion for three or four years past and deficit Budgets have become the order of the day. If it is neither pleasant nor agreeable to the gentleman that has to present a deficit Budget, it is certainly irritating and disappointing to those for whose consideration and discussion such a deficit Budget is presented."

"The Budget, if you just look into it, discloses one melancholy fact, viz., that things are drifting from bad to worse. While at the end of the war

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somewhere about 1918 or 1919 we had to our credit not less than 210 lakhs in our hand, what is it that we find now? The whole of that credit has disappeared; we are now faced with a deficit and thanks to the ingenuity and management of the hon. the Finance Member a deficit Budget of 48 lakhs has in the current year been brought down to a deficit Budget of only 18 lakhs. But this reduction in the deficit was arrived at—I may be pardoned for saying—by starving some of the nation-building departments such as Agriculture, Education and so on. For, we find that under Agriculture, Education, Stationery and Public Health the expenditure was less than the allotted expenditure by 32 lakhs. If the expenditure allotted under these four heads had been spent up as they should have been, instead of a deficit of 18 lakhs, this Council should have been faced with a deficit of 50 lakhs. That is a circumstance which it is impossible for any Council to contemplate with equanimity. The question is what are we going to do. Year after year we are called upon to meet, to face, and, if possible, to overcome deficit Budgets. And in the course of his Budget speech the hon. the Finance Member rested his hope upon the possibility, remote or near we did not note then, of some relief being accorded to us by the Central Government. That ray of hope which we entertained has unfortunately since been dashed to the ground with the result that we are worse to-day than what we hoped to be two days earlier, at the time when it fell to the lot of the hon. the Finance Member to introduce his Budget.

"The expenditure has been mounting up, has been going up in every possible direction and the question is whether the time has not come to devise ways and means by which we can cut down the expenditure to a figure at which the revenue will be able to cover it. It is not sound policy or good statesmanship to allow the expenditure to go up and to place ourselves on the verge of bankruptcy. One or two courses are possible. If we get relief from the Central Government—there is absolutely no immediate possibility of getting it—that would be one way by which we might be enabled to tide over the crisis. If not, we have to resort to retrenchment and take largely to indianizing the services. Unless some such drastic step—without impairing the efficiency, I should necessarily concede—is taken, I fear, there will be in the near future a general breakdown of the machinery with a calamitous result for which we shall have to repent."

"The hon. the Finance Member has said that various committees are sitting, in collaboration with the departmental heads, for the purpose of effecting necessary retrenchment. To what extent the retrenchment will go and what actual figures will be shown as savings by the committees is more than I can say. For, I am not in the secrets of the committees, and, moreover, it is too soon for me to expect the committees to take us into confidence. They seem to be still deliberating on the matter and it would be possible for us to expect some information for some time to come."

"Going through the Budget, you will find that a large percentage of the income goes to the reserved half. Hon. Members are aware that the two main sources of income so far as this Presidency is concerned are the Land-tax and Excise. These two departments bring, on an average, an annual income of about 12 crores, including over 5 crores from Excise. We cannot always look to Excise for a stable income. It is liable to fluctuation. Two years ago it went down considerably, and, now, it is hoped and provision

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has been made for getting an extra income of 47.29 lakhs under that head. What does this mean? It means increased consumption; and increased consumption means greater misery, greater suffering and I may say unthinkable and unjustifiable emasculation of the manhood of the nation. As we all long for the total prohibition of drink—I feel that it cannot be possible for us to reach that millennium so soon—though it cannot be possible to put down drink altogether, it may be possible for us to devise ways and means to initiate a policy of temperance, subject to various conditions and limitations, which will go a great way in elevating the tone, social, moral and intellectual, of the working classes who form the backbone of this country.

“There is no use of anybody priding himself over the fact that Exise gives us a large amount of revenue. That amount, over 12.16 p.m. 5 crores, if I may say so, represents the lifeblood of the nation, and it is high time that steps are taken to bring down the income under that head to a normal level, at least out of humanitarian considerations for the poor.

“Going through the Budget, I find that this year provision has been made and special care has been taken, very legitimately and very properly, to better the lot of the depressed classes. I find a provision of 1.25 lakhs made for free grants for the betterment of the depressed classes, a little over a lakh for the educational charges of the depressed classes, a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the establishment of a hostel for Adi-Dravida students of Madras, and a sum of 4.75 lakhs for advances to co-operative societies in connexion with the acquisition of houses and so on. This is a step in the right direction and notwithstanding the stringent financial crisis, the hon. the Finance Member has found it possible to allot these small sums for the betterment of the depressed classes whose uplift is our main care. This is a matter for which he deserves our thanks.

“There are very many departments which have a set of officers whose necessity is not much felt and who may be easily got rid of without impairing the efficiency of the departments concerned. But in the matter of retrenchment, the policy appears to be—I do not mean to say that the policy is universal or general—in some cases to get hold of the wrong head of the stick. Retrenchment by itself does not begin or end with the abolition of appointments of peons or chobdars; it must go right through the Governmental machine. I am really pained to find that some of the sweepers in the Munsifs' courts have been done away with, with the result that dust finds a permanent stay there. Hitherto we were having two masalohis for the purpose of cleaning the court-houses. They have been reduced, and only one sweeper is to do duty for a number of courts. Instead of sweeping the court-houses clean, he heaps the dust in the various corners, with the result that it begins to assail our nostrils. This is the immediate effect of retrenchment which has been carried on in that direction.

“Again, I do not know who is responsible for it, but orders, I understand, have been issued in the direction of reducing the number of village officers consequent on the amalgamation or the grouping together of some of the villages. So far as the district of South Arcot is concerned, 130 villages have been thus reduced. This reduction means doing away with 130 monigars and a like number of karnams, and about 260 vettis and talaiyaris. I have heard loud complaint made to me personally by some of the people affected, and I even sent in representations on their behalf to the Board of

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Revenue and to our District Collector. The result of this reduction seems to me to mark out a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy, if I may say so. I was true that the monigars' pay was raised, but consequent on the reduction of staff he is now called upon to shoulder an amount of work which in the ordinary course, it is impossible for him to bear. Members in this House may perhaps remember that in the first four months of the year, January, February, March and April, he has to make collections and prepare remittance lists. Now as a result of two or three villages being tacked on to him he has to attend to three times his ordinary work; and if any arrears are left, the departmental heads threaten him with fines, suspensions and dismissals. As a result, there is a tendency on the part of some of these people to send in their resignations. I have requested them in the name of the Council to possess their souls in patience and wait and see. After all, the saving under this head seems to amount to a little over 4.25 lakhs, and that is a thing”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“May I give the figure for the information of the hon. gentleman, Sir?”

MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“I was able to arrive at the figure named, from the Budget, though I am not able just now to lay my finger on the particular page.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—“The hon. the Finance Member says that he is prepared to give the figure.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“I thought it important, Sir, because the hon. Member seemed to think that dealing with these small things is a trifling matter. If the hon. Member looks at the items in the Budget, he will find that the pay of the village staff, before we revised it was 71 lakhs. At the revised rates of pay, it would be 145 lakh. Owing to the reduction in their number now, it is 126 lakhs. I give these figures because they show the immensity of the problem.”

MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“I was only dealing with the impracticability of doing away with a decent number of village officers to bring about retrenchment and economy, and I was only on that question.

“Then again, the House may perhaps remember that, until September last, the hard worked revenue inspectors whose work lies in the fields in doing *ajmaish* work, in preparing accounts, etc., were exempted from the operation of a rule which made it imperative on a touring officer to travel more than five miles out of the headquarters, for the purpose of drawing travelling allowance and daily allowance. That restriction applies to all classes of public servants, but an exemption was made in the case of revenue inspectors and their peons owing to the peculiar nature of the work which they had to do. But the travelling allowance rules published recently, in September last, did away with this exemption, with the result that when some of the revenue inspectors sent in their bills in the month of October (that is in the month following the publication of the new rules), I understand that they were dishonoured. When a reference was made to the Accountant-General, I agreed with the Treasury officer in discounting these bills and disallowing the amounts claimed. It may be within the recollection of the hon. the Revenue Member that on an average a revenue firka in charge of a revenue inspector comprises about forty villages of which as many as thirty-five are within a radius of five miles. How on earth can you expect an officer to

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justice to his work if you do not give him the ordinary travelling allowance, when he is oftentimes obliged to be out of his headquarters, to go to some villages and spend nights there, although it may be within a radius of five miles. Now he is called upon to do the work without being given any allowance. It was this consideration that weighed with the old Government in removing this restriction and in granting a certain amount of concession to them, but now under the Reforms Scheme, when the revised travelling allowance rules came into operation, the guillotine was extended to them, and what they had been getting till September 1922 has been disallowed by one stroke of the pen. They seem to have a real grievance in the matter, and having regard to the fact that they draw small salaries, there is absolutely no reason why a privilege they had been enjoying till recently should be denied to them.

"Taking the nation-building departments, I regret to note that much has not been done here. It is not the fault of the Ministers. It is the fault more or less of the finance, and if I may say so, stagnation, if not reaction, is writ large on these departments. Education, medical relief, sanitation, agriculture—all these departments cry for finance, as babies cry for milk. What is the result? They are told 'Mark time. No funds. No money. Starve, and let there be no growth. And if you have any growth, let it be stunted.'

"That is the position to which we are reduced. I am tempted to characterise this Budget as—I won't call it a retrograde Budget as suggested by Mr. Rath—more or less a melancholy Budget prepared in a moment of utter despair, to tide over the present financial crisis. And notwithstanding all the ingenuity and all the resources which the hon. the Finance Member possesses, I venture to think that unless something is done in the direction of economy and retrenchment and in the direction of doing away with some of the allowances and some of the supernumerary officers, the cry will continue to be raised, namely, that we are bankrupts, that we are bad financiers, and that we have really fallen on evil times if not on evil tongues. (Here the gong was sounded).

"For want of time I must refrain from discussing the remaining portion of the Budget."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, this is one of the series of deficit Budgets that have been presented to this House. If I remember aright, the deficit Budgets began with Lord Willingdon's Government, and to every one of those Budgets, the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter is responsible, as Finance Member."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"The deficit began before the period referred to."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"It is said that they began earlier than the time I indicated. My recollection is that the first deficit Budget was the Budget of 1920-21. It was a Budget that was presented immediately after the sittings of the Meston Committee. During the sittings of the Meston Committee the question arose whether this Government had the capacity to absorb all the revenues that were to be liberated from the system of divided heads. From that moment a great anxiety was shown by the Government to manifest its absorbing power, and they have done it. They have delineated their policies to manifest that idea. What is it . . ."

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The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I invite the hon. Member's attention to the statement at page 2 of my Budget Speech which is as follows:

In the first budget after the War, that for 1919-20 we had a revenue of 886 lakhs and provided for the expenditure, in addition to the revenue, 75 lakhs out of the accumulated balances."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHARAJU:—"I am glad of the correction, Sir, but I may say that that was a budget to which the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter was also responsible. I think his connexion as Finance Member began in that year, and our difficulties began with Sir Charles Todhunter's handling of the finances of this Presidency" (Laughter.)

"Now, what is it that we see in the policy of the Government? Their policy, if I may be permitted to say so, is a policy of brick and chunam—I mean spending money on buildings. What is it we find? Their policy is to consolidate the power and authority of the Government, that is spending money on departments that are intended mainly and solely to preserve the power and authority of the Government. This is manifested in the policy of entering upon a system of enhanced salaries and the introduction of time-scales. It has been admitted by the hon. the Finance Member, if I remember rightly, that the greatest problem is time-scale, and that it was introduced in the year 1919-20.

"This is a growing expenditure and it will be a growing expenditure for a number of years to come. I know that when the full maximum level of the time-scale is reached, it will not in any way disturb the future finances, but it will take a very long time to reach that maximum level. When it will be reached is not known. What I mean to say is this: when the time-scale reaches the maximum limit after ten or fifteen years, the retiring members and the new members coming in will be in a position to balance the extra expenditure under the various services. Therefore it is high time to see how this time-scale is able to adjust itself to the natural growth of revenue. Take, for instance, the expenditure under salaries under the time-scale last year and the expenditure of this year, and see what is the growth of expenditure under the various services. If the growth of expenditure is just enough to cover the natural growth of revenue that may be a justifiable ground. But if it is not enough to be covered by the natural growth of revenue, that is a thing that must be condemned at once. We have already had an experience of three or four years under this time-scale; but we are facing every year a deficit budget. There is no use of examining other questions when this is the real crux of our situation.

"Sir, it has been said that various questions under retrenchment are being examined. Whenever anything is suggested by a non-official member it is said, 'here is a machinery; you suggest the removal of a particular wheel out of it; each wheel has got its own function to perform, and you are dislocating the whole machinery, because if you take that wheel away it cannot be run'. There may be some truth in this. But the question is whether you have to continue with the same number of wheels or reduce their number examining the question as a whole. Take, for instance, the Transferred Departments. Hitherto, the public servant was expected to shape the policy as well as carry on the administration. Now, the shaping of the policy is shifted from his hands into the hands of this Council and its representatives, the Ministers. I believe, that as far as the Transferred Departments are concerned, the public servant has no longer the duty of performing any shaping

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of the policy. His business is merely to advise as an expert and to carry out the policy of the Council as an administrator and therefore greater time can be expected of him than you can expect of the public servant under the Reserved subjects.

"Sir, we had hitherto only one Inspector of Schools for two districts on an average, and, I believe, that system is going to be replaced by having one Inspector of Schools for each district. The main function of the Inspector of Schools is to look after the elementary and higher education. As for elementary education the District Educational Councils are expected to give effect to the policy of this House as administrative units, and the position of the Inspector is only one of an expert advising the several councils and inspecting and reporting on the working of the various schools. I believe there is sufficient time for him if he understands this principle well to look after two districts instead of one. Similar is the case, I think, with the other Transferred Departments and you have much scope for amalgamation and co-ordination of work.

"Now, Sir, it has been said by the hon. the Finance Member that our dead-weight of debt is not much, and that there are no reasons for any apprehensions. I believe, Sir, there is something wrong somewhere. If he means that when we take into consideration the capital investments and deduct them from our debts it leaves a small dead-weight of debt, it is a fact. But we have to examine the question of our short loans and our capital expenditure. I think it is a generally accepted canon of finance that expenditure which is to be met for purposes useful for generations to come is to be met by loans. In the Devolution Rules this principle is definitely accepted and rules are framed limiting the borrowing power of the Local Governments. It is laid down there that the expenditure must be of the nature of permanent utility, and two more conditions are added to the rules, namely, that the expenditure should not only be a matter of permanent utility but also remunerative. Moreover, it should be an expenditure which cannot be met from the ordinary revenues of the province. It is also said that if it is not remunerative there should be a sinking fund. We have to see whether the various items that are put down by the Finance Member as capital expenditure should be met from loans. My point of difference is this: when expenditure is remunerative it can be said that it is not a dead-weight. When expenditure is not remunerative, whether it be capital expenditure or any other expenditure, it must be met from the revenues. Even though it is to be met from the loan funds it will not in any way reduce the dead-weight. The Finance Member's calculation, if I understand him correctly, is that moneys granted by the Local Government to local bodies on account of water-supply and other needs and moneys invested for the industrial development of the country are capital expenditure, and they should be taken into consideration as moneys available for repayment and shall not in any way affect our dead-weight."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I explain, Sir? Rule 2 of the Local Government (Borrowing) Rules says:

A Local Government may raise loans on the security of the revenues allocated to it for any of the following purposes, namely—

(a) to meet capital expenditure on the construction or acquisition of any work or permanent asset of a material character in connexion with a project of lasting public utility, provided that

(i) the proposed expenditure is so large that it cannot reasonably be met from current revenues; and

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(ii) if the project appears to the Governor-General in Council unlikely to yield a return of not less than such percentage as he may from time to time by order prescribe, arrangements are made for the amortisation of the debt;

"My proposition is that the grants given to local bodies for water-supply and drainage works are grants for the 'construction or acquisition of works of permanent assets of a material character or objects of lasting public utility'. They will give no return, and therefore, if they are met from capital, arrangements must be made for the amortisation of the debt. We are not actually making arrangements for the amortisation of the debts, because a large portion of the debts is fifteen-year loans to be repaid by instalment payments in any case. Therefore, we have an automatic amortisation of the debt. In taking that step we are adopting exactly that form which the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee wants. The case of industrial enterprises is a case of investment, and it is different from that of works of permanent utility. In that case you have continued assets."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I am sorry the hon. the Finance Member has not been able to understand what I really mean. My point is this: investments met out of the revenues or borrowed capital for the development of the country in the Industries department and also for the improvement of water-supply, he says, must be taken not as a deadweight, but as a liability that can be cleared off in course of time. But the only question is this: 'who is to bear this burden?' You spend 40 lakhs this year and in the course of 15 years you pay small instalments. After that it is not a deadweight on the tax-payer of the present generation. It is really a conjuring trick, if I may be permitted to say so, to say that this is not a deadweight upon the present generation. We see year after year our budgets closing with a deficit. When the Reforms Council opened, the opening balance was about 57 lakhs and by the end of the following year it was supposed to be 10 lakhs. So you have utilized 47 lakhs or thereabouts over your ordinary expenditure. In addition to that the last year's budget closes with a deficit of about 98.48 lakhs excluding the other remunerative investments. This year it is closing with a deficit of 70.68 lakhs and it is proposed to close the next year with a deficit of 35 lakhs. That means our deficits come to a total of 121.74 lakhs. Deducting Rs. 11.4 lakhs the opening balance for the next year and adding the next year's deficit, it leaves a clear deficit of 140.34 lakhs.

"In the course of three years it shows that we have incurred a debt of 140 lakhs; it means that our expenditure over revenue during this period is 140 lakhs. Our average expenditure per year after deducting our revenue is 50 lakhs. Is it not very dangerous to incur such a heavy expenditure every year over and above our revenues? We see that our expectation of reduction of the provincial contributions is kept off year after year. We also see that the whole question of retrenchment is only in the air and we do not see that it has crystallized materially. We have also seen last year that we have reached the maximum limits of taxation. The returns of the new taxation imposed last year show that the yield after all is not as much as we expected. That is the real test to show that we have reached the utmost limits of taxation in the various directions. Under these circumstances, is it not necessary for the Government to examine the whole question again in the matter of time-scale and to go back to a satisfactory arrangement and thus set their house in order without leaving us in a state of bankruptcy?"

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Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, Mr. President, allow me to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the skill and tender regard for various interests which mark his budget. In spite of retrenchment all round, he could not avoid a deficit of nearly 40 lakhs. But he has done all he could to make the burden on the taxpayer as light as possible.

"It is a matter for satisfaction that our hon. President and the hon. Ministers have cheerfully foregone Rs. 1,000 each from their salaries. Charity, they say, begins at home. Similarly, economy also begins at home. It has begun well in this Council, and it is to be hoped it will be followed everywhere in the public service. I am sure the high officials will endear themselves to the people by accepting reduced salaries. One reason why high officials should receive less pay is that lower officials may be given higher salaries.

"The village munsifs are at present receiving very low salaries. They are a deserving lot. Their work and responsibilities have increased, but not their pay. They receive the same pay as karnams whose responsibilities are not so great. They should get an increase of pay. I find that a number of villages are grouped together and placed under one munsif. This does not work well in all cases. The work turned out by them is bad in many cases.

"Under the head of Forests, it is satisfactory to note that the income and the expenditure balance each other. But the Forest should be made a source of revenue to the Government. It is to be hoped that this will be achieved in a few years. I find that in the Revenue Department, particularly, some of the high officials besides getting pay are given special pay. I do not understand for a moment why any special pay should be given to them. The sooner we get rid of these allowances, the better for the people and the Government.

"There is an increase in the number of sub-judges from 49 to 55. In spite of last year's remark on the Judicial Department and the appointment of a committee to inquire into the accumulation of arrears, the provision for six additional sub-judges is disappointing.

"Last year a desire was expressed in this Council that the number of Deputy Inspectors-General should be reduced, and yet we do not find any reduction in their number this year. As far as I am able to understand, this Council wants to follow the policy of not having any intermediary officers. In pursuance of this policy, even circle inspectors seem unnecessary.

"We have passed the Madras University Bill which cannot be worked successfully unless funds are placed at the disposal of the hon. the Minister for Education. We may now congratulate the hon. Minister in having secured a sum of Rs. 2,15,000 as additional grant. No doubt this sum is too small for reorganizing the old university into a new residential one. But a good beginning may be made with this grant, however small it may be. It is agreed on all hands that the progress of a country depends upon the spread of elementary education. I submit that the grant to local bodies and municipalities for the spread of elementary education is not sufficiently large. The Government give only 50 per cent of the charges incurred by the local bodies

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and municipalities. I think the proportion should be increased at least to 60 per cent. Then we shall find elementary education taken up more enthusiastically and by a larger number of these bodies.

"With regard to agriculture, I should like to see more frequent demonstrations of new methods in every village by touring officers. At present their visits are few and far between. The work of the Agricultural Department should be made practically known to all the villagers. Then alone will the country be benefited. The same thing applies to veterinary officers also.

"With regard to industries, I should like to suggest that boring experiments and demonstrations should be held more frequently, sometimes free of cost to the people; and if this is regarded as too costly for the Government, half the cost may be recovered from the people to whose benefit these experiments are performed.

"I am glad that the State Aid to Industries Act has been brought into operation and that eight lakhs have been placed at the disposal of the hon. the Minister for Development. Though the amount is too small for the extensive scope of the Act, yet the Minister may be congratulated upon securing this amount for making a good beginning."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, at the outset, I must say that I am sorry to see that the congratulations so far offered to the hon. the Finance Member have not been profuse. But before congratulating the hon. the Finance Member, we have a very pleasant duty of offering our hearty congratulations to the hon. the President and the hon. the Ministers for the sacrifices they have made in their monthly salaries. So far as the Ministers are concerned, no doubt their sacrifice has come a little late. We all expected that they would have come forward with this proposal some time earlier. But as the proverb has it, better late than never. We have every hope that the precedent set up will be maintained by them after the elections when, as we hope, they will continue as Ministers, but if they should not continue let us hope that their successors will keep it up too. I also hope that ere long the hon. the Finance Member will rise up and announce that the executive council members also have followed the noble example set up by their colleagues, the Ministers, and have sacrificed a portion of their monthly salaries.

"Having stated so much, let me go to the congratulations of the hon. the Finance Member. No doubt it is usual for the hon. the Finance Member to transfer the congratulations, as he did last year, to his subordinates in the Finance Department. I hope that this year he will not be in any way less ready to do that. But he has, in anticipation of anything that may be stated here, thanked the Finance Committee in its retrenchment *avatar*. It used to be said that whenever the *London Times* praised anybody, there was something wrong somewhere and I only hope that it is not in that light that the hon. the Finance Member has thanked the Retrenchment Committee. The hon. the Finance Member says that the Retrenchment Committee has not been able to do much during the short period of four months. I think it would have been better if he had stated who was responsible for this short period."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODD HUNTER:—"May I mention, Sir, that far from saying that the Committee has not been able to do much, I should think that the Committee has done a good deal within the short period of its existence."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" But, very little from our point of view. However, to come to the point I was aiming at, I should like to know who is responsible for this lateness of the birth of the Retrenchment Committee. Almost from the very beginning of the inauguration of this Reformed Council, we have been insisting upon the formation of a Retrenchment Committee. The very fact that the hon. the Finance Member has stated just now that even within the short period of four months, the Committee has been able to do something substantial goes to show that it would have been wiser if the Committee had been appointed soon after the Reformed Council came into existence. We have been placed in a very awkward position on account of the fact that the Government attached very little respect to the various resolutions passed by this Council.

" As regards the actual retrenchment effected, I must point out to the House that the enormous reduction talked of by the hon. the Finance Member last year was only confined to reduction of muchis, masalehis, attenders, petty clerks and so on. Very wisely enough, even this year, that policy has been followed to the very letter. What do we find in the budget of the present year? Page after page, we find reduction in the number of petty officers. This Council wanted that reduction should be made in the number of gazetted appointments. The Government, very wisely—of course from their point of view—reduced the number of provincial gazetted officers. Page after page—except perhaps in one or two rare instances probably due to the efforts on the part of the hon. Ministers—we find the number in the ranks of the provincial gazetted officers reduced considerably. That is the second head of retrenchment I suppose for which we have to thank the hon. the Finance Member.

" Let us see what the figures are so far as the Imperial officers are concerned. Page after page, in the budget, we find them increasing by leaps and bounds. I am not exaggerating the matter. We are told by the *Madras Mail* that the hon. the Finance Member has got an able assistant in the body of 'statistical bureau' and therefore the Council need not take the trouble of helping him in any way. But for the information of this House I may point out that the number of District Collectors remains the same and yet there is an addition of nearly one lakh in their pay over and above that for last year. So far as the Sub-Collectors are concerned, their number has risen from 50 to 65 and their pay has increased from Rs. 5,20,000 to Rs. 6,75,000. Thus there is an increase of over 1½ lakhs. Yet, we are told that retrenchment is going on in all the branches of administration. If we go through page after page, we find the same sad story to narrate. I am sorry to say that this sort of Indianization is purely a myth in the air. Not that we are speaking of Indianization for the purpose of referring to racial questions so far as the Budget discussion is concerned, but that we are really in earnest about it for the purpose of effecting drastic retrenchment from the financial aspect of this Province. The Provincial Service officers are all doing the same work as the Imperial Service officers; sometimes, they are doing much more work than which is turned out by the Imperial officers and yet the Indian Medical Service officers, the Collectors, the District Judges all cost us 50 per cent more than the Provincial Service officers. Sir, our cry for Indianization has been purely with a view to reduce the burden on the general taxpayer. In spite of all that has been said by the hon. the Finance Member by way of congratulating himself and the

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Council, what do we see? We find an enormous increase in the various items in the Budget over and above that of last year. The pay of the Imperial Service officers has enormously increased this year."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I say, Sir, that a listed Collector draws the pay of an Indian Civil Service officer."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" That is exactly my complaint. There are two kinds of Collectors : one, the Provincial Service Collectors ; and, the other, the Imperial Service Collectors. I did not bring in the question of European *versus* Indian. I only said the Indianization of services."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I said, Sir, that a listed Provincial Service Collector draws the pay in the I.C.S. scale. If the hon. Member would kindly refer to the Quarterly Civil List, he would find all this information."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I am not quoting anything at all from the Quarterly Civil List. I am only reading from the Budget. At page 74 of the Budget, we find provision made for 21 Collectors and Magistrates. These are printed in italics signifying thereby that they are non-votable items, I do not say untouchable items. These Imperial Service officers cost us this year 6,87,000 as against 6,00,000 last year. Just below, in the same page, we find that 4 Provincial Service Collectors cost us this year 81,600 as against 1,06,700 last year. While the Provincial Service Collectors cost us less this year, why should we employ the Imperial Service Collectors who cost us more. The Imperial Service Collector gets on an average Rs. 3,000 while a Provincial Service Collector gets Rs. 20,000 a year on the average. I do not think the hon. the Finance Member will be prepared to challenge me on that point."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Yes, Sir, I am. Their pay depends upon the pay in the incremental scale. You may have in one service senior officers, while in the other service there may be junior officers. They are all paid according to the incremental scale. The senior man draws more, while the junior gets less."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Anyhow, Sir, coming to the Medical Department, we find twelve Indian Medical Service officers as against eleven district medical officers, and still the twelve Indian Medical Service officers cost us double the Provincial District Medical Officers. All I can say on this aspect of the question is this, that the Imperial officers generally are costing us cent per cent, or at least 50 per cent over and above what our Provincial officers cost us. That is a general statement which cannot be denied. Page after page we find the same story repeated in the Budget. I only say, Sir, that the congratulations to the hon. Member in charge should rather come from some other quarter than from this Council, because the pay has not been reduced especially in the higher grades and the number also of the higher paid officers has not been reduced. In the case of Sub-Collectors, we find that the number has gone up from 50 to 65, of course all drawing the same high pay."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Let there be no misapprehension, Sir, with regard to any of these figures. Fifty has gone up to sixty-five not because we are employing more Sub-Collectors than are necessary for the Presidency, but because

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sixty-five divisions in this Province which in future are going to be filled by Sub-Collectors are divisions which are ear-marked for civilians, but for which we have not been able to secure civilian officers owing to shortage of men. We are now getting a few civilians back from leave. Some of the civilians who were under training have completed their training and they have got a right to be put back in their respective Indian Civil Service Divisions. It is not that we are throwing open more divisions to the Indian Civil Service than have been ear-marked in this Province for generations."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"There is absolutely no confusion, Sir, on my part, and I was only repeating what the hon. Member was going to say. I was about to say some thing else, viz., that these Imperial officers are given various employments which have not been reserved for them, and curiously enough many of these appointments have become non-votable simply because a civilian is put there, and he got his original appointment from the Secretary of State direct. That is a most unfortunate thing, Sir, with regard to these appointments. Then again, the Retrenchment Committee that has been appointed has been costing us very much. The officers who are asked to consider these questions of retrenchment have been for some reason or other people who have to be away and that shows the *bona fides* of the Government so far as the retrenchments are concerned. Officers are appointed for the purpose of retrenchment and they are spending more of their time in Delhi than in Madras and we are told that retrenchment has not gone up very much because those officers have to spend their time in the Assembly or the Council of State. It would be better if we appoint Secretaries whose services can be made available here for us and not officers who have to be away."

"So far, Sir, I have been dealing with general questions. I have some doubts on one or two points which I might try to elicit from the hon. Member in charge of Finance. In some places the question of exchange comes in on almost every item, and I do not understand why that should come under transferred heads when it ought to go to the reserved."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I should be glad to explain that, Sir. Exchange arises when you buy things in England. Therefore, the charge for exchange is debited to the departments which buy things in England or Europe and it is not debited to the departments which purchase them, in this country."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I have understood so far, Sir. But what I wanted to know was this. For instance, there is education. If you purchase things for education in England, it must be things purchased for the reserved as well as for the transferred portions of education, but if we look up the budget, we find the whole expenditure put under the transferred heads. It increases the expenditure under the transferred departments, while not a pie goes to increase the expenditure under the reserved items."

The hon. Mr. A. B. KNAPP:—"May I ask the hon. Member, Sir, to point out the page of the budget on which he is depending?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"If the hon. Member looks up to the very first page dealing with education, he will find it."

"The hon. the Deputy President will kindly bear in mind the time taken up by others in putting question to me in calculating my time limit."

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"I shall, with your permission, Sir, refer only to one or two more points. As to the question of elections, we should like to know exactly where we are and when the elections are going to take place. Whether it is to take place this year or the next year: it is enough if it does not take place in the rainy season just as the last election. It will be better if it takes place in the hot season and immediately after the budget discussion. It is an imperial matter also and it is better if this Government think over it and address the Government of India if necessary."

"There is one other point, Sir, and that is about the Agency. I should like to know as to why every blessed matter in the Agency should be a reserved subject. From the item of elementary education, every blessed thing comes under 'reserved' as if that portion is sacred."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"It seems to me that the hon. Member will take some more time, and I allow him five more minutes to finish."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Thank you, Sir, and I shall finish shortly. I was simply referring to the question of Agency, Sir. The Agency may be declared as a district, and a very efficient Collector may be placed there, because it is considered to be a backward tract; but I do not understand why every pie of expenditure in the Agency should be under the 'reserved' item. All these questions will of course come up when we come to the actual voting."

"There are one or two questions with regard to the police and the factory inspectors. We see in spite of the peace in the Presidency that a large sum is allotted for police. In Salem and North Arcot, for instance, provision is made for an armed reserve of police. They have a reserved police there already, but now they want an armed reserve."

"Another question is about the industries. So far as the subjects under our Ministers are concerned, no doubt there is a little increase in all the subjects, but it may be very little. Another question is about the fisheries, viz., why the old Director is considered to be necessary when we have got a trained Indian there."

"I simply want to say this, that so far as our general discussion is concerned, the budget has been most unsatisfactory. We have not considered questions of retrenchment sufficiently. Under Police and various other items under the reserved half there has been an increase, but so far as the transferred subjects are concerned, it has been practically nil. We hope we shall be able to effect substantial reductions in the budget so that the useful subjects may be given more."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Sir, I rise to tender my congratulations to the hon. Member for Finance for the very encouraging budget he has placed before us, and especially for the speech of his that breathes cheerfulness and hope. It augurs well for the Government when it starts the new year with confidence and hope. I feel happy, Sir, that the outlook is so good, and I trust that the new Council that will soon be called into being will put its shoulder to the wheel and do all that lies in its power for the carrying on of the Government. I think it is the first duty of every Member of this Council to help the Government in its work. Though I am not one of those who judge the goodness of Government by the smallness of the taxation, yet, in the circumstances existing at present, I am very glad that there is no

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extra taxation levied in any department of revenue. The anticipation that the Government is going to realize 1,633.49 lakhs is none too optimistic, and I think that we may realize even more from certain departments, such as Stamps and Excise, as conditions are slowly getting into equilibrium.

"On the expenditure side, Sir, I am glad to find that every department has received its quota of consideration, and the Government is fairly in a position to resume, to some extent at least, the schemes which were set aside for want of funds.

"If I now proceed to make a few observations, it is not with any spirit of criticism, but entirely with a sincere desire to point out to the Government the feeling of the people in regard to certain items of expenditure.

"To start with, Sir, it is somewhat alarming to me that the Police Department should get 8 lakhs and odd more than the budget estimate of last year. Though I have great faith in the Police Department and its usefulness, yet I fear rather too much is made of it. I am of opinion that we spend a great deal more than we ought to on the police force. I shall be glad to see the day when the Railway Police will disappear with its 6½ lakhs of rupees of expenditure. The crimes committed on the railways are few and far between. Indeed under the existing facilities and railway improvements, the railway crimes are almost impossible, and I have no doubt that other arrangements can easily be made to prevent crimes on railways. I am also at a loss to understand—and I am glad Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar referred to it—why the extra police in Malabar is still a necessity when quiet has been restored in its boundaries.

"In the department of Administration of Justice, the provision of .82 lakh made for opening nine additional temporary sub-courts and five district munsifs' courts is inexplicable when so much was said during the last budget discussion regarding their superfluity.

"Coming to Education, Sir, the condition of the teachers in the aided schools remains unimproved and sad. All that is being pleaded on behalf of the poor schoolmasters is a cry in the wilderness.

"So far as I have been able to understand the budget figures, little provision has been made either for the improvement of the salaries of teachers or for the starting of provident funds. Education, the foremost foundation of all human prosperity and well-being, should be the first consideration of the Government, and if it is to improve, it will only be with the improvement of the material outlook of the schoolmaster. Yet Educational Budget is a thoughtful one. One should be thankful for small mercies in these days of stringency. Two lakhs are set apart for building and hostel grants, and 1.15 lakhs for vocational education. The .15 lakh for Indian orphanages is a commendable feature. In the Medical Department I am sorry to see only Rs. 40,900 has been allotted to leper asylums as against Rs. 40,000 for the previous year—a very small increase. I implore Government to bestow more attention to this fearful malady, leprosy, both in regard to the prevention of its spread and the amelioration of the people afflicted with it. I am glad to note that a lump sum of three lakhs is provided for the building of a leper asylum in Chingleput. Many missionaries have taken up this laudable work in their hands, and why should not the Government be more liberal in their help to them? In regard to co-operative societies, Sir, I am very glad

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that a provision of .08 lakh is made for starting several societies for the depressed classes. The uplifting of the poor classes will, to a great extent, depend on the co-operative societies, and it is well for the Government to keep these societies in their hands till the people themselves learn the secret of co-operation.

"Industries is always a favourite subject with me. I am rather disappointed to find that there are not in the horizon of the budget any new schemes rising to encourage my soul. I find the Fisheries Department looming rather magnificently, appropriating to itself somewhere about 3.18 lakhs. How glad I will be, Sir, if the money spent on the Fisheries Department is turned to other enterprises. The foremost in my mind are one department for the research of minerals available in this Presidency, and another for the development of chemical industries. The hon. the Minister for Development may also consider the utility of introducing rag doll making and manufacture of toys, as cottage industries.

"Before I conclude, I should like to mention what the people think about the Agency tracts. The money spent on the Agency is extremely hard to understand both for people within and without the Agency. What purpose the Government has in view in spending such large sums on the Agency, baffles even the shrewdest of my friends. Of course, we are waiting, and will patiently wait for some years to come, to see if the expenditure is justified. The budget is on the whole a well thought-out piece of work, and I have no doubt that it will sweeten the temper of even the most sour-hearted amongst my hon. colleagues."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, I take it that a budget discussion is an occasion for a brief review of the important events during the year coming to a close. The chief of such events was the situation brought about by the refusal of this House to give leave to introduce the Irrigation Bill followed by the resignation of office by the hon. Member in charge of that Bill. Self-appointed advisors tendering advice to His Excellency as to what His Lordship should do, there were in plenty. Friends of the Reforms, and avowed enemies of the Reforms whose creed was to wreck the Reforms, joined forces and vied with each other in tendering gratuitous advice to His Excellency that the only course open to him was to dissolve the Council. But thanks be to the sagacious statesmanship of His Excellency, Lord Willingdon, who was born in the cradle of free institutions and nurtured in parliamentary practice, that he rose equal to the occasion. However painful it may have been for him to accept the resignation of a respected colleague, His Excellency chose the lesser of two evils. It may be rightly claimed that by this act of statesmanship constitutionalism has triumphed. May I add, Sir, that the Reforms, so far as this Presidency is concerned, have been placed in the crucible over a fiery furnace, and have emerged out of it with greater brilliance and splendour than ever before.

"Sir, the next important event was the pleasant announcement which the hon. the Finance Member made yesterday of the very generous and voluntary relinquishment of portions of the salaries by the hon. Ministers and by the hon. and revered President to whom we all look for guidance with admiration and reverence. To them all we owe our thanks. More than that, I also join with the previous speakers in the appeal that has been made for a similar relinquishment on the part of other Indian officials who

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came into existence along with the Ministers under the same constitution. This relinquishment has given a lead to various others, and it has made the work of the various retrenchment committees lighter. The proposals for retrenchment which have been made hitherto were looked upon with a little suspicion and distrust. But the example set by the higher paid officers will, I hope, make the work of these committees easy and their recommendations more acceptable and more capable of following.

"Sir, I now pass on to another subject. I have been working with the hon. the Finance Member as a Member of the Finance Committee as well as of the Retrenchment Committee. I know the great pains he took and the earnestness with which he has worked to bring about the balancing of the revenue with the expenditure. What a hard task it has been! I am sure, when I offer him my congratulations, it is not a mere formality, but based upon knowledge of what he has been doing.

"Having said so far, Sir, I believe, I ought to draw the attention of the House to the fact that our Forest administration is landing us in heavy loss. Sir, last year I had occasion to point out how, in the year 1920, we were able to administer our forests with one chief conservator, four conservators, 27 deputy assistant conservators and 45 extra conservators. At the present moment, we have, as we have had last year, one chief conservator, six conservators and 44 assistant conservators or deputy conservators whose salaries range from Rs. 475 the lowest to Rs. 1,600 the highest. Whereas last year there were 45 assistant conservators whose pay was only Rs. 250 to 550, they have now been reduced to 30 and supernumerary assistant conservators are only five and their salary now is Rs. 250 to 750. It is no wonder, Sir, that our forest revenues are practically nothing, and if we derive any income from the forest, it is from the affliction of the poor and the injured whose cattle are captured there. For, I have figures here to show that whereas last year we realized an income of four lakhs of rupees, we have now budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 51,89,000 and we hope to realize Rs. 52,50,000. This means an income of about a lakh and forty thousand after spending 52½ lakhs in that department. But, mind you, this figure, viz., a lakh and odd, will vanish unless to the figures constituting revenue we add Rs. 2,46,500 which we hope to make as fines and penalties. These fines are imposed upon ryots who are driven to the forests to provide food for their cattle. If you take away this Rs. 2,46,600 from the figure which represents the revenues, then you should lose Rs. 1.48 lakhs in the Forest Department after having spent Rs. 51½ lakhs. Sir, I have last year mentioned figures to show that it is only in this Presidency there is so much as Rs. 2,92,000 levied by way of fines and penalties. I have collected figures of all the provinces where forest revenues are made. This Presidency is the higher in the collection of fines and penalties and where the revenues are least. We make a revenue of 58,00,000 after spending 30 lakhs on establishment alone and we are collecting a fine of Rs. 2,92,000. Last year, we budgeted for Rs. 2,18,000 in the shape of fines and we actually collected Rs. 2,92,000. So, it is only in the matter of fines and penalties we have exceeded the limit. In the matter of income from forest produce, which we expected to make we have fallen short of our expectations. So it is by the prosecution, I would not say persecution, of the people that we have made that little profit which we have been able to make (hear, hear! from Mr. Sivasankaran Pillai). Bombay with 92 lakhs of revenue from forests has collected only

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Rs. 25,000 for the transgression of the law. Bengal with 22.99 lakhs of income has levied fines to the extent of only Rs. 4,000. United Provinces which makes a crore and eleven lakhs from forest revenues, collected only Rs. 21,300 in the shape of fines. Punjab which collects Rs. 50,00,000 from forests derives only Rs. 5,000 from fines. Burma which makes Rs. 205 lakhs collects only a fine of Rs. 19,000. Sir, in view of these figures, our forest administration seems to be unsympathetic. I do not, of course, blame the officer now in charge of the department. It is a legacy which he has received from his predecessors, but the sooner that legacy is surrendered and the entire forest administration put on a proper footing, the better for the administration and the good name of the Government.

"Sir, this again brings me to the question how it is that where we were able to make four lakhs last year, we have budgeted for an income of only 1.40 lakhs this year. As I said, this sum of Rs. 1,40,000 profit is possible only when Rs. 2,92,000 is got from fines and penalties. This brings me directly to the question of provincial autonomy. Sir, we have under our constitution, the duty to receive officers whom the Secretary of State may recruit and send down to us. We have no voice to say that we do not want more officers. As I pointed out, while in 1920-21 we had 27 assistant and deputy conservators at the present moment we have 44 of them. We have taken them all and we pay for them. That is the position. The sooner we are able to get rid of this superior authority over us, over whom we have no power, the better for us and for the administration of the country."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I explain this point? It is not that we have no power to refuse to take these officers, but the fact is that the officers have been already engaged two or three years ago and therefore it is not possible to stop them coming. We have got power over them."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Then my case becomes stronger."

At this stage (1-30 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m., the hon. the Deputy President, presiding.

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"To resume the remarks I was making, the hon. the Home Member interrupted me when I said that the much over-staffed staff of the Forest Department is an instance where we have no control over the appointments or over the salaries. I think the interruption was to the effect that we can dispense with some of these officers and that it is entirely within our power to do so. I thank the hon. Member for the answer and ask him 'why not then dispense with the services of those officers who have been found so unsatisfactory.' I hope Madras is not the only place where employment for these men can be found. If they are really capable men and have completed their training, which they are said to have, there will be no difficulty for them to get employments. Some proposal to that effect might be made and these people get rid of. Now, I have been speaking that 1.41 lakhs are the income that we are going to get after spending 52½ lakhs in exploiting the resources of that very valuable asset—the forests. It is to be noted that in arriving at this figure, 1.41 lakhs, no value has been placed on the trees or the timber in the forests and the land on which they stand. If a value is placed on the forest as an asset and a balance sheet unprepared showing the income and

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expenditure, and the whole is treated as a business proposition, no business man would care to spend so much money for obtaining such a meagre income. If, therefore, it is found that as a business proposition we can derive no advantage from the administration of forests, we had better abandon the present forest policy than have a huge organization.

“There is yet another department which has grown beyond all bounds. No doubt we are aware of the fact that there was a good deal of commotion in the country which justified an increase in the police staff. But has the increase been commensurate with the necessities, or has it been far beyond the necessities? On looking into the budget for 1907-1908, I find that on account of the entire Police Administration we were incurring an expenditure of Rs. 65,61,000. The present budget puts the police expenditure at 203 lakhs of rupees. That is, out of 1,371 lakhs, which according to our budget is going to be our expenditure leaving 348 lakhs as contribution to the Government of India, we have to spend 203 lakhs for the maintenance of our police force. Sir, 15 or 16 years ago, as I said the total allotment was only 65 lakhs and odd, and the allotment for the city of Madras was Rs. 3,81,000. Now we have budgeted for 13,31,000 rupees, so that we have increased our expenditure on our police nearly three to four times of what it was 16 years ago. It may be said that we have had very trying times. If I remember right, the year 1907-08 was the time when there were disturbances following the partition of Bengal, such as the Manicktollah Bomb case in Calcutta, the Ashe murder case in Tinnevely and several disturbances in other places. Even in those days we were budgeting for only 65 lakhs of rupees. In those days the cost of all the departments of the Government was 567 lakhs of rupees. If with a total expenditure of 567 lakhs of rupees you spent 65 lakhs of rupees, the question may be asked what will be the proportion of that expenditure to the figure we have now budgeted for out of 1,371 lakhs of rupees; and assuming that we are entitled to increase the expenditure in the same proportion on police force, even then the figure, if worked out, would come only to 157 lakhs of rupees and not 203.

“Now these are matters which require a thorough investigation, and, I trust the various committees which have been appointed will bear the figures I have quoted in their mind when looking into these matters, and will substantially cut down this enormous and unwarranted expenditure, which, so far as one can see, is not to be accounted for by the probable increase in the strength of the police, but rather by the enormous salaries and travelling allowances paid to these officers.

“There is one other matter I wish to refer before I sit down. It is our financial contribution. Our Finance Member said the day before yesterday that there was no room for despair and that we could continue to be hopeful. Sir, that hope has now been dashed to the ground. All chances of reduction seem to be like a phantom which disappears the moment that we try to embrace it and eludes our grasp. So, we have to go on as we have been going on in the past. At the present moment, we have this difference in our situation: that whereas some time ago we had a Finance Member in the Government of India of the type of Sir Malcolm Hailey—a gentleman who believed in the principle of divide and rule and set up inter-provincial jealousies and induced the various provinces to attack our request for a reduction—now we have in Sir Basil Blackett a gentleman who believes with the Psalmist that a soft word turneth away wrath. He has at least been

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holding out sweet promises. The other gentleman exhibited a militant temper when we moved for reduction in September last. But we have still to live in hopes deferred, and be thankful to him for the sweet words and promises. The prospect of relief is hidden in the womb of the future.”

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—“Sir, the time allotted for Budget discussion is the only occasion for an annual stock-taking in this Council. The Government also is expected to enunciate policies for the coming year though the Government have not been doing anything of that sort.

“Last year, my hon. friend, Mr. Siva Rao, characterized the Council as ‘an ethnological live-stock museum always indulging in communal squabbles’. Naturally, my friend sitting on the Opposition Bench is very reluctant to give credit to what the Ministers and their party have done in and outside the Council. It is an acknowledged fact, Sir, that this Council is the best among all the Provincial Councils and that it has to its credit solid work behind it. What influence the Non-Brahman movement would have upon the progress of this country towards democratic institutions can best be gauged by what an impartial critic, Rushbrook Williams, says in his publication, *India in 1921-22*. He says:

Among all the events, political and social, of the period under review, there is probably none of greater importance, actual and potential, than the capture of the reformed Legislative Council of Madras by the Non-Brahman party. For the first time in the history of India the lower castes of Madras have asserted themselves against the intellectual oligarchy of the upper, and have seized political power in their own hands. The significance of a revolution so momentous can scarcely be guessed; but its influence upon the progress of India towards democratic institutions must inevitably be profound.

“Well, Sir, this is the view of an unbiassed English writer and I hope the party will come up to the expectations formed of it. In spite of misrepresentation and cavil from interested quarters it will, I doubt not, work for the good of the country.

“The burden of the song last year was retrenchment and economy. Let us see how far the Government have carried out the policy of retrenchment. Except a few tinkering remedies here and there, namely, reduction of a few appointments like clerkships, village munsifships and peons, the policy of retrenchment has not produced any results. The fat emoluments and other amenities of the Imperial Services have, contrary to all expectations, escaped the axe of retrenchment. Despite the resolution of this Council, the number of Executive Councillors has not been reduced. The intermediary offices such as those of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, Deputy Commissioners of Salt, Superintending Engineers and Conservators of Forests, have not been abolished in spite of almost the unanimous wish of the Council, nor is their number even reduced. Among the Provincial Service offices that of the Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police is a superfluous one and it should have been abolished altogether.

“In the Forest Department, for 35 districts there are 68 Imperial Officers and 42 Provincial Officers. I am at a loss to understand why there should be so many officers for 35 districts. No doubt there are some vacancies in the cadre of Imperial Service Officers, but they are being very rapidly filled up. One Imperial officer and one Provincial officer are enough for each district. In this connexion I may submit, Sir, that many Provincial officers have been in charge of districts for a very long time and they have been doing their work quite creditably. Hence the number of Imperial officers can

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with advantage be reduced to a very large extent without in any way impairing the efficiency of the department. It is also a known fact, Sir, that there are a number of rangers, who are not in charge of ranges, and a number of supernumerary rangers who have no work to do.

2-45 p.m.

When there are so many without work, why not close down the Forest College for some time to come and thus save the expenditure incurred in maintaining it?

"Coming to the Local Self-Government Department, Sir, I must put in a strong plea on behalf of the poor districts, like the Ceded districts, in the matter of grants to local bodies and schools. The poorer Boards' grant is being meaninglessly distributed to all the Boards, whether rich or poor. Whichever Board spent more than its estimated revenue got a grant without, I think, much enquiry, if only it managed to show a minus balance. But Boards which did not spend even on urgent works owing to want of funds, did not get any grant, even for legitimate purposes. Thus, the Government grants, instead of being the poorer Boards' grant, have become the spending Boards' grant. For well-works our Boards used to get grants hitherto; but now, in spite of the fact that there is scarcity of drinking water owing to failure of rains, we are not getting anything for that purpose. Again, Sir, for high school buildings, in spite of repeated requests, we have not received anything as yet. The Government wants us to apply for loans. When we cannot meet our own urgent demands, how can the Government expect us to discharge loans with our minus balances? Then, Sir, for hostels, we have no grants at all. The Government were till recently allotting grants for the equipment of the middle and high schools in backward areas like the Ceded districts. But for the last two years, they have been asking us to bear the cost of equipment. It is the duty of the Government to give grants to the poorer boards, especially towards the cost of equipment. I only pray, Sir, that the secondary education in the backward districts will not be neglected and that all the available money should not be spent on the new university.

"When giving the health staff to a few districts, the Government made us understand that they would bear the whole cost of that staff. At any rate, that is what we understood. Then it was said that the travelling allowance of the District Health Officer would have to be borne by the boards. This amounts to about Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 and it is very difficult, especially for the poorer district boards, like the Ceded districts' boards, to bear this burden. Further, the 14 lakhs grant was cut down by about a tenth for the pay of the District Health Officer.

At this stage, Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai came and took his seat.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (in the chair):—"I should like to inform the hon. Member that he should not pass between the Chair and the speaker."

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARAMA REDDI:—"Now it is said that the boards themselves will have to bear the cost of the District Health Officer's establishment, contingencies, stationery, etc. This, I think, is not to treat the boards very fairly. They have been driven from one point to another till finally they are left in the lurch.

"Then, again, as regards trunk roads and materials collected on the trunk roads, Government passed an order in November 1921 that they would not pay for the materials collected on the trunk roads during the years 1921-22. All the boards protested against this; but the Government did not heed

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their protests but simply cut down the grants to that extent. I also submit that the Accountant-General only said that materials collected at the depots need not be paid and that there would be no objection to pay for the materials collected on the road-side.

"The powers of the boards are being curtailed day after day. Instead of their being made independent, the Government wants them to be dependent on the Collector and other district officers. It is proposed that almost all the correspondence between the Government and the district boards should pass through the Collector. Even nominations, I think, should pass through him. There can be no greater interference, I believe, with the powers of the boards than this. The Government will do well not to interfere with the powers of the boards, and the proposal above referred to should not be passed into a rule.

"Then, Sir, the triplication of the engineering staff is a most extraordinary thing which the Government have been doing. It is not known why three different agencies should be employed for doing almost the same kind of work. One establishment is under the district board in charge of roads and local fund buildings; a second is in charge of public works under the Government; and a third is in charge of minor irrigation works under the Collector. This system is highly expensive. These three sets of officers do the same kind of work, touring almost in the same area for different works under different departments, each set drawing a separate travelling allowance. One engineer for each district will be enough for supervising all public works, including minor irrigation works. The most economical way will be to transfer all public works to the local boards, Government contributing a certain proportion of the expenditure incurred on the establishment. If there are any major irrigation works, or if there are any big building works, a special officer may be appointed to be in charge of one or more of such works. Such works are few, and are bound to be few for some years to come. The Government are not in a position to spend large amounts on public works, and they will do well not to waste public money on costly establishments. The District Board Engineer is a highly paid officer, and I don't think it will be necessary to have another highly paid man for doing almost the same kind of work. I do hope, Sir, that the Government will consider the suggestion and carefully examine the question.

"A word about the grouping of villages which has been going on for the last few months. This has been done as a measure of economy. But I believe, Sir, efficiency will suffer on account of this grouping. The ideal system would be to have each village as a unit of administration instead of a number of villages forming the unit. The presence of a village headman and the village talaiyari in the village is, as it were, a check on the criminals. I think, Sir, the Government will do well to stop this system of grouping the villages, and, if they want retrenchment, to look higher up and not lower down.

"One word more and I have done; and that is about the famine in the Ceded districts. The Deccan districts are the poorest in the Presidency and it is well known that there has been a failure of rains for the last three successive years in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool. I think that the hon. the Revenue Member also knows this. I must admit that during the two faslis, 1330 and 1331, they were treated generously by

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Government; but somehow or other, this year, Kurnool has been treated very badly. Forty to fifty villages in the taluks of Dhona, Pattikonda and Kurnool have been suffering from want of rain. Neither suspensions nor remissions have been granted during this *fasli* and the collection work has been going on vigorously. Coercive processes even are being resorted to. The representations of the people as well as those of their representatives are unheeded. People have to mortgage or sell their property in order to pay up taxes. I may at once tell the Government that the people of my district do not want any favours from Government; but they want justice to be done to them. The authorities will do well to look into the village accounts of the last three years in the case of the villages which are affected this year and if they are satisfied with the justice of their demands, let them hasten to comply with them and order suspensions and remissions in deserving cases. The people will not be satisfied unless the Government institute a thorough inquiry. In the meantime I request the hon. the Revenue Member to order suspension of revenue at once. I understand the report of the Collector has come. I hope the hon. Member will go through the report and if really he thinks that there are deserving cases, I think that remissions and suspensions should at once be granted. The Government have not provided irrigation facilities and when there is no rain and consequently there is a failure of crops, they say 'it will become a sort of mamul if remissions and suspensions are granted.' If failure of rains becomes a mamul, our request for remissions must also become mamul. If there is plenty of rain, we will not ask for remissions or suspensions.

"Again when there is no water in the tank and if people resort to tank-bed cultivation on account of sheer necessity, Government impose a heavy penalty on the poor ryots. There are many such cases in my district and I hope the Government will take into account the nature of the season when imposing penalty. It is certainly cruel on the part of the Government to impose heavy penalties from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 especially in these famine-stricken areas for no fault of the ryots."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, this is the third year of the life of this Council. It will be dissolved in a few months, and our work will be scrutinized by our masters. The Budget is an opportunity which has been given to us to rectify our position, if possible, at least to our satisfaction, and to find out where we have gone wrong.

"Before the Reforms came into existence, the much abused Meston Committee came and divided the revenues raised in this province between the Imperial Government and the Provincial Government. As a result of that we were given very nearly 300 lakhs over and above what our predecessors had at once, and we were given a promise of another 348 lakhs when the Government of India could spare it. That was the arrangement made by the Meston Committee. The arrangement was made. But the province, so far as I can see and so far, I presume, as our electors can see, does not seem to have benefited very much by that arrangement, that is, by getting the additional 300 lakhs to the provincial exchequer. Well, Sir, the first Budget was a deficit Budget in spite of the fact that we had these 300 lakhs in addition to what we were getting before. The second one also was a deficit Budget. Now we have the third Budget and this again is a deficit Budget. What is the benefit, Sir, we have had out of the 300 lakhs that were granted to us? It was said last year that Non-co-operators stood in the way. Our revenue from excise went down last year and so we could not make any progress whatever.

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"Sir, the hon. the Finance Member said the first year's Budget was a 'carrying on' Budget. The second year's Budget was a disappointing one on account of non-co-operation in the country. Now we have the third year Budget. We have nothing like non-co-operation to account for our disappointment now. Our deficit now is 35 lakhs, and this is in spite of the fact that we had recourse to additional taxation last year, from which we expected 65 or 70 lakhs. That is to say, in addition to the 300 lakhs we got out of the financial re-adjustments, we had in the shape of additional taxation, 65 or 70 lakhs over and above our predecessors, viz., the old councils. What have we done with all the money? What account can we give to our electorates when we go before them? So far as I can see, we have made no great progress in the nation-building departments, as they are called. For example, what progress have we made in elementary education, or public health or medical relief? Have we done anything to reduce the drink evil?

"We shall have to admit that, in every department, the progress that we have made is practically nil. Taking elementary education, the last year's budget was 74 lakhs and this year's budget is 77 lakhs. That is all we could spare for this most important of the nation-building departments. Elementary education is admitted on all hands to be necessary for almost everything under the sun, whether it is for political advancement or industrial advancement or any other advancement. This year, we are going to increase our expenditure under this head only by 2 lakhs. Coming to sanitation, the provision made in the previous year was 33½ lakhs, as against 28½ lakhs in the current year. So actually we have gone back by 5 lakhs. In the Medical department also, I do not think we have made very great progress.

"Where have these 370 lakhs gone? That is the question we have to answer. I have been able to show, Sir, that so far as the nation-building departments are concerned, we have not spent any portion of this money for them. In Bombay, they passed the Compulsory Education Act only this year, and at once they made provision for nearly 20 lakhs for the extension of elementary education in the Presidency. Have we got to show anything like that in our Presidency? Rather, we have created a number of new appointments. I believe, Sir, from the time the Reforms came into operation, we have had the credit of increasing the number of gazetted officers, by 283 new appointments. When the case of non-gazetted officers was put forward, all our funds vanished and we had nothing to give them except sympathy. It is a question of lip sympathy in their case, whereas we were able to dispose of 370 lakhs for the advantage of the superior officers."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I must protest against the suggestion that the whole of the 370 lakhs has gone to their benefit."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I have only indicated one of the ways in which the 370 lakhs were disposed of. It may be interesting to see some of the other ways in which we have spent this money. For instance, in the Department of Sanitation, the previous speaker complained that the Government have stopped all grants for minor sanitary works and that he has got no money for digging new wells and no money to incur any additional expenditure on sanitation. In the old days, we used to get something like 8 lakhs for the local boards for minor sanitation. In place of that amount, we are now given a number of assistant directors and asked to provide

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for a District Health Officer and his costly staff. What the district health staff is going to supervise I do not know. (Hear, hear.) Not only do we have assistant directors to supervise the work of these district health officers, but ever since they were appointed, I have been receiving a large number of letters asking for returns and all sorts of things. It is not possible for me to do anything they want, because I have not got the necessary establishment. For the purpose of preparing these returns, we have to keep an establishment. That is the additional advantage we have gained by spending a portion of the 370 lakhs so far as the Sanitary Department is concerned.

"I do not believe that the other departments have fared any better. We have in every department a long link of officers. Take the Police Department. We have the Sub-Inspector, over him we have the Inspector, then over him there is the Deputy Superintendent of Police and above him the Superintendent, the Deputy Inspector-General and the Inspector-General. These are the officers, each supervising those who are below him. This is a reserved subject. Even in transferred subjects things are no better. Take, for instance, Excise. There also we have got Sub-Inspector, Assistant Inspector, Inspector, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner, each supervising those who are below. I do not think there is any justification for a long string of officers in every department. Only the other day, we were looking into the Veterinary Department. We thought that in the Veterinary there would be no necessity for a long chain. All the same, we found that the Veterinary Assistant who is in charge of a hospital or dispensary had above him an Inspector, and above the Inspector there was the Deputy Superintendent and above him the Superintendent. There are four Superintendents who are looking after the work of four Deputy Superintendents. I do not know whether we should have this long chain of inspecting agency in almost every department.

"Then, Sir, we find another curious feature referred to by Mr. Venkataranga Reddi. We have duplication and triplication of work in numerous cases. Simply because a certain thing has to be done, that department wants an army of officers. It never considers whether that work can be done by officers in other departments. For instance, there are two workshops in Madras—one Public Works Workshop and the other Industrial Workshop. I ask why all the work could not be done by one. We have engineers in Forest Department, engineers in Industrial Department, engineers in Agricultural Department, and we have got local board engineers. There is no justification to multiply officers like this. Everybody seems to have thought that if anything had to be done it must be done by one serving under him. He never pauses to think whether the same work cannot be done by some other officer. It cannot be said that, in the case of many people that they are full-time officers and they cannot undertake any more work. In this way a large portion of the money which should be spent for the benefit of the people has been spent in other ways.

"Having stated this, what is the position we are in? The hon. the Finance Member has himself said in his exhaustive speech that we have to budget for a deficit of 35 lakhs, that the position of the local boards is no better and that most of them are bankrupt or have got a deficit balance. After all, it must be admitted that the local boards are not bodies which can be said to be doing anything but Government work. They are actually doing the work which any civilized Government ought to do. They are practically departments of Government in which the popular voice has a greater potency.

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The mere fact that they are run by popular agencies is no reason to disown them altogether and say that they are bodies with which the Government have nothing to do. The Government ought to be all the more grateful to them, because they are managed mostly by non-officials and the work which they are doing if done by Government would cost a great deal more. But instead of being grateful to them and recognizing them as part of the Government machinery they are treated as step-children, as bodies who have no claim on the provincial revenues and as bodies which will have to provide for their own expenditure. The hon. the Finance Member—I was rather amused to see it—was referring to my learned friend next to him in different ways at different times. He was sometimes referring to him in very eulogistic terms as the President and Chairman of the Committee which was appointed to decide the relations between the Provincial Government and the local boards; at other times he said practically that he was a visionary and did not know what he ought to do and what he ought not to do."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I must repudiate the interpretation which the hon. gentleman has put upon speeches which I have no recollection I have ever made."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"He practically said that the recommendations made by the Financial Relations Committee could not be accepted, that most of them are of no use and that another committee ought to consider the whole thing."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I again say that I did not say that their recommendations could not be accepted? What I said was that they required to be supplemented by further details."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I cannot really understand what further details are. I do not know, Sir, whether any supplementary details are necessary. The recommendations of the Committee can be given effect to as they are without any supplementary details. What the hon. Member apparently means by supplementary details are things which will change the recommendations and bring down the responsibility of the Government to what he wants to be the state of affairs."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I explain again, Sir? My point is that the Committee left a number of important questions open."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"It is very difficult when a vague statement like that is made. The Committee went into almost every department; they said that a particular department should be considered as a national department and a particular portion of its cost should be borne by the Government. I do not know what further details are necessary. So far as I can see, as it was said by one of the speakers this morning, only such of the recommendations of the Committee as were favourable to the Government—for instance recommendations on questions like resumption of grants and post-payment—were given effect to at once. And when it came to a matter of the Government bearing any responsibility for the work done by the local boards, they simply put it aside and said: 'We shall pass orders later on'."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has already exceeded his time by five minutes. As the House was interested in his speech, I did not choose to interrupt him. I hope he will finish his speech in one more minute."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Yes, Sir, I will. So, we see this that in spite of the fact that, as a result of the financial arrangement with the Imperial Government, we had 300 lakhs and in spite of the fact that we have got an additional 70 lakhs from additional taxation we have really made no progress whatever. We have left the local bodies in a state of chronic poverty and chronic deficit and we have been ourselves budgeting for deficit budgets all through. As I began, we have made no progress whatever in the reduction of the great drink evil and we have shown very little progress except in increasing the army of officers all round and in increasing the salary in some places. That is not a satisfactory state of things at all and I for one think that the reply we would be obliged to give to the electors when they ask us how we managed the affairs is a matter which is not very much likely to satisfy them."

MR. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I wish to offer a few remarks on the Budget from the standpoint of an agriculturist. The Madras Presidency is mainly an agricultural province, and it is my desire to urge that sufficient provision should be made for the improvement of agriculture in this Presidency. Looking at the Budget presented to us this year, we find that practically no provision is made for any important irrigation schemes or any important agricultural activities, and that great provision is made for agricultural establishments. We find that during the last ten years, many appointments have been created and several experts have been brought in, costing several lakhs of rupees. I do not say that they are idle and I know that they have been carrying on some work; but I find they have not been of any practical use in the rural parts. The agriculturist has not the means to go to Coimbatore and other places to learn, nor has the department devised any means whereby knowledge is brought home to him. Last year, the hon. the Minister for Development paid glowing tributes to the work of the Agricultural Department and now I wish to know from him what results he has been able to achieve by the work of this department during his experience of two and a half years."

" Again, Sir, the agriculturist has to be ever in dread of the resettlement operations in the Presidency. In the recent discussions regarding the postponement of the resettlement operations in the Presidency, I found that there had been an unfortunate impression, not only in the minds of the officials but also of the non-officials, that Tanjore was a very rich district and that the lands there could afford to bear higher taxation. But that is not correct, and the increase proposed in the resettlement operations is unduly heavy and oppressive and it affects more the poorer agriculturists than the richer. I view with alarm the proposals for resettlement in my own district of Trichinopoly which is admittedly much poorer than Tanjore."

" The ordinary agriculturist, unconnected with any new political schools of thought, does not care whether Indians have been given greater powers in the matter of administration, either of local bodies or of Government departments; he does not care whether elective franchise for local bodies, or legislative councils is extended or restricted; he does not care whether a larger number of persons have got into these councils and have been given opportunities to discuss public questions. His only anxiety is, that he gets more water for the fields, gets more produce from the lands, and pays less tax. As a shrewd business-man his chief concern is to look after, and

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improve his own material condition. When we remember that most of the people of this Presidency are such agriculturists living in rural areas, the real test by which the administration should be judged, is whether it satisfies the above requirements, and increases the material prosperity of the people. Applying that test, I cannot compliment the present system of Government. However carefully we scrutinize the Budget we cannot see that we have, in any way, improved the material resources of the people. We have only succeeded in imposing additional taxes by way of several cesses. If this is the service we render to the agriculturists, without in any way helping them in augmenting their own resources, they may well say: "Thank you for the Reforms. We shall have none of them".

Rev. W. MESTON :—" Mr. President, there is only one matter and one aspect of it on which I would like to speak. But before I do so, I trust I may be permitted to express my congratulation to the hon. the Finance Member for the clearness and lucidity of the speech which he made on the occasion of the introduction of the Budget, the way in which he steered clear of many intricacies, and the wonderful optimism he showed, which carried him, and us along with him, and which never despaired of the republic."

" My desire is simply to confine my observations to the matter of education as it appears in this Budget. It is plain from what is mentioned here, and very gratifying, that the amount of expenditure on education has risen within something like a decade by 200 per cent. My only point is this. Is the money that is thus being spent and the large increase in it, money that is spent to the best advantage? I have myself very considerable doubts as to that. And I think they are doubts which some others may possibly share. I would take, for instance, to make the position clear, what the position of private effort is under the educational system of this country. In the Director's Report we note that in round figures, while there are 11,000 institutions under public management, there are 26,000 under private management. That is to say that in this Presidency about 70 per cent of the educational activity is being discharged by private effort. That therefore means and ought to involve that that position ought to be clearly recognized and very generously treated. Take, again, secondary education. There is under that head an expenditure of roughly Rs. 60 lakhs. Of that amount 40 lakhs are spent by managers of private institutions and 20 lakhs by those that are under public management. Two-thirds of the amount is thus spent by schools under private management. Again, turning to elementary schools, there are 7,000 under public management and over 22,000 under private management. These facts are very striking and ought to carry with them a corresponding recognition."

" If we take the Budget as it is put before us, we see that in connexion with the colleges, the amount of additional revenue that has to be given, the expenditure that is contemplated under Government Arts Colleges over that of last year, is Rs. 1,35,000. When we come to non-Government colleges we find that the amount for which provision is made in this Budget is Rs. 1,30,000. That is under teaching grants. After all, it is only the teaching grants that count because building grants are in Government colleges included in the Public Works Department. And if some one objects that there is provision made for laboratories and equipment in addition, my reply is that it is only a paltry sum of Rs. 40,000. I wish to point out that the increased

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amount of grant that is being given this year to Government colleges over last year, viz., Rs. 1,35,000 is more than the amount that is being given as grant for the whole of the non-Government colleges of the Presidency. Then again, take secondary education. The additional expenditure that is budgeted for secondary schools under public management is Rs. 46,000 for boys' schools and Rs. 22,000 for girls' schools. If we turn to schools that are not under Government management we find that there is actually a diminution of Rs. 11,000 for boys and a small addition of Rs. 1,000 for girls. That is to say, while the expenditure on Government secondary schools has increased the amount that is expended on private effort has diminished by Rs. 10,000. It is a very striking fact. I wish to ask, Sir, whether that money is being spent in the best way.

"I am taking no account here of vocational education or of inspection work. Members of this Council know quite well how heartily I support everything that is done by the department for that part of the work. We cannot get on without our inspection and I have always supported anything done to improve it. But I am only speaking of the way in which private effort in itself is being supported. It is not possible for us to make out clearly from the Budget how much of the grants goes to schools under local boards and how much to those under purely private management. Nevertheless, I ask the question whether the grants that are being given are really encouraging local effort. If we look up to the Quinquennial Report last published, the answer must be in the negative. What I have said shows clearly that private effort is receiving a very meagre amount, an amount which cannot be regarded as an encouragement.

"So, then, Sir, what I wish to urge is, in the first place, that the Government should realize that the time has come when the whole Grant-in-Aid Code requires reconsideration as regards the amounts that are being given. They are insufficient for the enormous work that is being carried on. Secondly, I think that the Grant-in-Aid Code requires to be reconsidered in regard to its extension, whether the principles underlying that Code are not principles which by their very application might not bring about, not only in regard to schools under private management but also to schools under local management, the very best results stimulating not only private but also local effort. The other point that I wish to raise is that the time is come when the whole matter of the educational services requires to be considered. The work done by the educational services in the past no one can recognize more than I do. But circumstances have changed and I do not feel that the change of circumstances has been adequately recognized. I think that the time has come when this most unfortunate division between the Government and the non-Government teachers should be obliterated and the teaching profession should take its stand upon its own inherent qualifications. When this is done, we shall have a great advance in education, and unless education is going to be taken in hand seriously this whole matter of the Reforms which we desire to see brought to the most satisfactory position will be seriously prejudiced.

"I desire, therefore, Sir, to mention these two changes, with regard to the Grant-in-Aid Code and with regard to the services, as the two means whereby our education may be greatly advanced and whereby it may also be most economically advanced."

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Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, as a member of the Finance Committee and the Retrenchment Committee, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our feelings of great indebtedness to the hon. the Finance Member. He has been very kind and very courteous to us all in all our discussions. We have differed from him on many occasions, but there was no trace of bitterness left behind. I may also say, Sir, that on many occasions he showed great appreciation of and respect for non-official opinion, and in a majority of cases I may say he has yielded to non-official opinion. His regard for non-official opinion was so great that on one occasion when the printed reports of the proceedings were about to be distributed and it was brought to his notice that some of us wanted to revise our judgment in a certain case, he immediately yielded saying, 'If you think it will give you peace, I shall certainly allow you to revise your opinions.' All these things show the spirit with which he approached his task, and the spirit of sympathy shown towards the non-official members.

"Before proceeding further, I should like, as Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar has done, to draw the attention of this House, and especially of the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Law Member, to the amount of expenditure that we are incurring in connexion with the Police, viz., 203 lakhs, or nearly one-seventh or one-eighth of the whole of the revenues of this province. All that is required here is a bold policy of retrenchment. I am aware that the late Law Member has appointed a committee to retrench the expenditure in the Police Department. But a little retrenchment of one or two lakhs will not suffice. What is required is a bold stroke of policy. We should see whether we require so many Sub-Inspectors, whether we cannot abolish altogether the cadre of Inspectors, and whether we cannot abolish the superfluous officers like the Deputy Superintendents of Police, the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, and other officers who did not exist fifteen years ago. Such a bold policy alone will save the financial crisis of this province.

"About ten or twelve years ago, there were only three Secretaries to the Government; if I remember aright, the Chief Secretary, the Revenue Secretary and the Secretary to the Government, Local and Municipal Department. But now there are six or seven Secretaries, and in addition to them we have also got Under Secretaries with big establishments of clerks, peons, etc. All this means additional expenditure. The question should therefore be considered whether we cannot go back to the former system of having a smaller number of Secretaries, and adopt the system of making heads of departments Secretaries to Government. Just at the time when the Reforms were about to be introduced, I read in the Christian College Magazine a proposal that in future the Director of Public Instruction should become Secretary to Government. That was what we had anticipated. We did not know that this intermediary system of having Secretaries for all departments would be adopted. If schemes proceed from heads of departments direct to members of Government, it would be better, as the former can have conferences with the latter and the Government Members can come to conclusions more quickly. What is required here also is a bold policy of reducing the number of Government Secretaries and reducing the Secretariat establishment.

"I should next like to take up a subject which is very dear to my community and which has been brought forward before this House more than once, namely, the development of the Muhammadan College at Madras. That

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was a college that was intended for all the Muhammadans in this Presidency. I remember that about five or six years ago there was a bitter controversy in this Presidency in regard to the location of a college at Vaniyambady, and as to whether it should be called the Islamia college or the Usmania college after His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad. The Government thought that the best thing would be that they should themselves provide a college for the Muhammadans, and in this Council the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Littlehales, promised that in the near future we should have a college of our own. But unfortunately owing to the financial crisis we have not been able to develop that college to any appreciable extent. Now we have got our two Intermediate classes in rooms which may very well be found fit for tiffin rooms, and I request my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, to inspect this institution and see for himself whether the description I have given about these two rooms is not correct. Of course, I know that my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, will do his very best to improve the college, but then he is face to face with the fact that there is no money. Sir, I thought that to-day we would hear good news about a reduction in our provincial contribution, and I was persuading the hon. Minister to give some money for the purpose of developing this college. But unfortunately it has happened otherwise, and the news about the contribution is not at all encouraging. But all the same, I must say that the present Finance Member of the Government of India does not seem to be so very unsympathetic as the former Member, and I still hope that ere long we shall get some kind of reduction in our impost. I should also like to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister for Education that the Government already promised to give us a school in Georgetown and that no action seems to have yet been taken. I hope that the Minister will bestow his attention in that direction also.

"I should also like, as some of my hon. friends have done, to take this opportunity of thanking the hon. the Ministers and the hon. the President for their voluntary reduction of their salaries, and I hope their example will be followed not only by the Indian Members of the Executive Council, but also the High Court Judges (laughter), because all the higher salaries should go down, and I hope that in future, though not now, higher salaries will be reduced. Although people may mock at the idea now, a time will come when they will really surrender their high salaries, I mean a portion of them.

"My friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar spoke discouragingly about the work of the Retrenchment Committee. He seems to think that it has done absolutely no work."

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I did not say so, Sir. What I said was that the work it did was not much."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I wish, Sir, that my hon. friend has seen the many notes and papers that were circulated among the members of the Committee by the Secretary, Mr. Davies, in that connexion. He would then realize the amount of work done. Even when he went to Delhi, he was working on this matter only, and I think that most of the notes that we have been receiving were prepared by him when he was at Delhi. I may say we are very fortunate in having Mr. Davies as the Secretary of the Retrenchment Committee, and his notes contain many suggestions in regard to the directions in which retrenchment can be effected.

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I am sure that if we continue our work for two or three months more, we shall be able to show what retrenchments we can make. ('Hear, hear' from Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu.)

"Sir, many of the hon. Members have been asking me whether the committee that has been appointed to enquire about the indigenous systems of medicine has submitted its report to the Government. I take this opportunity of saying that the committee did submit its report only about three weeks ago. With regard to its findings, I may say that it unanimously came to the conclusion that the indigenous systems of medicine require encouragement at the hands of the Government. When I say 'they require encouragement' it does not mean that the allopathic systems should be discouraged. Both these statements are quite independent and quite separate. We have got in the rural areas no medical relief at all, and experts in India, men who are able to pronounce an opinion on this question say that the indigenous systems are based on scientific lines, and the medicines used are cheap, and therefore the committee came to the conclusion that they require encouragement at the hands of Government. I think that the United Provinces and the Punjab Governments have been already encouraging the indigenous institutions of medicine.

"As a member of the Madras Corporation, I should like to bring to the notice of this Council that Madras is a most unhealthy place (laughter.) The death-rate here is very high. The late Dr. T. M. Nair in this very House stated that this city was a death trap. We have got many schemes of sanitation, the foremost of which is the improvement of the Cooum river. The Cooum river should be connected with the sea. The water in the river must be made to flow into the sea and vice versa, and unless and until this is done, the sanitation of Madras cannot be satisfactory at all. For this purpose a scheme was prepared by the engineers, but when it was placed before the Finance Committee the committee was not sure about the efficacy of these schemes, and therefore budgeted for Rs. 20,000 so as to enable the hon. the Minister for Public Works to appoint an expert committee to go through these schemes and to recommend to the House the scheme that is acceptable to the experts. I sincerely trust that my hon. friend the Minister for Public Works will soon appoint a committee and come before this House for a supplementary grant for the necessary money."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"The committee has already been appointed, Sir."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I thank the hon. the Minister for that information. Before I sit down, I should like to say something about one more matter which is not a small matter but an important one. At the time when the new Reforms were introduced, when certain people at the time of elections dissuaded people from attending the elections, the Publicity Board did very useful work in publishing broadcast leaflets on the Reforms, the new constitution, the rights of the people's representatives, and the advantage of going to the polls and voting for their representatives. The Board distributed leaflets broadcast in all languages and showed to the people how their representatives would be able to exercise their will and influence over the Executive Government not only in the Transferred Subjects but in the Reserved Subjects as well; and the people appreciated the advantage of going to the polls, voting at elections and

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entering the Councils. The work of the Board was immense in that direction. Last month, when a crisis arose when the people's representatives voted against the Government, and I believe the *Hindu* and the *Swarajya* advised His Excellency to dissolve the Council if such a step had been taken, it would have been a slap on our cheek, and we would have looked small in the eyes of the people. Our extremist friends would then have told us 'you have been served aright. We have already warned you not to enter the Council.' It is a good thing that we have our good Governors here who would not take recourse to reactionary methods in the administration of this province. Our most grateful thanks are therefore due to His Excellency Lord Willingdon, not only for what he has been doing to make the Reforms a success, but also for his establishing the very good constitutional precedent that the Members of the Executive Council must henceforward think that they are voluntarily responsible to the Legislative Council."

Mr. A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR :—"Sir, I have very great pleasure in associating myself with my colleagues in offering my sincere congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member in presenting the Budget for the official year 1923-24."

"A lump grant of 17 lakhs is provided in the Budget for the local bodies simply to afford relief in their indebtedness to Government. In this case, Sir, the local bodies are again hard hit because adequate funds are not placed at their disposal though they discharge very important and onerous duties. If these grants were made with a view to recover the amounts due from them, the local bodies would surely be helpless."

"The presentation of the Budget for 1923-24 has given a sigh of relief to the taxpayer who has been over-burdened with fresh taxation till now. There is contentment so far as the Government does not embark upon new avenues of taxation as last year on the ground that Madras has taxed itself to its utmost capacity."

"As pointed out by the hon. the Finance Member, the special committees are sitting in collaboration with departmental heads to work out proposals to effect retrenchment in all the departments; but I do not think that the axe applied in these directions will yield a fair saving. Sir, turning to pages 41 to 197 of the Budget, retrenchment is effected in dispensing with the services of the menials, peons, attenders, clerks and a few constables. From the Revenue Department down to the miscellaneous departments, the same thing is noticeable. Sir, turning to page 52 of the Budget, under 8-C. Forest, provision is made for seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators and personal pay to four Deputy and Assistant Conservators to the extent of Rs. 65,100; a similar provision is also made for Rs. 7,000 for one Lumbering Engineer. Funds to meet the temporary establishment charges are also budgeted. So, the establishment under this head is very top-heavy and must be curtailed. Turning to page 72, General Administration, 22-C (a), a lump provision is made for the pay of establishments under this head. This is a new creation of offices. In the Translators' department (paragraph 74 of the Financial Statement), in addition to the existing three translators, 32 more hands are going to be appointed at a cost of Rs. 52,320. The reason for such a huge provision is not quite clear. Turning to page 97 of the Budget, provision is made for 246 warders in Alipuram jail. Last year there were 107 warders. With reference to the Financial Statement."

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paragraph 84, Jails, page 47, I find that the Mappilla prisoners will be accommodated not in the Alipuram jail as contemplated, but in the additional accommodation to be provided for in annexes specially constructed and attached to the central jails at Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Vellore. There is no necessity to increase the number of warders when the Mappilla prisoners are not accommodated in the Alipuram jail."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"May I explain that, Sir? It is the case, Sir, that the Alipuram jail is full of Mappilla prisoners and it will continue to be so for some time. But it cannot accommodate all the Mappilla prisoners."

Mr. A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR :—"In paragraphs 18 and 93 of the Financial Statement I find it stated that a body of military force will be formed on the East Coast at a cost of Rs. 76,884. The reason and the necessity that leads to such a formation passes one's comprehension. Similar lump provisions are also made for the very same purpose at Salem and Rajahmundry under Detailed Account No. 26-O. Police. The creation of new offices in the Police Department for the inspectors needs special mention here. Again in the office of the Deputy Inspector-General, there are two incumbents, namely, Personal Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General and Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General. One of these should be dispensed with."

"During the last year's Budget discussion, I remember to have pointed out that the secondary classes held in the Government Islamiah Secondary school, Trichinopoly, are exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, that the thatched roofings are in a very much damaged condition and that the Government should devote their special attention to constructing a suitable building for the school. But the Government simply provided funds for the continuation of the school and did not pay heed to the construction of the building. The hon. the Minister for Education will, I hope, make proposals in the near future to spend a part of the sum earmarked for the purpose."

"Turning to page 140, Education—Primary—the funds allotted to the local authorities such as municipalities and taluk boards are quite inadequate."

"The post of the Director of Office Systems was made temporary, but now it appears to have been made permanent at a cost of Rs. 10,500. This is a superfluous office and is not at all necessary."

"Under Detailed Account No. 37-D, I find provision is made for additional tahsildars and revenue inspectors. When retrenchment all round is engaging the attention of the Government, funds are provided afresh for the creation of new offices."

"With these few words I close my remarks."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"Sir, before I make my observations on the Budget I would like to refer to the announcement that the hon. the Finance Member has made to this House, the announcement that the hon. the President has been pleased to give up Rs. 1,000 in his salary and that the Ministers also will do likewise. It will be presumptuous on my part to speak of the President's act in any detail. But I may be permitted to say that the House and the country through this House will feel great satisfaction and feel indebted to the President for his example. In respect of the Ministers, Sir, I believe I can be free. I congratulate them on the scale

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of self-denial that they have practised by allowing this pronouncement to be made. I think, by taking this step, they have shown that they are capable of imagination which can be used to useful purposes. Perhaps I may be allowed to say that this would have come with greater effect and with greater grace when originally an attempt was made to have their salaries reduced and when a motion had been tabled to that effect in the early stages of the career of this House. Sir, if the indianization of the services in this country is to become an accomplished fact—an ideal which is true to the heart of every one of us who wishes well for his country—it can only be by such steps as the Ministers have now chosen to take.

“ I do not believe, Sir, in the principle of insisting upon the same salary being paid to gentlemen who come from over the seas at great trouble and personal inconvenience to themselves as are being paid to the sons of the soil; and one of the best means by which we can temper our interest with justice is to tell them that whenever they are wanted we shall have them on terms which will appear reasonable to themselves and us and that wherever we can get on with people of our own country, much as we appreciate whatever they have given to us in the past and much as we are willing to avail ourselves of the services of those best able to render them on appropriate occasions, we shall get on ourselves with such of the services as we can command.”

“ Turning to the Budget, when I was reading the very interesting statement that was made by the hon. the Finance Member, there was one observation that struck me, and I would venture to repeat it to this House. If there was a critic who was opposed to the Government, the criticism of the past administration and policy could not have been more effective at his hands than the statement that the Finance Member has made. Sir, if you look into the statement as a whole you see how opportunities have been ignored, or have been wasted, or have been misused, advantages failed to be taken notice of, and how it is that with the best of circumstances this province has been probably in the worst condition so far as its development goes. For, what details does that statement reveal? It shows that the people of this Presidency have been taxed more than they need to be; it shows that their wants have not been supplied to the extent that they could have been and should have been; and in fact that the administration of the Presidency has been so conducted that Lord Meston's Committee found themselves justified in saying that any better grant than what they have been pleased to make to this Presidency would only mean that opportunities would be given to the people of Madras which they might not be able to avail themselves of with advantage to themselves. Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has tried to sugar the pill as much as he can. But if you look into hard facts you find this: that our opening balances have been wiped out, continuous years of deficit have been our lot, and, even now, after fresh taxation has been levied, we find that we are still in a year of deficit. Sir, reference has also been made in the statement to the demoralising doles that were thrown upon the various provinces by the Government of India. We could not exactly know what these doles would do for the efficient administration of this province, and whether if such an opportunity were afforded to us this province would be enabled to afford to take advantage of it, because we have not the schemes or measures ready by which these doles could be utilized. Sir, in one word, if you look at that statement, it shows that a

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bureaucratic administration could be efficient and could be run smoothly; but that it contains in itself elements altogether inconsistent with the steady, ordered, assured and reasonably rapid progress of the people, and the development of their industrial efficiency (hear, hear).

“ Now, Sir, I shall go to some of the details of this Budget that has been now presented to us. As you will recognize, this is not an occasion when we shall have to go into any great details of the various items of the Budget. But one thing strikes us, Sir, on reading this Budget, that notwithstanding the very great care that has been bestowed on the preparation of it, you find that the departments which are said to be the nation-building departments have the least of the advantages that they require for the purpose of functioning properly.

“ Now, Sir, going first into the question of the income, you find that still the income from excise figures very largely under the expected receipts of the Government. The hon. the Finance Member has told us how there has been a set-back in the income during the days when Non-co-operation was at its full swing. To me, Sir, the most lovable features of the Non-co-operation movement have been the discouragement that that movement has brought to the drink evil and to the filip that it has given respecting the elevation of the depressed classes, and I wish that we have more and more of Non-co-operation solely for this, that the drink evil will be minimised. Now, Sir, the point of that remark of mine on the present occasion is this: if you look into the figures you will find that something like 32 to 33 per cent of the total income that is to be found in the Budget is due to excise. Now, Sir, if there is immorality and if that immorality can be turned to some account, I would not blame people who do so. But it is not good, it is not in the best interests of the country, that there is any temptation by which we can encourage that immorality. In fact, the tone of satisfaction that you find in the statement of the Finance Member justifies my present position. But that ought not to justify us, Sir, in giving anything like encouragement to the spread of this evil. We are bound, and we shall be tempted to give that encouragement so long as we look upon this as one of the most important sources of our expanding revenue. I think, Sir, that the time has arrived when both the officials and non-officials should put their heads together for the purpose of devising some means by which this dependence upon the excise revenue will become, as years pass on, less and less until the stage is reached, which must be a very near one, when we shall not have to depend upon excise revenue for the purpose of carrying on the every day administration. To say that we should depend on excise revenue is as good as saying that the administration of the country should be carried on by the fines levied from the criminals of the country.

4 p.m.

“ Then coming to some of the items of expenditure the first thing that naturally attracts our attention is the Education Department. I think it was my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, who twitted me with want of sympathy with residential universities when I brought a motion on some of the questions that arose in connexion with the University Bill. This Budget, Sir, is amply justifying me in the kind of opposition that I then raised. We find, Sir, that with respect to the university, a sum of Rs. 2,15,000 is granted in addition to the grants that are usually made to it. Of this sum of Rs. 2,15,000 we find that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 is to come from one and another sum of Rs. 65,000 is given for the purpose of carrying on

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the university teaching. Of this sum a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 is set apart for university buildings. Now my point is this. This grant of Rs. 1,50,000 comes from loans and the hon. the Finance Member has drawn the attention of the House in another connexion to the fact that loans can be taken only in certain specific cases; that is when a capital expenditure is to be met on the construction or the acquisition of any work or permanent asset of a material character in connexion with a project of lasting public utility. Then there is a proviso: provided that the proposed expenditure is so large that it cannot reasonably be met from current revenues and that project appears to the Governor-General in Council unlikely to yield a return of not less than such percentage as he may from time to time by order prescribe, arrangements are made for the amortization of the debt. I do not know, Sir, whether, in the present case, any arrangement has been made for the amortization of the debt. That the Government should be compelled to resort to loans for finding a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 for the purpose of bringing into existence the necessary buildings for the university shows how ill-equipped we are at present for having a system of residential university. It is on that I wanted to lay stress not that I am wanting in sympathy with residential universities.

"Now, Sir, the hon. Rev. Meston congratulated the House and the Government on the fact that from the figures as given by the hon. the Finance Member, there has been an increase of something like cent per cent in the educational expenditure from 1911-12 to 1921-22. Well, Sir, as to figures, they are easily capable of manipulation of various kinds. For the purpose of checking the enthusiasm or the jubilation that we may feel over this, I may perhaps draw the attention of the House to this point. Taking the table with which the statement opens, we find that in 1911-12 the amount that was spent over education was something like 7.84 per cent of the income that was had then. For 1921-22 for which we have got the accounts now, the expenditure comes to 9 per cent of the income and according to the Budget expenditure, we find that it comes to 10 per cent. Now, on such a matter as education can it at all be reasonably contended that this kind of progress is such as can be deemed proper? In other respects, I wish to associate myself with the criticisms that my hon. friend, Rev. Meston, has directed towards that portion of the Budget which relates to education.

"Sir, there are one or two other points to which also I wish to direct myself. But before doing so, I would like to point out that in respect of vocational education, though there was a grant of Rs. 1,50,900 in the last year's Budget, yet a good portion of it seems to have been left unutilized and we find that even the Budget figure for this year is less than that for the previous year. I think it is very unfortunate that events should have so transpired as to justify the cutting down of the grant for vocational education.

"Then, Sir, as regards the question of general administration, my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, while drawing the attention of the hon. the Finance Member to a set of facts which are incapable of being controverted has brought him into a tangle which I am afraid will tax all the dialectical skill of the hon. Sir Charles if he wants to get out of it. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, has shown very effectively how the administration is at present top-heavy. So far as we are concerned, it is not a matter of any great importance to us to meticulously find out who exactly

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is responsible for the position in which we are placed. The evil is there, it requires to be remedied and it behoves every one who is concerned with the better administration of the country to exert himself as fully as he can whether he be an official or a non-official, for the purpose of seeing that this evil is got rid of. For that purpose, Sir, this top-heaviness of administration is a point which is worthy of the consideration of the Government members so that we might see how exactly that top-heaviness might be reduced.

"Now, Sir, coming to the expenditure on police. If there is any department in the departments of administration which draws a great deal to itself an increased expenditure year after year, it is this department of police. I submit, Sir, that every year nearly 200 lakhs are being spent or are expected to be spent over the Police Department. There is one other department to which I beg to draw the attention of the House, and that is the Agricultural Department. My hon. friend, Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar, has pointed out to us how little has been the impression made in this country by the exertions of the Agricultural Department. If we turn to the explanatory memorandum, we find an imposing array of officers mentioned as manning the Agricultural Department in the higher stages of it. We would be glad to know what exactly are the services rendered to the country through these highly paid officers. This department has been in existence for over three decades, and I believe that many hon. Members of this House who have any experience of mufassal conditions and the state of agriculture in the country will bear me out when I say that so far, although it may be that in one or two small matters the Agricultural Department has been of some use, there has not been that amount of good that the department has been able to do to the province which the original expectations formed of it would have justified or the expenditure that has been made upon it would also justify. I would suggest that this is a matter to be carefully looked into. If we remember that the hon. the Finance Member has told us how expectations have fallen short of the income that is to be raised from the additional stamp duties, that gives us some indication that we have reached that stage in the powers of taxation that we possess when further taxation will be absolutely impossible to be imposed."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Mr. President, I hope that the budget that has been presented to us by the hon. the Finance Member has been presented to us in the final form, apart, of course, from the modifications that may be made by the Council in the course of the discussion. I hope that in future there will not be that frequent resort to the vicious device of supplementary grants as has hitherto been in this Council. I hope there will not be monthly appendices to the budget discussions in the form of supplementary grants. I admit, Sir, that supplementary grants are necessary in the administration of every country; but they must be introduced only when there is absolute necessity. In England, for instance, as a rule, supplementary credits are wanted only in the case of the navy and the army. But, here, for education, for law and justice and for such other things which could afford to wait till the end of the budget year, supplementary grants are demanded. I quite admit that we should not expect genius in the financial administration of the country; but we have a right to expect accurate accounting and fair calculation of the prospects of revenue and expenditure. The present state of affairs seems to indicate a reprehensible amount of carelessness on the part of the administration when soon after the budget has been voted,

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Minister after Minister and Member after Member of the Government come forward with demands for supplementary grants. I hope that in the coming year at least the frequency of this vicious device will be reduced if the device cannot altogether be abolished.

"I should next like to deal with the financial device discovered, if not invented, by the hon. the Finance Member, namely, the device to constitute a deficit into a loan or into a kind of national debt. Well, Sir, I do not know if it has been tried in any other country. Surely it appears to me a singular thing to constitute a deficit into a loan or national debt of the country. I think a more regular and a more honest thing would have been to go to the country and float a loan for any extraordinary expenditure that might be required. This device of constituting a deficit to a loan seems to be a very reprehensible method of conducting the financial administration of the country. It leads to great extravagance and irresponsibility. There would be no incentive to retrenchment and economy in the administration. This device is based upon the principle of eventually asking posterity pay for it. Somebody asked the question: what has posterity done for us that we should do anything for posterity? The hon. the Finance Member answers by saying that we shall place our burdens upon posterity. If we are going to repudiate our financial obligations, why could not posterity also repudiate their obligations?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I ask, Sir, who has proposed repudiate any financial obligations?"

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"If we do not regularly make up our deficit either by retrenchment or by taxation, but if we try to spread our financial obligations upon posterity, then we are partially trying to repudiate our financial obligations."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I again ask, Sir, what financial obligations I am trying to spread upon posterity?"

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"May I again say, Sir, that instead of trying to reduce the deficit by retrenchment or by additional taxation, the hon. the Finance Member, as he might verify for himself by referring to his introductory remarks, cancels the 57 lakhs deficit by trying to spread the obligation reducing this deficit upon posterity. I think a much better method of financial administration is to say: enough unto the year is the deficit thereof and enough unto the year is the financial evil thereof. This device of the hon. the Finance Member reminds me of the device of the Duke of Plazo Toro. The Duke of Plazo Toro finding himself in a state of bankruptcy decided to float himself into financial solvency by floating a limited company called the Duke of Plazo Toro Company, Limited, with a view to paying his debts. Similarly our hon. Finance Member wants to bring this Presidency into a state of solvency by floating a company called the Madras Government, Limited."

"I must repeat this year again, Sir, what I said last year about the cost of collecting the revenue of the country. I still find it is very high. The cost of collecting land revenue is still somewhere about 20 per cent. The hon. the Finance Member last year, when I asked him a question whether the agricultural population of this country benefited the high cost of collecting the revenue, stated in a stage whisper—and it is unfortunately reported in the official reports the next day—that the

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agricultural population of the Madras Presidency was very much better off than the agricultural population of any other province in India. I wish, Sir, that that piece of information had been published broadcast in the country so that people elsewhere in India, especially people at Delhi and Simla, might know what a land flowing with milk and honey the Madras Presidency is. With regard to registration, the cost of collecting the revenue runs up to 62 per cent. I wonder why this high expenditure is being kept up. If registration is meant, according to the mind of the Madras Government, to protect the rights of property, why should you not include the cost of running the Registration department in the general cost of administration? and why try to get a revenue for which we have to spend about Rs. 60 in order to get Rs. 100? In every country, Sir, the experience has always been that the cost of collecting direct taxes is very much lower than the cost of collecting indirect taxes. But here in our presidency the cost of collecting land revenue is out of all proportion higher than the cost of collecting any other revenue, except the revenue that comes out of registration.

"Then, turning to retrenchment, every one is asking: 'where is the Retrenchment Committee?' One part of it seems to be in Delhi and the other part seems to be spread over all the province and the result is that nothing is being done by way of retrenchment. Some retrenchment no doubt has been shown in the Budget and we have been promised more by the hon. the Finance Member. But it seems to me, Sir, that unless we attack policy, unless we try to introduce retrenchment by changing our policy, we cannot bring about any amount of appreciable retrenchment. Take for instance the supreme Executive of the Madras Presidency—the Cabinet. The Madras Cabinet, Sir, seems to be a very expensive piece of political furniture. The Madras Cabinet reminds me not so much of Burke's famous description of Chatham's Cabinet—which hon. Members might read with profit and amusement, because there is a great deal of parallel between the present Madras Cabinet and the Earl of Chatham's Cabinet—but it reminds me rather of the portrait which was ordered to be painted for the Primrose family in the *Vicar of Wakefield*. When it was finished, the portrait was found to be too large for the drawing room and the problem arose 'what shall we do with it?', and I believe eventually it was relegated to the lumber room. I hope, Sir, that the fate of the Madras Cabinet will not be that it will be relegated to some political museum. Why should we want seven Members in the supreme Executive Council of Madras? We are only a province, a part of a part of a state, and we do only want a lord high admiral to make the Madras Cabinet perfect and complete and bring it into line with the Cabinets of other countries of the world."

"We want, Sir, also consideration of policy with regard to our sources of taxation. The hon. the Finance Member says that we cannot increase taxation, but surely if we consider this in terms of policy, we should be able to find additional sources of taxation. Take, for instance, land revenue. If we are able to introduce some legislation in regard to the fragmentation of land, or subdivision of land, which is one of the major economical plagues of the country, we should be able considerably to increase our source of revenue from that item. Similarly, in regard to industries my hon. friend, the Minister for Development, is ploughing the sands for want of money in order to finance various industrial schemes, but he could find money if Government would follow a large and comprehensive policy of land

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What the country wants is a larger road system than it possesses at the present time. At present the total mileage of roads in the Madras Presidency is 13,000 odd metalled roads and about 8,000 unmetalled roads. Now, Sir, considering the large extent of territory of the Madras Presidency, this road system is absolutely defective. We want a vast extension of roads for the improvement of agriculture for the increased production of wealth. We want it also to establish peace and security much more firmly than it has been established.

"Lastly, Sir, I think the House will forgive the hon. the Finance Member for his interesting disquisition with regard to the relations between local bodies and Provincial Governments if only for the great emphasis he laid upon the development of roads. I hope, Sir, that the grant which he has determined to make to these local bodies will help them to extend the road system of the Madras Presidency. But the question of roads is not a question merely to be relegated to the local boards; it is also a question of provincial interest, of national interest, and with regard to the policy of extending the road system, I think the Local Government ought to have full control over it making the local bodies as far as possible their agents.

"To conclude, Sir, there are only two honest and regular ways of reducing a deficit. One is by taxation and the other is by retrenchment. As regards taxation, it is none of my business as a private Member to suggest to the hon. the Finance Member new and better sources of revenue. That, according to the constitutional practice of England, which has been adopted also in this country, is a matter solely for the heads of the Executive. There only remains the way of retrenchment, and in this matter I think the Government should follow a bold and courageous policy instead of tinkering here and tinkering there. Bad time, Sir, is an opportunity for setting our house in order, and this bad time has been intensified in our case by the *non-possumus* attitude of the Central Government, and it is in these bad times, Sir, that we should try and see whether we cannot improve our present system of government. The present system of administration has been inherited by us from the Mughals and the East India Company who were not at all frightened by any principles of economy in regard to their methods of Government. This is the most favourable time for reforming the administration of Government, and I hope the Government of Madras will, before it is too late, bring about the necessary reforms in its administration."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, we are at the end of the second year of Reform. This is an appropriate occasion to see how far the year's working has advanced us on the road to self-government. We have had the same difficulties which we had last year continued during the year. The deficit is repeated, the iniquitous impost has continued and, as the hon. the Finance Member has pointed out, there is no likelihood of its being abolished for another six years. These are the mill-stones that have been hung round our necks and we are asked to work the Reforms. So far as the people's representatives are concerned, they have been doing their level best in the Council. Now let me examine the year's work with reference to the results that it has produced on village life, because the country is full of villages and the largest amount of the population inhabits the villages. We can only test the success or failure of the Reforms with reference to the conditions that exist in the villages.

"Now, let me first take the question of sanitation. We are no doubt year after year providing for lakhs of rupees under this head. In the

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present year the provision is roughly six lakhs; last year it was four lakhs. Now let us see what amount of this is actually spent in the village to improve its sanitary condition. I have been touring in the villages. I see prickly-pear spreading and no attempt is being made to root it out. When I go to the villages, the villager confronts me with the question, 'what is it that you have done for us?' Then I tell him, 'six lakhs have been provided for you'. He asks, 'what portion of them is spent on the village to relieve it of its insanitary surroundings?' To that question I am unable to furnish any answer.

"Now, coming to medical relief, we have had thirty non-Indian medical experts inflicted upon the Minister who is in charge of that department."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Not one of them upon me, Sir".

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Of course not all upon the hon. the Minister, Sir, but he has also to bear a portion of the number. Then we are asked 'how are these medical men useful to us?' We have been trying to have one more hospital, or one more dispensary in our district for the past five or ten years, but we have not yet been able to start it. Then there was no encouragement given till now for the spread of Ayurvedic medicines, and if some provision had been made for these three years, at least we could have had some addition to the medical relief by way of redressing the ordinary complaints.

"Now, coming to agriculture, we have 16 lakhs provided in the budget—about the same amount which was allotted last year. Now, again, the agriculturist asks, 'how has this amount been spent to my benefit?' The village continues to be the same. No new experiments are demonstrated to the ryot. If he is convinced that a certain experiment is profitable, he will certainly take to that method. I have personally conducted some agricultural experiments in my own place. Some twenty years back I remember that we started with a new variety of groundnut by private efforts and the people took it up readily and now we find that Anantapur district is one of the largest producers of groundnut. So nothing is wanting on the part of the ryot. What he wants is demonstration, a profitable demonstration. Has any portion of the 16 lakhs provided gone towards giving him any such help to enable him to launch himself into fresh schemes?

"As regards industries, there is a provision of 11 lakhs, the same amount as on the last occasion. Now, what portion of this has been spent upon improving rural industries?

"There has been the bangle industry in my district which used to command a good sale. It has been for long a village industry by which many people used to live. It is dying out now, because the Forest reserves render it impossible to secure sufficient quantity of fuel to burn the oven to smelt glass. I had an opportunity to talk about this to the Development Minister and he said that he was going to depute some one to investigate into the matter. The Government could have very easily set up a demonstration farm to teach people how to melt glass on improved methods. That has not been done for these two years.

"Now coming to Education, 170 lakhs are provided under this head and when you go to the village school, the school-master is paid Rs. 10 or 12 or

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at the most Rs. 20 and the headmaster, if there are three or four teachers, is paid about Rs. 20 or 25. Where is improvement there? The same thing continues.

"Now coming to the Forests, the figures here give room for a good deal of manipulation. I would refer to the way in which the figures are manipulated to show the justification for such a large expenditure under Forests. The receipt under what is called 'Other produce' is shown as Rs. 1,27,416. That is an amount which is largely made up by the sale-proceeds of tangedu bark. The tangedu bark is not in the forest reserves but it is in unassessed waste lands. It requires no care, and no watch. It requires no kind of protection. Yet this is an income that is shown to justify the large expenditure under Forests."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"May I ask the hon. Member under which item he would like me to put this?"

MR. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"The figure, Rs. 1,27,416 shown against 'Other produce' includes tangedu bark transactions. Instead of putting it under 'Other produce' it might be shown as an agricultural income under the Development Department. That is an item which goes to justify this large expenditure for forest protection and implies that all this Rs. 1,27,416 arose from the Forest Department."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU : "May I ask what it is that is asked about the Development Department, once more?"

MR. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"I am asked, Sir, if the sale-proceeds of tangedu bark amounting to Rs. 1,27,416 in my own district is not to be shown under the head of 'Forests' where else it ought to be shown. I say, being an agricultural product and being got out of unassessed lands, it could have been shown under the Development Department somewhere, as an income from agriculture."

"There is another item, Rs. 14,797. This is supposed to be the produce of the tree tax or rent for trees tapped, i.e., toddy trees. These, again, do not require any protection from the Forest Department and that item is added to show an increase in the forest revenue. Then, again, there is the other item, the grazing and fodder; under it a sum of Rs. 56,681 is put in there. A large amount of this comes under compounding fees which ought to be shown under 'fines and forfeiture' properly speaking. By showing all this the department wants to create an impression that all this establishment is intended for the protection of forests, whereas what actually is earned by the Forest Department is considerably less. So far as my district is concerned there is absolutely no justification for the large establishment for which the poor tax-payer is made to pay. There are many small reserves which are absolutely useless and which are hot-beds for wild pigs. These pigs come and damage the crops against which the poor ryot cannot keep himself very comfortable, i.e., he feels very much distressed. Fortunately, I must, in fairness, admit that there is some awakening on the part of the department, and the District Forest Officer, the Collector and the Chief Conservator have just begun to open their eyes and more than ten reserves have been disafforested."

"Coming to the Excise Department, I may take some credit for temperance work in my district. Allusion has been made in the hon. the Finance Member's memorandum that the revenue from Excise has recovered

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because of the cessation of Gandhian agitation. As one of the previous speakers, Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar, remarked much of the effort of the Gandhian agitation had been directed against drink. There are about ten villages in my district which are free from drink and are managing without their toddy shops. When I had to go to a village, I asked a Mala woman how she had been feeling without a toddy shop. She said that she was feeling better, because her husband did not waste his income, there was no beating, there was no broil and that therefore they were quite happy. Another man said that he was not going in search of toddy shops, that the temptation has died and that the villagers did not care to go there. That is a point which I would ask the Excise Minister to take note of in the matter of extending prohibition or reduction in consumption."

"Now, Sir, coming to the Police Department, I must say that the same corruption continues. There is absolutely no improvement in it. About two crores are spent on it. The rural tyranny continues. It was only last year that punitive police was located in some parts of my district. The adjoining part also deserves to be visited by a similar punitive police in order to reduce this tyranny. There was a resolution tabled by another hon. Member to remove this punitive police which I wanted to oppose. Unfortunately the mover was absent and I was denied an opportunity to lay the true state of things in respect to the prevalence of rural tyranny."

"Then there is the grouping of the villages. With a view to increase the salaries of village headmen, it has been proposed that the number of village groups ought to be reduced so that the pay of the remaining men may be increased without an additional charge under that particular head. When there is a proposal to group a number of villages, what these people do is this. The tahsildar makes certain proposal and it comes to the Collector; and as a result there is the likelihood of one particular village headman being reduced. He goes at once to the collectorate and squares up matters. In this way there are changes brought about in the original notifications and then the alterations give room for a lot of corruption among the subordinate revenue officials. I have heard complaints to the effect that it was an evil hour when the village officers asked for an increase of pay. They also say that it would have been better if grouping had not been given effect to. As a result of the Reforms the villagers have come to know that people's voice would be given greater value. That is another test which has to be applied in the working of the Reforms. How far it has been successfully working in the villages is a very interesting question to discuss. The old prestige continues. Supposing some representation is made by writing to a newspaper, it is looked upon with prejudice. When a people's representative goes and says something to the Government Members here, the Collector is angry and says why should you go and tell the Member. Then, when the Collector is told about something which requires to be looked into, the Divisional Officer says why should you go to the Collector, why should you not tell me. So, the tahsildar is the first man to be complained to. Now, here there is a volume of criticism that is revealed in the Budget discussion. Last year, I quoted definite instances where redress was needed in the administration of some of the departments. I wonder whether anybody cares to read or take note of the criticisms that are revealed during this discussion. Once I heard an officer whispering யார் அதை வாசித்தாலும் 'whoever reads that'. Even when I give him chapter and verse of the discussion, will he attend to it? No. Therefore what is the use of all these things? Why all this farce of a

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discussion? So, what I want to point out is that the spirit of the Reforms has not permeated into the minds of the officials in the district. There is any amount of improvement in this direction that awaits to be done in the lower rungs of the administration."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL:—"Mr. President, Sir, had I not been a member of the Finance Committee, I would have been disappointed at the 4-45 p.m. Budget which the hon. the Finance Member has presented to us this year. Having, however, a little knowledge of what was being demanded, I am not surprised there is a deficit; the surprise, if any, should rather be at the smallness of the deficit. In his Budget speech the hon. the Finance Member said that he would leave it to the House to say whether they would carry on with the deficit or end it by cutting expenditure. I for one would wish to carry on as I am sure that with the retrenchment that will be made during the year the deficit will disappear. I could, like other hon. Members, roam all over the fields of the Budget and talk about sanitation, forest, etc.; but I will confine myself to one subject, viz., the Industrial department which is under the supervision of my hon. friend, the Minister for Development."

"Before doing so, however, I would draw the attention of the House to a certain portion of the speech of the previous speaker in which he referred to the insanitary conditions of the various villages he had visited. Village sanitation cannot be improved by Government aid. It is more a question for the villager himself; for, no man need live in insanitary surroundings when he has himself the power to clean them. Government departments and legislation will never make a clean village."

"Coming to Industries, a great wave of fever for industrial progress has passed over the country during the last two or three years, and Government have been blamed for the backward state of the country, more especially this province. I do not entirely agree with this opinion as there is something more underlying this backwardness than Government apathy. In the Presidency of Bombay there is the huge mill industry; in Bengal jute; in the Central Provinces and Bengal coal and iron. All these industries have been developed by private enterprise without Government aid. In fact Government were against them, as may be seen from the excise duty on cotton goods. To come to Madras: What is the reason for Madras not advancing in industry as the other presidencies have done? Is it lack of labour, skilled or otherwise, lack of fuel to develop power, or facilities for transport by road or railways? Or is Government solely to blame? I would ask the Minister for Development to dive deep into these matters and endeavour to arrive at the root-cause of why private enterprise in industry has not developed the Madras Presidency. Even in this time of financial stringency, when there is little possibility of Government money being available for industrial enterprise there may be sufficient money to enable him to conduct this inquiry so that when more prosperous times come he may be ready to take advantage of them with well thoughtout schemes."

"Let me now take more particularly the Industrial departments of the province. There is, for instance, the Fisheries department. A considerable amount of money has been spent during the last 15 years on fisheries; but is the Madras Presidency any better off in its fish supply than it was, say twenty years ago? Speaking from my experience of the Presidency town, I can see no improvement as fish is no more plentiful or cheaper than it was, and the local markets are still supplied by the catamaran fishery. The

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Minister may say that this department, with others, is a legacy from the bureaucrats; but it is up to him to examine these legacies carefully and drop them if they are not profitable or successful.

"Then there is the jam factory in the Nilgiris. I call this an industry which leads to nowhere. In a cookery book I once read a recipe for hare soup. The first part of the recipe said: 'First catch your hare'. I say to my friend, the Development Minister, to first catch his fruit as there is not enough fruits in the Nilgiris to warrant building a factory and spending Rs. 50,000 on it this year."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"May I point out, Sir, that this also is a legacy to me from the bureaucrats?"

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL:—"Then there is my old friend the Soap Factory on the West Coast on which an enormous amount of money is being spent and in spite of which there is more foreign soap sold on the West Coast to-day than there was ten years ago."

"There are some items regarding industrial institutes which may be interesting, if explained. Take, for instance, the Industrial Institute in Madura on whose buildings the Government spent 4½ lakhs. The Budget estimate for 1923-24 provides this institute with Rs. 25,000 under 'wages of workmen' and Rs. 22,000 under 'purchase of materials'; in all Rs. 47,000 excluding establishment charges, contingencies, etc.; whereas its actual income is only Rs. 36,000."

"The other interesting figures are those for the Trades School—Rs. 3,000 for materials, Rs. 19,600 for contingencies and Rs. 400 for wages. The Leather Institute gets Rs. 12,000 for materials, Rs. 8,300 for contingencies and Rs. 3,600 for wages. The Glue Factory is allotted Rs. 20,000 for materials and Rs. 5,000 for contingencies and wages. I will not trouble the House with the figures for the School of Arts, which is another expensive item. I request the hon. the Minister for Development to study these figures carefully and see whether the various institutes and minor industries will lead anywhere. My own impression is that they will lead to nowhere the money will be wasted. It is true that the Industrial department started the jam industry, and that the jam made at the institute is very good; but where the Government have failed is in marketing the goods. The Industrial department makes things but cannot sell them. The art of salesmanship is evidently unknown to Government departments. Until they learn this, money spent on manufactures will only be wasted."

"In conclusion I would ask the Minister for Development to make careful enquiries into all his industrial activities before launching out on any great or new schemes."

The Council then adjourned to meet again the next day at 11 a.m.

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 2nd March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR Avargal, 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.]

Amelioration of depressed classes in Tanjore, Godavari and Chingleput.

845 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table statements showing the amount and nature of ameliorative work done on behalf of the depressed classes by the special staff in Tanjore, Godavari and Chingleput districts, respectively, since 1st April 1922, under the heads mentioned in paragraph 3 of Mr. Paddison's letter printed at page 1 of G.O. No. 2254, dated 14th September 1920, and also under the following heads :—

- (a) Provision of burial-grounds ;
- (b) „ of latrines ;
- (c) affording relief in case of accidents ;
- (d) generally of promoting the interests of depressed classes in any other way that suggests itself ; and
- (e) securing and safeguarding nominations to depressed classes on local bodies ?

A.—Information under the heads named by the hon. Member for the year ending 31st March 1923 will be incorporated in the annual report of the Labour Commissioner. It is not possible to furnish the information for the broken period which the hon. Member desires.

Admission of Adi-Dravida pupils into public schools.

846 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to lay on the table G.O. No. 87, Education, dated 16th January 1923, regarding the admission of pupils belonging to depressed classes in schools under public management ?

A.—The Government Order has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Representation of depressed classes in the Saidapet municipal council.

847 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Chingleput district recommended two members of the depressed classes to be nominated to the Saidapet Municipal Council ;

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(b) whether the two nominees of the Collector were appointed to that Council; and

(c) if not, why the two nominees of the Collector were not nominated?

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

(b) One nominee was appointed and the other was not.

(c) The Government are in no way bound to accept proposals made by Collectors; in this case the Government considered it desirable that another important minority should be represented on the Council.

Separation of the administrative and teaching branches of the Education department.

848 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have recommended the separation of the administrative and teaching branches of the Education department; and

(b) what action the Government have taken in the direction of the separation of the two classes of officers?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Separation of the Salt and Abkari administrations.

849 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state in what stage the proposal to separate the Salt and Abkari administrations in the Presidency is and when final orders may be expected in the matter?

A.—Proposals on the subject were forwarded to the Government of India in November last. Their reply is awaited.

Special consideration to natives of Ceded districts in the Education department.

850 Q.—Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what action has been taken to favour a policy of giving special consideration to natives of the Ceded districts in the Education department as assured by the hon. the Minister for Education?

A.—Recently, a resident of the Ceded districts was appointed District Educational Officer.

II

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The SECRETARY laid on the table—

(1)

The final report of the Public Accounts Committee on the audit report for 1921-22.*

(2)

Certain papers relating to the work of the House Committee of the Council.†

* Vide Appendix A on page 2020 infra.

† Vide Appendix B on page 2021 infra.

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III

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24—cont.

The Council then resumed discussion on the Budget.

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, some of my predecessors who have spoken on the Budget have congratulated the hon. the Finance Member on his very lucid explanation and on the interesting statement he made in this Council when he introduced the Budget. To me, Sir, it is rather a matter of surprise that this Budget should deserve any sort of congratulation from any portion of this House. (Hear, hear.) In introducing the first Budget after the Reforms, the hon. the Finance Member, speaking about retrenchment, stated after quoting a sentence from one of the newspapers 'in the ensuing year it is proposed under the direct personal guidance of His Excellency the Governor to continue investigations of the same sort right through the machine'. We shall have to remember, Sir, the words 'right through the machine'. We have been waiting for the last two years to see how far this pruning knife has gone 'right through the machine'. Unfortunately, we find that this pruning knife has gone through the machine only so far as the peons, some of the lower division clerks, some of the upper division clerks and a few gazetted and non-gazetted officers are concerned. But taking the higher officers, we find, Sir, that the pruning knife has only become very blunt, most probably on account of the opposition to introduce it further. I do not mean to say that this applies to every department. For, I can very well see that at least in one or two departments under the charge of my friend, the hon. Mr. Patro—the Public Works Department and the Education Department—this pruning knife has been introduced with some effect. For that I believe the congratulations of this Council are entirely due to the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works. In other matters I very well see that the pruning knife has not been applied at all.

"Then, Sir, we come to the appointment of certain officers. Certain offices are created, and certain members of one cadre of service are appointed to them, and then we are told when the Budget is introduced that these offices and these gentlemen are untouchables to us. I may adduce, Sir, the appointment of the Retrenchment Secretary and the Deputy Secretary to the Local Self-Government Department. These appointments were made some time in the middle of last year, and, now, we find that in the Budget they are put as non-votable items. May I ask the Government, Sir, whether this is the right procedure to be followed? I would again point out to the Government that certain posts were created on the distinct understanding and promise made by the Government that they would last only for one year or at the most two years. But we find, Sir, that these offices are made permanent adjuncts to the Government departments. For example, one of such offices is that of the Director of Office Systems. About this officer it was stated last year that his appointment had to be made as a matter of retrenchment and that the officer had to give directions as to how the offices had to be maintained—most probably how the office chairs, office tables and such other things had to be used. If one year is not enough for him to give directions in regard to these matters, then there must be something very bad either about the appointment or about the officer himself. This Government must not be ready to create an asylum for the aged or a sort of *pinjrapole*.

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"Again, take the appointment of the Registrar of Panchayats. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Chief Minister to his resolution, which says 'that this Council recommends to the Government that a Registrar of Panchayats to be paid from out of the provincial funds be appointed under section 37 (1) of the Madras Village Panchayat Act for a period of one year for the whole of the area to which that Act applies'. Sir, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar speaking on that resolution stated that the appointment was quite necessary because the Village Panchayat Act had been introduced and because the framing of the rules under it made the appointment of a special officer imperative. It is true that so far as the present officer is concerned, every one of us who knows him will have to recognize that he is one of our efficient and intelligent officers. But it is not a question of personality. The principle involved is this: you have taken liberty to say that you want him only for one year and when the Budget comes in again, you say that you want him for another year. If the whole work of framing rules for the direction and creation of village panchayats was entrusted to him, I submit that the officer should have been able to do it in one year. But nobody knows the secrets of the Secretariat, and I am sure the hon. the Chief Minister will be able to explain the position.

"Then, so far as retrenchment is concerned, it has been stated by the hon. Member that the Retrenchment Committee is trying to do its best. The Retrenchment Committee has been sitting for a long time and except for the fact that the Publicity Board has been taken away and except for the fact, as I stated before, that a few of the lower and upper division clerks and some peons have been removed, it has done nothing; and even for the abolition of these posts compensation was made by the appointment of highly paid Secretaries in all the departments put together. Except for these facts, I say, in spite of the praise of my hon. friend, Muhammad Usman Sahib, that the Committee has practically done nothing. I submit that the principle upon which this Committee has got to proceed is this: If there are certain duties which can be discharged by one officer or which can be brought together under one direction, all these must be brought together and instead of having separate officers for all these works, as was pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, it is worth reiterating—it is enough if one officer is appointed. In the Industries department, we have the Agricultural Engineer, the Industrial Engineer and other Engineers. In the Public Works Department, we have got the Public Works Shop with all its paraphernalia of Engineers and others. May I ask both the hon. the third Minister and the hon. the second Minister to see whether it will not be possible for them to amalgamate all these things and thus effect retrenchment.

"Again, last year, when the Budget was introduced, the question of the abolition of the Boiler Inspector and Factories Inspector was considered. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter was good enough to say that he would reconsider the question. Probably, what the effect of the reconsideration from the point of view of the hon. the Finance Member or from the point of view of the Retrenchment Committee is, remains to be seen. But so far as the Budget is concerned, we find that these things are perpetuated.

"Then let us take the case of the High Court. We find lots of appointments there for which money is spent. We find there what is called the Official Assignee's post. Nominally in the Budget it carries a salary of Rs. 300 or 500. I am subject to correction. May I ask the hon. the Finance

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Member to tell us what is the commission that that officer draws—the commission which he draws on sales and other transactions which he conducts in the Insolvency Court? So far as the hon. the Law Member is concerned—I am sorry he is not here"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I am representing him here, Sir."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"Then, so far as the hon. the representative of the Law Member is concerned, I would remind him that there is an officer called the Official Referee. He conducts sales on behalf of the courts for which a commission is paid by the parties. But Official Referee does not take a single pie out of the commission. The whole commission goes to the High Court and the Government. But in the case of the Official Assignee the whole commission goes to him. May I ask the hon. the Finance Member to consider this question and fix a definite pay for this officer and credit all the commission to the Government? I think that this will bring a large income to the Government. So far as my information goes, and this House may be surprised to know it, the Official Assignee gets as commission about Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000 a month. If you just fix the pay of the post at Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 2,500, it can easily and more efficiently be filled from among vakils,

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attorneys and barristers, either from the Madras Bar or from the other Bars. Again, taking the Public Prosecutor, he is paid a salary of Rs. 550 + Rs. 30 for each case that he attends. I would ask the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Law Member to calculate what amount is actually paid to the Public Prosecutor every month in the shape of remuneration for each case and to see whether he cannot be paid a lump sum instead of being paid in this piece-meal fashion, which swallows a good portion of the tax-payers' money. These are directions in which retrenchments can be effected.

"Then the hon. the Finance Member has stated in his speech on the last year's Budget (1922-23) that four gazetted appointments were taken away, and that some of the non-gazetted appointments and some of the peons were also abolished. It is not in this way that retrenchment ought to be done. Yesterday we heard it announced that the hon. the President and the hon. the Ministers were willing to take lower salaries. An appeal was made to the hon. the Indian Executive Councillors that they should also proclaim that they would take lower salaries. That, I think, Sir, is rather a sort of aspersion on the European members of the service. They have come here not with the sole object of earning, but to put us on the way of governing ourselves, to teach us self-government and to make us win our own Swaraj and finally to put the whole of India on the basis of a self-governing colony, which will be a source of strength to Britain. When they are actuated by such lofty motives may I not ask them also to come forward, not to give up their salary, but at least to give up their magnificent allowances. That would be quite enough to cover the whole thing" (laughter).

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I am prepared to give up any allowances I am receiving at once" (laughter).

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"I was not referring to Executive Councillors only, but to all members of the Executive service and the Imperial service, the I.C.S., I.M.S. and other officers that do draw what are called allowances."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“ Sir, we are stepping into the third year of our existence—a year in which all the dark clouds have nearly disappeared. The Ministers have fully worked the combined Government, and the hon. Members of this House have given all possible opportunities to both the Transferred and the Reserved half of the Government to work out the Reforms. As this chapter in the history of the Reforms is soon going to be closed, it behoves us, Sir, to recollect how far we have been useful to the people so as to justify our existence. It must be admitted that we have not been able to amend the Estates Land Act or the Malabar Tenancy Bill so as to protect the interests of the tenants in the proprietary estates, to place an irrigation law on the statute book to be useful both to the ryotwari and proprietary tenants, or to separate the judiciary from the executive. We have not been able either to improve the existing irrigation sources or to start any new works which would have sown seeds of prosperity in spite of additional taxation. Our attempts at retrenchment have made us the laughing-stock of the people and our excise policy has been a menace to society. Attempts to mitigate the forest grievances of the ryots have met with stout opposition; the introduction of compulsory education has become a fiction, while extended medical aid has been found hopeless and encouragement of Ayurveda belated. Taxation has been carried to touch the barest minimum of the poor. The court-fees, the stamp duty and the registration fees are enhanced, causing greater hardship to the peasants who always exist in a chronic state of poverty. The Local Boards Act of 1920, which followed the Reforms, brought with it both direct and indirect taxation. Direct taxation is in the shape of taluk board, district board and elementary education cesses and tax on professions, while enhanced toll-fees and various licence-fees come under indirect taxation. All these suddenly came on the people when their spending capacity was very low. The Fiscal Commission, consisting of the best intellects of England and India, says that taxes on the people have reached their maximum and that any further taxation is impossible under the circumstances. It is therefore natural for the ryot to ask himself what corresponding benefits he got from the Reforms besides his attending the polls at the sacrifice of his time and money. This is a query to which Government alone can answer.

“ In the pre-Reform days, the income of the Madras Government was much less than what it is now. Let us take the revenue of the four preceding years. It is as follows :—

	RS.		RS.
1917-18	... 8.34 crores.	1919-20	... 9.54 crores.
1918-19	... 8.74 „	1920-21	... 9.53 „

“ This income, according to the hon. the Finance Member, was felt to be more than what the needs of the Government required. To quote him :

“ The disbursement of these enormous doles demoralized the finances of the whole of India and, I am afraid, laid up a legacy of trouble for both the Provincial Government and the local bodies in this Presidency.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ May I say that the hon. Member is entirely mistaken? I never suggested for a moment that we had too much revenue.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“ I never said that we had too much revenue; what I said was that we had more revenue than what we were getting before, in the pre-Reform days. The Reforms Act and the

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reports of the Functions and the Financial Relations Committees brought about a complete change both in the sources and the extent of the provincial income. Under the arrangement, Madras realizes Rs. 16.77, 16.52 and 17.19 crores respectively in 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24. Along with this enhanced revenue, a graduated contribution of Rs. 3.48 crores was very arbitrarily fixed for seven years by the Meston Committee, on which representations have been made to the Government of India for reconsideration. The income of any of these three Reform years is far in excess of that of any of the four pre-Reform years, from 1917 to 1921. In place of large opening balances exceeding a crore of rupees ever since 1907-08, we have for the last two years deficit Budgets merely having a working balance. Thus, the ‘carrying on’ Budget closed with a deficit of Rs. 36.72 lakhs. The ‘taxation’ Budget of 1922-23 closed with a deficit of Rs. 42 lakhs, while the present year’s Budget closes with a deficit of Rs. 40 lakhs. This year’s deficit came as a bolt from the blue at a time when people were expecting relief from the oppressive registration fees and the enhanced stamp duties in view of the prevailing quietening atmosphere and the return of the excise revenue to its normal conditions. Even the law courts, which tendered justice ready and free in pre-British days, have now become a profitable source of income. All these drive us to the very unpleasant conclusion that no amount of persuasion can prevail upon a spendthrift to observe economy; it must be forced upon him. Here, it pains one to note that the Ministers and the Indian half of the Executive Council, who are leading public men of this Presidency, and who are here to safeguard the interests of the people, having once entered, should have accepted that happy groove of bureaucracy.

“ The Government of Madras is to be congratulated for being able to present a united Budget for these three years. The following table gives us an idea of the revenue that is being allotted to the Transferred departments and the non-votable items :—

Year.	Total income, in crores.	Reserved.		Transferred.	
		Voted.	Non-voted.	Voted.	Non-voted.
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1921-22	 16.77	7,40,90,836	5,12,36,036	4,00,12,611	24,19,491
1922-23	 16.52	7,21,42,635	4,96,10,245	4,08,24,602	27,06,498
1923-24	 17.19	7,46,11,439	5,06,24,461	4,20,86,910	45,84,190.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ May I ask the hon. Member where he draws the line? Take, for instance, the buildings constructed by the Public Works Department. How much should be allotted to the Reserved and how much to the Transferred departments?”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“ I have only taken the figures from the Budget estimates.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ Does the hon. gentleman include the contribution to the Government of India? If so, may I ask him whether he classes it as Reserved or Transferred?”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“ I do not know whether it is included or not. I have only taken the figures from the Budget estimates.

“ This leads us to two conclusions. The first is that the Transferred departments are not having their due share in the combined Government and that the very fortunate non-votable items, over which we have very little control, increase by leaps and bounds. The non-votable items in the

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Transferred departments, which were Rs. 24.19 lakhs in 1921-22, come up to Rs. 45.84 lakhs in 1923-24, i.e., an increase of more than 90 per cent within these two years. Now the hon. Members of the executive body owe an explanation to us and to the people for the extraordinary growth of these items when provincial autonomy requires that they should gradually merge in the votable items.

"This raises a very serious issue and the Ministers will have further to explain to the House whether or not they have made use of rule 12 of the Devolution Rules and paragraph 5 of the Royal Instructions to the Provincial Governors, which give them a free hand in the Transferred subjects, and whether or not they have protested against this uncalled-for interference of the Secretary of State, either in creating fresh appointments or in imposing officers on them against their wishes. I may, in this connexion, also remind the House that the Ministers and the two non-official Indian Councillors will have to explain how far the proportions laid down in the Public Services Commission resolution of the Government of India in December 1920 have been followed."

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The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I ask the hon. Member to say what the proportions are?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO :—"It is given as 33 per cent and 18 per cent within ten years. I shall explain to the hon. Member later on what the proportions are."

"Then, Sir, the new Agency division, created in 1921, has been a white elephant for a bankrupt, and it is now time to restore it to its previous position by relieving the general tax-payer of his heavy burden."

"The expenditure under the head of Land Revenue deserves a careful scrutiny, while that under Police needs a reduction. The expenditure under Police has always been a growing one. In 1919-20 it was Rs. 141.69 lakhs, in 1920-21 Rs. 176.97, in 1921-22 Rs. 200.41, and in 1922-23 Rs. 205.81; in 1923-24 it is estimated at Rs. 203.78. This works at 36 per cent more than what it was four years back. The expenditure of Rs. 485 for 1,000 people under this item seems to be unnecessarily extravagant when major provinces like Bengal, United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa spend only Rs. 320, Rs. 306 and Rs. 200 respectively. Mention may also be made here of the gradual growth of the non-votable items. For example, in 1921-22 the non-votable expenditure was Rs. 8.79 lakhs and in 1922-23 Rs. 10.85. In 1923-24 it is estimated at Rs. 11.56. To add to this, the expenditure under superintendence has shown an increase which again is a non-voted item. The additional expenditure under the heads of Presidency Police, Special Police, the creation of Military Police and increasing the strength of the Reserve Police deserves very careful scrutiny before we are called upon to vote for it. A glance at pages 5 to 9 of the Budget estimate shows the difference between the votable and the non-votable items in the Education Department. In the Reserved half for 1921-22 the voted item shows Rs. 10.76 and non-voted Rs. .20 lakhs; for 1922-23 the voted amount is Rs. 12.97 and non-voted Rs. .16 lakhs; while for 1923-24 the voted amount is Rs. 12.54 and non-voted Rs. 13 lakhs. In the Transferred half the voted and the non-voted figures for 1921-22 are Rs. 126.51 and Rs. 5.75 respectively, for 1922-23, Rs. 138.07 and Rs. 6.48, and for 1923-24, Rs. 133.93 and Rs. 25.23 lakhs respectively. This leads us to the conclusion that while the non-votable items of the reserved

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portion of the Budget shows a tendency to merge in the votable, the non-votable item in the transferred part with our own representative to guide and control increases by more than 400 per cent.

"Let us now examine the progress of education during these two and a half years. In 1919-20 there were in Madras 1,730,000 students; in 1920-21 only 1,799,000 while in 1921-22, the first Reform year, only 1,837,000. It can be seen from the figures that while in a pre-Reform year increased facility was available for 69,000 scholars, the first Reform year could only provide for 38,000. In 1920-21 we had only 4.4 per cent of the total population attending the schools while the hon. Minister for Education has raised it to 4.41, an increase of one per cent in one year. I would, in this connexion, invite the attention of the House to section 84-A, regarding the appointment of a Statutory Commission at the end of ten years after the passing of the Reforms Act of 1919, that is, in the year 1929. This Commission, among other questions, will inquire into the 'growth of education'. I now ask the hon. the Minister for Education whether the growth of one per cent is enough for the purpose and is commensurate with the needs of the people."

"From the beginning, the party in power professed to be the stout champion of minorities in this Presidency. The Oriyas are a well-defined minority having only four representatives in this Council, including the Maharaja of Jeypore and the Raja of Mandasa. I now ask the leaders of the party in power as also the Government whether they have given any opportunity of training in matters of administration to any of these four members by putting any of them in any committee either of this House or of any department except in the Agency Committee. Enforced detention of a part of a community and keeping them under perpetual tutelage is hardly just and cannot therefore be called equitable."

"I cannot however close my speech without offering my heartfelt thanks to the hon. the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary for the clear and well-arranged Budget and the memorandum they have presented with very useful explanatory notes. The kind invitation of the hon. the Finance Member to the members of this House to furnish the necessary explanations with further details has made Sir Charles dearer to us."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, the speaker who has just finished said that the non-votable items have increased to the extent of 400 per cent in the transferred departments. I should like to know how he arrived at that conclusion."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO :—"I have taken the figures from the Budget estimates of this year and I have quoted them as they are."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Probably the hon. Member, Mr. Das, will give the explanation a little later after looking to the figures in the Budget."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Das, said that there was only a progress of 1 per cent in the number of school attendance. I wish to know whether he refers to the elementary schools of Government or those maintained by local boards or private agencies. In view of the explanation that we find in the Administration Report, that there has been an increase of 44 to 50 per cent, I do not know what particular item the hon. Member, Mr. Das, referred to."

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Sriiman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" I will draw his attention to the figures later on."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, before I proceed to offer a few remarks on the general administration of the Province, I feel bound to refer to an important aspect of the Budget speech so eloquently delivered by the hon. the Finance Member. It is now admitted on all hands that the diarchical system introduced into the provinces is unsound and its administration involves many difficulties. The hon. the Finance Member is perhaps also alive to these difficulties and from his Budget speech, I am inclined to think that he would prefer to see a certain uniformity in the administration of the transferred as well as the reserved subjects. But his way of achieving this object is somewhat different from what would suggest itself to the people at large. He wants to bring about uniformity not by allowing more and more subjects which are at present reserved to be treated as transferred subjects but by treating the transferred subjects as if the Ministers are not responsible for their administration. Else, I am unable to understand the major part of the hon. the Finance Member's speech devoted to the Local Self-Government department and the grants made to it from time to time. A perusal of his speech will show that the hon. the Finance Member did not confine himself merely to the financial aspect of the problem but went into very great detail about the administration of the department. I do not know if the hon. the Finance Member took the hon. the Chief Minister into his confidence and obtained his approval for his speech before he delivered it."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" He did consult me and I did agree to his referring to the financial position of the local bodies."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am very sorry to learn that the hon. the Chief Minister forgot his own responsibility in the matter and acted in the way he did."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There is no forgetting of my responsibility, Sir. We have been discussing this question of the finance of the local bodies for a long time and the Finance Member was asked to make provision for a lump grant, and in this connexion he had to explain to the Council the actual position of the finances of the local bodies."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Well, Sir, I would leave it to the Council to judge the propriety of the action of the Minister in this matter. I am not now concerned with what the Minister did or did not do. It does not in any way affect my position nor should it be allowed to influence the judgment of the House in this matter. For Ministers may come and go but the conventions we establish and the traditions we help to form are more enduring and no Member of the Executive Government, although he may hold the high position of a Finance Member can be permitted to dictate to our Ministers what policy they should pursue in regard to the administration of the transferred subjects."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There is no dictation of policy nor would any Minister allow any dictation of policy by others."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" One can read the speech and draw one's conclusion. Let the public see and judge for themselves. I think there are many in this House who will agree with me in the matter."

" I agree with Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar in thinking that two of the outstanding incidents that have taken place since we last met in Budget

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session are the resignation of the late hon. the Law Member and the offer of the Ministers to have their pay reduced each by Rs. 1,000. I am told, Sir, that the late Law Member stated in one of his public speeches after he left this Council that the two years he spent with us were the most miserable years of his life. All that I can say is that, if indeed they were miserable, he succeeded only too well in hiding the fact from us. I do hope that his successor in office has not been prejudiced in any way by the unhappy language of the late Law Member. The exalted office of Law Member must be, to any honest incumbent, hard and arduous. But then what about the privilege it confers - privilege not necessarily of status and pay, high as they are, but of the great opportunity for service it holds forth. If anything, the holders of such high office should go down on their knees and thank God that the joy of service has fallen to their lot and strive to deserve the honour as best they can.

" As regards the offer of the Ministers to have their pay reduced, I wish that it had come much earlier than it has. So far as the hon. the President is concerned, the rumour is that he made the offer several months ago. I wish that that offer had been published for I am sure that it would have been followed by the publication of the other offer."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Ministers too communicated their offer months back."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am glad to be told of that. And I think the Minister has also reason to be glad of being given an opportunity of giving this information to the public. But then, I should like to know why the offer has not been given effect to from the time it was made."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I believe the offer was made with effect from the new year to enable the hon. the Finance Member to frame his Budget."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Very well, Sir, I am afraid you have detracted from the offer something of its value. But better late than never."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I am sorry to disturb the hon. Member. The hon. the Finance Member's statement was not quite clear as to what the offer was and it will save a great deal of discussion if the hon. Member states what exactly the position is. Some one was saying that it was from the next financial year and some other that it had already been given effect to some months ago. I find that a statement has been made to a newspaper correspondent as to what the exact offer is but we do not want to criticize the offer given to a newspaper correspondent."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I have no doubt, Sir, that our watchful Secretary is noting all these interruptions."

" More than one Member has appealed to the other Members of the Cabinet to follow the lead of the Ministers in this matter and the advice by itself is unexceptionable and should be adopted by the remaining Members of the Cabinet, without, in the case of the Government Members, prejudice to their pensions. But the advice came rather with a bad grace from some of the Members, for if I remember rightly, they were the very people who at one time vehemently opposed the idea of the Ministers taking less than their colleagues; and when I heard their speeches yesterday on this point, it put me in mind of the old fable of the fox without

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the tail (Laughter). I would say further that the example of the Ministers should be copied not merely by the other Members of the Cabinet but also by the members of this House. And in this connexion, I would very strongly urge that the Members of the Council should also agree to receive only a maximum of a single first-class fare for their railway journeys and a single third-class fare for a servant if they bring any with them.

"I want to refer to just two or three points before I sit down and one of them is that we should never forget the fact that the great majority of our population is poor and yet they are the people who are really keeping the administration going. If the head of the province is able to draw a princely salary and can afford to have all the comforts and luxuries rightly or wrongly associated with his exalted position, if the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers of the Cabinet draw a pay which, in the opinion of the country at large, is far too much for the country to afford and for the work they do, if the members of the Imperial services now enjoy a station and position which perhaps has no parallel in any other part of the world and if the other services are not worse off than they are now, it is really because the taxpayers—most of whom are poor landholders, petty traders, small industrialists and ordinary labourers—paid the money for the present costly system of administration. It is unnecessary for me to elaborate this point further. If they are the people who paid most of the money, the ordinary rules of equity require that they should derive a corresponding benefit. But the reverse is the case, as in the case of the Railway administration. The poor third-class passengers are fleeced for the comfort of the second and first-class passengers, and the first-class passenger enjoys at the expense of the second and third-class passengers. Take any department you like—Local, Medical, Sanitation, Police, or Land Revenue—and see how much of the money spent on it really goes for the benefit of the poor people. The Government want the trunk roads to be in good order for their officers and for their motor cars and possibly also from military considerations, and neglect altogether the village communications. Again, in Education, only a fraction is devoted for primary education. Sanitation and water-supply receive no attention worth mentioning. Attention is concentrated on hospitals in the Presidency town and other influential places, and the villages' share in the medical relief provided in the country is negligible. Partly to remedy this unfortunate state of affairs, the Council appointed a committee to report on the indigenous systems of medicine, and we are yet to see the report, though Mr. Usman Sahib says he sent it two weeks ago. What is the provision made in the Budget in pursuance of the unanimous recommendation of the Committee that the indigenous systems of medicine should be encouraged? Why was there such enormous delay in the completion of the inquiry and the preparation and submission of the report? Could not the Minister have expedited the report, as we find the Ministers can do—take for example the report of the Select Committee on the Religious Endowments Bill, and the report of the Select Committee on the University Bill—so that it might have been available for our perusal and criticism."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I just say a word in this connexion? The hon. Member wants to know why the Minister has not yet published the report. The report was prepared by the secretary to that Committee, and as the matter dealt with was very technical and had to be considered in its scientific aspects, it took a good deal of time

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to be submitted to the Government. That is why it could not be submitted earlier, and the report is being examined so as to find out whether it is on scientific lines."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I want to know whether it is in order for my hon. friend, Muhammad Usman, to offer an explanation on behalf of the Minister."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"He (Mr. Usman) was the Chairman of that Committee, and he had to explain why there was delay in the submission of the report."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Well, Sir, I may have to say more about it later on, but, in the alternative, could not the hon. the Minister ascertain the conclusions of the Committee in advance and take steps to make adequate provision in the Budget?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, how is it possible to ascertain the conclusions of the Committee before they were arrived at?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The conclusions were there, and I suppose they wanted time to arrange the data and prepare the report; that is all. On the other hand the hon. the Minister is permitting the ratepayers' money to be misused by the departmental device of splitting the duties of the already overpaid Indian Medical Service officers and allowing a munificent allowance for each piece of work done by them. Some of these officers with their high salaries and their innumerable allowances and the right to private practice in addition make one think that the Surgeon-General with his Rs. 3,000 and no private practice is comparatively a cheaper officer. Again, Sir, we have a special class of Military Assistant Surgeons who, I should say, are more or less a luxury to us. I am not against the formation of the Public Health Department, but as the constitution of this department means a relief to the district medical officers of the sanitary work they were hitherto doing, I do not see why their pay should not be reduced suitably. Again, the number of supervising officers, assistant directors, appointed to assist in the work of public health, is, I think, far too large."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"A word of explanation, Sir. My hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, referred to allowances paid to the Indian Medical Service officers. The allowances are paid to both provincial and Indian officers. The question of their reduction is under consideration."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I do not think there is much to answer in that. But to proceed, Sir, if the Surgeon-General can manage to administer his large establishment with the aid of a single personal assistant, I ask whether it is not possible for the work of public health to be performed in the same way, with one personal assistant?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The functions of the Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General are altogether different from those of the Assistant Directors of Public Health. The Personal Assistant is something like an office manager: he has to attend to the office work of the Surgeon-General whereas the Assistant Directors are in charge of certain special departments of the work."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"This is a matter which I shall bring again for discussion."

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"As regards the police department, the expenditure is going up by leaps and bounds, but I am sorry to say that the comfort afforded by them to the people is not keeping pace with the money spent on them. The separation of the judicial from executive functions would to some extent, I think, restrict the scope of the police officers for misuse of their powers. But what did this Council do? It rejected a resolution brought forward for that purpose, and has not yet appointed a committee to deal with the question. We talk, Sir, so much of democracy and of the people that I wonder at times whether we do not protest a little too much in this direction. One of the speakers said yesterday that the lower castes have captured the councils. I want to qualify this statement by saying that the higher of the hitherto-called lower castes - called lower by the Brahmans, I think, these higher non-Brahman castes have captured the councils and so far as the really poor and oppressed classes are concerned, I grieve to say that the change of power from one party to another has not resulted in as much good as I for one expected from the new party (Hear, hear). In justification of my statement, I would only refer to two or three instances. One I have already referred to partially, and that is the question of the separation of the judicial from executive functions. It is the poor who really suffer under this iniquitous system and who are those poor? The great non-Brahman population for whom we profess sympathy. The next case I would refer to is the resolution relating to the levy of the land revenue assessment. The Government agreed to introduce a Bill the effect of which would have been to lay down the principles of assessment and no revision could come into operation until it was discussed and approved in the Council. But unfortunately, the majority party in the Council permitted a resolution on permanent settlement to be introduced and passed, and the Bureaucracy were not slow in availing themselves of the slip made by the Council and ignoring its previous resolution altogether. What is worse, the majority party in the Council would not rectify the mistake when opportunity was furnished to them to do so in this session. What is the result? The Revenue Member is laughing in his sleeves and merrily going on with his enhancement proposals. Who are the sufferers thereby? Again, the toiling non-Brahman classes for whom we profess so much sympathy.

"Take again, the excise policy of the Government. If there is one department more than another which concerns the welfare of the masses it is the Excise department. And yet, look at the tardiness with which the Government is tackling this question. As early as August 1921 my friend Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar tabled a resolution to appoint a committee to go into the whole question. I know, I suspected rather, that the committees may not be of much use, and I wanted to commit the Government to a policy of reducing the consumption of intoxicants and the Minister promised to appoint a standing committee and to refer to it this question also. But he did neither. First, he did not appoint a standing committee, but substituted for it an advisory committee, after a long interval and did not care to utilize it for any useful purpose. In my last budget speech, I referred to it and the Minister said that he was going to appoint a committee under the presidency of our distinguished Finance Member but that committee again never saw the light of day. But months afterwards he appointed a roving committee consisting of my friend Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar and Mr. Strathie to enquire into the conditions prevailing in other parts of India, and they sent up a report. I do not know whether that report

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has yet been circulated to the Members of the Council. The Minister then took enormous time to prepare and place the questionnaire before the advisory committee. Some suggestions were made and a revised questionnaire was promised to be prepared. But the Government took again an unduly long time over it. Considering all these, I think I have reason to ask the hon. the Minister in charge whether he really means to do anything for the poor people. These are all matters which should make the Ministers pause and think and make their practice accord with their profession."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, Mr. President, I rise for the third time to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the splendid and lucid way in which he has been presenting the Budgets. Sir, he has them thoroughly thrashed and winnowed through the Finance Committee and the Cabinet before he brings them before this Council for their consumption in a most attractive way. Solicitude, sincerity and simplicity characterize him as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. I am glad that he rose in the Government of our province second only to His Excellency the Governor:

"Sir, coming to the subject of retrenchment about which so much is spoken and to which reference has also been made by the hon. the Finance Member and others, except in the top-heavy administration and the allowances, retrenchment is to be found nowhere else. Our province was not wasting its money, nor was it spending it on its dire necessities, nor was it utilizing it in developing its resources. Sir, our medical and maternity relief were despised. Our sanitation was spurned, education was stunted, irrigation neglected, agriculture starved and industry throttled; but our surplus revenue was allowed to accumulate year after year, which attracted the attention of the powers that be, and resulted in the most disastrous iniquitous impost.

"Under the circumstances, it is best to retain the experts and their establishments in the various departments. If the Government and the Council think that they are too many, then it will only be left to them to expand the sphere of our operations. Sir, it seemed paradoxical to some to start our Retrenchment Committee with an additional expenditure on a Retrenchment Secretary and his establishment. Sir, those that have come in contact with him and have a knowledge of his work, whether in Madras or in Delhi, will bear evidence to the fact that he deserves an amount double that he is receiving. He has done in four months what other provinces took two years to do; and if the Council can only wait patiently for a few months till the Retrenchment Committee finishes its report, it will be I hope, to their satisfaction.

"Sir, coming to the question which is of the utmost importance to our country, that is the question of communal claims, the good Government of a country is evidenced in the contentment of its people. The progress of a country depends upon the intellectual elevation and combined effort of its people. In our country of various castes, creeds, communities and races, where a single Indian nation is an impossibility, a federation is the only solution--a federation in which the various elements will be represented according to their numerical strength, material wealth and tax-paying capacity, except the Adi-Dravidas and the depressed classes whose tax-paying capacity cannot be taken into consideration in addition to their contribution in producing the wealth of the country, for, their present miserable non-taxable condition is due to the inhuman injustice done to them by our ancestors from time

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immemorial. Sir, this principle of communal representation is recognized by various other provinces. As our Finance Member remarked the other day, Madras leads other provinces in certain things, hereto Madras leads and other provinces follow. Sir, our Government is headed by one of the greatest statesmen that ever adorned India, whose stroke of policy in giving us three people's Ministers and a worthy President of undoubted talents (cheers) deserves not a marble, nor even a bronze, but a golden statue for him (Lord Willingdon). I request the Council to mark my words, and especially the zamindars will mark my words. He deserves a golden statue and nothing less than that. His sagacity and statesmanship is evidenced in every step in the success of the Reforms. Though headed by him, and assisted by no less a person than our hon. the Finance Member owing to whose exertions we have the *Magna Charta* of the non-Brahman communities in the communal Government Order of the 15th August 1912, yet our Government is weak in enforcing it. Sir, the order is more honoured in the breach and has ended only in a Brahman superior oppressing the non-Brahman subordinates. Sir, it ended only in non-Brahmans losing precedence of merit and seniority over the Brahmans. Sir, I ask you once more, while the Government is punishing the non-co-operator with imprisonment for civil disobedience, what is the Government going to do for this insubordination, for this non-co-operation with the Government? I hope, Sir, the Government will take serious steps in this direction.

"Sir, coming to our Ministers, I congratulate them for having consented voluntarily to have their salaries reduced. But let them not forget in their nation-building and epoch-making measures the communal foundation on which they are standing, lest unmindfulness of it should bring down the whole ministerial structure. I appeal to the Chief Minister, the Raja of Panagal, to make the foundation adamantine.

"Sir, coming to the Judicial Department, if there is any department under the Government that requires the least consideration at our hands it is the Judicial or the Law Department. Sir, they persist in discarding the resolutions of this august body under the mistaken impression that the High Court is independent of the Government. The High Court may be independent of the Government in delivering judgments but not in spending public money. Sir, under the letters patent the High Court has to make appointments according to rules framed by the Government. I request the Council, when it comes to giving any grant for this department, not to vote for it (laughter). Let the non-votable item of the High Court Judges remain and let the subordinate establishment disappear.

"Sir, coming to the Police department, owing to a change of policy in the Government of India, the military forces are concentrated in the North-Western Frontier and our province is left helpless in times of trouble. I therefore reiterate my suggestion that our police should be organized into a quasi-military force to deal with disorders as they arise without allowing them to develop into riots and rebellious. I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for making provision for military police for the East Coast.

"Sir, coming to irrigation, over six million acres of the lands of our province go uncultivated. It is possible that a portion of them may be brought under cultivation. Sir, the Gōdāvari and the Kistna delta projects cost us 320 lakhs, but they give us a return of 18 per cent interest and a net profit

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of 50 lakhs. I learn, Sir, that the accumulated profits come to about 16 crores of rupees. I request the Member in charge of irrigation to take up one project after another, and especially the Kistna reservoir project which is expected to irrigate 400,000 acres of lands. Let it be done by getting loans from the Government of India. For I now learn that 13½ crores are apportioned for provincial loans and most of these are to go to the Bombay Presidency for their development schemes, a Presidency which contributes the least to the Imperial Government. Funds we can have, as development funds, from the sales of lands and inclusion fees and thus it is possible for us to undertake fresh irrigation schemes.

"Coming now, Sir, to education, I congratulate the hon. the Minister over his University Bill, and I request him to remember that elementary education is the first charge on the State and the rest come only next.

"Coming to industry, I congratulate the hon. the Minister for Development for having got his State Aid to Industries Bill passed into an Act. Just as jute is the wealth of Bengal, cotton of Bombay, and rice of Burma, leather is the wealth of Madras; and out of 12 crores of rupees of leather that was exported last year out of India, Madras went in for a share of ten crores. I am glad that the hon. the Minister was wise and prudent enough to constitute a Leather Industrial Committee, and I hope much good will come out of it.

"I request the hon. the Finance Member to redress the grievances of the non-gazetted officers who form the main prop of the machinery of this Government.

"Coming now to the most important of all departments, namely, the Medical department, I am sorry to note that the head of the department, Surgeon-General Sir G. G. Giffard, a great man, a great medical man, a great organizer, and a great administrator, is to lay down his office shortly as, Sir, the Medical department is one of the most undermanned, and underpaid, and what is inconceivable, it is undervalued. There is one medical man now for 20,000 of the population and it is desirable that there should be one at least for every thousand. Sir, taking into consideration the contemplated Indianisation of the services, I request the Government to send at least two assistant surgeons from our province to England every year to specialise in various subjects. Sir, all human beings, almost all the forty millions of this Presidency, from their anti-natal period up to their dotage and death are under obligation to a medical man in some way or other. (Laughter.) But, Sir, I cannot understand the human mentality which when the question of compensating him comes, halts. Sir, let us take care of the mothers, let us take care of the babies, let us take care of the children and let us take care of the adults; then the working capacity of our people will be increased, the economic value of our country will be raised, the output will be great, wealth will be enormous, and we shall stand as a self-respecting nation among the nations of the world." (Cheers.)

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB:—"Mr. President, the other day we listened to the speech of the hon. the Finance Member with rapt attention when he detailed the difficulties which stood in the way of his presenting a Budget which could be without any deficit. I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the Budget in the preparation of which so much care has been bestowed. As he observed, all sound

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finance abhors deficit and it is primarily the duty of a responsible Government to make the normal revenue cover the normal expenditure. But in the disturbed times, we are now in, causing great financial crisis in all directions, it could have been hardly possible to present a Budget with no deficit as has been fully explained in the speech of the hon. the Finance Member. It is no wonder that our revenue has fallen short of our expectations in the current year because the estimate for an increase under 'Stamps' was rather sanguine and pitched at a high figure. The new Stamp Act which imposed increased stamp duty could not be expected to be liked by the litigant public. Consequently, such people were rather slow in rushing to courts against their debtors and would rather see that their claims against their debtors were settled as far as possible out of court. It is also doubtful whether we can realize the full amount budgeted for in the next year's budget under 'Stamps' for the same reason. The trade depression and the stringency of the money market have also contributed to a considerable extent in reducing the income under 'Stamps' and 'Registration'. But as regards the expectation of a large increase of over 47 lakhs under 'Excise,' I am sure the expectation will be realized to the full, for the Non-co-operation movement has died down practically and the Non-co-operators will not interfere with the activities of the Government in realizing revenue from the farming of toddy and liquor shops. The tendency on the part of the people who take to drink shows no signs of decrease, in spite of the activities of the temperance movement. So all attempts to reduce the drink evil cannot bear full fruit. The policy of the Government to get a maximum of income from a minimum consumption of toddy and other liquors will continue for some time more. In spite of difficulties which stood in the way of Government making adequate provisions for schemes for the betterment of health and convenience and comfort of the tax-payers, we have to be thankful to the hon. the Finance Member to the extent to which it was possible for the Government to provide for a good many items of public utility and comfort. One of such items is provision made for raising the level of the Red Hills Tank for which the Madras city people especially, if not the mufassal residents, should be highly grateful to the Government; for we know what amount of anxiety there was in the minds of the Madras public and also the Corporation Executive at the end of September last year, when the supply in the Red Hills had sunk to the level when it was thought that pumping should be resorted to. Fortunately for all concerned there was a God-send of good rains to save the Corporation from incurring additional expenditure on that account.

"It is a great satisfaction to the managers of schools to see that the Government have been able to provide for building grants which were suspended during the last year owing to the financial stringency. Another redeeming feature of the Budget is that provision has been made for the appointment of a Public Analyst. But as regards the provision made for the employment of an anti-malarial brigade in the Agency, I doubt whether any useful results can be achieved from the activities of such anti-malarial brigades. My experience in the Madras city of the anti-malarial measures has not convinced me of the usefulness of such expenditure for we could never get rid of these mosquitoes entirely. We could only keep them out temporarily by providing mosquito curtains.

"I am sorry it was not possible for the Government to make provision in the next year's Budget for a building for the Muhammadan college, while it

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has been pleased to make provision of Rs. 15,000 for extension and improvement to the school and hostel buildings of the Government Muhammadan Training school, Madras. I believe the omission is due to the fact that the estimates have not yet been prepared and sanctioned by Government. I hope these will be expedited. In these days of financial stringency it is doubtful whether it is desirable to make an allotment of Rs. 1½ lakhs for improvements to the Madras University Students' Club. I am glad to see that provision has been made for a medical school for women at Madras and for the starting of more co-operative credit societies for the depressed classes. It is a matter for rejoicing that as many as Rs. 30,000 have been provided for the construction of working men's dwelling houses at Puliantope and for the provision made for scholarships and for the establishment of a hostel for Adi-Dravida students. As a result of the deputation of the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India that recently waited upon His Excellency the Governor and the hon. the Minister for Education, I hope that the Government will be able to make suitable provision in the course of the next year for the taking over of the Harris High School, Royapetta, under Government management. In that institution as many as 400 boys belonging to my community (Muhammadan) are reading and the missionary body which has been managing that school for the past sixty years has now proposed to close it owing to financial stringency. The Muhammadan community will feel highly grateful to the Government if they give effect at an early date to the promise made by them to the deputation that waited upon the Governor and the Minister.

"I once more offer my congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member for having presented a Budget that makes provision for many useful subjects."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, in offering my congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member, I want to say a few words. I generally form an opinion about a human being at the very first sight. When I first saw the hon. the Finance Member I entertained a great admiration for him. Of course some people might come to admire a person only by coming into contact with him, as, for instance, the Retrenchment Committee and the Finance Committee seem to have derived their conclusions about the hon. the Finance Member by intimate contact with him. When I read the Budget and the Finance Statement my admiration for the hon. the Finance Member increased tenfold; for I found in them patience, sympathy, wisdom and grit. These are the four necessary qualifications for an administrator and a statesman and these are found in abundance in our Finance Member.

"Coming to the Budget itself, I may say that our financial situation in 1922-23 was brought about by three circumstances: firstly, the inability of the Government of India to balance its budget; secondly, the enormous commitment to increase salaries; and, thirdly, the agitation of the Non-co-operators. The political intoxication of the Non-co-operators has subsided and they seem to have become sober, at least for some time. As regards the enormous increase of salaries, it was inevitable, because everybody wanted an increase in their emoluments except perhaps our hon. President and the hon. the Ministers who seem to have consented to a reduction their salaries.

"As regards the financial situation of our future years, our Budget has ended in a deficit of 40 lakhs. The immediate question for consideration is how this deficit can be met. I think there are only three ways by which this

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deficit can be wiped out; the first is by the levy of increased taxation, the second by the remission of the provincial contribution and the third by retrenchment. As regards increase of taxation, it was already stated that it was not possible to levy any further taxes. The country is already groaning under heavy taxation in the shape of land revenue, excise and stamps. No doubt the revenue under excise for the coming year seems to be more promising than in the last year. This shows that we have improved much in drunkenness; but I do not mean to say that we have improved in the quantity that we consume; what I mean is that by taxing more, we get an increase of revenue in the Excise department.

"As regards the reduction of our provincial contribution, I do not know how it can be brought about. The late Finance Member of the Government of India, the hon. Sir Malcolm Hailey, said that it was absolutely impossible to expect any reduction in the provincial contributions. But his successor, the hon. Sir Basil Blackett, has given us a ray of hope for future years. We may expect that a time may come when the provincial contributions may be remitted altogether. In my opinion, there is no salvation for our province unless and until we get a reduction in the contribution. We must have recourse to some trick by which we can force the Government of India to surrender the contributions once and for all. I say, there is no salvation for our province unless we employ some such trick. We must wring out from the Government of India the money that they are extorting from us now.

"As regards retrenchment, I must say that there is great room for that in our province. Almost all the departments have got more officers than necessary. There are too many cooks for the guests invited. There are two or three cooks for each guest. As an instance, let me take a department which is overmanned, viz., the Judicial Department. Here the officers are doing their work most leisurely. They come to office at 12 noon and quietly return home after signing some papers. When they consider signing itself to be such a difficult task, how can we expect them to attend to judicial work? Some district judges take care only to try Sessions cases and they leave all the civil suits and appeals to subordinate judges. They convert the court house into a sleeping apartment. As regards the district munsifs and sub-judges, I must admit that there are several conscientious workers in their ranks. Among them there are also some who are very slack in their duties. I know of a certain munsif who would rise up from his slumber only at 9 o'clock in the morning and who would go to court after lunch. I once asked him how he could afford to clear off all the arrears if he went to court at such a late hour. The munsif replied that he would ask the vakils to compromise all suits and thereby clear the arrears as well as avoid the contingency of his decisions being appealed against.

"Now there is a proposal to appoint nine temporary sub-judges and five temporary district munsifs. I am sure there will be no necessity for additional courts if the present incumbents discharge their duties conscientiously. I heard that the late Law Member was contemplating the reduction in the number of district judges. It appears he wanted to have one district judge for two districts. He also proposed to appoint one additional sessions judge and one sub-judge for two districts. These two latter officers would be Indians and they would discharge their duties satisfactorily and there would be no necessity for any additional courts.

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"Some time back, when the number of High Court Judges was increased from 10 to 12, Sir Murray Hammick asked a lawyer whether the arrears in the High Court would increase or decrease after that. The lawyer seems to have replied that the arrears would decrease. Sir Murray contradicted him by saying that the arrears would increase because the High Court Judges would often get indisposed and they would also take leave, and thus the arrears would be left in the same state without any appreciable reduction.

"Once a friend of mine, who was an English Civilian, observed, when I appeared before him to defend an accused, that Indian witnesses left their shoes and their consciences at the door of the court house (laughter). I said to him in a friendly way, some other people had a habit of bringing their shoes into the court house, but they neither leave their conscience at the door, nor bring it into the court. Perhaps they have no conscience. (laughter). I am certain that if our officers do their work conscientiously, we can run the province with half the number of officers and at half the cost. As regards the salaries, there is no use of proposing a reduction in the present scale. Everybody wants to have more salary and more comfort, and our duty is to see that the officers turn out proper work for the money that they are paid.

"As regards Education, there has been a great clamour for higher and University education. For my part, I am quite content if primary education is imparted freely and compulsorily to all people (hear, hear). By giving free and compulsory education to all the ignorant masses and by making them understand their rights and duties, no necessity would be felt for the increased expenditure on the police establishment. Imparting primary education would lead to real retrenchment in the expenditure of the administration. People would then learn that it is bad to rob another of his property, and thus crime will diminish. At present the police, instead of preventing crimes, allow them to be committed and then arrest an innocent person. It is notorious that the police always appear at the scene only after a theft is committed and after the thief has run away. In the same way, the fire-engine very often comes to the scene only after the fire is quenched.

"As regards the other subjects in the budget, I do not want to say much except perhaps one thing about local bodies. I was once travelling in a car from Kumbakonam to Negapatam with a friend. While I was half-way, we were obliged to get down from the car and push it along the road, for the road was in an awful state of disrepair. I was told that the District Board President was an experienced man, but he cared very little for the comforts of the travelling public and left the roads to take care of themselves. I wish to point out to the House that local bodies should attend to their duties more vigilantly than they are at present doing.

"With these few words, I once more wish to offer my congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member, and I wish that all his successors in office would walk in his footsteps and really attend to the needs of the people in this province."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I heard the speech of the hon. the Finance Member with mixed feelings of admiration and despondency. I had admiration for the speech for the reason that he was able to show a good deal of optimism, more than was absolutely necessary for the case, and I had

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admiration for his taking credit to lead the would-be leaders in other provinces in the matter of retrenchment and economy. But, at the same time, I was despondent that in spite of his optimism, and in spite of his taking credit for leading the would-be leaders, we are worse than what we were three years ago. Our deficit, Sir, has not decreased by even an iota; our debts have increased and our nation-building services have not received that justice which it was hoped by every one would be received under our benign Government. So, Sir, the despondency is great, and I do not know whether it will ever disappear at all.

"The hon. the Finance Member referred to our Council as a partnership firm. There is some aptness in that reference, firstly, because we are very soon going to dissolve as generally all partnerships are dissolved. But when are these latter dissolved? It is when they are working at a loss. Secondly, Sir, the aptness of the analogy consists in his advice to us to take stock of what we have done and to see where we are. Now, Sir, my idea of taking stock may be quite different from his idea of taking stock; but I shall explain to you that when I take stock in my own way, it will indeed be a very sad tale that I may have to tell. In all partnership firms, we would call some items as assets and some as liabilities. I shall continue the metaphor. According to Western ideas, the Government exists for doing the greatest good to the greatest number: the Government exists for the people. But, according to our ideas, the Government exists for doing the greatest good to the least number and the people exist for the Government.

"Having given this preliminary explanation, I shall show that assets the Government have had in plenty and they are gradually getting rid of the liabilities. What the assets of the Government are, are the money taken from the people and what their liabilities are, are those that they give to the people in return by way of services; and I find, Sir, that after three years the assets of the Government have considerably increased, whereas their liabilities are at least where they were some three years ago. What are the liabilities of the Government? The liabilities are to return to the people services by which they may be more healthy. Has malaria ceased or abated? Has small-pox ceased or abated? Has typhoid ceased or abated? Has, I say, any other epidemic ceased or abated? But we are threatened, Sir, that we may have what they call the relapsing fever, what they call the sleeping sickness. In these respects, the Government are indebted to the people. Have they provided enough medical institutions? Have they provided for medical relief? Have they provided sufficiently for maternity welfare? Have they provided sufficiently for child-welfare? I say, Sir, in these matters the liabilities of the Government consist and in these respects—the transferred subjects—the Government have not done any justice to the people at all.

"On the other hand, the Government have been increasing their assets. What for? As I said, to give the greatest happiness to the least number of people, that is, the officials. The hon. the Finance Member has himself stated that in the matter of increase of salaries, something like two crores of rupees have to be set apart. I suppose it is per annum. The increase of salaries has not yet ceased. We have the vision of the Royal Commission before us and when the Royal Commission comes and examines the question, and increases the prospects of the pay of the civilian officers, the vicious circle will come again. The other services will cry for increased pay and

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every service must have in turn its increase of pay. So I say, Sir, that in the matter of the assets, in the matter of giving increased pay, we cannot say that we have stopped, and stopped once for all. There is the vicious circle to come again and will be working out again and again till at last we shall not know where we shall launch ourselves.

"Let us continue the analogy further. The late Government have given to the present Government four Acts: the Local Boards Act, the District Municipalities Act, the Elementary Education Act and the Village Panchayat Act. Under every one of these Acts people are to give more money for the purpose of carrying on the government. Under the present Government, we have increased the assets by amending the Court Fees Act, by amending the Stamp Act and by enhanced registration fees. In all these ways we have increased our assets; but we have not given relief to the people by giving them what we have once promised them, viz., a law to fix the land-tenure and the rates and several problems connected with them. These are where they were. I need not remind you of that ill-fated Irrigation Bill which I conceived to be one of the best measures to give relief to the people; but unfortunately we were ourselves the cause of throwing it out. In that way, Sir, we have not done justice at all.

"Next, Sir, we have our surveys and re-settlements going on, which mean added assets to our Government. Has the famine left us? Especially in the Ceded Districts the famine has not yet completely left us. In addition to those of our own making, there is the imperial asset, viz., the postage, the money order charges, telegraph charges, customs and several other things; and now, Sir, we have to pay double salt tax. These are the ways in which we have been accumulating our sins and I say that in this accumulation we have been very vigilant; but we have not thought of returning it to the people from whom we have taken it. Therefore, I say, Sir, that we have not done proper justice to the people in the matter of our administering this province for the last three years, and in fact the hon. the Finance Member himself has admitted that this province is the most heavily taxed province in India in the matter of land revenue, the excise and the local rates.

"Let us now see whether any retrenchment has been effected during the three years. We were once told that His Excellency had been personally interesting himself in this matter. Afterwards we were told that a committee had been appointed for it. What have they done till now? They have done nothing and the explanation given is simply heart-rending. We have still several provisions made for the increase of salaries, for giving special pay as it is called. 'Special pay' is a new term that we find this year. Hitherto we had other kinds of allowances; now the special pay is introduced. New appointments are now being created in the Forest and other departments. We have had list after list given to us of appointments carrying Rs. 500 and over, and the Government said that the number of divisions would be decreased, the districts would be decreased, and the taluks would be decreased, and that in that way retrenchment would be effected. We do not hear anything of that kind now. On the other hand, we have got education officers, one for each district; co-operative assistant registrars, one for each district. There will be public health officers, one for each district, and then there will be income-tax officers and a number of other officers for every one of these districts. And, Sir, with all that we are told that in this Budget year we shall have more courts opened, the pay of the

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Assistant Professors in the Law College will also be increased, there will be a body of military police in the East Coast, and there will be a strengthening of the armed reserve in the Salem and North Arcot districts, and that we shall also have to provide one-and-a-half lakhs for the Empire Exhibition.

"I think, Sir, that this Empire Exhibition is really a costly matter which this province cannot afford to finance. And then, 12-45 p.m.

Sir, it is said that there is a provision of Rs. 3.68 lakhs made towards the long-delayed programme of housing the police. Then again there is an item of three lakhs for the construction of quarters to officers and so forth. Sir, is this the retrenchment that has been carried on during the course of these two and-a-half years?

"Then the most unkind cut of all was the criticism directed against the local boards and the grants made to them. In my opinion, Sir, under the Reformed Government, the prestige of the district boards, their self-respect and their independence, have considerably deteriorated. While they were under the guidance of the Collectors, of course, they had everything for them and the Government respected them in every way. After the handing over of these local boards to the management of the non-official agency there was not only indifference on the part of the district officers, but they have taken up an attitude of open hostility. They say, 'We were not wanted in your Council. Why should we help you?' This has extended to the Board of Revenue. The Board of Revenue says, 'We will not interfere in the matter of encroachments, it is left to you entirely.' Well, the contagion has caught the Government also. The Collector is now set up as the sanctioning authority in several cases. He is made an appellate authority, and correspondence, it appears, has to pass through the Collector. The Surgeon-General has told us we must submit our Budget proposals to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, and in several matters, Sir, the self-respect and the independence of the local boards is at stake. The officials not having to help us in the matter of collection of taxes and other things we had to employ a large number of hands which has involved greater expenditure of money. The Government have ceased to make grants to us. They were giving us a number of grants when the Collectors were the Presidents, for instance, for minor sanitary works, roads, etc. Now we have to increase our debts on account of the increased expenditure and consequently we have fallen into a deficit. Instead of viewing our position with sympathy the hon. the Finance Member has taken up the cudgels against us."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I make a personal explanation, Sir? I have endeavoured most scrupulously to do nothing which could possibly savour of taking up the cudgels against district boards. We are both in difficulties. I have been charged more than once with taking up the cudgels and dictating policy. I venture to say that not a word will be found in my speech to support the charge that I have either attempted to dictate a policy or criticized the district boards unfairly. As I have said already, we are both in difficulties and we are both in need of help; and if there is anything in what I said that can be taken for dictation or unfair criticism I beg it will be regarded as withdrawn."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Mr. President, I think that the skill and ingenuity displayed in giving the appearance of a less embarrassing budget deserves praise and congratulations. The hon. the Finance Member told us

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that according to the revised estimate for 1922-1923 our deficit was 18 lakhs, and according to the budget estimate for 1923-1924 the deficit will be 40 lakhs. If I understood him aright, the dead-weight debt will be only Rs. 6 lakhs. Sir, I think that when the Council effects cuts on demands the week after next, and when the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee now under consideration are given effect to, we may fairly expect the Budget to be a balancing one, and that there would be no necessity for any apprehension regarding the financial burden of this Province. Before I proceed to make a few observations I should confess that I was not able to go through the mass of the figures furnished to us, very thoroughly. However, I should like to get further information from the hon. the Finance Member with reference to a few items.

"Under 'Revenue non-judicial stamps', the Budget estimate for 1923-1924 is less than the Budget estimate for 1922-1923. We thought, Sir, that when the stamp revenue was raised there would be a larger income. But apparently for some reason or another, not fully explained, there is going to be a fall. I think that requires some explanation."

Mr. E. S. LLOYD:—"The Budget memorandum fully explains the reasons why the full realization of the sum is not possible."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I read that and I thought that there must be some other reason than what is given there."

"Then, again, income from the Police. The revised estimate for 1922-1923 gives 7.50 lakhs. The budget estimate for 1923-1924 is 6 lakhs only. I should like to have some information about this also."

"Similarly, with regard to industries it is said that there is a fall in the revenue from 14 lakhs which is the last year's revised estimate, probably owing to the fall in the value of quinine."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"There is no fall in the revenue from industries. It is under Cinchona that there is a fall."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"However, there is a difference and I find it very considerable. I therefore thought that the hon. the Finance Member might throw some further light in the matter."

"Coming next to the expenditure side of the Budget, I am compelled to agree with what the hon. Member, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, said yesterday, the unsoundest basis of some of the calculations. For instance, we find in the budget estimate for 1922-1923 a sum of 178.92 lakhs, while under the revised estimate it was only 139.31 lakhs. Such a large difference must be explained. There is probably no reason why there was such a large difference between the budget estimate and the revised estimate, unless it be that the basis of the calculation or anticipation was wrong. I am compelled to say that there ought to be no such great difference."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"The difference is due to a change in the classification ordered by the Government of India."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I want to be told what the basis was for making such a calculation."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I explain, Sir? The position is this: we have to keep our accounts upon certain principles laid

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down by the Government of India. They have made an alteration in the classifications. Certain items which have hitherto been entered under 'Land Revenue' have been transferred to 'General Administration'."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"It is said that the Government of India are really responsible for this difference. However, I have nothing more to say about it."

"When we see that the budget estimate under 'General Administration' and 'Police' have gone to such high figures, the budget estimate for 'Medical and Public Health' stands more or less stationary. I do not know the reason for this. Also under 'General Administration,' in the revised estimate, the figure is 132.93 while the budget figure was only 91.16. This year, the budget estimate under this head is 137.124."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"For the reason which my hon. colleague the Finance Member gave, this exactly represents the amount transferred from Land Revenue to 22. General Administration."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Coming next to Police, I find that the budget estimate for 1922-1923 is 195.03 lakhs while the budget estimate for 1923-24 is 203.78 lakhs. I shall deal with the Police Department later on. I may however be permitted to observe now that the cost of the Police has gone up by leaps and bounds. I remember that, when I became a Member of the Legislative Council for the first time, the figure was between 85 and 90 lakhs. But now it has gone up to 203.78 lakhs. I think it is a very high figure. I shall presently show how this expenditure does not add to the security or safety of the people."

"Coming next to the Medical and Public Health Departments, it is a matter of deep regret to all of us to find that under these heads there is no increased allotment. Of course if it is contended that owing to the financial stringency more provision could not be made under these heads, then I will ask why they should start new works and spend huge amounts such as 35,000 for constructing quarters for the Police in different places. I think all these items should stand over and more allotment should be made for 'Medical and Health Departments' so that they may carry on their work more efficiently and to the benefit of the people."

"There is one other information which I would like to have and that is with reference to the contributions to local and municipal funds. Under the head 'Loss of Fisheries' contributions have to be made to certain district boards, the Nilgiris, etc. I have been president of a district board for nearly three years, and I am not aware that the district board has anything to do with fisheries. I think it must apparently be a mistake. It ought to be taluk boards or union boards and not district boards."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"The Government many years ago gave the local boards the whole of the rentals realized by the auction of fishery rights in the tanks within their areas. This was not revenue of the boards but a grant made to them. When the Fisheries Department took back the management of some of these tanks in order to improve the revenue from them, the Government continued to make a grant on the old basis."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I only wish to point out that the income does not come to the district boards."

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"The next objection that I have is to the expenditure of 4 lakhs under the head 60. Civil Works—Capital Account not chargeable to revenue and perhaps also to the following three items: Construction of houses for Government officers 1.150, construction of residences for officers in Madras, 1.50, and Victory Hall, 1 lakh. I presume items 1 and 2 are remunerative and may give the interest at least on the outlay, and that the third item could not give any return. Sir, when there are more pressing demands on the provincial funds these may be held over and undertaken when funds are available."

"I would like to refer to one or two matters with reference to the Local Self-Government Department. Several appointments have been created of late, such as the Deputy Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries, and a Registrar General of Panchayats. In spite of all these appointments, there has been a considerable amount of delay in the disposal of papers. For instance, the By-laws relating to control over eating houses, hotels, etc., sent by me in June 1921 still remain undisposed of. We find, apart

1 p.m. from the unsatisfactory character of the reply, that some questions are not answered in time. For instance, I wanted to know before this budget meeting, in how many cases new municipalities and union boards have been started and in how many cases the existing ones abolished. This information has not been forthcoming in spite of more than three months' time. I think, Sir, that a bold policy on the part of the Local Self-Government Minister is necessary in constituting new municipalities. For instance the town of Devakottai has a population of over 15,000, and the District Board wanted to constitute this union of Devakottai into a municipality. We find that of all the places in this Presidency Devakottai has got the largest death-rate. There to a birth-rate of 25 the death-rate is 7.9 per mille. Because the local people were never willing to constitute it as a municipality, the Government also declined to do so. There is one other place which I would like to refer to, and that is Arappukottai. There, the population is over 33,000. The District Board recommended the constitution of a municipality in this place; but the Collector probably wrote something against that proposal and therefore it was dropped by the Government. I bring all these things to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I cannot understand what the Raja of Ramnad means by referring to these cases. They are all cases decided according to administrative expediency. I fail to see what bearing these have upon the expenditure incurred on account of the creation of the posts of Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretaries, etc."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"First, I referred to the extent of delay that is occurring in spite of additional staff employed in the Local Self-Government Department, and now I appeal to the Minister for Local Self-Government to adopt a bold policy with reference to the constitution of municipalities."

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA:—"I am afraid I cannot be enthusiastic in showering encomiums on the hon. the Finance Member. At the outset of his speech, he referred to the carrying on of the old policy of the firm, and that he would keep it supplied with funds to carry on its day-to-day administration. I may talk in the same strain and say that the Government may be compared certainly to a firm the management of which

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is entrusted to a body of managing agents who are keeping its administration only for the sake of keeping it agoing, and not so much for the benefit of the share-holders who contribute to the finances of that firm. In this respect, it may be said that the functions of this Government have been kept going on because there are certain economic and other causes which have left the Government in a helpless state. In the pre-Reform days, when this Government was contributing half of its revenue to the Central Government it had nearly 7 crores of rupees for its expenditure, and after the introduction of the Reforms, in spite of the fact that a large amount of money is going to the Central Government by way of contribution, we ought to have nearly 12½ crores of rupees for the expenditure of this province. It is stated, Sir, by way of explanation that nearly 2 crores of rupees are being devoted for the increase of salaries. Therefore, Sir, in spite of the fact that a new form of Government has come into being, people say that the Government does not find itself in a better state of administration, because nearly 2 crores of rupees are being spent towards increased salaries and no appreciable amount has been devoted for developments or the increase of the wealth of the province. We find in the speech of the hon. the Finance Member that the three ways of cutting down expenditure, or rather increasing the resources of this province, are the remission of contribution to the Central Government, increasing of taxation and retrenchment. With regard to the question of contribution, we may hope, live in hope and die in hope; and the hon. the Finance Member is also holding out hopes that we may yet have some chance of remission of this contribution in course of time, but I am compelled to believe that we shall have no chance as such, and that we shall have to depend entirely upon the policy of retrenchment which we have adopted. Mr. Gladstone once said :

the policy of good finance lies in the spending of revenue, and not in the making of it.

Therefore, unless we find a policy as to how best we can spend the present resources of our province, I do not think we shall be justified in launching upon additional taxation or having any hopes in regard to the remission of the impost which has been so unjustly thrown on this province. We are all aware that a Royal Commission has been appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the grievances of the Civil Service people and, if necessary, for recommending for their increased salaries. A good deal of our income therefore has to be set apart for these anticipated increases, and I do not think for one moment that we shall be disburdened of this untouchable item, namely, the contribution of 348 lakhs of rupees to the Central Government. With regard to this contribution I may probably draw an analogy from the parable of the farmer illustrated by Lord Jesus. It is stated there that a farmer sowed his seeds not only on good soil, but also on rocks, hedges and also on the way side. But here the farmer, namely, the Madras Government, has thrown the seed beyond the hedge, namely, on the far-off Bengal, which has been largely benefited by the contribution of 348 lakhs. So much for the contribution.

“With regard to taxation, the hon. the Finance Member has not been bold enough to suggest any new methods. We voted last year for additional stamp duties and court fees, and even with the additional duties from that source the income has been reduced so much as to be inadequate for Government's needs. There is hope that the stamp duty will still further be increased in the coming years and as such the province will be benefited by it.

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“The only hope, as I have said, is retrenchment. How far the policy of retrenchment has been worked out in this province will have to be correctly examined. No doubt the hon. the Finance Member said that this province, like every other province, has attempted to curtail its expenditure in all possible directions; and we are really thankful to the Government for their action in this matter, and for cutting away travelling allowances to the extent of ten lakhs of rupees. With regard to the other allowances which appear to be the only other item which may be cut, the hon. the Finance Member does not come forward with a practical solution except that the Government have launched on a genuine attempt to cut down all other allowances. We do not know when that investigation will come to an end and when it will be of any real benefit to this province, so far as this branch of expenditure is concerned.

“In this connexion, Sir, I will bring to the notice of the Government that this Council had already adopted a resolution that when a vacancy occurred among the Members of the Executive Council, it should not be filled up. That was the recommendation passed by a large majority of this House; but it has not been given effect to. No doubt, I congratulate the hon. the new Law Member for having been appointed in the place of the out-going Law Member. But as a matter of policy, in view of the recommend-

1-15 p.m. ation made by this Council, the place ought not to have been filled up but kept vacant and the departments under that Member transferred to the Ministers. I am glad that an announcement has been made by the hon. the Ministers that they are willing to accept a less amount of salary. That is a good precedent for the future. It means a great saving. The same, I understand, is the case with the salary of the hon. the President.

“I do not wish to weary the Council with the details of the Budget. Generally speaking, I am sorry to remark that the Transferred departments have not been placed on a better footing. With regard to the local bodies, the grants are made to dwindle down; and the chief reason that has been set forth by the hon. the Finance Member for that is a comparison of these local bodies with similar institutions in England. We know that the policy of the Government in this country has been to tax the people and to spend the amount that is thus realized. The money is not spent by persons responsible to the people but by the Members of the Government. But in England they have full responsible Government. If really more responsibility is given to the Members in charge of the transferred subjects, we shall probably be willing to have more additional taxation, only that money ought to be spent entirely for those from whom it is taken.

“Then with regard to the Education Department, it has been the cry of the Andhras for several years to have a separate university for themselves and a resolution was adopted by this Council and a committee has been appointed and certain details have been worked out. But I am sorry to note that there is no provision made in this Budget with regard to the Andhra University.

“Again, with regard to Agriculture and other allied subjects, I am sorry to remark that in spite of the fact that three-fourths of the people of this country live on agriculture, no proper attempts have been made for its improvement. The same old crude methods are in vogue and the experts—the millet expert, the wheat expert, the maize expert and other blessed

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experts,—who have been in charge of the several crops, have not been able to improve the methods of agriculture, in spite of the various experiments that have been launched at an enormous cost. I do not know when the fruits of these experiments will be realized by the agriculturists.

“With regard to Irrigation—we remember the Irrigation Bill over which the late Law Member (Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar) lamented so much because it was defeated—I do not think that any careful engineer will allow so much wastage of water. Beyond the anicuts of Godāvari, Kistna and Canvery, a large volume of water is being allowed to waste itself into the sea. I do not know, Sir, if in America or any other civilized country such a state of things exists.”

Mr. G. VANDANAM :—“Mr. President, Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. the Finance Member for the liberal provision he has made for the Labour Department in connexion with the depressed classes. We are all speaking about nation-building departments, such as irrigation, education, etc. But I do not know if there is any other department which is so vast in its importance as this Labour Department which is working for the elevation of the depressed classes. (Hear, hear!) These depressed classes form a good portion of the population of this Presidency. So, many of these people are labouring under many disadvantages and are subject to very great misery. Something must be done for the elevation of these depressed classes. We are deeply grateful for the appointment of so many as nine Tahsildars for doing the good work of elevation of these classes. But may I ask, Sir, what can these 9 Tahsildars do over 25 or 26 districts? Well, we are thankful for small mercies and we only hope that this is a beginning for a greater kind of work to be done among these people. In this connexion, may I say, Sir, that a great portion of the money that is set apart for the work of the depressed classes is being spent in Madras and something in the Tamil country and almost nothing in the Telugu country? But, now, when the redistribution work is to be done, I believe that the hon. the Home Member will see that justice is done to the Telugu country.

“Last year, in my Budget speech, I said that we were thankful to the hon. the Chief Minister for appointing members of the depressed classes as district board and taluk board members. This may serve a purpose. But these members are generally drawn from the lower classes who have no education at all and they do not do anything to help these people except to make a show and say that the Government is sympathetic towards them. But if any real good is to be done, it is to be done through some educated people who can influence this House and who can influence the Government by constantly bringing to their notice the grievances of the people and suggesting plans for the improvement of the condition of these people. Therefore, I say, as I said last year, that a Standing Committee of this House which is to meet at least once in two months to consider the grievances of the depressed classes is a very sad necessity which should be immediately attended to.

“There are other ways in which these depressed classes can be helped. Several petitions have been submitted to the presidents of the taluk boards in regard to minor irrigation works, such as the removing of prickly-pear and sinking of wells. In many cases these people find it difficult to get a drop of drinking water. May I inform the several Members of this House that in

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many cases the villagers are denying these classes even the privilege of taking water in the ordinary tanks? I have a case on hand now. Much can be done by propaganda work. Much can be done too by money. Hitherto, the Minister for Local Self-Government has been giving some money to the district boards. May I respectfully suggest that a portion of the minor sanitary grants be set apart and earmarked for the sinking of wells for the use of the depressed classes? Unless that is done, many taluk boards, in spite of the great sympathy they have shown, cannot show that amount of sympathy that is needed to alleviate the condition of these people. These people want water to drink and it is not easily available in many villages. They have to go two or three miles to get it. If this ordinary need of the people is not easily met, we cannot expect that anything else can be done for these people.

“We find that some provision has been made for a hostel. We are deeply thankful for it. Some of the people at least will be benefited. May I respectfully submit that there are some institutions in the Andhra country, for instance Masulipatam, which have been working to give food, clothing and education to poor orphans of the depressed classes? If any distribution of money is to be made, may I suggest that some arrangement be made so that some of the people in the Andhra country are benefited?

“It is good, Sir, that there are to be some more co-operative societies for the elevation of the depressed classes. No one will deny the good that these societies are doing. In many cases they are making the people live a careful economical life, and in many cases they are helping the people in not getting into the habit of drinking. In this connexion, I submit that something must be done for removing the toddy shops as far as possible from the villages. If nothing more can be done, at least by way of reducing the number of these shops, may I not suggest that some steps should be taken to see that they are not located near the houses of these poor people? Nobody can deny them the drink. But if the shops are near the houses of these people, even women and children begin to drink. May I not appeal to the Government to prevent at least the women and children from this curse of drinking by removing these shops far away from their quarters? In this connexion, I have heard one hon. Member say that God helps those who help themselves. It is true, if there is sufficient education for these people. If there is no education, there is not that good sense to help themselves; and nobody can help them. Does it follow, then, that those people must be left in the place where they are, because they are not able to help themselves? I was once speaking to a missionary lady about the work that is to be done among these people. I said ‘if you really mean to do good to these people, you will have to do it in spite of themselves. You have to teach them; and showing them with one hand you have to do good with the other’. In such cases the only thing that we have to do is not to apply that maxim, but follow the principle ‘Go and help where help is needed in spite of the people’. That is the only way of helping these people.

“Again, coming back to the Telugu country, I must say one thing.

1-30 p.m. Much has been said about medical education and medical relief.

Guntūr has been crying for a medical school for several years. Steps have been taken and I believe some progress also has been made, and they have been bargaining for the site; but no provision has been made in this Budget. Last year, some applications have been sent for admission

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into the medical school which, it was believed, would be opened in Guntūr. But it is as far from sight as it was five years back. Probably the delay is due to a lack of site. May I suggest to the hon. the Minister that if he takes steps, it is possible to acquire a site? There is some provision in the municipal budget and the district board budget to acquire sites at the Raja's compound at a cheaper rate. So, if steps are taken soon it is possible to establish a medical school at Guntūr in the near future.

"Something has been said about the teaching profession. Recognition has been given to private enterprise in education and we are thankful for the extension that is being seen in elementary education. If you look at the report you will find that there is still much to be done. The first step that Government ought to take to improve the condition of the schools is to establish a sort of uniformity of scale for teachers who are working in Government schools, district board schools and private schools. If this is done, there will be satisfaction among all classes. The work that they are doing is characterized as nation-building work and every encouragement should be given to them to do that work properly.

"One thing more, and I have done. For a long time, there has been some talk about extending irrigation in Kistna, and I may respectfully bring to the notice of the House that several people of the depressed classes have sent application after application to include their lands under *ayacut*. But, year after year, the reply has been given that water is not sufficient. May I say that while the complaints of the people are still there, members of the other communities and other classes have precedence in getting water? What I would suggest is that if more water cannot be given to all the people, at least something might be done to give water to these poor people who have been crying for the last ten years without any drop of water. With these words, I close my remarks."

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-34 p.m.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m. with the hon. the Deputy President in the chair.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"There are about twenty members who are anxious to speak to-day. I would request them all to be as brief as possible in their remarks, so that every one may have an opportunity to speak."

MR. V. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, in congratulating the hon. the Finance Member on his Budget estimate for the next year, I wish to make a few observations. We had an opening balance of 210 lakhs in the year commencing 1920. The deficit of the four succeeding years up to 1922-23 was 227 lakhs and at the end of this year the deficit is 57 lakhs. This again is manipulated in an ingenious way by taking the expenditure into capital account, showing the deficit to be only 6 lakhs. But with all the juggling of figures, the Budget shows our debt to be 1,158 lakhs and credit to be 1,089, i.e., we have a deficit of 69 lakhs. Twenty-nine lakhs are said to be invested on industry and 22.58 lakhs are spent on works of public utility. These must be spread over many years for repayment as the works will be remunerative only at some future time. Besides, we are informed by the hon. the Finance Member that we owe to the Government of India, our only creditor, 1,158 lakhs, that we have advanced to various local bodies all the amount but 6 lakhs and that we have made provision to pay off

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this amount in the ensuing year. Thus, I think, we are given to understand that we have been able to establish the equilibrium of our finance, and, therefore, we shall no more be paying interest from out of the revenues in future. But a reference to page 3 shows that we have to pay in the shape of interest to the Central Government, after deducting the interest we may recover from various debtors, 7.33 lakhs.

"Page 60 of the Budget shows the amount to be received as interest, viz., Rs. 39,22,000, and the amount to be paid, viz., 46.54 lakhs, and hence the abovesown amount of 7.33 lakhs is a debt in our Budget. Page 227 shows that our debt at the end of 1923-24 will be 1,261 lakhs, 103 lakhs more than in the year 1922-23. While our debt is 1,261 lakhs, our credit will be 1,089 lakhs plus 55 lakhs net advance, i.e., 1,144 lakhs or a deficit of 117 lakhs. If the closing balance of 11 lakhs of the loan account is deducted there will still be a deficit of 107 lakhs, i.e., 38 lakhs more than last year.

"The hon. the Finance Member has been accusing the Council of having imposed a further bill of 35 lakhs on account of village headmen last year when the revenue was still at a low ebb. I think we, on our part, owe the hon. the Finance Member an explanation. It is a well-known fact that all village employees, like karnams, vettis, nirgantis and talaiyaris, were given an increase of salary some years before. By a curious process of logic or reasoning the pay of the village headman alone has been left as it stood thirty years ago. The duties of the village headman are more responsible and difficult. He is responsible for collecting the taxes and remitting them into the treasury. He is besides the munsif and magistrate who has onerous duties to carry out. Moreover, he has to play the part of the host to whosoever visits his village, of whatever caste or creed he may be, and attend to their requirements. The Government officials from top to bottom are entertained at the headman's house. Being a permanent resident he also takes great pains to see that law and order are maintained. During seasons of epidemic he runs great risks as he has himself to attend to the proper supply of medicines and other necessities. When non-co-operation was at its height with its no-tax campaign, when disturbances were rife, and when loyalty towards Government was shaky, it was the village headmen that boldly went forward and suppressed the disturbances and put a stop to all mischievous propaganda. When his servants, the vettis and talaiyaris, draw increased pay, will not his prestige be affected if he is given no increase? The village headmen are generally respectable and honest men. When the economic pressure is felt by all from highest to lowest are these village headmen the only people considered to be unaffected by it? If the increase of pay of such people is considered to be an imposition, I leave it to the hon. Members of this Council to imagine in what light the increase of pay of others, better placed than these men, ought to be considered. Referring to pages 41 and 42, I find 15,472 munsifs in ryotwari estates and 6,421 headmen in proprietary area; but only Rs. 7,59,882 are provided for more than in the previous year. Perhaps the hon. the Finance Member has calculated on a cent per cent increase. Then only the amount of 35 lakhs can be arrived at.

"The most modern machinery of Government is provided for for the Agency tract which is in a very backward condition; and when the receipt is 9.90 lakhs the expenses amount to 36 lakhs, so that there is a dead loss of 26 lakhs and odd every year.

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"Coming to Police, there is a provision for 205 lakhs and odd. When we had our head-constables in charge of our police stations, detection of crime was more efficient than what it is now when we have highly-paid officers in charge of police stations.

"As a non-Brahman, and as a Member said to belong to the party in power, I am sorry I have to bring to the notice of this Council that many Government Orders, based on resolutions passed in this Council regarding the appointment of non-Brahmans in Government service, seem to have had no effect on the heads of Government departments. Unless the Government are induced to take strong measures to see that every head of the departments is made to entertain none but the non-Brahmans in the service for some years, till 50 per cent of the employees from clerk upwards is reached, there will be no use of these Government Orders. The Government seem to think that with the issue of Government Orders the matter is at an end. The unsatisfactory way in which the Government Orders are treated is creating any amount of dissatisfaction in the majority of the people."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, I think no congratulations are due to the hon. the Finance Member for having introduced a deficit budget. Sir, deficit budgets have become the rule rather than the exception in our province. In a normal year such as this, when our excise revenue has recovered, when our land revenue has produced more, I think there is little justification for a deficit budget. It is suggested in some quarters that the Government, inspired by the *Madras Mail* and backed by the Ministers, have purposely budgeted for a deficit in order to attract the sympathy of the Government of India and secure a reduction in our contribution to them. But I do not believe that this simple device would have been considered to be of any use. The Government of India naturally think that we have to set our own house in order, balance our own budget before we can expect any reduction in the contribution. I have had conversations with some Members of the Legislative Assembly and the impression that I have carried from such conversations is that we must set our own house in order, that we should never budget for a deficit, if it can be avoided, and expect a reduction in the provincial contributions.

"The only means by which we can reduce our deficit is by cutting down the expenditure. We have tried taxation, we have tried every means; but we have failed. We must have retrenchment. A Retrenchment Committee has no doubt been appointed but what the Committee is doing in privacy is almost unknown. Probably after the budget is passed, the recommendations of the Committee will come to the Government who will accept some of them and reject others in their own way. It is always safe, Sir, to make the Legislative Chamber the public forum for all these things and not assign matters to standing committees. I have got the greatest authority, the authority of Senator Hoare of America and others who say that the Committee system is bad and that we must as far as possible bring matters to the Council Chamber for discussion. It is said that in America the system of assigning matters to Committees has had a very pernicious effect on the administration of the country. If matters are not directly brought to the Legislature for discussion, the Legislature will find itself of little use to the administrative side of Government. Therefore, I suggest that this Retrenchment Committee should bring its report before the public for criticism before

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any action is taken by the Government. At least, this Legislature, or the next, should have the opportunity of discussing the various policies that will be enunciated by the Retrenchment Committee before they go to Government. Otherwise, the Government will take up the recommendations and say that they have adopted some of them and that that is all the retrenchment that is possible. Retrenchment will not go far enough in that way.

"Sir, in the matter of the Transferred Departments, the Ministers have been taking pride that they have secured more for their spending departments. They have really got more, for 425 lakhs in 1921-22 has gone up to 465 lakhs in 1923-24. But this increase of 40 lakhs is more on the side of non-voted items. I shall just quote some figures. In 1921-22 the voted items amounted to 400 lakhs and the non-voted to 24 lakhs. In the revised estimate of 1922-23 when we had 408 lakhs for voted items, we had 27 lakhs for non-voted. Again in the present budget we have 420 lakhs under voted items, and non-voted items have gone up to 45 lakhs. In the course of these two years we have had the non-voted items going up from 24 to 45 lakhs. The increase is 21 lakhs under the non-voted items. What does this show?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I explain, Sir, that under the Government of India Act any expenditure the amount of which is fixed under a law is non-voted and that therefore the statutory contribution under the Elementary Education Act falls under this head?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Whatever that be, Sir, I have drawn this inference from the figures given by the hon. the Finance Member himself."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I explain, Sir. I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood what the hon. the Finance Member has said. The principal item is under a statutory grant under the Madras Elementary Education Act and it is technically known as a non-voted item because whatever is provided by the statute cannot be cut down by the Legislature."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"I am in possession of the House and not Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. The explanations may come afterwards. I am not attacking the Ministers for this. But I attack the very system under which the non-votable items are allowed to be increased. The system itself is bad. The Secretary of State imposes certain obligations on the Ministers."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I take it that the hon. Member is attacking the policy of the Elementary Education Act?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"You will find that the largest item is devoted to the Imperial Services and the rest to obligations imposed upon the Ministers by the Secretary of State. I want to challenge the Ministers to say whether they accept the obligations without any demur or whether they have protested, though feebly, against the system. The non-voted items are going up. Take the case of education. While the non-voted item was 5,75,000 in 1921-22 it has gone up, in the present budget, to 25,23,000. I now come to the explanation of Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. Reference has been made by him to the elementary education cess alone and not to other items composing this amount,

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"Sir, coming to the Reserved Departments, we have our land revenue which gives us six crores for the collection of which we have to spend nearly 130 lakhs."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Over seven crores of revenue are realised under Land Revenue, Sir".

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Whatever that be, it does not take away the force of my argument that more than 20 per cent is spent on collection. It is certainly a very high figure. We were told that a Land Revenue Bill would be coming up for discussion in this Council during the early part of our life here. We were told that the Bill would define the land revenue policy of the Government. Where is it, I ask, and what has become of it? May we not ask now, Sir, at the fag-end of our term here, what has become of the measure? I ask this, Sir, in the interests of the ryot who cannot pay more, whose land is already heavily taxed and is not able to bear further taxation.

"Coming to forests, the revenue is 52 lakhs and the expenditure is 50 lakhs leaving a profit of 2 lakhs. For getting 52 lakhs we have an establishment costing us 31 lakhs of which officers at the top, officers for general direction, take away Rs. 7,22,000 while the rest is left for the army of rangers, foresters and others. I ask whether this is not disproportionate. The charges for officers, the charges for direction are high, and they should be curtailed. We cannot go on increasing the number of Conservators. Again, Sir, timber and other produce are removed by Government as well as by private agencies. For removal of timber worth Rs. 18,89,000 by Government agency we spend Rs. 5,86,000. Timber removed by private agency yields us Rs. 2,92,700 and costs us only 1,79,000. In the case of the Government agency we are spending 32 per cent of the revenue over collection while in the other case we spend only 6 per cent. Government agency is costly by 25 per cent, and, therefore, should be given up. The policy of having all our timber and forest produces removed by private agency should be encouraged.

"Then, Sir, under Forests, again, we have got the Russellkonda saw-mill, to which reference may be necessary. We do not yet know whether it is a profitable concern. I shall concede that perhaps six or eight months time is not sufficient for enabling us to judge about the profitability or otherwise of the concern. In view of the short time at my disposal, I think it best to leave the question of the Russellkonda saw-mill to be discussed at the time of the detailed discussion of the demands.

"I come now to the Agency. We get 10 lakhs and spend 36 lakhs. In 1921-22 the non-voted item stood at 1,68,000 and it has now gone up to 2,65,000. In two years we have increased the non-voted item by 92,000. I ask the House to mark it is a dangerous policy to allow these non-votable items to increase year by year. Sir, unless the 26 lakhs of rupees we waste on the agency be somehow set aside, we shall ever have a deficit budget. We do not want a separate administration for these districts. It is unnecessary for the Government and useless to the people."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"May I ask whether the hon. Member proposes to have no administration at all for the agency areas, for he seems to think that the expenditure is unnecessary?"

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"I mean to say there is absolutely no necessity for the creation of a separate administration over these tracts. That is an unnecessary expenditure. The best thing would be to leave the administration to the districts themselves and maintain the *status quo*. Do not spend on your malaria campaign. The Government are taking away men from the Agency recruiting them for Assam. Where are the men in the Agency tracts? I ask what is the population of the area? What portion of the whole area belongs to the Government? The whole is zamindari area practically, about 12,000 miles of it belongs to the Maharaja of Jeypore. What is the necessity for having an agency district? Are there mineral resources which lie hidden and which you have to exploit? What benefit, I ask, do you, as Government, derive from the Agency tracts? and why do you go on with the extra expenditure?"

V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR SAHIB :—"Mr. President, Sir, I must at the outset congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for having placed before the Council not altogether unsatisfactory budget for the coming year. The past two years have been a period of considerable strain on our financial resources, the credit side falling down and the debit side going up out of all proportions. The fall in the credit side was due mainly to the decrease in the excise revenue, and nobody will be more pleased than I if even the whole excise revenue, which is now disfiguring our Budget to our lasting shame, is wiped out altogether.

"The evils of drink are so patent that they are recognized of late even in England, and attempts are being made to get rid of this curse. It is therefore unnecessary for me to elaborate on them at any length. It has been accepted by many eminent authorities that the untold sufferings of the human race and the large number of crimes are mainly to be attributed to this curse of drinking, that it is absolutely necessary that all possible attempts should be made to remove this standing curse to humanity, and that the need for the same is far greater in India than in any other country, because according to the religious laws both the two leading communities, Hindu and Muhammadan, forming the majority of the population in this country, are prohibited by religion from sharing in this vice. The Government need have no anxiety that with the reduction of the excise revenue, the financial stability of the Province will go. We have before us the example of America where total prohibition has helped to improve the economic condition of the people but has not endangered the financial condition of the State. By giving up drink, the poorer classes, who are now addicted to it more than any other, will be saved from semi-starvation and physical debility; their economic condition will improve automatically and bring untold benefits to them; and the income to the Government from other and less objectionable sources will rise. It should, therefore, be the policy of the Government to work up to this ideal. Mr. Strathie and my hon. friend Mr. R. K. Shanmugam Chettiyar were deputed on special duty to study and report on the conditions obtaining in other provinces, and though their labours have long ago been completed, their results are yet a sealed book to the public and a questionnaire was published the other day by the Board of Revenue on some of the questions connected with this problem. If enquiry is to be carried on in this lethargic fashion, the end will be far off and I would therefore earnestly appeal to the hon. the Minister in charge of the

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Excise Department to immortalize his administration by taking a great step in advance in this direction.

"The question of the financial relations that should exist between the Local Government and the local bodies has not been satisfactorily solved as yet, and nothing can be a stronger condemnation of the past policy than the speech of the hon. the Finance Member which made a plea for a special lump sum grant of 17 lakhs of rupees with the primary object of relieving the indebtedness to the Government of certain local bodies whose expenditure was far in excess of their revenue and who were not therefore in a position to meet their liabilities to Government. I quite realise that India stands on an entirely different footing from England and that her conditions differ materially from those of England. To add to this, the economic position of her people and the average income per head of her population are far less than those obtaining in England and other western countries so that it is impossible for her people to bear any heavy responsibilities which will be necessitated by assuming the charge of certain important functions. But I admit that local autonomy should be our ideal and that every local body should be prepared to undertake the responsibilities pertaining to their position as such. But the system by which the doles were distributed to local bodies with no definite policy or principle has created an anomaly by which some local bodies which have been extravagant have secured greater grants, while some other local bodies which have been prudent and which have cut the coat according to their cloth, have been denied the advantage of these doles. To add to this, the lump sum grant of 17 lakhs to certain local bodies which have incurred liabilities far in excess of their resources will make the anomaly all the greater, and nobody is more sensible of it than the hon. the Finance Member. It is therefore necessary that this lump sum grant should be judiciously distributed so as not to give room to any heart-burning to some local bodies who have not placed themselves in the advantageous position of extravagance, and I sincerely trust that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will see to it personally.

"I listened with special attention to that portion of the Finance Member's speech relating to the work done in connexion with the retrenchment of administrative expenditure, and, while I do not intend anything disparaging to the members of the Standing Finance Committee who were also entrusted with the onerous and important task of making recommendations for cutting down expenditure, I should be pardoned when I say that we are left in much the same state as we were when the question of the appointment of a separate retrenchment committee was discussed in this Council. It is true, as the Finance Member has said, that in one Province at least, that is Punjab, a retrenchment committee was appointed about two years ago and their report has only just been published by the Government of the Punjab. In the other Provinces retrenchment committees were appointed only recently and after elaborate enquiry they have made certain very important and far-reaching recommendations which, if given effect to, will go a great way in allaying the financial difficulties under which they are labouring. This course has the additional merit of giving an opportunity to public bodies and individuals who are as such interested in retrenchment as the Members of the Council themselves to place before the Committee definite proposals for consideration. Further, the enquiry made in the Central Provinces elicited evidence from certain officials of a far-reaching and

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important character. The Legislative Councils of the respective Provinces have the opportunity of discussing the proposals of the Committees in the Councils so that the public also will have an idea of the nature of the retrenchments that are to be effected and whether they are all that can be desired. All this is lost in our Province by entrusting this work to the Standing Committee on Finance. Nor has the Committee been, for all practical purposes, able to make any definite proposals to guide the Members of this Council in regard to their criticism of the Budget proposals of the Government. We are told that the hon. the Revenue Member, with the aid of an official committee, has made a complete overhauling of the forms and accounts in connexion with settlement operations and has made a substantial reduction in them. We are also told that he has held a conference of officials and non-officials to re-examine the policy pursued in matters of survey and settlement from top to bottom. But what the results of these labours have been, the Council knows too well."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"The report embodying the result of the Survey and Settlement Committee's labours to which reference has been made in the hon. Member's speech was laid on the table of the House."

V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR SAHIB:—"The hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar has, it is said, attacked the question of arrears in Civil Courts, with the aid of two eminent judges, and has arrived at arrangements which, it is hoped, will, in course of time, effect a considerable reduction in expenditure.

"On the other hand, we find provision made for the employment of a few more district munsifs and sub-judges. No one can easily believe that 3 p.m. this will effect a reduction in expenditure. Another committee has been appointed to re-examine their whole organisation of the Police force. The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp has placed an experienced Forest officer on special duty to discuss, in consultation with the Retrenchment Secretary, the practical application in the Forest department of a series of proposals which were formulated by the Retrenchment Committee. The hon. the Ministers have followed their colleagues in the Executive Council in appointing a committee each to overhaul the departments under his care. So, instead of appointing a retrenchment committee, as desired by Mr. C. R. Reddy in the resolution he moved in this Council some months ago and submitting definite proposals to the Council for consideration, we have a number of committees appointed of whose recommendations we have no idea. We shall have simply to put our seal to the figures contained in the Budget satisfying ourselves with the assurance that the Finance Member or other Members of Government will give, namely, that the Committee appointed will go into the question and effect the necessary retrenchment. This is hardly a satisfactory state of things and will equally hardly appeal to the public mind which is strongly agitated over this question. If, as the Finance Member said, the Government desired to get down from the abstract to the concrete as part of the campaign, and, in consultation with the representatives of departments to work out proposals in detail, which if they are approved, will not require any further examination before they are given effect to, there was nothing to prevent them from appointing a separate retrenchment committee and co-opting the members of the respective departments to work out the details and place

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definite and tangible proposals before the Council. In these circumstances, it is to be said that efforts towards retrenchment have not been as satisfactory as they should be.

"Before turning to the details of the Budget, I feel it my duty to place before the Council and the Government the urgent necessity that exists for giving adequate representation to the Muhammadan community in the public services. I am thankful to the Government for all that they are doing; but I still feel that much remains to be done yet; and, in view of the important position my community holds in commerce and industries, special care should be taken to see that their claims get fair recognition. In regard to the district boards, I find that there is not even one district board with a Muhammadan gentleman as president. It cannot be said that there are no qualified Muhammadans competent to discharge the duties of the president of a district board; and the complaint becomes all the more weighty in view of the fact that the appointment of presidents for a number of the district boards is yet in the hands of the Government. I sincerely hope and trust that when an opportunity presents itself hereafter, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will see his way to recognize the claims of this community in this matter.

"So far with regard to the general aspects. To turn to details: I am glad to find that larger provisions are made for the nation-building departments in the coming year and the hon. the Ministers ought to be congratulated for getting more money for their departments. The question of providing drainage for the Negapatam municipality has long been hanging fire and, in view of the urgent necessity for giving effect to the scheme, I earnestly appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to do his best in the matter. Provision of water-supply with no provision for drainage is an anomaly which, I hope, the hon. the Minister will be able to set right soon.

"In olden days specific allotments were made by Government for the formation of village roads. In these days of people's Government, the people in the villages would expect their representatives in the Legislative Council to procure decent allotments of grants to local bodies for the purpose of improving or forming new village roads so as to connect them with the nearest taluk or district or trunk roads. In many villages the agricultural produce cannot easily get to the market for want of roads. During rainy weather it is extremely difficult for the ryot to get his crop of paddy transferred to the nearest market. For want of village roads, some ryots are obliged to transport their produce on their heads. This is a miserable sight. I hope the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will see his way to help the villagers in the matter of village roads by allocating a portion of the 4 lakhs grant for roads, earmarking it for village roads.

"The decision of the Government to give effect to the retrenchment proposals in the Tanjore district from the next fasli has given rise to a good deal of consternation in the minds of the ryots of the Tanjore district and the numerous protest meetings held all over the district constitute a sufficient proof of the public feeling in the matter and strong doubts are entertained by them as to the real intention of the Government in the matter of permanent settlement. Inter-district jealousies are sure to rise when proposals of this kind come up before the Council and I very much regret that that spirit

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actuated the members of the Council in throwing out the resolution of Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, even in the year of grace 1923, when so much is said of unity and democracy. I would earnestly appeal to the Government not to give effect to this order and to bring forward the land revenue legislation at an early date. Another matter which has caused considerable pain to the landholders of the Tanjore district is the increase on the tree-tax. While the Government themselves have admitted in their order that trees in the Tanjore district stand entirely on a different footing from those in other districts, I fail to see the justification for the increase of the tax in the Tanjore district, I would earnestly appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to reconsider the question further and do justice to the ryots of the Tanjore district.

"With these few observations, I once again thank the hon. the Finance Member for having presented a Budget which cannot be considered in any way unsatisfactory in the present state of trade depression and abnormal economic conditions."

Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I should like to make a few remarks on the Budget. At the outset, I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for preparing the Budget estimate in such a clear manner, and especially for that portion of his speech, where he explained the 40 lakhs deficit and manipulated the figures in such an ingenious way (laughter) as to show the dead-weight debt at only six lakhs which he proposes to repay in the current year and thus be able to show a clean balance sheet at the end of the year. From this statement one is constrained to think that he is not seriously contemplating any retrenchment in the already top-heavy services. Along with other hon. Members who have already spoken, I must also express my regret that the Government of India have not seen their way to reduce our contribution which has naturally stopped all improvement and progress throughout the Presidency. But our regrets will not help us in any way unless we have recourse to retrenchment and reduce the expenditure suitably to the income.

"I should like to offer a few remarks on that portion of the Budget which refers to irrigation expenditure. The scheme known as 3-15 p.m. Polavaram Island scheme in Godavari district has been under consideration for several years and some preliminary work has also been done. The scheme is one to be financed from loan funds and while considerable funds were borrowed during the last three years, there is no reason at all why funds have not been allotted for it in the Budget. It cannot be denied that the project will give a handsome return to the Government and bestow immense advantage on the ryots. I hope some explanation will be given why the scheme has been omitted from the Budget and I trust the Member in charge will study and take up the scheme at least during this year.

"I have also to complain about the insufficient provision that has been made for the repairs of the Godavari Delta system. On page 20 of the Budget estimate under irrigation, it will be seen that a sum of five lakhs and odd was spent in 1921-22 whereas the provision is only Rs. 4,21,700 for 1923-24. I need hardly say that unless the delta is maintained in a thoroughly efficient condition considerable injury will be caused. Most of the canals are getting silted up. As an instance, I may say that the Cocanada municipality has to pump water at the head of the Samalkot canal and carry it to a distance of 35 miles for supplying drinking water to the town of Cocanada. This has

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been going on for the last three years for six weeks before the canals are closed in summer, and it has cost the municipality an additional sum of Rs. 5,000 a year. Therefore, I request the Member in charge to take immediate steps to clear this silt in the delta canals. On the subject of drainage of the Gōdāvari delta also, we have been complaining that no proper action has been taken hitherto. I find in the Budget that no provision is made for any expenditure on drainage works, and I trust this matter also will receive the attention of the Member in charge.

"The Finance Member made a good deal of reference to the resources of local bodies. I may say, as one who has been in charge of one of the largest municipalities of this Presidency for the last nine years, that it is becoming increasingly difficult with the limited resources at the disposal of municipalities to maintain administration at a high level. The Finance Relations Committee made various recommendations to afford relief to local bodies; but, for some reason or other, they were not given effect to, and, unless something is done soon, our difficulties are sure to increase.

"Government have been encouraging the introduction of free and compulsory elementary education. It is no doubt a very desirable reform; but it requires finance, which is the crux of the whole problem. The Government propose to pay half the additional cost while the local bodies are asked to meet the other half; but I consider that it is obligatory on the part of the Government to provide the full cost of this education. Some funds for this purpose have been provided for in the Budget; but I do not think that there is sufficient provision earmarked for elementary education. I hope the hon. the Minister for Education will not lose sight of this matter in his enthusiasm for the reorganized Madras University.

"On the subject of industries, Mr. MacDougall has made some remarks yesterday. I am in general agreement with him about the way in which funds are being spent on contingent expenditure in the industrial concerns run by Government; but I am not able to agree with him in regard to his remarks about the industrial backwardness of our province. We have not the same sort of capitalists as they have in Bombay and Bengal. I have no doubt that, if we have the same capital, industries will spring up here also. The enormous capital invested in rice mills in northern districts also shows the readiness of the people to take to industrial pursuits. So, the Government have to encourage the capitalists by suitable facilities, by supplying at concession rates raw materials, fuel, water and other requisites. I hope the State Aid to Industries Act will be worked in such a way as to bring into existence industries new to our province."

Mr. A. E. BENCONTRE:—"Mr. President, I also join in the congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member for the clear and lucid financial statement he has placed before this Council. It is true he has budgeted for a deficit. But, I think, in the circumstances he has done a prudent thing. He has hidden nothing from the Council and has performed no conjuring tricks. I say he has been prudent because, if we look under the head of stamps and court-fees, there is a deficit of something like 50 per cent of anticipated income. To my mind, it signifies that we have reached the high watermark of taxation and it is dangerous to go beyond. In fact, I would appeal to my hon. friend, the hon. the Law Member, as to the advisability of decreasing the duty on stamps and the court-fees. However that may be, I say it is prudent on the part of the Finance Member not to have proposed any

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increase of taxation in the circumstances. It is no doubt true that it is contrary to all accepted principles of sound finance that we should have an uncovered deficit. But I think there are indications in the speech of the Finance Member that there are signs of trade improving, and revenues increasing, and there is also the Retrenchment Committee still sitting, and there may be reason to believe that the deficit in the long run will not be so much as all that.

"It seems to me, Sir, that to really win financial equilibrium we must see that our, what may be called, commercial departments are successfully worked. I think the solution to the financial problem really lies in the working of these departments on business lines. For instance, Sir, take the Salt Department. We know that there is an industry started in Madras where we find salt, as good as, if not better than, imported salt, is being manufactured. In these days of science, I think we should take advantage of salt of that kind being produced so that we may compete with the foreign market. It is no use sticking to antiquated ideas of manufacturing salt. If this salt is really what it is said to be and what I believe it is proved to be, I think we can take advantage of this vital industry, because I fear, if we do not do so one of our sister Presidencies might do so and is very likely to do so. A shrewd business man like Mr. Rae has taken up the agency for this salt and he finds that the salt gets a very good sale in the Calcutta market. Interested as I am in the welfare of this Presidency, I took the trouble to go down to the works of this factory at Kilambakam and I found that the production can be enormously increased for the benefit of this Presidency. It is hardly creditable, but it is nevertheless true, that something like Rs. 15 millions are going out every year from this country for foreign salt. Why should there be this drain? If we cannot manufacture salt as good as the foreign salt, then it is a different matter. But when we can do it, and when it is proved that it can be done, surely, is it not time that we take advantage of the opportunity afforded, especially now when there is trouble in Germany wherefrom we get our imported salt? Why should we not try and make some arrangements whereby this Presidency may be benefited by the refined salt? Of course, it may be said that the revenue from salt goes to the Central Government. That is quite true. Although the Central Government may not surrender to a frontal attack in the way of reducing the iniquitous impost, I am sure they will succumb to a flank movement, if we put a business proposition before the Central Government, and say, 'your income from salt revenue is so much; we can double it; we can quadruple it; we can increase it enormously', I am sure with such a business proposition before them they will be prepared to give us a portion of this excess income.

"I think the Forest Department can be very much developed in the same way also. There is no doubt we have a mine of wealth in the Forest Department; but when is it going to be exploited? When are we going to get a really fair return for the large sums of money which have been invested in this department? Now, this department is coming in for a good deal of criticism because large sums of money have been invested in it and the return is very poor indeed. When I see the railway company getting timber from Australia, Burma and elsewhere, I naturally put the question to myself, 'what is the department doing? is it awake, is it alive to its opportunities? There are certain classes of timber which may be used for

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railway purposes. We do not want a subordinate railway engineer to say that our timber is not good for their sleepers. We can prove that it is good enough. I remember the time when it was said that Madras cement was of no use. Engineers would not look at it before the War; but after the War it has become a good commodity and is used for all building purposes. I know a friend who for many years used to get foreign timber and manufacture billiard tables. Being of an enquiring frame of mind, he began testing the timber here, and found that what was called in the Government reports as junglewood was beautiful wood, as good as the finest mahogany: he is now using that for his billiard tables. I wish, Sir, the Forest Department is worked up. What about our Government buildings? Why should they get any timber from private contractors? Why should they not get their timber from their forests, and why should the profits go to others? I trust that when the Victory Hall and the Hospital for women and children and the Medical School for women are built, the timber that is used for the buildings will come out of the Forest Department, and that in future, in all public buildings, the timber used will also come out of the same quarter. I trust that, on the occasion of the Empire Exhibition, the various specimens of wood that can be obtained in our forests are brought before those who are dealing very largely in the timber trade. I believe that if our Forest Department is properly worked and exploited we can get all the money that is really required for financing the other departments and also for making our next budget not a budget of deficit but one which will show a very creditable sum to our account".

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I would like to join in the chorus of congratulations showered upon the hon. the Finance Member for the very lucid way in which he has presented the Budget. In addition to the lucidity of exposition, he has also introduced into his speech some new financial theories and some new ways and means whereby he would make us believe that we are not really in such a sorry plight as we believe that we are at present. Sir, the actual deficit for the four years beginning from 1919-20 down to the current year is 267 lakhs. From this we are asked to deduct the accumulated balance of 210 lakhs which would thus leave us a net deficit of 57 lakhs. In page 3 of his speech, the hon. the Finance Member remarks as follows:

3-30 p.m. Even that figure (57 lakhs), again, does not accurately represent the extent of the dead-weight debt that we have incurred, because against the 57 lakhs we have, I think, a right to set 29 lakhs which are invested in industrial enterprises, some of which are profitable, and 22 lakhs which we have spent on works of permanent utility, which it is therefore fair to charge in part to posterity and to meet out of loans.

Thus deducting these two items from the deficit and taking credit for this in the revenue side, he says that the total amount of our deadweight debt is only 6 lakhs. Well, Sir, I am at a loss to understand whether this way of arriving at the net deadweight debt with which we are burdened is sound finance. He asks us to debit to our capital expenditure 29 lakhs which are invested now in industrial enterprises. I believe, Sir, that these 29 lakhs have been spent during a period of about 15 or 16 years and this expenditure has been spent from the current revenues of those years."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I explain, Sir, that these 29 lakhs represent roughly the present value of the concerns as ascertained on a commercial basis? "

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Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—" Then I want to know, Sir, whether these 29 lakhs represent more than what we have actually spent or less than what we have actually spent. We have no information on that point."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The figures that we have endeavoured to arrive at represent the value that would be taken if we handed over the concerns to private companies."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—" I understand that it is the present market value of these concerns, but I want to know whether the amount of 29 lakhs represents more than what we have actually spent during these 15 or 16 years or whether it represents less than what we spent during these years. No information is forthcoming on that point. That is a really valuable piece of information which would enable us to understand whether these industrial enterprises upon which we have launched are really profitable enterprises compatible with the prosperity of the Presidency. On that point we have no information at all from the hon. the Finance Member. In the absence of any information, I take it that this amount of 29 lakhs represents the amount that has been spent from the current revenues for a period of fifteen years."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I again explain, Sir, that it does not represent the total amount spent, but that it represents the present assets? "

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—" Whatever it is, a certain amount has been spent upon the building of industrial enterprises during the course of 15 years and no capital account has been kept for these things. Now, when we are met with a deficit of 57 lakhs, we are coolly asked, by employing a jugglery of figures, to write off these 29 lakhs. I ask whether it is really sound finance to perform such conjuring tricks in reducing our accumulation of deficits to a dead-weight debt of 6 lakhs only.

"The hon. the Finance Member also says that another item of 22 lakhs has been spent on works of permanent utility and he asks us to debit this amount also to the loan account and take credit on the revenue side. I suppose, Sir, that he does this in virtue of the powers conferred on Local Governments by the Local Government Borrowing Rules. Rule 2 says:

A Local Government may raise loans on the security of the revenues allocated to it for any of the following purposes, namely :—

To meet capital expenditure on the construction or acquisition of any work or permanent asset of a material character in connexion with a project of lasting public utility, provided that,

(i) the proposed expenditure is so large that it cannot be reasonably met from current revenues.

I suppose, Sir, that in virtue of that power vested in the Local Government, the hon. the Finance Member asks us to take credit for these 22 lakhs from our revenue accounts and debit it to our loan account. I believe that these 22 lakhs have been spent during these three years after the Reforms. This amount has appeared on our revenue side in the Budget and not in our loan account. Now, when we are faced with a deficit of 57 lakhs, we are asked to take credit for 22 lakhs in our revenue accounts. I should like to ask the hon. the Finance Member whether this is as a result of the Government accepting one of the main recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in financing the needs of local boards. If I remember

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correctly, one of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee is that big enterprises, like drainage and water works, must be financed by the Provincial Government from loan accounts and it must be spread over a period of 15 years. The hon. the Finance Member in referring to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee said that the recommendations and the report were so learned that the Government were really at a loss to act upon them. I do not know, Sir, whether this is one of the specific recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee which the Government have definitely accepted and propose to act upon in the future or whether it is only one of the recommendations which the Government would accept only when they are faced with great deficits. For my part, I do not think we can easily get out of the hard facts with which we are faced, namely the deficit of 57 lakhs in the current year's Budget.

"The concluding portion of the report of the Retrenchment Committee appointed by the Bengal Government remarks:

The initiation of a loans policy to finance large capital expenditure is we believe under the consideration of the Government. The relief afforded to the revenue accounts thereby would be considerable and we regard the adoption of sound loans policy as a matter of very great importance.

"Now, I would like to ask, Sir, what is exactly the loans policy pursued by the Madras Government. We have never had an enunciation of the loans policy of the Madras Government until the statement of the hon. the Finance Member in the speech with which he has presented the Budget of this year. The adoption of a sound loans policy will not only afford relief to the revenue, but show us where exactly we stand.

"Coming to the Budget Estimate for 1923-24, it shows that we have got a deficit of 40 lakhs. Here again, the figure is misleading at least in one particular instance. In page 7 of the hon. the Finance Member's speech, it is stated thus—

	LAKHS.
Total expenditure as in the Civil Budget Estimate	1,719.07
<i>Deduct —</i>	
Water-supply and drainage schemes (12 lakhs); and grant to the University (1.50 lakhs).	— 13.50
	1,705.57

Curiously enough there is a combination of the grants for water-supply and drainage with those for the Madras University. As explained by the Finance Secretary in page 52 of the memorandum, the sum of 1.50 lakhs to be granted to the University is earmarked for laboratories, workshops, etc., and will come out of the loan account. I really cannot understand the financial policy involved in meeting this obligation to the Madras University from the loans account. I should think that this sum of 1.50 lakhs should really come from the current revenues, so that if we add that amount our real deficit is not 40 lakhs, but 41.50 lakhs. Again, in giving this grant to the University, may I know, Sir, the special reason in imposing a condition upon the University and earmarking this amount for laboratories, workshops, etc.?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I answer, Sir, that the intention was that the amount should come out of the loans set apart for works of permanent utility?"

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I inquire, Sir, whether any proposals were received from the University for the opening of laboratories and workshops?"

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Naturally, one would expect to know the purpose for which money is wanted and then it would be decided whether it should be taken from the loan account or the revenue account. Here, the process followed by the hon. the Finance Member is altogether the reverse. He decides to take a sum of money from the loan account and give it to the University and therefore earmarks the money for a particular purpose, namely, for laboratories, workshops, etc. On looking into the report of the Finance Committee on this subject, I see that they sanctioned a grant of 3 lakhs for the Madras University without imposing any condition upon it. In the speech that the hon. the Minister for Education made in introducing the University Bill, he said that one of the fundamental objects of the new University Act was to bring about a co-ordination of the resources of the various colleges in Madras. It is admitted on all hands that the Madras Presidency College has got a splendid laboratory and a complete equipment for scientific classes. I would ask, Sir, whether it would not be in consonance with this principle of co-ordination, if the splendid laboratory in the Presidency College is placed at the disposal of the Madras University. I would ask the hon. the Minister for Education to kindly consider the advisability of not restricting the splendid equipment to the Presidency College alone and of allowing the University also to benefit by it. I am at a loss to understand why this sum of 1.50 lakhs should be earmarked for particular purposes and taken out of loan account.

"In the current year's Budget the deficit of 42.05 lakhs has been reduced to 17.68 lakhs and the explanation is given at page 7 of the hon. the Finance Member's speech; but that explanation, I am sorry to say, discloses a very melancholy state of affairs indeed. He says that the chief reductions occur under the heads of Public Health, Interest on Debt, Stationery and Printing, Education and Agriculture.

"We gave 28.60 lakhs as the Budget Estimate for 1922-23 for the Public Health Department, whereas the hon. the Minister has spent only 18.30 lakhs. For Education we gave 161.49 lakhs, and they have spent only 157.70 lakhs. For Agriculture we gave 31.70 lakhs, and they have spent only 28.20 lakhs. Thus, Sir, the hon. the Ministers in their nation-building departments have not actually spent the money which we placed at their disposal, and yet we hear everywhere the cry that because of the iniquitous impost these nation-building departments are being starved. I cannot reconcile these two state of affairs. While these three departments are being starved, what is the state of affairs in other departments? The estimates on Police have gone up by 10½ lakhs, on Jails by 5½ lakhs and on Civil Works 3½ lakhs. The 17 and odd lakhs which have been saved from the nation-building departments have been saved from them and have been given to the nation-destroying departments. That is how, Sir, the deficit Budget of 42.05 lakhs has been reduced to 17.68 lakhs and I leave it to the hon. the Ministers to explain whether that shows a state of affairs in which they are encouraging the growth of these nation-building departments.

"Another way in which the deficit has been reduced is, Sir, by an increase in the Excise revenue. Time does not allow me to speak in detail on this point, Sir. I have already on more than two occasions given my opinion

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about the excise policy of this Government and I will only say that with the Local Option Bill of my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, hanging in the air, and the promises of the hon. the Minister for Excise, we have been simply duped in our excise policy, so that when we go to the country, we have only a tale of shame and woe to tell on that subject (cheers)."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I beg to thank His Excellency the Governor, the Executive Councillors and the Ministers for the support they are giving to the agitation regarding the remission of the iniquitous impost levied by the Central Government; and I hope we shall continue that policy until we attain our object. Again, Sir, I must thank the hon. the President of our Council for having agreed to forego one-third of his salary. A gentleman who is not an elected member of this Council, but only a nominated member—who was an Indian bureaucrat—has consented to forego Rs. 1,000 every month; that speaks much and shows that he has great sympathy for the advancement of this Presidency. The question of the salary of the hon. the Ministers, who are representatives of the people, has been under discussion for the past two years. Even before the Ministry was actually formed, it was thought by some that it would be better if they worked without salaries. Later on, there were resolutions tabled in this Council that they should get only Rs. 3,000 pay. However, fearing that their prestige would be reduced by giving them a lesser pay than that of the Executive Councillors, the Council had to resolve that their salaries should not be less than those of the Executive Councillors. But now that the country has known what the powers and functions of the Ministers are and what they have been doing for the country. Now that they know that their powers are in no way less than those of the Executive Councillors, there is no reason for their hesitating that they will lose their prestige by agreeing to a reduction of their salaries. I am glad to hear, Sir, though not directly from them the announcement made by the hon. the Finance Member, and a few others that they have also consented to have reduced salaries hereafter, probably from the next official year. I would only request them to see that they choose a reduction proportionate to that adopted by the hon. the President, so that the country may think that they are not less generous than the President in furthering the cause of the people.

"The Budget shows a deficit of about 40 lakhs whereas there has been a considerable increase in the expenditure during the interval between the pre-Reform Council year and the coming year. We find that in the case of Land Revenue the increase for the coming year is 15.60 lakhs, Excise 2.88 lakhs, General Administration 1.92 lakhs, Administration of Justice 3.71 lakhs and the Police 3.44 lakhs and so on. I simply quote these few figures to show how the expenditure has been increasing year after year. Before the Reforms came into force, the Executive Councillors were three in number and they have since been increased to four costing us an additional expenditure of Rs. 64,000. The number of Secretaries rose from 14 to 24 involving a cost of Rs. 82,000; the Assistant Secretaries rose from 1 to 7 involving an additional cost of Rs. 54,400 more. The Collectors, though their number is the same, cost us Rs. 1,04,600. The District Munsifs—though here also the number is the same—cost us Rs. 3,92,600 more ever since the time-scale of pay was introduced.

"If we consider what work has been done after the Reformed Council was formed I do not think that we can go and tell our voters that we have done

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much. All that we may say is that our Ministers have introduced three very useful Acts: the State Aid to Industries Act, the Madras University Act and the Religious Endowments Act which is shortly going to be enacted into law. These three are no doubt very important measures and we can show to our voters that these are the items of work of our Ministers. As for additional taxation, everybody knows, and even the hon. the Finance Member himself has admitted, that the Madras Presidency is already overtaxed and that it is not capable of bearing any additional taxation. Notwithstanding that, we have somehow or other managed to increase taxation by about 70 lakhs by revising the schedules of the Stamp Act, by enhancing the court fees and by revising the registration fees. People however do not seem to be dissatisfied with these increases. Anyhow, my electorate, the Kistna electorate, which is in a rather advanced state, if I may say so, is even prepared to take up some additional taxation if the Government show that they are inclined to make a reduction in salaries and establishments and improve works of public utility.

"Everywhere the complaint is that all the money that is raised is going to salaries and establishments. The District Munsifs, Deputy Collectors, Collectors are all getting much more than what they were getting before the Reforms. The electorate thinks that all this is due to the Reformed Council passing every new item of expenditure. My own impression is—and several ryots, big and small, have also expressed the same to me—that if the people are satisfied that the Government are not against reduction and retrenchment of salaries of their establishments, and have done all that they could they may bear additional tax for the purpose of the industrial development of the country and for more irrigation facilities and so forth. For instance, on the Kistna reservoir project, which is likely to increase about 4½ lakhs of acres of first crop irrigation and about 1½ lakhs of acres of second crop irrigation, in the Kistna district alone, the people of the district, I am sure, will agree to pay Rs. 10 water rate per acre against what they are now paying. For all such purposes people are willing to bear additional taxation. But as it is even a ten-rupee paying voter puts the question 'what is it that all the money is being done with? Is it all paid to the officials?' So the retrenchment question is the one question that has to be solved by the Council and by the Government. I do not think that so far Government have done anything in the matter. The repeated requests of the Council, the resolutions and everything else, have been in vain. After two years of agitation and at the fag end of the second year a Retrenchment Committee has been formed, but we do not know what it has done. Though there is a talk in the air that they have recommended doing away with the time-scale pay and keeping on all the minimum rates and doing away with the maximum rates, the question seems to be still pending with the Government, and it is a pity that their report is not put before the House for remarks before orders of the Government are passed.

"The next point is that the hon. the Finance Member said something about giving doles to local bodies in the shape of grants year after year. I am not a very learned man, and I think the term 'dole' means giving money in the shape of charities. That is how I understand the term. I beg to submit that what is paid to local bodies cannot be treated as money given with a view to helping them. The functions of any civilized Government are: first, the defence of the country; then, the administration of the

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country; then, public health, including medical relief, sanitation and water-supply; the maintenance of law and order; education; development of trade and industries; and, last, administration of justice. That being so, unless the health of the people is guaranteed, what are the courts going to do? So it is an incumbent charge upon the State to finance what is required for public health, for water-supply, for roads and other things. The local bodies get practically one anna in the rupee by way of what is commonly known as road-cess, and not land-cess. With that one anna in the rupee the Local bodies which are honorary agents of the Government cannot be expected to maintain all the medical institutions and the new sanitary staff, and provide water-supply for all the people of the Presidency, and so on. Consequently the Government should realize the necessity for allotting a fixed portion of the revenue for these purposes; and, of course, they should fix grant-in-aid to various local bodies for various purposes in settled proportions instead of calling these grants 'doles' which can be given at their pleasure."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, in the course of the discussion of this third budget of my hon. friend has 4 p.m. revealed to us the general tone of satisfaction, the general tone of dissatisfaction and the general optimism and pessimism that have always characterised budget discussions in this Council. I shall not make any lengthy reference to all the statements made by my hon. friends who sit opposite to me and who are generally the supporters of the very happy family that sit opposite to me in this Council. There are hon. Members like my hon. friend Muhammad Usman, whose connexions with the Finance Committee, with the Retrenchment Committee and with the various other committees appointed by this Council entitle them to speak with authority on the subject of finance; but my friend's tone of pessimism is generally such that it sometimes makes one somewhat in a mood to be driven right into the opposite direction. My hon. friend said that in the course of two months they were going to introduce a scheme of retrenchment which would be satisfactory to this Council and that once for all this question of reduction of public expenditure would be settled. Sir, various other hon. Members have offered congratulations to my hon. friend, which, I would rather think, would last him for the whole year, and I, on the present occasion, neither wish to congratulate him nor condole with him.

"We know that we have been in a critical position in regard to the finances of this province. At the same time apart from all other criticisms that have been made, the main question remains as to how the finances of this province have been administered during the last three years, and on that main question, a new criticism which has not been made in the previous budget discussions, has been made on the present occasion. That is: how are we to meet our electorate? Apparently several of my hon. friends suddenly seem to have discovered the existence of an electorate, and it is quite clear why my hon. friends have made this sudden discovery. The fact is that in the course of two or three months they will have to go round and give an account of their doings in this Council since they were elected. Well, Sir, electorates are the same all over the Presidency. I am sure my hon. friends will explain to them their doings. But so far as we on this side of the House are concerned, we are not responsible in any way to the financial policy which has been pursued during the last three years. We have made a good deal of criticism with a watchful eye on the public interest and

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we claim that, so far as we are concerned, we have held out warnings on all occasions which presented themselves to us that the financial policy was not alright. Sir, it is a question which concerns only those of my hon. friends, who have been responsible for the financial policy of the last few years. For my part I shall certainly face my electorate and give an account of the doings of the present Government. I shall certainly do it.

"Having made these preliminary observations, I may perhaps indicate who can answer the question which several hon. members have put as to how they are going to face the electorate. The answer cannot, in my opinion, come from the Finance Member. Certainly the Finance Member is one of the seven to run the administration of the province; and the financial policy is a combined policy. But if any answer is to come it is from those hon. gentlemen who are statutorily responsible to us in this Council; and my hon. friends, who are statutorily irresponsible as recognized in this House, will certainly have to give no account whatever to the country. In fact, if we look into the exact position of the Ministers defined in the Devolution Rules and in the report of the Joint Committee, my hon. friends who are the Ministers in this House have had innumerable opportunities for influencing the financial policy of this combined Government."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, is the opposition only to the responsible side?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I am rather surprised that my hon. friend has made such an observation at all. He knows the constitutional position; or, at any rate, he ought to know the constitutional position, as much as we know. I, therefore, do not propose to embark on the enquiry which my hon. friend wishes me to do. I am perfectly certain that all of us will have the opportunity of examining that question both here and outside the House.

"Sir, I contend that if our financial policy has gone wrong, the responsibility for it must be laid upon the shoulders of my three hon. friends who sit opposite to me. As I said, if the country calls for accounts, the other hon. Members will certainly be delighted to have that account rendered by them. One hon. Member said that the resignation of the late Law Member was really a question of taking up voluntary responsibility for accounting for the doing of the present statutorily irresponsible members of this Council; but I for one would rejoice if every one of my hon. friends who sit at present irresponsibly will cultivate the habit of responsibility to the whole country along with my hon. friends who are statutorily responsible.

"Sir, having made these preliminary remarks I would like to make one or two observations on the revenue side of the Budget. As I have said so often in this House, our provincial revenue is contributed by three classes of people mainly, (1) the landed class which contributes 634 lakhs, (2) the landless class which contributes a rent revenue of 537 lakhs and (3) there is the dividend from the lands of people who seek to obtain ancestral property."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"So landed-classes drink, Sir?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"That is not a very pertinent question. I am perfectly certain that one of my friends of the landed-class will answer it."

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The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Is my hon. friend not a landlord?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Well, the answer is that I do not contribute anything to the excise revenue. So, the litigants to the ancestral property are responsible for 236 lakhs. Sir, one of the points on which I laid great stress at the last Budget Meeting was that the consumable national income should not be reduced by any policy of the Government so far as it can, and I contend that this 537 lakhs are a contribution of more than one-third of the revenue raised in this Presidency from people who can ill-afford it and whose social conditions deserve our deep sympathy. So, if the object of the policy of taxation is to shift the burden from those who cannot pay, it ought to be the policy to get rid of this 537 lakhs as early as possible and to shift it to those who can afford it."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I suppose my hon. friend knows that the same amount more or less is realized in every other province in India."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"That is hardly a relevant point. Many other things are done in other provinces. I do not want to pursue this question further."

"In this connexion, I would refer to the observations made by my hon. friend Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar who said that the Local Option Bill being in the air between myself and between my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, who has been trying to make up his mind during the last two years of a new excise policy, the electorates have been duped or my hon. friend has been duped. I do not know which it is. But if my hon. friend says that he has been duped, I must say that he is contributory to this deficit. He went about the country at the instance of my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, and reported to the Government. This report reached the Government six or seven months ago. It has not been published as yet. I see there is a party Government in this province, and it means that the supporters of the Government are not merely to come and vote here, but that they should also exercise their influence in the framing of a policy even outside this House."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, my hon. friend knows that the report has already been placed on the Editors' Table and it is pending before the Excise Advisory Committee for its consideration. I may say that there is nothing to prevent my hon. friend from bringing his Local Option Bill."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I think that my hon. friend should have been a little more careful. I really do not remember what the exact words of my hon. friend, R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar, were. But I remember to have heard him saying that he was contributory to the deception which he mentioned."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Does the hon. Member mean that by being on the Committee I am contributory to the deception?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"The only answer is, if my hon. friend after sending up the report certainly had an opportunity of expressing his dissent, not only he but all those who support him might have an opportunity of forcing the hon. the Minister to make up his mind on an excise policy on which there is no disagreement in this House."

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"Sir, on the Revenue side I contend that there has been no policy to shift the burden from the unfortunate class of persons to the right class of persons. Now, coming to the main question, I would confine myself as far as possible, to the general line pursued by my hon. friend, the Finance Member. In the first place, my hon. friend after giving a comprehensive survey of the financial situation dealt with three or four matters. One of them was the question as to how to improve the financial resources of this province; another was as to how past expenditure has been incurred; and, thirdly, he made it quite clear to us as to what may be regarded as a policy in regard to the loans raised by the provincial Government. Finally he wound up by remarking on the position of the Local bodies which has given a certain amount of misapprehension to this House. My hon. friend in order to remove those misapprehensions said that those remarks might be considered as having been withdrawn."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"What I said was that, if there was anything in my speech which any hon. Member construed as a criticism on the local bodies, I begged to withdraw it. Personally, I do not think that there was anything of the sort. I merely sought advice."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I do not wish to pursue the matter further than this. But from what he said there are grounds to believe that there is a certain amount of disagreement between the Finance Member and the Member in charge of local bodies on the question of the policy of financing these local bodies. I may be wrong in my belief. I shall come to that later on."

"Now what is the financial position as revealed by the figures? As hon. Members are aware, at the time the new constitution came into force on 1st April 1921 with the kind of the financial proposals made by the Meston Committee and amended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee the spending power of this province was increased by 228 lakhs. Thus, for three years we have had, at that rate, 684 lakhs to be provided for."

"It may be a little more, but I take the figures as given by the Meston Committee and the alterations made are rather to the advantage of the Madras Province, not with reference to the way in which the contributions have been fixed, but as regards the initial start that has been given to us. That accounts for the 364 lakhs. Then we have the balance of 210 lakhs and the further sum of 67 lakhs. Then we have an additional taxation which was imposed last year and which will be continued next year also. The total of these two I shall put down as 100 lakhs. In judging these three items, I am only taking into consideration the fact that we have to account, at the end of March 1924, for a sum of 1,042 lakhs over and above the financial resources which were available on the 31st March 1921. How has this amount been spent and for what purpose has it been applied, is the question. It is a substantial question which my hon. friend, the Finance Member, and those who are associated with him have got to answer."

"Again the contention is that most of these moneys have been spent in increasing the pay and prospects of the services—it does not matter whether they are for subordinate service men or All-India Service men, or Provincial service men. We submit that with this large additional taxation and with the increased spending-power which has been placed at the disposal of the Government by the Meston Committee and with this balance in their hands, the policy of expenditure which has been pursued during the last two or

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three years is not one which will commend itself to the people. I have no doubt my hon. friend is aware that our chief aim has always been to divert funds for education, for sanitation, for medical relief and for all those purposes which go to make up national efficiency. We contend that a very large proportion of the funds I have mentioned has not gone for these purposes, but has gone rather towards the revision of the pay of the services.

"Then, Sir, my hon. friend referred to the question of retrenchment. I have already referred to the anticipations which are being formed of the activities of the Retrenchment Committee. Some reference has been made to the proceedings of the Retrenchment Committees of Bengal and the Central Provinces, and also of those of other provinces. I consider that the question of retrenchment has to be viewed as a whole, including in it the question of All-India Services, the question of abolishing unnecessary appointments in all services, and also the question of allowances which the several officers are drawing. On all these matters, I submit, I must ask my hon. friend for more light.

"In this connexion, I may just refer to one matter and that is this: it has been mentioned that orders have been issued by the Secretary of State that Retrenchment Committees in the various provinces should not deal with any questions relating to All-India Service. I should like to ask my hon. friend whether any orders of the kind have been communicated by him, and whether any instructions have been received to the effect that the Retrenchment Committee sitting here should deal with the pay and prospects of the services pertaining to this province alone. If the Secretary of State is going to decide that particular appointments should not be abolished and if we are going to decide the pay and allowance for those appointments, I am sure the question of retrenchment will be futile. The power of recruitment is still in the hands of the Secretary of State. My friend, Mr. Habib-ul-lah, will dispense with two deputy collectors, and the Secretary of State may recruit seven others. In the same way my hon. friend, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, will dispense with two or three posts of deputy superintendents of police and the Secretary of State may recruit five or six men for that department. My hon. friend, Mr. Patro, will get rid of two sub-assistant inspectors of schools and nine or ten persons in the cadre of Indian Educational Service may be recruited by the Secretary of State. Under these circumstances, I should like definitely to know where we are in the question of retrenchment with regard to its various aspects, namely, the question of pay, allowance, etc., of the All-India Services. Unless the question of retrenchment is viewed as a whole, I do not think we shall derive any benefit from the activities of the Retrenchment Committee. No doubt, they will be able to show some retrenchment; but I am afraid that any such retrenchment will be of no use until the Secretary of State retains the power of recruitment and of fixing pay and allowances in his own hands. Even in the Transferred Departments, sanction has to be obtained before the Ministers proceed to fill in posts carrying salaries over Rs. 1,200. Under these circumstances, the members of the Retrenchment Committee who have much work to do and about which they are very enthusiastic should know what they are doing and whether the hon. the Finance Member and the Government will make statement as to what power these Committees have over all the questions mentioned above which are inevitably bound up with the whole question. For instance, I may point out that the Bengal Government with the approval of its Retrenchment Committee abolished the posts of Divisional

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Commissioners' posts which are equivalent to the position of a Board Membership here. May I know whether the question of retrenchment here will be viewed from the same standpoint?

"There is one other matter in connexion with this question of retrenchment. Already, reference has been made to the example set up by the Ministers. I requested my hon. friend already to make a clear statement on this subject. We are deeply indebted to our President of this Council with whose work we are intimately bound up and owing to whose constant guidance and stimulus we have been placed always on the right path. We are deeply grateful to you, Sir, for the fact that you have taken this step of receiving a lower salary. As regards the Ministers, certainly they would have set an example for the whole of India if they had accepted a lower salary when this question was discussed in this Council some time before. Anyhow I am glad that they have now seen their way to accept a lower salary. I only wish to reiterate what other hon. Members have said in this connexion, namely, that this question of retrenchment has certainly received an impetus from the example set by the Ministers.

"An appeal has been made that the Indian and European Members of the Executive Council should also consent to the reduction of their salaries. On this question I am decidedly of opinion that so far as European services are concerned, and so long as we think that they are necessary for the efficient administration of the country, we, in this Council, should definitely recognize the distinction between the pay of an Indian and that of an European. There is no doubt there was a time when the popular cry was that when persons were appointed to the various posts in the service of the Government, they must be viewed on a par irrespective of the fact whether they were Indians or Europeans. But now, when we hope to get for all these appointments a large number of our own countrymen, it seems to me altogether wrong to fix a reduced pay for these services, because it will affect the services of the men who come from 6,000 miles away. I trust that this matter will be viewed in this light, and that hon. Members will agree with me in this respect. Several hon. gentlemen who gave evidence before the Royal Commission asked at that time for equality of pay; but conditions have changed now. The Royal Commission have decidedly recommended for the Indianization of the services, and so it seems to me that the proposal to ask for a reduced salary is altogether unreasonable.

"The last observations I have to make are with reference to the Loan accounts. I am in general agreement with other hon. Members—I think it is Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar who made some observations on this subject. The hon. the Finance Member wishes to debit the 29 lakhs of rupees under this head as one of the semi-commercial items, including some which were started 15 or 20 years ago, and which were met at that time mainly from our revenues. My hon. friend is adopting a new policy. We shall have to meet the expenditure in other directions, and I would prefer that he does not incur any more expenditure on the general revenues.

"The last observation I wish to make is with reference to the local bodies. On that matter, I regret to say that the whole position has been misconceived. I cannot but feel that the whole of these difficulties and troubles regarding distribution have arisen from the fact that the Local Self-Government Department has had no funds during the last two and a half years. Therefore, they went on discussing several principles leisurely and there was good deal of correspondence between the Local and Municipal Department and other

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departments with the result that confusion has been created between these departments. The question before us was not as to what would be available for the scheme of distribution or allotment. The Finance Relations Committee only examined the general principles that would apply to this province; and certainly it is too late in the day to require definition as to which service is 'national', which 'semi-national', and which 'parochial'. All these questions are questions which have been discussed times out of number and decided not only in this country, but also in other countries. My hon. friend, Mr. Graham, while I was in England, went round and examined the question carefully when he was President of that Committee with about seven or eight members and the word 'semi-national' occurs in the report signed by Mr. Graham. My hon. friend who was a distinguished member of that Committee will be in a better position to explain what Mr. Graham meant by the word 'semi-national'.

"I have already exceeded a great deal of the time allotted to me, and I am very grateful to you, Sir, for your indulgence. I feel very strongly that if local bodies are to thrive in this country, my hon. friend ought to make up his mind to answer all questions which he himself has raised in connexion with them; and I would like to know whether my hon. friend, the Minister for Local Self-Government, shares the same difficulties and doubts with regard to the distribution of funds among these bodies. He has an advisory committee and he has administered the department for two and a half years, and all these difficulties should have been brought before that committee.

"Now, after three and a half years, my friend has discovered that there are difficulties. I have been continually asking him whether final orders have been passed on the committee's report."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The difficulties were realized in 1921."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I think my hon. friend has misunderstood me. The report was sent to the Government about the end of December 1920. I see opposite to me three of the hon. Members who took part in the committee. We all worked at it to the best of our ability. We did our best to lay down some general principles. If all these doubts were felt, the hon. the Minister should have tabled down a resolution and ascertained the sense of the House. I have been constantly asking about the final orders on the report of the Finance Relations Committee without any effect."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"For the matter of that, I never felt any doubts. The question is one of funds. It is when funds are available that the Minister and the hon. the Finance Member will have to sit together and consider how far effect can be given to the recommendations."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I am really glad to know that no doubts arise when money is not available. That solves the whole question. I certainly would not object to any examination. It may take another year and a half. The Finance Member may take another six months, and it may take another six months for my hon. friend to say that that committee was not composed of the best brains and so another committee should be appointed. It is rather a tedious process to appoint committees and go into the matter leisurely while these bodies are starving."

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Mr. A. J. LEECH:—"Mr. President, Sir, I only want to touch on one subject, namely, the apparent juggling feat by which the hon. the Finance Member has reduced an apparent deficit of 57 lakhs at the end of 1921-22 down to six lakhs. Some hon. Members seem to think that there must be a touch of the forked tail in a transaction that brings back into budget account sums of 22 lakhs spent in previous years on permanent utility objects and 29 lakhs invested in industrial enterprises, and leaves posterity to pay them. They seem to think that there should be no question of making posterity pay. I do not think that it is quite understood by many of the hon. Members that this action of the hon. the Finance Member is only correcting what I call an entry—I may be wrong in calling it an error—that has been made in previous budget accounts and is not a new departure at all.

"As a business man, it seems to me a sound business act to correct an error when discovered, and I lay down strongly that Government should always keep their accounts on business lines as would a private business firm.

"Going into details, take first the 22 lakhs spent on permanent utility objects, say, for a hospital; or water works or drainage scheme in past years and apparently charged in the year it was spent as a current expense and paid for out of that year's revenue—thereby increasing that year's deficit by 22 lakhs. To try to make it clear, I would just look at it, as if Government were a business concern, building a new office for the use of the firm. Well if they treated the cost of this new office in such a manner as the 22 lakhs had been treated and debited the full cost to profit and loss account, probably resulting in a deficit being shown on the year's workings, what would happen? Why, the first people to object would be Government themselves represented by the Collector of Income-tax. He would be on their tracks at once and tell them they were deducting from receipts an inadmissible item of expenditure—that the building was an asset and must be treated as capital expenditure and not as a current working expense and that all they could fairly charge to revenue account was deterioration, perhaps $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. He might possibly add that if they wanted to write off the building costs like prudent businessmen, they could do so, but the customary way would be to do it by degrees, say write off additional 5 or 10 per cent per annum, but even that would be a non-admissible deduction on which income-tax would be collected. Most business firms take the opportunity of writing down capital costs of buildings, etc., out of profits in good years. But very few would write off any thing, much less every thing, in a deficit year, as Government seem to have done.

"Well, Sir, this I believe is the exact position with regard to the 22 lakhs spent on hospitals, water-works, etc. Our Government financiers in the past appear to have written off the whole amount as current expenses out of revenue, and as we have no income-tax collector to insist, it is a non-deductable expense from revenue. I should like to strongly support the hon. the Finance Member in his action in bringing it back into account on the ground that it is a capital item spent in part for the use of posterity and for which posterity ought, in part, to pay. Possibly it was the Finance Member's experience as Collector of Income-tax that led him to recognize this sum as non-deductable item from receipts. It is true that in this case the money was first borrowed from the Central Government who act as sowcars and I believe the loan is repayable by equated payments over, say, 15 or more years. This, however, makes no difference to the principle. It only shows

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that Government like a prudent firm are determined to wipe off the total cost, revenue deficits or not, within a fixed number of years and will not trouble posterity to pay beyond that fixed period.

"Now as regards the other 29 lakhs sunk in industrial enterprises,—this is, in principle, exactly on all fours with the other 22 lakhs; but there is much more risk in industrial enterprises. Commercial buildings, machinery, stocks, etc., deteriorate much more rapidly than does a hospital or a drainage work, and there is also the very probable chance of trading losses. In this case, therefore, the hon. the Finance Member is very wise in saying that each enterprise should be treated separately. So much capital is allotted to it and a regular set of balance sheet made up yearly—liabilities and assets, profit and loss, stock valuations, etc.; and then any losses or writings down should be debited to Government current revenue account unless provided for out of profits. The complaint in the past—I am talking of a good many years back—has been that these trial industries fathered by Government never showed true figures; so their balance sheets were worse than useless as data to work on. Interest on the capital was perhaps not charged. Experienced men were lent free; materials were supplied duty free; buildings were erected by Government department at below market price. I do not want to libel anyone; but this was the general belief amongst business men. On the other hand accurate figures would be a tremendous help to industrialists here, to either encourage them or prevent them burning their fingers. These should be insisted on. Another important point is that nothing should be taken into capital account at cost value. Everything should be at the price the buildings, machinery, etc., would fetch if sold. It would mean a low valuation in many cases; but it is the only safe course if the values are to remain in the budget figures as capital. I trust, Sir, that the 29 lakhs now brought back into account are on this basis. If so, I think all business men will approve the hon. the Finance Member's action. I understand from what he said a few minutes ago that this is the case."

Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI:—"Mr. President, Sir, the budget for the year 1923-24 presented by the hon. the Finance Member with a lucid speech on some of the important features of the budget, is, unlike the previous ones, a very interesting record for more than one reason. As he himself says in his speech, this budget leaves us in a position of hope deferred but not in a position of despair. Further, in spite of the fact that the hon. the Finance Member has budgetted for a deficit of 40 lakhs, his explanation regarding this deficit is interesting, especially in view of the fact that at the end of the current year, we have only a deadweight debt of six lakhs. This makes the budget appear encouraging at the outset. After listening to his long speech, I cannot but come to the conclusion that there are many hopeful features in this budget and that after all we have no reason to bewail over the gloomy prospects of the coming year as we used to do on former occasions. Hence I think that the hon. Member in charge of Finance and his energetic Secretary deserve our thanks and congratulations. When I speak, Sir, in this strain, some of my hon. friends may think that I have all praise for the budget but nothing to criticise it. But it is not so. I have simply given credit where it is due, and I shall now proceed to express what I think and feel regarding some points in it.

"All of us know the oft-repeated maxim that we should cut our coat according to the cloth which we have at our disposal. So, in general, I can say this much: that as long as our budgets are made to show a deficit, they

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can never be considered to be really encouraging or hopeful. But when I said that this year's budget was hopeful and encouraging, what I really meant was that it was so when compared to the budgets of the previous years. But this is a matter over which unfortunately we have no control, inasmuch as our province suffers from a financial stringency caused specially by an unjust and heavy contribution we are forced to pay to the Imperial Government. So leaving this matter to be settled by time and change of conditions, I wish to take up a few items of interest in the budget.

"Taking the land revenue, for instance, I find that the revenue expected is only 634 lakhs against 645 lakhs of the current year, while the expenditure is 144 lakhs against 139 lakhs of the current year. It has been pointed out on several occasions that we have a very costly system of land revenue administration and instead of trying our best to reduce this costly business, it seems to me that we are trying to enhance it as the increase of five lakhs over the current year's expenditure clearly shows. In the same way, expenditure under items like forest, registration, irrigation, general administration, etc., shows an increase. Whatever may be the explanation offered for these increases, it is indeed deplorable that these increases go to swell up the deficit for the year. At the same time, I should like to point out that if in these items more economy is practised, the amount saved might very well be used for works of public utility which are now at a stand-still or which do not develop as fast as they should for want of adequate funds. When I look into such items as education, public health, agriculture, industries, labour, etc., I find no doubt a similar increase in the expenditure. But these are subjects which require more money for development and I am of opinion that reductions should be made in the expenditure in the items I have mentioned first and that more money should be spent on education, etc., without of course going beyond the limits of our income.

"As a representative of the depressed classes I feel bound to express my views on that particular item in the budget which affects our communities. The depressed classes as you know form a good part of the population of this Presidency, and the money spent for their elevation is never a waste. On the other hand the more money the Government spend on their behalf the earlier they come out of their depressed condition and take their right place alongside of the so-called higher classes, the better will it be for the general welfare of the Presidency as a whole. The existence on such a large scale of a class of people who are in a depressed state is a standing disgrace to the Presidency and it is the duty of the Government to do all they can for their elevation. The Government intend spending a little more than nine lakhs for this department during the year 1923-24 as against six lakhs of the current year. There is no doubt an increase of three lakhs for which we are thankful. But at the same time I should like to point out that some of the pressing needs of the communities have not been adequately provided for in this budget as I would show presently. The one reason why some of our needs have been neglected is that none of us, representatives of the depressed classes was on the Finance Committee. This is a point which requires the serious attention of the Government and I would ask the Government to appoint one of us not only to the Finance Committee, but also to other committees at least as far as they affect our communities. One of the pressing needs of our children is education. But our poverty is such that the facilities which the Government offer to them are not sufficiently attractive to induce them to take to it. So more money,

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I think, should be spent on their education so as to enable them to get at least one meal a day at Government's expense. This is a point which I would urge on the attention of the Government so that some provision may be made in the revised budget to carry out this suggestion.

"Items like scholarships for the depressed classes should be carefully scrutinized and the amount set apart for them increased so as to give more facilities for the children of the depressed classes to avail themselves of the benefits of education. Coming to the amount set apart for the amelioration of the depressed classes, I am of opinion that a better understanding on the part of the Government of the urgent needs of the depressed classes not only in the districts where some work is being done now or is proposed to be done in the next year but also in the other district of the Presidency, would have induced them to set apart more money for this purpose. I am sorry to see that this is not the case and I do not think that it will be considered too much if I ask the Government whether it will not be possible for them to spare some more money to be added to the sum allotted in the budget. I hope the hon. the Finance Member and my hon. friends in the Council will view with sympathy this request.

"Before I close I have a word to say about my own community, viz., the Arundhatayas (leather workers or madigas). These form a section of the depressed classes whose elevation is as necessary to the general welfare of our Province as that of the other sections. From what I learn from the various parts of the Presidency, the good work that is being done by the Government for the elevation of the depressed classes does not in any way benefit my people. In the districts of Chingleput, Tanjore, etc., special officers are working for the uplift of the depressed classes and provision is made in the budget towards the cost of maintaining these officers and their establishment. One of the duties of these officers is to see to the assignment of darkhast lands to the depressed classes. My community people are a landless class and as such they, more than others, deserve to be encouraged in this direction. But unfortunately I regret to point out that so far not a single member of my community was benefited by these assignments although a number of applications were made for darkhast from different villages. I myself have forwarded a number of darkhast applications for assignment of lands to my men in Chingleput district. None of these was favourably considered. After all the very applications were returned to the parties concerned with the following endorsement:

"The petitioners may present this petition to the undersigned or his Revenue Inspector when he visits the village.

"God only knows when they will visit the village. These poor people keep these endorsements as precious documents safe-guarding them day and night anxiously expecting the bestower of grants and after all no officer turns up. This is how the darkhast applications of my men are disposed of. Some time back in order to find out the extent of lands assigned to the members of the Arundhataya community in the several districts I interpellated the Council and the answer was "no separate information is available for the extent of land granted to any particular section of the depressed classes".

"I now suggest that in future the Government should enter in the darkhast assignment register maintained in the department the details as to the several communities of the depressed classes to whom lands are assigned.

"I notice a grant of Rs. 30,000 to be given as free grants towards the construction of 200 houses for labourers at Puliantope at Rs. 150 each.

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Among the labourers who have lost their houses during that trouble there are some belonging to my community. I have given their names to the Labour Commissioner then and there. I hope that while distributing these free grants the claims of my people will not be overlooked.

"There is another point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. From my personal experience I can say that the numerous pilgrims belonging to the depressed classes who visit the various shrines of Southern India are put to great inconvenience for want of water to drink and bathe and for want of shelter.

"It is my earnest request therefore that Government will kindly take proper and necessary measures by ordering the various district boards to attend to the needs of the depressed classes pilgrims by way of providing choultries and bathing wells or tanks.

"I hear that Government in their anxiety to build quarters for their servants are acquiring sites on which my people live. If the Government want to build quarters for their servants I would request them to acquire sites elsewhere and not disturb these poor men.

"In conclusion I thank that Government for all they have done so far for the elevation of the depressed classes and hope that some at least of my suggestions will be borne in mind and given effect to in the revised Budget."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I am afraid I cannot congratulate the hon. the Finance Member or the Government on the Budget that is presented to us. Apart from the fact that we have a series of deficits and that it has become necessary for the hon. the Finance Member to provide for a deficit even in the next year, it is a matter for consideration whether better efforts could not have been made for the purpose of carrying out a bold policy of retrenchment. It is quite true that the hon. the Finance Member pointed out that we need not take example from other provinces in this respect. But may I appeal to him to take example from the Government of India and consider if it has not been possible for carrying out retrenchments at least in the direction and on the lines which were indicated yesterday in the statement of the hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India. The Committee in this Province was appointed at the end of September and a special officer was appointed early in October. It was expected that proposals would be ready for consideration at the time of the Budget, and no convincing reasons have been given as to why it was not possible to have the proposals placed before us within this period. The Inchcape Committee met after the Retrenchment Committee was organized in Madras, and we have it on the authority of the Finance Member of the Government that they were able to effect retrenchments in Posts and Telegraphs on the recommendations of that Committee, and that further reports were coming in which made him hope to make a further announcement about retrenchment in the course of the discussion. He has also told us that he would be able to make a lump provision of 4 crores as the result of the retrenchments to be carried out. Sir, may I point out that if the hon. the Finance Member followed the same course of action as the Government of India it should have been possible for our being in possession of materials enabling us to come to the conclusion as to the extent to which retrenchments could and should have been carried out. I will point out Sir, that if during the last four or five months various proposals have been made for effecting retrenchments, which I believe have been done, it will be better that we are placed in possession of those materials even in an incomplete condition. The reason is

5 p.m.

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [2nd March 1923]

this. Those of us who would like that the budget should be a balanced one and that the expenditure should be made to cover the revenue would think it better to be acquainted with the various proposals of the Retrenchment Committee before giving notices of motions for reductions of grants. If we, for the purpose of wiping out the deficit of nearly 40 lakhs make suggestions for reductions, we shall be groping in the dark if we do not know what the Retrenchment Committee is doing in this direction. We were also told that various committees had been at work for the purpose of effecting retrenchments in various Government departments under one or other of the hon. Members of the Cabinet. I fail to understand why the question was not taken up in these departments earlier. I do not really know whether these committees have or have not yet enquired into the matter and made proposals for reductions in respect of these departments. If they have made proposals, is it not fair that we should be in possession of that information before we go to a discussion of the budget? I think, Sir, that it is not too late even now for the hon. Member to consider this aspect of the question. Between now and the date of the detailed discussion of the budget, we have at least nine days; and if he is in possession of the proposals of the various committees, he will do well to take us into his confidence and place the information at our disposal. It will no doubt take some time for the Government departments to make up their minds to effect retrenchment, and to say where exactly it should stop. But is it not reasonable for me to ask that we should be taken into confidence so that at the time of the voting of grants we might come to some understanding regarding the question. We are told, Sir, and it is possible, that the committee may meet and finish its work next month and the Government may pass orders; but, coming as we do to the close of the financial year, I think this is the most proper occasion when we should be informed about these recommendations so as to make up our minds on the retrenchment to be carried out.

"Then, Sir, I wish to point out that ever since this Council came into existence, it was its lot to consider only about retrenchments in the various departments. The very first Budget presented to this Council provided for an increase of expenditure abnormal and appalling. It provided for increases of salary alone to the extent of two crores of rupees. It will be within the memory of the House that ever since the first Budget of the Reform Council all sections of the House have been anxious to effect radical retrenchments in all directions. But I am not aware that the resolutions of this House have been carried out in the spirit in which they were expressed. I am aware that a motion was made by the hon. Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar suggesting reduction of salaries of highly-paid gazetted officers. We are yet to know what final action has been taken on it. But, Sir, I should point out that as a result of various other suggestions that have been made, retrenchments have been carried out here and there; but that is nothing compared to the magnitude of the problem that is staring us in the face regarding this question. Sir, I would like to state, before leaving this question, that at the time of the discussion of Grants last year, the Council voted for reductions of grants. I cannot illustrate the point within the short time at my disposal except by taking one or two instances. For instance: under Forest the Council voted for a reduction of 1.06 lakhs; under Civil Justice for a reduction of 35,000 in the case of temporary sub-courts, 25,000 under munsif's courts and a total reduction of a lakh; 1 lakh under Police; and again another 2 lakhs under Jails. With this information before us, let

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us examine the provision made in the Budget for the next year. When as a matter of fact the Council found that the Budget provision last year was excessive and voted for reduction in specific items, now we find increased provision made in the Budget under these items alone. What is the inference to be drawn? Is it that the decision of the Council was not to be acted upon, or that other reasons have sprung up to adopt a different policy? This may require careful examination. I hope it will become clear at the time when we discuss the several demands. I am tempted here to point out that provision has been made even when peace and quiet has been restored in the country for the establishment of an East Coast Reserve at a cost of 75,000 rupees and for buildings we have a provision of 1 lakh of rupees and how much more will be actually incurred as expenditure no one can say.

"Before I leave the question of the Reserved Departments, I wish to point out that we find no increased expenditure for irrigation which is near and dear to all people. So far as the Reserved half is concerned, it is quite possible to provide for increased expenditure under Irrigation projects and the country will welcome any increase of expenditure under this head. So far as this question is concerned, the hon. the Revenue Member, when he was in charge of the department when the question arose, stated that he had projects at heart which would cover a large expenditure and that he would soon see his way to carry out some of them. Then, Sir, the ex-law Member when he introduced his Irrigation Bill said that it was the intention of Government to provide for large irrigation schemes, to provide several crores of rupees spread over a number of years. If we were satisfied with the readiness of the Government to provide large funds for the purpose of carrying out irrigation projects we would never have objected to the introduction of the Irrigation Bill. If, Sir, in spite of the vigorous appeal put forward by the then hon. the Law Member, several of us found it impossible to support the measure, it was because we felt that the Government did not show themselves ready to carry out large irrigation projects, and did not give us any indication as to the large sums of money which would be required. It was for this reason, and not for the reason generally supposed that this Council consisted of large landholders and zamindars who would be affected by the passing of the Bill, that the Bill was opposed. It was opposed because, even on behalf of the ryotwari proprietors, it was supposed that the Bill would not do any substantial good as the Government did not show their readiness not by theories, not by enunciations of policy and principles, not by protestations, but by actual funds placed at the disposal of the Council for the carrying out of irrigation projects. If the introduction was accompanied by a definite provision made out of loan money for irrigation projects, I think that notwithstanding all that has been said, the vote of this Council would have been the other way.

"So far for the expenditure under the Reserved departments. I wish to point out that the time-limit is unfortunately very hard. So far as the Transferred departments are concerned they have not been allowed that share of money for their expenditure which, I think, is their due. What I regret more is that they have been showing a decrease of expenditure. I have calculated the figures. Even excluding the contribution of 348 lakhs which the hon. the Finance Member has referred to, the total expenditure provided according to the Budget estimate last year is 1,336.79 lakhs, out of which the Transferred departments have 448.17 lakhs. That works at 33.5 per cent of

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the whole expenditure even deducting the 348 lakhs; in the revised estimate it came down to 32.4 and again, when we go to the budget estimate of the next year we find the percentage goes to 32.2. Instead of our getting a proportionate increase of expenditure for the Transferred departments we find that there has been a reduction of expenditure. That is, I submit, a state of things which we cannot easily accept or easily tolerate.

"Before I close, I shall only refer to the fact that notwithstanding this diminished expenditure in the Transferred departments I cannot see how the hon. Ministers in charge of the departments can congratulate themselves on the outturn of their work in general. Take for instance education. We find that no provision is made for the opening of many new schools or for the wide expansion of education. Even last year, there was a provision for it in the Budget. Again, under Medical, there is no provision for increase in the number of hospitals, for opening new hospitals, though we have provided for increased allowances and increased salaries. I shall only put this plain question whether in respect of this department during these two and a half years we can lay our hands upon our conscience and say that we have provided for any extension of medical relief. I am sure, Sir, the answer is in the negative."

The House then adjourned at 5-12 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

APPENDIX A.

[Vide page 1958 supra.]

FIRST REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE
AUDIT REPORT FOR 1921-22.

Summary of the proceedings of the first meeting of the Public Accounts Committee of the Madras Legislative Council for 1922-23 held on Friday, the 15th December 1922, at 3 p.m. at the Cabinet Chamber, Fort St. George.

PRESENT:

- (1) The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S. (Chairman).
- (2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu.
- (3) " Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU Garu.
- (4) " ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR Avargal.
- (5) SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB Bahadur.
- (6) M.R.Ry. P. T. RAJAN Avargal.

(The Accountant-General and Mr. E. S. LLOYD, I.C.S., were also present.)

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The Committee considered paragraphs 1 to 28 of the Audit Report on the accounts of the Madras Presidency for 1921-22 prepared by the Accountant-General and passed the following resolutions:—

Paragraph 5.—The Committee understand that the Local Government did not accept the Chief Conservator's appreciation of the work of the officers in question. They would recommend that a statement that the Government considered each of them qualified to hold one of the heaviest major charges be now placed on record.

Paragraph 26.—The Committee endorse the Accountant-General's suggestion that a detailed investigation of the resources and commitments of local bodies be made.

2. The Committee adjourned to resume again at 11-30 a.m. on the 23rd January 1923.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15th December 1922.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

APPENDIX B

[Vide page 1958 supra.]

PAPERS RELATING TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

I

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

(i) *Resolutions of 2nd September 1921.*

(1) The suggestion of Mr. M. C. Raja for providing telephonic connexion at the houses of members living in the city was considered. It was decided that no action was necessary for the present.

(2) The representation made to the House Committee by certain members for provision of accommodation during Council session and boarding and lodging arrangements for mufassal members was also duly considered. It was decided that no arrangements were feasible for some time to come.

(3) It was agreed to recommend the provision of a separate room in the Council Chamber buildings for the use of the Deputy President.

(ii) *Resolutions of 14th November 1921.*

(1) The members desired that special attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the lavatories and tiffin rooms. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao suggested that the utensils in the tiffin rooms should be cleaned with hot water. The Secretary promised to take the necessary action in the matter.

(2) It was pointed out that inconvenience was being felt by the members sitting in the front benches towards the east of the Council Chamber from want of desks similar to those provided for the other benches.

(3) One of the members brought to the notice of the Secretary that there is no room close to the Secretariat Library to enable the members going to it

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for books to retire and read them, the old room provided for this purpose being used now as a tiffin room. The inconvenience from this cause is only temporary and will cease as soon as a library is provided.

(iii) *Resolutions of 18th September 1922.*

(1) Resolved to recommend to Government that the retiring room, library room and strangers' room which have been provided for in Mr. Tasker Taylor's designs should be made available without further delay, as their want is causing considerable inconvenience to the members.

(2) Resolved to recommend that a separate room be set apart for the use of members who desire to bring lunch from their homes.

(3) Resolved to recommend that nine more fans be provided in the Council hall, four over each of the front benches, and one over the Secretary's table.

(4) Resolved that as permitted by His Excellency the Governor, an arm-rest should be provided for the use of the front benches below the gangway.

(5) Resolved to recommend that provision for flushing and for the use of water in the lavatories should be made with the least practicable delay. In this connexion the Committee observed that it was cruel to oblige Indian members to use lavatories of the present type and the Committee also regretted that for two years the Government had not recognized the need for a flushing system.

(6) Resolved that another wash basin should be provided in the lavatory for Indian members.

(7) Moved by Mr. R. K. Shanmugam Chettiyar.

Seconded by Mr. P. T. Rajan. Resolved that the hon. the Finance Member be requested to place before the House for sanction a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 to be placed at the disposal of this Committee for maintaining a catering establishment and making necessary arrangement for lunch and other conveniences.

(iv) *Resolutions of 18th November 1922.*

(1) Resolved that the House Committee should arrange with Komala Vilas or other respectable caterers to supply a satisfactory Indian lunch to members of the Council on the days on which meetings are held.

(2) Resolved that members of the Legislative Council be supplied in the Indian lunch room with one plate, one tumbler and one cup and saucer; and that for this purpose 100 plates (crookery), 100 tumblers and 100 cups and saucers with spoons be procured at a cost of from Rs. 350 to Rs. 400.

Resolved also to apply to Government for a grant of Rs. 400 for the purchase of the above crookery articles in modification of resolution No. (7) passed by the House Committee at its meeting held on 18th September 1922.

(3) Resolved that a clock be put up in the new lounge room and another in the tiffin room.

(4) Resolved that (a) a letter cabinet be provided in the lounge room and that (b) baize screens be provided for the windows.

(5) Resolved to recommend to Government that coir mats should be provided on the floor of the dais in front of the top benches occupied by members in the Council Chamber.

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(6) Resolved that the question of supplying Members of the Legislative Council with embossed stationery be dropped at present.

(7) Resolved to recommend to Government in modification of resolution (3) passed at the meeting of the House Committee held on the 18th September 1922 that as many additional fans should be provided as may be convenient without disturbing the ceiling.

(8) Resolved that the new lounge room be supplied with eight lounges with carpets (footrugs), two Chesterfield couches, four writing tables (not sloping) made of rosewood, four teapots with stationery-rack and ink bottles.

(9) Resolved to recommend to Government the installation of telephones in the new lounge room and in the tiffin room.

II

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

(1) The room to the south of that occupied by the Secretary to the Council has been made available to hon. members as a lounge room and also as additional accommodation for sittings of small Committees. The windows of this room have been provided with screens to keep off the glare.

(2) Four cushion chairs have been provided in this room among other necessary furniture and a clock. A letter cabinet to enable members to pick out with ease private letters addressed to them is also kept there.

(3) Coir mats have been provided on the floor in front of the top benches in the Council Chamber.

(4) A clock has been put up in the luncheon room of the Indian members.

(5) Some improvements in the flooring of the lavatory of the Indian members have been made so as to facilitate disposal of water used for purposes of ablution and an additional wash basin has also been provided.

(6) The purchase of crookery for the Indian refreshment room at a cost of Rs. 400 has been sanctioned by the Government.

III

G.O. NO. 31, LAW (LEGISLATIVE), DATED 25TH JANUARY 1923.

The Secretary, Legislative Council, is requested to forward regularly to the Law (Legislative) Department a copy of the proceedings of every meeting of the House Committee of the Legislative Council and to address the Law Secretary on all matters arising out of the Committee's recommendations. He is requested not to address other departments or officers of Government direct on these matters.

2. The Secretary is also informed that, if changes are to be made in the buildings or their fittings at Government expense, the orders of Government must be obtained in the first instance. He is requested to address the Law (Legislative) Department who will address the Chief Secretary to Government, without whose orders no alterations in the Secretariat buildings (including the Council Chamber) are to be made.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Council.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 3rd March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR AVARGAL, 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.]

Exchange of clerks between the mufassal and the Secretariat.

851 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table a statement showing the progress of action taken by the Government in the direction of exchanging subordinates of mufassal experience with the clerks and superintendents of the Secretariat; and

(b) to state whether there is any difficulty for the Government to arrange for such exchange at the rate of two clerks and one superintendent in each Secretariat during each official year?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is requested to wait for the publication of the annual return to be issued under G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922.

(b) It is a matter of peculiar difficulty, with the pressure of work in the Secretariat, to send out experienced men and replace them by men who have no experience without causing a breakdown in the work.

Translation of darkhast rule into vernaculars and distribution to the ryots.

852 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : With reference to my question No. 402 (c) at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 13th November 1922 regarding the translation of darkhast rules into the vernaculars and their distribution to ryots, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the feasibility of the suggestion?

A.—The suggestion is under the consideration of Government.

Disafforested blocks reserved for depressed classes.

853 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : With reference to my question No. 404 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 13th November 1922 regarding the disafforested blocks reserved for depressed classes in Tindivanam and Tirukkoyilur taluks, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table the information called for?

A.—Extracts from the letters of the Collector of South Arcot furnishing the information desired by the hon. Member are laid on the table.*

* Vide Appendix on page 2026 infra.

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APPENDIX

[Vide answer to question No. 853 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 3rd March 1923, page 2025 supra.]

From the Collector of South Arcot, to the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, No. R.O.C.A.-3-11773-22, dated the 8th September 1922.

Tindivanam taluk.

(a) It is a fact that in three villages portions of disafforested blocks reserved for depressed classes were cultivated by caste Hindus.

(b) Mr. Guppy did not order any penalty or eviction for this taluk. At jamabandi the Revenue Divisional Officer imposed penalty for occupation by caste Hindus.

(c) No objections have been ordered; steps will be taken to assign lands in these blocks to members of the depressed classes when the fields are subdivided into convenient blocks by the Deputy Surveyor.

Letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, No. L. Dis. 11773-22-A-3, dated the 20th September 1922.

Tirukkoyilur taluk.

(a) It is a fact that portions of the disafforested blocks of (1) Swamimalai first bit and (2) Velandai reserved for the depressed classes were entered upon by the caste Hindus.

(b) It is a fact that Mr. Guppy, the then Collector, ordered that heavy penalty and eviction in such cases generally should be resorted to.

(c) Eviction was not ordered in any of these cases in F. No. 1331, as the B memos for the encroachments in question were not submitted in time. But steps will soon be taken to evict the encroachers (caste Hindus) and assign the land to the members of the depressed classes. I may also say that the work of assignment in this direction is in progress.

II

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the Bill to provide for the Reorganization of the Madras University, which was passed into law at the meeting of the Council on the 5th February 1923, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 28th February 1923.

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III

BILLS TO AMEND THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920, AND THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I beg to move, Sir, that Messrs. C. Madhavan Nayar, E. S. Lloyd and N. M. Murray be added to the Select Committees on the Bills to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

IV

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24—cont.

The Budget discussion was then resumed.

Mr. M. NARAYANASWAMI REDDI:—"The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, Finance Member, delivered an illuminating speech the other day while he presented the Budget for 1923-24. As he stated, it is the third and the last Budget of the first combined Government of this Presidency. I am glad to say, Sir, that he has had the opportunity of placing not only this last Budget before this Council but also the other two. The life of this Council is coming to a close, and it is not known how many of us will have the fortune of discussing the next Budget, and I therefore wish to take this occasion as more opportune to thank our hon. friend, Sir Charles Todhunter. He has warm sympathies, sturdy independence, sterling character, charming personality and deep devotion to duty. In him we have a man of proud capacity, and an official who believes in the capacity of non-official members to rise equal to their new responsibilities. He is ever accessible, ever of valuable assistance to the Members of this Council, as pointed out ably by my hon. friend, Dr. Usman, day before yesterday.

"With regard to yourself, Sir, I can say without fear of contradiction that you are the life of the Council (cheers).

"Coming to the Ministers to whose party I have the privilege to belong, I request my hon. friends to join with me in offering them hearty congratulations on the satisfactory way in which they have dealt with the subjects entrusted to their care. I feel proud to say, Sir, that we supported them through and through.

"In view of the approaching dissolution of this Council, the various political parties in the Presidency are busy electioneering. Some of them are already up in arms against the party in power and want to take every opportunity to replace as many of us as possible during the ensuing elections. Articles are being contributed to the newspapers attacking several personalities of our party under the plea of reviewing the work of M.L.Cs. I would only appeal to our popular Ministers, to our veteran champion Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar who has contributed his large-hearted patriotism to the non-Brahman movement, and to other non-Brahman leaders to take up the cause of their friends immediately and see that they are returned in large majority to the Council in the coming elections. The programme for the next Council should be chalked out, and attempts should be made to carry it out to the very letter. Provincial autonomy and

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retrenchment with due regard to efficiency, and the education of the masses should form the fundamental part of the programme. Efforts should follow efforts until victory is achieved. We must be up and doing. "Go slowly" is a counsel which has lost its virtue. May the Almighty shower His choicest blessings on our party and our Ministers, and help them to find their position stronger in the coming Council. United we stand, divided we fall (hear, hear).

"Coming to the Budget, I am sorry to call it a bloating Budget. Budgeting for deficits, Sir, has become the order of the day; and deficits breed contempt. We have this year a deficit Budget of 40 lakhs. No means of securing an equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure seems to have been sought. Every effort should be made to give effect to the policy of retrenchment as the other two ways of wiping off the deficit, viz., additional taxation and reduction in the contribution to the Central Government, are not possible. We have a higher rate of taxation under Land Revenue and Excise than in our sister provinces. The addition of the stamps and court-fees schedule was made in only four provinces out of seven, and Madras is one of the four. Registration fees were increased in two provinces and Madras is the first to impose them. I say, Sir, that Madras has been taxed to its utmost capacity. The high rate of assessment on land is working very hard on the ryot who is only a poor struggling cultivator with his resources all but exhausted and himself more or less involved in debt. The poor soil and the precarious rainfall contribute a maximum quota to his misfortune. I would only request the Government to boldly concede the system of permanent settlement.

"As to Excise, I wish to say one or two words. The curse of drink is on the increase in spite of our herculean efforts. We should devote special attention in the interests of temperance and morality. More effective measures should be taken by the Government to reduce the consumption of liquor. It is true that some reduction has been effected in the number of liquor shops; but in this matter very much depends upon the sites of these shops as well as on their number. Local option is the only remedy for an evil like drink. My hon. friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, while discussing this question in a public meeting held at Chintadripet under the auspices of the Indian Christian Temperance Association a few days ago, clearly indicated that in asking for local option they were really asking for a final total prohibition by a gradual process. Yesterday in his speech he said that he was waiting for an opportunity to introduce a Local Option Bill.

"As to the reduction in the contribution to the Central Government which is our second means to combat the deficit, we were told the day before yesterday that there would be no reduction this year.

"Then, the third and last recourse is to resort to the policy of retrenchment. The hon. the Finance Member has stated that a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed only four months ago, and that their suggestions are awaited. I can only say, Sir, that the gap between the non-official and the official opinion with regard to retrenchment is widening day by day, and I fear it may become a matter of impossibility to bridge it. I do not know what the future may hold in its womb. *Prima facie* superfluous appointments still find their place in the Budget. In the Forest Department, we have an income of 52.52 lakhs with an enormous expenditure of 51.89 lakhs. Under Police, the expenditure has risen to 203.78 lakhs from 195.03 lakhs of last year. Under General Administration, the expenditure is 187.24 lakhs

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as against 91.76 lakhs of the previous year. Even in the Administration of Justice, we find some increase in the expenditure. In page 41 of the Budget, under Detailed Account No. 5-E, only a sum of Rs. 6,000 is provided for the supply of furniture to village courts and chavadis and Rs. 2,200 for other contingencies. This is a very meagre sum if the number of the village courts and chavadis in the Presidency are taken into consideration. The village officers bitterly complain of this. I hope the Government will kindly note this and increase the grant under this head. The hon. the Finance Member when introducing the Budget for last year referred to Chanakya and his *Arthashastra*, and was convinced, I believe, that one of the items that help good government most is dispensing with the services of too many government servants. I am at a loss to know how far this has been brought into practice. Except the dispensing with the services of some poor village officers by the regrouping of villages, I see nothing else.

"I have one point more, Sir, and on this I claim some right to speak. This is with reference to nation-building departments. The expenditure under Education, Medical Relief and Public Health is only 171.85 lakhs, 57.36 lakhs and 23.45 lakhs, respectively, out of a total revenue of 1,683.49 lakhs for the year; and the present value of our investments in industrial enterprises is only 29 lakhs. Good government may not be popular government. Popular government is one that helps popular progress. We see, Sir, the marvellous rise of Japan. The secret is, in Japan, the whole weight of the Government has been thrown on the side of popular progress.

"The last thing I wish to speak about concerns local bodies. I am glad to note the increase in the grants to local bodies. They were 111 lakhs in 1921-22. They were raised to 122 lakhs in 1922-23, and they stand at 140 lakhs for 1923-24. However, I deprecate the policy of doles being given to local bodies. What I want to suggest is that taxes may be divided between Provincial Governments for provincial purposes, which may be described as 'onerous' purposes, and local bodies for local purposes, what may be called 'beneficial' purposes. The Members of the Executive Council should think solely of the provincial requirements, and the Ministers should think of local requirements. In England the local bodies raise taxes of their own, and in addition they receive grants from the Central Government. The bulk of the contribution that comes from land goes to local bodies, the Central Government receiving only a very small amount as land-tax. In France too more than half the contribution from land goes to local bodies. But in India, Sir, the division is in the proportion of 16 to 1, that is, 16/17 goes to the Government and only 1/17 goes to the local bodies. My hon. friends, Sir T. Desika Achariyar, Messrs. Ramalinga Chettiyar, Venkataranga Reddi and Narasimbachari, out of their ripe experience as presidents of district boards, have told us all the difficulties they were confronted within the discharge of their duties for want of funds. My Chittoor District Board has budgeted for a deficit of about Rs. 50,000 this year. Local bodies look after the interests of education, sanitation and communications, and they are of the utmost importance to the people. There can be no nobler gift bestowed on humanity than the two gifts of health and knowledge. These things are allowed to be starved, and, as rightly pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai, it is quite impossible to convince the villager of the benefits that are given to him. The only way in which this knotty problem can be solved is to make local bodies autonomous with resources of their own. Though the Central Government had the generosity of withdrawing all

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minute control over the budgets of Provincial Governments, yet the doctrine of contributions is being enforced rigidly on them. These enforcements are bound to vanish sooner or later, rather sooner than later. When this takes place, Sir, we can declare provincial autonomy; and half of either the land-tax or the excise revenue may be handed over to the local bodies. The hon. the Finance Member raises a series of queries in paragraph 27 of his statement as to the nature of the incumbents working under local bodies and from what resources they have to be paid, expresses his inability to subsidise these things without knowing them definitely and suggests that a fresh inquiry should be made into the whole question by some of the best brains this Council can command (at this stage the gong was sounded).

"I recognize the difficulty of the hon. Member in the matter and desire a committee to be appointed to inquire into and report on the following points:—

(1) Whether the present distribution of resources between the Provincial Government and the local bodies is a fair one;

(2) in what ways the Provincial Government can come to the assistance of the local bodies;

(3) whether any revenue can be assigned as is done in England; and if so, what;

(4) to what extent steadily increasing recurring grants-in-aid can be made from the Provincial Exchequer to the local bodies; and

(5) whether there is any margin for additional local taxation and if so, to what extent?"

Mr. R. T. KESAVALU :—"Mr. President, Sir, as one representing the depressed classes, I should like to make a few observations. It would be my first duty to express my sense of gratitude to the Government for the favour shown to the depressed classes by a special provision made under the heading 'Labour Department' for scholarships, construction of houses for the labourers at Puliyantope and a hostel for the Adi-Dravida boys at Madras; and I also hope that the Government will be able to make a liberal provision of the kind in the next year's budget.

"Sir, though some provision has also been made for the expansion of elementary education, it is disappointing to see that no consideration has yet been given for introduction of free and compulsory education in our province although we are at the third year's budget of the reformed Government. I should like to make a special mention that unless and until compulsory education which is the mass education the country is in need of is brought into force I am afraid, Sir, there will be no hope of these backward communities coming forward. I would, therefore, very particularly draw the attention of the hon. the Minister for Education to this fact.

"Then again, Sir, coming to the question of assignment of darkhast lands to our people, it is also a most important affair to bring to the notice of this House. Though, no doubt, the Government has so far been very sympathetic and considerate towards the depressed classes, yet I would call the attention of the Government to the fact that applications from my people for the assignment of darkhast lands are not favourably disposed of by the district authorities concerned. As far as I know, I can only say that the District Collectors very kindly dispose of them by merely forwarding them to the tahsildars concerned; and here they come to a standstill left to the mercy of revenue inspectors who, after keeping them for several months, return them

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with some objections. Practically, in the Nilgiri district, from where I am coming, there are no suitable lands set apart for the depressed classes. Of course the revenue divisional officer of that district gave me a list of darkhast lands reserved for my people. But I am sorry to say that the lands on that list are far ten or twenty miles away from the town, and full of mountains and rocks. Vast lands which will be of great use to our people are all reserved as forest lands. I would very respectfully appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member that such lands should be disafforested and given to the members of the depressed classes for cultivation or for house-sites. I would also ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether he can promise me that he will spare a few of his hours for a personal inspection of the place along with me during his coming stay at Ootacamund this time. I am prepared to show him the real position of the lands there on the hills. For instance, a small piece of land only of an extent of 20 cents was applied for by my people at Coonoor for a temple purpose and I regret to say that the matter is still with the Government although it was applied for last year.

"Returning to the Budget, Sir, I am sorry to find that no provision has been made for the Coonoor Lawley Hospital though the Government has been contributing to it during the past several years. On several occasions, the Coonoor Municipal Council had passed resolutions to close the hospital unless the Government give a contribution. In the month of November last the Coonoor Municipal Council even passed a resolution to close the hospital and served notices to the hospital staff. This has of course been brought to the notice of the Government already. I need not express the feeling of the people of the town when they heard that the hospital was to be closed. It is the only hospital affording medical aid for the town as well as to the surrounding villages and estates, and I would very earnestly appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government either to take the hospital purely under Government management or to assure the people that he will continue the contribution to maintain the hospital. Sir, when the Government find it difficult to contribute anything to such hospitals they should at least encourage people who volunteer their services to serve as Honorary House Surgeons. This would be a saving on both sides. For instance, one Dr. Ragubir Singh Thackore, L.M. & S., who is practising at Coonoor, seeing the financial position of the hospital and listening to the request of the public of Coonoor recently offered his services as an Honorary House Surgeon in the Lawley Hospital. But the Civil Surgeon in charge of the Lawley Hospital declined to accept the offer, although it was approved by the Surgeon-General. I also remember that my hon. friend, Dr. U. Rama Rao, supported such honorary services in his last year's Budget speech. I trust the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will draw the attention of the Civil Surgeon at Coonoor to this matter.

"I also regret to find that no provision is made for the Coonoor water works for which a scheme was submitted to the Government two years ago. During summer especially the people of Coonoor suffer very much for want of drinking water. Everybody here will be rather surprised to hear of the scarcity of water at a place like Coonoor. There is enough of water on the hills. But owing to want of funds in the municipality the water could not be made available, and I would ask the Government to give some effect to the scheme which was submitted by the Coonoor Municipal Council.

"One more question which I wish to emphasize for the particular consideration of the Government is that at present the claims of the educated

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men of the Adi-Dravida community for high and suitable appointments in the public services are somehow overlooked. The attitude of the Government in this instance appears to be that even graduates from this community should take their chances in the ordinary way as vacancies occur in the services of the lower grade, and no special concession is given to stimulate this backward community. I would only respectfully urge that, in future at least, the claims of such graduates should be specially considered. May I ask the House, Sir, whether the problem of the depressed classes is in any way less important than any problem in the world? I would only ask the House to remember that unless the interests of the so-called depressed classes are safeguarded and until these down-trodden communities are fairly treated and brought to the level of the other communities, I am afraid there will be no peace in the country and there will be no salvation for India, whatever chances may come and go."

Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS:—"Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the lucid manner in which he has presented the Budget to us.

"There are two or three points I wish to speak on. Under Forests, the expenditure for 1923-24 for establishment including general direction works out at 60 per cent of the total. This is too high and should be reduced. Last year, I suggested that smaller and scattered forests might be handed over to the panchayats, thus dispensing with the establishment maintained for them. If this is done, the cost of the establishment will be considerably reduced. A special officer for forming panchayats has been employed. But at the rate at which he is progressing now, he will take years to complete the work. I think the District Forest Officer should also be urged to do the work so that it may be completed quickly.

"There is a sentence in the Budget statement which gives us to understand that the yield under the sandalwood working plans is falling. This reminds me of the experience I had when I was in the Forest service. A forester, ordered to look for dead sandal trees for extraction, reported to his Ranger that he did not find a single dead tree. The Ranger passed on the report to me for orders. As the locality was hilly and the forester fat, I suspected he could not have inspected it. To his surprise, I climbed up the hill and found several dead trees and stumps which yielded four tons of cleaned wood worth Rs. 8,000. Similarly in another locality where one ton was reported as available by another forester I extracted 20 tons worth Rs. 40,000. Of course both the foresters were punished. Forest work entails considerable physical exertion, and subordinates try to avoid it by various excuses which are sometimes false. If the closest supervision is not exercised over them the revenue must necessarily fall. I mention this to show how revenue can be increased sometimes. The Forest Department seems to be fully manned now and if adequate revenue cannot be produced by its officers, their annual increments or promotion should be stopped. This will be one way of retrenching expenditure.

"Under Education the Budget for 1923-24 provides for an increase of 14.15 lakhs over the revised figures for the current year. Thirty per cent of this amount is allotted to the university, 8 per cent for secondary and 82 per cent for primary and 18 per cent for special education. I invite the attention of the hon. the Minister for Education to the fact that secondary education has received inadequate allotment. I am glad that building grants for aided

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colleges and schools have been revised. But the amount of Rs. 3.75 lakhs allotted is quite insufficient. The Education Department seems to have asked for seven lakhs. But the demand has been cut down. Government colleges and schools, however, get 4 lakhs through the Public Works Department for buildings. As aided colleges and schools far outnumber those belonging to Government, it is reasonable and just that the former should get more grants than the latter.

"The Fisheries Department is a minor department. I find that the Finance Committee of this House recommended one of the Assistant Directors to be placed in charge of this department with an allowance of Rs. 250 per month. Why has not this recommendation been given effect to in the budget? I find there is provision made for a Director on Rs. 1,200 rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 1,500. An Assistant Director, if placed in charge, would not cost the Government more than Rs. 1,000 per month. This is a point deserving the attention of the Retrenchment Committee."

SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, during the last two years this House has been functioning, the country has been passing through a very acute financial crisis, and consequently, Sir, the task to which the hon. the Finance Member applied himself was by no means an easy one. Though in spite of his best intentions and most strenuous exertions he has not been able to steer entirely clear of the deficits, he succeeded, it must be said to his credit, in piloting with such consummate care and caution that he has been able to avoid a good number of shoals and quicksands which by the nature of the voyage on which his ship was set, were every moment threatening to wreck it altogether. Therefore, whatever may be the view that we adopt of the budget presented by him we cannot deny the credit due to him for having made the best of a bad bargain. If with the best of intentions and exertions he has not been able to meet the wishes of this House, the blame lies not at his door but at the door of the system of which he is only a representative.

"Sir, whatever might be said about the other activities of this House, no person who has watched the Budget debates here will fail to admit the earnest efforts that have always been made in this House by people of all shades of opinion to try to set the finances of the country in order. But, Sir, in spite of it all, what we see is that there have been deficits after deficits and that we were even driven at the time of the last budget to the painful necessity of enhancing the burden of taxation which the country was so ill-fitted to bear. The result of it all is this: that in spite of the high note of optimism, so cheering and welcome in a moment of despair, struck by the hon. the Finance Member in his Budget speech, we are unable to forget the tales of woe that have been assailing our ears all these years. It is impossible for us to forget that this is the last occasion on which this House sets itself to shape the finances of the country when it is budgeting again for a very heavy deficit. It is true, Sir, that much of our financial difficulty is due to the iniquitous impost which has been the subject of so much criticism here and outside. It is also true, Sir, that many other causes like Non-co-operation, dislocation of trade and so forth have also contributed in some measure to our financial stringency. But, Sir, to my mind, it seems, and I think my friends in this House will agree, that the main cause lies much nearer home, being inherent in the system itself. Sir, all our difficulties have arisen only on account of the fact that we have all along forgotten the golden rule of economy. We

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have lost sight of the fact that the country which suffers its expenditure to outgrow its income, is one which is heading straight towards bankruptcy. Unless we so adjust our things as to succeed in balancing our budget, we cannot feel ourselves secure. But, Sir, there seems to be very little hope of anything being done for achieving this essential purpose.

"Much as the hon. the Finance Member has laboured to present a bright picture of the financial condition of this country before the House, he has still left a dark spot as regards retrenchment. It is said, Sir, that many of

11-30 a.m. the proposals made by the retrenchment committees in other provinces are those which have already been given effect to in this province and that Madras has no further scope to economise for the mere reason that it has never been extravagant. If this is the spirit in which the members of the Retrenchment Committee are going to address themselves to their task, then it is all the more incumbent upon this House to carefully scrutinize every item in the budget at the time of the detailed discussion which will take place shortly. In spite of the strict economies that are said to have been practised in this province for many years, it cannot be denied that the system of administration in this province like that prevalent all over India has got a good deal of overgrowth and parasitic outgrowth which require careful pruning. Taking the budget, we see there are a number of departments which have got an abundance of officers and which are surfeited with staffs. At the same time, there are also some other departments, departments which go to the building up of the nation and which are vitally important to the public weal, and these are allowed to starve. So we see in the budget that there are lean departments alongside of fat departments which indulge in extravagant expenditure. Since my hon. friends who preceded me have all dwelt at length on this point, I do not want to take up the time of this Council and enter into detailed examination of all the facts and figures regarding the various departments. I only wish to draw the attention of the House to one of the departments which has an abundance of staff. This is the Salt department. Here are a number of officers who are quite unnecessary and some of them can be easily removed without detriment to the efficiency of the department. Though some show of economy has been made in some of the departments, yet the fact is obvious that no serious attempt has been made to bring about any substantial reduction. I am but a layman uninitiated into the mysteries of sound finance, but even to my mind it appears that there is yet much room for retrenchment. I cannot recognize a retrenchment as real if some petty clerks and some peons are taken away in certain departments. Real retrenchment consists only in the abolition of highly paid posts. In the Agency tracts what we have hitherto been able to do with the aid of an Assistant Collector has now been entrusted to a District and Sessions Judge. I do not see any reason why such a costly officer as a District and Sessions Judge should be employed for this work. Similarly there are several other departments where work can be turned out equally efficiently with a less costly machinery."

Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I rise to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the very lucid way in which he has presented this year's budget. He has drawn it on entirely new and improved lines of accounting. He has thrown a flood of light on it; but still there are some of us here who would like to have more light thrown on some dark portions of it. He has taken into account all the available sources of income and all the necessary items of expenditure and he has drawn up a budget which closes

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with a deficit of 30 lakhs. The total revenue is 1,363 lakhs and the deficit works out to about 2 per cent of the income. In my opinion this is a very negligible percentage of deficit. No doubt it is necessary that the items of receipts should counterbalance those of expenditure. To achieve this end we have to see what items can be safely reduced and to what extent. The hon. the Finance Member has told us that the Retrenchment Committee is vigorously at work, that the various committees appointed by the hon. Ministers and the Members of the Government have set to work in right earnest and that their labours are not yet over. I hope that the several committees will arrive at such conclusions as will wipe out the whole of our deficit and leave us a surplus.

"I do not know, Sir, on what lines the several committees are proceeding, and I, therefore, venture to place before the House a few suggestions of possible reduction in expenditure. The first and foremost of my suggestions is the abolition of the district of Ramnad. As the House is aware, this district of Ramnad was constituted at a time when the work in the collectorate of Madura was very heavy. In order to give relief to the Collector of Madura, a portion of the Tinnevely district and some portions of the Madura district were taken away and constituted into the present Ramnad district. Since then the work of local bodies has passed into the hands of non-official presidents of district boards, and I can say from my own experience, and I have also heard it said, that the Collector's work is at present reduced by one-third. The Collectors are at present doing only two-thirds of their former work. From the 1st of April next, the working of the new system of income-tax will come into force and the Collectors will find their work still further reduced. Especially in the district of Ramnad, the work will be very light when the income-tax work is transferred to another agency. I think there will not be enough work for a full-time Collector in Ramnad. The work of the Collectors of Madura and Tinnevely also will be considerably reduced though not to the same extent as that of the Collector of Ramnad. I, therefore, suggest for the consideration of this House that along with the transfer of income-tax work to another agency, we should try to minimize the expenditure incurred over these three districts. I would suggest that the taluks of Srivilliputtur and Sattur, which originally formed portions of Tinnevely district, should be restored to that district. From conversation with the villagers, I can confidently say that they are very anxious to get back to their former district. The other portions of the Ramnad district which comprise mostly, if not solely, of Ramnad and Sivaganga zamindaris, may be transferred to the Madura district. (A voice: No, no.) An hon. friend tells me that the people do not want it. I have been for over two years in the Ramnad district, and, if on that account I can speak with first-hand information and with some authority, I say that the *Nattukottai Chettis* of the Ramnad district do want a transfer to the Madura district. They would long ago have succeeded in achieving their object, but somehow or other events have happened against the success of their efforts. Now as a measure of economy, we can transfer that portion of the Ramnad district comprising the zamindaris of Ramnad and Sivaganga to the Madura district and the taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur could be added on to the Tinnevely district. In that way, it is possible to curtail the expenditure to the extent of one-twenty-fifth of the expenditure now incurred on the administration of the Presidency. Along with the abolition of the Ramnad district and its redistribution between the other two districts, I would also mention for the

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information of the House, that the Revenue Divisional Officers and the Tahsildars would find their work considerably reduced owing to the transfer of the income-tax work to another agency. I think it would also be possible to abolish at least one division and two taluks by a reshuffling of the same.

"The second suggestion that I wish to make is the abolition of so many intermediary officers. We have got for instance, the Superintending Engineer in the Public Works Department, the Deputy Inspector-General in the Police Department, the Deputy Commissioner in the Salt and Abkari Department, and the Conservator of Forests in the Forest Department. At present, they do not seem to serve any useful purpose. They merely serve the purpose of a post office transferring correspondence from their subordinate officers to their superior officers. If it is contended that such a system is really of use, then why is it not adopted in the other branches of administration? We have got no such intermediary officers, for instance in the Revenue Department, in the Education Department, in the Jails Department or in the Judicial Department.

"The third suggestion that I wish to make is that some means should be found for the abolition of a certain number of courts. There is now a proposal to open some more sub-courts and munsif's courts. I have discussed with several judicial officers and they are all of opinion that the present period of recess allowed to them is much too long. At present, the District Munsifs get six weeks' recess, the Sub-Judges and the District Judges get eight weeks, and the High Court Judges nine weeks. The officers whom I consulted are all of opinion that one month would be amply sufficient to recoup their health and they would like that the period in excess of one month should be granted to them as privilege leave on full pay to be taken at a time when they consider it necessary. In this way, the establishment will not be kept without work for such a long period as is the practice at present. I earnestly commend this suggestion for the consideration of this House.

"Another suggestion which I would like to make to the House is the discontinuance of frequent transfers of officers from one corner of the Presidency to another. Every week, we see in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, that officers are transferred from one end to the other thereby entailing heavy expenditure to the State under the head of travelling allowances. Strange to say that the officers do not remain long in the station to which they are transferred before they get back to the original station from which they were transferred. This is no exaggerated statement and I am prepared to substantiate it by facts and figures. I can quote chapter and verse in support thereof. My suggestion is that the whole Presidency should be subdivided into a number of linguistic areas and transfers should be made within that particular linguistic area if it is considered absolutely necessary that an officer should not remain in a particular station for more than the scheduled period.

"In the Revenue Department, there is a lot of work which is being done and which has to be done both by the subordinate agency and by the superior officers. If more devolution of work can be effected, it is likely that room can be found for dispensing with some of the lower subordinate officers. These are the points of retrenchment on which I wanted to speak.

"There are three or four items, Sir, for which I would like that more provision is made in the budget. The first is as regards the trunk roads. Trunk roads are those which start from

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one district and pass through intervening districts to another district. It must be admitted on all hands that the charge on such trunk roads is one of national importance. Now, when the Local Boards Act was on the anvil, I remember that the hon. Member then in charge undertook the management of these roads from provincial revenues. It was Mr. Madhava Raja, who was then the President of the Malabar District Board, and who still continues to be its President, who in the Select Committee suggested that as the District Board was always maintaining a costly engineering establishment, this work should be given over to them and that they would be in a position to carry it out better and cheaper. The suggestion was a good one and was accepted, but in the allotment of funds the local boards were given only Rs. 500 per mile. From my experience of my district, I can say that the amount that is actually being spent on the trunk roads averages between Rs. 800 and Rs. 900 per mile. Where then are we to go for the difference between the Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 on the one side and the Rs. 500 on the other? Either we shall not be able to do the work satisfactorily, or we shall have to indent upon other sources.

"This is the case not only with the trunk roads, but also with the District Educational Council. This is an item which has come into existence recently. Last year, we had to cut short the amount which would otherwise have been sanctioned to the several institutions with respect to their progress reports submitted by the inspecting officers. The amount provided for this year is Rs. 27,05,000, but for the next year it is only 28 lakhs. I think this sum is not quite sufficient. If the hon. the Minister will raise it to Rs. 30 lakhs, it will for some time meet the ends of the case.

"Then the third point is with regard to the charges on Headquarter Hospitals. Government have rightly come to our rescue and taken over their management all over the Presidency. They have also taken charge of the headquarter hospitals for women, but there is still one hospital which the District Board is maintaining at a heavy cost at Tinnevely and for which I would like the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government would provide funds for being taken charge of by the Government.

"In connexion with loans, I find that two lakhs have been provided for the Podanur-Pollachi line extension. I would suggest that it may be increased by three or four lakhs as, very shortly, we shall have to come up before the Government for providing the necessary funds for the extension of the Tinnevely-Tiruchendur line to Kulasekarapatam which has just been opened by His Excellency Lord Willingdon. It has been admitted by all responsible people that the extension is absolutely necessary and that it will pay its way.

"There are two or three points which I consider deserve commendation. They have provided eight lakhs for the State Aid to Industries and 2 lakhs for the University. There was one other point about which I was anxious to get information. From reports in the mufassal I heard that in connexion with payments to their establishment the Government intended to revert to the old system of the grade scale. That is a bad system which everybody who has paid any attention to it knows. On the other hand, time-scale is the one which every employer of labour ought to countenance, and I see now that no attempt has been made to revert to the old system which has been condemned.

"With these few remarks, I resume my seat."

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Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"Sir, this is the third Reform Budget with which we are dealing. I thank the hon. the Finance Member for his frank and full exposition of the facts and figures relating to it. We are again face to face with a deficit budget: we have lauded ourselves in a deficit of 40 lakhs. Whatever specious and ingenious reasoning the hon. Member may use in shuffling and manipulating the figures in order to cover or explain away the present state of things, there is the glaring fact that an expenditure has exceeded our revenue by about 40 lakhs even according to the calculations of the hon. Member. I quite agree with the Member that 'all sound finance abhors deficit and that it is the primary duty of a responsible Government to make the normal revenue cover the normal expenditure'. I share the regret with him that he has not managed to wipe off the deficit during all these years. The hope entertained of a partial remission of the iniquitous impost by the Government of India has been blasted.

"In these circumstances, the only two remedies available to us are (1) to increase our revenue by taxation and (2) to diminish our expenditure by retrenchment. All proposals for increased revenue are primarily the concern of the Executive Government, and they should emanate from them in the first instance. I agree with the hon. Member that there is little or no margin for additional taxation except probably the proposed amusement tax. But I cannot understand the hon. Member when he says 'we have not got the amusements upon which to impose them'.

"Now that increased taxation is out of question, we have to concentrate all our attention on retrenchment. The recent disturbed condition of our Presidency, the increased salaries bill and the Reforms have materially added to our burden in recent years. The only solution for the difficulty lies in our adopting drastic retrenchments in the various lines of activity. When the first Reform Budget was introduced for the year 1921-22, it was held out that the pruning knife would be rigorously applied to all unnecessary expenditure under the personal supervision of His Excellency, and in fact circulars were issued to the several heads of departments asking them whether they could not possibly cut short their expenditure by about 20 per cent. We expected mighty results from this undertaking; and some of us were even induced to give up our proposals for the appointment of a retrenchment committee. But at the end of the year we were keenly disappointed when we found that nothing practically had been done in the matter. We then moved for the appointment of a comprehensive committee on the lines of the Inchcape Committee. Unfortunately, the Government opposed the motion and finally agreed to the proposal to convert the present Finance Committee into a retrenchment committee. I have a great respect for the Finance Committee as now constituted; but the point is that a committee constituted for a special and limited purpose of scrutinizing expenditure in the Presidency can hardly be expected to cope with the situation. What we really want is a committee consisting mostly of non-officials with powers to consider and advise as to what policies should be adopted in order to effect savings in any particular department. We are told that certain official committees are at work—a committee in connexion with survey and resettlement operations, another to consider the reduction of civil courts (though we find provision for increased civil courts in the present budget), and so forth. These are still deliberating, and the results are not known as yet. An official body, however experienced and eminent it may be, will hardly suffice for the purpose. Officials are used to certain standards of expenditure which they

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cannot easily persuade themselves to give up. Besides, we cannot expect from them the same impartiality, broad outlook and freedom from prejudice as we have reason to expect from a non-official body. Moreover, they cannot possibly consider the policies underlying any particular department. Any committee we may appoint should be required to examine the principles on which the present expenditure is based—for example, how far the Indianization of services can be effected as a measure of economy, whether it is necessary to maintain the swollen and bloated strength of the present Madras Cabinet and of the High Court, the amount of salaries and so forth.

"It is a notorious fact that our administration is top-heavy in every respect. We are probably paying the highest salaries in the world. Unfortunately certain matters, viz., the strength, the condition, the pay and emoluments of the members of the all-India services have been rendered inviolable under the present rules with the result that we have to fall back upon the subordinate and provincial services for all our proposals of retrenchment. The retrenchment so far effected has seriously affected the minor services. It has led to the abolition of a peon or a clerk or a village officer where two or more existed. These proposals, I am constrained to observe, touch only the fringe of the question. The reduction of the travelling allowances has hit the provincial services very hard and has led to serious discontent among them. I heard of a proposal to abolish the time-scale in the case of provincial and subordinate officers and to revert them to the old graded system. I seriously warn the Government about the grave consequences of a measure like that which cannot but lead to serious heart-burning among the provincial and subordinate ranks who form the backbone of the present administration. It is a matter for great pity that it has not been found possible to arrive at definite conclusions on this subject just in time to give effect to these proposals in the budget now presented to the Council. We hear the lamentable cry from the Finance Minister, 'as to what the net result of our committees of inquiries will be it is ill to prophesy'. It is also stated that it is too early to state when the committees will complete their work. We are asked to believe that it took the Accountant-General not less than seven months to compile a complete list of our old friend, viz., the allowances. We are told that the Retrenchment Committee is assisted by one Secretary and one Joint Secretary who on account of their work as Members of the Indian Legislative Assembly could not spare much of their attention to the present task. The position taken up by the hon. Member is hardly convincing. The question remains what were the reasons for the re-appointment of officers who were otherwise busy and who could not spare any time for the supreme and important task of the day.

"In this connexion I may observe that the Government have been pursuing a policy of extravagance during the past few years. They have started all kinds of new schemes at a time when there was no unavoidable necessity for them. The deficit of 40 lakhs is to be spent on new schemes, which, we are told, cannot be dispensed with without breaking down certain departments. Some of these seem to be useful; but most of them are unnecessary in the present critical state of our finance.

"The Government have carried the art of creating high appointments to a fine art. As I said, the Reforms necessitated certain new appointments but a number of fancy appointments have been created during the time to serve as comfortable berths for members of a particular service. Not a Bill

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passes through the Legislative Council without the provision of some new appointment. I can mention a host of them, worse of it, all this is done just at a time when we have to set our House in order.

"The expenditure under the Police Department is going up by leaps and bounds. All sorts of extravagances are committed in the name of law and order. Nearly one-sixth of our revenue is spent on the Police Department.

"We are treated to new schemes like the formation of a body of military police on the East Coast, the building of quarters for them, a police housing scheme, an increase of the strength of the armed reserves in Salem and North Arcot and the restoration of the training school at Vellore. One is not convinced about the necessity of the inauguration of such new schemes when the whole country, even according to the hon. Member, is in a serious financial condition. It is not too late even now. The Government should seriously consider the desirability of appointing a comprehensive retrenchment committee with wide powers.

"Our thanks are due to the hon. the Finance Member for drawing our attention forcibly to the chaotic condition of our local bodies. Hon. Members are aware how pitifully unequal our resources are to the manifold duties cast upon us and also what little room there is for local taxation in our country. As was pointed out by the late Mr. G. K. Gokhale, the wonder is not that the local bodies are doing so ill, but that they are doing so well. We have been persistently raising the cry that their resources should be augmented, that these fleeting and uncertain money doles of the Government should cease and that they should be assured of a definite and certain income by assignments of more revenue by the Government.

"It is necessary to examine the question of the relations of local and provincial finance and lay down a clear statement as to where the line of demarcation should be drawn between the spheres of local and provincial duties and finance. The Local and Municipal Acts passed recently do not grapple with the difficulty. The local bodies are not yet relieved of the mendicant position of asking the Government for money-doles at every turn.

"With the object of stabilising the local finance, I had the honour to move, in 1920, for the appointment of a Financial Relations Committee which consisted of experienced and representative members some of whom had spent most of their lives in the solution of these local and municipal problems. They submitted an elaborate report on the matter, about the end of 1920, and made a series of recommendations which, if only they had been carried into effect, would have gone a long way towards the alleviation of the sufferings of the local bodies. But the Government in their financial stringency shelved the whole matter and threw the report into the waste-paper basket. Now, after a lapse of two years, the Finance Member finds some difficulty in following it, though he acknowledges that it forms an admirable treatise containing a mine of suggestion on the subject. I, for my part, welcome his proposal that this most difficult of the many difficult questions should be tackled by the best brains which this House can command.

"In this connexion, I may crave the liberty to condemn the system of post-payments started in the case of the repairs to trunk roads, for this cannot but lead to the serious dislocation of the local finance. The local bodies

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cannot borrow; nor can they steal. Where can they get the money necessary for making advances for these repairs? I heartily endorse the recent recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee that a scheme for periodical advance payments of Government contributions and possibly of landcess should be worked out in order to ensure that the Boards have sufficient funds at their disposal during the early months of the year and that they are not tempted to overdraw their balances in the hope of recouping them in the later months.

"While pursuing the same matter, I may refer to the unfair distribution of a grant of 17 lakhs among the local boards. The unfair distribution of this grant on an one-fourth basis led to the anomaly of the richer Boards requiring little or no help getting more, and the poorer district boards like those of the Ceded districts getting less. This was pointed out by me as early as 1918 with the result that a compromise was arrived at, under which the Government, while stereotyping the distribution of the grant on the one-fourth basis, made grants to the poorer district boards as well. These grants were in force for about three years, but were suddenly discontinued. What reasons induced the Government to set aside this arrangement, which was arrived at after a long and strenuous discussion, we are not in a position to understand. What is more, it is now notified, in paragraph 165 of the memorandum, that even this grant which was originally intended to add to the general resources of the district boards will be converted, with effect from 1st April 1923, into a half-grant towards the maintenance of second-class roads and that the balance will be utilized towards the formation of a staff of district health officers. I take this opportunity to protest against this unauthorized deviation of the original grant.

"Having made these general remarks about the Budget, I may be allowed to make a few observations about some specific heads. Under the head of Land Revenue, credit has been taken for about 6.50 lakhs on account of resettlements in the districts of Anantapur and Bellary. I cannot for a moment see the possibility of introducing the new rates in the coming *fasti* when famine conditions threaten these districts. I should like very much that the Government makes due provisions for the suspension and remission of land-revenue in these districts.

"In the case of stamps and court fees, there is a fall of about 20 lakhs and 16 lakhs respectively in the revised estimate for the year 1922-23. I do not believe this fall is due to the low condition of trade. I warned at the time of the passing of the Bills that the proposed high rates would rather retard the revenue than increase it. My prophecy has come out to be true. It will be desirable for the Government under the circumstances to revert to the old rates, and give up 'taxing justice'."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Does my hon. friend suggest that the revenue is less than it was before?"

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"My point is that it has not fulfilled the expectations of the hon. Member. The credit taken in the present budget under the head of stamps and court fees cannot fulfil the sanguine expectations of the hon. the Finance Member. Turning now to the increase of rates for registration, these are most unjustifiable as it has been long recognized that the Registration Department should not be made a source of income.

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"Under the head of Forest, I may say that the petty prosecutions and annoyances are on the increase; the income under the head of fixed penalties has risen from 4.35 in the Budget for 1922-23 to 6.30 lakhs in the revised estimate for the same year."

At this stage the gong was sounded and the hon. Member resumed his seat.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"Mr. President, I beg to confine the few remarks that I have to make to the Medical Department, which is supposed to be a Transferred Department and as such the hon. Minister who is in charge of it is supposed to have full control. Everyone here is aware that it is officered by members of the Military Department. Although the Budget shows that 8 lakhs have been provided, 3 and odd lakhs out of these go towards the pay of Military officers. This does not in any way represent the amount of control or the policy or the prevailing spirit which runs through the department. In fact, we shall find, when we compare the different departments of the Government, that the Medical Department is the one in which the least number of Indians, or practically none, is allowed into the higher grades of the service. Of the 30 highest appointments in the Madras City, only two are held by Indians, and even they have the sword of Democles hanging over their heads. They are always under an apprehension as to what awaits them. Even the other day, attempts were made to shift them and replace them by European officers. But, thanks to the energy and persistence of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, they have been kept on. Barring these two exceptions all the other officers, viz., Professors of the Medical College and all the Surgeons and Physicians in the hospitals are Europeans."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"May I say, Sir, that there are altogether not less than 18 higher appointments held by Indians?"

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"I am speaking only of the Madras City. Last year the hon. the Minister promised that some attempt would be made to get from the Secretary of State permission to replace 20 of these officers by Indians and the Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State for India came down all the way here to confer with the Surgeons-General in this matter. He told me and several other members during an interview in Calcutta that not less than 40 per cent of the higher appointments would be reserved for Indians. Nothing has been done so far although more than 18 months have rolled on. On the other hand signs are in evidence to show that the hand of progress has been set back and that the Indian officers are being kept down. Some have been asked to take leave, while others have been told to hold themselves in readiness for being replaced by Indian Medical Service officers."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The hon. Member said that the clock of progress has been set back. I wish to know why he says so. The fact is that provincial officers remain where they were."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"I shall communicate that information later on. I do not want to spend away the few minutes that are now allowed to me in supplying the information."

"My next point is with regard to the policy of indianization that is followed in the department. I hope indianization will be something of a

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reality in this department. If the hands of the hon. Minister are tied with reference to the Indian Medical Service officers, I do not see any reason why he should not exercise full discretion in the matter of the lower appointments. For instance, take the case of the nurses? Most of the proposals for grants, at any rate 80 per cent of them, which emanate from the Surgeon-General, go to provide for English nurses. The Christian private hospitals maintained by missionary bodies are training their own nurses. There are no nurses available for district and local fund hospitals. Well, whose fault is it? Is it not the duty of the head of the Medical Department to foresee these difficulties and provide for them? What has the department done during the last three years? No attempt has been made to draw into the nursing profession respectable women, who, certainly, are not wanting. The Queen Mary's College is now full, and, if facilities are afforded, Indian women will be ready to come and take their part in the nursing profession. The Military officers at the head of the department do not realize the exact difficulties and delicacies of the private life of Indian ladies. It is necessary that if a proper solution is to be found for this important problem, a separate hospital should be set apart chiefly officered by ladies. I would go further and say that only where Indian ladies are not available, English ladies' hospitals should be set apart for the training of nurses. In the General Hospital where there are Indian nurses of all kinds and classes there is no housing accommodation worth mentioning for the Indian nurses as compared with the palatial residences in the third storey given to the European nurses. These are distinctions and disparagements which will certainly not make any respectable Indian woman take to the nursing profession. If you expect Indian women to become nurses, better conditions should be brought into existence and they must be treated as fairly as English ladies. Pardon me for saying so. It is not a question of racial distinction at all. Even if the whole of the Indian Medical Service department were officered by Indians and all the nursing establishments in the General Hospital consisted of Indian women I would still object if the Government are going to keep all sorts of allowances, and pay them according to military rates. Let it not, therefore, be taken that I am aiming at any racial question.

"I thought that only the pay of the Indian Medical Service officers was non-votable, but I see from the budget that their allowances also are non-votable. Going through the budget relating to the Civil Medical department, I find that these people draw all sorts of allowances. For instance, the Surgeon in charge of the Royapetta Hospital gets Rs. 1,750 as pay, Rs. 200 as staff allowance, Rs. 200 as teaching allowance for the Medical College, Rs. 200 for superintending the sub-assistant surgeons attached to the hospital and Rs. 50 as clinical allowance, besides his remuneration for post-graduate training and teaching the sanitary students and for being a medical examiner for the University. In addition to all this, he has a full and unlimited scope for private practice. The question of allowances for all the departments was discussed yesterday in this House. The allowance of the Medical department is large and varied and it ought to be carefully examined. It may be that this Government is powerless in this matter; if that is so, the Government of India should be moved to do something in this direction. So long as these extravagant rates of pay prevail for the higher grades, the lower grades cannot have any chance of recognition."

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"An attempt was made some years ago to introduce the system of honorary physicians and honorary surgeons. If that system is introduced there will be many ready to serve without any remuneration provided they get the advantage of making themselves professionally useful to their brothers and sisters. The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will, by so doing, make his name more immortal than by founding a women's medical school.

"I want to say a few words about hook-worm investigation. Last year I ventured to point out to this House that that was unnecessary; but in spite of my protest, the House passed Rs. 15,000 for the purpose. This year it is proposed to increase the grant to Rs. 25,000. What is it that has been done on this subject during the last so many years? This investigation was carried on years ago by various members of the department, and even my humble self was engaged for the purpose in the year 1914 when I was Civil Surgeon of Cannanore.

"We are told that 95 per cent of the people in India are infected with this disease. If this be the case, it requires no special treatment at all. It is practically a normal condition. Therefore I beg to suggest that the amount allotted for this purpose should be cut out, and the work should be delegated to the King Institute of Preventive Medicines, which has of late been staffed on a very lavish scale, as it is the duty of that institute to investigate into the causes of diseases that can be prevented."

Sri Meka V. APPARAO Bahadur:—"The hon. the Finance Member deserves more praise than blame. Something was said about the juggling of figures, but since he has not hidden anything from the Council, I believe he cannot be blamed. He said that 40 lakhs were the actual deficit; but thinking perhaps that the hon. Members would be frightened he has shown the way to make the deficit appear as six lakhs dead-weight debt. Members have got to thank him for this, particularly, as we, who are on the eve of a new election, will find it hard, or rather awkward, to go back to our constituencies and say to them: 'Please vote for me; I am the Member who put the latest tax on you'. After all I submit that good State-craft is consummate juggling.

"As regards retrenchment, my feelings are those. Retrenchment must be made where it can be usefully made. But to make it where it can be usefully made is something beyond our power. I beg to submit to the notice of the Council the point raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Ratnaswami, as regards the numerical strength of the Cabinet. I am one who is not willing to surrender my privileges—privileges granted by the Reforms, the privilege of three popular Ministers. If at any time the strength of the Cabinet is to be reduced, it must be in the Reserved Half and not in the elected.

"As regards the general administration, I was first alarmed at seeing a large increase under the head of 'Legislative Council'. Will it be presumptuous or selfish to suggest the way, the only way to avoid that expenditure? I am certain that it will be the most unnecessarily incurred because most of our hon. Members are certain to be returned to their old seats with honour.

"Then, as regards forests, I submit that there are large extents of them under private management, owned by private gentlemen, which are working at a gain and are sources of income to those gentlemen. I do not see the

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reason why the Government forests also should not be worked at a profit. After all, these private individuals too are managing their forests under Government forest regulations.

"As regards the educational department, the state of affairs is as it should be; the expenditure is in excess of the income. Is it too much to hope that we shall soon see the figure of 1.42 lakhs of credit against secondary education abolished? In that way we shall be doing something more than our sister State, the Mysore State, which gave free primary education under the able guidance of my hon. friend, Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. Education may be made available to poorer classes, especially the Adi-Dravidas. In this connexion I beg to bring to the notice of the hon. the Education Minister a telegram I received yesterday from the Adi-Dravida community of Masulipatam asking for a provision for a Adi-Dravidas' hostel.

"The last point I wish to refer to is 'Civil Works', particularly the item of expenditure for the improvement of the river Cooum. As soon as we come out of the Central station, the first thing that we meet is the evil smell of the Cooum river. I hope before long we shall have nothing of this evil smell, but rather great boats of local trade and pleasure parties sailing up and down the Cooum river. I request the hon. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar to gird up his loins to remove the Cooum evil."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Before dealing with the general features of the Budget, I would like to place before the House some minor points. In view of the time-limit that has been fixed, some of us find time to deal with only portions of the Budget, and there is very little time to deal with certain particular points that we have in our minds.

"In connexion with the resignation of Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar, I requested the hon. the Leader of the House to make a statement as to the circumstances leading to it. It was done on public grounds; and Cabinet resignations have never been treated as confidential in any country. It is usual for hon. Members to publish the reasons for any resignations. I hope it will not be said that the hon. the Leader of the House is not in possession of all facts bearing on this particular matter; for, if that plea is advanced, we would like to know what else is the function of the Leader except to be in possession of all the facts concerning the Cabinet of which he is one of the members.

"I find that 34 lakhs have been budgeted for as compensation for losses sustained in connexion with the Mappilla rebellion. I wish to know whether any portion of it is going to be used for writing off the loans already granted, or whether this amount is going to be utilized for giving the much needed relief to local boards. I am informed—I cannot vouch for it—that Government has resolved to take a donation of half a lakh of rupees."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask, Sir, whether half a lakh is being given to the Government?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I am not prepared to say that it has been given to the Government. But I do want to know whether the hon. the Home Member is in possession of any knowledge bearing on this question. If he has any information that there is no foundation for the tale, we shall be deeply grateful. Information has also reached me—and here again I speak subject to correction—that a propaganda is going on to make Mappilla women

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go and join their husbands. On this subject the public would like to receive some enlightenment. Nobody would rejoice more than myself to hear that this information of mine is absolutely unfounded.

"Report has it that Mr. Hitchcock is writing out a history of the Mappilla rebellion. One would wish to know whether Mr. Hitchcock is the best person possible to write a history. Also, what are the facts on which this history is going to be based, when even the military despatches connected with the rebellion have not been published, though it is now over one year since the Martial Law was withdrawn. I unhesitatingly feel that money spent on this task will be money wasted; and if a proper history has to be written, it must be under better auspices, and not the preparation of a pamphlet in order to justify the spending of the public money.

"Then again, Sir, it has been said by more than one person in responsible position that the conduct of the police in Malabar at the beginning of the rebellion is open to very serious question."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask, Sir, who the responsible persons are?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"They have stated in the press, and on the platform."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I ask, Sir, who they are."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I am not prepared to say more than that I do wish to ask whether it is not a fact that, in several instances, when fighting the rebels, the police—I do not say, ran away—did not face them, and whether it is a fact that in some cases they even surrendered their arms. I shall be glad here again to know that there is no foundation for this aspersion. Of course, in the strength, and standard of excellence of the force we are deeply interested; and it is not the desire of any one of us to say anything in the least offensive on that matter. People have spoken in praise of the conduct of the police force under the able guidance of Mr. Thomas. But I have also been told that in several of the engagements in the interior, the police force did not conduct themselves with credit. If there is any truth in this statement, I think a searching enquiry should be made, because the public must be satisfied whether the police force was or was not in an efficient condition.

"Lastly, there is one more point about the Mappilla rebellion, I have been told that the present Collector has been trying—I do not know whether he has issued an order—to discourage the holding of meetings in connexion with tenancy legislation. I trust that any such move on the part of the Collector will not be countenanced by the Government. The elections are coming, and we ought to have the fullest possible freedom to hold meetings to solve the economic problem of Malabar. The tenancy movement is not in any way antagonistic to the Government. These tenants are loyalists, and the legislation only aims at making all the tenants firm loyalists."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I just enlighten the hon. Member on a certain point, Sir?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think that any hon. Member can interrupt any other hon. Member for the sake of enlightening him. Hon. Members can interrupt if they wish to raise points of order or to give personal explanation. If any other enlightenment is to be given, it can be given outside the House."

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12-30 p.m. Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I am glad, Sir, that you have protected me against this uncalled for enlightenment.

"With reference to the university, 2.15 lakhs have definitely been earmarked—65 lakhs for professors and libraries and the rest for laboratories and workshops. My hon. friend, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar, dealt with this subject at great length yesterday, and I wish to ask one or two questions on this point. The first is, if this amount is earmarked in this manner, what is going to be left for the starting of the new organization contemplated by the Bill which we all passed? If the whole of the 2.15 lakhs of rupees is going to be earmarked for these purposes, then it means that not a single rupee is to be set apart for the reorganization of the new university. But, according to one of the provisions, the Bill we have passed is to be brought into effect within three months from the date on which it becomes an Act. On this subject we do not want merely an explanation but an assurance from the hon. the Minister for Education that this sum will be chiefly employed for the purpose of reorganizing the university. What we have to do is to transfer the capital account to the revenue account. This will be agreed to by the Members of this House even though the deficit may grow larger.

"Then, Sir, a word about the Andhra University. When the new Bill was under discussion, people in the Telugu country naturally grew nervous and they asked the hon. the Minister for Education, as well as those who were associated with him in connexion with the Bill, for an assurance that the prospects of their university would not suffer on account of it. Such an assurance, if I am not mistaken, was given. Under these conditions, therefore, I would press on my friend, the hon. the Minister for Education, either to find some money for that purpose immediately or to give us an assurance that he will come with a supplementary demand, for which, though we object to it on principle, yet in this instance we shall be rather glad to vote. (Hear, hear). If this undertaking to the Andhra people is not carried out—and the Andhra University was under discussion long before the reorganization of the Madras University came up before us—it will be something like a breach of trust.

"Now, I wish to say a few words on the general aspects of this Budget. Last year, the hon. the Finance Member appeared before us like a doleful pessimist. The picture he then painted was dark, and the impression left on us was that, unless something came to our help, our situation would be well nigh deplorable. This year, I do not know for what reasons—the prospects of elections might be one—he has assumed the character of an electioneering optimist. He tells us that our finances are not so bad as they were supposed to be, and that after all our deadweight debt will be six lakhs. For the following reasons, I cannot subscribe to his optimism. The first is that this year's deficit follows a series of other deficits, and that deficits have become practically the order of the day. As against the hon. the Finance Member, I shall quote what Micawber said in *David Copperfield*. He said:

Income £1, expenditure £1-0-1; the result is bankruptcy and disorder. Income £1, expenditure £0-19-11; the result is opulence, comfort and honour.

We have been living beyond our income, and unless we are able to bring down our expenditure within the limits of our income, we cannot be said to be prosperous. It is admitted, secondly, that the expenditure on education, one of the most important departments under the Ministerial charge in the

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Madras Presidency, is less perhaps than that in the other presidencies. Thirdly, even the current years' deficit, according to the revised estimate, is less than the actuals; for we have not taken the proceeds of special taxation into consideration. One of our first attempts should be to see that this taxation is abolished as soon as possible; and when this is done, we shall not be in a very much better position. If the proceeds of the special taxation are deducted, it will be found that the deficit of the present year is far more than 17 lakhs.

"Then, I agree with my friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiar in thinking that there have been defects in accounting. The 29 lakhs are supposed to be the present value of the investigations made. Now, my hon. friend, the Finance Member, brought in the analogy of a business firm. If you are going to use the analogy of a business firm, these 29 lakhs ought to be regarded as capital expenditure. With respect to certain other items, the capital expenditure is taken as 27 lakhs and this particular item relates to the same period. Why we refuse to allow this to be reckoned as capital account is this: (The assets may be put at 29 lakhs). They may fall in value next year and their value day by day will be far less. Assets are practically a feature depending on market quotations, whereas the capital liabilities are a fixed amount.

"Then for such things as the Andhra University, nothing has been provided. The optimism of my hon. friend will be justified only if through retrenchment and other measures he can wipe off the present deficit of 40 lakhs altogether during the year. I rather fancy that he spoke of achieving some such thing. If through reductions in the Police, Salt, Forest and other departments, and also in allowances, he can balance the Budget—that is to say, in the revised estimate—then, indeed, his optimism will be justified. Otherwise, we shall still continue to be in our present position, and we shall never be able to find money for the development departments.

"One word more, Sir. The hon. the Finance Member gave us a splendid picture of what he regarded as a most convincing view of the part that the loans play in State finance. But I do not know whether he drew the moral and announced a policy. We are all agreed in thinking that, as far as possible, permanent utilities should be carried through by loans and should be part of capital expenditure. In this respect all Governments in India have been following a very conservative policy compared with Governments elsewhere. I do not see why Governments in India with their large incomes should be so nervous about debts. My own feeling is that if we are anxious to carry out the educational and other schemes which involve large expenditure and which will be directly advantageous to the people, the money should be raised by loans. If my hon. friend, the Finance Member, adopts the policy of raising loans for the sake of works of permanent utility, I am sure the Members of this House will heartily give him their support. If this is done, then, for instance, the 36 and odd lakhs of rupees shown on page 203 of the Budget estimate under Original Works—at least a greater part of it—will be put on a loan basis and charged to capital account, and, in a way, the Budget will be balanced almost immediately. My belief is that a good many projects are held up, as the irrigation projects of the dry districts, like Bellary and Anantapur, on the plea that we have not got funds. But if it is a question of military expenditure, railway expenditure or other things, in which the people are not so much interested as in irrigation, education,

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etc., money is found, if need be, by borrowing. We want Government to follow a policy of equality. If you are ready to borrow for these things—and you have been borrowing for a long number of years—follow the same policy in the other things. If you set apart sufficient money for interest, sinking fund and other charges, you can, without unduly burdening the finances of the country, carry through a great many projects with which the future progress of this country is bound up with success."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—"Mr. President, I am at a loss to know whether I should congratulate the hon. the Finance Member or condole with him in regard to this budget. I sympathize with him in his inability to make both ends meet and in his having had to bring in a deficit budget. I congratulate him however on the skill with which he has made the deficit appear so small.

"While I do not agree with the cynical remark of the member of the Indian Legislative Assembly that the Madras Government should set their house in order before asking for a remission of their contribution, I cannot help thinking that the administration is top-heavy, and that, while an increase of salaries in the lower grades of service is regarded as a great burden, comparatively little attempt is made to do away with unnecessary high posts or to reduce the salaries they carry.

"In this respect, I must express my unalloyed appreciation of the fact that the leader of this House—I mean the hon. the President—has given a real lead to the Government in the matter of retrenchment, by offering to forego one-third of his salary. It is an act of pure self-denial on his part; for, he has no electioneering prospects or want of prospects before him and cannot therefore be accused of making a virtue of necessity and appearing virtuous on the eve of a new election.

"Nor should I fail to congratulate the Ministers on following his noble example by consenting to forego one-fifth of their salaries. I am glad that no considerations of the indispensableness of Rs. 5,333-5-4 for maintaining prestige, have stood in the way of their consenting to receive a lower salary. I am glad that they have come to realize, though late in their career, that it is a sin for elected representatives of the people, belonging especially to a party with large democratic pretensions, to receive salaries much above Rs. 2,000, and that prestige is not the result of being a burden on the taxpayer, but the natural reward of character and conduct.

Honour and shame from no salary rise;
Act well thy part, there all the honour lies.

It is by befriending the weak and the depressed that a Minister maintains his prestige and not by moving in motor-cars or travelling with a group of more or less dependent followers in a Government saloon. I say this in the interests of a true democratic ideal and in the interests of the people at large, so as to apply to popular Ministers all over the country.

"For we of the depressed classes are more interested than any other class in the Government being conducted in the true democratic spirit, and the progress of the country on true democratic lines is bound up with our interests; and the success or failure of a ministry is not to be gauged by measures like the Madras University Bill passed to benefit the well-to-do classes, but by the number and sufficiency of scholarships enabling the depressed classes to come up to the level of the oppressing classes, not in

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respect of ungrudging industry, but in respect of general enlightenment and economic well-being.

"You should, therefore, excuse me, Mr. President, if I say that, considered from the standpoint of the depressed classes, this ministry, which seemed to have begun well under the impetus and direction given to it by the residuary influence of the late Dr. Nair, has been moving backward under the influence of leaders more responsive to vested interests, social pride and aristocratic affectation than to principles of justice and democratic progress. We of the depressed classes can never forget nor forgive the set-back given to the caste Hindus in the expansion of their social sympathies, and to the depressed classes in securing social and economic justice in this country, by the party leaders and their obedient followers in this Council depriving the Protector of the depressed classes of the services of intelligent and independent gentlemen acting as his agents in different places.

"I find there is provision in this Budget for expanding the work of the Labour Commissioner in new districts like Trichinopoly, Kistna, Guntur, Cuddapah and South Kanara. I am glad that this is done, though this is only a tardy response to the demand we made in successive Adi-Dravida Conferences that there should be a staff of workers under the Labour Commissioner working in every district; and it is to be hoped that in the next Budget the remaining districts will also be served in this way—with a special staff under more efficient superintendents. I must urge, however, that all this additional expenditure will not bear full fruit unless the operations are placed in the hands of officers of the grade of Deputy Collectors.

"I am glad to see that a provision of Rs. 10,000 is made for an Adi-Dravida Hostel in Madras. That such an institution is a long-felt want goes without saying. In this connexion, I find that a letter over the titled signature of Rao Sahib M. C. Madurai Pillai has appeared in the newspapers asking me to give an account of the Adi-Dravida Hostel started with the help of the Labour Commissioner in 1921. If my learned colleague was really anxious to get the information, he knew where he could have obtained it, namely, from the Labour Commissioner who has got detailed accounts of all the facts and figures. This officer has also in his possession all the furniture bought not only with the Government grant but also with the donation from my friend, Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar, B.A., B.L. In the letter referred to, my learned colleague is represented as being ignorant even of the location of the hostel. May I refresh his memory by reminding him that he visited the hostel more than once?—once with my hon. friend, Mr. R. T. Kesavulu; and again at the time when the Labour Commissioner, Mr. T. E. Moir, happened to call on me at the place. The fact that my hon. friend, Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai, could not tell my hon. friend, Mr. O. Tanikachala Chetti, where the hostel was situated, was his misfortune and not my fault.

"It is a matter for satisfaction that Rs. 30,000 are provided as free grants for putting up 200 houses for labourers at Puliantope.

"It is to be hoped that the funds sanctioned for educational, commercial and industrial scholarships for the depressed classes will soon be made available.

"In the matter of granting *darkhast* lands to my people, I am informed that objection is often raised on the ground that the applicant has no plough

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and no oxen and that therefore the lands cannot be granted. This is surely putting the cart before the horse. When a man applies for land he wants it for ploughing, and to ask him whether he has the plough and the oxen at the time of application is to raise unnecessary difficulties in the way of the poor man.

"I am sorry moreover that in some districts, presidents of local bodies have become mere hold in ignoring the claims of the depressed classes for representation on their respective councils. When these grievances are brought to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government we are told that the nominations are in the hands of presidents, and sometimes that Government have no information, and that we had better appeal to the particular president; a case of appeal from Philip Sober to Philip Drunk,—drunk with a sense of chuckling triumph. Such is the plight to which we have been reduced; and for this, our eternal thanks and blessings are due to the Minister for Local Self-Government.

"If my people have to appeal to the very perpetrators of wrong in such cases, what, I venture to ask, is the Minister for Local Self-Government for? Has he not even the power of sanction and remonstrance, seeing that in many cases these presidents are his own nominees? Can he not even obtain information? or is it a case of collusion? I am informed that in some instances that is the case. Mr. Galletti, the Collector of Chingleput, recently sent up two names of the depressed class men for nomination to the Saidapet Municipal Council. The Minister, for reasons of his own, thought it fit to nominate only one. I am therefore compelled to think that the fact that more men of my community are not appointed to several local bodies and municipal councils is due to the reactionary prejudices of the Minister for Local Self-Government. I hope that he or his successor, whoever he be, will pursue a more liberal, a more progressive, a more enlightened and a more democratic policy in the future.

"It is not that I do not want to give him credit where credit is due to him. I am, glad, for instance, that in the Medical Department one lakh of rupees has been provided for a leper colony at Chingleput. In the pre-Reform Council I moved a resolution for the starting of such a colony and the present provision comes none too early. I am sorry however that no attempt is being made to remove the Tuberculosis Hospital from Royapetta.

"Under Education, I find there is an increase of 1,35,500 in the allotment for Government Arts colleges, whereas the increase in the case of non-Government Arts colleges is only Rs. 36,600. This seems inexplicable to me, especially now when all colleges are going to be more intimately associated with the University. How can non-Government colleges become residential and parts of a teaching university unless they are more liberally provided with funds? Then, again, is it not the educational policy of the State to work through aided colleges rather than directly undertake educational work?

"I am sorry to see that in spite of the assurance given to me last month by the Educational Minister that he would consider sympathetically the claims of non-gazetted subordinate Educational Officers, no provision is made for a better scale of pay for them in the present Budget. The lot of teachers is very pitiable indeed.

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"I shall here quote what the Committee appointed to consider the applicability of the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission to South India has said in its Report embodied in G.O. No. 239, dated 14th February 1923:

It is accepted on all hands that the position and prospects of the members of the teaching profession are anything but satisfactory. Indeed, perhaps there is no other profession where discontentment seems to be so rife.

"The President of this Committee on page 25 of the above Government Order says this:

I feel that only a halting word has been accorded by the Sub-Committee to the position and prospects of teachers. It is a subject of the greatest moment; and I plead with this Committee to give to it the most earnest and sympathetic consideration and to enunciate a policy calculated to place the teaching profession on a sound financial basis.

"I find, on the other hand, a provision of '07 lakh for increasing the pay of Assistant Professors of Law College though these gentlemen are allowed to practise their profession.

"A lump sum of Rs. 1,15,000 is provided for vocational training. I hope the whole of this amount will be spent this year unlike last year when only Rs. 30,000 was spent, out of an allotment of Rs. 1½ lakhs.

"Regarding scholarship for the depressed classes, I must take this opportunity of recording my emphatic protest against the speech of the Educational Minister the other day when I asked for an enhancement of their amount in view of the extreme poverty of the boys of my community. He told us then that poverty was not the monopoly of the depressed classes and that Brahman boys too were poor. I wonder when and where he discovered these facts, whether *before* or *after* he assumed office. If Brahman boys were poor, why did he not press their claims as a non-Brahman leader, and if the depressed classes were not the only classes suffering from the pangs of hunger, why did he and his party make a speciality of the advocacy of their claims? Does he see no difference between the poverty of the depressed classes and the poverty of other classes? Does he not know that the poverty of the depressed classes is due to age-long oppression by other classes? And is it not bare justice that we ask when we ask for special encouragement being given to them? If he has forgotten the first lessons of his political school, shall I read to him what the recent Report and G.O. No. 239, referred to above, says:

The Committee considered the needs of special classes and communities and agreed, so far as the depressed classes are concerned, that adequate boarding and fee facilities should be granted to them. It was felt that the position at present occupied by the members of these classes was due in a large measure more to the peculiar customs and usages of the country than to any inherent defects of the classes themselves. Viewed from this point, the education of the depressed classes became a matter of national duty, and public funds should in justice be available to all reasonable extent in serving their interests.

"Let me say in conclusion that his speech the other day was the most graceful speech I have ever heard from the lips of a responsible Minister in this House.

"The hon. the Minister called my attention to the poverty of the so-called backward classes. I find that whenever I press the claims of the depressed classes, certain so-called backward classes are brought forward to minimize the claims of my community. I wonder who these backward classes are as distinct from depressed or untouchable classes. I suppose they are all caste Hindus. Under these classes come communities to which belong at least two

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of the Ministers. I do not know whether the hon. Mr. Patro is a Nayudu or an Oriya. At college we used to look upon him as a Brahman and that is why perhaps he brings forward their claims to thwart the claims of my community. Are these classes to be compared with the depressed classes in their poverty? Under backward classes in the Educational Rules are included classes which are educationally backward but economically flourishing. Does the hon. Mr. Patro wish to compare these classes with mine? He also speaks of the labouring classes as distinct from depressed classes.

"Does he realize that my community form the main bulk of the labouring classes, especially of the agricultural labourers? I might have answered the Educational Minister then and there, but I wished to see how this House would treat his reply to my resolution without any severe remarks from me. I was surprised to find that only fifteen supported me. The rank and file of the caste Hindu Members were neutral; but my hon. friend, Mr. O. Tanikachala Chetti, stood towering above them all and voted against my resolution. My learned colleague and helpmate in this Council, Rao Sahib M. C. Madurai Pillai, quietly went out of the Council as I was moving the resolution and as quietly came in soon after the poll was announced, thus furnishing an object lesson in serving one's own community.

"Under Public Health, I observe an allotment of Rs. 12,77,800. This includes, I believe, town-planning and extension. I wish to say in this connexion that there are persons who under the plea of town-planning and extension wish to vent their social prejudice against my people by proposing that they should be asked to quit their quarters and live outside municipal limits. Such proposals should not be listened to. The labouring classes should live near the industries in which they are employed. They should live within the reach of public institutions, schools, hospitals, etc., so that they may share in the benefits of these institutions. Government hospitals are intended for the poor and not for the rich. In Government schools the standard rates of fees are enforced. It does not matter where the rich live. Distance is no matter to them. It is hard on the other hand for people getting low wages to have to walk long distances early in the day; for they cannot afford any other means of locomotion. (Here the gong was sounded as the hon. Member had reached his time limit.)

"If the Government are anxious to build quarters for their servants or police constables, they should acquire sites from those who live in spacious compounds. Let the habitations of the poor be by all means improved but their quarters should not be removed."

Mr. B. P. DEVARAJULU NAYUDU:—"Sir, we are now faced with another of the series of deficit budgets which the hon. the Finance Member has presented to this Council. The budget is certainly a very good production and the hon. Member in charge of it deserves our sincere congratulation. It is very clear and full of illuminating details. A close examination of the budget however discloses that to-day we are not in any better position than before and that our finances are undoubtedly in a very unsound condition. What is this due to? My submission is that in the first place it is due to the constitution under which this Council has come into existence, and in the second place it is due to the reserved portion of the Government being in no way responsible to the Council. This Council has been existing all these

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years, and the fact that we have been confronted with a deficit budget all these years shows, beyond any possibility of doubt, that exceptional circumstances which existed in the beginning do exist even now and are likely to exist in the future.

"It was more than once brought to the notice of the Government that the only course open before us was retrenchment, in the absence of taxation. How far we have been going on wisely and soundly in our policy of retrenchment we are ourselves not sure. The hon. the Finance Member is not himself quite prepared to accept the soundness of that policy. It is often said that the Commission on Salaries has contemplated a scheme for the increase of pay and that therefore any dislocation will bring a chaos and the administration will suffer. This is the third budget before this Council. We have spent two years, and we have learnt that the suggestion of retrenchment was not acted upon. If that had been done we should find ourselves much better now, but the opportunity has been lost. Two years after the existence of this Council the Retrenchment Committee has come into being. We do not at present know what the recommendations are likely to be. Even the hon. the Finance Member confessed his inability to foresee the effect of their labours. This is a sure indication of the fact that we are in no way better than what we were at the time of the commencement of this Council. This certainly is not a satisfactory state of affairs. We are shortly to face the electors and we shall have to give our account in a collective body as to what our achievements are. Our achievements, I must submit, are practically nil.

"As I said, practically in every department of Government, in spite of all that the department has done all this while, the interests of the people are not a bit advanced. Take for instance, Sir, Irrigation. There was a time when our coffers were overflowing and when the Members of Government could have seen their way to introduce irrigation schemes. That opportunity was lost. Now when this Council came into existence we were handicapped with an iniquitous contribution and the increases in the salaries of officials made all progress impossible. Now, we have been trying to mend matters, but we have not been able to advance even a little in irrigation. There are cases and cases in which the indifference of the Government is very clearly seen. Take for instance the major irrigation works. They have not at all prospered. The minor irrigation works have been deteriorating. These latter are the most important of irrigation works that come in closest contact with the cultivator. We have heard it said very often that land revenue is the mainstay of the administration and that the ryot is the backbone of our country. What have we done, I ask, for the ryot? Have we done anything in the way of improving his status or economic condition? Every village in this Presidency has to depend upon some tank or lake as its source of irrigation. What do we find in the Budget regarding the provision under this head? In fact, the amount that is budgeted for minor irrigation works is something like 6 lakhs of rupees. That amount has to be distributed over the whole of the Presidency. In my own district, viz., Cuddapah, there are 1,500 minor irrigation sources, but the amount of money that is to be allotted is something about Rs. 19,000. What can be the benefit of this small provision? The worst of the matter is that these minor irrigation sources have to be maintained at an enormous cost of Rs. 2,28,000. For spending 6 lakhs of rupees we have an establishment which costs two lakhs and a half.

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It is certainly ludicrous on the very face of it. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiar, very forcibly pointed out that the Engineering department has duplicated and triplicated itself so far as the services are concerned. There is the District Board Engineering service, the Public Works Department Engineering service, the Engineering service of the local boards and there is the minor irrigation service. In spite of all that what has been done? We have not been able to improve the status of the ryots who form the backbone of the country.

"Then, Sir, I pass on to the administration of Civil Justice. It is an irony of fate that where there is a necessity we do not meet it, but we make provision where there is absolutely no necessity. For instance, Sir, in Anantapur, there was a munsif's court in 1920 and it went out of existence in 1922. In fact, in the whole of the district, there are other munsifs' courts where the work is undoubtedly very low and where they are allowed to exist. So far as the munsif's court at Anantapur is concerned, the necessity for it has been brought to the notice of the authorities and they were perfectly convinced that there was a necessity and it was also one of the courts recommended by the Philipps' scheme. The necessity for a court is based on several reasons. The district consists of something like 6,970 square miles and a population of 96 lakhs while Anantapur alone is 3,000 square miles in extent with a population of 36 lakhs. There is besides the anomaly of having a district court in the place without a munsif's court. At the same time, it must be said that the files in the court were greater than those in any other court. Again, Sir, in the first year it was able to make a profit of Rs. 13,000 while in the second year its net profit was Rs. 8,000. Instances there are where people have to travel 60 miles by rail and 60 by cart to go to the court at Gooty. The presence of a court at Anantapur will save them much of this travel. They will then have to cover 8 miles by rail and 8 miles by road. I cannot understand why such a useful institution could not be provided for.

"I next refer to the Forest Administration. If there was any problem that was discussed in this House in season and out of season at every one of its sessions, it was the forest problem. After all this discussion, we have not been in a position to improve the administration. We are just where we were. There is this regrettable fact that we are maintaining a department for no purpose. It is if I may say so living to eat and not eating to live. It swallows a large part of our revenue and yields no good in return.

"For want of time, I am obliged to conclude by saying that after all the Budget has not been very hopeful."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS:—"Mr. President, if I, at the present moment, rise to speak, it is in consequence of a statement made by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, regarding the action of the police during the Mappilla rebellion in Malabar when I was the Collector and the District Magistrate. My hon. friend Mr. Reddi's charge was that the police action during the retreat at Tirurangadi, was not creditable to their efficiency. I wish to state in reply that his statement is not true. The police did act well, not only at the time of the retreat at Tirurangadi but throughout the rebellion."

Mr. O. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I rise to say a word of personal explanation, Sir? It would probably save further discussion if I inform the House and Mr. Thomas once again that the police under the charge of

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Mr. Thomas behaved very well and my statement was that the action of the police elsewhere was open to much criticism. In my remarks, I specifically excepted that particular troop under the charge of Mr. Thomas from my general condemnation."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—" Mr. President, I accept the explanation. At the same time, if I am not taking too much of the time of the House, I wish to express as strongly as I can my disagreement with the condemnation of Mr. Reddi of the conduct of the police at places other than Tirurangadi. Until I went on leave, the police everywhere did not only as much as was expected of them but a great deal more. It is true that at isolated stations they were overwhelmed by mobs which it was impossible to resist; some of them were killed and others escaped. But some of those who escaped rejoined duty as soon as possible, and they undertook voluntarily most dangerous duties, and they were the eyes of the military force. During the rebellion, no less than 25 policemen were killed and 25 wounded. I should prefer if this defence had been made by a non-official member of Malabar. But as an officer who had served for a long time in Malabar and as one who has great affection for the district, it is due to myself, the Malabar people and the Police, to give you my considered opinion and statement that the Police everywhere throughout the rebellion, with very few exceptions—exceptions there must be—did much more than could be required of them."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, the hon. the Finance Member by juggling with figures has successfully shown that the dead-weight debt of our Government is only six lakhs. We can give him for that credit and no more. There is no doubt in spite of what the hon. the Finance Member may say that the State has been running into bankruptcy for the last four years. I should like to refer to the recent statement made by the Finance Member of the Government of India who said in the Assembly the other day that the principle of budgeting for deficits for proving to him that a province was really going to be bankrupt, unless the Government of India came to help them, would be of little avail. He said that he was too old a hand at the game to be hoodwinked by any juggling of that nature, and that his sympathies would be with those provinces who were able to balance their budgets and to show him that they knew what sound finance was. I hope the House will take this into consideration and insist upon the hon. the Finance Member cutting down the figures in the Budget Statement to the extent of 40 lakhs, so that we might balance our budget. I know that the hon. the Finance Member has taken a good deal of trouble to balance the budget. I know that schemes, which if adopted would cost 60 lakhs and more, were before the Finance Committee and were refused by the hon. Member. He has tried his best to curtail the expenses but I wish he had gone a little further."

"In this connexion, I should say that the Retrenchment Committee had no time to go into the figures relating to each department. I feel that at least in regard to one heavy item, namely, the Agency budget, it would be better to go back to the old system of having the Agency tracts in charge of the Collectors of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari, rather than a separate Agency division as that will effect a fairly large saving. I do not think that the separate establishment for the Agency tracts is working well and I hope the Government will abolish it altogether and revert to the old practice."

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"I should next like to say, Sir, that the expenditure as was pointed out by Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar in the Forest department, has been going up every year and as he conclusively proved by figures, we have been able to show a balance under Forests merely because we have been collecting a large amount of fines. If only the amount credited to fines under the Forest department has been taken away, it will be successfully proved to the House that we are actually realizing nothing from the department. I believe my hon. friend, the Home Member, has learnt to juggle with figures from the hon. the Finance Member so that he may prove to the House that he is running the department with profit. But I am glad, Sir, that this year the hon. Member has bound down his colleague to a system of commercial accounts the effect of which will be seen in the next year when I suppose the hon. the Home Member will be able to prove that he has made profit on the schemes relating to the Chenai Nair, the Russellkonda and the Mount Stuart Forests. So much for the reserved half of the Government."

"I should now like to say a word or two about the transferred half of the Government. As was happily put in the Montague-Chelmsford Report, it is only by the development of local self-government that this country can hope to advance to a system of responsible government. My hon. friend the Minister for Local Self-Government has been in charge of the department for the last three years. I am not saying anything in the way of criticism, but I should like to know what has been the policy pursued by him in order to make this country fit for self-government and what he has done in the matter of giving responsibility to local bodies. From what is shown in the budget statement of my hon. friend, the Finance Member, the finances of the local bodies are getting from bad to worse and nothing has been done to relieve them or to give them advice so that they can at least balance their budgets. I suppose the local bodies have taken a leaf out of the Government and they also are budgeting for deficits just as the Government have been doing during the last five years. I hope, Sir, that at least from this year, with the advent of the new Finance Member of the Government of India, not only the Provincial Government may be able to balance their own Budget but also that the local bodies will be able to balance their Budgets, so that they will not be overdrawing their accounts with the Government."

"A word on co-operation. I am sure that my hon. friend the Minister in charge of the Development Department has heard of the great work that has been done in Ireland by Agricultural Organisation Society under the Irish guidance of Sir Horace Plunkett. If self-government in Ireland is going to be a success to-morrow, the Irish nation will owe a deep debt of gratitude to that great man who saw that an agricultural country like Ireland can prosper only on the broad basis of co-operation and co-operative credit. When such is the case, I should like to know what the hon. the Minister in charge of Co-operation has done in order to advance the idea of co-operation among the agricultural classes in this Presidency, so that by learning co-operation, they can also learn what responsibility and responsible government means."

"I am sorry, Sir, that we are still far away from the idea of compulsory education in this province; but I do not think my hon. friend the Minister for Education is to blame for it. The delay is due to our finances being in a chaotic condition, and his not being able to get the funds necessary,

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although he has been urging various municipalities to introduce the system of compulsion at least in municipal areas. But the scheme has only been in an experimental stage and nothing has been heard of it. I hope, Sir, that he will at least be able to give us an idea of what he is going to do in this connexion.

"I am sorry, Sir, the communal spirit is rife in this province and I hope that at least by the end of this year we will set our house in order and shall be working for the progress of the country, and not merely for the progress of a party or a community." (Hear, hear.)

MR. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, this is the last occasion when we shall have in this Council a discussion on the general Budget, and it is purely because of that, I thought I would be justified in offering a few remarks on some of the speeches that have been made in the course of the general discussion. Sir, I have heard from different speakers, mostly on that (left) side of the House and a few on this (right) side of the House a very pessimistic attitude being taken up on the labours of this Council and of the things that have been achieved during the two years we have passed under the Reforms Scheme. My hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, and his colleague from the Anantapur district in particular, as is generally usual with them, have begun and ended with most pessimistic speeches. It reminded me of the Irish gentleman who was aghast on the receipt of news of the occurrence of a domestic event in his house by wire 'Twins to-day, more to-morrow'.

"Sir, there is absolutely no justification for this highly pessimistic attitude which these hon. gentlemen have taken as regards the labours of this Council. I should go with the greatest optimism before my electorate, as I intend to do very shortly and tell them that during the two years of the Reforms Scheme, they have had benefits incomparably greater than any they had had during the last two decades of the pre-reform period. I should tell them that from the beginning of this Council we have followed a policy of retrenchment and in fact this Council has been called a Retrenchment Council. We have tried in several directions to cut short expenditure and to balance our Budget, to appropriate more revenues for the development of those departments which have been styled the nation-building departments. I should tell them how in the very first Budget we, to the great regret of the hon. the Revenue Member, abolished one of those departments which were considered the insoluble departments of the bureaucratic administration, I refer to the Land Records Department. I should tell them how in that budget, special cuts were made at the instance of the non-official Members and how we arrived at a figure which we thought was the proper figure for carrying on the work of the administration. I should tell them that in this Council we have moved resolutions time after time on different matters of administration. I should tell them, in particular, how on the question of forests wherein the ryots are mostly interested, we in this Council—and I am now speaking as a representative of my district and not as a Council Secretary or as a humble limb of the Bureaucratic administration—the non-official Members of this Council, have time after time moved resolutions with regard to the forest administration, how my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu in particular, an authority on grievances of the ryots in respect of forests, has from time to time moved resolutions and carried them in this Council advocating a different policy to be pursued, how we have

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agitated that so far as forests are concerned, the utilization of real forests was our chief aim as also the disafforestation of those tracts which are euphemistically called forests but which are mere shrub jungles of which no use can be made by anybody, bureaucratic or democratic. I should tell them how we urged that with a change in the forest administration the ryots will have less reason to complain of the grievances that existed with respect to forests. I should like to tell my electorate that with regard to several other matters, for instance, the separation of the judicial and executive functions, though at one stage we threw out a resolution moved by the hon. Member from Coimbatore owing to the fact that it was coupled with conditions which were not acceptable to the part of this House, we ourselves moved resolutions on the subject, and how a committee has been appointed on which I am glad to find that my hon. friend from Coimbatore is going to sit, to solve this question. I should tell my electorate what progress we have made in the Local Self-Government Department, in the Education Department and in the Industries Department. I should tell them with regard to the question of the Indianisation of the services, that so far as the services under the Ministers are concerned Indianisation is more than an accomplished fact. I should tell them further that so far as education is concerned, a great fillip has been given to primary education largely through the instrumentality of the vigorous personality of the Minister for Education. I speak in admiration of his work not because he is my chief, for that is the least part of my admiration for him, but I know how great a fillip he has given to local bodies to introduce schemes of compulsory education by taxing themselves and levying a cess, so that they may have a great expansion of elementary education, how it has been done more by his persuasion than the talk of the grants that he has been able to make. I should tell them that when the country has been feeling and agitating that the education given to us is a merely literary education, with no sort of comparison, no sort of application to the practical realities of life, the scheme of vocational education which the Minister has been formulating is a great effort in that direction. I should tell them, further, that when the University was complained to be a University the education in which has no relation to the practical life of this Presidency, the hon. the Minister has introduced his new University Act under which the University is going to be harnessed for the development of industrial and material resources of the country. I should tell my electorate again how the hon. the Minister for Industries has brought in his Bill for State Aid and how he hopes to develop the industries of this province; and I should tell them how my honoured chief, the Chief Minister, has brought in a Bill for the control of religious endowments under which a great standing injustice, in spite of the vigorous remarks of my hon. friend Mr. Narasimhachari, is sought to be removed. I should tell them further that we of this party who were sent to this Council by the electorates on the question of communal representation—however unpalatable it may be to some Members here and there—have tried our level best by various resolutions and by a Government Order for which the hon. the Finance Member was congratulated by my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, and for which credit should be given to the other members of the Cabinet also, to meet that question and solve it. If time permitted, I should tell this House a great deal more of what I am going to tell my electorate. I am not a pessimist, I have a superb optimism in the Reforms, and I have a superb optimism in the usefulness and utility of this Council. I feel strongly that

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during the last two years we have tried to do our level best, our humble best, and helped the progress of the country. I should tell my electorate also how with regard to the question of the depressed classes, in spite of evils to the contrary, we have tried to do our level best for the protection and promotion of those classes, and what is more, in spite of the very provocative attacks that are being made from time to time by individuals we have set before ourselves the idea that notwithstanding all these things, our efforts should be extended in that direction because we realize our responsibility in that matter.

"Sir, one word more and I have done. I said that we had complete optimism in this Council. I look to the day when these Councils will be the future Parliaments of a self-governing country. I look to the day when we shall have responsibility in all the subjects under the control of the provincial administration, and I look to the day when the future Councils will be the real places where public opinion will be represented, when the famous saying 'Vox populi, vox Dei' will be a saying which will be applied to this Council, and when it will be found to be a real saying. Sir, we have not advanced so fast as we perhaps expected. We, at least some of us, do not come with the name and fame of Ghokales of Southern India. We were not accustomed to the great administrative talent that some hon. Members on the other side were supposed to have possessed, but as humble individuals we are trying to do our level best under the most distressing circumstances, difficult conditions and in times of financial crises which came over us unexpectedly, and we should tell the electorates that in spite of all these things we tried to do our level best, and like the village blacksmith, our motto has been 'something attempted, something done.'"

Rao Sahib M. C. MADURAI PILLAI:—"எங்கள் ஜாதியில் படித்தவர்களும் அதிகமில்லை, சொத்துக்காரர்களும் சொற்பம். அதனால், நீங்கள் எல்லாரும் சேர்ந்ததான், வித்தியாசம் பாராட்டாமல், இதுவரையில் செய்ததுதான், எங்கள் முன்னேற்றத்தை எந்தக்காலத்திலும் உங்கள் முன்னிலையில் வைத்திருப்பீர்களென்று பூரண நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கின்றேன். எப்பொழுதும் மாமூலாய் கிளங்கலந்த எங்கள் ஜாதிப் பெயர் பறையர் அல்லது பஞ்சமர் என்பதை ஆகி திராவிடர் என்று மாற்றி வைத்துக்கொண்ட ஞானத்தைக் கவனித்தால் எப்படி இருக்கிற தென்றால், 'குளிக்கப் போனவன் சேற்றைப் பூசிக்கொண்டு திரும்பினதைப்போலும், தென்னாற்றாமன் கருப்பு காயை வெள்ளை நாயாககினைக் கதையைப்போலும்' இருக்கிறது. எனது கண்பர் Mr. எம். சி. இராஜா அவர்களை நான் ஆகி திராவிட ஆஸ்டல விஷயமாய்ச் செய்த செலவு விபரம் கேட்டதற்கு யானது கசிகந்துகொண்டார்போலும். ஆனால் நான் அந்தக் கணக்குகளைக் கேட்கக்கூடாதே? இந்த ஒருஷத்தில் ஏற்பட்ட குறைந்த பட்டஜட்டிக்கூட காரணமும் கிறைந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டார் நம் ஜாதி ஜனங்களுக்காக புனியந்தோப்பு வீடுகளுக்காக 30,000 ரூபாயும் ஆகி திராவிட ஆஸ்டலக்காக 10,000 ரூபாயும் கொடுத்திருக்கிறபோது நாம் இந்த ஆஸ்டலக்காக திரும்பி பணம் கேட்கும் காலத்தில், முன் கொடுத்த பணத்திற்குச் சர்க்கார் நம்மைக் கணக்கு கேட்காமல் இருப்பார்களோ? Mr. எம். சி. இராஜா எல்லா கணக்குகளும் லேபர் கமிஷனர் ஆபீஸில் இருக்கிறதென்று சொல்லிவிடலாம். யாரைப் லேபர் கமிஷனர் ஆபீஸுக்குப் போகிறது? கணக்கையும் கண்டுபிடிக்கிறது?"

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[Mr. M. C. Madurai Pillai]

கணக்கு கொடுத்த Mr. எம். சி. இராஜா அவர்களே அதன் விபரத்தைப் பத்திரிகைகளின் மூலமாய்த் தெரிவித்துவிட்டால், இந்த கவுன்ஸிலுக்கும் பொதுஜனங்களுக்கும் வெளிச்சமாய் தெரியுமென்றேதான் நான் கணக்கு கொடுக்கும்படிக் கேட்டேன் என்று Mr. எம். சி. இராஜா தெரிந்துகொள்ளட்டும்.

"இத்துடன் ஆஸ்டலில் மந்திரிகளுக்கும் எக்ஸ்சுட்டிவ் கவுன்ஸில் மெம்பர்களுக்கும் கடைசியாய் ஏழை திராவிடர்களுக்காக எந்தக்காலமும் உதவிசெய்துவரும் செங்கற்பட்டு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் Mr. கலெட்டி துரை அவர்களுக்கும் என் வந்தனத்தை செலுத்தி ஆசனத்தில் அமருகின்றேன்."

At this stage (1-30 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m. with the hon. the Deputy President in the Chair.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR.—"Mr. President, Sir, I propose with your leave to deal firstly with the question of the arrears in the courts and with the number of courts. In the first place I would refer to the speech which was in a semi-humorous vein characteristic of my hon. friend, Mr. Somasundaram Pillai, when he stated that there was not enough work for many of these courts and that as a matter of fact one district munsif of his acquaintance rose from his bed at 9-30 a.m. One would be interested to learn when that unfortunate munsif went to bed; for speaking from my experience both in the city and in the mufassal it is an undoubted fact that the subordinate judges and the district munsifs are a very hard-worked lot, and I do not think my friend, Mr. Somasundaram Pillai—whom I do not find in his seat just now—was quite justified in drawing any wide presumptions from an isolated case assuming that that case had been proved. Now, Mr. President, the facts are these. As was pointed out already in previous Budget speeches, it is the first essential of the administration of justice that it should be speedy and expeditious and that it should be satisfactory. We find now that though there are general observations made as to the necessity for the abolition of the various courts, yet the answer to any project which is initiated for abolishing any particular court protests very vocal—and very articulate—are made against that abolition. Indeed, I may be permitted to advert to the remarks which were made with regard to the Anantapur District Munsif's Court the abolition of which evoked a very strong opposition on the floor of this House to-day. In the short time after I assumed charge of this particular portfolio I have already had to receive three deputations from persons not only composed of the Members of the bar of the places concerned but also others, who have protested against the rumoured abolition of the courts in certain localities. Now, Mr. President, so far as the sub-courts are concerned, at this time last year there were 29 permanent courts and 20 temporary courts of which five were abolished and two reopened. Now there are 33 permanent judges and 13 temporary ones, and in order to relieve congestion of work nine sub-courts are considered to be necessary. So far as the district munsifs' courts are concerned, at this time last year there were 144 permanent and 24 temporary courts. Of the latter nine were abolished and there are now 153 permanent and six temporary courts, and five more courts are awaiting sanction. The

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Arrears Committee to which reference has been made is examining this matter and the Finance Committee also is examining it. As a matter of fact it will not be quite correct to say of any judge what my hon. friend Mr. Somasundaram Pillai asserted with more felicity of expression, than accuracy of description, viz., that the main work of these district judges is signing papers in the morning and getting away before lunch time. Because of the very heavy work in the matter of sessions and other pre-occupations that they have it is thought that more sub-courts are necessary; and the High Court going through the figures has strongly supported the recommendation that unless immediate relief is given the pendency will increase. Hon. Members of this House will be interested to learn what the following figures indicate:—

Coimbatore 2,200 original suits; 321 over one year old;
North Malabar 4,843 suits; 596 over one year old;
Ramanad 3,429 suits; 960 over one year old;
Vizagapatam 2,778 suits; 691 over one year old;
Trichinopoly 1,108 suits which are over one year old.

“Looking into these figures and pausing for a moment, can it really be contended that there is any reason for objecting to the proposals which are before this Council? I leave the subject there. Further discussion will undoubtedly elicit more facts if, as my friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, proposed, he is going to put into practice the drastic general idea or ideal to vote for no demand whatsoever under the head ‘Administration of Justice’. In this connexion I may say that his grievance can be attended to without resort to such draconian remedies.

“Now, there were a few remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Arumainatha Pillai, who invited the Government to scrutinise the Official Assignee’s commission. In view of the very high commission he was drawing, according to Mr. Arumainatha Pillai, he ought to be paid no salary and his position should be relegated to that of the Official Referee. I would invite my hon. friend’s attention to the Presidency Town Insolvency Act under which the appointment of the Official Assignee and the rules as to his remuneration are entirely vested in the High Court; and I am sure, with this information before him, Mr. Arumainatha Pillai with his well-known pertinacity will move the High Court so as to achieve the object he has in view.

“Certain remarks were made in regard to the deficit under Stamps and Court Fees. My hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, spoke about that matter, and it may be useful to invite the attention of hon. Members to a few circumstances which have a bearing on this subject. The decrease in the revenue is due to the fact that the raising of the court fees has had a greater effect in reducing litigation than was anticipated. But there are other factors as well. The amended Court Fees Act came into force on the 18th April 1922, by which date several mufassal courts had been closed for the vacation. There was another familiar phenomenon that during the last few days before the closing of the courts a number of suits were filed under the old Act in order to avoid the payment of the enhanced court fees. This would be an explanation, though a partial explanation, and I leave the question of the court-fees at that point.

“Many hon. Members suggested that, in the matter of irrigation, a bolder policy had not been forthcoming. As to that, the answer is found in what has transpired in the Legislative Assembly and here. It is impossible

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to embark on large schemes. But opportunity will, I assure the House, be taken of considering and investigating smaller projects especially in districts liable to famines, and steps will be, without hesitation and with all possible speed, taken in order to ameliorate the conditions there. In this connexion the attention of hon. Members of this House may also be drawn to what fell from my hon. colleague, the Revenue Member, with regard to the projects to which he adverted in the course of his remarks and the amount available for the investigation of larger schemes.

“I now deal with the question of the Police as to which very many frontal attacks were made. There are a few comparatively small matters which I wish to dispose of first. One hon. Member, Mr. Palmer, spoke in a very optimistic vein about the impossibility of thefts in railway trains under modern or recent conditions. I wish he were justified in his optimism. The facts however are that the thefts from running goods trains are on the increase, and it may be remarked that these increased thefts are conducted according to the most approved cinematograph methods, for the reports disclose that there are thieves who board trains when running at steep gradients and who tamper with the outer signals of stations, and that these have to be met by sending armed petrols. The report of the Railway Committee of 1907 and that of the Committee appointed in 1921 point to the fact that such thefts are on the increase. Therefore, it seems to me that with these facts before us it would be taking too great a risk to contemplate the possibility of any reduction under the railway Police considering it as an unnecessary factor.

“I now turn to the question of armed reserves in Salem and North Arcot as to which many remarks have been made by hon. Members. So far as Salem is concerned, the proposal is that the strength is to be increased by 1 sergeant, 4 head constables and 48 constables. The reason is this: it is reported by those responsible for the safety of that district that the reserve as at present constituted is not strong enough to deal with any troubles that may arise in more than one part of the district at the same time. The disturbance that took place at the beginning of 1920 demonstrated that all the available men had to be employed in the town, and if trouble had happened to break out elsewhere, as it did shortly afterwards, it would have been impossible to meet it. Similar is the case with North Arcot. If there is no trouble, of course no one will be more glad than the Members of the Government and the Members of this House. But if trouble breaks out in the North Arcot district where there are conditions, peculiar to that district which may conduce to that result, then a certain number of these men will have to be kept available to meet emergencies at various places. The Government is coming before this House in regard to this matter and I hope it will not be reluctant to grant to the authorities the support they consider to be necessary for the safety of their districts.

“I shall now deal with the general question of the Police, and in this connexion let me be permitted to pay a tribute to the late Law Member who has gone into this question most thoroughly and constituted a Committee, to which reference has been made in the course of the debate in this House, for the purpose of examining the whole question, not piecemeal but from top to bottom. I have no doubt that this Committee, which includes among its Members two Members of the Finance Committee, will go into the question and will try to solve many of the matters which have formed

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the subject of debate in this House, and every one of the points that were made by one Member or other speaking on the floor of this House during the course of this discussion, is among the matters to be discussed by that Committee, I may mention for instance the question of the Deputy Inspector-General, the question of sub-inspectors, the question of the circle inspectors, the question of the head constables, the question of the reorganization of the City police, the question of the continuance of the present inspectorate and the question of Committee's work. All these are matters which are within the ambit of that village police and I would appeal to hon. Members here to await the result of its investigations. They may be assured that the Government will pay the most anxious attention to its recommendation because they are alive to the necessity of reducing expenditure in every department, especially when we are in a bad financial condition."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, after having carefully listened to 2-45 p.m. that portion of the discussions which related to the subjects with which I am concerned, I am glad to find that the criticisms have with only a few exceptions turned on comparatively unimportant points. I shall leave aside, Sir, certain matters of mere detail, which have been mentioned from time to time in the course of the discussion and I shall confine myself to matters of policy, which I understand is the special purpose of discussions of this kind.

"I shall first go straightway to the Agency. In regard to that two points have been raised. My hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, wanted to know why it was that all subjects in the Agency were dealt with as 'reserved.' The answer is that that is the law (laughter). If hon. Members will refer to page 133 of the Madras Legislative Council Manual, they will find the explanation of the position, namely, that under a notification issued by the Governor-General in Council all subjects in the Agency are treated as reserved subjects. Perhaps my hon. friend would like to introduce the system of *dyarchy* into the Agency. It comes rather as a surprise that he should be so enamoured of *dyarchy* as to wish its extension to other spheres. But if that is his desire, the proper course will be to take steps to amend the Government of India notification. Another hon. Member sitting opposite proposed, if I understood him aright, that we should omit altogether the provision of 33 lakhs which we have made for Agency Administration. I endeavoured to point out to him yesterday, I am not sure with what success, that if we cut off this provision in one place, we shall have to put it in another. The fact is, that practically all the charges in the Agency budget must be met, whether we have an Agency division or not; only certain of the items such as the pay of the Agency Commissioner and some of his establishment would disappear.

"The position in regard to this Agency division was explained at some length last year by Sir Lionel Davidson. It is briefly this. When at the end of the war, we, like every other country in the world, set to work, to restart and to develop, we found the Agency area crying aloud for development. We believed then in common with other countries in the world, that we were going to falsify history, and that the war was going to be followed by a great boom instead of, as had always happened before, by a period of depression. We therefore set to work, and got ready the machinery which was going to develop our Agency tracts. The existing

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machinery was unsuitable, because it was found very difficult indeed to arrive at any co-ordinated effort as long as there were three different Collectors dealing with different parts of the same area. We devised our machinery and set it up; later on came the question of funds. I may frankly confess that owing to our inability to provide funds, we have not been able to set our machinery running at full speed. What the remedy is, is a matter for discussion. It has been suggested that we should scrap our machinery. Well, Sir, I am not prepared to say that that is an absolutely impossible suggestion. The matter is one which is at the present moment under the consideration of the Retrenchment Committee. I have no doubt that the committee will consider it in all its aspects; but all that I wish to say is this: that I shall not be afraid to take any step, however drastic, which they may be able to prove is both economically and administratively for the benefit not only of the Agency but of the Presidency as a whole. I am inclined to agree to a large extent with the suggestions made during the course of this discussion from the various parts of the House that, while there is a great deal of virtue in the petty economies which we have been able to make, it may be wiser to make a bold departure in policy in one or two departments. To my mind it seems that it may easily be wiser to do this than to tinker with the essential parts of all the departments so as to render all of them less efficient.

"Now, Sir, I come to the forests, the unhappy step-child of this Council, which we are so accustomed to hear scolded within these walls. I am not without a feeling, Sir, that the scolding has not been quite so severe as usual. I am sanguine that the policy inaugurated by my predecessor of appointing a Forest Standing Committee and for laying before the hon. Members of this House the fullest possible information of all that is being done in connexion with forests may partly be responsible for this somewhat happier result. I believe it has brought to the Members a clearer realization of the duties and difficulties of the department and has perhaps also led them to believe that the department is not quite so black as it is generally painted.

"One matter of detail in connexion with the Forest department, I may touch upon here. One hon. Member yesterday pointed to the figures connected with direct removal of produce by the Government agency and those connected with the removal of timber and other produce by private consumers, and drew a very unfavourable comparison against the former. Lest his conclusions should influence the hon. Members of this House, I should like to say in passing that such conclusions cannot possibly be drawn from the figures in the Budget. What actually happened was this: we received for timbers removed by consumers a sum of 27 lakhs, and we received for timbers removed by Government agency a sum of 18 lakhs. In the case of produce removed by Government agency, we spent 5½ lakhs in transport and other expenses, while naturally in the case of timbers removed by purchasers from the forest, we spent nothing of the kind. Obviously, the House is not entitled to say that the proportion of profit from private removal is larger than that in the case of Government removal. One is a net figure of 27 lakhs while the other shows us the details of receipt and expenditure. Without knowing the exact amount of timber or other produce which was removed, it is quite impossible to draw any conclusion at all from the Budget figures, and the Budget does not purport to give that information. It may be that removal by departmental methods is more

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expensive than removal by private agency, and, personally, I think it is. We shall be glad if private agencies will come forward to take our produce in the forests or at any rate to help us to bring it to the market. May I remind the House, Sir, that when we did make the experiment by getting a private firm to help us in Ganjam to bring our produce to the market, the sentiments of this House were not altogether sympathetic to the experiment? I would also like to remind the hon. Member, who made the suggestion that we should substitute as far as possible private agencies for those of Government, that that is not altogether the feeling in the districts. As a matter of fact, I know that when it comes to the extraction of fuel, there is a very common cry that this extraction should be done by the Government itself and it should not be handed over to the middleman. Their idea is that the middleman should not be placed in the position of exploiting the needs of the population. This is an argument which deserves the consideration of the hon. Member who is anxious that we should work through private agencies only.

"In regard to forests, the main attack has come from my hon. friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar. I may frankly confess that some of his observations are just the kind of observations which I think are properly made at a general discussion of the budget. They were, I admit, suggestive; but, in some particulars, I think, he has spoiled his case by over statement. I doubt whether he really meant to suggest, at the end of his speech, that he would like to abandon the forests altogether. Nor am I quite sure that he would repeat the other statement which he made, namely, that the only duty of forest officers consists in persecuting the people. I am afraid that my hon. friend was rather led away by his eloquence. As I have already said, he made some two or three suggestions which are entitled to the fullest consideration, and I am greatly obliged to him for drawing my special attention to them. He complained in the first place that we had too many superior officers, and he urged strongly that we should take in no more at present. There, Sir, he is quite right. Our cadre of Imperial Forest officers was fixed at a time when the prospects of development not only in the Forest department but in all the departments were regarded as booming, and we made commitments, which, I am afraid, we cannot very easily get out of—commitments in the shape of fresh establishments, etc. New forest recruits have to be ordered practically three years before they arrive in order that they may undergo two years of preliminary training. Now, Sir, we have attempted to pass on to the other provinces some of the men whom we expect this year. There is just a possibility that we may in this way be relieved of some of the officers engaged; but we cannot actually count on that. There are only two methods by which we can meet the difficulty to which my hon. friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, referred. The first is to allow these men to come out and hold on for some time till they gain experience in the department. Meanwhile, our resources may grow, aided perhaps by a remission of our contributions to the Imperial Government, and we may be able to embark on the process of exploitation for which the department is anxiously waiting. The other alternative is to take steps at once to break our engagement by paying the necessary compensation to the gentlemen concerned. I gather that my hon. friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, would be willing to adopt this course. I am glad to hear him

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say this, because I think it is almost the first indication that I have noticed of this House recognizing the fact that, when it comes to a breach of engagement, the Government servant is entitled to be compensated in the same way as a private employee, and that an engagement cannot be broken without paying compensation. If we accept the hon. Member's suggestion for buying off these gentlemen I am not quite so sure that the Council will be ready to honour the bill when it is presented.

"Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar's main complaint was that our forests are run at a heavy loss, and he pointed out, as another hon.

3 p.m.

Member did this morning, that were it not for the large receipts from fines and forfeitures during the current year, our expenditure would actually be more than our receipts. He was relying apparently on the fact that in our revised estimate we have shown Rs. 2,92,000 as income from fines and forfeitures, and it is on this that he bases his conclusion that the forests are living on the afflictions of the people. I am obliged to him for drawing my special attention to this aspect of the matter and I am asking Mr. Tireman, who will shortly arrive to take the place of Mr. Cox, to ascertain why it is that our fines and forfeitures are on so large a scale. Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar referred to this matter last year, during the budget debate, and he then presented to the House a comparative statement which showed apparently that our fines and forfeitures were no less than eight times greater than the corresponding collections in any other presidency. The hon. Sir Lionel Davidson apparently did not reply to that particular point; but I have had it examined, and I find that there is a very simple explanation which will rob my hon. friend's indictment of a good deal of its weight. It is that while our figures include composition fees paid by offenders against forest laws, in the other presidencies these composition fees are paid into another head and do not appear under fines and forfeitures at all. In Bombay, for example, I find that while they showed only Rs. 25,000, under fines and forfeitures, there was a sum of Rs. 87,000 in addition collected in the year 1921-22 under this head. I am having the matter further examined; but I am sure that the House will be glad to know that the somewhat startling impression conveyed by Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar's researches on this subject as to the relative brutality of our forest system compared with that of other presidencies is based to a certain extent on a misapprehension.

"On the general suggestion that we are working our forests at a loss, I should like to ask hon. Members who take that view why it is that they expect the forests as a whole to be a source of profit. It is essential for hon. Members when they approach the question of the Forest department to realize that the largest and the most important portion of our forests is maintained primarily with the object of protection. We have no less than 11,000 square miles of protective forest in this Presidency, which costs us something like nine lakhs of rupees to maintain, and which must be maintained for the protection of irrigation which serves seven million acres of irrigated land. If you cease to protect those forests, you cease to protect the irrigation and you allow seven million acres of irrigation land to go out of cultivation. This part of our work is virtually a famine insurance, and I am not at all sure that, looking at it from this standpoint, I would not really be justified in asking my hon. friend, the Revenue Member, to debit to his budget the cost of this part of the department. Then, perhaps, I may

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be able to show the profit which the hon. Members of this House are so anxious to see. Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, and the other Members who adverted to this point, may perhaps be inclined to say that those forests which are very often situated in almost inaccessible parts may very well be asked to look after themselves. I do not know how many of them have actually visited any of the forest areas in this Presidency, or have seen, as I have seen, the melancholy contrast between the areas which are protected and those which are not and which have been cleared or denuded by fire. Most of these, I may say, have been in private hands. If hon. Members were to make an investigation themselves, I am pretty certain that their views as to the necessity of protection, even as regards those forests out of which we can expect no commercial profit, would be very greatly modified. Then there is another side of the question. I do not know whether hon. Members, who insist that the Forest Department must make a profit, remember the repeated clamour outside, and the repeated demands inside, this House for the reduction of grazing fees. That, Sir, is a very popular demand; but I do not quite see how we are expected to go on making increased profits if we are at the same time called upon—as we are called upon—to reduce this source of our income. I am quite sure that if I were to propose an increase of grazing fees, hon. Members in this House would be the first to object. I mentioned just now, Sir, the fact that it is very largely the private forests in this Presidency which have been denuded. One suggestion was made this morning that if we worked our forests like private forests, we should make a profit. I do not know whether the hon. Member who made the suggestion himself owns a forest; but if he does, I should like him to submit his forest to the system of commercial accounts which we are going to introduce in our forests. As regards the economical soundness of the relative systems, I am quite prepared to await the result.

“What hon. Members have to remember, Sir, when they are considering the question of the Forest department is that it really is working in three sections. We have first, as I have already said, the protective side which ensures the safety of irrigation for a large part of the Presidency. Then, there is the side, which chiefly caters for the needs of the villagers in grass, small timber, agricultural implements, fuel and so on. There is thirdly the profit-making side. From the last we get an income which is by no means so negligible as hon. Members are inclined to think. During the war, our profits were large and they reached the sum of Rs. 24 lakhs in the year 1917-1918, after meeting the whole cost of the department. Even after the end of the war and after the cessation of the extraordinary demands on our produce which the war involved, we continued to make profits; that is to say, we continued to be self-supporting and were able to pay the entire cost of production and to supply the domestic needs of the population without coming down on the general purse for a single rupee. If the profit during the last few years has decreased, it is because, as Sir Lionel Davidson pointed out last year, we are now trying to put money in for the purpose of developing the commercial section of our activities. We cannot develop without spending money. My hon. friend—Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar I think it was—who laid most stress on this question of the forest finance, may like to know that, during the preparation of the Budget, a suggestion was made to the Forest department by the Finance department that we should cut a lakh of rupees of our expenditure.

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Our reply was that we were willing to do so, but that if we did, they must cut 2½ lakhs off our receipts. Well, Sir, that is the position. We have now reached a stage where a lakh of rupees spent is very often able to bring us in 2½ lakhs of revenue.

“The business of forest exploitation is an extremely difficult one. The department and I, personally, will always be grateful for any advice or assistance which will help us to get on with the development of this business on sound commercial lines. I am glad to find that in this House as well as outside there is a considerable body of opinion which is in favour of our going forward on commercial and business lines. I find in the telegraphic report which has reached us to-day of the report of the Inchcape Committee that:

The committee urge the necessity of development of forests on commercial lines. They recommend that the control of forests under the Central Government should be vested in a manager with commercial experience.

“I shall be very happy, Sir, to hand over charge of this portfolio to a manager with commercial experience. Then, Sir, inside this Council my hon. friend Mr. Subbarayan, last year said that if exploitation was going to be taken up in a business-like fashion, the House would not grudge the money.”

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I complained, Sir, that it was not taken up in a business-like fashion.”

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—“May I inquire, Sir, how, if business was being done in a business-like fashion, the Russellkonda machinery cost us a hundred per cent more than the estimate which we received from our experts?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I am sure, that, if my friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar would refer to some of his commercial friends in Madras, he would find that machinery which cost a certain sum before the war went up to a hundred per cent more after the war.”

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—“If business methods were adopted, surely the work would have been performed without the addition of 50 per cent for cost of machinery, 31 per cent for freight and other things, which facts were disclosed in a book that was circulated to us about the forest administration.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I am afraid, Sir, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar is not quite satisfied with the prospects of our carrying on the forest administration on commercial lines.”

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—“My fear is, Sir, that it is carried on like the mere speculative business transactions about which we hear so much. There are companies which have profited by speculation and there are companies which have come to grief. Only, in this case, it is the taxpayer whose money will be lost in several of these exploitations.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“The remedy for it seems to be, Sir, that suggested by the Inchcape Committee which I have already said I should be delighted to adopt, viz., that the business should be vested in a manager with commercial experience.

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"Well, Sir, our main aim as regards the exploitation side of the business is to embark as far as we safely can on a profit-making process. But the process must necessarily be slow. A tree does not grow in a day. In fact our teak in Nilambur to be ready for the market takes about a hundred years. One Member of this House, speaking on the subject last year, touched the spot, I think, when he mentioned that one of our faults was our impatience. When we spend our money, he said we want the result at once. That, I am afraid, Sir, is rather the attitude of my friend Mr. Tanikachalam Chettiayar."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"How is it to be accounted for, Sir, then, that when we had 4 lakhs as profit last year, our profit for this year comes only to Rs. 1,41,000. No doubt the hon. Member speaks of business methods. Business methods will lead to increased profits; whereas after having spent 52 lakhs this year we have only decreased profits. That is a small business proposition on which I should like to be enlightened."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Because, Sir, we have put back, as I have said, some of that revenue into our capital and we are using it for further extensions. As I say, Sir, it is quite impossible for the Forest department to promise immediate results. But what I do claim is that, if this Council will only give the Government an opportunity of carrying on its present policy of careful and detailed examination by expert advisers of the commercial possibilities of the various projects and will allow it to engage a portion of the money in cautious exploitation on commercial lines the Council will be taking one of the very few means which is left to us to expand our rather inelastic income and to find funds for some of the other activities which, I am perfectly well aware, are at the heart of so many hon. Members of this Council."

"There is one other subject to which I need allude, and that is, the remarks made this morning by my friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi. He told me that unfortunately he would not be able to be present here this afternoon. I regret that, Sir, as much as he did and I sympathize with him in the position in which he finds himself of having so to speak thrown a stone and then run away. He first of all referred, Sir, to the question of a contribution made by His Exalted Highness the Nizam for relief in Malabar."

"I found in the newspapers a few days back a statement by Mr. Ramalinga Reddi that the Nizam 'had donated half a lakh to the Madras Government for the relief of distress in Malabar.'"

3-15 p.m. Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, referred to the same matter this morning but this time he no longer made an assertion but asked a question, and said that the public had a right to know how this sum was spent. I can definitely state that no such sum has been received from His Exalted Highness the Nizam.

"Mr. Ramalinga Reddi also asked a question about the sum of Rs. 3,25,000 provided under the head 'Compensation to the sufferers in Malabar'. He asked whether it included the writing off of loans. No, it does not. This is a cash grant required entirely for the grant of compensation to sufferers, irrespective of the writing off of loans. He also asked whether this Rs. 3,25,000 includes Rs. 2,00,000 required for the restoration of temples and for the compensation of certain persons who have not applied for loans and whether the remaining Rs. 1,25,000 was for compensation to Government officers, including village officers, for their loss. These are details which will come up for discussion later on."

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"I am glad to note the observation made by my friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, on the much-needed grant for the restoration of temples. When I asked a fortnight back for a grant for this purpose, he was a ringleader in refusing that money."

"Then, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, referring to the Mappillas in the Andamans, asked whether we were inducing the Mappillas to take their wives there. He said that he had a very strong objection to it. My answer is very simple. We have a number of Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans at the present moment. The authorities there intimated to us that they would be very glad to release them from close prison and allow them to become self-supporters if only their wives would join them. At the same time they asked us to send over to them an officer from Malabar to advise them about the treatment of the Mappillas. Our officer went there and in the course of his duties found that there were quite a large number of Mappilla prisoners, about 135 in number, who were very anxious that their wives should join them. That officer has, since his return, been engaged in finding out how many of the wives of these Mappilla prisoners would wish to go there. He has since found ten women who are willing to go and I may mention that they are given a distinct assurance from the Government that if they do not like the life in the Andamans the Government will pay for their way back six months hence. Mr. Ramalinga Reddi may disapprove of the scheme, but I contend that in the interest of these unfortunate prisoners themselves and of their wives the experiment is well worth trying."

"Mr. Thomas has already dealt with Mr. Reddi's unwarranted aspersions on the character of the Police Force in Malabar—aspersions which I desire to join with Mr. Thomas in repudiating to the utmost of my power. There is no foundation whatever for the suggestion that the police as a whole ran away. Mr. Ramalinga Reddi is not able to take the responsibility on himself for his statement because, I am informed, he specialized in Malabar only after the danger was over. He referred, Sir, to responsible persons who had supplied him with materials for these aspersions. I challenged him to state who these responsible persons are but he declined to name them. I leave it at that. I do not want to add anything, Sir, to what Mr. Thomas said except to say on behalf of the Government that we are glad we have the opportunity once more of repudiating any such suggestion from whatever source it may come."

"I have only one other point, and that is in regard to the suggestion that the Government are beginning to interfere with the electioneering campaign in the rebellion areas. There is no foundation for that suggestion, Sir. The fact is this: the District Magistrate who is responsible for law and order in the district has thought it well to warn the leaders of the various parties in Malabar that a certain danger may be run if, during the electioneering campaign in the rebellion area, care is not taken to see that the stimulating or rather over-stimulating part of the campaign is not kept within as moderate bounds as possible. We have no intention, Sir, to interfere with any electioneering campaign conducted on responsible lines; and, I think, Sir, that this is very well understood by those to whom the District Magistrate has appealed. All that the District Magistrate wishes to do is to sound a warning against the artificial stirring up of class-hatred in an area."

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which has only so very recently recovered from the horrors of a rebellion. I think, Sir, that my hon. friends from Malabar will bear me out when I say that Mr. Thorne's counsel is one which every responsible politician in Malabar who knows the actual state of affairs will try his best to follow. This is very different from saying that the Government are endeavouring in any way to interfere with the freedom of candidates in carrying on their electioneering campaign."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I am grateful to those hon. Members of the House who have referred in terms of appreciation to the work which myself and my hon. colleagues have done during the period we have been in charge of our portfolios. I am also grateful to those who made personal references to me in appreciation of the work of the Department of Education, and to those who have supported me and asked for and appealed to the Government for a larger provision to be made for the expansion of education in this Presidency. There are, however, three or four points which were raised in the course of the discussion of the budget which I would venture to reply.

"The first one was this. It was said that, as against the non-votable items in the budget of the current year, in the budget for 1923-1924 the number of non-votable items has become very large. This is as it ought to be. There is nothing to be discouraged about it, nor to be disappointed. There has been a reclassification of the items of expenditure. Those that are made under statutory obligations come under non-votable items. I beg hon. Members to refer to page 140 of the budget estimate in which they will find that items to the extent of 17 lakhs are put down as non-votable. Hence, the amount of non-votable items in the budget has increased.

"Under the Elementary Education Act, provision has been made to give help to the local bodies and also under the proviso to that section subsidies have been made to the local bodies for the expansion of elementary education. Taking the three items at the top of page 140, hon. Members will find that the amount of 17 lakhs is non-votable and that it is over and above what it was in the current year's budget.

"The second item that was referred to by hon. Members is that the amount allotted for education for the current year has not been fully spent and therefore it is necessary that an explanation should be given why it has not been spent. A perusal of page 140 of the Budget Estimate would show that a sum of 2.40 lakhs was provided for the purpose of giving aid to local bodies under section 37. The condition was that they had to levy an education cess and that an equal amount would be paid to them. The local bodies have not been able to realize the cess and therefore that amount had to remain undisbursed. Hence, we have applied to the Finance department for permission to reappropriate these sums for very urgent expenditure in other directions. The matter is now pending with the hon. the Finance Member, and if the reappropriation is allowed by the Finance department, then there will be no room whatever to say that any amount will lapse under the Education Budget.

"The third point that was referred to in connexion with education is that the expenditure per head of the population in this Presidency is lower than in other presidencies, but hon. Members making the reference to percentages will always remember the amount that is spent for the population. Take

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for instance Bombay, Bengal and Madras, and compare the population of Bombay or of Bengal with that of the Presidency of Madras. Take also the amounts that we are spending on elementary education or education in general. I do not by any means say that we have reached the limit of expenditure. I want any amount of money for the expansion of elementary and secondary education, but, as it is, we are situated under the limitations of old conditions. Take the conditions as they are, take the policy and the amount spent under these conditions, then you will find that the expenditure is larger than it is said to be. It is larger than that of other provinces. I would not tire the patience of the House after a lengthy sitting of three hours. I would only compare the figures with reference to Bengal and Bombay and show that we are in no way inferior to them or behind the times. The population of the Madras Presidency is 40 millions in round figures as against Bombay which has only a population of 10.1 millions. The amount spent by this Presidency in comparison with that of the Bombay Presidency shows a larger percentage. Taking the cost of education in Bombay, Madras and Bengal you will find that the cost of Government schools in Bombay is Rs. 15 while it is Rs. 11-4-4 in Madras. The cost of a board school is Rs. 14 in Bombay and Rs. 4-13-2 in Madras. The whole of the elementary education in Bombay is carried on through the agency of local boards and there is very little for the Government or private agency to do in this respect. But in Madras you will find that the large bulk of the burden falls upon the aided institutions and even the local boards do not share the burden though there is statutory obligation upon them.

"Hence, you find that aided institutions are helping the State to a larger extent than in any other province. We should not be altogether carried away by the figures given. They will be in most cases misleading. Taking the whole of this province, and judging it according to the conditions as they are, are we satisfied with the existing state of things or are we not, though we do want further development in the direction, and though we want more energy, more funds and more interest on the part of the local boards for the expansion of elementary education? We really hope that the expansion will be one of steady and gradual development. What has been done in order to achieve the end, namely, the gradual development of elementary education, is a question that may be very pertinently asked. I may submit to the House, without tiring the patience of the hon. Members by referring to the various figures and budget provisions, that there is an increased provision under the head of Elementary Education to the extent of 14 lakhs, and you will find that that amount has been distributed in several branches of elementary education. Hence we have a policy laid down for the expansion of elementary education. The first and foremost, as I told you, will be the expansion of free and compulsory system of elementary education. In spite of the work of the local boards and their personal exertions and influence, we have been able to obtain only 14 municipalities to adopt the system of free and compulsory education. I know the financial difficulties of the local boards which stand in their way of appreciating the adoption of the system of free and compulsory education. I know that the members of municipal councils and taluk boards are sincere about introducing the system of free and compulsory system of education in municipal and local areas. I need not refer to the fact which the Finance Member has very rightly referred to, viz., the question of financial relations between provincial and local finances.

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That is a very serious problem and in the interests of provincial and local finance it is necessary that we should consider how far the principle of free and compulsory education can be applied without further subsidies to the local boards from the Government. The conditions existing in the local boards, so far as their finances are concerned, are not at all sound and they find it difficult to carry on their day-to-day administration. Under these circumstances is it possible to expect a greater and more speedy progress in that direction? I am sure there is hope for the future, because we find that the local boards are levying cess, and the hon. Members of this House will be glad to learn that 88 local boards have levied education cess for the purpose of the expansion of elementary education, and the Government are statutorily bound to pay grant to them rupee for rupee, and that has already been made. At the same time we take care to see that money is not sought for the purpose of developing other services of the local boards. We take care to see that their budget is submitted first to the Local Self-Government Department of the Government, so that they may check it and find out whether the particular board which has applied for grant is in a position to raise the cess, and whether it is in a position to carry on the programme for the expansion of elementary education. Then it comes to the Education Secretariat where it is scrutinized, and if it is found satisfactory it is passed. Even if it is passed by the Education Department there is the Finance Department and oftentimes we have had much difficulty in satisfying the scrutiny of the Finance Department. Thus, it is only when the proposal has passed through all these stages we give sanction to a particular area. Therefore hon. Members will be able to see whether they expect any further progress in this direction. It seems to me that we have to move very cautiously in the policy of development of free and compulsory system of education. I have decentralized the whole of this work of elementary education. Power is now vested in district educational councils by the rules framed under the Elementary Education Act so that they may adopt their own curriculum in consultation with inspectors of schools. They have the right to organize schools wherever there is a necessity. They have also the right to call upon the local boards and private agencies to say whether particular areas should not have a school or patasala. Hence you find complete power is delegated to district educational councils for organizing elementary education in local areas. Now it is to these district educational councils that power of distribution of funds has been given under the same Act. In the working of the Elementary Education Act, we find that district educational councils as well as local boards have been labouring under certain difficulties. My friend Mr. T. M. Narasimhachari moved the other day for the amendment of the Elementary Education Act. I have referred the matter to certain district educational councils and district boards and their opinions have not yet reached us, and we will no doubt consider in what directions the Elementary Education Act can be improved and prepare a Bill so that these difficulties may be met. The Bombay system was modelled on the Madras elementary education system, but now that they have advanced over us, that we find certain difficulties with regard to the working of the present Act, and that the Advocate-General also advises that certain provisions of the Act have got to be altered as there is difficulty in interpreting them, we have to amend the Act so that all these difficulties may be met, and facilities afforded to local boards in the working of the Act.

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"While on this matter, I wish to refer to the salaries of the elementary school teachers. You will find that a provision has been made in the Budget on page 145. The Government have also undertaken to give grants for increased salaries to teachers in schools which are under the local boards, and the Government have also fixed the salaries of teachers of aided institutions. Their salaries have in fact been doubled, doubled to what they were getting previously. We have also fixed the scale of other elementary trained and untrained teachers, elementary higher trained teachers, and elementary higher untrained teachers, and so on. To all these teachers we have provided a scale which is twice over what it was previously. This scale was fixed not in consultation with persons who are interested in personal advancement, but in consultation with those who are interested in the educational development of the country. It was not in consultation with those of whom we can say 'save me from my friends' that the rules have been framed but they have been framed in consultation with honest workers; and they have been framed in such a way as to make the teachers receive a higher scale of pay than what they were getting before. Thus in the matter of teachers we have provided them attractive emoluments for teachers who may be available and they may be entrusted with the real work of imparting elementary education. In the course of last year we opened a large number of elementary schools because as elementary education expands more schools are to be founded. For all these schools trained teachers are necessary. All the untrained teachers who were already in the schools have been sent up for training so as to enable them to discharge their duties satisfactorily. In order to take up their places and also to meet the demands of schools which have been newly established, training schools have also been strengthened, and the hon. Members will see that in future the difficulty of obtaining trained teachers is avoided. The object of advancing the interests of rural population by the spread of elementary education will not at all be achieved unless we get the services of trained teachers.

"Again, Sir, we have adopted a new policy with reference to the question of separating the primary and secondary education. In rural areas we experienced difficulties with regard to this question. The question of separating the two was considered by a committee which was presided over by our esteemed friend, Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu and the provision relating to the question of separation has been given effect to and orders have already been issued with regard to the distinction that should be made between the two so that elementary education may be made more useful to the people. As a necessary corollary to this policy, the higher elementary schools will be converted into the old middle schools, middle schools may be in direct connexion with the elementary schools. In the middle schools, vocational training is made obligatory. In dealing with the other part, namely, the secondary education, I wish to refer to the secondary education committee and what steps have been taken in order to bring those recommendations into practical effect.

"With regard to elementary education a sound foundation has to be laid and the whole system has to be overhauled so that a practical system of working in the rural areas may be brought about, and at a later stage this policy will be developed with regard to the secondary education. For the

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purpose of organising the system of elementary education on sound lines we would ask the co-operation of all the local-boards for carrying on the policy which we have laid down.

"Well, we have gone on a definite policy of expanding the elementary education on sound and proper lines, and have reorganized it on lines which will tend to facilitate its expansion in rural areas. This education is not merely the learning of the three R's, but the creating of an interest in practical lines of work.

"Then, Sir, I will not tire the patience of the House by referring to any details with regard to secondary education. The hon. Mr. Meston referred to the great need existing for aid being given to the secondary schools. I agree with him. As I said the aided schools are a great help to the State because the local boards are not able to maintain them and when grants from the Government of India were very freely coming to the Government of Madras, the latter were giving subsidies very lavishly to the local boards, and many schools were started. Now the local boards have no funds and we are faced with the serious problem of how to maintain those schools, which are already in existence. This problem is one with reference to local and provincial finance which the local boards have to consider, because as the hon. the Finance Member has said, they have to make up their minds as to whether they would maintain all the board schools or not.

"Therefore, I have issued what is known as the net cost Government Order 3-45 p.m. for areas where no educational facilities are available—where not even one school exists for a large number of villages. In such cases we take over the school from the municipality or the local board; but we refuse to do so in other areas where they are able to support the institutions. That is the policy which we are adopting in areas where there are no secondary schools. I am sure that in the long run this will result in benefit and advantage to the people in rural areas.

"Again, with regard to secondary education, hon. Members will see that in the current year, it was not possible for us to make any provision for the development of hostels and buildings. We have, in the Budget for next year been able to provide some amount for the hostels and buildings of the high schools. It may not be adequate, as has been pointed out by some of the hon. Members. But I am sure, if we are able to carry on the work properly with the amount that is at our disposal, it may be possible for us to provide something more next year.

"Not only have we been able, in the matter of secondary education, to provide for building grants, etc., but we have also provided for some amount for the teaching grants. If a school is able to enhance its school fees, then a grant is given to it. It is required to meet half the cost of teaching and the Government gives the other half. The matter is left to the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction. He has to judge the conditions of the particular school or the particular locality and then recommend for the grant. There was a great difficulty with regard to the raising of the school fees in certain areas. It may be possible for some schools to increase the school fees; but others find it difficult to do so because the moment the fees are raised the strength of the school goes down. Therefore, in order to meet this difficulty, in the case of those institutions which are really willing to raise the school fees in order to increase the salaries of the teachers, we have

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come after considerable discussion to the conclusion that relief should be given to them on condition that they use the grant towards the increase of the salaries of the teachers.

"Another step we have taken in the matter of secondary education is the provident fund system which is to come into force from the 1st of April this year. This fund is compulsory with regard to the aided institutions and the question of extending this system to the other institutions is under the consideration of the Finance Department. As I said, with regard to aided institutions it will come into force from the 1st of April this year. The members of the institutions have to contribute a certain percentage of their salary towards this fund and the management of the institution will have to contribute 50 per cent of it. Ultimately when the amount is due to the teacher, that is, at the time of his retirement, the State will give one-third of the total amount. Instead of increasing the salaries of the teachers, this provision has been made for old age. The fund practically goes to aid the teacher when he retires; when he is not able to work any longer in any institution, he and his family may well depend upon this fund. I am also sure that this will provide greater attraction for a better class of teachers and the management will be greatly interested in getting and maintaining efficient teachers. The whole amount is to be invested in the Postal Savings Bank. This fund will be an incentive for the teachers to do their work more efficiently. The cry has been, from one end of the country to the other, that the salaries of the teachers should be raised. To raise their salaries is not an easy matter. It requires several lakhs of rupees. Therefore, the provident fund is the best solution, it makes a provision for the teacher when he retires from service."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I request the hon. Member to address the Chair?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I am sorry. I beg your pardon, Sir.

"Again, one of the considerations of Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu's Committee was that the Grant-in-Aid Code and the Education Rules should be modified so that they might be brought up to date and in consonance with the recent policy. We have now taken up the question of the examination of the Grant-in-Aid Code and the Education Rules. It is under the scrutiny of the head of the department. It will take some more time. After the proposals come in, we have to consult those that are actually working in the Education Department and those that are interested in education, and see how far we can modify the Code and the Rules. This cannot be done in a day. It will take a long time. For, after all what does altering the Grant-in-Aid Code mean? It means the alteration of the financial relations of the department. Unless we have the consent and approval of the Finance Department, it is not possible for us to inaugurate a new policy and I cannot very readily ask the Finance Department at present to place at our disposal any large sum for our purposes, knowing as I do the condition of our finances at present. But I am sure that in the hon. the Finance Member we have a very sympathetic advocate of the expansion of education. When schemes are placed before him for the purpose of developing the education in this province, he takes a great interest in them and every one of our proposals receive sympathetic consideration at his hands. (cheers).

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"Sir, another advanced policy we have adopted in the matter of secondary education is the introduction of vocational education. Here it was very difficult for me to convince the Finance Department of the utility of this kind of education. It was asked what was the use of a Brahman boy or a non-Brahman boy who did not belong to an artisan class, undergoing an artisan course. But I am glad to say that the hon. the Finance Member visited a vocational institution in this city and was quite satisfied with the vocational training given there. I, therefore, hope that hereafter the passing of grants in respect of vocational education will be facilitated by what he has personally seen in Madras. We have introduced vocational training in Agriculture. Such education is not restricted to agricultural classes or artisan classes, etc., but is open to all so that young men may take to it with interest. We have provided sufficient grants for the encouragement of institutions to introduce vocational education. Already 77 schemes have been examined, 30 of these have already been put into force, and 47 will be put into force next year. Of the 30 institutions which have introduced vocational education, I have personally seen about 19, and I must say that it was really a surprise to see how these youngmen took to the work with interest. They are trained not merely in basket-making, not merely in carpet-making, varnishing, and cabinet-making but also in preparing country carts suitable to the villagers. They are trained in the art of making implements for agricultural use. Thus we find that it will take a long time to have as headmasters in these institutions people who are trained in these arts. There are some difficulties in the way of vocational education and we cannot hope that the results will be rapid at present. It will take time. If the several members of the local boards take interest in vocational education, we shall have very useful and practical results. It is not merely a past time, not merely a luxury, but it will be an absolute necessity hereafter when our youngmen will have to work in one or other of the professions. When youngmen come out of these institutions, they will be able to make a living for themselves. But this education is not complete in itself, nor does it satisfy all the requirements of the young man. It is only to create a taste for the vocational subjects in addition to his ordinary lessons. It is only an adjunct to the other subjects, so that if he develops it, it will be helpful to him in making a livelihood. The question of vocational education is gaining ground. As I said, 30 schemes have already been put into force, 47 are under consideration, and 13 more have just come in and will, in the course of the next two months, receive our consideration.

"It may be asked how these schemes are examined. As soon as the institution submits its proposal, it is sent to the expert on vocational education. He consults the local men to see whether the proposal made by the institution is at all practicable and can be carried out with profit in the particular local area. His report is again examined by the department; and, after I am satisfied with the scheme and that it is really needed for the locality and can produce useful results, it is sanctioned. Therefore, it is not every proposal that is sent by a local board or an institution that is sanctioned. A proposal is sanctioned only after careful scrutiny. This process, as hon. Members will see, takes a very long time. The department cannot, therefore, be blamed for not being able to spend all the money that was provided in the last budget. In the Budget under discussion we have also provided some amount under this head. We hope to carry on the work with

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greater knowledge and on more suitable lines as we go on gaining experience, a larger number of institutions take interest in the expansion of vocational education; and this will be carried on in such a way as to be useful to the locality and to the people that are concerned.

"Another feature of secondary education is that I have associated the teachers, educationists and public men with the Department
4 p.m. so that secondary education work may be carried on more efficiently. Power is given now to secondary education boards to send representatives to the Text Book Committee, which formerly consisted of the nominees of the Director of Public Instruction, but would hereafter consist of representatives from the district educational councils. These councils will become a real, living force in order that their experience and knowledge of local areas may be given to the department. The work of the Education Department will be co-ordinated with the work of private agencies, and the district educational councils will form the chief factors in advising the department in matters that are referred to them.

"In the matter of vocational education, as you know, certain functions are allotted to the secondary education boards. In the Budget, you will see that there is a larger grant given for the development of secondary education. Therefore, I have every hope that the policy that we have laid down in connexion with the improvement and development of secondary education in the aided schools and in the schools of the local boards will tend to greater progress.

"In dealing with secondary education, I might refer to the Secondary Education Committee. They have collected a mass of information and drawn up a very useful report, which has been laid on the Editors' Table. I have just taken up the study of the report, and the various suggestions contained therein will require legislation to be given effect to. The question of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate and Intermediate will also be dealt with in considering the question of secondary education. I am grateful to that committee, especially to the President, who, I know, has taken up the work in spite of various difficulties, and has exerted himself very much in order to bring out that report. One of the Members refused to sign, and he had to wait for several months before he could submit the report. It will take some time for me to frame the lines on which reform should take place. When a decision is come to as to the lines on which secondary education will have to be remodelled, opportunity will be given to the public to discuss them. A further reference to the Academic Council may be necessary, and when the Academic Council has considered, the draft will be revised in the light of public criticism.

"Sir, I would not take up the time of the House by referring very much to university education. You have unanimously passed the University Bill, but there is one thing which my hon. friends, Messrs. Shunmukham Chettiyar and Ramalinga Reddi, have referred to. In regard to the grant to the university, I am sure the difficulties which they have referred to will be considered by the Government and the matter properly adjusted. I cannot make any definite statement at present until the approval of the Government is obtained. But I am sure the difficulties mentioned by them will be considered by the hon. the Finance Member and other members of the Government.

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"Then with regard to the Women's branch of education, we have not neglected it. In the Queen Mary's College we have sanctioned a Science laboratory. We have to raise the Lady Willingdon School into a Training College. Proposals for this are under consideration. Three more officers have been added to the cadre of deputy inspectresses of schools, and provision has been made for deputing three women to England to learn up-to-date educational methods and give the benefit of their knowledge and experience to the cause of women's education.

"I have now made a brief survey of the educational development of this province, however inadequate that survey may be. Owing to the exigencies of time, I have to be as brief as possible. There is one other matter that has been referred to. My hon. friend, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar, has said that he is ashamed to go to the electorate and say that nothing has been done in the matter of excise. I do not know whether he said that in an unguarded moment or in full excitement and in criticism of his own action. His own report shows that we have been earnest in the matter and that we have taken all the steps possible for a proper and sound understanding of the excise policy of this Presidency. Sir, in pursuance of the resolution moved by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar in this Council, we appointed an advisory committee and the advisory committee considered the question. It was thought necessary that we should appoint a special officer so that he might study the whole question, not merely from the Madras point of view, but from the point of view of other presidencies as well, and collect information about the several systems prevailing—prohibition, local option, and other systems of temperance. Our thanks are due to Mr. Strathie for the valuable book he has produced. This book has been already placed before the Council and circulated to the hon. Members. It contains full information as regards the systems prevailing throughout the world, and he discussed in the last few chapters the system of temperance that will be most suitable to the conditions of Madras.

"My friends Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar, and Mr. Strathie, visited Calcutta, Bengal, the United Provinces and Bombay. They have studied the conditions of temperance work in these provinces and given us the benefit of their findings in their joint report. In it you will see that they have gone into the question of excise and licensing fees prevailing in the United Provinces and they are unanimously of opinion that there is nothing that can be adopted to the conditions here. They have collected a large mass of information relating to prohibition, local option and temperance societies prevailing in the various parts of the world. What is prohibition to you is not understood in the same sense in Bombay. What is prohibition in New Zealand is not prohibition in South America. People speak of these things at random without properly understanding them. As a result of this deputation, we have now really all the facts on which to build our excise policy. This is our position now, and I am not ashamed to go to my electorate and tell them what I have done. My hon. friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar, need not be ashamed either with all this work before him. Here is what we have achieved in the matter of excise policy. This deputation has placed before you its report from which you will be pleased to see, that there is only one conclusion that you can come to; namely, prohibition is impossible; local option is impossible.

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In Madras, we have reached a stage to which other provinces are now attempting to attain. It is the Madras policy that is in consonance. . ."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I must make a personal explanation. The impression to be gained from the hon. Mr. Patro's speech is that the deputation, consisting of myself and Mr. Strathie, have come to the conclusion that there is nothing to be learned from other provinces and that the last word on excise reform is the Madras system. As for local option and prohibition, I may inform the House that the deputation did not go into the question at all. The only question on which we were asked to report was about the temperance reform that was in operation in Bombay, the United Provinces and Bengal. Mr. Strathie and I came to the conclusion that the United Provinces and Bengal systems are not adaptable to this presidency. I have appended a separate minute in which I strongly advocate the adoption of the Bombay system for temperance reform in Madras."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I never meant that the terms of reference to this deputation were that they should study prohibition and local option. What I do say is that the information which I have placed before you will lead one to the conclusion that prohibition and local option is not at all possible in our country."

"Then, as regards the rationing system, an experiment has to be made. Already there are indications that this system is not at all working satisfactorily in Bombay. Therefore it is premature to draw any inference from the rationing system in Bombay. The choice lies between a steady and slow reduction by the agency of an organized staff and a policy which may prove to be nothing more than a pious aspiration coupled with an admission that evasion is inevitable. Let the revenue go by all means. But let our policy of reduction of consumption be one which we can gauge, measure and control and not one which merely looks well on paper but is unworkable in practice. The policy which I most respectfully commend to the House for its serious consideration is the reduction of consumption by the steady enforcement of enhanced taxation, the immediate objective being a uniform and high rate of excise duty. This is what is called the high licensing system which is adopted in certain other countries as preliminary or preparatory to prohibition. Then, a rigid control over places of sale, assisted by enlightened local opinion; and thirdly, encouragement of temperance effort and assistance by indirect measures for checking consumption as commend themselves to the committee. These are the lines indicated by me for the discussion of the whole excise policy by the excise advisory committee, and I am sure that the committee which is now sitting over this matter will gather information from various sources interested in temperance work. A questionnaire has been published and circulated. When the replies are received the committee may examine some witnesses on the matter and the advice of the committee will be considered and the matter finally settled. Therefore, in regard to the excise policy we have far advanced and we are now in a position to be able to lay down a definite policy after seeing the experience of other provinces. I need not dwell further on this.

"Sir, I am glad that there was no criticism with regard to the Public Works Department or the Registration Department during the general discussion. I need not therefore take up the time of this House in saying what

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new policy has been introduced there. All that I may say is that while we have reduced the work of the Public Works Department, and therefore of the staff, it is said in certain quarters that a drastic measure of economy has been made in the Public Works Department. My justification is that we have simultaneously taken up the question of reducing the work, reducing the waste of energy and time of the officers and thereby calculated how far we shall be able to get on with the existing cadre. I have nothing to say with reference to the Registration Department, and I am thankful that there has been no criticism whatsoever."

4.15 p.m.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—

"Mr. President, before I proceed to reply to the few criticisms that have been directed against the department under my charge, I may be allowed to take the opportunity to thank the many Members of the House who have so kindly referred to the humble services which myself and my hon. colleagues have been able to render to the best of our ability. I may also be permitted to take this opportunity, Sir, to mention that this year's debate disclosed a greater moderation in criticism, a better spirit of comradeship, if I may say so, between the non-official Members of the House and the Members of the Government, and on the whole, if I may so put it, a higher level of debate.

"Sir, before I proceed to the criticisms, I may be permitted also to refer to a question, which, however much I desired I should not refer to, cannot, with a view to give information, be left unanswered in this House. Mr. Rama Rao—whom I do not find here—referred, Sir, to the question of the proposal of the Ministers agreeing to a reduction in their salary. He told us that it was a belated proposal and that it was an election move, though, as a matter of fact, it was communicated to those to whom it should have been communicated some three months ago when there was no talk of coming elections. Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar repeated the same charge though he did not like to put it in the same naked hideousness in which it was disclosed by his predecessor, while Mr. Ramachandra Rao, like a well-known character in Shakespeare, would not say yes or no to that charge but yet would repeat it for what it might be worth in this House or outside it. And he also condescendingly told us with the usual did-I-not-tell-you air that, if only we had followed his kind advice when the motion came here in 1921 for the reduction of the salaries of the Ministers, we would not have subjected ourselves to this criticism now. So far as Mr. Rama Rao's criticism is concerned, viz., that our action is an election move, I do not know whether it will be a satisfaction to him or not, but I can tell him this, that the Ministers and the Members of the party to which they belong have nothing to fear before their electorate. They need not certainly have recourse to this device; they are prepared to stand by the account which they are prepared to give to their constituencies. I think enough has been said in reply by my friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, and a repetition of it alone, I should think, before the constituency will make our places as secure as possible. As for my friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao's suggestion, Sir, he told us that, at a time when Indians were not so profusely represented in the higher services and in the administration of the country, the theory of equality of status being based upon equality of pay was quite good, but that, in these days of Reforms, such a theory could not hold any longer. I do not know, however, what became of these theories at the time when the Reforms scheme itself

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was being considered in London. I still remember, Sir, the day on which my friend—who unfortunately is not here—came out of Whitehall and told me and a few other friends with a sigh of relief that he and his comrades were able to convince Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, with whom they were having an interview, that, after all, an equality of pay was necessary for an equality of status. Two years ago, when the motion for the reduction of salaries came up before this House, the House rejected it; and I humbly submit that the failure of that motion was mostly due to the attitude which Mr. Ramachandra Rao himself and his friends had taken in England when that question was considered. Two years have made a great change. As they say, much water has flown under the bridges. All hopes for a prosperous turn of events during these two years have been shattered. At the time when the motion was rejected, the House was new to the Budget proceedings. The House was new to ideas of national balances. It too had the hope that after all that unfortunate contribution to the Central Government might not be a long continued one. But what do we find in these two years? Deficit budgets, hope deferred as the hon. the Finance Member put it, nation-building departments starved, and progress retarded. This was the cause, Sir, which made our party to advise and induce us to accept reduced salaries now. If it is impossible for the hon. Members, the three who have spoken, to conceive the possibility of a higher sense of patriotism prevailing in the minds of those that have accepted the reduction, it should at least have been possible for them to accept that, if patriotism did not impel, necessity, sheer necessity, national necessity did compel. It was this, Sir, that made us take the course we have taken; not the elections.

"Mr. President, I shall now proceed to the few criticisms that have been directed towards the departments under my charge. On the question of Agriculture, Sir, Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar asked us to give an account of what has been done by the Agricultural Department. That is rather a large order, Sir, but I shall try as briefly as possible to give an account. Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai told us that the work of the Agricultural Department could not be seen much in his district. Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar told us that the department had been in existence for nearly three decades and yet the country did not realize its money's worth. I shall try to answer all these three criticisms before I proceed to the others. So far as my friend Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai is concerned, Sir, I have only to remind him that here in this Presidency the Agricultural Department spending only fourteen lakhs—in 1922 the expenditure was only 14 and the return was four—and with the number of officers at their command had to deal with something like 39 million acres of arable land, and a population of 29 millions directly connected with agriculture. The conditions of one district differ from those of another; and Sir, this province is a continent in itself where our agricultural officers have to deal with lands ranging somewhere from sea-level to right up to the height of 7,000 feet above sea-level and all kinds of soils and lands. And, Sir, we have in this Presidency, in this department, something like 79 or 80 demonstrative officers, whether they be demonstrators or assistant demonstrators. I submit that with this small staff it would be impossible to cover such a large area as 39 millions of acres of land and to cater to the needs of 29 millions of people. That does not mean that the department has been able to do and achieve much more than can be expected of it."

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Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ In the Ceded districts, the disease of *Aggipurugu* has been in existence for several decades past. When I wrote to the Agricultural officer, he wrote back to say that the attention of the department had not at all been directed to it. My complaint was that all the efforts of the department, whatever they may be, had not reached the villagers even in regard to the main pest, this insect pest, with which the poor ryot had to combat.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ I may at once bring to the notice of the House that the question has been under consideration in the department for one full year. Attention has been drawn to it in this House and I, from time to time, have drawn the attention of the Director to it. The Expert's attention was also drawn to it and he had to go to the district which my hon. friend was referring to; but by the time he reached the crop was harvested. The conditions had to be repeated again before the Director and the experts could do anything. In Coimbatore, experiments are to this day being conducted for finding out the possibility of eradicating the disease.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ That nothing should have been done for these 30 years that the disease has been in existence, and that the attention of the Director has just been called to it is a problem in itself.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ It is not the fault of the department if representatives like my hon. friend did not bring it to the notice of the officers whom he now criticises in this Council. During the last two and a half years, the first time that I heard of it was in this House; and that was about this time last year and, I may say, that I did not lose a single day in communicating the matter to the officers concerned and to see that efforts were made to eradicate the evil.

“ Well, Sir, as regards the question that was raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar, that I should give an account of what has been done during the last two years, I told the House already that it was a large order and that it would take much time for me to give a detailed account.

“ There are one or two features, however, which might just be mentioned before I go to details. During these two years the Agricultural College at Coimbatore has been affiliated to the University of Madras, a course for the Bachelor degree in agricultural science has been instituted, and the first batch of the students will be appearing from the college this year. That is so far as university education is concerned. Then, two agricultural middle schools have been opened, one at Taliparamba in Malabar and another at Anakapalle in the Vizagapatam district. Two new farms, two new agricultural stations have been opened, one at Aduturai in the Tanjore district and another in the district of Guntur where dry crops, tobacco, chillies and the like will be studied. The question of making vernaculars the medium of education in our schools is under consideration.

“ Coming now to the activities of the department, I think that Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar would not have set that task to me if only he, and for the matter of that my friend Mr. Sivasankaram and Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, had read this book (holding a book in his hand). Soon after last year's discussion I asked the Director of Agriculture to publish in book form

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what he called ‘A popular account of the work of the Madras Agricultural Department’. This book appeared in June last year (1922), and I asked my office to see that one copy of it was sent to every member of this House. I hope that hon. Members, have received copies of this book. Of course, Mr. President, I am not surprised if one or two members, like Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar and for the matter of that Mr. Sivasankaram, have not been able to realize the magnitude, the importance and the monetary value of the work done by the Agricultural Department. Sir, I just now pointed out that there are only 80 demonstrators to work throughout the whole of the Presidency consisting of 59 million acres of cultivable land. As for the experts, Sir, they sit in their rooms, perhaps within closed doors, pouring over their tubes which they call microscopes. Unknown to others they have to spend laborious days with all the patience which man can command, for, Sir, theirs is the lot of meeting with impediments of a kind which they alone can get over. Patient research and building their success upon a series of failures, is their lot; and it is not easy for the outsider to clearly realize what his work means. That no doubt is the lot of all research workers. Sir, in this case this book (holding the book) gives a complete account of what these research officers of the Agricultural Department have been able to do.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Probably the hon. Member, Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai, has not received a copy of that book.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ Yes, Sir, I have received a copy, and carefully read it too” (laughter).

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ I am very glad of it, Sir. Then, it will be unnecessary for me to go into the various details of the work that has been done by the department because those details are given in this book as also in the administration report.

“ Turning to the crops, Sir,—on paddy which has something like 12 million acres of land devoted for its cultivation, cotton which forms the next important crop, sugarcane which comes next and on coconut gardens—these officers have done immense work. They studied not merely in their laboratories, but also outside. They did crossing work on the fields. They produced new strains that showed results showing 16 per cent and 20 per cent increase not merely in the weight and volume but in securing a higher value for the crop when the produce was put on the market.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ Last year I brought forward a resolution, Sir, that the agricultural demonstrators ought to be deputed to the villages where the ryots at their own expense would start some of these farms for demonstrative purposes. I had even arranged with some of the important ryots in my district to set apart even the best land, supplying labour free for the trial of some of these experiments—I mean the discoveries made by the department in the matter of improving the agriculture. And when I brought that motion forward, the hon. the Minister for Development also said that the department was doing such work. No doubt we have a lot of literature on the Agricultural Department. The Excise Department also has published one book. But we find nothing in the villages. We want the demonstrations made to the villagers, who, when once they come to know that a certain thing is profitable, will certainly take to it.”

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is not giving any personal explanation, but is arguing his case again."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"My criticism was directed towards the absence of any effect on the villages of the work of the Agricultural Department. No doubt the volumes are published to show that such and such a thing has been done, but the demonstrations have not been allowed to permeate the villages. That is my complaint."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"My only answer to that is this. If my hon. friend means by villages, only the villages of his district, then perhaps I must plead guilty. But if he means the villages of this Presidency, there are hundreds and hundreds of villages which have been reached by the department, but with 89 demonstrators it is not possible for me to reach 52,000 villages. That is the only trouble. If only this House and the hon. the Finance Member will co-operate with me and assist me in giving me a larger staff, certainly I am at their service to see that something is done to reach every village as far as possible. Unless we have thousands of demonstrators, it will not be possible to reach each and every village. I may, however, tell my hon. friend that I posted a demonstrator to his district in October last. If only he had told me, instead of complaining in the way he did, what village there was in which the ryots were prepared to incur the cost and to place lands at the disposal of the demonstrator, so that it might be operated upon not by the Government, but by the ryots themselves at their own cost but with the advice of the demonstrator, I would have seen to it; even now, I promise that I shall send a man to such a village."

"Well, Sir, I was just mentioning that in paddy, in cotton and sugarcane, work was done not merely in the laboratory, but in the field. New strains were evolved and utilized by the villagers, and a produce was yielded infinitely better than what was yielded before, not merely in quality but also in the value it fetched in the market. Similarly, experiments were conducted with manures—manures of numerous kinds (say twenty to thirty), single manures and combined manures—on the farms and they were adopted by the villagers in various places. I have got figures here, but it will take a long time to go into the details. The House can take it from me that these have been tried in various places and good results have been attained. Of course it would take some time before every person in every village can take up the improvements."

"Now, I shall answer the point raised by Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, namely, that the people have not received their money's worth from the Agricultural department. I must again refer the House to this book, which, as I said, was written in June last, and in it we have it clearly stated—and no hon. Member so far as I know has questioned the accuracy of the statements contained there—that for the year 1920-21 the increase in value by following the experiments was estimated at 2½ crores of rupees compared with the net expenditure of the year, namely Rs. 10,00,000, on the Agricultural department."

"It is in this way, Sir, we spent fourteen lakhs in 1920-21 on the Agricultural department. The return to the department from the farms and otherwise was Rs. 4,00,000. But we are on the question, not of the yield which is coming to the Government but the benefit or the monetary value that is actually gained—not the prospective benefit, please—by the

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people by adopting the new methods, by using the new strains and the manures recommended by the Agricultural Department. It is no guess work, this calculation of profits made in their book. The Agricultural Department knows how much seed its farms have produced. They know the acreage on which that seed has been sown, and they know the yield of these lands so sown. They also know the yield on the same lands when old seed was used. And it is found that the yield in the former case is about 20 to 25 per cent over and above the yield of the crops for those same lands planted with seeds not supplied by the department but with the old seeds. They also know the value of the yield, and the market value which these have brought to the people. That is how these calculations have been made. In this book, circle after circle is given in the appendix as also the area under improvement. In each circle the crop is mentioned, as also the seed that was used, the extent of the area, the value of the produce and the estimated gain per acre. The total calculations come to 2½ crores of rupees on an expenditure of Rs. 10,00,000. Now, Sir, 2½ crores of rupees covers not merely that year's expenditure but also the expenditure incurred by the Agricultural department during the last thirty years. Now, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, if he was present here, would have noticed that, far from the money being thrown away, far from there being no return or adequate return, in one single year on account of the operations of the Agricultural department, by following the methods suggested by them, by accepting and using the strains which the experts with their work in the fields and laboratories have evolved, the country—not the Government, but the country—has been benefited, actually benefited to the extent of 2½ crores of rupees. If that is not a satisfactory return, it is impossible for me to conceive what more an Agricultural department can be expected to achieve. But the matter does not stop there. This sum of 2½ crores, Mr. President, is the excess in the value derived by the people by using these strains, over and above what they would have ordinarily got if they had followed their own old methods and used their own old strains. But if, on the other hand, instead of the limited area on which the yield is now obtained, this method is extended and if the whole country adopts this system, the prospective gain, as they call it, is estimated at 9½ crores. If only other people had followed the example of the people who are already benefited to the extent of 2½ crores, the 9½ crores would have been the annual extra yield, not the yield for all the years, but for one year, one single year."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"This useful piece of information has not been disseminated to the people, and if they have not had occasion to follow, what will be the use of spending all this money?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"If an hon. Member, the representative of the people in this Council elected by thousands of voters did not think it his duty to disseminate this knowledge among the people, I do not know, Sir, what the term 'representative of the people' means (laughter). I think that it is the duty of the members of this House to co-operate with the Government and to assist their officers in disseminating not merely this knowledge but in telling them the advantages that they will gain by following the new methods. Why did the Government circulate this book to the hon. Members? It is not in order that they should keep it or read it for themselves; but in order that hon. Members must co-operate in this work of dissemination of useful knowledge also."

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Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ For nearly fifteen years I have been attempting this sort of co-operation with the Government. I have been sending lists after lists to the several Collectors of my district indicating the people who were ready to take up the experiments and the methods which the department suggested. A member of this Council can only go to that extent : he cannot give expert advice.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ I regret I cannot hold myself responsible for what the District Collectors have done. It will be impossible for me to stand up here and explain all the actions done during the last fifteen years. But what I say is that if the hon. Member applies to me, my services are at his disposal.”

M. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—“ Thanks ” (laughter).

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ I hope the hon. Member's exertions do not stop with thanks to me.

“ Well, Sir, it cannot be said that because this book is prepared by an officer of the Agricultural Department it has not got its value. 4-45 p.m. I have to bring to the notice of this House the several leaflets published by the Agricultural Department in which the ryots and agriculturists have handsomely acknowledged—though my hon. friend from Anantapur will tell us that they did not reach his villagers and voters—the services of the Agricultural Department and the benefits derived by them by adopting the methods suggested by the department. While on this subject, Sir, I have to refer to two instances in the Vizagapatam district. Immediately after the last year's Budget discussion, two gentlemen from the Vizagapatam district sent a report to the newspapers—about April or May last year—in which they recognized what all they had gained by following up some of the methods recommended by the Agricultural Department. Again, Sir, my friend, Mr. Appaswami Nayudu, quite recently presided over a demonstration meeting at Kovilpatti in the Tinnevely district at which he gave expression to sentiments for which I must be very grateful to him. Sir, he is an agriculturist himself, a big landlord, a zamindar, not an absentee landlord but one who attends to agriculture under his own supervision. Well, Sir, he stands witness to what the department has been able to do in the matter of cotton cultivation in the southern districts. I hold in my hands the report in the newspapers containing summaries of his excellent speech in which he paid a tribute to, and notably commented upon, the good work done by the department.

“ Mr. President, I think it will be unnecessary for me to go into further details of the work done by the Agricultural Department. A perusal of the Administration Report and this book to which I have so often referred will, I am sure, convince hon. Members that much has been done, and if information is still wanting it is not the fault of the Agricultural Department or of the Government.

“ Now, Sir, I shall proceed to another question raised in connexion with the Agricultural Department, that is the point raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar. Well, Sir, he referred to page 7 of the Budget estimate and to three departments belonging to the three Ministers, and pointed out that, in demanding a reduction of a portion of the iniquitous impost, we had found a reason for removing or reducing the grants to the nation-building departments so that they have suffered, and that while as a

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matter of fact money was placed in the hands of the Ministers they were not able to spend the whole of it. Now, so far as my departments are concerned Sir, this charge cannot be laid. Hon. Members will see on page 7 of the Budget estimate against agriculture that something like Rs. 3.50 lakhs was shown as a minus item meaning thereby that it was not spent out of the estimates of the current year, that is 1922-23. Now, Sir, this Rs. 3.50 lakhs is made up of Rs. 20,90,000 for agriculture, Rs. 58,000 for veterinary, and Rs. 80,000 for co-operation. But, Sir, these figures are not accurate. The reason is this : as you are aware, Mr. President, the figures for the last three months of the year—for the Budget had to be prepared somewhere about December—are based on the actuals of the previous nine months, and a proportionate amount is considered to be spent during the remaining three months. As a matter of fact, I have received from the Director of Agriculture a statement only yesterday which shows that under ‘ Agriculture ’ the actual non-spent money will be only Rs. 1.33 lakhs. But of what does this consist ? It consists of non-voted salaries of officers Rs. 43,953 and those of other officers and establishment Rs. 60,000. That will make Rs. 1.11 lakhs, so that the money that has not been actually spent is only Rs. 20,000. Now, Sir, that sum of Rs. 1 lakh and odd which was intended for the salaries of officers high and low and of the establishment has not been spent because of a deliberate policy of not filling up certain appointments on high salary—a policy of economy loudly advocated in this House. I am sure the House will remember that in dealing with the Agricultural department it has been said that a large number of officers, almost an army of them, is being entertained or retained on large salaries. I am not going to trouble the House with details. But I shall only say that this reduction in the expenditure is due to not filling up certain appointments and to filling up certain other appointments held by European officers of the higher grade by officers of the Provincial service. So, it will be noticed that this is a step in economising, in retrenchment. No one single object of public utility, not one single farm or any other work which makes for the material progress of the country has been stopped or left undone. Therefore, it will be noticed that so far as the Agricultural department is concerned the surrender of a portion of the budgetted fee is due to the pursuance of an economic policy.

“ With reference to the Veterinary department the amount not spent is estimated in these estimates at Rs. 57,000. The latest information is that it is only Rs. 47,000 now. These Rs. 47,000 in the Veterinary department again consist of Rs. 31,000 under salaries and establishment, Rs. 3,500 under travelling allowances and Rs. 12,500 under contingencies of various kinds. It will again be seen that the unspent money relates not to any work of public utility but to salaries of officers and salaries of the establishment which I have, on the advice of this House, tried to cut as much as I can.

“ Similarly, Sir, in the Co-operative department the reduction of Rs. 63,000 consists of Rs. 30,000 for establishment, Rs. 20,000 for travelling allowances, and a lump provision of Rs. 10,000 for additional co-operative staff for the Labour department. Again, this unspent money is due to not spending money upon officers. I can give similar accounts with reference to the Industries department, but I shall do it if necessary when I come to that department.

“ On this question of retrenchment, I should like at this stage, Sir, to give an idea to hon. Members of what retrenchments have been effected in

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the departments under my charge. I have recently furnished a statement to the Finance Member, and I now propose to give only final figures and not the details. Sir, under the Agricultural department we were able to save an expenditure of Rs. 78,455, and this is due mostly to not filling up the vacancies of three specialists' appointments and one Deputy Director, though these were sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India. There are also other items of a like nature. Similarly, in the Co-operative Department, we have been able to save Rs. 62,274 and in the Veterinary Department, Rs. 52,000. This makes a total of Rs. 1.93 lakhs, and I have to add to this the saving in the Industries and Fisheries Departments which is something like a lakh and odd. This would mean that in the five departments under my charge I have been able to effect a saving on salaries alone to the extent of about Rs. 3 lakhs. Considering that the whole amount spent by the departments in my charge was only Rs. 49 lakhs, considering that it is not even half a crore of rupees, I think, Sir, that Rs. 3 lakhs will be considered a decent cut. This means 6 per cent of the expenditure of these departments. When it is remembered that these departments are so very much appreciated as nation-building departments, and when it is also remembered that these departments are new departments which require development, I should think, Sir, that the House will appreciate that when with the greatest difficulty we have been able to save three lakhs out of them some real economy has been effected.

"Now, Mr. President, I shall not tarry any longer on the subject of agriculture. I shall proceed to the Industries department, following a happy phrase which my hon. friend, Mr. Ratnaswami, used in the course of his address—the phrase was 'ploughing the sands'. My friend, Mr. MacDougall, observed that he feared that I might be taking rivers to deserts. I am sorry, Sir, that after having delivered a somewhat serious attack on my subject he is not in his place. Probably, he is not to be blamed, though it is not yet five o'clock yet it is nearing that hour. He was not pleased to remain in his place to face the music from this side, if I may so put it, but I won't say 'the return of fire', for it is not a return of his fire of which I am incapable. He delivered an attack and absented himself perhaps on the Mount Road. I wish he had been in his place. For I have something to tell him which will disprove some of the theories which he has advanced in this House."

Mr. A. E. RENCONTRE:—"Mr. MacDougall is away on an engagement."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I am sorry, Sir, I did not know that. I hope my words will reach him sooner or later, if not to-day, at least when they appear in the press or when the report is sent to him. He was telling the House that he was afraid not of my ploughing the sands, but of my taking the river water through deserts. Mr. President, I come from a delta tract in the outer reaches of which there used to be any amount of sandy tract thirty years ago and lands contemptuously known as *Parra* lands which mean sandy desert. But, what do we find there to-day? After these waters have been taken to these sandy lands, they are found to be the most fertile, and to-day it can be noticed that the older lands in the upper regions are not so fertile as these *Parra* lands. They are now capable of producing the largest yield and obtaining

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the largest income. Well, Sir, if in the industrial deserts also I can carry the stream of industrial activities, the day may not be far off when, like the *Parra* lands of my deltaic district, this industrial desert may yet be converted into not merely a single oasis but perhaps into a series of oases or a regular fertile plain itself. (Hear, hear.)

"My hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, has delivered a charge against my department from beginning to end. No branch has escaped the fire of his criticism. He referred to the soap factory at Calicut and told us that more foreign soap was being sold in Malabar than what the soap factory could replace. He seems to forget the fact that after the factory was opened, during the four years of the War, it has earned something like one lakh of rupees which was sufficient for all the money spent on the new buildings which are being fast completed at Calicut and all that amount has been recovered from the factory. The Director of Industries in his report to the Government euphemistically describes that the brick and mortar used for the institute have all been earned by the soap factory of the place.

"My hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, has also referred to the jam factory and asked me whether I had calculated like a businessman if I could get a profit of 5 per cent over the expenditure incurred upon it. He forgot the fact that the jam factory came into existence as a business concern only two months ago. I do not know, Sir, if in business circles they calculate their profits and draw up a balance sheet within two months after the concern has begun to be run."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"As regards the Forests, they did it after sixty years."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I can promise that in the case of the jam factory it will not be after such a lapse of time as sixty years, but that it will be about the end of every year. My hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, told us that he tasted the jams and found them quite good, but he wanted me to find a market for them. I am certain that if the jams are good, they are sure to find a market.

"Then, Sir, he referred to the Industrial Institute and the Trades School and asked me how the amount was spent on those institutions. So far as the Trades School is concerned, he ought to have remembered that this is an educational institution, and that, therefore, any amount spent upon it must be considered in the same light as any expenditure incurred on any other educational institution. He referred also to the Madura Institute. In the budget estimate a sum of Rs. 22,000 is provided for the purchase of materials and Rs. 25,000 for wages of workmen thus making a total of Rs. 47,000, and the income is put down as Rs. 28,400. He concluded from this that there was a loss of Rs. 18,600. Here again I must point out that what is called 'materials' includes coal and oil, which produce power and not a finished article for sale. Also, the wages of workmen are not the wages paid to ordinary coolies, but include the wages paid to 80 apprentices. It will thus be seen that the amount spent under this branch is practically a sort of scholarship to students to learn their work there. We should also remember that this is again an educational institution where boys are trained to become skilled labourers and, as such, we must leave some margin for unremunerative expenditure. If once it is recognized that this is an educational institution, then the expenditure on it is quite justifiable in the light of what I have said.

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"Then, my hon. friend Mr. MacDougall referred to the fact that industrial development has not taken place to any large extent in this Presidency whereas it has taken place on a large scale in the Bombay and Bengal Presidencies. He asked me to find out the root cause for this and explain why industries have not yet developed in this Province. Well, Sir, I did not wait for advice much as it is welcome to be given to me in this House, two years after taking over charge of the department to find out why Madras was industrially backward. The question engaged my attention very early. Last year, in May 1922, in reply to the address presented to me on the occasion of my laying the foundation-stone of the cotton factory at Pillamedu in the Coimbatore district, I gave the reasons why Madras was not so industrially forward as Bombay or Bengal. As the House is aware, Bombay stands on a different footing altogether. It is nearest to the western countries from which trade travels: it is the gate of India. The financiers, bankers and businessmen from the Marwari and the Gujarati countries assisted by the local Parsis and the rich Europeans have been able to make Bombay what it is now. It is somewhat the same with Calcutta too. I may also take this opportunity of explaining to my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, why Madras is not so forward as her sister provinces. It is true that there were some reasons against the industrial development of this province; but they have all lost their force now. One reason was that the lands in the Madras Presidency are more fertile than those in Bombay, and in the absence of any occupation, the ryot sticks to his land and makes it yield as much as to satisfy all his needs. But the times have changed now: the standard of life has risen and with it the need for industrial development has come. The second reason that I gave at Pillamedu was that Southern India was the birth place of the three great religious founders and hence it was more religiously minded than the other provinces in India. I believe that with the association of the British administration in India, our over-religiousness—not our faith in God—the ceremonials and all excrescences that were associated with religion are fast disappearing and we are becoming more worldly minded. There was again the cursed caste system here which was not so rigorous in the Bombay Presidency. Here, every casteman was asked to stick to the profession of his caste; but that again is fast disappearing.

"But, Sir, the industrial development of this province does not depend upon these antiquated causes. The conditions or the elements of industrial development are found in this province and we know that we have raw materials, labour and markets and capital. So far as raw material is concerned, I do not know whether my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, will deny that this province has got its own raw materials in abundance. He was telling us that Bombay had cotton, that Bengal had her jute, that the Central Provinces had their iron, and that Bihar had her coal. Well, Sir, if Bengal has her jute, Madras too has her jute and though we cannot lay claim to as many jute factories as there are in Calcutta, yet we can show four factories to our credit manufacturing jute gunnies in this province. What about the other materials that we have got? What about cotton for instance? Do we not produce the largest quantity of it, at least larger than Egypt? Sir, it is well-known that the United States of America is the largest cotton-producing country in the world; but next to the United States, India is the greatest cotton-producing country and Egypt comes only third. Madras by itself

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produces a larger quantity of cotton than Egypt. But out of about 200 cotton factories in the whole of India, we find only 11 or 12 in this Province. Then we have our hides and skins. Out of a total weight of 28,884 tons which India exports, this province alone is responsible for 22,809 tons. In 1919-20 their respective values were Rs. 12,54,88,257 and Rs. 9,65,44,405. Oilseeds, too, our province sends about one-third of the total exports from India. In 1921-22 India exported Rs. 17,40,69,414 worth of oilseeds of which Madras was responsible for Rs. 5,84,94,258. Why have we not got the oil industry here? Why was it left to Tatass to establish it in an Indian State? How is it that Pondicherry is making cocotene, importing the raw material? What is the extent and value of refined oils which this country imports? Why cannot we make them here? What again is the extent and value of finished leather goods that we import into this land and why not we produce them here? May I now ask this House if any one still considers there is not sufficient raw material in Madras for industrial development?

"Then, Sir, the second element for industrial development is capital. Capital is available in this land, but unfortunately it does not flow. In this country, all the available capital can be tapped if only we are able to infuse into our countrymen a spirit of confidence in one another. It is the want of confidence that did not bring them together; it is the want of co-operation and organization that stood in the way of the flow of capital in this Presidency. I may mention here that the main object of the State Aid to Industries Act is to create this spirit of co-operation and organization and to foster this confidence in one another. As I said when the Bill was on the legislative anvil, this mutual confidence can only be created when the Government stands behind an organization. That step is expected to be taken by this Act. I may mention for the information of the House that the Act received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General and that the rules under the Act are placed to-day in the table of this House.

"As regards the third factor essential for industrial development, I may mention that we have any amount of labour in this land. In fact there is so much of it in this country that to-day we find a number of our countrymen leaving for foreign countries seeking new fields for labour even subjecting themselves to the most inhuman treatment. I need not refer in detail to those countries; but this much is certain: that if only there is enough work in this land and if only the same rate of wages is available here as is procurable in other countries, then more labour than we can conveniently employ will be available. As regards skilled labour, I may point out that the recommendations of the Industrial Education Committee's report are now under my consideration. With the co-operation of my hon. friend to the right (the hon. Mr. Patro) who is taking steps to advance vocational education as a preliminary to industrial education to which attention is being given in the industrial department, I hope the day will not be far off when we may be able to place a large army of skilled labourers enough to supply the demand for labour in the industrial world which we all hope to create in this country. So far as industries are concerned, I think I have answered all the criticisms levelled against them by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall.

"There are one or two minor matters to which reference has been made and which I feel bound to reply to. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramaling

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Chettiyar, has asked us why it is that we are maintaining a separate workshop when there is the Public Works Department workshop. I may mention at once that so far as the Public Works Department workshop is concerned, it consists mostly of civil engineers. In the Industries Department we require mechanical engineers, not merely mechanical engineers but mechanical engineers accustomed to work plant and machinery used in the industries. For instance, it is not enough to get an engineer who can assist in the working of an oil mill or a steam mill or a rice mill. Suppose a cotton factory or jute factory is to be started, then machinery of a particular type will be required. I submit that in such cases only an engineer who knows the mechanism of the particular type of machines will be competent to give advice and other help. As regards the workshop, I may mention that this has not been started newly. It has been in existence for a number of years. The Industrial Commission not only reported favourably about it but also recommended that other provinces should have workshops connected with industries. I may be permitted to draw the attention of the House to the report of the Indian Industrial Commission. In paragraph 373, they say :

We gather from the experience acquired in Madras that a technically-qualified Director of Industries will find it exceedingly convenient for the purposes of test and experiment and for the expeditious transaction of current work to have a small mechanical workshop and laboratory for both physical and chemical tests.

5-15 p.m. "It will be noticed, Sir, that I have therefore the authority of the Industrial Commission that a really useful industrial department should be equipped with a workshop; and when there is a workshop, we must have an engineer attached to it. One other point which I must mention is that probably my hon. friend is thinking not merely of the Chief Engineer, as we call him, but also of the other assistant industrial engineers. These assistant industrial engineers, Sir, have taken the place of the officers known as industrial assistant directors. They are doing the work of assistant directors. But some of the elements that constitute the industrial work play a much greater part than some other parts of it. Engineering, for instance, plays a greater part than Chemistry and so on. The assistant engineers therefore play a very important part and that is why we have called the assistant directors by the name of assistant engineers. That is only a name. The civil engineers are being paid Rs. 700, Rs. 800 and Rs. 900, and now we have reduced the pay of these officers to Rs. 250 and I think my hon. friend will see the justification for their existence.

" Mr. President, I shall now proceed to say one word about the Fisheries Department. There also Mr. MacDougall said that although this department had been in existence for several years the fish supply of Madras had continued to be the same as it had been before. But, Sir, I am afraid he was not quite accurate in the estimate that he had made. Soon after I assumed charge of office, Sir, I ordered an investigation into the question of the fish supply of the city of Madras. I found that fish was being sold at a high price with the result that the poorer classes who should have been largely fed on fish were not so fed on account of the high cost of fish. An able officer was placed on special duty and he went into the question, prepared a census of the fish supply of Madras and it was discovered that the fish supply had been increasing year by year. I quite admit, Sir, that we have not got a

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sufficient supply of fish; but for that purpose we have ordered a small motor fishing launch and we are also under negotiations to get the services of a master fisherman. We hope we shall certainly be able to increase the fish supply very soon, for if our experiments prove successful, this province may soon have a fleet of motor fishing cutters, proportionate to the fish demand.

" But in this connexion I may say that the Fisheries Department does not exist only for the purpose of supplying Madras City with the necessary fish. We have got, Sir, various functions to do in this department. For instance there are the oil factories. In 1908 there was only one such factory in this Presidency; but to-day we find on the West Coast something like 563 factories, all based upon the model oil factory started by Government. The value of the oil and guano produced is estimated at 27½ lakhs of rupees. That one circumstance alone ought to suffice to justify the existence of this department!

" Then there is fish-curing. Years ago when the Industries Department did not take any interest in this matter, we know what kind of dried fish used to be sold in this country; but to-day any one going to the fish-curing yards in Malabar will notice the better sanitary methods that are being adopted there and consequently the fish going out from those yards are certainly more healthy and more satisfactory than what it used to be before.

" Then there are the inland fisheries. We have stocked about 200 tanks with fish in 13 districts and these yielded us in 1920-21 a revenue of Rs. 22,650 and Rs. 13,650 in 1921-22. This means an increased revenue to the Government and more fish food to the people.

" Again, we have got our fish farms in Chingleput, Nallamalai and other places whereby also we have been able to increase our supply considerably.

" Then, Sir, we have got the socio-economic work that is done by the Fisheries Department. We have got 27 village schools and one training institute at Calicut. There are 60 co-operative societies organized by this department, and when they are remembered, Sir, to Mr. MacDougall's complaint that better system of fish-catching has not been obtaining in Madras, my reply is that our socio-economic work has not been completed. We have to contend against any amount of ignorance and any amount of superstition. The old fisherman will only go on with his old ways and it will take a long time before he takes to improved methods. Unless he is sufficiently educated, and unless in this connexion again my hon. friend to my right (referring to the hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro) comes to my rescue and introduces free and compulsory elementary education in this country, the trouble will always be in combating against ignorance and superstition. But with the development of that socio-economic education, the day will not be long not only in the Industrial Department, but also in the Fisheries, before we reach that stage when we shall be able to supply food fish better and cheaper than we are able to do to-day.

" There is again the canning industry; and I shall only refer, Sir, in passing to our Marine Aquarium with which hon. Members are already acquainted.

" Then we have got the Chank fisheries. One word about these. During the last five years, they brought in a net profit of Rs. 1,90,000 as against

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Rs. 61,000 during the quinquennium before they were taken under the control of the Fisheries Department. That, I think, is again a justification for the existence of the Fisheries Department. My hon. friend, I think, Mr. Palmer, said that he would like to see the day when this department is abolished and the money now spent on it diverted to mines or minerals. I believe I have been able to give sufficient information on the subject which might make him take an altogether different opinion of this department from the one he has held hitherto.

"Mr. President, I have only to refer to one other department. Very little has been said about it, and in fact I do not think it necessary to refer to it at all. It was only at a late stage of this discussion that my friend Dr. Subbarayan, whom again I do not see here now, referred to it and told us that if Ireland was at all able to achieve her self-government, it was because of the Co-operative Department. I am afraid, Sir, I cannot take many lessons from Ireland, and if my country is to achieve her freedom in the same manner in which Ireland has achieved hers, I say God forbid it. Not that we do not want Swaraj or Home Rule. We do want it, but we want to get it not in the manner in which it was obtained in Ireland, but by a different method altogether. By the method of working the various instruments that are already in our hands, and by the working of that Reform Act which has laid the foundation-stone of the edifice of full responsible Government, we shall try to get it as early as possible. Let it be within ten years, or let it be even to-morrow, but we shall try to obtain by a method quite different from what Ireland has used. Referring to the Co-operative Department, I have to bring to the notice of the House that this department, perhaps more than all other departments, has shown an amazing progress within the last three years. It will be noticed that the total number of primary societies affiliated to the local supervising unions at the end of the year 1921-22 was 7,389, whereas it was only 180 in 1908-1909 and 3,629 in 1918-19. Leaving aside the earlier years, within three years the number of societies has doubled itself. I leave it to hon. Members to judge whether that is not a sufficient progress and whether any greater progress can reasonably be expected. Again, Sir, the number of financial banks have gone up from 3 to 33 between 1908 and last year. I shall only draw the attention of hon. Members to the most important factor connected with this business, seeing that I have already exceeded my time. The total amount we have dispersed in loans to members of private societies was 487 lakhs till the year 1918-19 and within the last three years it has doubled itself and has jumped to the figure of 9½ crores. In other words, Sir, the co-operative movement has been doing business to an extent which is more than half the revenue or the expenditure of this province. That, Sir, is an achievement obtained within the last three years. I thought that my friend, Dr. Subbarayan, would have been satisfied with such a progress. I hope, like the Agricultural pamphlet, the pamphlet dealing with this subject also has already been circulated among members, and if not, I shall see that it is circulated soon.

"Mr. President, I thank you and the House very much for bearing with me all the time during this somewhat lengthy period during which I have been on my legs. My only justification is that this will be the last Budget of the Legislative Council and let me hope that, given the same conditions as we have now, we may yet reach better results in the next. Prosperity may yet smile on us, better Budgets may yet be presented to us, deficits may

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disappear, and, if I may so hope, the Commission that is to come will go not only into the question of salaries, but will also be entrusted with the nobler task of enlarging the liberty of this country" (loud applause).

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, Sir, if to-day Zeno, the great founder of the stoic school of philosophy, were to come out from the ancient grave, I am afraid, he would have to blush before self-denying Madras, at all events before her Finance Member. Indeed in budgeting her finance Madras has shown self-denial to a record degree. The Central Government's impost, better known in these parts as inequitable impost, leaves to Madras, so far as enterprise towards development is concerned, two alternatives, either to borrow or to starve. The stern Madras elects the latter alternative. She would rather go on hunger strike than groan under the dead weight of debt.

"Sir, to be practically free from dead weight debt, she has had to practise self-negation of the severest type. She has had to do her utmost by way of retrenchment and taxation. She has had to deny to herself even the barest necessities of civilized existence. Every branch of administration is in greatest need of development, said His Excellency, in his recent Tinnevely speech. During the four years of Lord Willingdon's most enlightened and sympathetic administration many an important scheme of development has been matured, but alas, Sir, for want of funds, almost every one of them had to be abandoned. Sir, had it not been for this impost, this heavy handicap of enforced economy—enforced may I say, for the sake of her neighbours—Madras would have a certain chance for the win in the inter-provincial race for lead among the provinces, which come out well under the Reforms introduced by the Government of India Act of 1919. Is Madras to continue for ever in this state of economic strain? We have held hopes of relief from the Central Government, till now, as the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter observes, hopes deferred even after the introduction of the Government of India's budget, and yet we hope and hope. Our newest hope is centred in the sympathy of the new Finance Member of the Government of India.

"Sir, it is hinted here and there in the speeches of the hon. Members that the hon. Finance Member has treated the transferred departments with step-motherly care. However much I might wish to have more funds provided for the transferred subjects, I must in fairness to my hon. colleague say that he has been equally severe in the application of his axe to the various departmental demands, be they for reserved or transferred subjects. In this connexion I need hardly say that I am grateful to my hon. colleague for the chance he gave to my demand for the lump sum grant of 17 lakhs to local bodies to escape from the operation of his keen-edged weapon.

"Sir, some of the speakers seem to resent my hon. colleague's detailed reference to the financial position of local bodies. There is nothing that I can see in the reference which calls for resentment. He was requested to provide for a large lump sum grant for the relief of financial embarrassment of local boards. And in order to justify the provision for the grant, he had to explain to the Council the embarrassed condition of local bodies. Where is the ground for resentment? Is not this explanation necessary? In fact, Sir, he had shown to me the draft of the speech, before it was finally printed.

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"No doubt, Sir, he is pessimistic about the very rapid increase of grants to local bodies from four lakhs in 1889-90 to 140 lakhs in 1923-24. But what of that? We may or we may not share in his pessimism. For my part, I am not at all down-hearted at that increase. On the other hand, I take that to be a healthy sign of development of local self-government. After all, in 1889-90, local self-government in this country was in its infant stage and could afford to be content with a small quantity of its mother's milk, requiring little or no nourishment from outside. To-day, if I may say so, it has grown up to its adolescence and no wonder if it requires rations on an appreciably increased scale to keep its fast developing body in a fit condition.

"Sir, on the whole, my hon. colleague seems to feel nervous about the grant-in-aid system. I wonder why he is apprehensive about that system. Indeed that system, if indiscriminately indulged in, would lead to the financial uncertainty of both local bodies and Provincial Government. But a well-conceived and well-worked system of grant-in-aid to local bodies is a desideratum. In England, a properly devised system of grant-in-aid is regarded to afford a basis for the best of all relations between the national Government and the local authorities. In fact, it is this system that distinguishes the English local institutions from the bureaucratic local administration of the continental Europe and the anarchic local autonomy of the United States. I have great faith in a properly devised grant-in-aid system. I do believe that in our province where independence of local bodies is in a great measure conceded by the legislation of 1920, the grant-in-aid system is necessary to enable the Government to exercise some sort of control over those bodies. At the same time, Sir, I do not deny the difficulty of devising a proper system of grant-in-aid. But the difficulty is not insuperable.

"If the grants recommended by the Financial Relations Committee of 1920 are in the present state of provincial finance, considered extravagant, there could be no objection to another committee being appointed to suggest a system of grants to local bodies, which, while securing to those bodies financial help for all desirable objects, would not involve the Provincial Government in prohibitive expenditure. There is, no doubt, Sir, that some such thing has to be done soon, if only we wish to avoid frequent resorts to lump grants.

"Sir, in the general debate, pointed reference has been made to the question of Indianisation of the Medical Service. In the last budget debate I told the hon. Members that as early as May 1921, I had, with the approval of His Excellency, recommended to the Government of India to have a number of higher appointments thrown open to the officers of the Provincial Service. Unfortunately, although the matter has been receiving the most anxious consideration of the Government of India for nearly two years, no orders have yet been passed by the Secretary of State fixing the number of appointments to be reserved for the Indian Medical Service. I am aware, Sir, there is a great deal of discontent among the provincial medical officers, for in no other branch of Public Service are provincial officers denied promotion to superior posts. In the Revenue department, deputy collectors can aspire to the scale of pay applicable to the superior appointments in the Indian Civil Service and officers so promoted are eligible for all the superior appointments ordinarily held by the members of the Indian Civil Service. In the Judicial department, District munsifs can aspire to district judgeships and even High Court judgeships. In the Engineering Service,

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locally trained engineers have for years been admitted to the Imperial Service and one of them has recently been elevated to the position of Chief Engineer to the Government. In the Educational and Agricultural departments provincial officers have been promoted to the Imperial Service. But in the Medical department, however able and professionally competent an officer may be, he cannot under present conditions be confirmed even in the lowest appointment which has hitherto been held by an Indian Medical Service officer. One can easily realise the depressing influence which the fact that he has always to serve in a subordinate capacity must have on a provincial medical officer. Many of these officers have for years filled very efficiently, some of them with great distinction, posts reserved for Indian Medical Service, yet I am not in a position to confirm any of them. The Council will agree that, in this matter, I have done my very best. I am myself labouring under statutory disabilities. If I have not been able to confirm these deserving officers in Indian Medical Service appointments, I have at least been able to allow them to continue to act in those places.

"The next question asked of me is as to what I have done in regard to the Public Health. When I took charge of the department, the position was this. Several local boards maintained at their own expense a few sanitary inspectors for looking after general sanitation. For cholera arrangements, the Government maintained eight cholera parties with headquarters in Madras. These parties were sent out to districts on requisition from the presidents of district boards. Village officers have never been known to be prompt in sending up reports of epidemics and before the president could ask for the services of the cholera party and certainly before the party could reach the scene of the epidemic, hundreds of lives were lost. In fact the cholera parties very often arrived after the epidemic has subsided. It is obvious that so far as the prevention of cholera is concerned, the parties have been practically useless.

"For vaccination, the local bodies maintained a large staff of vaccinators and the Government employed 106 deputy inspectors of vaccination under the deputy sanitary commissioners, who were inspectors of vaccination.

"In districts exposed to plague infection a staff of plague inspectors was employed by the Collector at the expense partly of provincial and partly of local funds.

"In addition to this, some of the districts employed sanitary assistants, who were mostly junior men without special training and whose duties were somewhat ill-defined and perfunctorily discharged. They contented themselves with visiting villages and making expensive and often quite impracticable proposals, which never materialised. I do not mean to blame the individual officers. They never had any adequate training and Government policy as regards sanitation was very nebulous.

"It was obvious that a good deal of the money spent on the Sanitary department was wasted and that is why even to this day many presidents of district boards are very sceptical about developments in sanitary matters. I realized that before any advance could be made, it was essential that the whole department should be completely reorganized and that the Government should lay down a definite policy as regards sanitation.

"The first thing to be done was to ensure an adequate supply of trained health officers. With this end in view, the scale of pay of the service was

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revised and a very carefully thought out course of training was prescribed for health officers. For the first time in the history of the department, the number of candidates for the Sanitary department, which was very unpopular, actually exceeded the demand and the Government will in April next be in a position to supply each district and many of the municipalities with a well-trained health officer.

"Large additions to the staff were out of the question in the financial stringency under which the Madras Government are labouring. All that could be done was to re-organize the sanitary staff so as to secure the maximum of efficiency without any additional expense. From what has been stated above, it will be seen that separate staffs were maintained for dealing with the several diseases such as smallpox, cholera and plague, which usually appear in an epidemic form in this Presidency. It is a well-known fact that the periods of maximum incidence of cholera, smallpox and plague are not usually simultaneous. Cholera comes in with the rains, plague is at its worst during the cold weather, while smallpox is mainly a hot-weather disease. I therefore decided to have the cholera parties disbanded and have them employed in each district to deal with all epidemics and public health work in general. The proposal had the hearty support of the Director of Public Health and the scheme has already been introduced as an experimental measure in five districts. From April 1st, next, every district will have such a staff of eight or nine sanitary inspectors under a trained health officer.

"The scheme has received the approval of such eminent men as Dr. Heiser, a Director of Rockefeller International Health Association, and Sir Claude Hill, the Director of the Red Cross Organization. Dr. Heiser was of opinion that when the District Health Scheme materialized this Presidency would be better organized for dealing with public health work than any other Province in the East. The reports of the Director of Public Health on the working of the scheme in the five districts where it has been introduced show that it has been a great success, and that the existence of a health staff in the district has prevented the spread of several epidemics and has saved hundreds of lives.

"It may be pointed out that, except for the health officers whose pay is debited to Local funds, this large staff has been brought into existence without any additional expense to the Government or local boards. The money hitherto spent on the cholera parties will be spent on the employment of sanitary inspectors in the district. Some presidents have criticised the scheme because the Government have compelled them to pay for the health officers or rather utilize for public health purposes 10 per cent of the grant hitherto given for their general resources and used for roads. But with this comparatively small expenditure, the presidents will have for the first time in the history of Sanitary Administration in this Presidency, a trained staff in the district for dealing with sanitation in rural areas. Thousands of lives have already been saved and when the scheme is in working, thousands more will be saved.

"The reduction made in the grant for general resources, will be made good by other subsidies. The Government have provided for 17 lakhs this year to enable them to place the finances of local bodies on a satisfactory footing, and if the financial position improves, there will no doubt be considerably larger grants for roads. Objection has been taken to the appointments

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of Assistant Directors of Public Health. Their services are required for research and statistical work. A great deal has to be done by way of general investigations into the incidence, spread, etc., of disease.

"Coming now to Medical Relief, financial stringency has again stood in the way of any rapid development in the department. The financial position of most of the local bodies was almost worse than that of the Provincial Government and any large increase in the number of medical institutions was impossible. A few of them, however, have been added. The so-called 'Dispensary doctor system' which has been adopted in the rural areas of Ireland and some other European countries has been tried in some districts. Under this system, the medical officers in charge of dispensaries which do not provide full-time work for an officer are made to visit regularly out-stations on specified days in the week. The extra cost is practically negligible, but many of the villagers who cannot afford to travel long distances get the benefit of the doctor's advice in their own village.

"I am likewise endeavouring to afford greater facilities to the women of the Presidency for treatment by doctors of their own sex and to reduce the high mortality which occurs in this Presidency both among mothers and infants, owing to the absence of facilities for attendance on women at or about the time of delivery. In the whole Presidency there were only 43 women doctors of all grades in 1921 in Government or local fund employ, and considering the strong prejudice there is among the Indian women against treatment by male doctors, the Council can realize what the women of this Presidency have had to put up with. Obviously the first step to be taken was to increase the number of women medical officers. With this object in view, a separate medical school, which it is hoped will soon develop into a college, has been sanctioned. It would have been opened last July but for the fact that it was found impossible to secure a suitable house for the school. Very soon we shall have an imposing pile of buildings between the Ice House and Queen Mary's College, consisting of the Victory Hall, a hospital for children, a hospital for women and a medical school for women. It is hoped that some of the large number of women who now receive higher education at Queen Mary's College will take up the study of Medicine.

"*Nursing staff.*—The whole nursing staff has been completely reorganized and very soon facilities for the training of nurses will be provided at six district headquarter hospitals (Vizagapatam, Calicut, Guntur, Mangalore, Salem and Tanjore). Several local bodies have agreed to stipend pupils for training at their hospitals, and it is expected that in a few years trained Indian nurses will be available in all the districts.

"*Medical education.*—Detailed schemes for the opening of a Medical College at Vizagapatam and a Medical school at Guntur are ready and but for the financial stringency these would have been provided for in this budget. It is hoped, however, that the savings shown by the Medical Retrenchment Committee will be utilized for financing these schemes. I am glad to say that the committee appointed have already shown considerable retrenchments amounting to six or seven lakhs and that there is every chance for opening the college and school in about July this year.

"*Leprosy.*—Here again, want of funds has stood in the way of a forward policy. The Government have been considering the question of bringing the Leper Act into operation in this Presidency but before the lepers can be compulsory segregated, accommodation has to be found for them. The only

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asylum now maintained by the Government in Madras is overcrowded and the mission asylums are naturally reluctant to take in lepers compulsorily segregated under the Act. A beginning has, however, been made, mainly through the efforts of Her Excellency, who has indeed the Red Cross Society to place at the disposal of the Government, a sum of one lakh to be utilized for a leper settlement at Alapakkam near Chingleput. A large extent of forest land has been disafforested and work is already in progress. The Government will contribute a sum of two lakhs towards the scheme.

"Sir, these remarks of mine, will, I hope, answer many of the more important questions raised in the hon. Members' speeches. The hon. the Raja of Ramnad questioned why, in addition to an Under Secretary and an Assistant Secretary, there should be a Deputy Secretary in the Local Self-Government Secretariat. I have only to tell him that the Local Self-Government Secretariat is very hard worked and since there is no head of department to deal with matters connected with the various local bodies, the work of the office, especially after the introduction of the District Municipalities and Local Boards Acts, has become increasingly heavy. The appointment of a Deputy Secretary has therefore been considered necessary. The hon. Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar seems to take objection to the continuation of the services of the Assistant Directors of Public Health. As I have already explained in my general observations regarding the Public Health Department, the services of these officers are necessary in connexion with research and other work.

"Sir, in conclusion, I associate myself with my hon. colleagues, the Minister for Development and the Minister for Education, in offering our heartfelt thanks to the hon. Members who have expressed their appreciation of our humble services as members of the first Ministry under the reformed Government."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I rise under certain conditions for which I wish to congratulate myself. In the first place, the lateness of the hour is, I think, responsible for almost thin benches. The other circumstance is that even those gentlemen who are now here have their eyes turned to the hon. the Finance Member, so that they may hear him speak.

"I think I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my sense of appreciation of the fact that very little has so far been advanced as criticisms in regard to the departments in my charge. I shall confine myself to one or two remarks. The first one relates to that old friend of ours, namely, the cost of collection. During the first budget discussion of 1921-22 it was alleged that the cost of collection went up to something like 33 per cent, and I was then asked the question whether this should be regarded as a business proposition. I tried to the best of my ability to convince the House at that time that there was something wrong in the calculation. I found that the same criticism was repeated in the discussion of the budget of the following year, when, thanks indeed to the kindness of some of the members who discussed it, the percentage of collection was reduced to 30 per cent. This year they complain again that the cost of collection is 20 per cent. But I beg to submit for the consideration of the House that not every item which appears under Land Revenue nor even every item which appears under 22. General Administration should be regarded as expenditure which is really debitable to the collection establishment. There are certain circumstances which the House

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will be good enough to bear with me. In the first place, we have got to decide and determine what the exact amount of collection is that the Land Revenue Department is responsible for. It will not be correct or accurate to say that the Land Revenue Department is responsible for the collection of no more than six crores and odd which are put down in the budget estimate under the head of Land Revenue. To these 6 crores and odd have to be added the amounts which are debitable to the irrigation revenue, collected as part of the land revenue by the village establishments. Over and above this, we have also to recognize the fact that the Land Revenue Department is responsible for every other item of collection under the sun. My hon. friend, the Minister for Excise, cannot get along unless the village establishments collect the excise revenues. The Government of India cannot have its revenue from the income-tax realized unless and until the village establishments collect the same on their behalf. The Forest Department also owe their debt of obligation to us in the matter of the collection of grazing fees and other miscellaneous taxes on their behalf. The Local Fund Department is not free from this obligation to us; for, do not the village officials collect 70 or 80 lakhs of rupees of land cess on their behalf? Does this exhaust the catalogue of the duties which the village officials have got to discharge? I was very much amused to hear the very graphic picture which was put before the House by my hon. friend, Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai, when he gave us a detailed account of the responsibility of the village officials. What is he not? He is a magistrate, a civil judge, a police officer, the registrar of births and deaths, the sanitary officer, and the purveyor for supplying everything to the military who march and to the civil officers who halt and the travellers who pass through. While these are the multifarious duties which the village official has to perform, will it be right to say that the salaries that are paid to such an organization, must wholly and solely be debitable to the head of collection? Let us take a big firm with an establishment in the city of Madras. Will it be right to debit the whole of the expenditure to collection? There is the central organization as well; and therefore only a certain proportion of the collection establishment can be debited to it. Working at this rate I have been at pains for the last two days to try and find out how best I can arrive at a reasonable solution. I find that it will be wrong to say that the cost of collection in this province should be said to exceed 14 per cent. I may tell the House that a portion of it must come out of the coffers of the Government of India, on whose behalf we are collecting income-tax. I may assure the House that the matter is now under correspondence between ourselves and the Government of India, that the local Government may be paid some compensation for the time and trouble they take on behalf of the Government of India in the matter of income-tax collection.

"Then, Sir, of course, at a time like this, it is perfectly right to ask the question, 'what has been the result of translating into action the retrenchment proposals about which this House has been so anxious and about which we ourselves have made it clear that we shall do it to the best of our ability. So far as the Land Revenue Department is concerned, the House will remember that they cut out a sum of 5 lakhs from the Land Revenue budget last year; and I had to come up before the House a few months later pleading that with the best of my ability it was not possible for me to cut down the expenditure by more than a sum of Rs. 3,66,000 and that they should be good enough to give me the balance to enable me to carry on the administration."

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I assured the House at that time that no efforts would be spared for the purpose of carrying out economies in regard to the departments under my control, so that the supplementary grant that I was then asking them to vote would somehow or other be wiped out by economies effected during the remaining period of the year. I am now able to assure the House that I have been able to effect economies to the extent of Rs. 1,95,000 in the course of the year; so that the supplementary grant which the House has voted for has been more than wiped out. Besides that, we have scrutinized the budgets of the various departments and have brought about retrenchment in the various figures that were put before us to the extent of nearly 6 lakhs. Moreover, we have carried out a number of economies in every department, not to speak at the same time of the abolition of a few posts of Deputy Collectors. Four Personal Assistants to Collectors have been abolished; a few divisions in the Presidency have been abolished; one or two Tahsildaris have been reduced to the position of Deputy Tahsildaris and a few of the Deputy Tahsildaris have been abolished altogether."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Anything more to come?"

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (in the chair) :—"I hope the hon. Member will not prolong the discussion" (laughter).

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am just giving you the facts. I have so far passed orders in the case of only eight districts in the Presidency. Orders in regard to the remaining districts are yet either in my hands awaiting issue, or have not yet been received, or further information has been called for and when these are in a complete condition, orders will be passed. But I may say at the same time that the question of the abolition of divisions, the abolition of taluks and so on, is so closely bound up with the question that is now engaging the attention of another committee that has been appointed with regard to the separation of judicial and executive functions that it will be rather premature on my part now to pass any orders which may probably interfere seriously with any of the recommendations which that committee may make in regard to the criminal administration of the province. Wherever I felt that there was not likely to be any such collision between my action and the future recommendations of the committee, I have passed orders at once. But wherever there was a chance or a prospect of the order that might be passed being inconsistent with the recommendations which might be expected, I thought wisdom consisted in deferring the orders. I hope, however, that those orders will be passed very soon.

"One question, Sir, was asked and was pointedly asked by the Leader of the Opposition, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, who unfortunately is not here now. By a certain calculation he told us that during the three years of our life in the new House we had been able to improve our revenue to the tune of 100 lakhs. He was anxious to know where these 100 lakhs had disappeared and why every year's budget should close with a deficit. I am sorry to have to confess that nearly half of that sum has been swallowed up by the village officials. The cost of the village establishment has gone up systematically. Before 1921, the cost of the ryotwari village establishments in this province was no more than Rs. 56,30,834, whereas its cost last year was Rs. 1,03,47,048. The same appears to be the unfortunate position in the case of the proprietary village establishment. Its cost before 1921 was Rs. 15,63,726, whereas its cost under the new dispensation is likely to be

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Rs. 26,26,744. While that was the state of affairs, which, of course, nobody is responsible for, there was again a great clamour from the village officials for more pay. Some increase had therefore to be sanctioned, and, last year, the House was good enough to sanction an addition in the case of the village munsifs in the ryotwari areas and all other establishments in the proprietary areas. The cost has, therefore, definitely gone up. When that is the state of affairs, it is absolutely necessary to try and economize in that direction also. But what do we find? I am told that economy should be our watchword. Efforts are made for the purpose of economizing in an item of expenditure which has swallowed up during the last two years nearly half a crore of rupees more and when efforts have been started in that direction, I have heard appeals made to me in this House during the last two days and a half that I must withdraw from the proposed amalgamation of the village establishments, which is now in operation in this Presidency. After all, Sir, from the figures which the Board of Revenue have been able to furnish to me, they are unable to scrape up more than about eight or nine lakhs of rupees during the current year and not more than about eight lakhs in the course of the next year. So the total saving will not be more than sixteen or seventeen lakhs. When out of the total expenditure of nearly 135 lakhs, attempts are made to save no more than seventeen lakhs and if in the same breath I am told by the House that I should abandon all attempts in that direction, I should ask the House in what direction money can be found. All sources of economy are being tapped and this is one of the sources. I only hope that the Members of this House will try to support me in carrying out that economy as well. There are various other small matters and I do not think I need trouble the House with them. As I said already, hon. Members feel the lateness of the hour and I shall not, therefore, stand any more between my hon. colleague, the Finance Member, and an anxious House." (Cheers.)

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, I can assure this Council that I had prepared a great speech answering in detail all the many charges that have been levelled against me, but I hope that at this late hour the faithful few who have remained will take it as read. To discharge it at their heads now would be similar to the action of the parson who rates a few faithful church-goers for the sins of those who do not go to church. So, I will ask them to take the speech as read and let me confine my remarks to a few specific facts and figures that I cannot allow to go unchallenged.

"I shall begin with two of the simpler charges. Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar accused us of having spent 370 lakhs since the Reforms on increasing the pay of the gazetted services, and Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar thought that he had enmeshed me in a tangle of figures from which no dialectics would enable me to escape. The only dialectics needed are contained in the axiom that the less cannot contain the greater. The total pay of the gazetted services is 147 lakhs and therefore it cannot have been increased by 370 lakhs. In the second place, Mr. Narasimha Raju charged us with having produced a brick and chunam budget. The total estimated expenditure on bricks and mortar is 3½ per cent of the whole provincial expenditure.

"I shall pass as rapidly as I can over the charge that the nation-saving departments are sucking the blood of the nation-building ones. I had a good deal that I should like to have said on this head, but in view of the lateness of the hour I shall confine myself to the specific criticisms made. One hon.

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Member bases his division on the whole of the expenditure including the contribution; in other words, he makes the whole of the contribution a reserved charge. Another Member complained of the distribution of Exchange. The reasons for this distribution are to be found in the speech of the hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India. But apparently he was anxious to leave that a reserved charge, in other words, to make 'reserved' pay part of the cost of purchasing articles for the 'transferred' departments. A third hon. Member made a bitter complaint of the increase under non-voted charges in the Educational Department. It apparently made no difference to his argument when he was told that the non-voted charges in question consisted of the statutory contribution equivalent to the education cess. I could give further instances. But I think these are sufficient to show how exceedingly dangerous it is to attempt to generalize on this subject without an exceedingly careful analysis of the figures.

"A number of criticisms have been aimed at my analysis of our loan transactions for the purpose of ascertaining what is our real debt, and it has almost been suggested that there is something dishonest about it. Again there is much that I could say in reply.

"The case, however, has been so fully and clearly set out by Mr. Leach, of 6-15 p.m. whose authority as a business man to speak on the subject—there can be no question, that I will rest my defence on his authority and say no more.

"Another matter of which there has been considerable complaint is that we have not yet put before the Council an estimate of the amount we have saved or are going to save through retrenchment measures. One hon. Member, Mr. Sasibhushan Rath, asked for an estimate on the lines of those of the Retrenchment Committees of other provinces. While I personally deprecate these estimates, because I think they are very apt to be misleading, if he wants one, I can give him the materials for making one now. Let us first take the Bengal Retrenchment Committee's report. In the first place, they have credited to retrenchment 31·42 lakhs through increases in receipts as follows: Increase in Registration fees, 20 lakhs; increase in copying fees, 1·90 lakhs; recovery of the Government share of the cost of making a record of rights, 4 lakhs; increase of river tolls and fees, 3½ lakhs; and increase in charges on students and others, 2 lakhs. How do we stand in regard to these items? We have already increased our registration fees by 7½ lakhs. We have already increased our copying fees by 4 lakhs; we have never met any part of the cost of a record-of-rights out of Government money, so that we are already saving that. We have not their large river system, so we could not expect to secure 3½ lakhs by increase of river tolls. As regards the increase of fees of students and others, there is no reason why, if we adopted their method, we should not secure the same amount as they, so that, on the basis of their report, we might, if we thought fit, estimate under these heads a retrenchment of 17 lakhs.

"In the next place they propose a large saving by transferring Government obligations to local bodies, for instance, by deprovincialising all Government colleges. In order that there may be no doubt about their proposals on this head I should like to read a few extracts:—

"A matter in which we are required by our terms of reference to make a specific recommendation is whether it is desirable to relieve provincial revenues by devolving financial powers and responsibilities on local bodies in order to

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meet a larger expenditure on education, sanitation, agriculture and other similar purposes, if it is decided to undertake a greater expansion of these activities.

"We think the figures we have given justify the conclusion that, in comparison with the practice of other countries, local taxation is relatively lower in rural Bengal, and that if further taxation is imposed it should be local rather than provincial.

"Another principle of great importance is that those who enjoy benefits should pay for them.

"We feel that money raised locally for a definite local object is more likely to be spent economically than money raised provincially and distributed to local bodies.

"There is also an elasticity in local effort which is absent from provincial taxation; for example, much assistance in kind would probably be given by the construction and maintenance of school houses.

"We consider that as a general rule all district hospitals and dispensaries should cease ultimately to be a direct charge on provincial revenues. We see no reason why Government should pay any part of the salaries of District Health Officers, nor why local authorities should not pay for the services of medical officers lent to them. We think that Government should lay down a progressive policy, insist on a minimum of achievement, should give by way of grant what is reasonable and can be met from provincial revenues, and that what is required in addition should be raised by local taxation.

"We think that the advancement of primary education and the inspection of the schools must be left in the main to local bodies; to municipalities, district and local boards, and union boards where these exist.

"We think that primary schools entirely supported by Government should be made over to the local bodies and should be converted into aided schools. We include in this Muhammadan elementary schools.

"Government example is no longer necessary to stimulate high school education.

"It is clear that from the point of view of the tax-payer Government colleges are bad business.

"We recommend that all Government Arts colleges other than the Presidency College should be deprovincialized."

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There seems to be no reason why, if this Council so decide, we should not make large savings on these lines though how the local bodies that cannot meet their present obligations would be able to carry on these added responsibilities I do not pretend to be able to say."

MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I point out, Sir, that so far as the Bengal Retrenchment Committee is concerned, they do not make any difference between taxes and local rates? Moreover there is not the temporary settlement that we have in this province bringing in increased revenue of 20 lakhs and 30 lakhs to the exchequer year after year as each district is being settled."

THE HON. SIR CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I read the passage to which the hon. Member is alluding? The figures that they have given show that the rates in Bengal are only 12 per cent of the total taxation as against 47 per cent in Great Britain. The report says: 'we think the figures we have given justify the conclusion that, in comparison with the practice of other countries, local taxation is relatively lower in rural Bengal and that further taxation is imposed it should be local rather than provincial.' I think it will be absolutely clear from this that the Bengal Committee do draw a distinction between local rates and provincial taxes."

" Let me next turn to the report of the Central Provinces Retrenchment Committee, who offer us a very simple method of retrenchment, a method in connexion with which so much fault has been found with me in the course of the last two days, namely, financing development projects from loans. The projects which they would develop include, not only forest exploitation and irrigation works, whether productive or protective, but also buildings for officials, the construction of bridges and the making of roads. And they arrive at an annual saving of 20 lakhs as follows :—

" Assuming that a loan of a crore of rupees is raised and spent within the next two years, the saving to current revenues would be at least 30 lakhs a year for the next three years. The sinking fund charges on a loan of one crore would not exceed 8 lakhs a year, and by the time the full liability falls on the province there should be some increase of revenue available to meet some portion of it. The annual saving secured in this way to the provincial revenue account should therefore amount to over 20 lakhs."

" If the Council are prepared to adopt that principle, there is no reason why this province, having a revenue two-and-a-half times that of the Central Provinces, should not borrow 2½ crores a year, which, on the lines of this argument, would give us a saving of 50 lakhs a year."

" I now turn to the sort of retrenchment that we have been trying to do in Madras. And here at the outset let me take a very simple instance to illustrate how variable and fallacious any estimates of retrenchment can be. Supposing a man with three individuals in his family when rice is selling at four annas a measure consumes a measure of rice a day. Suppose the price of rice is doubled and his family have to tighten their belts and live on half a measure. What does he retrench? Is it the price of half a measure at the new price, i.e., four annas, or the price of half a measure at the old price, i.e., two annas, or nothing at all, since his family expenditure remains unchanged. The reports which I am asked to copy reckon the savings at the existing cost of the posts that are abolished. On this basis the cost of the posts we have already abolished amounts to about 45

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lakhs. Added to this 45 lakhs we have effected an actual saving of 10 lakhs in travelling allowance and 13 lakhs in contingencies. The net savings in Stationery and Printing, including the taking over of the printing for the High Court, the substitution of a cheaper for dearer paper in some cases and the reduction of printing on account of the Publicity Bureau may be taken at 2 lakhs; economies resulting from the appointment of a Director of Office Systems are over half a lakh; those resulting from the abolition of the Publicity Bureau another half lakh. Finally, my hon. colleagues have announced that they have made savings in their departments of 3 and 6 lakhs respectively."

" Now, Sir, this is not my estimate. I have been asked for an estimate based upon the reports of two important committees which were composed mainly of non-officials, and I have presented figures based on those reports which I would invite any hon. Member who is anxious to do so to examine and modify as he pleases. And I will leave it to him to add up the total, but I hope he will allow me to criticize it when he has made it."

" The last serious criticism that has been made of the Budget has been with reference, not to the provision of large lump grants to local bodies but to the remarks with which I introduced that provision to the Council. I have told the Council already that no idea of dictation or even criticism ever entered my head and have offered, if any hon. Member will call my attention to any passage in my speech which will bear that construction, to withdraw that passage. As no hon. Member has accepted my challenge, I take it that I am acquitted of that charge. If it did not go by default, my hon. colleague, the Chief Minister, has fully answered it for me. He has gone further and supported my claim that there must be a proper system of rationing of the boards. He has compared me to a mother, himself to a daughter who was once content with a small amount of mother's milk, but now requires a full ration of various kinds of luxurious food. When he anticipates no difficulty for me in finding this, he is apt to forget that the mother has a large number of other children, and I do ask hon. Members who have heard the torrent of demands that have been poured forth by another member of the family, the vigorous youth Education, to consider what would be the position of a mother who took these two children out shopping together. She would be pulled this way and that, find the shop assistants pushing bills at her from all sides at once and would never have time to count her change or make up her accounts, and if she did not sit down at the end and put her children on rations, or pocket money, she would very soon find herself in Queer Street. So, I hope that my hon. colleagues have sufficiently satisfied the House of the necessity for putting grants on to a regular system of rations."

" I have to acknowledge much varied advice in other respects, one of the most notable contributions being that of Mr. Apparao Bahadur, who suggested that we should spare ourselves the cost of a new election since all the existing members were sure to retain their seats. Not less chimerical seemed to be that of Mr. Rencontre, that we should secure remission of our contributions by offering to quadruple the Government of India's salt revenue. I should be delighted to consider the offer if he would give me details of the plan. All I gathered from him was that a certain company is in possession of a process by which refined salt can be made as good as that which is imported."

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If it is produced cheaper, it will presumably replace the imported salt. No doubt that will be very profitable for the company, but I do not see how we can quadruple the Government of India's salt revenue, unless the new salt is of so desirable a composition that it will not only replace the imported salt, which also pays just as large a duty as the indigenous salt, but will also induce people to eat four times as much salt as they are now eating. Sooner than rely on that possibility, I would prefer to rely for the reduction of our contribution on one word in the speech of the hon. the Finance Member, namely, the word 'certainty'. I should like to remind the House here that, while we certainly have not, as has been suggested, been budgeting for a deficit in order to excite compassion, we are, I consider, in a somewhat different position in the matter of the contributions to certain other provinces. The provinces which make no contribution or only a very small one have no increase of income from that source to look forward to. Madras, on the other hand, has an expectation of an increase equal to quarter of its income. It is in fact in the position of a man who has a quarter of his capital locked up in an unprofitable enterprise. He has to carry on on the interest of the remainder for the time being, but it is not to be expected of him that he should not look to the future and be prepared to expand his restricted development as soon as the remaining quarter of his capital begins to pay interest again. Now, we have, as I have said in my opening speech, the promise of the hon. Sir Basil Blackett that there will be no amendment of the settlement until the contributions have been entirely remitted and we have further since then the promise in his Budget speech that, if once the central Budget is balanced, there is a 'certainty' that the day when the contributions can begin to be released will be hastened; in other words, that if everything goes well in 1923-24, we may look for reduction from 1st April 1924 and our locked up capital will come into bearing then.

"I have said, Sir, that our position is one of hope deferred and not one of despair, and at the risk of being called an incurable optimist again, I will say what are my hopes for the coming year, which is likely to be my last in India. I hope to see equilibrium restored in our finances. I hope to see a regular programme of the advance to be made, in co-operation with the local bodies, in education, medical relief, and public health worked out and put into effect, and I hope to see a programme of borrowing inaugurated for the commencement of at least one large irrigation work. If I can help towards the attainment of these objects, I shall not feel that the year has been lived in vain. (Applause).

"In conclusion, Sir, let me express my gratitude to the hon. gentlemen who have been pleased to congratulate me on the fact that the Budget, though it does provide for a deficit, is at least a thoroughly honest exposition of the financial position of the Presidency, excusing nothing, concealing nothing, and putting it in a way that the ordinary man can understand. On this head, the hon. the Principal of Pachaiyappa's was almost alone in taking the opposite view. He told us that he did not expect genius, but he did expect accurate accounting and fair calculation of the prospects of revenue and expenditure. He accused us of a reprehensible carelessness and actual dishonesty."

Mr. RATNASWAMI:—"I have never said dishonesty; I said that a more honest way would have been better."

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The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"If the hon. gentleman withdraws the charge of dishonesty, he withdraws the only criticism of the Budget that has worried me at all.

"Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar in a much more kindly way made a somewhat similar charge. These charges appear to have their foundation in the inability of the Finance Department to prophesy the state of the season and the course of trade, to foresee and make provision for such unexpected occurrences as the Malabar rebellion and the Agency fituri. I can only say that, if they apply to the Finance Department of the Government of Madras, they apply to Finance Departments all the world over. I will give one or two instances. The Finance Department of the Government of India were out in their estimates by a sum of no less than 8.34 crores. The Bengal Government were out in their estimate of stamp revenue by 75 lakhs. Finally, I should like to refer to the estimates of Travancore under the Diwanship of Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar in the year 1918-19, a year, I believe, in which there was no alteration of duty to estimate for, when his estimate of revenue from stamps was 18 per cent out; nor was this by any means the largest shortfall in his estimates either of revenue or of expenditure. So that I claim that, if we have failed, we have failed in good company.

"Lastly, Sir, I should like to say this: We none of us in the Finance Department pretend to be prophets or geniuses or even financiers. We have had, since the reforms, to deal with a number of new conditions, which I think hon. Members scarcely realize. Local Governments have greatly enlarged powers, which means for the Finance Department enlarged responsibility in every direction. They have had to enter on new fields altogether, such as the question of capital accounts and the question of commercial accounting, and they have had taken from them all the old landmarks as represented by the rules and regulations and codes of procedure in which they have been brought up. They have to accustom themselves daily to new conditions, and while so doing to keep going an amount of detailed work which is incomparably greater than anything they had to do before the reforms. As I have said, we do not claim to be geniuses, but I do claim that, through all this change and turmoil, we have had a single aim and object before us, namely, to try and put the whole of our revenue and expenditure on a clearly intelligible basis, to detect and expose bad systems wherever found and to get them replaced by better ways as rapidly as possible, to cut out every item of expenditure that is not doing good to the country, and to make every rupee do full 16 annas worth of work. Whether any success has been achieved in these directions or not it is for the Council to say. But I am tempted to think that some small measure of it has been achieved, judging from the kindly remarks made by those who know most, namely, the members of the Finance Committee, and, if it is so, I beg the Council to render their congratulations, not to me, but where they are really due, to the Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents and clerks of the Finance Department who have been working day and night to achieve the object of placing before the Council a clear and simple and honest statement of our existing position of affairs and our proposals for the year to come." (Loud applause).

The House adjourned at 6-50 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 12th instant.

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