

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

THIRD SESSION

Monday, 12th March 1923

VOL. XIII—No. 1



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MADRAS

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The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 12th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR AVARGAL, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I
NEW MEMBER.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur SATHAPPA RAMANADA MUTHUSWAMY PETHACHI CHETTIYAR AVARGAL was sworn in.

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.]

The administration of Salt and Excise Departments.

854 Q.—Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(1) what steps have been taken for the separate administration of Salt and Excise Departments;

(2) whether immediate steps could be taken within the limits of expenditure of one-third and two-thirds for Salt and Excise respectively; and

(3) what economy and retrenchment have been effected since the Budget of 1922-23 in the administration of the Salt and Excise Departments?

A.—(1) The Government of India have been addressed and their orders are awaited.

(2) It would not be practicable to divide up the existing establishment in the proportions named. A complete reorganization of both branches will be necessary if the duties are to be separated.

(3) The amount of the further retrenchments involved since the Budget of 1922-23 amounts to Rs. 24,740.

Type-design buildings for elementary schools.

855 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to lay on the table G.O. No. 1124 W., dated 17th November 1922, regarding the type-design buildings for elementary schools?

A.—G.O. No. 1124 W., dated 17th November 1922, will be placed on the table.*

[12th March 1923]

Darkhast lands for Adi-Dravidas in Punkunam, Wandiwash taluk.

856 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: With reference to question No. 350 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 18th November 1922 regarding the darkhast lands for Adi-Dravidas in Punkunam, Wandiwash taluk, will the hon. the Member be pleased to lay on the table the result of the Government enquiry?

A.—The Government have nothing to add to the answer to question No. 690 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1923.

Transfer of Deputy Collectors.

857 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any rule regulating the transfer of Deputy Collectors from district to district once in three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay the order on the table; and

(c) also, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a list of Deputy Collectors who have been allowed to stay in a place or a district for a period of more than three years?

A.—(a) & (b) There is no such rule.

(c) A list of Deputy Collectors who have been in their present stations or districts for more than three years is appended.*

The results of retrenchment.

858 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state what the total financial gain to the Government is as a result of the efforts of the Retrenchment Secretary?

A.—The total financial gain that will accrue from the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee cannot be arrived at until the Government have passed orders on the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations. So far as next year's budget is concerned, the chief proposal that has been given effect to is the abolition of the Publicity Bureau, with a resultant saving of one lakh of rupees.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—“May I know, Sir, when the decision of the Government is likely to be reached, with reference to the proposal made by the Retrenchment Committee?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“Sir, the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are not fully in the hands of the Government as yet.”

Grant-in-Aid Code and the Educational Rules.

859 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) when the Grant-in-Aid Code and the Educational Rules now in force were drafted;

* Vide Appendix B on page 2123 infra.

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(b) whether the Government are going to revise them to bring them up to date, and, if so, when;

(c) whether a committee was appointed to consider the revision of the Grant-in-Aid Code; whether it has reported, and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place the report of the committee on the table; and

(d) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the committee and whether they are in a position to state which of them they will accept and which they will not; and, whether the Government will be pleased to publish the reasons why they could not accept such of the recommendations as they have decided to reject?

A.—(a) In 1906. Several alterations have been made in the Code and in the Rules since then.

(b) Yes. The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to submit revised drafts for approval.

(c) & (d). An Educational Conference was convened in 1916. The hon. Member is referred to the undermentioned proceedings of Government passing orders on the several recommendations of the Conference. The proposal as regards discretionary grants to aided secondary schools was dropped in view of the special grant of one lakh sanctioned by Government towards the improvement of the pay of teachers in aided secondary schools. The question of the revision of the list of backward classes is still under consideration:—

G.O. No. 112,	Home (Education),	dated 25th January 1919.
1042	”	” 1st September 1919.
1486	”	” 11th December 1920.
1346,	Law (Education),	” 19th September 1921.
1471	”	” 6th October 1921.
1164	”	” 3rd October 1922.

A copy each of G.O. No. 1346, Law (Education), dated 19th September 1921 and G.O. No. 1164, Law (Education), dated 3rd October 1922, is now placed on the table.* The other proceedings referred to above have already been placed on the Editors' Table.

Report of the Secondary Education Committee.

860 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the report of the Secondary Education Committee and passed orders thereon; if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place the papers on the table; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take any action on the report; if so, when; and whether any legislation is likely to be undertaken in connexion with the same and, if so, when?

A.—The report of the Education Committee has been placed on the Editors' Table. It is under the consideration of Government and any legislation to be undertaken will depend upon the result of that consideration.

* Vide Appendix C on page 2123 infra.

[12th March 1928]

Report of Messrs. Strathie and Shanmukham Chettiyar on Excise policy.

861 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the report of Messrs. Strathie and Shanmukham Chettiyar on the Excise policy and passed orders thereon;

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to lay the papers on the table; and

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake any legislation as regards the Excise policy to be pursued in the Presidency; and, if so, in what stage the question is now?

A.—(a) The papers have been placed before the Excise Advisory Committee; final orders have not been passed.

(b) The papers will be laid on the table.*

(c) The Government await the final advice of the Excise Advisory Committee after their enquiry.

Reduction in the number of Executive Council Members.

862 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the resolution of the Legislative Council regarding the reduction in the number of Executive Councillors was communicated to the Rt. hon. the Secretary of State;

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to lay all the correspondence on the table?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No final reply has been received. It is understood that the question is under examination.

(c) The Government are unable to lay the correspondence on the table.

The revision of the list of transferred subjects.

863 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any recommendation has been made by the Local Government within the last two years for the revision of the list of transferred subjects either to the Government of India or to the Secretary of State;

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to lay the correspondence on the table?

A.—No such recommendation has been made.

* Vide Appendix D on page 2125 infra.

[12th March 1928]

Honorary Presidency Magistrates as Justices of the Peace.

864 Q.—Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Question No. 284 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th September 1922 whether in the opinion of Government the declaration made in section 25, Criminal Procedure Code, Act V of 1898, that Presidency Magistrates are Justices of the Peace does not apply to Honorary Presidency Magistrates?

A.—The Government have nothing to add to the answer given to question 284 in September last.

APPENDIX A.

[Vide answer to question No. 855 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1923, page 2113 supra.]

G.O. No. 1124 W., dated 17th November 1922.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 986 W., dated 31st July 1919.

G.O. No. 1495, Law (Education), dated 12th October 1921.

Order—No. 1124 W., dated 17th November 1922.

The accompanying design* C.E./T.S. No. 15/1922 for an elementary school for 150 children, together with specification and schedule of quantities, is circulated to the officers of the department for adoption.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Public Works)

W. HUTTON,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.
(General, Buildings and Roads).

To all Superintending Engineers.
" the Law (Education) Department.

Copy to the Principal, College of Engineering.
" Superintendent, School of Engineering, Vizagapatam and Trichinopoly.
" Hon'ble the Resident in Hyderabad.
" Pudukkottai Darbar (through the Political Agent, Trichinopoly).
" Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Bombay, Bengal, Punjab, United Provinces, Central Provinces, Assam, Burma, Bihar and Orissa.
" Chief Commissioner of Delhi.
" Publicity Officer.

[Annexure.]

* The type design is available for reference in the Council Library.

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Annexures

(1)

General specification to accompany the estimates for constructing an Elementary School in accordance with the requirements of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education.

Drawing C.E./T.S. No. 15/1922.

Foundations.—A depth of 3 feet is provided in the quantities of which the bottom 1' 0" is to be of concrete and the remaining 2' 0" is to be of country brick in mud in two footings of one foot.

The actual depth and width required will be settled locally according to the nature of soil and sub-soil.

Basement.—Basement will be of country brick in mud 1 foot high.

Superstructure.—The class rooms will have only cross or dividing walls 9" thick extending to the underside of roof with pilasters 1' 1½" square at the ends. The cross wall and pilasters will be of brick in mud except the top 1 foot which will be of brick in mortar. Dwarf walls of mud 9" thick and 2½' high, plastered with cow-dung and whitewashed, will be provided at the sides of class rooms with suitable entrance spaces to each room.

The small store room will have walls of brick in mud 9" thick on all sides with pilasters at the centre and at the ends. The store room is intended for the safe custody of school records and other important articles.

Woodwork.—The bressummers, tie beams and struts will be of untrimmed casuarina wood while bamboos (strong) will be used for rafters, reepers and collars.

Door.—A small country wood door will be provided to the store room on the north side.

Roof.—The roofing will be of thatch with bamboo rafters, reepers, mats, etc.

Flooring.—The class rooms will have sand floor 6" thick over 6" earth filling while the floor of the store room will be of concrete 3" thick finished with a fine coat of chunam plaster.

Finishing.—The walls inside and outside are to be covered with one coat of lime plaster and two coats of whitewash.

Miscellaneous.—The class rooms will be provided with wall black-boards 4' × 5' on the dividing walls in accordance with the specification attached.

Cost.—The cost of the design adopting the current average rates of the Presidency comes to Rs. 1,175. The cost of construction will be more than this amount at places where the materials are dear and in places where the materials and labour are cheap, the cost will be less than the average cost.

(2)

General specification for black-boards on walls.

The joints to be raked out, the wall to be trimmed, cleaned and thoroughly wetted with water and kept wet until mortar is applied.

The cement-mortar to be laid on with a trowel of sufficient thickness to cover all projections by 3/8" to be levelled with a flat wooden straight edge.

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The cement and sand to be measured to the required quantity in the proportions of 1 of cement and 3 of sand and not to be mixed with water until required for use. The sand not to be too coarse or the surface will be rough. The mortar to be applied in one coat of the required thickness.

The surface to be floated with black-board composition measuring 6 parts of neat cement, 3 parts of fine sand, 2 parts of lampblack and half part of vermillion to a thickness of 1/12" and rubbed smooth. Keep the surface wet for 40 hours until it receives a proper settlement. Then the finished surface will serve as black-board. A sufficient number of brick-layers to be employed to complete a wall in one day unless otherwise ordered.

(3)

Type Elementary school for 150 children.

Details of work.	Number.	Measurement in feet.			Area or contents.	Total quantity of each description of work.
		Length.	Breadth.	Depth.		
ESTIMATE FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 150 CHILDREN, C.E./T.S. No. 15/1922, BASED ON S.C.A. No. 91/1922.						
<i>Earthwork excavating foundations.</i>						
Store room walls three sides	1	27 9	2 6	3 0	208	
Cross walls	5	12 3	2 6	3 0	459	
Retaining walls in front and rear of class III, IV and V	2	25 6	0 9	1 0	38	
Retaining walls in front and rear of class II	2	13 3	0 9	1 0	20	
Retaining wall eastern and western sides of class I	2	29 7½	0 9	1 0	44	
Retaining wall northern and southern sides of class I	2	9 9	0 9	1 0	16	
Under pillars	29	2 6	2 6	3 0	544	
Total earthwork excavation in foundations, c.ft.	..	..	..	..	..	1,328
<i>Filling in basement with earth.</i>						
Store room	1	14 0	7 0	0 9	74	
Class rooms III, IV and V	2	17 0	14 0	0 6	238	
" II	1	20 0	14 0	0 6	140	
" I	2	24 0	14 0	0 6	452	
Total filling in with earth, c.ft.	..	..	..	..	..	788
<i>Filling in with sand.</i>						
Quantity same as above less item for store room, c.ft.	..	..	..	..	..	714
<i>Concrete broken brick in lime-mortar.</i>						
Store room wall three sides	1	27 9	2 6	1 0	69	
Cross walls	5	12 3	2 6	1 0	153	
Under pillars	29	2 6	2 6	1 0	181	
Total concrete broken brick in lime-mortar, c.ft.	..	..	..	..	..	403

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Type Elementary school for 150 children—*cont.*

Details of work.	Number.	Measurement in feet.			Area or contents.	Total quantity of each description of work.
		Length.	Breadth.	Depth.		
Forming plastered wall black-boards as per specification 4' X 5'.		FT. IN.	FT. IN.	FT. IN.		
For class rooms	5	..	..	..	..	
Total number	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dwarf walls of mud & 6" high plastered with cow-dung and whitewashed at the sides of class rooms.	..	..	..	..	L.S.	

Estimate form—Abstract.

Quantity.	Description of work.	Rate.	Per	Amount.	Total.
		RS. A. P.		RS.	RS.
	ESTIMATE FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 150 CHILDREN C.E./T. S. No. 15/1922, BASED ON S.O.A. No. 91/1922.				
1,328 c.ft.	Earthwork excavating foundations ..	4 14 0	1,000 c.ft.	7	
788 "	Filling in basement with earth ..	4 14 0	Do.	14	
714 "	Do. with sand ..	1 0 0	100 c.ft.	7	
403 "	Concrete broken brick in lime-mortar ..	19 7 0	Do.	78	
500 "	Country brick in mud in foundations ..	21 9 0	Do.	108	
1,180 "	Country brick in mud in basement and superstructure.	23 0 0	Do.	260	
127 "	Brick in lime-mortar superstructure ..	28 8 0	Do.	33	
L.S.	Dwarf wall of mud 9" thick and 2' 6" high and plastered with cow-dung.	..	L.S.	28	
399 r.ft.	Jungle wood rough (casuarina) ..	0 1 0	R.ft.	19	
3,562 s.ft.	Thatched roofing with bamboo rafters at one foot centres, including bamboo respers, etc., complete.	10 6 0	100 sq. ft.	370	
17 "	Country wood battened door with frames including coal-tarring.	1 0 0	Do.	17	
98 "	Levelling course of concrete 3" thick finished with a fine coat of lime plaster.	4 14 0	Do.	5	
3,545 "	Plastering with lime-mortar 1 coat, including whitewashing two coats.	2 14 0	Do.	102	
5 Nos.	Forming plastered wall black-board as per specification (4' X 5').	5 0 0	Each.	25	
	Extra for cartage	..	L.S.	30	
	Total	..	..	1,094	
	Contingencies about 5 per cent ..	..	..	54	
	Petty supervision 2½ per cent ..	..	..	27	
	Grand total	..	..	1,175	
	Grand total of the estimate, Rs. ..	..	..	..	1,175

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APPENDIX B.

[Vide answer to question No. 857 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1923, page 2114 supra.]

List of Deputy Collectors who have been in their present stations or districts for more than three years.

Name of Deputy Collector.	District or station.	Date from which he has been in the district or station.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur P. T. Srinivasa Achariyar	Madras ..	6th August 1919.
Avargal.		
Rao Sahib P. Krishnan Nambiyar	South Kanara.	19th June 1917.
Mr. A. C. Woodhouse	Malabar ..	26th October 1914.
M.R.Ry. V. Venkanna Pantulu Garu ..	Kistna ..	26th March 1917.
V. S. Aswatha Ayyar Avargal	Trichinopoly ..	20th January 1920.
V. S. Lakshminarasimha Rao Pantulu	Kistna ..	1st June 1918.
Garu.		
T. Sekhara Kurup Avargal	Malabar ..	23rd April 1919.
N. Lakshminarasimha Rao Pantulu Garu.	Bellary ..	20th September 1919.
D. Ananda Rao Avargal	South Kanara.	1st February 1920.
Muhammad Karim-ul-lah Farukhi Sahib Bahadur ..	Bangalore ..	3rd January 1919.
M.R.Ry. V. N. Visvanatha Rao Avargal ..	Madras ..	13th August 1919.
Rao Sahib K. Srinivasa Rao Avargal ..	Malabar ..	27th January 1919.
Khan Sahib P. A. Ammoo Sahib Bahadur ..	Do. ..	9th April 1917.
M.R.Ry. P. Appa Rao Pantulu Garu ..	Anantapur ..	13th December 1917.
Mr. C. M. Fairbairn	Madura ..	10th October 1919.
Sriman Anantarama Rath Mahasayo ..	Ganjam ..	8th August 1918.
M.R.Ry. M. Narayana Kini Avargal ..	Malabar ..	20th December 1919.
V. Sitaramayya Garu	Visagapatam ..	11th July 1918.
T. N. Chokkalinga Mudaliyar Avargal ..	Ramnad ..	8th November 1918.
A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal ..	Bellary ..	18th April 1919.
B. Basappa Garu	Kurnool ..	3rd February 1920.
Rao Sahib V. Brahmayya Pantulu Garu..	Kistna ..	27th January 1920.
B. V. Sri Hari Rao Nayudu Garu..	Do. ..	14th February 1920.

APPENDIX C.

(1)

[Vide answer to question No. 859 asked by Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1923, page 2115 supra.]

G.O. No. 1164, Law (Education), dated 3rd October 1922.

In paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 112, Home (Education), dated the 25th January 1919, the Government accepted the recommendation of the Educational Conference of 1916, that the system of payment of capitation allowances to trained teachers in elementary schools under public management should be abolished and that the pay of the teachers should be revised so as to ensure, as far as possible, that their total emoluments were not affected. In accordance with the instructions given in the order, the Director of Public Instruction has submitted his recommendations to give effect to the decision.

2. The Government observe that, so far as teachers in elementary schools under departmental control are concerned, capitation allowance will automatically be abolished on the introduction of the revised time-scales of pay

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approved for the several grades of teachers, as the allowance in question will be taken into account in fixing the initial pay of the teachers in the new time-scale. No special orders are therefore necessary in their case.

3. The Government now direct that the payment of capitation allowance to trained teachers in the employ of local bodies be abolished with effect from 1st April 1923. Local bodies are requested to raise suitably the pay of the teachers affected so as to protect them from loss as far as possible. The actual amount of compensation to be paid should be settled by each local body with reference to the total allotment usually made by it for capitation allowance, including the subsidies from provincial funds granted for the purpose. Presidents of Taluk Boards and Chairmen of Municipal Councils are requested to furnish the Director of Public Instruction by the 1st January 1923, with full particulars as to

- (1) the expenditure incurred on the payment of capitation allowance in the current and in each of the last two official years;
- (2) the amount and nature of compensatory allowance awarded to the teachers affected; and
- (3) the annual cost of such compensation.

The reports should be submitted through the District Educational Council concerned.

4. On receipt of the reports, the Director of Public Instruction will address the Government, if necessary, in cases where it is found that the usual provision for the payment of capitation allowance has not been fully utilized to compensate the teachers affected.

5. The Director is requested to submit a draft of the alterations to be made in the Madras Educational Rules for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ the Accountant-General.
- „ the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.
- „ all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
- „ all Presidents of Taluk Boards.
- „ the President of District Board, Malabar.
- „ the Presidents of District Educational Councils, the Nilgiris.
- „ the Local Self-Government Department.
- „ the Finance Department.
- „ the Publicity Officer.

(2)

G.O. No. 1346, Law (Education), dated 19th September 1921.

The Educational Conference convened in pursuance of G.O. No. 178, Education, dated 7th February 1916, made the following recommendation in regard to the grant of fee concessions to indigent pupils of marked ability studying in aided institutions:—

“That for the purpose of granting fee concessions to indigent pupils of marked ability, expenditure by managing bodies on scholarships up to a limit

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of 10 per cent of the fee income reckoned at standard rates be considered as legitimate expenditure for the purpose of assessing the grant that might be paid to a school, provided that the scheme for the award of scholarships or fee concessions has received the approval of the Director of Public Instruction.”

2. In paragraph 7 (i) of G.O. No. 112, Home (Education), dated 25th January 1919, the desirability of adopting the resolution was remitted to the Director of Public Instruction for further consideration in the light of the remarks made therein. The Director has since favoured Government with his view in the matter and, after giving very careful consideration to the question, the Government have decided that effect should be given to the resolution, in view chiefly of bringing about some measure of decentralization in the matter of the award of scholarships. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to submit for the approval of Government a draft of the necessary amendments to the Grant-in-Aid Code.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

P. C. DUTT,
Acting Secretary to Government.

- To the Director of Public Instruction.
 „ Accountant-General (through the Finance Department).
 „ Local Self-Government Department.
 „ Commissioner of Labour.
 „ Publicity Officer.

APPENDIX D.

[Vide answer to question No. 861 asked by Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1923, page 2116 supra.]

REPORT.

The objects of our deputation were to enquire into the temperance measures introduced in Bombay, Bengal and the United Provinces, namely, the surcharge system in Bengal and the United Provinces, the Excise Licensing Boards in the United Provinces and the rationing system in Bombay.

I. Surcharge system.

This is one of the methods adopted for the disposal of the right of retail sale of liquor and drugs. The system hitherto in force throughout the larger part of India was the auction system under which the right of vend was sold in public auction to the highest bidder. Various objections have been taken to the auction system. These were recognised by the Excise Committee of 1905-06 and in their report they suggested the trial of the surcharge system as alternative to the auction system. The surcharge system as suggested by the Excise Committee was the levy of fees for the privilege of retail vend by fixed extra payments on each gallon of

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liquor sold in addition to the duty. The Government of India however did not approve of this recommendation of the Excise Committee and as a consequence no general steps were taken towards the abolition of the auction system. The Bombay Government however in 1909 introduced the fixed fee system under which renters were chosen and the right of vend was disposed of in return for an annual payment of a fixed sum. This sum was arrived at on the basis of the sales of previous years. This system called the fixed fee system was in force in Bombay for seven years and was abolished as unsuitable in 1918. Meanwhile an improved surcharge system had been introduced in certain districts of Bengal in 1916-17. According to this system, which will be hereafter referred to as the Bengal system, the fee levied on each gallon of liquor sold is not fixed but is graduated so as to rise with increase in consumption. This Bengal system has received general approval in that province and with effect from the beginning of the present financial year, i.e., from April 1922, has been adopted throughout that Presidency.

2. The essential features of this Bengal system are these :—

Vendors are selected by Collectors on the advice of the Excise department and a scale of monthly licence fees is laid down by the Central office in such a way that the fees payable each month vary in proportion with the sales in the shop in the previous month. The method of arriving at this scale of fees is somewhat complicated and must be explained at length.

3. The first step is to fix the retail selling price of each kind of liquor or drug. This is done separately for different localities, the prices being somewhat higher in industrial areas and large cities. The next step is to ascertain the total margin of possible profit to be obtained on each gallon of liquor sold. This is arrived at by deducting from the retail selling price of each gallon the sum of the duty and the cost of supply of each gallon. The third step is to make an estimate of the reasonable profit per gallon which should be obtained by the renter of each shop. This reasonable profit is arrived at from the experience of past years and the general run of traders' profits in the locality. Having arrived at the total margin of profit and the reasonable profit which the renter should obtain per gallon, the profit per gallon is divided between the renter and the Government in such a way that the Government's share of profit increases with increasing consumption while the vendor's share decreases with increasing consumption.

4. An illustration will perhaps make the above method clear. Let us assume that the retail selling price of country spirit is fixed

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by Government at Rs. 13-8-0 per gallon : assume too that the duty is Rs. 6-10-0 and the cost of supply from the distillery Rs. 1-4-6. The total cost price of liquor is thus seen to be Rs. 7-14-6 (Rs. 6-10-0 duty plus Rs. 1-4-6 cost of supply). The retail selling price being Rs. 13-8-0, there is left a margin of profit of Rs. 5-9-6 (Rs. 13-8-0 selling price minus Rs. 7-14-6 total cost) or Rs. 5-59 which is to be divided between Government and the seller. For the purpose of arriving at the reasonable profit to which the seller is entitled, it is assumed that a retail shop-keeper selling ten gallons a month is reasonably entitled to get a profit of Rs. 40 or Rs. 4 per gallon. In such a case the total margin of profit on the ten gallons is Rs. 55-9. Of this the renter is to get Rs. 40, the balance of Rs. 15-9 going to Government. This is collected by fixing the fee payable for a shop selling ten gallons at a round sum of Rs. 15. Similarly if the shop sells twenty gallons, the total profits will be Rs. 111-8-0. Assuming that the renter should make a profit of Rs. 60 or Rs. 3 per gallon, the balance is Rs. 51-8-0. The fee for a shop selling twenty gallons is therefore fixed at the round sum of Rs. 51. In fixing the seller's share of the margin of profit, it is taken for granted under this system that the licensee of a big shop selling say 1,000 gallons of country spirit per month is entitled to get only a smaller proportion of the margin of profit than the licensee of a small shop selling ten gallons per month. On the basis of these assumptions, tables showing the graduated scales of licence fees to be paid by the licensees in each locality are prepared in the central office and supplied to officers in charge of the shops. The licence fees payable on the sales of each month are collected early in the following month. An extract from such a table for one of the United Provinces districts is given below :—

Quantity of liquor sold.	Vendor's profit per gallon.	Government's profit per gallon.	Licence fee.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
10 gallons	4	1-59	15
20 "	8	2-59	51
30 "	2-66	2-93	87
40 "	1-70	3-89	389
100 "	1-35	4-24	848
200 "	1-28	4-36	1,308
300 "	0-94	4-66	2,825
500 "	0-72	4-87	4,870
1,000 "			

A glance at the above table will clearly indicate the fundamental feature of the system, i.e., the Government's share of the profit per gallon increases with increasing consumption while the vendor's profit per gallon decreases.

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The advantages claimed for these surcharge system are—

- (1) It eliminates the gambling element from the trade and makes the vendors' profit more definite and less subject to risk.
- (2) It therefore tends to secure a better class of licensees.
- (3) It lessens the motives for malpractices.
- (4) It enables Government to keep a close control over consumption.
- (5) It facilitates the framing of the budget.
- (6) It secures the maximum revenue to Government.

5. We propose now to examine briefly these claims on behalf of the Bengal surcharge system—

Item No. 1.—Under the auction system the renter has no means of knowing the sales exactly. He may be forced to bid too high for a shop and may thus incur serious loss; whereas under the surcharge system he need venture no capital at all but makes his definite profit per gallon of liquor sold while he runs no risk of losing any substantial sum. From the renter's point of view, no doubt it is true that it subjects him to no risk whatever and ensures to him a certain amount of profit though the average profit may be reduced as the sales increase in his shop. Intrinsically considered, we do not see any serious objection to the existence of a certain amount of risk in the liquor trade as in all other trades. Under the auction system the bidder, like any other businessman, has to take a certain amount of risk and there is no reason to suppose that the licensee under that system bids in the auction without taking into account the risks incidental to the trade and making due allowance for such risks. He, like any other businessman, is naturally expected to know the nature of the transaction into which he enters.

Item No. 2.—With regard to the second point, it seems to be true in Bengal that a better class of licensees is now being obtained at least in the opium shops. In two shops which we visited in Calcutta, the vendors were graduates. In one shop in the United Provinces the vendor was a retired tahsildar and graduate, while in another he was a respectable Muhammadan of some education. The Bengal surcharge system, as it does not require the possession of a large capital, has enabled such men as these to enter the trade. They could not have done so under the auction system, for they would have had to bind themselves to pay large rentals without there being any good security that they would recover their outlay. Still, with the exception of these stray cases, there does not seem to have been any great change in the class of renters. As a rule those who held shops under the auction system still continue to be the licensees under the Bengal surcharge system.

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Item No. 3.—We agree that there is some force in the contention that the Bengal system *lessens* the motive for malpractices. Take the case of sales after hours. If a man has secured a shop under the auction system at a fixed rent, the profits from sales he effects after hours go entirely into his own pocket, whereas under the Bengal system his profits per gallon decrease as his sales increase, and he therefore does not gain so large a profit on additional sales as he does under the auction system. But we hold that the surcharge system by no means eliminates the danger of malpractices. They may occur under any system if the shops are not properly supervised.

Item No. 4.—Government's control over consumption under the Bengal system is exercised by the power which they reserve to themselves to increase the selling price and the duty at any time throughout the year. If in the course of the year the Commissioner discovers that consumption in any locality is increasing, he can immediately issue orders that the selling price and duty in that area should be raised. Now Government possess exactly similar powers under the auction system in that they can automatically put prices up by increasing the duty. But the difference is that that power can only be exercised prior to the commencement of the lease, i.e., once a year, whereas under the surcharge system it can be exercised at any time throughout the year. We were informed in Calcutta that the power of raising retail prices has already been exercised no less than five times: for instance, in the districts of Howrah and Hooghli it was exercised twice in the course of the first year in which the Bengal system was in operation.

Item No. 5.—With regard to the fifth point, it is alleged that, under the auction system, Government have no means of foretelling the revenue accurately as it depends on the bids which may be received at auction, whereas under the Bengal system Government will know definitely what revenue they will obtain from any given consumption and therefore are able to forecast their budget with greater certainty. We would point out, however, that under any scientific system, the revenue ought to depend more on the duty levied on the liquor than on the fees collected for the right of vend. The income from duty must necessarily depend on the quantity consumed which in its turn naturally depends on varying seasons of prosperity. We are therefore of opinion that while the Bengal system eliminates any uncertainty due to combination among bidders at the auction, it cannot eliminate the primal uncertainty due to variations in the quantity consumed.

Item No. 6.—As regards the last point, namely, that the Bengal system secures the maximum revenue to Government, it is true

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that since the introduction of the surcharge system the Excise revenue of Bengal has tended to increase. The total Provincial Revenue from Excise is shown in the statement below :—

Year.	Rs.	Year.	Rs.
1912-13	... 1,37,59,157	1917-18	... 1,56,25,391
1913-14	... 1,53,88,017	1918-19	... 1,76,38,216
1914-15	... 1,53,59,916	1919-20	... 1,81,08,448
1915-16	... 1,51,80,570	1920-21	... 1,96,23,317
1916-17	... 1,44,07,668	1921-22	... 1,83,48,896

But this increase may well be due to other causes, for instance, the breakdown of the monopolistic combinations which were a prominent feature of the auction system in Bengal and which were in no small measure responsible for depriving Government of their due share of the profits from the trade. The increase in revenue may also be due to increased incidence of taxation. It may be noted here that even with the recent increase of duty in Bengal the incidence of taxation in that province is lower than in Madras, being for the year 1920-21 Rs. 11-11-9 per proof gallon in Bengal as against Rs. 13-5-5 in Madras. Or again the increase in the staff in recent years may have contributed to this increase in revenue. We are therefore inclined to believe that, without having recourse to any arbitrary method of dividing the marginal profit between Government and the vendor, the action of the law of supply and demand, if left to itself, will in the end secure to each party—the Government and the vendors—their due share of the profit.

6. Having examined the advantages claimed for the Bengal system, we shall now indicate what we consider to be some of its prominent defects and limitations—

(1) The surcharge system depends for its efficient working on the rigid enforcement of the fixed selling price. Unless that is done, the fair profits due to the renter and Government cannot be apportioned and consumption cannot be controlled. We are disposed to doubt the claim made by the officials of the United Provinces and Bengal that they have so far succeeded in enforcing sales at prices fixed by them. It is contended that, as the sale price is prominently displayed in every shop and as trial purchases are made periodically on behalf of the department, there is no possibility of a shop-keeper selling drink except at the fixed price. But we would point out that the past experience of all Governments has shown that it is well nigh impossible to enforce with any measure of success the retail selling price of any commodity. During the war Government constantly attempted to control retail selling prices: for instance, in the case of kerosene oil. We believe that the experience was that those prices were never rigidly maintained. The difficulty of

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enforcing a standard price is enhanced in the case of liquor by the facility which it affords for the resort to dilution and the use of short measures and the shop-keepers' success in adopting those devices will depend on the strength of the demand.

(2) The Bengal system involves the selection of the renters by the agency of officials as in Bengal or of a non-official body as in the United Provinces. It thus loses the great advantage of the auction system under which the renters are selected automatically in a public auction leaving no room for imputation of favouritism or corruption. In Bengal the vendors have hitherto been selected by the Collector on the advice of the Excise officials. We cannot regard that method as satisfactory. Imputations against the honesty of Excise officials are already only too common and the vesting of the power of selecting renters will only supply an additional motive to the licensees to corrupt these officials. In the United Provinces it is intended that the selection of renters should in future be made by the licensing boards in towns where these have been created. Elsewhere selection is to be made by Collectors. As the licensing boards were not brought into being until after the renters for the current lease had been chosen, their power of selection has hitherto not been exercised. It is therefore not yet possible to draw any conclusion as to the advisability of entrusting to such boards the power of selecting licensees. With regard to Collectors in places where there are no licensing boards, rules are now being drawn up by the Government of the United Provinces laying down the manner in which Collectors shall exercise this power. In general the rule will be that the existing licensee is to be continued unless there is clear evidence that he has proved unsatisfactory. Should there be a vacancy either through the death of an existing licensee or the closure of some shops, the Excise Commissioner of the United Provinces proposes that the Collector shall be compelled to select from the various applicants by drawing lots in his public office. We cannot but regard this method as the negation of all Governments. One man must be better than another and for Government to choose between these by invoking the hand of fate will amount to an abdication of its legitimate functions.

(3) Thirdly there can be no doubt that in course of time the Bengal system must give rise to the creation of vested interests which will throw an obstacle in the way of temperance reform. In general the rule that an existing licensee should continue will be enforced. If such a licensee holds a shop for any length of time, it is certain that he will raise objections to its closure on the ground that it is depriving him of his means of livelihood. Such vested interests have not hitherto existed in India and it has been one of the strongest points in Government's favour that they were able

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to close shops as they saw fit without a hue and cry being raised by the trade. It is contended in Bengal and the United Provinces that the claim to vested interests cannot arise because it is clearly laid down in the licence condition that the privilege of vend is only granted for one year at a time. But we feel certain that this proviso will prove insufficient in a few years. A similar condition has existed in other countries. Yet it has never sufficed to prevent the growth of public sentiment in favour of the continuation of an existing licence. For instance, in Scotland it is clearly laid down that licences will only be attached to a particular building for a period of one year at a time. Yet the Quarter Sessions have in several cases reversed the decision of Magistrates when they deprived a vendor of his licence in the absence of misconduct on his part. We believe that, whatever may be the written law, the sympathy of the public will be on the side of the renter who is threatened with the deprivation of his means of livelihood and a serious obstacle will thereby be placed in the path of temperance reform.

(4) Fourthly we believe that under the surcharge system Government will lose the powerful aid of the existing shopkeepers as a preventive force. It is well-known that offences against the excise laws are hard to detect because as a rule it is nobody's interest to give information to Government officers. If a robbery or an ordinary crime under the Penal Code is committed, there is usually some individual who suffers and he rushes to lay a complaint against the offender. In excise matters the only person who suffers is the licensed vendor in the locality. He is the only outsider from whom Government officials can expect to receive any information of the commission of excise offences. Under the auction system the interest of the local vendor is at its maximum. He has paid a fixed price, possibly a high one, for the privilege of retailing liquor in that locality. His profits depend on his sales. If illicit distillation or sale occurs in that locality, his profits are immediately reduced. It is therefore to his interest to see that all the liquor sold in the locality is licit and that it comes from his shop. Under the Bengal system, on the other hand, the renter has not paid any fixed sum for the privilege of sale. He has to pay so much per gallon sold and his profits on each gallon sold decrease as his sales increase. While we admit that he always retains some profit on sales, we contend that as his profits diminish with increasing sales, he is very little interested in ensuring that the sales in his locality are only from his shop. It does not matter so much to him whether illicit liquor is made and consumed near his shop and he has therefore very little inducement to give information to Government. The surcharge system thus is likely to lead to an increase in illicit practices.

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7. To sum up, we regard the surcharge system as a clever and useful administrative measure. It is an attempt at the scientific application of the law of diminishing returns to the renters' profits, but the point at which the diminishing return actually operates is never reached in practice, for in all the scales hitherto applied the renter still retains some amount of profit on every gallon sold. It is impossible yet to say what effect it has had in the United Provinces, as it has only been in general operation there for six months. But the impression we gathered was that there is a considerable amount of illicit distillation in that province. The staff seems to be quite insufficient to cope with excise crime. In Bengal, however, there is undoubtedly a general consensus of opinion in favour of the surcharge system, both among officials of the department, licensees and temperance reformers and it seems to be certain that the excise administration in that province has improved enormously in the course of the last few years. But we are inclined to think that this improvement is very largely due to the more effective control exercised by a greatly increased staff. Before 1915 the staff consisted of a Commissioner, one Assistant Commissioner, eight Special Excise Deputy Collectors, one gazetted superintendent, two non-gazetted superintendents, 27 inspectors, 151 sub-inspectors, 41 petty officers and 563 peons. The existing staff consist of a Commissioner, three Deputy Commissioners, 30 superintendents, 58 permanent and 4 temporary inspectors, 257 sub-inspectors and 123 permanent and 22 temporary petty officers and 950 permanent and 16 temporary peons. There can be no doubt that this large increase in staff has made for more efficient administration and that many of the benefits claimed for the surcharge system are really due to this improved administration. We do not regard the surcharge system as a strong measure of temperance reform. From the purely temperance point of view, it seems to differ very little from the Madras system. Under both systems the consumption is sought to be controlled by forcing up prices through the steady pressure of taxation. Indeed even under the auction system, as was pointed out above, the incidence of taxation in Madras has already reached a higher level than in Bengal. The only advantage the surcharge system possesses from the temperance point of view is that it enables Government to exercise a tighter hold over consumption. For if consumption rises in the course of the year it can be checked within a short space of time by raising the duty and the retail selling price. In Madras once the shops have been sold in auction, the duty cannot be raised nor any other restrictions imposed until the close of the year, while under the surcharge system this can be done at any point in the course of the year. But on the whole we do not consider that this comparatively slight advantage compensates for

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the dangers of creating vested interests and of putting the power of selecting vendors in the hands either of officials or of a non-official body. Our opinion is that the surcharge system need not be introduced in Madras until signs are clear that the auction system is breaking up. There appears to be no doubt that its introduction in Bengal and the United Provinces was due to the breakdown of the auction system there. In Bengal the monopolistic combinations among renters appear in some places to have obtained enormous power, while in others auctions had got out of control and led to constant reckless bidding and the consequent ruination of many renters and great loss to Government. In the United Provinces the surcharge system seems to have been the direct aftermath of the non-co-operation movement which had in that province attained great strength and put auctions out of the question. The excise officials were convinced that if they had attempted to hold auctions about January and February 1922, they would have failed to secure any bids at all. In short we regard the Bengal system more as a fiscal than a temperance measure and therefore until there are signs of disruption of the auction system in Madras, we see no sufficient reason for its introduction in this Presidency.

II. Excise Licensing Boards.

Besides adopting the Bengal surcharge system, the Government of the United Provinces have in their Resolution No. C. 1383/XIII-65, dated the 10th March 1922, created excise licensing boards in all municipalities which are divisional headquarters or have a population of 50,000 or over. These licensing boards are entirely non-official in character with the exception of the local Excise Assistant Commissioner as Secretary. They consist of two members elected by the municipal board, one member elected by the principals of colleges and headmasters of high schools in the city, such colleges and high schools being recognized by a University established by law or by an Educational department of Government; one member nominated by temperance societies registered under the law in city: if the societies nominate more than one person the district officers should choose one from among them: if the societies fail to nominate a representative or if there is no registered temperance society in the city, the district officer should appoint a person to represent the interests of temperance, one member from the labouring classes to be appointed by the Collector and one member representing the excise trade elected by the local excise licensees. The Board is to elect its own Chairman. It holds office for a period of three years. Its functions are in the main the same as those of the advisory committees in Madras, i.e., to fix the number and location of shops, with the important change that the Board's decisions are final except

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that Government may cancel them on the motion of the Excise Commissioner. As regards the power to reduce the number of shops, the Board's discretion is limited by the rule that it may not during its term of three years' office reduce the number of shops existing on the day when it came into office by more than one-third of each kind of shop and that the number shall not be reducable by any succeeding licensing board to a lower figure than one-third of the number existing when such Boards were constituted. In addition to these powers, the Licensing Boards have one more important power which the Madras Excise Advisory Committees do not possess at all, namely, the power to select licensees. Government have left this power entirely at the discretion of the Board but they have suggested that in the absence of proved misconduct, the Board should adopt the practice of continuing the existing licensees. The right of appeal to the Excise Commissioner against the decision of the Board is given to an existing licensee whose licence has not been renewed. If the Excise Commissioner differs from the view held by the Board, he may refer the matter to Government. If he agrees with the Board, the licensee has no further appeal. This right of appeal only applies in the case of ejected licensees. An unsuccessful applicant for a new shop has no appeal whatever.

2. These Boards have only been in existence for six months and it is not yet possible to express any definite opinion as regards their working. Many of them have only held one or two meetings since their creation. The important power of selecting licensees was not exercised at all in the case of the numerous country liquor, drug and opium shops, as the licensees had already been selected by the revenue officers for the current lease prior to the creation of the Boards. But this power has been exercised in the case of toddy shops granted under the new lease which began on 1st October. As already explained the Government's instructions require that the existing licensees should be continued in the absence of good cause to the contrary. These instructions have been carried out by the Boards in the majority of cases though we were informed that there had been numerous appeals against the decisions of the Board by displaced toddy renters. Final orders on most of these appeals have not yet been passed. In the majority of cases the Commissioner had upheld the decision of the Boards but he mentioned one important case in which one Licensing Board appeared to have been dominated by the representative of the licensees, who seems to have used his power to eject two of his rivals from their shops and to confer the licences upon a discharged departmental peon who was a farm servant under the non-official President of the Board. In the case of this Board too an attempt was made to deprive the ejected licensees of the right of appeal to the Commissioner by postponing

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the date of meeting until a short time prior to the commencement of the lease. This Board, however, appears to have been a particularly bad example and the Commissioner was careful to assure us that its proceedings should not be taken as typical. Nevertheless it points to a possible danger in the working of such Boards. The only other criticism of the working of the Boards which came to our notice was the lack of interest displayed by members: for many of the meetings have had to be postponed for want of a quorum. This may of course be due to the fact that the Boards have not yet been exercising the power of selecting licensees, a power which was given to them with the specific object of removing that lack of interest which has often been urged as a disadvantage of the advisory committees.

3. This concludes our report on the working of the surcharge system in Bengal and the United Provinces and of the Licensing Boards in the latter province. We regret we have not been able to arrive at an agreement with regard to the rationing system in Bombay. Separate minutes are therefore appended dealing with it. We now conclude our joint report with an expression of our indebtedness to the officers of the provinces we visited for the time they spent in instructing us on the working of their systems. We desire especially to acknowledge our gratitude to Mr. T. Gibb, Acting Excise Commissioner of the United Provinces, and to Rai Bahadur S. K. Raha, Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, for the invaluable help they gave us.

11th November 1922. D. N. STRATHIE.

11th November 1922. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR.

RATIONING SYSTEM IN BOMBAY.

Minute by Mr. D. N. Strathie, I.C.S.

The essential feature of the rationing system as adopted in Bombay with effect from 1st April 1922 is that the monthly issues of country spirit from the distilleries to each shop is limited to a fixed maximum quantity. This quantity is based on the issues to the shop in the corresponding month of 1920-21. (1921-22 was excluded as it was an abnormal year owing to the picketting.) From the recorded consumption in 1920-21 ten per cent is deducted in Bombay Town and five per cent elsewhere. To provide for unforeseen shortage, Collectors are authorized to allow a deviation from the monthly ration in very exceptional circumstances only, provided the ration for the whole period is not exceeded.

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2. The rationing system was introduced in order to meet the popular demand for a forward policy in temperance matters. Its object is clear, viz., to put a rigid limit to consumption and to bring about total prohibition within a definite period.

3. Now examined first from the theoretical point of view, the system must to anybody acquainted with the working of liquor shops appear radically unsound. Granted that there is such a thing as a legitimate demand for liquor, any excise officer will know that the sales in one month in a particular shop are no reliable guide to the probable sales in the same month in a succeeding year. Consumption in a shop varies with a thousand factors, the state of the season, the occurrence of deaths, marriages, fairs and festivals, the demand for labour, the growth of population, the prevalence of fever or other ailments and even with the personality of the seller. If the influence of some of the factors acts in a shop in a particular month one year and not in the same month in the standard year, on which consumption is based, the supplies of liquor in that shop will in that month be insufficient for the ordinary legitimate demand. It will therefore have to shut its doors for part of the months for the shopkeeper will not always be able to put a gradual restriction on his sales by raising his prices. He will not be able to foretell deaths, marriages and fevers. It may be contended that periods will also occur when the ration is excessive and that the shopkeeper can then conserve his stock to meet times when there is a large demand. But, liquor shopkeepers never have much storage accommodation in their shops, they are afraid to keep large stocks. They will not trust to selling in the future and will certainly in general dispose of whatever stocks they can sell. Assuming then the existence of a legitimate demand, the rationing system only means that the supplies at some periods are more than is needed to meet that demand and that at other periods they are insufficient. The check on supplies is not exercised gradually and by a steady pressure of taxation as it is under the Madras system but arbitrarily and abruptly. Instead of the would-be drinker gradually reducing his consumption as he finds it beyond his means and eventually giving up drink entirely, he finds supplies abundant at one moment and at the next cut off entirely. Surely the results can only be that he will drink more in the early part of the month in the fear that a time will come when he cannot drink at all and that when that time comes he, being suddenly deprived of the drink he desires, will immediately resort to illicit liquor.

4. But it may be argued that there is no such thing as legitimate demand, that Government must enforce some reduction in consumption and that the rationing system is a sure method of seeing

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that consumption is gradually reduced. Granted that some reduction in consumption must be effected, would it not be better for Government, or some other intelligent agency, to select the times when and the places where consumption is to be reduced, instead of leaving it to blind chance? That is the great objection to the rationing system. There is no reason behind the temporary local prohibition that it enforces. It is based on nothing except a determination to check consumption regardless of consequences. All other temperance measures hitherto proposed have had some justification behind them. Prohibition goes the whole hog and stamps out sale, transport and even possession of all classes of liquors at all times and at all places; local option stamps out sale in the localities in which such prohibition is the people's wish; the Gothenberg system eliminates private profit and thus removes incentive to malpractices and excessive sale, the rationing system on the other hand involves a confession that total prohibition is impossible and in effect says there will be local prohibition at such a time and such a place. But it leaves the time and place to be chosen by accident. It hardly justifies the title of system at all and seems to be merely a political expedient disguised as a temperance measure.

5. The results of rationing in Bombay bear out the above conclusions. It is true that licit consumption has decreased. Indeed so far the licit consumption in the current year is actually less than in the previous year, when picketting and other objectionable restrictions on sale were rife. The reason is that owing to the changes in demand already referred to some shops are not consuming their full ration, while others are unable to meet the demand. Attempts are being made by the Bombay Excise Department to get over the resulting difficulties and to modify the original orders. Thus the ration of a shop was originally fixed on the issues to the shops. It has recently been ordered that the stock in hand at the beginning of April 1920 may be taken into account. Again, it has been found that the year 1920-21, on which the ration was based, was by no means a normal one. In that year the supplies to shops were interfered with, partly by the failure of the mhowra crop, transport difficulties and changes in distilleries. Supplies to shops were therefore irregular and give no indication of normal consumption. This difficulty of course would not have occurred had the average of a series of years been adopted as the basis instead of one particular year and this will probably be done for the next lease and may result in a substantial increase in the ration. Further, in order to meet the constant difficulties through temporary shortage, the Bombay Government have in their Resolution, No. 5782, dated 22nd August 1922, issued orders that Collectors are to give a

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liberal interpretation to the rules allowing deviation from the monthly rations, i.e., Collectors are now permitted to issue excess supplies fairly freely, subject to the old condition that the annual ration is not to be exceeded. The difficulty will obviously become acute as the year draws to a close. It is easy enough now to grant increased ration in the hope that the demand will slacken off at the end, but the probability is that the demand will not slacken and that in the closing months of the year Collectors will be faced with a rude clamour for more liquor and no supplies with which to meet it. Indeed this point has already been reached in the case of some shops and Government in their Order No. 5498, dated 31st July 1922, have already permitted the transfer of one shop's ration to another, provided always that the district ration is not exceeded. Such cases are, we were told, becoming more frequent and are a clear indication of the impracticability of the rationing system.

6. Apart from these mere administrative difficulties, rationing in Bombay has had the following direct results:—

(1) There are clear indications of an increase in illicit practices. In the last three months there have been 100 cases in one district in places where illicit distillation was formerly unknown. The recent raid which led to the discovery of the presence of illicit stills in 11 houses out of 18 was made in a village in which there were two shops and is attributed entirely to the restriction of supplies brought about by rationing. In the first six months of the current year 522 illicit distillation cases have been detected in the Central Division, against 606 in the twelve months of 1920-21 and 376 in the whole of 1921-22.

(2) There has been a noticeable increase in the consumption of foreign liquor. In Bombay there is not a great difference now between the prices of equal quantities of strong country spirit and of the cheap brands of foreign liquor and all observers agree that people are resorting more freely to foreign liquor shops. The actual recorded figures of sales are:—

	Beer.	Wines.	Spirits.
April and September.			
1921	101,607	14,728	66,656
1922	104,734	16,035	82,048

The consumption is however said to be higher than the recorded figures represent, for the retailers of foreign liquor are concealing their sales to prevent the levy of higher fees.

7. My conclusion is that rationing is unsound in theory and that it is already becoming unworkable in practice in Bombay. I have no hesitation in holding that it will never be carried out to its logical conclusion, that it does nothing to solve the temperance

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problem and brings prohibition no nearer. I strongly advise against the introduction of such a fantastic and impracticable system in this province.

D. N. STRATHIE.

RATIONING SYSTEM IN BOMBAY.

Minute by Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiayar.

I regret I have not been able to agree with my colleague, Mr. Strathie, in his views on the Rationing System in Bombay. I have, therefore, appended a separate minute in which I have expressed my view on the working of the system in Bombay.

2. With effect from the 1st April 1922 the Government of Bombay have introduced certain substantial changes in their excise administration, the chief of which relevant to the purpose of our inquiry are (1) a reduction in the strength of country spirits and (2) rationing of country liquor shops.

3. The strength of country spirit in Bombay was 30° under-proof until 1st April 1922. With effect from the 1st April of this year the strength of 30° under-proof country spirits was reduced to 40° under-proof except in certain areas and in shops bordering on Native States.

4. Under the rationing system the quantity of country spirit which each shop is to draw from the warehouse or distillery is fixed by Government. The quantity of liquor allowed to each shop is arrived at as follows:—The year 1920–21 is taken as a normal year in the consumption of country spirits and all the shops are valued on the basis of consumption for that year. From that consumption reduced to proof gallons, ten per cent is deducted in the cases of shops in Bombay city and five per cent for shops in other areas to arrive at the ration for the current year. And it is proposed that in each succeeding year the ration allowed to each shop will be ten per cent or five per cent less than the quantity allowed in the next preceding year. The obvious result of such a system will, therefore, be to bring about a complete prohibition of country liquor within ten years or five years as the case may be. The maximum quantity of ration that each shop will thus be entitled to draw in each month of the year is published at the time of auction, so that the bidders may know exactly what quantity they will be entitled to sell in each shop. The quota which each shop is entitled to draw from the warehouse or distillery is fixed monthly and it is the amount (in proof gallons) supplied to that shop in the corresponding period of 1920–21 as shown in the warehouse or distillery accounts *minus* ten or five per cent, as mentioned above. In areas where there are

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country spirit warehouses, weekly supplies are given to the shops and in the other places the supply is monthly. The licensees are allowed to vary their weekly demand according to their requirements, provided the monthly ration is not exceeded. In order to provide for an unforeseen shortage, Collectors are authorized to allow a deviation from the monthly ration in *very exceptional circumstances only*, provided the ration for the whole period is not exceeded. It will thus be seen that for the purpose of fixing the ration, each shop is taken as a unit and the ration is fixed on the basis of consumption in that shop independent of the quantity of liquor consumed in the locality.

5. *Working of the system—Practical difficulties.*—This new experiment of rationing has been in force in Bombay for only seven months beginning from the 1st April 1922 and this fact has to be borne in mind in arriving at any definite conclusions as to the merits and demerits of the system. The period of its working has not been sufficiently long to warrant the pronouncement of any judgment with absolute certainty as to whether the system is an unqualified success or failure. But there are certain outstanding features of the system both in its principle and its working from which fairly definite conclusions may be drawn.

6. *Difficulties.*—The chief difficulties which the rationing system has given rise to so far may be classified under three heads—

- (1) the inadequacy of the ration in certain shops and its superfluity in others,
- (2) increase in the sale of foreign liquor, and
- (3) illicit practices.

An attempt will now be made to examine the nature of these difficulties. Apart from these specific difficulties there are also certain other incidental difficulties about which mention will be made later on.

7. *Inadequacy and superfluity.*—During our inquiry we found that the main difficulty in the working of the system was that certain shops has sold out their ration before the expiry of the month while in certain other shops the whole ration had not been sold. In two of the shops that we visited in the Bombay City, we found that the shop-keepers had no liquor left during the last week of certain months and even in the previous week when the ration was running short, the shop-keeper was said to have closed his shop at 6–30 p.m. instead of 9–30 p.m. In certain other shops we found a considerable balance left unsold at the end of the month. This difficulty is attributed to the fact that the basis on which the ration for a particular month is fixed is not a sound one. As was

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pointed above, the ration for a particular month is the quantity supplied to that shop in the corresponding month of 1920-21, *minus* 10 or 5 per cent as the case may be. It is contended by the officials whom we interviewed that the demands at various shops vary greatly owing to temporary shifting of population or similar causes, so that some shops are not using their whole ration, while at others the demand is much greater than the ration. It is also urged that the consumption in a shop during a particular month in one year cannot be a sound basis to determine the possible quantity required in the corresponding month of another year for the reason that the consumption depends upon such varying factors as marriages, births, deaths and festivals which do not always fall in the same months and dates of each year.

8. While it cannot be denied that there is a very great force in the argument set forth above, it seems to me that one of the main factors which has contributed to the creation of the difficulty is the basis on which the ration was arrived at. In fixing the ration for a particular month, the *quantity* issued from the warehouse or distillery in the corresponding month of 1920-21 was taken into account and not the actual *quantity consumed* in that month. I am inclined to think that if the ration was based on the quantity consumed in the particular month, a great deal of the difficulty that the system had given rise to might have been obviated. To take an illustration: If a licensee had a balance of 100 gallons on hand on the 1st April 1920, it is likely that he might not have drawn a fresh supply of liquor from the warehouse in that month in 1920-21. So his ration for April 1922 would be nil. But if he happens to have a very small stock, say 20 gallons as the opening balance in April 1922 he would naturally want more liquor in that month and he cannot have it. The meagre stock is sold out before the expiry of the month and he is obliged to close his shop for some days and applies to the Collector for an increase of the ration. If on the other hand the ration is fixed on the basis of the actual quantity consumed in April 1920, i.e., 100 gallons, he would be entitled to draw in April 1922, 90 or 95 gallons as the case may be and the complaint about insufficiency of the ration would disappear to a great extent. So it appears to me that the main difficulty that the system has given rise to would have been considerably minimised if the actual *quantities consumed* in the months of 1920-21 had been adopted as the basis for determining the ration in the corresponding months of 1922-23. This would be an easy matter, if as is being done at Madras, records are kept of the monthly consumption in every shop.

9. Apart from this initial mistake that was committed in determining the ration, there is another factor which seems to have

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contributed in no small degree to the creation of the difficulty about the inequality of the ration. The year 1920-21 was adopted as the basis for calculation on the ground that it was a normal year in the consumption of liquor. The year 1921-22 was the year in which the picketting activities of the non-co-operators were at their height, and therefore could not indicate the normal demand. So the year 1920-21 was taken as a fairly normal one. But from the information given to us, it appears that 1920-21 was no means a normal year. For we were informed that in that year the supply of liquor was insufficient and irregular owing to the reorganization of the distilleries undertaken by the Bombay Government and also on account of the fact that the distillery at Nasik which was expected to meet a great part of the demand was not ready till about the end of that year. The result of this inadequate and irregular supply was that the shopkeeper who had ready cash got large stocks and kept them in reserve, while the man who had not the cash at the proper time did not get enough to meet the demand of his shop. This factor would explain the fact that the quantity of liquor drawn by a particular shopkeeper in a particular month in the year 1920-21 offers no indication of the actual demand of that shop in that particular month. So if the year in which conditions were normal or the average of a number of years had been taken as the basis the difficulties might not have arisen.

10. It was pointed out to us that one effect of this insufficiency in the monthly ration was that the shopkeeper who had only a small quantity left at the end of the month puts the prices up. In two of the shops that we visited in the Bombay city in which the ration was insufficient during some months, we inquired whether the retail selling price was raised and the answer was in the negative. Perhaps the shopkeepers were not ready to take us into their confidence. But even if the price was actually raised it is a result which the temperance reformer would welcome as an important factor in putting a check on consumption.

11. To obviate this difficulty that has thus arisen in working the new system, it has been suggested by the Collectors of certain divisions that in fixing the ration the district might be taken as a unit instead of individual shops. It is suggested that in such a case the Collector will have the discretion to divert the supply of liquor from shops where they are in excess of the demand to the shops where it is inadequate. But it is obvious that such a system is unsound in principle and unworkable in practice. The result of adopting the suggestion might be to increase drunkenness in particular localities of a district and to induce the shopkeepers to bribe the subordinate excise officials in order to obtain a greater supply.

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In practice it would be unworkable because it would not be possible for the bidder in an auction to bid for a particular shop if the supply of liquor that he cannot get for his shop is an uncertain quantity liable to extreme variation at the option of the excise officials. There is therefore no doubt that in fixing the ration individual shops must be taken as the unit.

12. Collectors being authorized to allow deviation from the monthly ration only in *very* exceptional circumstances, many of them are sending representations to the Commissioner about the rigidity of the system and the Collector of West Kandesh in his letter to the Commissioner (No. X.A.D. 102, dated 25th July 1922) points out the practical difficulties and solicited orders on the following points:—

(a) whether under these circumstances monthly ration may be exceeded not exceptionally but generally,

(b) whether unused balance of previous months should be allowed to a licensee in excess of his monthly ration as a matter of right,

(c) whether the licensee may be allowed to take more ration from the balance of future months as a matter of grace.

In all these three cases, of course, the total ration for the year is never to be exceeded."

13. In commenting on these proposals, the Commissioner of Customs, Salt and Excise (in his memorandum No. 58/20, dated 3rd August 1922) observes that "the case of West Kandesh is not exceptional but typical. The same difficulty exists everywhere and the Commissioner has come to the conclusion that the rationing rule requires modification." Accordingly he recommended that the rationing rule may be amended so as to stand as follows:—

"All the shops will be rationed on the basis of the sales of 1920-21 (or if that year was abnormal, of the nearest previous normal year). The annual quota for each shop will be the amount (in proof gallons) supplied to that shop in the year taken as basis, as shown in the warehouse or distillery accounts, reduced by 10 per cent in Bombay and 5 per cent elsewhere. Licensees may vary their weekly or monthly supplies according to requirements as long as not more than one-sixth of the annual quota is supplied in any one month.

"The Collector is authorized to increase the monthly supply to meet the exceptional circumstances provided the annual quota is not exceeded, but to decrease it if there is a danger of the annual quota being exhausted before the last month of the year. He is also authorized to transfer with the consent of both the licensees the unexpended quota of one shop to any other shop in the district."

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14. The modifications suggested by the Commissioner will minimise many of the difficulties so far felt and make the system more elastic. Especially the first part of his recommendation removes what cannot but be considered as the fundamental mistakes of the system, i.e., the failure to take the *sales* in each of the months of 1920-21 as the basis of the ration, and also the failure to see whether the year taken as the basis was a normal year. Most of the difficulties so far experienced in the actual working of the system may disappear to a very great extent if the Commissioner's suggested alterations in the rationing rules are adopted. But the Bombay Government, prompted no doubt by the desire to give the existing system a fair trial before further changes are introduced, have declined to act on the Commissioner's suggestion for the present. Their decision is contained in their Resolution No. 5782, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1922, which runs as follows:—

"The Commissioner of Customs, Salt and Excise should be informed that the Government prefer to give the present system a trial during the current licensing period which will expire on 31st December 1922, and introduce changes if necessary, from the next. Collectors of the districts have already the authority to allow a deviation from the monthly ration, and if they are instructed to interpret the rules liberally, there should be no hardship."

15. *Increase in the sale of foreign liquor.*—The second great defect in the working of the rationing system is the increase in the consumption of foreign spirit consequent on the restricted supply of country spirits. While Government attempt to ration the supply of country spirits the supply of foreign liquor remains unrestricted. The natural consequence of such a state of affairs would be to drive people to foreign liquor when the supply of country spirit is exhausted. This would be all the more so now that there is not very great disparity between the price of equal quantities of strong country spirits and of the cheap brands of foreign spirits. If the rationing of country spirit shops is to be a complete success, it is a condition precedent to the attainment of that success that steps should be taken to prevent the diversion of custom to the foreign liquor merchant. The most effective precaution in this direction would be to raise the duty on foreign liquor with the object of placing the foreign spirit beyond the reach of the poorer classes and to place some restriction on the supply of foreign liquor as well. Local Governments cannot ration the foreign liquor shops as they do not control the supply of imported liquors and to restrict the supply of foreign liquor of Indian manufacture would mean handicapping an Indian product against its foreign competitors. It would at once be proclaimed that these are matters under the control

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of the Imperial Government. It would be well to point out therein unambiguous words that if all these years the well intentioned measures of Local Governments for promoting temperance have not met with that they would otherwise have attained, it is because of the fact that foreign liquor was held sacrosanct and has been beyond the orbit of any sort of restriction. Without dilating on this obvious point, it might at once be observed that if one of the evil results of the rationing system is to increase the consumption of foreign liquor, it is not because of any inherent defect in the rationing system, but because of the fallacious and futile policy of attempting to restrict the consumption of one particular variety of the same commodity to go about unrestricted and uncontrolled.

16. Though the Local Government does not control the sources of supply of foreign liquor and therefore cannot ration the same, and though the duty levied on foreign liquor is under the control of the Government of India, yet the Local Government can to some extent control its consumption and place beyond the reach of the poor man at least by increasing the licence fees thereby forcing up the price of foreign spirit. At present the licence tax for 'off' foreign liquor shops is a fixed round sum. In place of this fixed licence tax, it would be advisable to adopt the system of a licence tax chargeable on each item sold. The licence tax may be levied and paid monthly on the quantities sold to the public, at the rates which will be fixed by Government.

17. This system of levying a licence tax on the quantity sold has been adopted in Bengal. Such a system will not only enable Government to have a greater control over the foreign liquor trade, but it will also make it possible to secure accurate figures regarding the foreign liquor consumption within the Presidency and it will also secure a much greater revenue to Government. When the price of foreign liquor is thus forced up, it is possible private consumers may begin to import the liquor directly. To safeguard the revenue and also the trade against this, the Government of Bengal have notified that they are 'pleased to prohibit the import of any foreign liquor into Bengal by any person other than a person duly licensed to sell such liquor to other licensed dealers or to the public, unless the duty imposed on such importation under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, or the Sea Customs Act, 1878, or the Bengal Excise Act, 1909 (section 27), has been paid, or a bond has been executed for the payment of such duty, and unless the licence tax payable on such articles in Bengal has been paid on such import.'

18. The suggestion that I have made above with regard to the foreign liquor trade is based on the system that has recently been introduced into Bengal. To arrive at a more definite conclusion on

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the point Government must examine the whole question in the light of the legal powers that they have to control the trade. For the foreign liquor trade must be brought under greater control if the temperance measures of Government are to be a success.

19. *Illicit practices.*—A third disadvantage in the working of the system is the impetus which it might give to illicit practices. Judging from the figures kindly supplied to us by the Deputy Commissioner of the Central Division, Bombay, it is possible that illicit practices have increased after the introduction of the rationing system. In the year 1920-21 the number of offences detected were 606; in 1921-22 it was 376 and for the six months in 1922-23 it had been 522. But it is not possible to arrive at any definite conclusions from these figures. As was expressed by the Commissioner, Mr. Baker, an increase in the number of offences reported might only mean that the Excise officials have been more vigilant. There is a great deal of truth in this remark. But apart from the fact whether the new system has given rise to more cases of illicit practices, it must at once be observed that the question of illicit practices is inseparably connected with all measures of temperance reform and it is not an incident peculiar to the rationing system. In his Memorandum No. 666, dated 13th August 1921, the Commissioner of Sind discussing about the disadvantages of the system refers to that of illicit practices as the least of these disadvantages. Again the Superintendent of Salt and Excise in Sind in his letter to the Commissioner (No. E. 916, dated 30th July 1921) refers to the danger and observes: "I am of opinion that if this were the only objection the experiment should be tried". It would therefore be unfair to condemn the rationing system on the ground that the demand for liquor that cannot be met by the licensed shops will be met from illicit sources—an evil that is inevitable in every measure intended to check consumption. It will be well to emphasize in this connexion that any experiment intended to promote the cause of temperance must necessarily lead to an increase of the preventive staff which means a question of additional expenditure. This aspect of the question is very often ignored and the advocates of temperance must be prepared to face this consequence. Government and the people must be prepared to sacrifice not only the gross revenue by the diminution of consumption, but also a more than proportionate amount of net revenue by the heavier deductions by way of increase in the staff, to which the gross revenue would be subject.

20. A fourth defect which in the opinion of some officials as a result of this system is that it will tend to penalize the moderate drinker and to increase drunkenness amongst those who are already

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addicted to liquor. The drunkard will naturally take more trouble to get liquor than the temperate drinker. And on this assumption it was contended that they will hasten to the shops at the beginning of each rationing period to make sure of obtaining drink; that they will drink as much as they can get in the fear that they may not get any at the end of the month. They will thus get more drunk than they otherwise would, and as result of this the moderate drinker would get no drink at all. I must confess that it is difficult to controvert such a piece of ingenious reasoning. I can only say that there is more ingenuity than truth in the argument and it will furnish a nice problem for any philosophic mind engaged in analysing the psychology of the drinker.

21. The Government of Bombay are confronted with another difficulty in the working of the rationing system on account of the proximity of Native States. There are populous towns and villages on the border line between Bombay and the adjoining States, and the existence of shops selling an unlimited quantity of liquor on the other side of the border neutralizes the effect of rationing the shops in the British territory. When the ration is exhausted in these shops, the men have only to walk a few yards to get their drink in the shops on the other side. So far none of the States adjoining Bombay have adopted the rationing system. This is a practical difficulty for which the Bombay Government cannot find a solution unless with the willing co-operation of the States. Fortunately for Madras this problem will not present any serious difficulty. For the greater portion of the border line between Madras and the adjoining States is covered by mountainous and very thinly-populated tract of country.

22. *Inherent merits and defects of the system.*—An attempt has been made in the foregoing paragraphs to explain what is meant by the rationing system, the difficulties that have so far been met within its actual working in the Bombay Presidency, some of the causes that have given rise to these difficulties, the remedies suggested in order to minimize them, and the final action of the Bombay Government for the present. An attempt will now be made to indicate the merits and defects inherent in the system as such and the balance of these merits and defects.

23. *Merits.*—The fundamental idea underlying the rationing system is that the consumption of liquor must be brought down by *direct* action on the part of the Government as opposed to the *indirect* methods that have so long been employed. The adoption of this system enables Government to apply a direct check on consumption. Though the declared policy of Government has been

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to keep the level of consumption at a minimum, it had left consumption to regulate itself, subject only to certain indirect checks. The experiments in the reduction of the proof strength of the spirit issued, the restriction in the number of shops, the fixing of the location, the regulation in the hours of sale, the rules as to the classes of persons to whom liquor should not be sold and as to the maximum quantity that can be sold to an individual and the gradual enhancement of the rates of still head-duty—these are the various indirect checks that the Government have so far imposed and which are calculated to bring consumption to its lowest level. It is not necessary to discuss in this place as to how far these methods have succeeded in achieving this object.

24. If the position of Government in relation to the liquor traffic is recognized to be one of the direct responsibility to gradually decrease the consumption of liquor with a view to wipe out the evil altogether, then it becomes necessary to consider seriously whether Government can discharge that responsibility by following the same policy that they had adopted so far. Even though consumption may be held in check by the indirect methods mentioned above and through the steady pressure to taxation, it is doubtful whether the evil can be eradicated by these methods alone. It becomes necessary therefore that a more direct method of gradual limitation is not merely desirable, but indispensable. The rationing system is one of such direct methods.

25. By adopting this system, Government assumes direct responsibility for the actual quantity of spirit consumed and Government will thereby commit themselves to a policy of which the ultimate issue must be total prohibition. The logical result of rationing will be total prohibition within a definite period of time.

26. As a means of attaining the goal of total prohibition, the rationing system has very many distinct advantages. It clears up the position of Government in relation to liquor traffic by definitely committing them to a policy of total prohibition. By attempting to bring about a gradual decrease in the consumption of liquor it gives time for the formation of that strong public opinion which alone is the surest guarantee of the success of any temperance reform; it gives time for the drinking classes to reconcile themselves to the advent of a day when there will be no drink; it will enable the State to adjust its finance without bringing about any catastrophic change in the financial position which will be the inevitable result of attempting to bring about prohibition by a stroke of the pen. Last but not least it brings total prohibition within the realm of practical politics and not merely relegate it to

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the limbo of an unknown future. For the natural consequence of reducing the ration, say, by five per cent every year, is to bring about total prohibition at the expiry of twenty years.

27. Such, in brief, are the inherent advantages of the rationing system. For its introduction in the Madras Presidency it has this additional advantage that it fits into the licence auction system; and therefore can be easily adopted without dislocating the existing machinery. Though some of the Excise officials in Bombay, imbued with their traditional antagonism to the auction system, are of opinion that with rationing in force it would not be advisable to continue the open auction system of disposal of the licences, I do not see any difficulty in rationing under the auction system. The only objection that they bring forward is that the licensee will increase the retail selling price as the stock becomes exhausted and thereby obtain an extra profit which ought legitimately to go to the State. But if Government are satisfied that they have reached the maximum limit in the rate of still head duty, the adjustment between the price and demand may be left to itself.

28. *Defect.*—The only defect which may be said to be inherent in the rationing system, is the possibility of there being no liquor at all sold in certain shops during certain days of the month. If a shop-keeper exhausts his ration in the first two weeks of the month, he has to keep his shop closed for the following weeks. The most rational way of decreasing consumption is no doubt to regulate it so as to make people drink a little less every day and not to give them as much as they want for a few days and then withhold it altogether for some days. It must be admitted that this is a defect inherent in the rationing system. But no scheme of temperance reform can be devised which will be perfect in every detail and free from all possible defects and difficulties. On the whole, weighing the defects and merits of the rationing system, it may be safely asserted that the balance is in favour of its merits, and I would strongly recommend to Government to give it a trial in the Madras Presidency.

29. The disadvantages and difficulties incidental to this system, though they are important factors to be reckoned with, do not constitute insuperable obstacles to its adoption. The advisability or otherwise of adopting the rationing system depends on the answer to the fundamental question, 'what is the ultimate goal of the excise policy of Government?' The policy, as laid down in the Government of India's letter F.D. 5001 Exe. of 7th December 1905 still continues to be the recognized policy of the Local Government. The substance of that policy is that: "The Government of India have no desire to interfere with the habits of those who use alcohol

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in moderation; this is regarded by them as outside the duty of the Government and it is necessary in their opinion to make due provision for the needs of such persons. Their settled policy, however, is to minimise temptation to those who do not drink, and to discourage excess among those who do, and to the furtherance of this policy all considerations of revenue must be absolutely subordinated. The most effective method of furthering this policy is to make the tax upon liquor as high as it is possible to raise it without stimulating illicit production to a degree which would increase instead of diminish the total consumption and without driving the people to substitute drugs for alcohol or for a more or less harmful form of liquor. Subject to the same considerations, the number of liquor shops should be restricted as far as possible, and their location be periodically subject to strict examination with a view to minimise the temptation to drink and to conform as far as is reasonable to public opinion. It is also important to secure that the liquor which is offered for sale is of good quality and not necessarily injurious to health." This declaration disclaims any intention on the part of Government to eradicate drink altogether. Such a task is declared to be 'outside the duty of Government'. It is not possible to consider here the question as to what is the actual result of this policy as it has been carried out in practice and whether it has put an effective check on intemperance. The advisability of adopting one particular kind of temperance measure rather than another—whether it is to be local option or the surcharge system or the rationing system—will depend upon the nature of the excise policy of Government. The whole question therefore revolves on the fundamental issue whether Government recognize it is their duty to suppress drink altogether, and, if so, whether they are prepared to boldly commit themselves to an *active* temperance policy and not merely rest contented with inaugurating *passive* measures. If the decision is in the affirmative, then Government may decide whether that object can best be achieved by adopting the rationing system through which they can determine periodically the progressively diminishing quantity of liquor which the people will be allowed to drink, and there can be no doubt that all the difficulties and disadvantages above referred to must, as they can, be faced.

30. The foregoing note on the rationing system has been prepared with special reference to the consumption of country spirits and drugs. For the Bombay Government have adopted the system only for these. They are not confronted with the problem of toddy-drinking which is a serious problem in the Madras Presidency: So, if the system is to be adopted in Madras with any measure of success, the toddy shops as well as the country liquor shops must be

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brought under the system. For the principles applicable to the rationing of country liquor shops will apply *mutatis mutandum* to the rationing of toddy shops.

R. K. SHANMUKHAM.

III

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 1st March 1923.

IV

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee appointed, at the meetings of the Council held on the 30th January and 26th February 1923, to consider certain amendments proposed to the Standing Orders. I beg, with your leave, to move that the consideration of the clauses as amended be taken up.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the first of the amendments which has to be considered is :

After existing Standing Order 79, insert the following as Standing Order 79-A :

"The President may, by order in writing, delegate to the Deputy President all or any of his powers under the Standing Orders".

Sir, as will be apparent from the report of the Committee, the Committee considered that, on the whole, it would be advisable to follow the example of the Legislative Assembly in this respect; and in response to a fairly widely expressed request that such delegation should be provided for, it has been recommended that the delegation should take place. I move, Sir, that the above amendment be adopted."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the next series of amendments relate to Standing Order 5 (2). It will be within the memory of hon. Members of this House that a number of complaints have been preferred as to the question of the relative precedence of Bills and Resolutions, and in order to set at rest all doubts on that matter, it has been suggested that there should be no mingling up of Bills and Resolutions, but that they should be balloted for separately. That is the object of the first of the series of amendments. I submit, Mr. President, that it will be convenient to put these amendments separately, and, with your leave, I move the first sub-clause, namely :

"The relative precedence of notices of Bills and of Resolutions given by non-official members shall be determined by ballot".

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, the next amendment relates to the determination of the precedence of motions in regard to ballot, and it is as follows :—

"The precedence of motions as determined by each ballot, whether in respect of Bills or of Resolutions, shall hold good for 30 days after the ballot is held, exclusive of the day on which it is held ;

"Provided that 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".

"Sir, this is the first of the series of provisions designed to give effect to the object that the members had in view in appointing this Committee. Sir, I beg to move the amendment."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I next move :

Members shall be at liberty to claim priority by means of ballot for any motions previously balloted for by them but not yet actually moved in the Council."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I beg next to move :

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 motions balloted for under the head of Bills shall be taken up for discussion before those under the head of Resolutions are taken up.

The sub-clause is self-explanatory."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP seconded the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

V

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. THE PRESIDENT REGARDING TIME-LIMITS OF SPEECHES ON BUDGET MOTIONS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before taking up the motions on the Budget I have to inform the House that the Local Government have, under section 72-D (3) of the Government of India Act, indicated in italics in the budget estimates for 1923-24 those items of expenditure in regard to which they are not submitting proposals to the House.

"From the announcement which I made in this House on the 1st instant hon. Members are aware that the voting of budget grants will be closed on Wednesday the 21st instant. I have now to inform them that it has recently been decided by His Excellency the Governor that the voting of supplementary grants shall take place on 27th instant instead of on the 23rd, as previously announced; and the 23rd March will be devoted wholly to the consideration of the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

"Under sub-rule (2) of rule 29 His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to fix one day as the maximum for the discussion of the motions on

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each of the following main demands, viz., Land Revenue, General Administration, Education (non-European), and Civil Works—transferred portions, and two and a half hours as the maximum for motions affecting each of the other demands.

“Neither the rules nor the standing orders prescribe any time-limit for the speeches to be made at this stage. I have, however, following the precedent of previous years, resolved to fix 10 minutes as the time-limit for an hon. Member who moves the omission or reduction of a grant or of an item of a grant, and also 10 minutes for the hon. Member of the Government who has to answer the motion; all other hon. Members will have 5 minutes each. I shall enforce the time-limits strictly: and I appeal to hon. Members to help me to do so.

“Hon. Members will see that, under rule 29 (3), at the close of the nine days allowed for the purpose, it will be my duty to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of all outstanding matters in connexion with the demands for grants.”

VI

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“Sir, I beg to move for a grant of 252.90 lakhs under Demand I. Land Revenue Department. The various items which go to make up this demand will be found on page 3 of the printed list of demands already in the hands of hon. Members of the House.”

MOTION No. 1.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:

The allotment of Rs. 4,800 for special pay of four deputy collectors at Rs. 100 a month be omitted from the land revenue charges.

“In my speech during the general discussion of the Budget, I said that there was no need for special allowances or special pay. The regular pay which officers, like deputy collectors, receive is high enough in all conscience. When they are put on special duty they are exempted from ordinary duty, and the special work they do is part of the day's work for which they are paid. In these circumstances there is no reason for giving any special pay, and there is no justification for it. I am aware that the hon. the Finance Member has said that the whole question of special pay and travelling allowances is being investigated by the Retrenchment Secretary, the hon. Mr. Moir; but we cannot wait till the whole report or the whole scheme is ready. In the meantime so much of public money will be spent, which may well be saved and used for better purposes. And, anyhow, retrenchment should begin somewhere and at some time or other. I propose that we begin our proceedings this session with applying the pruning knife to the special pay of Rs. 4,800 for Deputy Collectors included in the land revenue charges.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“Sir, as this is the first motion relating to the elimination of allowances which have euphemistically, may I say,

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been designated as ‘our old friend’, and which the House is nevertheless anxious to eliminate, I may be pardoned if I enter into a somewhat detailed discussion of this question at this stage in order that hon. Members of the House, after hearing me, may make up their minds to postpone the consideration of all questions relating to allowances and withdraw their motions.

“It will be within the recollection of the House that during the Budget discussion of March last some prominence was given to the question of allowances in general. A number of motions had then been tabled, a few of them were discussed and passed, a few more were discussed but not pressed to division, and the rest withdrawn. I am aware that, in not pressing them to division or in withdrawing them, the House had expected that their attitude in the matter having been made known Government would take the necessary steps for translating it into action. The immediate result of some of the cuts in the allowances which had been sanctioned in March last was the automatic elimination of these allowances. Some officers had to be deprived of the allowances, while others holding similar or like positions continued to enjoy them. This unfortunately brought about an anomalous position. Those officers who were deprived of the allowances not only memorialized to Government that the allowances might be restored in common with the rest of their brethren, who still continued to enjoy them, but they also asked that if Government could not find their way to do so they might be sent back to those posts which they, under their cadre, were entitled to hold. But it became impossible to comply with either of the requests, and as an inevitable consequence these officers still continue to hold their special posts. But I may assure the House that it has produced a certain amount of irritation and discontent in their minds. These allowances, Sir, are granted some to the city of Madras and some in the mufassal. It will not be quite accurate to say that the cadre which has provided for the salaries of these officers would have taken into account the special duties on which these officers are now employed and for which special allowances are being given. Take, for instance, the cadre of the Deputy Collector. A Deputy Collector is intended to serve either as a Divisional Officer or a Treasury Deputy Collector. When he is taken out of that rut and put on other duties, which are not germane to the Deputy Collector's position, he has certainly a right to ask that for such special duties he must be given some special allowance. The salary of a cadre is invariably fixed according to the nature of its duties, its onerousness and its responsibility. The cadre of the Deputy Collector was fixed keeping in mind only the duties of the Deputy Collector, either as a Divisional Officer or as a Treasury Deputy Collector. It may be said that the salaries of these Deputy Collectors have recently been considerably improved. But I may at once inform the House that the present reorganization took place at a time when the Deputy Collectors had a right to expect besides their salary the special allowance now in question. For, when the cadre was reorganized these allowances formed part of the special appointments which they were asked to fill. The allowances in the mufassal are given only to those officers who are called upon to discharge duties entirely outside their usual legitimate duties. It cannot be denied that the four Deputy Collectors whose case we are now considering are Deputy Collectors who are doing a nature of duty which is wholly different from the ordinary duties of a Deputy Collector.

“I said already, Sir, that the House had discussed this question of allowances at some length in March last, and I said also that at that time the House naturally expected that Government would take the necessary action

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on it. I do not think I need tell the House what the Government have done. I will merely leave the hon. the Finance Member to speak on that matter. While presenting his Budget to the House on the 27th February last, the hon. the Finance Member distinctly told us :

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 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.

And I may inform the House that a large number of recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee in that direction are being received by Government at the present moment, and that they are under consideration. And it is only after the Government have considered these proposals and have come to some conclusion that it will be time for the House to say what particular allowances or particular amounts of allowances which the Government still consider it desirable to continue, should be discontinued. Then, I say, will be the time for hon. Members of this House to interfere. At the present moment, if these allowances are cut down, it will only spread discontent in the case of officials concerned as the cuts in March last have already done in the minds of a small minority of them. I therefore beg the House to defer the consideration of this question until the Government have come to a final decision on the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, am I to understand that a special day or days will be allotted to the House to consider the question of allowances when the Retrenchment Committee's work is over, or have we to table resolutions in the usual course on allowances and take our chance? "

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, I am led to think that the hon. the Revenue Member is inclined to hold the view that the motion before the House is premature. But all the same I think that this is the legitimate and proper occasion for us to express our opinion in no uncertain terms so that it may go a great way in weighing with the Government in any decision which they may ultimately arrive at.

" I rise to give my support to the motion before the House. It seems to me that the time has come when we should make up our minds to effect cuts in all these directions. We are faced with a huge and heavy deficit; and, if I may so put it, we find ourselves in the swirls of a vicious current from which everybody should try to get out.

" Turning to page 78 of the Budget, hon. Members of the House will find that the permanent strength of the Deputy Collector's cadre is given as 155. Most of the Deputy Collectors who are not doing their normal work are not allowed this special pay. But the item with which we are now concerned relates to the grant of a special pay to four Deputy Collectors aggregating a sum of Rs. 4,800. On what special considerations these

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four Deputy Collectors are entitled to the special pay we are not told. On principle I rise to support this motion. It seems to me high time to scrutinize the principle of allowances and see if we cannot make up our minds to get rid of it. It is by no means to cause any detriment or prejudice to any officer who has been drawn from his legitimate sphere of work and who has been put in charge of a special duty that I plead for reduction. My submission, Sir, is this: there are a lot of persons doing such special duty and it is not that these people, or the four Deputy Collectors in question, will continue till the period of their retirement to be attached to the particular office. If a change is necessary, year after year their places may be taken by other persons and some of these gentlemen must be prepared to put up with a certain amount of inconvenience, and therefore there is absolutely no reason why we should not see our way to cut down, especially as it raises a question broad, and fundamental."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I was informed not long ago that Government, in the case of some officers whose allowances were disallowed by this Council last year, had allowed them advance increments in the time-scale to make up for the loss. I think the Council will like to know why they were given such increments in spite of the fact that it cut down their allowances on the last occasion when the Budget was passed. I rise, Sir, to get this information from the Government."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to support this motion for the reason that the Council is more or less unanimous that this duty allowance should be abolished. Last year we managed to get rid of some of these allowances; but some others which were not exactly touched upon were continued; and those whose allowances were cut down, as the Raja of Ramnad says, were compensated by giving a grade promotion. Further, the duty allowance, hitherto called local allowance, and various other allowances are now designated as special pay. I do not know the object or the reason for designating these allowances as special pay. I do not think it is intended to deprive the voting power of the Council. Of course, this is a small item of concerning four officers; and I am not very particular about it. The rules the public service require that an officer once taken into it is bound to do the duty allotted to him, and no claim can be made by him for a special allowance for a special job. In the case of officers who are stationed in unhealthy places, it is different. But I should like to ask whether in this case it is necessary to grant them special pay. They are asked to do duty in connexion with the revision of adangals and this work is lighter in many respects than their ordinary work. I doubt whether they should get any extra allowance. As a matter of principle, I object to this grant of Rs. 4,800."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I also support the motion proposed by my hon. friend. If I understood the hon. the Revenue Member correctly, it seems to me that while Government accepted the cuts made last year, they are not prepared to accept the cuts proposed this year. I should like to know the point of view of the Government definitely as to whether, in their opinion, the provision of Rs. 4,800 ought necessarily to be there or whether they would wait for the Retrenchment Committee to cut it down. If it is the opinion of the Committee that the allowances which have been cut last year were unnecessary, it is all the more incumbent on the House to take upon itself the task of cutting down all these duty allowances.

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"I think, Sir, that the arguments advanced by the hon. the Revenue Member are not convincing. Last year in spite of the reasons advanced by the hon. the Revenue Member we cut down certain allowances, and this year too we are agreed that others should be cut down because no fresh arguments have been advanced for the continuance of these allowances. All these officers are for the purpose of preparing adangals, and that can be easily done by the Deputy Collectors. Deputy Collectors have been put on special duty as Co-operative Assistant Registrars, and the allowances of these too ought to be cut down. No doubt some of them have been cut down, and I see no reason at all why these officers should be given these allowances. If at all there is any necessity to wait for the Retrenchment Committee it will be for the purpose of seeing whether they will recommend these duty allowances. If the Committee say that these allowances should be attached to certain officers, then it will be open to this House to decide whether they will retain or abolish this allowance. In these circumstances, we find there is no necessity to continue these allowances till then."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"Sir, I rise to support this motion.

11-30 a.m. Last year, this House unhesitatingly and emphatically declared that the so-called allowances which have now been termed 'special pay' should be left out of the Budget altogether. Last year, this House was not able to go through the whole Budget and cut down each and every allowance; but that is no reason why the Government should excuse themselves and retain some of the allowances which the House did not cut last year. Though the House was not able to enter in great detail into the Budget, yet they indicated the general principles on which the Government should proceed in framing the Budget. The House naturally expected that the Government would adopt the principles laid down by them. So far as the hon. the Revenue Member is concerned, he has just now told us that the Government is at present going through the report of the Retrenchment Committee. Is it suggested that this House has to wait till the Government have arrived at their conclusions in respect of the report of the Retrenchment Committee? I submit, Sir, that this Government, if it is responsible to this House, ought to act upon the principle laid down last year; else, there is no use of this House coming to a decision upon any matter. The principle on which this special pay is allowed to a certain number of Deputy Collectors is thoroughly wrong. When a Government servant engages to enter Government service, he must be prepared to do any work assigned to him by the Government. He must discharge all the duties entrusted to him only for the fixed salary which the post carries. The Government servant has no business to claim extra remuneration on the ground that he is doing some special work. Under these circumstances I submit, Sir, that the special pay of Rs. 4,800 ought to be omitted from the Budget."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I think it is right that I should explain to the House the position as regards the Retrenchment Committee in this matter of allowances. I may say, at the outset, that I fully recognize the justice of the complaints that have been made and the force of the statement of the last speaker that it is incumbent upon the Government to accept the vote of this House upon matters of this kind.

"What has happened is this. The Retrenchment Committee was specifically instructed by Government to submit its report on the subject of

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allowances within three months after its formation. The matter, however, has proved to be one of much greater complexity than at first sight appeared. The Committee first of all tried to lay down the general principles. Hon. Members of this House have remarked upon various questions of principle that affect these allowances and the Retrenchment Committee had naturally first to lay down general principles and then apply those principles to individual cases. This was a very lengthy business and they have latterly been sitting at it practically from day to day and they actually finished making their recommendations only on Saturday last. The present position of the matter is that most of the recommendations of the Committee have been sent piecemeal to the departments concerned for their consideration. It is only the consolidated report that is not yet ready for submission to the whole Cabinet. At the same time, a separate Committee is dealing with medical allowances, which are perhaps more numerous than those in other departments. Some decisions have already been taken on their report. What remains to be done is for the general report on the whole case to be written up and considered by the Government and the whole scheme co-ordinated, so that we shall not be charged with being unfair in cutting one department's allowances while we leave those of another standing. Probably that might be the case if individual members of the Government dealt with the recommendations sent to them without waiting for the examination of the whole case by the Cabinet. That is our present position. I have been strenuously trying to bring the whole thing to a conclusion before the discussion of the Budget. But owing to various reasons, we were not able to get the matter through the Retrenchment Committee until Saturday last. The Retrenchment Committee have now recommended certain scales. These may or may not be acceptable to the Government as a whole. The scales recommended by the Committee as well as those sanctioned by the Government have to be submitted for the approval of the House. The order of procedure that the Government desired to adopt in this matter was that the Committee should first arrive at some conclusions, that their proposals should then go to the Cabinet, and finally that the Government's orders should go to the House for their approval. Unfortunately we have been caught by the Budget, and we are not yet ready to deal with this question immediately. I am prepared to ask my hon. colleagues to discuss this matter if possible at an early date and come to a decision on the whole question and thus to meet the wishes of the House in all possible ways. As I have said, we have been caught unawares, though we have been struggling day after day to get through the whole matter. Unfortunately we were not able to finish our deliberations, and the result is we are now faced with these difficulties."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, for the reasons which I have already urged and for those urged by my hon. colleague, the Finance Member, I hope the House will see that it is very desirable that this question should be deferred until the full and detailed recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and the decisions of the Government thereon are made available to the House. The House would then be in a position to decide for themselves whether the action which the Government propose to take would be justifiable or not."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Are we to understand that an opportunity will be given to discuss the Government's decision during this sitting?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"We are trying to meet before we close the Budget. In any case, every opportunity will be given to the House for coming to a conclusion on that question before we begin to utilize the allowances."

"Then, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Arumainatha Pillai, with his usual vehemence told us that inasmuch as these Deputy Collectors entered the Government service with their eyes wide open, it was not at all justifiable that they should ask for special allowances over and above their fixed salaries. May I inform my hon. friend that they entered service with their eyes wide open and with the knowledge that, besides the fixed pay allowed to them under the cadre, they would be given special allowances also."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—"That is a greater reason why special allowances should be cut off."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I am hardly able to follow the logic of my hon. friend opposite."

"Again, Sir, I was greatly surprised to be told by another hon. friend that the work of the Deputy Collectors employed for the revision of adangals was much lighter than the work of Divisional Officers or the Treasury Deputy Collectors. That a statement of this kind should emanate from my hon. friend, Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu, has taken me completely by surprise."

"Another hon. Member wanted to know what the Retrenchment Committee had done in regard to this matter. Inasmuch as the whole report of the Committee will be before this House in a very brief period, I think I am disclosing no secret when I say that they definitely recommend the restoration to the special settlement officers and their assistants the duty allowance of Rs. 100 which was taken away by this House last March. These Deputy Collectors on whose behalf I am now pleading also fall in the same category."

The motion was put and carried.

MOTION No. 2.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for measurers and hired labourers, instruments and chemicals and other contingencies by Rs. 3,000.

"I find that for 1922-23 the revised estimate only allowed Rs. 3,000 for this purpose. I cannot understand why double that amount should be budgeted for the ensuing year. No special reasons are mentioned for this increase, and in the absence of such reasons, I am sure the House will only be discharging its legitimate duty if it asks the Government to limit their expenditure to the amount allotted last year, that is, Rs. 3,000."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, this is a very small item which has attracted the attention of my hon. friend. The only reason that I can urge is that it is more or less a varying item from year to year. It depends upon the bulk of the work that has to be done. At the present moment, the revision of adangals and the special revision survey work are in full operation in the Bellary and Anantapur districts. In the Kistna district, the revision of adangals prior to resurvey is in operation too. In the Bellary and Anantapur

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districts, some special staff is necessary for subdivision work, for further demarcation of *poramboke* and hence only as much provision as is just enough for that work has been entered in the Budget. The amount noted in the Budget represents the cost of measurers, hired labourers, boundary pillars and so on. If the amount is reduced, the outturn of work will proportionately be reduced. Instead of doing this small piece of work in the course of one year, it will become necessary to spread it over several years. The expenditure cannot at all be saved, but it will have to be incurred though not in this year at least in the succeeding years."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, if the item is so small, there is absolutely no reason why there should be any opposition for the reduction of this amount. Turning to page 33 of the Budget, the House will observe that for 1921-22, no amount was allotted under this head. In 1922-23, we find a provision of Rs. 3,000 for the first time in the revised estimate. For the ensuing year, this amount has been doubled, with the result that instead of Rs. 3,000, we are now asked to vote for Rs. 6,000. We only ask the Government to limit their expenditure to the amount put down in the revised estimate for the current year. I hope the House will accept this motion especially in view of the good auspices under which we have begun our work to-day."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 3.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move—
To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,50,000 for temporary establishment.

"Sir, in the first place, I do not understand the purpose for which this temporary establishment is needed. I am told by some of my non-official friends that it might be intended for the revision of the land cess. If that be so, I do not think that it requires such an elaborate staff costing as much as three lakhs and over. As far as my present knowledge of taluk offices goes, I do not think that a taluk office requires a temporary staff at such a heavy cost to the tax-payer. I therefore propose the omission of this allotment."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, the hon. Member naturally wishes to know why it is that the temporary establishment is needed, and I am glad to furnish that information to him. The temporary establishment is intended for the purpose of revision of adangals in the districts of Gōdāvari, Kistna, Bellary, Anantapur, Trichinopoly, South Kanara and Malabar. The strength of the temporary establishment that has to be entertained in a particular area depends upon the quantity of work that the department has got to do. There is nothing like a fixed rule in regard to the nature and the bulk of temporary establishments to be taken as in the case of permanent establishments. In the case of permanent establishments, this process is easy as we are of course bound to provide only for the permanent cadre. It is for the purpose of effecting a real economy that in the Survey and in the Settlement departments we have always carried on the work largely through the medium of temporary establishments. If we had asked the House permission to take on as much permanent establishment as would be necessary for the conduct of our work from year to year, I am

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afraid that the expenditure would have been far greater than that which Government are incurring under the present system of a part of the establishment only being permanent and the rest being recruited from time to time on a temporary basis. Here, again, Sir, my hon. friend on the other side is somewhat vexed with the taluk establishments, and he tells us that they need no sort of help at all and that it is up to them to do this additional work as well. But I am afraid, Sir, that the experience of Settlement Officers is just the contrary. Mr. Moir, who was with us during the last budget debate and who was recognized as the most popular Settlement Officer that this Presidency has known, while speaking on a similar motion last time, distinctly told us that it represented additional work that had to be done, but for which Government steadily refused to make the establishment permanent on the ground of cheapness. It is thus a measure of cheapness and not one of extravagance, and the work they do is essentially in the nature of administrative work of the department. Mr. Moir stated:

Then, I think, I can speak with some authority as regards the amount of work that is cast on the revenue establishment during resettlements. It is a work that cannot be done by the ordinary establishment. I know personally the amount of work devolving on settlement parties in bringing the village accounts up to date and also the amount of work it casts in its turn on the taluk establishment. For this, as I have said, the ordinary establishment is not enough. If these operations are postponed, we shall simply be piling up heavy arrears and postponing to a future date heavy unavoidable schemes for expenditure on measures such as re-surveys and revision of adangals and in order to make that good later on we shall be put to the necessity of incurring expenditure on a much larger scale than the proposals which have been put forward now by the Revenue Department.

"These are, Sir, the personal experiences of an officer who held the position of Special Settlement Officer for years, and speaking as he does from personal experience, I would appeal to the House to consider whether it will be desirable to cut down these temporary establishments thereby piling up work which at some stage or other will have to be done. We have to consider, Sir, not only the necessity of our own administrative machinery, but also the rights and privileges of the ryot at large. He insists on some information or other being furnished to him at every resettlement, and we are bound to give it to him. For instance, he must know where his land exactly is, what the actual extent of his land is, whether any body has encroached on it, and so on. All these particulars have to be gathered and furnished. If we refuse to do so, I do not know how we will be justified in going to him and collecting the revenue. These are all responsibilities which the Government have to undertake, and we are now asked to abandon them and leave the whole work to take care of itself."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"If Malabar is excepted, I would like to know what is being done as regards the settlement registers in other places. What system of adangals do they have?"

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I suppose under the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue it is the duty of village officers and the taluk officers to see that the adangals are always properly kept by noting the changes that occur from time to time, and I do not quite understand why a special establishment should be introduced between the survey and settlement establishments for doing the work which is neglected by the ordinary establishment. Fifteen or twenty years ago, when the settlement operations were going on, I think I was in charge of a taluk as Tahsildar; and I do not think there was then any such preliminary work being done by an establishment going through the revision of adangals. Of

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course latterly, owing to the increase of work all round, there might have been necessity for it as expressed by the best of our Settlement Officers, Mr. Moir. If we have got funds, there may be necessity for many other things also. But my point is that the same work was done some years ago by the regular establishment. Now, the revenue officers have got increased salaries; their duties have been reduced all round in a variety of ways and they have got to do much less work now than the old revenue officers; and with all that, they want additional hands to do the work for them. Moreover, Sir, last year, and the year before that, we were agitating for the suspension of all survey and resettlement operations. But, instead of that, let there be no temporary establishment hereafter now that we are faced with a deficit in our budget. That is the only point I would urge for the consideration of the House. My point is I expect the work to be done by the regular staff who are getting more salaries than before."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I say one word, Sir, with reference to what the hon. Member just now said? Like him I remember times many years ago when it was the practice to keep revenue accounts without having a special staff to bring them up to date. I am bound to say that, when I was in charge of the Revenue portfolio, I did not quite understand the necessity for these establishments, because when I was a karnam I used to keep the stones in order and to keep the books without difficulty. But I found that I had not reckoned with the influence of the fragmentation of holdings. The fragmentation of holdings is growing to such an extent that it is almost impossible to get these accounts kept by the ordinary karnams. As the House knows, if a man has seven fields and seven sons, when he dies, the land does not go at the rate of one field to one son, but one-seventh of each field goes to each son. That process is going on and the work is becoming greater and greater and the establishment has to cope also with a great many subdivisions which are not demarcated. So, when I was in charge of the Revenue portfolio, I went to see what these men were doing and found that there was a perfectly hopeless conglomeration of work that was being worked off by the settlement parties. Whether we are going to refuse to recognize further fragmentation of holdings, or to abolish karnams and replace them by revenue inspectors at the rate of one to half a dozen villages are questions which may perhaps be considered. But on the present basis we must have this staff if we are to get on with the resettlement work at all."

"Finally, I would ask the House to remember that the word 'temporary' here simply means 'non-pensionable'. We have different sorts of temporary staffs. We may have a man to do a particular work for a short time, or we may have men, as we have in the Survey and Settlement Department and in the Public Works Department, men who really work continuously throughout a fairly long service, but do not get a pension. The only point in regard to these temporary men is that they are very cheap. We can get rid of them at any time and there is no pensionary liability. I would ask the Council to look at the matter from this point of view, that what we really have is a non-pensionable establishment for this work."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, only one matter, I think, I should mention for the information of the hon. mover of this motion. I would invite his attention to

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the Committee on Survey and Resettlement which sat here the other day and of which my hon. friend was also a member. In the discussion of this very question, no tangible suggestions were made in that Committee as to how the revision of adangals could be substituted by any other machinery. For, I believe the Committee felt that the revision of adangals was an inevitable precedent to the conduct of the resurvey. But I would also invite his attention to the fact that at that time I made a definite promise to the Committee that in future whenever the resettlement of any district was taken up after the adangals had been revised previously by means of separate establishments, I would investigate the necessity for the establishment of a separate staff to re-do the work. I have accordingly issued instructions to say that in future whenever applications are made for a special staff for doing adangal work, the officer concerned will have to satisfy me that there is absolute necessity for it."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"After hearing the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Revenue Member, I do not wish to press my motion. I withdraw it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 4.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I beg to move the following :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,50,000 for temporary establishment by Rs. 50,000.

"Only one or two points I have to say. The hon. the Revenue Member said that this item is intended to cover the adangal revision charges of six various districts. I thought that the department under the hon. the Finance Member was very accurate. Looking at page 29, paragraph 9, of the hon. the Finance Member's memorandum, it is stated that it represents provision for the revision of adangals in Bellary, Anantapur and Kistna. Only these three districts have been mentioned in that memorandum.

"Another big question that has been raised is as to whether the temporary establishment is cheaper than the permanent establishment. So far as I can see, Sir, the temporary establishment is cheaper from the Government point of view, because they have not to give pensions to these people; and so far as the autocratic officials are concerned, it may be better for them to have temporary establishments, because if a man says anything against anybody, they can easily dispense with his services and he will have to go even without a right of appeal. So, from the point of view of the Government, this establishment is very good; but we have to consider the question from the point of view of the ordinary ryot as well. We know how difficult it is for a ryot to attend upon and please the temporary officers of the Survey and Resettlement departments at the time of every fresh settlement and his position will become more difficult if he has to please a third department, viz., the temporary adangal revision department. And a man who is temporary, who has absolutely no stake in the establishment and who knows that any autocratic officer may at any time dispense with his services, may reap a good harvest when the wind is blowing. So from the point of view of the ryot, it is better for him to deal with the permanent establishment rather than with the temporary. It is

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not at all desirable, Sir, that year after year the temporary establishment should go from district to district, having no status whatever and having no sort of stake in the permanent establishment, and be allowed to do the work. So, the sooner we make all our establishments permanent the better.

"Then I was surprised to learn that the temporary establishments were doing better work than the permanent establishments. The permanent establishments have always got a stake on their work. They have got their future pensions to look up to and they will be expected to do better work than a man who comes to-day and goes away to-morrow. Therefore, the cheapness I do not think is worth mentioning. As to better work, it is also not worth mentioning. All that I want, so far as I am concerned, is not to send away the whole temporary establishment at once, but only to make reasonable reductions

"According to the revised estimate for 1922-23, the cost is only Rs. 3,35,000. It is difficult to see why there is an increase of Rs. 15,000 provided for in the Budget for 1923-24 especially when we have a deficit of 40 lakhs. It may be that we will have an announcement made to the effect that this deficit will be reduced on account of some windfalls. In any case, with any deficit whatever, it is desirable to reduce such provisions as much as possible, without doing any harm to the permanent establishment. We should therefore cut down the allotment for the temporary establishment by this small sum of Rs. 50,000."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I have nothing more to urge in justification of this allotment than what I have already said. However, I am indeed thankful to the hon. the mover for having, with a large heart, permitted me to convert as many of these temporary men into permanent hands as I possibly can. I shall, when I present my next Budget, have very great pleasure in bringing such a proposal. I do feel that these temporary men are not being treated properly. I think they ought to be confirmed; but my only fear was that I could not possibly get the support of this House. Now that I have the support of the hon. mover, I shall take courage and act accordingly.

"Then, Sir, there was some sort of confusion somewhere as to why Rs. 3,35,000 which is found in the revised estimate for the current year should have been raised to 3,50,000. As I have repeatedly pointed out, the bulk of the work to be done in each year, either under the Survey or the Settlement operations, depends upon the number of districts to be taken up, the area to be taken up and so on. We calculate the quantity of work that has got to be done in a given year and then convert it into an allotment that is necessary for that purpose. These operations are all conducted on more or less task work principles. Each man is expected to turn out a fixed quantity of work in the course of a day or in the course of a month according to the nature of the duties he is engaged upon. While calculating the actual amount that would be required for the year 1923-24, we found that we would require no less than Rs. 3,93,000, but in view of the retrenchment which we are equally anxious to procure, we have budgeted for Rs. 40,000 less, on the off-chance that if the additional sum of Rs. 40,000 is required in the next year, we hoped to reappropriate it from some other head if money was available. It is not that we have provided for more than what we require, but as a matter of fact we have provided for less."

The motion was put and lost.

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MOTION No. 5.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,59,000 for temporary establishment by Rs. 15,000.

Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member has already anticipated this motion and has given an answer as to why there is an increase of Rs. 15,000 for the temporary establishment. But what I say is this: in spite of what the hon. the Revenue Member has said, I would ask him whether he could not consent to go on with this Rs. 3,35,000 now, and then see how far this work has been carried out. In this Council we are accustomed to hear of what are called supplementary grants. If, then, he feels that he is not able to get on with this Rs. 3,35,000, he may come forward with a supplementary grant. Sir, in these days of financial stringency which has been so much complained of by the hon. the Revenue Member himself, I would ask him to go on with the same establishment and with the same salary as last year."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am afraid I cannot accept that. I wish to inform the House that I have already made a reduction of Rs. 40,000 and I wish the House to avoid the trouble of my having to appear before it constantly and ask for small petty supplementary grants."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I wish to support this motion. If what the hon. the Finance Member said is correct, viz., that it is an establishment which is going on from year to year, though without pension, I fail to see why there is no provision at all in the actual accounts of 1921-22 under this head. Again, if the hon. the Revenue Member is intending to ask for Rs. 40,000, he may as well ask for Rs. 55,000. I therefore think that this Rs. 15,000 at least ought to be cut down."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 6.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—"

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 5,000.

Though this is only a small matter, yet I would like to move it. In the revised estimate for 1922-23 a provision has been made for Rs. 32,800. It is true that in the Budget for 1923-24 the provision has been cut down by Rs. 2,800. Now my submission is that it can be further cut down by Rs. 5,000, i.e., to the extent of about 15 per cent. I hope that it is still possible for the Government to take note of the discussion of this Council in respect of this sum and issue necessary instructions to the departmental officers to minimize travelling to such an extent as to make it possible for the Government not to exceed this amount; in other words, to see that the travelling allowance does not exceed Rs. 25,000. It is a matter for departmental officers to take note of and I do not think that unless one is prepared to carry on touring on a very extensive scale, it will be necessary for the Government to exceed this provision."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I may assure the House that the amount I have entered here represents another item of self-sacrifice. The actual amount necessary under

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the present travelling allowance rules which allow a reduced rate to these officers was Rs. 50,000; but keeping in mind the fact that I may probably be acting discreetly if by a smaller provision I could ask my officers to reduce their travelling, though it is to the prejudice of work which I cannot help, I have asked for Rs. 30,000 only. I may tell the House that considering the number of districts which this establishment has to tour round and considering also the fact that they have to be in camp without any limitation, sometimes for months together continuously, it will be impossible to do the work for a less amount than is entered in the Budget."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 7.

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Sir, the motion that stands in my name runs thus:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,067 for Director of Survey by Rs. 2,400.

Sir, the principle contained in my motion has already been accepted on the very first motion. This sum of Rs. 2,400 is made up of the personal allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem to the Director of Survey. I do not think I need detain the Council for a long time, because it has already accepted the principle."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, this is an allowance that has been sanctioned to the Director of Survey under the orders of the Government of India and the Secretary of State. It has already come under the searchlight of the examination of our Retrenchment Committee and we have certain definite recommendations from them on this matter and that recommendation—I think I am not divulging any secret of that committee—is to the effect that we shall have to continue this allowance for very good reasons. The whole cadre of the Survey department is now provincial. Formerly it was Imperial. The minimum pay of the Director of Survey and the maximum pay of the Deputy Director, or Assistant Director left very little margin between the two so as to induce any decent officer holding the latter position to accept the former position inasmuch as it gave no immediate increase to him at all. The question was considered when the department was reorganized on a provincial basis. Formerly, as I said, it was Imperial. In trying to re-organize it, we reduced the scale of all the establishments so as to conform as far as possible to the provincial scales; but then we had to keep in mind the scales of these European officers in the service, who were recruited under the old conditions and to whom the application of the present provincial scale would have been, if I may say so, a violation of the moral obligation which Government owed to them. I have heard it repeatedly urged in this House that the only way of providing for the recruitment of the Europeans is to create a special pay for them but fix the pay of the whole cadre on provincial basis. We have kept that principle of the House in mind. In this particular case we have reduced the scale to provincial one and when we had to deal with a few European officers, we put them in that particular grade to which they are entitled under the scale and compensate them by reason of the fact that they were recruited under the old conditions, and that the scale of pay when

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they entered the service was far higher than the present scale of pay while they had every reason to expect that the old conditions would continue until the day of their retirement. We wanted to meet that difficulty by allowing personal allowances to these officers. Thus, Sir, it is in keeping with this principle that we have reduced the scale of the provincial services and decided to meet hard cases by the grant of overseas allowances in some and by the grant of special allowances in others so as to compensate them for the loss of pay and prospects which result on account of the reorganization."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"I am glad that the hon. the Revenue Member himself said that this service was originally a European service and that this has to be slowly but completely indianized. Sir, what we are now asking is that so far as this service is concerned, whether Imperial or Provincial, all the allowances should be cut down. So far as the Imperial services are concerned, this House cannot do anything. Therefore, it is the greater reason why this House should express its decision on an Imperial service which has now become a Provincial service and say that this service shall not be entitled to any allowance. This will give an opportunity to the country to agitate and come forward and say that for all services, whether Imperial or Provincial, such allowances should not be given, that there shall be only one cadre and that there ought not to be any difference of pay."

"I was not quite aware of this particular circumstance and I am extremely glad that the hon. the Revenue Member has stated it. Another thing that he stated was that this was a provincial item and that it should remain in the Budget pending the report of the Retrenchment Committee. I would respectfully ask the House, Sir, whether they are going to allow the Government to give direction to the Retrenchment Committee. If hon. Members of this House were to allow this procedure to be adopted which means a direction to the Retrenchment Committee that all appointments carrying a salary of above Rs. 200 should be treated in a different manner than those with a lesser salary, I would ask the hon. the Revenue Member and this House to think about such a course and say whether they are prepared, having accepted the principle that there should be no personal allowances to any service men, to make an exception in this case and give the officer concerned an allowance of Rs. 200."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I should just like to say one or two words about the question of the principle governing personal allowances which was referred to by the previous speaker. I do not know of any principle that attaches to these allowances except that they are given to special persons for particular reasons. A personal allowance is not given because a particular establishment does particular work, nor is it given to any individual who holds a particular post. It is given to a particular individual generally to compensate him for loss of emoluments. Here in this case you want to provincialise a service. But you have got certain men in the service who were recruited on other terms than those you want to give them now. When you want to provincialise a service, you lay down a scale which is suitable for provincial service. But there are a few others whom you ought to continue to pay in accordance with the conditions under which they were recruited, and see that they finish their service on the terms on which they were engaged. To say that on principle personal allowances should be abolished in all services, whether the men were recruited as provincial or

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imperial servants, would mean that the Government should inflict injustice on certain classes of its servants in order to provincialise them. I appeal to the Council to say that this personal allowance is an allowance due to a particular individual for the rest of the time he continues in service. It is only fair that when you reduce the general scale of pay, you must let men recruited under the old conditions finish their service on the terms on which they were engaged."

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

MOTION No. 8.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR:—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows:—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for special pay to Assistant Directors.

I have already urged that all special pay should be done away with. In the case of Assistant Directors of Survey who get high salaries such allowances are unnecessary. I therefore move that the allotment for special pay for Assistant Directors be omitted."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"This refers to a sum of Rs. 100 provided for the Assistant Director of Survey who is in charge of the Central Survey Office. This is an allowance which has been sanctioned to that officer by reason of the fact that if he held charge of a party he would be entitled to a monthly charge allowance of Rs. 100. It is only officers of high status in the department and high pay in the scale that will be put in charge of the Central Survey Office. Such officers if they are not employed in the Central Survey Office, would ordinarily be employed in charge of parties and they would be entitled to an allowance of Rs. 100, *ipso facto*. Because they have been compelled to be away from their parties, not at their own request but in the interests of public work, they ought not to suffer. It has been repeatedly held by the Government of India that the charge of the Central Survey Office should be regarded as analogous to, if not more responsible than, the charge of a party in the mufassal. These are the reasons which justify the continuance of the allowance."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"This is a case exactly similar to the one which we have already disallowed. I think if the hon. the Finance Member wishes to make a reduction he can do so. Therefore I support the motion before the House."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"In the absence of a recommendation from the Retrenchment Committee that these officers should be paid a special pay, and in the absence of any information on the necessity for this special pay, I think this motion should be passed."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"This is an allowance which really comes under the classification of presidency allowance. What the Retrenchment Committee are inclined to think is that every officer at the headquarters of the Government should be placed on one regular scale and that committee will deal with this along with other officers like the Presidency Magistrates and so on, and also every member of the provincial service who is taken to the headquarters of the Government. Regarding this particular individual, he is simply an officer at the head-quarters."

The motion was put to vote and carried.

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MOTION No. 9.

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 42,142 for pay of officers by Rs. 2,742.

After it was announced in this Council that you, Sir, were good enough to reduce your salary by one-third and that the hon. the Ministers were good enough to reduce their salaries also I think that it would be necessary under the stringent conditions of finances through which this presidency is passing, to make a reduction in a certain proportion under this item. The principle upon which I shall proceed with my motion, and the various amendments down below is this: that every officer who is drawing a pay more than Rs. 300 should be satisfied with the increase that he will get owing to the time-scale that has recently been introduced. It is upon that principle that I have arrived at the figure of Rs. 2,742. As per the revised estimate we spent for 1922-23 Rs. 39,400, and this year the duty allowance is Rs. 2,742 making a total of Rs. 42,142. I leave it to the House to judge for themselves if the Government are justified in going on increasing their expenditure".

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am sorry the hon. the mover of this motion has misunderstood this item. The fact is that Rs. 2,742 really represents the pay and not the increment on the pay of the officers under that head. Correctly speaking, the bulk of it represents the pay of the Photo Expert, whom we have recently brought from England on a five years' engagement; and he has to be paid on the terms on which he was engaged. Before I engaged him I obtained the assent of this House and they were good enough to sanction the amount that was asked for, and he is now doing his work. Therefore, the difference between the current year's figure and the next year's is thus explicable".

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 10.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR:—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for temporary establishment by Rs. 25,000.

The temporary establishments in question are more or less permanent, being renewed every year. I do not know when we shall be without them. Let us make a beginning by cutting down the charges by one-fourth this time."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"This does not require much explanation from me. I have already tried to impress upon this House that the system upon which we have been working is with a view to secure economy. I have been told that our policy in future should be to have more permanent establishments, and few temporary ones. I may tell the House at once that we have got at the present moment five permanent survey parties, besides three temporary parties. But the strength of the Upper Subordinates is sufficient only for three parties while that of the ministerial staff is sufficient for no more than two parties. With a permanent establishment which cannot suffice for more than two

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or three parties, as the case may be, eight parties have to be at work throughout the presidency, and I ask the House whether it is possible to carry on the work without temporary establishments. We have found as a matter of calculation that during the first eight months of the year we have been at work, we have already spent Rs. 1,22,000 on the temporary establishment, and we were aware we would require a much larger sum next year. Sir, it seems to me that since the 'Inchcape rock' came into operation we have reduced even our minimum demand to the irreducible minimum of one lakh next year. If this also is reduced, I can tell the House that I have merely to leave the officers to mark their time and they will never be able to carry on their work efficiently. Instead of completing one district within the allotted time they will have to prolong indefinitely. Will this be after all real economy?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I have given notice of a similar motion, and if I rise to speak on it now, I do so, not to support the motion, but to ask my hon. friend the mover of the motion to withdraw it, in view of the speech so enthusiastically and effectively delivered just now by the hon. the Revenue Member."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 11.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows:—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,440 for local allowance.

I find an item of Rs. 1,440 under the head of local allowance on page 34 of the Budget. I think it would be well if the hon. the Revenue Member explains what that item is for."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"This is a compensatory local allowance of Rs. 120 attached to the office of the Director of Surveys under old orders and which has been continued, so to say, from officer to officer. It was sanctioned at a time when the pay of the Director underwent a revision for the worse on the recommendation of the Committee which sat some years ago. In view of the position and responsibility of the work of this office, the Government of India and the Secretary of State held that inasmuch as his present position has in no way improved by reason of the re-organization which has been recently sanctioned, a sum of Rs. 120 as compensatory allowance which was granted to the previous Directors of Survey must likewise continue to be paid to the present Director.

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"The pay now is Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,600. It has undergone a material change and so this compensatory allowance was considered absolutely essential. The House will see that the minimum pay of the Director is Rs. 1,200 only, whereas the maximum pay of an Assistant Director—in the selection grade—is Rs. 1,100. The difference between the maximum of the Assistant Director and minimum of the Director is only Rs. 100, and it will not be worth while for an Assistant Director from the mufassal to come to the metropolis to shoulder more serious responsibility than was involved when he was in charge of the party, without any monetary gain. Therefore it is that this allowance has been fixed. This again comes

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under the category of the presidency allowance, about which the Retrenchment Committee has made certain proposals and which the Government will consider."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The Revenue Member is drawing out a difference between the Provincial service and the Imperial service. Last year, it was Imperial, and this year it is Provincial; but on the same pay. Again, there are the Personal and Local allowances. We were made to understand that the transfer of the cadre from the Imperial to the Provincial would lead to cheapness. I do not know how. We were told by the Finance Member that the allowance of Rs. 200 was a presidency allowance."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I told the House that this was a personal allowance and that it was quite different from the presidency allowance."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Very well. I thought that this allowance was given because the officer was in the Presidency town. From what the Revenue Member said I understand that no Assistant Director would care to come to the metropolis for hundred rupees more."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"A personal allowance is an allowance which is attached to a particular officer. The presidency allowance is an allowance given for living in the presidency town."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"We do not know when this particular person will retire. We do not know whether he will retire soon or not. It may be that there is time enough for his retirement. We are giving him Rs. 200 as Presidency allowance. Besides this he is getting two or three other allowances. When we are against one allowance for one person, this person seems to get many allowances."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I try to make this clear? I think we are all agreed that we should give Presidency allowance to people who work in the headquarters on account of the higher cost of living. This allowance is now under discussion and whatever rate is decided upon will be substituted for the present rate. A personal allowance is quite a different matter. It depends upon the pay of the officer and the rate at which he is recruited for the rest of the service. As soon as he goes away, he will be replaced by an officer who does not get a personal allowance."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Personal allowance depends upon the individual officers. Even last year the Council, by a majority, voted against personal allowance and local allowance in some cases. This is one of that kind. This officer seems to get even a house-rent allowance of Rs. 100."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, he does not, Sir."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"However, I am against any local allowance except in the case of the Agency and other unhealthy localities."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Probably I did not make myself sufficiently clear. I thought had made it somewhat clear that the scale of the Superintendent had

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undergone change from time to time. I particularly referred to the year 1891 and said that the scale of pay of the Director—Superintendent as he then was—was Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 1,800. The next stage in the evolution of this department was a change for the worse in the case of the pay of the Director. In 1905, it was reduced to Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,400. It was then felt that it was rather an injustice to the Director of Survey who joined the service on the assurance of a salary of Rs. 1,500—1,800 that he should be deprived of the future prospect which he had every right to count. Then, in 1905, this compensatory allowance of Rs. 120 was added as part of the pay."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 12.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I beg to move—
To omit the allotment of Rs. 8,400 for two Assistant Directors, temporary, for one year."

It will be seen at page 35 that last year there were ten Assistant Directors for whom a pay of Rs. 55,200 was provided. This year, provision is made for nine Assistant Directors and the amount is more than last year, namely, Rs. 60,990. In addition to this, two Assistant Directors are sought to be employed temporarily for one year at a cost of Rs. 8,400. I fail to see, Sir, why these temporary gentlemen should be employed for this year."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Probably it is not known, Sir, that the survey parties are not always employed on one definite set of work. The Survey Department not only conducts what is called the Government survey, but it also conducts what is called survey in the proprietary areas. The number of survey parties, of course, is fixed so far as permanency is concerned; and that is why over and above what the Secretary of State has sanctioned years ago we always have one temporary party at our disposal. If a larger number of proprietors want surveys of their estates, we then determine whether the six survey parties will suffice for both work, and if we find it is insufficient we again take additional temporary parties. Next year, we are going to have eight parties. We find that the bulk of survey work is much larger than this year. We propose to have seven parties for Government work and one for estate work. These two temporary survey officers were doing estate work in the current year and there was a contribution received on their behalf in the current year's budget. Next year, we solely employ them on Government work. This is only a transposition and not a real addition."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I am afraid, Sir, I am not at all convinced by the reasons given by the hon. the Revenue Member. I fail to see why when there is no provision for any temporary establishment in the current year these two persons should be employed for the coming year. Again, the hon. Member said that the work is increasing and therefore provision should be made. He also mentioned in this connexion the work that has to be done in the estates. I say, Sir, that we are not concerned with the estates now. We are only concerned with the Government parties and so far as the Government work is concerned, I fail to see why there should be increase of work to the Government parties which, after all, only work hard against the ryots. Survey means settlement and settlement

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means more revenue. Therefore, the less employment we find for these parties, the greater will be the comfort to the ryots. Therefore, Sir, I press this motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I fear, Sir, in this case, again, I have not been understood. I think, Sir, I said in sufficiently plain language that we were engaging only five parties on Government survey work during the current year, and that we were employing two temporary parties on estate work. Our liabilities for the next year have increased. We have to employ a larger number of survey parties on Government work. We intend therefore to utilize seven survey parties for doing Government work. We shall be able to spare only one survey party for doing estate work. The parties which should do estate work are now called upon to do Government work in the next year; and hence the provision for them, instead of being made on the other page of the Budget, has had to be made under Government survey."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 13.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for two Assistant Directors, temporary for five months.

Honourable Members of this House would see that the establishment constituted for 1923-24 was not in existence in the year 1922-23. This motion is entirely different from the one moved by Mr. Narasimhaচারু which has been almost unanimously negatived. But by means of this motion I do not in any way seek to interfere with the two probationers for whom provision has been made in this Budget. This refers to two Assistant Directors as a temporary provision for five months for which an allotment of Rs. 3,500 has been made. So far as this item is concerned, it shows a tendency to increase the number and until I hear from the hon. Member to the contrary I am led to think that there is no justification for the establishment or the continuance of the two Assistant Directors. And my attitude with reference to this motion will depend very largely upon the statement to be made by the hon. the Revenue Member."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I confess that it is not probably quite easy to understand why this establishment has been asked for for a period of five months and I am delighted to explain why it is asked for for five months. We have now got a temporary party working in the Trichinopoly district. This is one of the two temporary parties. We hoped that the work of this party now working in the Trichinopoly district would be completed on the 31st March 1923, and we then intended to amalgamate it with the other party working in Malabar. But we now find that the quantity of work to be done in the Trichinopoly district would still require the retention of that party for another five months. We cannot, therefore, send away that party to Malabar. In Malabar we cannot go on with the work unless there are officers to man the party. We, therefore, take on temporarily for five months two officers to man the party in Malabar and when the party in Trichinopoly is relieved after five months, after the completion of the work there, the officers now manning the party in Trichinopoly

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will automatically be transferred to Malabar and the necessity for these two temporary officers would then cease."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I have no desire, Sir, to dislocate the work that is being done. In view of the statement made by the hon. Member for Revenue, I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 14.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,700 for charge allowance to seven temporary Assistant Directors.

We have already discussed the question of charge allowances to-day and for the same reasons which I then put forward, I submit that the charge allowance for these seven temporary Assistant Directors may be omitted."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, whatever the House may do with regard to this charge allowance for the officers who have been put in charge of parties, I must point out that I regard this charge allowance as highly essential. There are two gazetted officers employed in each survey party. One of them is invariably a senior—one in whom both the Director and the Government have confidence—and he is given the charge of the whole party; and the other gazetted officer works under him as his assistant. The officer who is in charge of the party and who has got, therefore, the responsibility of carrying on the work of the whole party—it may be only in one district or it may be in more districts than one—has certainly got far greater responsibility to shoulder than the other gazetted officer who is a subordinate to him. He is, so to say, a commanding officer with all risks and responsibilities attendant to this position. If, Sir, we are told that though he has higher responsibilities, higher risks to face and larger work to do, he must be content with the same pay as his assistant gets, it will be unfair to the senior officer. I, therefore, request, Sir, that just as the House was good enough to continue this allowance during the last budget discussion, it will be good enough to exercise the same generosity towards these people and continue the allowance for the next year also."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"I take it, Sir, that what was allowed last time was with regard to the Imperial Service officer and this allowance now refers, I think, to the Indian Provincial Service officers most of whom are temporary and graded at 350—25—900. Rupees 350 is, I think, a good initial salary and I, therefore, do not see the necessity of paying them a hundred rupees more."

The motion was put and carried.

MOTION No. 15.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for two probationers.

We find from the budget estimate that in the current year there are 11 officers, but for the year 1923-24, 16 officers have been provided for, including the two probationers. Of course, I know that two of these are only for five months. But even then, it seems to me that, in the place of 11 officers, there is no need for appointing as many as 16 officers. Of course,

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I do remember what my hon. friend Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib said with reference to the previous items, that the Government intends to have more survey work done in the coming year than in the current year. Nevertheless, there must be some proportion between the expenditure incurred on survey this year and the expenditure to be incurred next year; so that, it seems to me that the Government may very well be satisfied with 14 officers for next year in the place of the 11 officers. For these reasons, I make this motion."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I have also given notice of a similar motion and I support this motion, Sir."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Probably the House will be glad to know why I have made this provision and, after knowing it, I am sure the House will pass the provision with acclamation. I have already told the House that the service of the Survey Department has been provincialised. We do not in future recruit them from England. We intend to recruit them wholesale in India and inasmuch as we have got in other departments in the provincial service something like direct recruitment in the gazetted rank we want to have in this department also a direct recruitment to the gazetted rank. These two probationers will be local men, men with sufficient University education and with sufficient family status and position, who will not care to enter the Survey Department as either surveyors or deputy surveyors but who will certainly have no objection if they are asked to enter this department in the gazetted rank as assistant directors. We had two assistant directors in the year before last. Their period was only for two years and it will be over by the end of this year. For the next year I want to take on two more and those two will necessarily be Indians and if the House does not want any direct recruitment of Indians to the Survey Department, I leave it to vote as it likes."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am glad, Sir, that my hon. friend has made the statement that the probationers to be recruited will be provincial men. But at the same time, though I am for provincial recruitment, I am not for unnecessary expenditure. My point is that there is no need to have 16 officers in the place of 11; so that even with this qualification, that the officers recruited will be provincial men, I still maintain my original proposition and press the motion to a division."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"One more misconception of my hon. friend, I may clear. He seems to think that I am going to have 16 officers in the place of 11. That is not an accurate statement. I have always had 15 permanent men on the cadre and I have, besides that, two temporary men sanctioned by the Secretary of State for charge of the sixth temporary party. But this number will always be changing places between the Government and the proprietors. So, if the totals on pages 34, 35 and 36 are taken together with reference to the actuals of the previous years, I can assure my hon. friend that I have not exceeded the sanctioned cadre at all; but on the other hand, I have provided for one officer less during the current year because an officer was abolished by the voting of the House last year. He was one of the two leave reserves provided for. I have, no doubt, asked for three more temporary men and that of course, the House has already sanctioned."

The motion was put and lost.

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MOTION No. 16.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 8,400 for personal allowance for three officers.

Sir, there are different kinds of personal allowances, as we have heard from the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. Personal allowances are given to officers when they get less pay by reason of the revision of the pay and so on. To such personal allowances, I have no objection. But sometimes personal allowances are given to officers as a sort of supplemental pay. I do not know under what head these particular personal allowances come. If I hear either from the hon. the Revenue Member or from the hon. the Finance Member that these particular personal allowances come under the former category, that is, allowances given to officers on account of the revision of their pay, I will not press the motion to a division. But if, on the other hand, they are given as a sort of supplemental pay, then I must press the motion to a division."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I may assure the hon. Member, Sir, that these allowances are exactly on the same analogy as the allowances granted to officers on account of the reduction of pay of the posts they held and which carried larger pay at the time they entered the service. These three are European officers who joined the service at a time when their pay was higher and which in 1905 was reduced. These personal allowances are therefore given to compensate them for the reduction of their pay."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I do not press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 17.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,20,000 for temporary establishment by one lakh.

Sir, at first sight, it may appear that I am attempting to make a drastic cut under this head. Hon. Members will notice that in the first instance in the original budget estimate for 1922-23, an allotment of Rs. 4,17,000 was provided, but in the revised estimate, we find the figure going up to Rs. 5,40,000; and when we come to the budget now under discussion we find an allotment of Rs. 5,20,000, i.e., Rs. 1,20,000 in excess of the original budget estimate for the year which is about to expire. I am fully conscious of the fact that I am attempting to make a very deep cut in this direction, but my only justification is that the times are out of joint and there would be absolutely no excuse for keeping up the old expenditure when we are confronted with a huge and heavy deficit. We must cut our coat according to the cloth, and unless we make up our minds for large cuts, it will in the very nature of things be impossible for us to balance the budget. It will be perfectly possible for the hon. the Revenue Member to be satisfied with this allotment less one lakh of rupees to keep the machinery going, and if need there be and if the circumstances imperatively demand it, he can come before the House some time later for a supplementary grant."

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I support this as one who has given notice of a similar motion, and for the reason that it is economically unsound to have a large temporary establishment year to year. If necessary, some provision may be made for making a portion of the establishment permanent, so that they may have better prospects and may be induced to do their work more satisfactorily."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, my own impression was that I had explained at some great length why under the Survey, the cost, so far as the Government portion of it is concerned, must show some slight increase in the next year as compared with the current year. I have already told the House that whereas there are 5 parties working under Government for the current year, there will be so many as 7 parties working in the next year. There should certainly be a proportionate increase in expenditure. But what does the House find in this particular case? Instead of giving me credit for having budgeted for a less amount than what I had a right to do, I am told, 'You had better come up to us now for a nominal sum and get it sanctioned; don't tell us honestly now what your actual requirements are, but at a later stage come and tell us that the amount allotted was small, and ask for a supplementary grant.' What is the actual state of affairs? We find that the expenditure under this head in 1921-22, not even with 7 parties working, but with a less number, was Rs. 5,99,833. During the current year we budgeted for Rs. 4,10,000, and we find that we could not do with less than Rs. 5,40,000. Now, in the next year, instead of having 6 lakhs, I thought I had better economize, and I have budgeted only for Rs. 5,20,000, which is far, far less than the actuals of 1921-22 and Rs. 20,000 less than the demand for the current year, with only 5 parties working and with a possibility of 7 working next year. How then am I to accept this cut? The consequence will be that I will have to tell the survey parties that I shall not insist on the programme of work that I have laid down and they are to do as little work as they can and spread it over not 2 years but as many years as necessary. I do not think that will be the intention of the House."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I have many a time fallen a victim to the hypnotising speeches of the hon. the Revenue Member, but I think I stand on a firm ground on the present occasion. The year is certainly very bad, and we must make up our minds, even at the risk of becoming unpopular, to effect some cuts. As the hon. the Revenue Member said that he refused to accept this motion, likewise I refuse to withdraw it and press it to a division."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

MOTION No. 18.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,20,000 for temporary establishment by Rs. 20,000.

Sir, I have anticipated all the objections that may have been raised by the hon. the Revenue Member and I have given notice for a small reduction of Rs. 20,000 only. We have to meet some deficit and it is therefore necessary that we must make some cuts here and there. It is not at all my desire

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that the hon. the Revenue Member should come with supplementary demands. I am one of those who are dead against supplementary demands. From what we have heard from the hon. the Revenue Member, even in this present Budget, he expects to be able to make some re-allotments whenever it is necessary. If he is able to make a re-allotment of Rs. 80,000 when 6 lakhs is necessary, and only Rs. 5,20,000 is granted, it will not be difficult for him to make a small re-allotment now. Last year they were able to re-allot Rs. 1,30,000. So, I think that the cut of Rs. 20,000 will not in any way displace all his survey parties or dislocate all their work."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I may say, Sir, that I have already made my cut under this head. If I am to cut it further and to distribute it amongst the seven survey parties, it will be rendering each party absolutely ineffectual. I have been asked that, while I have been able to do with less money, in the current year, why should I not do in a similar manner next year. I do not wish to alarm the House by the statement that the actual expenditure incurred up to 31st March was not available at the time when the Budget was prepared, and according to the recent figures of the Accountant-General it may probably become necessary to re-adjust the amount of General it may probably become supplementary demands on the 27th. It expenditure in the course of our supplementary demands, it will then be time that there may be some saving under some provision, so that on the 27th March, when we come up with supplementary demands, it will then be time to consider whether these represent the actuals of expenditure budgeted for. So far as this particular allotment is concerned, I may say we have made a most careful calculation according to the rates and scales of travelling allowances that have been announced already and which are now in operation. If we are going to tie down the survey parties to particular places and if we are going to impede their progress from place to place, I do not know what a survey officer can possibly do. His duty in no place will be for more than a few days. From village to village, from hamlet to hamlet, from field to field, his duty extends from morning till evening. If you are going to tell him that he must restrict his travelling allowances, then I am afraid the quality of his work will seriously suffer. I have provided that sum for five survey parties during the current year. Rupees 90,000 was thought necessary for five survey parties during the current year. I have only asked for Rs. 80,000 during the next year for seven parties. That does not indicate anything like extravagance or that I am oblivious of the fact that cuts are necessary for the purpose of balancing the Budget. While I am agreed that we must balance the Budget to the best of our ability, I should also see that the balance of the department is not upset."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

MOTION No. 19.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,20,000 for boundary pillars, measurers and hired labourers by 1 lakh.

Mr. President, it will be seen that this amount has enormously increased from the total sum of Rs. 4,147 in the year 1921-22. Last year we provided a sum of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively. It is shown in the

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revised estimate that Rs. 1,09,000 has actually been spent upon this. As I have already submitted, these survey parties are really not very beneficial to the public, because if they are once employed they always show that there is a good deal of work to do, and there will be settlement again and there will be further touching of the poor man's pocket. I fail to see why so much as Rs. 1,20,000 should be provided for. I think, Sir, Rs. 20,000 will be quite enough to meet this purpose for the next year. I hope that this motion will be accepted by Government."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I confess, that, if one reads the budget figures as they are, it will certainly appear somewhat of a mystery as to how this insignificant expenditure of Rs. 4,147 in the year 1921-22 suddenly rose up to Rs. 1,09,000 in the current year, which it is proposed again to raise to Rs. 1,20,000. Under the system in vogue in the year 1921-22, the cost of survey stones, boundary pillars and everything incidental thereto which the Government was responsible for as its share for the survey of its lands was being paid by each Collector from out of the district budget. There was very little money that was being paid by the Superintendent or the Director, as he is now called, from his own budget. In the year 1921-22, this insignificant sum was incurred by the Superintendent presumably in regard to some of the items for which the District Collectors could not give him money."

"But the Accountant-General in the year 1922-23 told us distinctly 1-15 p.m. that according to the classification of various items of expenditure, the department which actually incurred the expenditure should provide the allotment. The survey parties incurred the expenditure. Ordinarily, the expenditure which they incur on behalf of the ryots is recovered from the ryots by means of bills which are delivered to them and recovered by the Revenue department. In the case of Government lands, the bills were sent to the Collector and the Collector, as the head of the administration of the district, paid them back to the Survey department so that the Survey department might recoup its expenditure. But in 1922-23 the Accountant-General drew our attention to the fact that this system of account keeping was not satisfactory, that the whole money instead of being divided into so many small items and going into district budgets should enter into the central budget and be controlled by the Director of Survey. In accordance with that dictum, I came up to this House; I obtained an allotment from them; they were good enough to sanction it to me on the 27th March 1922, in connexion with the discussion of the budget. And now what I propose to do is to carry into the next year's budget the same nature of transaction for which they have given their assent in March last. There is, therefore, nothing obviously inconsistent or incorrect. The only difference between the current year's budget and the next year's is a sum of Rs. 11,000. Need I repeat again—how often have I not repeated it—that the operation in the Government tracts this year is going to be on a much larger scale. As against five survey parties, seven are going to be in full operation and therefore a small increase of Rs. 11,000 has been entered in the budget which cannot certainly be regarded as extravagant. These, Sir, are the circumstances why the expenditure has come in."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Sir, I am one of those who gave notice of a motion for reduction under this item. The statement made by the hon. the Revenue Member satisfied me as to the variations in the

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figures for the current, the coming and the past years. I was one of the members of the Committee on the Survey and Boundaries Bill, and, if I remember aright, it was decided in that committee that the planting of stones should be done on a much smaller scale than before. That being so, the cost of planting stones ought to be considerably reduced. I cannot see how the cost under this head will in any case rise over that of last year. In the absence of any explanation as to what the effect of the change recently made would be on the number of stones, there is no justification at all for an increase of expenditure. I, therefore, urge my proposition to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,20,000 for boundary pillars, measurers, and hired labourers by Rs. 60,000."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, the question before the committee to which my hon. friend referred was not in the manner in which he put it. The question was whether more stones should be planted than at present and the decision of the committee was that there need not be any further increase. I cannot refrain from mentioning that in the committee's report there was a suggestion that permanent pillars might be fixed to indicate the boundary line between Government land and private land. But calculating the total expenditure that the Government will have to incur on that account, I found that 8½ lakhs would be necessary. I do not come to the House for sanction of the amount, for I regard such a provision as unnecessary. There is no attempt now made for the purpose of fixing more stones than are being planted under the existing system—the system which was placed before the committee, and which the committee was given every opportunity to examine thread-bare, the system which the committee after mature deliberation was of opinion must be continued intact. I am merely carrying out the opinion of the committee and not doing anything more. The extra 11,000 is not because I want to spend more money on items of expenditure not incurred up to now but that is a fraction of the additional expenditure which would be incurred by the working of seven survey parties next year in lieu of five this year."

Rao Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I have nothing more to add, Sir, except to say that I press my motion."

The motion was put and declared lost.

The motion of Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu was then put and declared lost.

MOTION No. 20.

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to move—
To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for charge allowance."

Sir, on a similar motion to omit charge allowances, the hon. the Revenue Member said that if he reduced the allowance in one case and not in others it would produce great heart-burning. I am therefore trying to remove this heart-burning by moving for the omission in all cases. This charge allowance, Sir, refers to the two temporary Assistant Directors, page 36 of the Budget. One other reason the hon. the Revenue Member urged was that the allowance was given because it was necessary to pay an additional sum to the superior officer getting only a little over his subordinate. So far as this item is concerned, I find that both these Assistant Directors are started on

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Rs. 350. Therefore, I submit that the reasons urged by the hon. Member do not apply to this case. On the principle already accepted that the charge allowances should go, I beg to move for the reduction."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I have nothing more to urge than what I have already stated times without number. The only reason that my hon. friend seems to confront me with on this occasion is that I made a statement that of the two officers who are put in charge of a party, the senior officer who is responsible for the work does get a charge allowance while the other does not get any. He tells me that on page 36 of the Budget, provision has been made for two Assistant Directors on equal pay and therefore he comes to the logical conclusion that because both are drawing equal pay neither should get anything more. I thought I had said that it was not because of the change in position, it was not because of the fact that one was higher in the grade and the other was lower that we respected seniority and gave Rs. 100 as charge allowance. It is not that we wanted to give it to that man who already possessed most and deny it to that man who possessed least; the burden of my whole song has been that we give it to one of the two who is given the direct charge of the party for the additional work, for the additional responsibilities that are involved, and that, and that alone, is the compensation represented by this sum of Rs. 100. I need not say anything more."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"I do not believe, Sir, that the hon. the Revenue Member's speech requires any answer."

The motion was put and the House divided thus:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 13. Diwan Bahadur S. Rm. M. Ct. Pethachi Chettiyar. |
| 2. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 14. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 3. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 15. Mr. C. V. Venkatarama Ayyangar. |
| 4. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 16. Diwan Bahadur E. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |
| 5. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 17. Bai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 6. " V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 18. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 7. " W. P. A. Saundarapandya Nadar. | 19. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. | 20. " M. R. Sethurathnam Ayyar. |
| 9. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. | 21. " T. Arumainatha Pillai. |
| 10. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 22. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 11. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. | |
| 12. Rao Bahadur C. Venkata Ranga Reddi. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 18. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Panja. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-Lah Sahib. | 19. Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 20. " S. Muttumanikkaachari. |
| 4. " Bai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 21. Rev. W. Meston. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 22. Mr. C. R. T. Congrove. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 23. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 7. " C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 24. Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib Bahadur. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 25. Khan Bahadur Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 26. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Padsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 27. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 11. Mr. K. F. Thomas. | 28. Rao Sahib M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 12. " E. Periyannayagam. | 29. " P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 30. Mr. A. M. Mao Dugall. |
| 14. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 31. Rao Bahadur T. Nambaramal Chettiyar. |
| 15. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 32. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. |
| 16. Rao Bahadur P. O. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 33. " C. E. Wood. |
| 17. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | |

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The motion was lost.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-30 p.m.

The Council assembled after lunch at 2-34 p.m., the hon. the Deputy President presiding.

MOTION No. 21.

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

That the allotment of Rs. 13,50,400 for Revenue Survey be reduced by Rs. 100.

I just want to invite the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to two or three points. At present, whenever a Revenue Inspector renews or repairs stones, he charges for each stone renewed or repaired by him a fee of eight annas, as representing his labour. Originally, the charge was only four annas a stone. Now, I submit to the House that this increase of the rate from four to eight annas is not at all justifiable. It is very well known that there were separate Land Records Revenue Inspectors to look after this work. These have been done away with, and they have been merged in the general establishment. If we calculate the number of stones attended to by each Revenue Inspector, I think we shall find that they renew or repair about 5 × 70 or 350 stones in a taluk, that is to say, they charge from the ryots a sum of Rs. 175; whereas the labour involved in the renewal or repair of these stones would be represented by the cost of one inspector at Rs. 50 a month, plus his travelling allowance and the pay of his peon, if any. It is quite clear, therefore, that the recoveries actually made now are twice as much as the amount that should be legitimately recovered by the Government. This is an infliction on the ryots. I suggest for the consideration of the hon. the Revenue Member that he should revert to the old rate of four annas per stone; and I appeal to the House to enforce my request by passing this motion for reduction by Rs. 100."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I was not quite aware, Sir, as to what particular matter would be referred to by the hon. Member in his speech on his motion for reduction by Rs. 100. Now that he has drawn my attention to the particular item of the charges recovered on account of the repair of stones and complain that the rate levied at the present moment is higher than what is justifiable, I promise that I shall look into the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I am satisfied with the assurance, Sir, and I would withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 22.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to move—

That the allotment of Rs. 13,800 for the special pay of Special Assistant Settlement Officers, be omitted.

At the bottom of page 37 of the Budget estimate we find that a sum of Rs. 13,800 has been provided for the special pay of Special Assistant Settlement Officers, 9 (100), 1 (100), for seven months, 3 (100) for six months; and 1 (100) for five months. Therefore, all told, the officers come up to 14, and the amount of Rs. 13,800 put in the budget comes under the head of special pay. Regard being had to the fact that the pay of these Special

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Assistant Settlement Officers was recently revised, there is no reason why a large number of them should be allowed to draw special pay at the rate of Rs. 100 a month, and sufficient justification does not seem to exist for this item."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I think I will have to weary the House with a little history connected with the grant of this allowance; and I maintain that even with the pay and the allowance which is being given to these officers, the department is working on the most economical lines. Prior to the year 1902, the Settlement Department was self-contained in the matter of its officers. It consisted of a superior staff containing two Deputy Commissioners, first grade, on Rs. 1,100 per mensem each, two Deputy Commissioners on Rs. 750 per mensem, and two Assistant Commissioners on Rs. 425 to Rs. 550 per mensem. In the year 1902, the Government took up for consideration the question whether it was necessary to retain a separate cadre for the purpose of conducting the settlement operations in this Presidency, or whether they might not utilize the services of Deputy Collectors for doing the work, regard being had to the fact that the nature of the duties which they would in future be called upon to perform as Special Settlement or Special Assistant Settlement Officers would be more exacting, more taxing and more onerous, and therefore the small allowance attached to their grade pay might very well meet the requirements of the case. That question was considered, and the Government came to the conclusion that that was the most economical way of conducting settlement operations. From that time forwards, a Special Settlement Department with a very costly set of officers disappeared. The other advantage that was gained by the substitution of this new arrangement was this. Under the old arrangement, the Settlement Department had a fixed permanent cadre, and whether there was work for it or not, the officers had to go on; whereas, at the present moment, the number of officers recruited or rather drafted from the Deputy Collector's cadre and from the Indian Civil Service cadre for the purpose of doing settlement work, depends upon the quantity of work which has got to be done. Therefore, each year, the number of officers employed varies. This year it may be half a dozen; next year it may be twelve; and in the third year there may be none. For, these officers who are drawn for the purpose of working in the Settlement Department have their own permanent fixed appointments. As soon as the settlement operations on which they are engaged are terminated, they revert automatically to their respective places, and there is therefore practically no expenditure specially incurred on behalf of the Settlement Department, if there is no resettlement work to do. Then, Sir, the question was considered as to whether these officers should work on the grade pay which they were drawing. Hon. Members of the House know that the pay of a Deputy Collector at the present moment ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 850. It will probably be very hard that men who have reached the topmost part of the tree should be asked to serve as Settlement Officers, for it goes without saying that such men will be sufficiently old not to be able to shoulder the very arduous duties which the work of a Settlement Officer necessarily involves. We have therefore to pick and choose, and while trying to pick and choose, we have necessarily to appoint only such men who we think are sufficiently active, do not disdain out-door work, will be on tour for as long a period as the work may demand, do not return to

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12th March 1923] their headquarters for months together although they may feel home sick, and do their work in the briefest possible period.

"The Government of India, Sir, while describing the nature of officers that they would expect to be appointed for settlement work, have distinctly told us that

2-45 p.m. the work of re-assessment, even when unaccompanied by a work of revision of soil classification, offers problems which must always render it worthy of being undertaken by men of ability and good judgment; the method in which the work is accomplished affects the conditions of the cultivating classes, as no other measure of administration and the enquiries incidental to settlement afford the officer to whom they are committed a knowledge of the people and a revenue training which is useful to him throughout his services.

That, Sir, summarizes the nature of the duties which the Settlement Officer or the Assistant Settlement Officer is engaged upon. To say that the Deputy Collector with his ordinary cadre of pay should be asked to be converted into Settlement Officer or Assistant Settlement Officer would be asking rather too much. We shall then be denied the opportunity of selecting the best men available. The best man available when he sees that he is more comfortable where he is as Revenue Divisional Officer or Treasury Deputy Collector and that by accepting the office of Settlement Officer or Assistant Settlement Officer he is in no way pecuniarily benefited but that he has to incur a large expenditure out of his pocket for the purpose of spending a number of months in villages and in touring through the several parts of the district, will necessarily say, 'No, thanks' when the offer is made to him. It will also be cruel to penalize a good officer by forcing him to any appointment when we really feel that it means more work, more responsibility, more self-sacrifice, more physical exertion and more brain work, and yet tell him that we shall not remunerate him for this additional work but that he should be content with the pay which he was drawing in positions in which he did not require, so to say, a combination of these virtues. The best man would thereby be precluded from taking up this office, and the Government would be precluded from choosing the best men that they think fit for these appointments. After all, some people who probably want to avoid the Revenue Divisional Officer's work for personal reasons, or who may probably try to get a transfer from a particular district for certain reasons might offer themselves for the time being, and when they have marked their time for a month or two might take leave and go away, with the result that the settlement work which is so important, as the Government of India have laid down, will suffer, for want of a continuity of policy and frequent changing of hands.

"These allowances, Sir, were put before the Retrenchment Committee and the Retrenchment Committee, which fortunately possesses an officer who has himself been a Special Settlement Officer and who knows the work of the Special Settlement Officer by direct experience, have recommended that these allowances should be sanctioned in the case of the Special Settlement Officers and the Assistant Special Settlement Officers. It was only on the authority of the Retrenchment Committee that I have included this amount in the Budget, and I hope, Sir, that the House will be pleased to sanction it. We put up this case before the Retrenchment Committee with a small summary of the work, and we pointed out the necessity for these allowances in view of the nature of the duties involved, the difficulty with which the Government will be faced in finding the best men for these appointments, the loss of efficiency which the withdrawal of the allowance will therefore cause, and

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highly economic system now in vogue as compared with the previous system when there was a highly paid special cadre for doing the same work. I may also inform the House that several Settlement Officers and Assistant Settlement Officers drawn from the cadre of Deputy Collectors have been appealing to me rather repeatedly that they may be relieved of this special settlement work and sent back to their respective divisions or treasuries where they were originally serving. But in the interests of Government, I could not do so. At the same time, I feel that it will be too hard not to continue to give this allowance for work other than that for which they were intended or their cadre pay was fixed. I have therefore ventured to include this amount in the Budget; and I hope that I will have the entire opinion of the House with me in asking for this vote."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, my excuse for rising now is the reference made to the Retrenchment Committee. If I remember right, the Retrenchment Committee considered this question and they thought that this allowance to all Settlement Officers would not be justifiable. They made a difference between cases where Settlement Officers were in charge of parties and those where they were not in charge of them. The Retrenchment Committee, if I remember right, said that an allowance might be given to officers in charge of settlement parties. But in the case of Assistant Settlement Officers, they thought that no such allowance would be justified. The same was the case in the Survey Department also. There also they thought that the ordinary Survey Officer was not entitled to an allowance; but a Survey Officer in charge of a party should be given an allowance. In both the cases in which they justified the allowance, their recommendation was based on this fact: that the officer who was in charge of a party was doing a more responsible work and that he had some more responsibility assigned to him than that of an ordinary Settlement Officer or Survey Officer. It was on that ground that the charge allowance was recommended by the Retrenchment Committee in the case of only those who were in charge of parties.

(At this stage, the hon. Member was handed the paper containing the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee on the matter by the Finance Secretary.)

"I see here that the Retrenchment Committee by a narrow majority favoured the granting of an allowance also to those officers not in charge of parties on the ground of the arduous nature of the work. My impression was that the Committee sanctioned it only in the case of those who were in charge of parties. But I find that 'by a narrow majority' the Committee were in favour of giving it to all the officers. That shows that a considerable body of opinion in the Retrenchment Committee was not in favour of granting it to all the officers but were for paying only to the officers in charge of parties. My position with reference to this is this: these are officers who are borne on the general cadre of Deputy Collectors. It is not that the Deputy Collectors when they were recruited did not know that they would be detailed for settlement or survey duty. They know that they can be detailed for settlement duty at any time, and these officers are borne on the cadre of Deputy Collectors. Such being the case, I do not see, Sir, that there is any justification for giving a special allowance for the officers who may be chosen for this particular work. If they are going to say that this particular work is difficult, the same may be said of any other

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work. It can be very well said that an officer might decline to go to a particular division or he would like to go to a lighter division. If that is the sort of consideration which ought to weigh with the head of the department who is transferring people and who is posting men for particular duties, then I can find no use in having a cadre for particular appointments. Therefore, I consider there is no justification whatsoever for giving the allowance for posting a particular officer to one duty rather than another. It is only in cases where an officer is posted for a duty outside the cadre that any question of allowance can arise. Then, it may be that the head of the department concerned may consider whether it involves any additional duty or more arduous work; but that is a different matter altogether. When a particular duty is included in the cadre itself, I beg to submit there is absolutely no justification whatever for giving an allowance in such cases. On that ground, Sir, I object to this allowance, and I support the motion that has been made.

"As I said, I am prepared to make a reservation with reference to those officers who are actually in charge of parties; and I believe, Sir, that these are not the persons included in this motion, which deals with the special pay of Special Assistant Settlement Officers. That shows they are not persons who are in charge of parties. So, I very heartily support this motion."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I have heard the reasons advanced by the hon. the Revenue Member as to why these officers should be paid a special allowance. It was stated that proper men from the cadre of Deputy Collectors might not be willing to take up this work unless they were paid an extra allowance. The same reasons were urged this morning with regard to the allowances that were paid to Deputy Collectors posted for revision of adangals in whose case this House cut down the special pay. If that is the only reason why special allowance should be paid to the Settlement Officers, I think in this case also the House will not be able to accept the reasons. The only reason for giving the Deputy Collectors a higher pay should not be that it ought to serve as an inducement to go and serve as Settlement Officers. It was stated that in the Retrenchment Committee the decision was not unanimous and that it was carried by a narrow majority. This Council, therefore, need not feel bound to accept the decision of that narrow majority. In these circumstances, I submit that this motion may be accepted."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I should just like to make one or two points quite clear. The Assistant Settlement Officer may be in charge of a party; Sir, I take it, that so far as officers in charge of parties are concerned, the House is prepared to let the allowance stand. If we only have left the question of an officer not in charge of a party, we have to consider a more open question. The question is whether an allowance is necessary on account of the arduous nature of the work. There is no doubt, as Mr. Moir explained on a previous occasion in this House, that the work is exceedingly arduous and that to the men of the class of Deputy Collectors it is very distasteful to work out of doors all day in the heat and in the sun right through the hot weather and so on. It is a very trying work for an elderly man of sedentary habits, and it does affect him seriously. We have had cases of men who died of exposure. This is the sole point at issue. Is it fair to take an elderly man of sedentary habits and send him

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out to do arduous field work, risking his health, and make him do it without paying anything extra for it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, my hon. friend at my back who is a member of the Finance cum Retrenchment Committee raised one question. He asked why if the Deputy Collectors were borne on the cadre of Deputy Collectors they are asked to do any other kind of work which Government might command them to do and why they should ask for a special allowance at all. He put it in his own way that they knew at the time they entered the service that there were varieties of duties which they might be drafted into, which they should have to do and for which they had no right to demand a special allowance. But may I point out to the hon. Member, Sir, that at the time these Deputy Collectors entered the service, at the time their present cadre was fixed, there was a separate allowance for doing this additional work. They entered the service with the distinct knowledge, with the distinct hope and with the distinct encouragement that, if taken away from their ordinary line of work and posted to do duties of this nature, they would get not merely the pay of their cadre but also the allowances which have been earmarked for the duty. Now, the proposal is to take away the allowance from them. I think that the burden of the proof has now been shifted on to my shoulders for convincing these people that although they entered the service with the hope that they would get the special pay—a hope in which they had every right to be supported by reason of their experience—I was sorry to say that they could no more hope to get this allowance. The answer I am asked to give is that, when they entered service, the special duties of Assistant Settlement Officers and Special Settlement Officers were considered arduous but that they are no more considered as such. With my little knowledge of land revenue administration—I have not been a Revenue Officer previously—and with my little knowledge of the inspections I have had of the settlement parties in the various parts of the Presidency, I must confess that this answer will be wholly unjustifiable.

"If the one is a Special Settlement Officer, the other is a Deputy Collector having a definite jurisdiction. The nature of the duties which they have to perform is more or less akin. If the one gets the allowance and the other does not get it, I am afraid it will cause great discontent. I would, therefore, very strongly press for the retention of this allowance to both, particularly in view of the fact that the Retrenchment Committee was good enough to see the reasonableness of the request that the allowance should be continued to the Special and Assistant Settlement Officers."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I very strongly press this motion.
3 p.m.

Neither the hon. the Finance Member nor the hon. the Revenue Member has succeeded in convincing me that these allowances should continue to be paid. As remarked by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, when a man rises to the cadre of a Deputy Collector, I do not think there is any understanding or compact between him and the Government that he should be asked to do only a particular kind of work and that in the event of his being called upon to do some other kind of work or being put in charge of some other department, he should be paid any extra allowance which the labour of that department might entail. This is a very bad principle, and it is a vicious and reprehensible one.

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"Sir, reference was made to the narrow majority in the Retrenchment Committee. I hope that the voice of this House on this question will assert itself to the extent of reducing that narrow majority into a hopeless minority."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"If all the arguments that I have already advanced in the course of my remarks have not succeeded in bringing my hon. friend to my line of thought, I must only repeat them again. My hon. friend, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, has only repeated the arguments advanced by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, which I thought I had already demolished most successfully. I already pointed out that when these men entered the Government service, they did not contract for this kind of work. If they are called upon to perform a piece of work for which there has been special allowance for years past, they should not be deprived of this allowance suddenly. So long as these allowances are part and parcel of the conditions of service, I maintain that it would not be proper to withdraw them now.

"It was stated by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, that what the Committee intended was that these allowances should be given only in the case of Indian Settlement Officers in charge of settlement parties and that they should not be given to Assistant Settlement Officers. At the present moment, there is only one Indian officer in charge of a settlement party, and all the other Indian officers happen to be Assistant Settlement officers. Well, Sir, if the sympathy of the House will restrict itself to the narrow extent of sanctioning the allowance only to one officer out of eleven who are doing similar duties, I should think that it is a very poor recompense to those who are going to lose the allowances.

"I think, Sir, that my hon. friend, Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar, who is representing the Trichinopoly district, will bear me out when I say that the nature of the duties performed by the Settlement and the Assistant Settlement Officers has not been exaggerated by me. I had the good fortune to visit the Trichinopoly district, and I inspected the work done there by the Settlement Officers. My hon. friend accompanied me throughout the inspection—I am very grateful to him for his kindness—and I am sure he has observed with his own eyes the very arduous duties performed by the Settlement Officers. Sun or no sun, rain or no rain, shelter or no shelter, they have to do their work. They personally told me that when once they got to the fields, they would not be able to return until 2 or 3 o'clock in the evening, and, during the whole of this period, they had to live on the bottle of water which they carried with them. When I went for the inspection along with them I could not take my breakfast at the usual hour of 10-30 in the morning. I do not remember a single day on which I was able to take my breakfast before 1 o'clock, although it was not incumbent upon me to wait till such a late hour. I should certainly be glad to take my hon. friend, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, along with me while I go on inspection of these settlement parties so that he might see and satisfy himself about the nature of the duties which these officers are called upon to perform."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"How does that materially differ from the nature of the work which the ordinary Deputy Collectors are called upon to perform?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"If my hon. friend accompanies me in my inspection work, he will understand in what respects the nature of the work differs. The Revenue Divisional Officer and the Treasury Deputy Collector have a well-defined and well-chalked out programme of work to attend to. They can go to villages where they can get good shelter and where all their conveniences will be properly attended to. But that is not the case with Settlement Officers. No option is given to them in the matter of selecting villages to which they have to go. They must go to all the villages where they have got work and they must stay there for the full period which their duty requires them to do in spite of all the inconveniences and hardships that might be caused to them thereby. Under these circumstances, I hope that the House will have some sympathy for them. I am pleading very hard for them and I feel that I cannot get the very best men for this kind of work, if the House does not help me to this small extent of retaining the allowances. I have not pleaded so hard in the case of other allowances; but in the case of Special Settlement Officers, I do plead that they should be paid the allowances to which they are entitled, by reason of the nature of the work which they are performing."

The motion was put and declared lost.

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar then demanded a poll.

Before the poll was taken, the hon. Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib requested the hon. the Deputy President to split up the motion into two—one relating to allowances to the Settlement Officers in charge of parties and the other relating to the allowances to those who are not in charge of parties.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"With reference to the suggestion of my hon. colleague, may I seek the permission of the House to split up the motion into two portions? The first portion is to —

omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for Special Assistant Settlement Officers who are in charge of parties.

"The second portion is —

to omit the allotment of Rs. 12,600 for Assistant Settlement Officers who are not in charge of parties.

"I think, Sir, that some hon. Members would like to retain the allowances in the case of Settlement Officers who are in charge of parties."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I have already put to the House the motion as it stands on the agenda, and I do not know whether I can go back upon it. The House will vote upon the motion as it stands."

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 10. Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai. |
| 2. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 11. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 12. " W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajula Nayudu. | 13. " K. Sitarana Reddi. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. V. Nagaraya Chettiyar. | 14. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 6. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 15. Mr. A. V. Angavelu Nayagar. |
| 7. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 16. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. |
| 8. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 17. " C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 9. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 18. Diwan Bahadur Pethachi Chettiyar. |
| | 19. Rao Bahadur O. V. S. Narasimha Raja. |

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Ayes—cont.

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| 20. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 24. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 21. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. | 25. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 22. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu. | 26. " T. Arumainatha Pillai. |
| 23. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. | 27. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| | 28. Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 15. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib. | 16. " S. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 17. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 18. " S. Muttanankkachari. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 19. " C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 20. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaak Sahib Bahadur. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 21. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 22. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 23. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 24. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 11. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 25. Mr. A. J. Leech. |
| 12. " E. Periyasayagam. | 26. Rao Bahadur T. Numbermal Chettiyar. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tanjavelu Pillai. | |
| 14. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | |

The motion was declared carried, 28 having voted for and 26 against.

MOTION No. 23.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,95,000 for temporary establishment by Rs. 1,00,000.

It will be seen, Sir, that the provision for the Budget year is nearly Rs. 93,000 more than the revised estimate for the current year, and the actuals for 1921-22 were only Rs. 2,45,000. On principle, as I have already submitted, I am always opposed to this kind of temporary establishments. Their work is always half-hearted as they have no prospects, being always temporary. Consequently, I say that economically this kind of large temporary establishments at a huge cost of Rs. 3,95,000 is rather extravagant on our part to spend. I therefore propose, Sir, that a reduction of one lakh of rupees be made under this head."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I have again to begin from the very beginning. I have already, I think, told the House more often than once that the bulk of the temporary establishments and their cost are factors which depend not upon the voracious appetite of the Member to secure as much money as he can, but upon the actual needs of the department in a year. I have said, and I repeat, that as against five survey parties busy in Government work this year, there will be seven next year. I have already, I believe, tried to induce the House not to regard the allotments that have been entered for the next year as the maximum that I want for the work that is going to be done, and that before I entered the allotments under these heads, I have myself exercised a great deal of retrenchment in regard to them. I have myself reduced almost mercilessly the allotments which have been asked for by the departments concerned, and the Finance Department, that ever vigilant department, has done its share of work as well. So, as a result of so much distillation, what is remaining in the Budget is hardly sufficient for the nature of the work."

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"The settlement operations, as the House may know, are now in full swing in certain districts of the Presidency. The reason why a few more men are asked for next year is the fact that in Tanjore and Trichinopoly the work to be done is much larger than the work that has been done in the current year. In the Tanjore district, for instance, we require no more than Rs. 1,06,408 for expenditure during the current year, whereas for the next year we want no less than Rs. 1,57,369. The House is aware that the work of the Tanjore settlement party has advanced to such an extent as not to be interrupted. Were it interrupted, the House must be prepared for a loss of revenue to the tune of 14 to 15 lakhs. In the Trichinopoly district, where also the settlement operations may be regarded to be in full swing, the expenditure that was expected to be incurred under settlement operations during the current year was only Rs. 63,054, whereas in the next year we want no less a sum than Rs. 1,14,372. In the case of other settlement parties there is no increase worth the name. There is an appreciable decrease of expenditure in the South Arcot district; for, that district may be regarded to have almost completed its work. The total, Sir, that I actually need for the next year is Rs. 4,38,087, but as against that, the allotment which I have entered in the Budget is far far less. How then, Sir, is work going to be done?"

"I have been told that it is a pernicious system to embark upon the policy of taking on temporary men, that it is very pernicious to continue in that policy, that some unwholesome results must come out of that and that I must make all these men permanent. I thank the House for that advice and I shall see if I cannot make permanent more men both in the Settlement and the Survey departments so as to avoid coming before the House with so many motions and troubling it to scrutinize the increase relating to temporary establishments. If this had been a permanent establishment, I take it, it would have automatically formed part of the entire organization and would have been regarded as obligatory, but because we are working in this economical way, we are found fault with. As I said, the number of men must vary from year to year. It must vary in the same proportion as there is work to do. This is expenditure limited to the barest minimum. The provision for next year is far less than what we ourselves—according to the strictest calculations—have been able to arrive at. If it is reduced further, the operations in the Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts, which are expected to cost more in the next year, will be conducted on less efficient lines, and, therefore, instead of being finished in one year, the work will naturally take us two years. I am not quite sure whether that can be regarded as sound financial policy."

Mr. E. S. LLOYD:—"Sir, I should like also just to say that this particular item was very carefully examined in the Finance Department, that department always being very keen to cut down temporary establishments whenever they can. But the Board of Revenue did, as a matter of fact, give very good reasons and very detailed figures under each head; and, as the hon. the Revenue Member has told the House, they asked originally as much as Rs. 4,38,000 and odd. It was only with very great difficulty that we were able to cut it down to the present figure of Rs. 3,95,000. Therefore, if this is going to be cut down still further, I do not think it will be possible for us to get through the work next year."

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"As long as Government have not come to the end of these temporary establishments, I think they will have to begin from the very beginning whenever this question arises. It is assumed by the Government that these settlement parties must exist and that they must also continue and increase in number. I object, Sir, to this principle so long as Government delay fixing the principles of settlement which the people have always been anxiously expecting to have. Now, instead of fixing the principles of settlement once for all and conducting operations on fixed principles, if the Government begin to employ temporary establishments year by year and go on increasing them, are we not entitled to say: 'Well, Sir, you have not fulfilled your portion of the promise; on the other hand, you have been increasing the establishment year by year? Therefore, let there be a stop to such kind of work by the Government?' I therefore cannot understand, Sir, when the Government argue, 'we have got more work to do and therefore we have to establish more persons to do the work'. I contend, Sir, that to go on saying that there is more work is not at all proper. Therefore, I think, Sir, that I must press this motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not think I am prepared to admit the charge that Government have delayed deliberately to fix by Statute the principles underlying resettlements. That question, I think, has been discussed more often than once within the four walls of this House and I have tried to explain the exact position as to where we are. We were anxious in common with the House to get legislation passed; but owing to some circumstance or other, which I think I need not dilate upon at the present moment, that legislation could not come up before the House. The whole question is still in the hands of the Government of India and we have received no definite answer as to their attitude on it. That explains, Sir, our present position."

"Then it has been said, Sir, that Government go on increasing settlement work from year to year and in proportion to their activities in that direction, they go on increasing the extra establishment, both permanent and temporary. But I hope the hon. Member is aware that in the case of these resettlements they are not conducted by the Government at their sweet will and pleasure, but that there are certain rules for the purpose of resettlement. No resettlement can take place within less than thirty years. A district which was settled thirty years ago must be resettled at the expiry of that period. If we are going to delay the resettlement of that district, are we not inflicting an injury on other districts which get resettled immediately after the expiry of the thirty years? Are we not then treating one district more favourably than another? The number of the districts to be resettled therefore is not arrived at by any indefinite rule and is not determined by the sweet will and pleasure of the Government, but rather by the fact that in the case of so many districts the thirty years period will automatically expire in a particular year. When it expires, we have to take up the resettlement work of the districts concerned whether we like it or not; and the resettlement is thus determined only by the thirty-year factor. In one year there may be no district which is ready to be resettled; in another year there may be a large number of districts; and in a third year, the number may be very few. So, the work is not determined according to our own sweet will and pleasure, but it is determined by

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the thirty-year factor. And when that period expires, Government have to take up the work of resettlement; and they cannot lessen that work because the work has to be done as indeed it must."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

MOTION No. 24.

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

3-30 p.m. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,81,200 for settlement parties by Rs. 70,000.*

Sir, we are told that the Government is handicapped by the iniquitous impost or our contribution to the Central Government. Since the commencement of the Reforms we have adopted a policy of retrenchment. I shall not dwell upon the way in which the Government is carrying on this policy, and how before the Reforms were introduced they gave their officials extraordinary increases in their salaries and how this has served to wipe off what surplus we had. As a result of the retrenchment we have effected, the temporary establishments have enormously increased. On page 38 of the budget estimate, there is a provision of Rs. 3,95,000 for temporary establishments which in the previous year was only Rs. 3,02,000. Not only is the expenditure on permanent establishment increasing year after year, but also the pay of the higher officials is increased when a few clerks and peons are reduced. In some departments the number of officers is reduced while in others it is increased. For instance, on page 34, there is a reduction in the number of Assistant Directors by two, on page 35, by one Assistant Director and on page 37 by two Special Settlement officers. In all, about five officers have been shown as reduced; but, in fact, they have been only transferred to some other department. Because, when we look at page 35 we find that four Assistant Directors have been newly appointed besides two probationers. So, for five men transferred from one office, six new men are appointed in another office. It seems to me that this is retrenchment with a vengeance. The actual expenditure in 1921-22 was 6.08 lakhs and the revised estimate for 1922-23 is 6.32 lakhs. The budget figure for the next year shows 7.81 lakhs which is 1.49 in excess of last year. So, what is the good of saying that we are applying the retrenchment axe to all the departments when we see the expenditure going up by leaps and bounds. When we are going on increasing our expenditure in this manner, how can we ask the Central Government to give us relief? The Central Government also might be going on in this manner. So, what we ought to do is that, though we cannot reduce our expenditure, we must at least see that it is in no way increased. Our expenditure has been increasing out of all proportion to our income, and if this state of affairs continues, we may not see the day when our deficit will vanish. With these few words I propose the allotment of Rs. 7,81,200 be reduced by Rs. 70,000."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I think, Sir, from what I heard the hon. Member say, he has taken a survey of the position of affairs in the Survey Department as well as in the Settlement Department during the current as compared with the next year and he says quite accurately indeed that the amount entered in the next year's budget is somewhat larger than that entered in the current year's budget. I had imagined, and now I find that I was wrong in that imagination, that when particular motions for omission or reduction under

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the Survey and Settlement Departments came up for discussion I had explained to the House the reasons why a particular amount was entered in the budget. The main reason which I urged, and which I shall again urge, was that the bulk of the work to be done next year both in the Survey Department and in the Settlement Department though large is nobody's fault. Districts have to be surveyed according to a programme previously made out, and resettlement has to be carried on as I have already said as the thirty-year period expires. If, therefore, more Settlement or Survey parties have to be employed next year as against those in the current year, it is because the work that has to be done in Tanjore and Trichinopoly is much larger than what it has been in the current year. Therefore, it will no doubt cost more, and I do not see who is to blame. It is probably time that has to be blamed. The years go on rolling and the thirty-year period unfortunately ends at a particular psychological moment and I have to resurvey and settle the particular district where that period ends. Well, I blame time, but I cannot see how I can accept an indefinite cut of Rs. 70,000 from a total allotment. I shall not weary the House with all the details which go to make up the total of the next year's allotment. I have from time to time read extracts relating to particular items, and if I should now try to weary the House I should probably re-read the whole of the statement which I have already read. Therefore, Sir, while I confess that there is a little increase in the next year's budget, I think I have shown very good reasons why that increase has been provided for.

"My friend on this side of the House (Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai) tried to show something about the number of officers employed. He said that I had been transferring one set of officers from one district on to the other and vice versa. In regard to that point also I told the House that I possess altogether a permanent cadre of 14 Survey officers and a temporary cadre of 2 Survey officers, and that from time to time I take on as many temporary officers in the Survey Department as there are parties to work. A large number of these are generally engaged on Government work and a smaller number on proprietary work. The number on Government work depends upon the quantity of that work which has to be done and the number engaged on proprietary work depends upon the applications received from the proprietors to survey their estates. These are all varying factors for which neither the Government nor the Member in charge nor again the Survey Department is responsible. These factors go on moulding themselves, and as they go on moulding themselves, I have got to adjust the department accordingly. I can assure the hon. mover that there is no over-budgeting and I can say that I am not at all responsible for any deficit that has been produced. I can also assure the hon. mover that a small cut of Rs. 70,000 from our expenditure would not induce the Government of India to give back our 340 lakhs."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, there is a motion standing against my name the object of which is very much humbler than the one now before the House, and I wish, therefore, to address the House upon this motion that is now before it. The hon. the Revenue Member told us that he had already given reasons which, according to him, were excellent as to why it was that the budget figures should stand as they did with respect to the expenditure that had to be incurred for the settlements during the budget year now under consideration. I am sorry I was

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not able to be here when he enlightened the House upon the need for such a large amount being spent upon resettlements. But I heard the few reasons of somewhat weighty import which he gave as to why it was that the settlement figures should stand as they did; and if I address the House this afternoon it is only by way of attempting to combat the reasons that my hon. friend has given as to why it is—*anxious as he is like everyone of us to cut down the expenditure on account of settlements and on account of every thing else—he finds that time and history being against him he is unable to give effect to his most strenuous intentions.* Now, Sir, the position is this. I dare say that the hon. the Revenue Member will not dissociate himself from the correctness of the explanatory memorandum that is given by the Secretary. We find, opposite to the heading 'survey and settlements' the Secretary stating that the decrease in the revised estimate is the net result of a decrease under Revenue Settlements due to one of the settlement parties being engaged on the record of rights in estate lands and then he goes on to point out what the increase in the revenue survey was due to. We are now concerned only with the amount which has been spent on account of the revenue settlements. Now, Sir, if I understand that statement correctly it means this: that whereas in the current year the amount that was budgeted was 8.10 lakhs, the actual amount that has been spent is 6.32 lakhs making a difference of 1.78 lakhs of rupees. Even my hon. friend, who has now become accustomed to deal with figures which are in no instance possibly less than six in number at a time, must grant that the difference of 1.78 lakhs is an appreciable one which he should take note of. Now, Sir, I understand that the reason for this difference was not that there was anything wrong in the original budget, not that there was anything wrong with the actual expenditure, or what is expected to be incurred, but that the parties which were originally intended to do the resettlement work in conformity with the injunctions that time and history have imposed upon us, had been called away from that work to another work which time and history had not imposed upon us the necessity of directing them to. Now what does it mean? It means that originally the settlement parties were thought of for the purpose of carrying on resettlements in some places, that is because the original period of settlement was over; but it is found that estates want the work of these settlement parties and so it is that the resettlement is not undertaken as originally intended with the result that there is a sum of Rs. 1.78 lakhs originally budgeted for not used. If I may be permitted to use that argument for the purpose of understanding the present figures, now that there is a deficit of over 40 lakhs of rupees that is to be met, is it too much to expect that there may be some cut made in the budget for the expenditure on the resettlement in this year so that the deficit might be less and if our resettlement parties could be utilised for estate work so that the original budget need not be conformed to, is it wrong to ask that at least for this year, whatever may happen in the years to come, there need not be so large an expenditure undertaken as is now proposed to be?

"My hon. friend observed that the difference between the figures in the revised estimate for the current year and the budget estimate for the coming year was something like a lakh and a half. That, Sir,—I am an unsophisticated man—appears to me to be a fairly considerable sum and we should not, therefore, submit to the figure as it

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stands. Now it has been stated that there are considerations which require that resettlement should be undertaken. There is one argument which I have heard at least half a dozen times, if not longer, and that is the delay in making a resettlement in one district means an injury to the settlement of other districts which have also undergone that settlement or resettlement. I must confess I find it somewhat difficult to follow the logic of it. I can as well understand if the argument be this: that there are some districts which are to be favoured but they are not to be favoured at the expense of others. That is the point I should like to lay some stress upon. As my hon. friend has observed the resettlement takes place once in 30 years, so that a district which has been once settled is bound to be resettled at the end of that period; and according to that arrangement, whether resettlement takes place in that district or not does not concern another district which is less fortunately placed than the former. To say, therefore, that an injury has been inflicted upon one district is an argument which we cannot understand.

"Then, Sir, it has been pointed out that there is the rule of time which has to be conformed to. Now, I would ask my hon. friend whether there have not been such delays in the past and how does he account for them? If the reason be that in some cases you can delay the settlement operations, considerations of economy, particularly as they apply to the present juncture, are sufficient reason why you should not insist upon the expenditure on resettlement being quite so high as it is put in the budget. There is one other very weighty reason why this expenditure on resettlement should be reduced as far as possible, and that is that there is a proposal for permanent settlement. But because that is a matter in respect of which an All-India Legislation is necessary and the views of the Government of India have to be obtained, the proposal is not carried into effect. Speaking for myself, it was a tactical mistake—not to call it worse—when a resolution that permanent settlement should be introduced in this province was moved in this House—and my hon. friend pointed out what exactly the risks were that the House was likely to run by accepting that resolution. To that extent I do not quarrel with the position taken up by the hon. Member, but there is an implication which I would like to join issue on. Suppose we had asked when asking for permanent settlement, that principles of settlement should be provided statutorily as recommended by the Joint Committee, should there not be a protest raised on behalf of the Government? As a matter of fact they were bound by the circumstances, to which the Reform Act owes its existence, to put into the Statute Book some kind of Statute which would determine the principles of settlement, and supposing after that had been done, a resolution was carried stating that permanent settlement was the thing which would be acceptable to this province, would it be competent for this House or the Government to say then 'we are not going to give effect to this resolution?' The same effect of the process being reversed, it is not to go away from the propriety of the proposition when we say that, until we know where exactly we stand with respect to the principles of settlement which have to be enacted as a Statute, it is better that resettlement is not hurried on and that is exactly one of the purposes which this resolution now before the House is intended to achieve. In these circumstances, it seems to me that the House would be well advised in accepting the motion now before the House, which has been moved by my hon. friend, Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai."

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Mr. E. S. LLOYD :—"It is true that in the memorandum of the budget I have mentioned a decrease in the expenditure under the head of 'Revenue Settlement' in the revised estimate due to one of the parties being engaged on estate work but that does not mean that the provision for next year is excessive. Motions like the present for lump sum reductions in the budget show that the House seems to think that the Board of Revenue and the people in charge of the arrangements of the budget do not know their work. I assure the House that only suitable provision has been made. But it is said that in any case definite cuts have to be effected for the sake of economy. Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar said that the reduction of expenditure on the preparations for the Tanjore settlement was possible. This seems rather to imply that he wants to delay the resettlement and not to hurry it. In any case, when we have already passed all the details of the principal head in question, it seems to me ridiculous to proceed to cut the total when you come to the final stage."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"May I just explain that I am not responsible for the order in which the several motions have been arranged in the agenda."

Mr. E. S. LLOYD :—"I quite see that the hon. gentleman had not a chance. The fact remains however that the House was satisfied with the details of the particular portion of the budget in question. Now when we come to the final stage, to say that though the details are satisfactory there should be a reduction in the total seems to me to be an illogical conclusion."

"In this connexion I am authorized to say that our prospects are rather better than when the budget was prepared. For instance, the report of the arrack sales has just now come and shows a gratifying increase of about six lakhs. That is something on the right side. Then there is a small matter of Rs. 25,000 which we are to get as duty on Bangalore beer coming into the Madras Presidency as a result of the arrangements made with the hon. the Resident in Mysore. Another more important matter is that we are going to get from the Government of India for the work done for them in connexion with income-tax a large sum of over five lakhs of rupees for the year 1921-22, and we may count upon another sum of about five lakhs for the two years 1922-23 and 1923-24. Income-tax has now become a central subject and therefore any work that we do in connexion with it should be paid for by the Government of India. That gives us another ten lakhs of rupees. Then again, Sir, we have a demand for a portion of the charge on Railway police. We have been negotiating with the Government of India on this matter for quite a long time, and they have now undertaken to bear a portion of the cost for the Railway police for the years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24. The exact figures have not yet been settled, but we can assume that the assignment will not be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees per year. Thus there is another ten lakhs of rupees coming under that head. Again, of course, as we know, there is retrenchment everywhere, and undoubtedly we are going to get something out of that. Altogether what with the amount we expect to receive from the Government of India and from other sources we anticipate—mind it is only anticipation—that before the end of next year our position will improve to the extent of nearly 30 lakhs. This will go a great way towards meeting the dead-weight debt. Therefore, I do not think it is quite good policy to attempt to make any haphazard cuts in the totals of demands to the details of which the House has already agreed."

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, there is only one word in connexion with the settlement which I would like to say for the information of my hon. friend, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, as I think he was not here at the time I read out the figures justifying the total amount of expenditure under that head. He drew attention to the fact that during the current year the amount that we had intended to spend was not spent, that it was therefore a saving, that that saving was due to the fact that one of our settlement parties which was intended to be kept busy on Government work was actually busy on estate work, and that therefore there might be a similar chance for our not utilizing the amount that we have allotted for the coming year. On that ground I suppose, he advises us to budget for a lesser amount. I have already given complete details of the working of the settlement parties. The most important work on which they are going to be busy is the resettlement in the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly. The provision of larger expenditure is on account of these two districts for the settlements of which operations have already begun. It is absolutely necessary that these operations should be completed in the course of the next year."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"May I ask for the figures in respect of the resettlement of these two districts?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"The figure that was specifically referred to was Rs. 3,25,000, and I have already stated that that increase is due to the fact that we have to spend next year for the settlement operations in Tanjore, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Wynad, etc., and that therefore the allotment in the budget for the current year was increased by nearly a lakh. I already explained all the figures when each item was discussed, and we had then decided that there was justification for the increase under each head. Wherever an increase occurred, the increase was challenged by means of a particular motion, but the House was satisfied with the reasons which I urged in justification of such increases. All these put together now lead to this total, and as pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Lloyd, after having allowed me to retain under each particular item the provision that was asked for, and when I am at the end of my labours, to say that the total should be reduced by a sum of Rs. 70,000, seems to me unfair. Of course, my hon. friend has asked for a reduction, not of Rs. 70,000, but only Rs. 1,000."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"That is because I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to the irregularities or what I consider to be the defects of the administration."

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—"After hearing all the explanations given by the hon. the Revenue Member, I must confess I do not find the necessity for entertaining two probationers in the coming year. Not satisfied with the two temporary Assistant Directors, this new addition has been made. If we go on in this way, where is the chance of our saving? So, I hope the House will accept the motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am asked, Sir, at this late hour in the day to justify once more why provision has been made for two temporary Assistant Directors. I had discussed that question in the previous motion and tried to convince the House that they were for the purpose of a temporary party which was

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intended to do a much larger amount of work than was done in the current year. I said also that that was the procedure which was being followed in the Survey Department. We have five parties at our disposal, and every extra work is done by means of temporary parties and the number of temporary parties and officers manning them invariably depends upon the quantity of work to be done. According to the quantity of work to be done next year, we want these two special Assistant Directors."

The motion was put and declared lost.

A poll was demanded and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 7. Mr. M. Narayanaswami Reddi. |
| 2. Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 8. " V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. |
| 3. " M. Appalarasayya Nayudu. | 9. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 10. Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. |
| 5. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 11. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 6. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 19. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 20. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 21. Diwan Bahadur M. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |
| 4. " Bai Bahadur K. Venkataraddi Nayudu. | 22. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachariyar. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 23. Bai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 24. Mr. A. T. Palmer. |
| 7. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 25. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 8. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 26. " C. R. T. Congreave. |
| 9. " E. S. Lloyd. | 27. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaq Sahib. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur T. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 28. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib. |
| 11. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 29. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 12. " E. Periyasayagam. | 30. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. O. Tangavelu Pillai. | 31. Rao Sahib M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 14. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 32. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 15. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 33. Mr. A. J. Leech. |
| 16. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 34. " A. M. MaoDongall. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. | 35. Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chettiyar. |
| 18. Rao Bahadur N. Ramayya Punja. | |

Eleven voted for the motion and 35 against it; the motion was lost.

MOTION No. 25.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,45,000 for Revenue Settlement by 100.

In doing so I should like to mention to the House how it is possible to reduce the expenditure under Survey and Settlement to a considerable extent. Sir, the settlement has to be conducted on certain principles. An economic enquiry into the conditions of the tract is made; the value of the lands is reckoned; the increase or decrease in population is worked out, and so on and so on. I should like to know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether it is necessary to have the present costly establishment for obtaining these information. He has passed orders on various settlements and his predecessors have passed orders on previous settlements. What is the principle on which these orders have been passed? In almost all these cases the one consideration by which they were guided was

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the increase or the decrease in prices of food grains during the previous twenty normal years. If that is so, what particular object is gained by having this costly establishment and trying to obtain information which very often they are already in possession of? Take, for example, the economic condition of the tract. The Collector sends the *jamabandi* report. Once in ten years the decennial report is received. All these reports will give the necessary information. The famine report will be submitted from the unfortunate areas where famines occur. The census reports published once in ten years will tell you whether the population has increased or decreased. Recently a resolution was carried in the Legislative Assembly for the collection and maintenance of agricultural statistics. That again will furnish information regarding the agricultural prosperity of the tract. When you have facilities for obtaining all these informations, what is the necessity for having this huge establishment? Take the old settlements and see by what percentage you have made enhancements and what relation it bears to the increase in the price of food stuffs. Then you can fix a certain percentage by which any enhancement of land tax may be made. If some such principle is evolved there will be no need for any costly machinery. In order to raise this subject, I have brought this motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am thankful, Sir, to the hon. Member for the suggestions he has made for my information and—shall I also add?—for my edification. I quite see that the modern system of effecting resettlements is more or less percentage enhancement of the tax previously in force. There are certain preliminaries to be gone through before the local authorities can make up their minds as to what that particular percentage should be. The percentage cannot be worked out by any rule of the thumb nor can it be worked at the Secretariat, at the office table. Detailed figures have to be gathered relating to the district and a very careful inquiry has to be conducted as regards the economic condition of the district before it can be decided whether that particular district can bear any additional taxation or not. Our predecessors in this House, at any rate, have been constantly urging on the attention of the Government the necessity for conducting elaborate economic enquiries. Various orders for conducting detailed economic enquiries have been passed as a preliminary step to the conduct of the resettlement. I may invite the attention of the House to the fact that I placed this very question before a Committee, which I summoned the other day, called the Committee for making suggestions in regard to the Conduct of Surveys and Settlements. Their report was laid on the table of the House. I asked them definite questions, and the seventh question was whether they could suggest any method by which the process of resettlement of the assessment could be determined. The conclusion they arrived at was that they regretted that besides the suggestions in answer to question 5 they were unable to suggest economies in any other direction, nor the substitution of the present system by any other. That, Sir, is the suggestion of the Committee which went into the question very thoroughly and very elaborately in order to evolve a process cheaper without at the same time being less efficient. I deliberately summoned that Committee in order to give me some suggestions and they were of this opinion. My hon. friend opposite is a member of the Retrenchment Committee and I think if he can give any new suggestions I shall be grateful to him."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 26.

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 21,71,222 for Survey and Settlement by Rs. 20,00,000.

My hon. friend or anybody might have been alarmed at the amount proposed to be reduced. Many of the motions that have preceded mine have dealt with a large portion of the question. In view of the economic stringency and the deficit facing us I think we should do much more. But after hearing the explanations of my hon. friend and the arguments advanced in respect of the other motions and what is still more after hearing Mr. Lloyd who said that the Government of India is going to give us thirty lakhs I think we can meet a large portion of the deficit and we can confidently work the budget to a satisfactory progress in all directions.

"My object, Sir, in bringing forward this motion is to elicit information from the hon. the Revenue Member on two important points.

4-15 p.m. One is about the re-organization of the Revenue Board, for which a committee was appointed, which submitted its report to the Government. What has been done with regard to that, what action has been taken by the Government on the report of the committee, we do not know. No definite information has been laid before the House by the department concerned. Another question is about the proposal at any rate I made the proposal—that the Revenue and the Settlement departments must work together, that the settlement work must be amalgamated with the revenue work. Instead of two departments working, there must be only one department.

"Another question is about the Settlement Bill which was intended to embody the principles of settlement. A committee was also appointed with regard to this matter and I was a member of that committee. The committee submitted its report and nothing has been done with regard to the report. What action has been taken on the report, we do not know. Probably the Government is in correspondence with the higher authorities. Therefore, while introducing legislation embodying principles of settlement, what is important is a consideration of the permanent settlement in the ryotwari area. There was also a resolution passed by this Council to the effect that, as soon as possible, introduction of permanent settlement in the ryotwari villages in this Presidency should be considered. What I stated was that settlement operations must be stopped once for all, because if we go on taking one district after another for resettlement, there will be no end to it and even after sanction has been obtained for the introduction of the permanent settlement, it will be difficult to introduce it. I proposed that the figures of the last settlement might be taken as the criterion and that no new resettlement must be made until sanction has been received for the introduction of the permanent settlement, and till then all the districts, settled or unsettled, must lie over. There should be no new resettlement now until the sanction for the introduction of permanent settlement is received. That will enable us to introduce permanent settlement without inequality and we can fix the rates by taking the prices during the previous twenty non-famine years into consideration and striking an average for the whole Presidency. There is no chance of ever bringing into operation or introducing permanent settlement at all if we go on taking each district for resettlement at the end of every 30 years. On these questions, I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to give me definite information."

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I must confess, Sir, that I have recovered from the shock which this particular motion had inflicted upon me when I saw that my hon. friend was proposing to knock out so much as Rs. 20,00,000 out of an allotment of Rs. 21,71,222; he now assures me that he did not intend to produce that shock in me but he only wanted to elicit certain information from me; and I am indeed glad to furnish that information to him. He asks me the same question which, I think, was asked by my hon. friend opposite a little while ago, as to what had happened to the proposed Settlement Bill, and why no effect has been given to the permanent settlement resolution. My hon. friend with his wide and varied experience of the Revenue Department gives me a few hints as to how the permanent settlement could be facilitated in this province and I am certainly willing to accept them from him. What I can say at this stage is that, soon after the resolution with regard to the permanent settlement in this province was passed, the Bill which had been drafted by the Government and which ought to have been in the usual course introduced in this House and which naturally aimed at a different purpose, namely, periodical settlement, had to be stopped until the decision of the Government of India and, for the matter of that, the Secretary of State, was previously ascertained as to what chances there were of introducing permanent settlement in this province. We were guilty of no delay in immediately transmitting to the Government of India the correspondence; and I may inform the House that until this minute no reply has been received from the Government of India to our correspondence."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Were any reminders sent?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I believe they were."

"Therefore, the hon. Member will see that neither I nor the Government of which I have the honour to be a member, have in any way discourteously treated the resolution of this House recommending permanent settlement. He will also see that the reason why the local Government could not introduce the Bill, which was ready at that time, is on account of the divergent expression of opinion. He gives me, Sir, a very large order when he asks me to stop all settlement operations in this province. Probably the announcement which was made by the hon. the Finance Secretary has emboldened him to do so, for he has just now told us that there is every prospect of the budget of next year balancing itself. But may I ask him, Sir, whether if the resettlement operations in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts are not going to be given effect to, there is still hope of the balancing of the budget? The balancing of the budget is dependent on certain revenue from this source and if this item of revenue is withdrawn, there may be no balancing of the budget in spite of these windfalls contained in the announcement just now made by my hon. friend Mr. Lloyd."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Is it because the resettlement in these districts yields larger revenue, that we must go on with resettlement of district after district irrespective of the consideration that we may receive the sanction of the Government of India or the Secretary of State?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"So the revenue of a province cannot be made to suffer on the off-chance of a system now in vogue being possibly altered later by something

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which we expect but of which we are not at the present moment certain. Resettlement operations must necessarily go on and we cannot deprive ourselves of our revenue. I was certainly amazed when I heard the hon. Member complain that he did not at all know as to what happened about the Board of Revenue Committee of which he was a member and where he gave us very valuable assistance indeed. The report of that Committee, Sir, was laid on the table of this House. The action taken by the Government was also laid on the table of the House. We accepted the recommendations of the Committee. We abolished the post of one Secretary which the Committee had suggested. We wrote to the Government of India, and probably the matter is now in the hands of the Secretary of State because it involves the abolition of the post of an I.C.S. officer. All the recommendations made by the Committee with regard to the economies to be carried out by the Board of Revenue as a result of the combination of the survey and settlement departments were immediately given effect to and those economies appeared up in the budget not only of the next year but even of this year. What more should have been done, I cannot understand. I have given the information to the hon. Member in the best manner that I could have done."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—" I do not know if any reorganization of the Board has been made."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member must make up his mind either to press his motion to a division or to withdraw it."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—" Sir I am satisfied with what explanation and information the hon. Member could possibly give and has now given and now I beg leave to withdraw it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 27.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,22,640 for special pay.

" I understand that the revenue inspectors and others are engaged on the collection of agricultural statistics. I do not see any necessity for giving them any special pay or allowance."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" The previous system relating to the revenue inspectors was that they represented separate cadres by themselves. There were two grades of revenue inspectors. Now we have what is called the Knapp's scheme, of which my hon. colleague was the author. The necessity of keeping separate cadres, the fixation of their pay, the fixation of time-scales, were all considered by him.

" According to the recommendations of the Knapp scheme, revenue inspectors are no longer treated as a separate entity; but they are to be merged in the cadre of clerks. There are two classes of clerks, one class drawing Rs. 35 to Rs. 60 and another Rs. 60 to Rs. 80. The revenue inspectors must merge either in the lower scale or in the higher scale according to the nature of pay that they were drawing at the time they are so merged. We have therefore kept a certain number in the higher scale and a certain number in the lower scale. A man on Rs. 35 sitting at his desk and doing the job has no out-door work at all, nor has he got that responsibility which the revenue inspector has. Therefore the proposal was that from among the clerks men should be posted out as revenue inspectors, and

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when they are so posted they must draw the pay of the clerical rank and a special pay of Rs. 10. This gave them a certain advantage. If a clerk was marked out at an early stage of his life as being specially intelligent and likely to make a good pull-up in his life, he was selected and trained as a revenue inspector and posted definitely to a particular firka. The pay that he drew as a clerk would hardly be sufficient to enable him to take up that place and therefore he is given this Rs. 10 in addition. There is another advantage. Under the old system, when a revenue inspector misbehaved or did his work badly . . .

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, I withdraw my motion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Revenue Member is entitled to finish his speech. You cannot withdraw if the hon. the Revenue Member is willing to go on with his speech."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Not at all, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 28.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 82,080 for assistant karnams.

Sir, this is a motion affecting the salary of assistant karnams. The amount is not very big, but the policy of maintaining assistant karnams seems to be unnecessary. Most of the karnam's work is such that it has to be done only by one. For instance, the adangal and similar accounts cannot be divided between two people. I think without the assistant karnams the head karnam can very well manage the business. So, in my opinion, the assistant karnams can be dispensed with and their pay either saved or added to a certain extent to pay of the head karnams."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" I admit I have been one of those who have been under the impression that these assistant karnams are more a burden in a village than a necessity, and with that view I have been pressing to reduce the number of these functionaries. During the current year we had 1,117 assistant karnams, and in the course of the year we have been able to send away no less than 579 of them. According to the figures now in my hands, the Board of Revenue have proposed to reduce another 83 men in the next year. That is, altogether 662 of them shall have disappeared. But there are certain cases in which there would be necessity to have more than one karnam, according to the volume of work to be done, where particularly irrigation cess has got to be collected in large amount. Therefore, I am examining the case as to whether assistant karnams should exist and if so where they should exist. That has been, Sir, my own aim and I am thankful that my friend is of this opinion."

This motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 29.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 34,66,704 for executive subordinates by Rs. 100.

Sir, I just want to make this motion which, as the hon. the Finance Member said, is one of those motions made with a view to obtaining information rather than making any real cut. What I may say will lead to additional

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increment rather than reduction. We will have no time to-day to go into the question of general administration and so the hon. the Revenue Member will have nothing to say in reply on this subject. So far as the reduction of villages is concerned, I want to know whether the hon. the Revenue Member would consider the desirability of stopping any further reduction. At the time of the general discussion, a large number of Members referred to this question, namely, that the Government is having too much of these reductions. The hon. the Revenue Member has told us that the number of assistant karnams would practically be reduced and eventually made to disappear very soon. Only two years ago, a number of Collectors have reported that several villages should be divided and the number of village officers should be increased. Now, I ask whether it is desirable for retrenchment purposes to reduce the number of villages and re-group them. We know, Sir, that this is causing the public a good deal of hardship. I, therefore, ask the Government to seriously consider the matter whether they have not come to a stage when further retrenchment and further re-grouping of villages would not be possible.

"One other point. With reference to clerks who are revenue inspectors, the hon. the Revenue Member has expressed much sympathy for them. As regards the travelling allowances, under the rule of general sacrifice to which the revenue inspectors also succumbed, they would not get any travelling allowances within five miles. I understand that the rule will be changed so far as the revenue inspectors are concerned. But I want to know definitely whether the rule has been modified and whether instructions have issued to the various Collectors exempting revenue inspectors from this five-mile jurisdiction. As it is, a revenue inspector will get no travelling allowance for the trips he takes within five miles. So I want a definite statement on that point.

"Then as regards the increment. There have been complaints from many clerks that they did not get in time the first year's increment though they became entitled to it, and that the Collectors would not allow them to draw it. Therefore, I ask whether instructions have been issued to the Collectors on this point also that increments should be given from year to year without any reference to the Finance Department or any higher authorities. These are the few points that I wanted to place before the House and I will be glad if the hon. the Revenue Member will enlighten us on those points."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, as regards the first point, namely, the re-grouping of the villages, it is certainly being carried on in the whole Presidency at the present moment. The question was raised during the course of the general debate on the budget the other day and I told them that I felt my position very awkward inasmuch as on the one hand I was pressed for economy of expenditure and the moment I set any machinery in operation for the purpose of economising, I was at once told to halt. It seemed to me, Sir, that one single item which was capable of a good deal of economy was the item relating to the salaries of the village officials. I do not say that I have no sympathy for them. I think I have, times out of number, shown my sympathy to the best of my ability and I have increased their salaries and have done everything that I can possibly do. When everything is said and done, it must be confessed that they are swallowing up a very big portion of the land revenue expenditure which I have to ask sanction for from the House. I am constantly told that the item which I have to ask this House to sanction is by crores. But I

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want at once to tell the House that if I am asking for crores, a large part of that is due to the village officers. The whole cost of village officers amounts to Rs. 1,24,79,896. So when I saw that such a large portion of expenditure under Administration was being incurred in that direction my tendencies naturally went towards searching for any possible economies. I was advised by those whose advice I have to respect that there was a chance of economising in this direction, not of course by reducing their salaries, but by reducing the number, and I was told that there were certain minor villages where it was not worth while to maintain separate establishments, and that by grouping them along with some other villages, a good deal of economy could be achieved. Therefore, I asked the Board of Revenue to proceed in that direction and so far I think the Board of Revenue have not been able to accomplish more economies than to the extent of 8 to 9 lakhs in the current year. But they hope to effect another economy in the course of the next year, I believe, of 8 or 9 lakhs. I do not think that we are going to achieve a larger economy than 16 to 17 lakhs on the whole out of an expenditure of 124 lakhs. But there is one aspect which is likely to be misunderstood. I am certainly quite willing to see that the village establishments are not abolished where they are necessary. This will be done only when no inconvenience is caused to the public and when by such re-grouping no more work than could possibly be done by a single village official is thrown upon his shoulders.

"Then, there is the question asked of me as regards the Revenue Inspectors' travelling allowance. It is true that the old rule was that the five mile limit did not apply to these people. But under the new revised travelling allowance rules, that concession ceased to apply to the Revenue Inspectors. We are now examining that question and probably the conclusion that we may reach will be that rather than giving him a daily allowance, it will be far preferable to give him a fixed travelling allowance. We are working out the details as regards what the reasonable amount of the fixed travelling allowance will be in the case of the Revenue Inspector so that he can travel and maintain an honest diary unhampered by rigidity of rules.

"Then, Sir, as regards the increment about which my hon. friend has stated that some Collectors have withheld some increments, I am aware of no such cases, and no such complaint has ever reached me."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"No increments were allowed after one year."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, as regards the date from which certain scales of salaries have to be given effect to some inquiries had to be made and the financial position had to be ascertained and the date from which the scale would take effect was mentioned in the order sanctioning the time-scale. And I do not think any Collector after he got the sanction for a particular incremental scale with effect from a particular date ever withheld the increment in the case of any official. I am not aware of the exact position of affairs which my hon. friend is referring to. But if he will be so good as to draw my attention to any particular case where there has been a real hardship, I am quite prepared to investigate into the matter. Probably, the real reason of the complaint is that as soon as the scale was introduced there was no increment provided for in the very first year. The time-scale begins with 35, and after one year for which no increase is contemplated, it goes by annual increments of 1½."

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That probably is the reason why there was not any increment as soon as the scale was sanctioned. But as I said, I am not familiar with the facts which my hon. friend refers to and I will be quite ready to investigate into the matter if he informs me of any case."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I do not want to say anything except a word or two about the increments to clerks. The scale fixed is 35—1½—50. As soon as the first year was over the clerks thought that they should have got Rs. 36½. This was not given as soon as the year was over. As for the reduction in the number of village officers, a sympathetic reply has been given by the hon. the Revenue Member. I think the hon. Member will remember that revenue monigars have gone, assistant karnams have to go and that the work that was done by a number of people is being done only by two officers now. Therefore any further reduction will be a substantial burden upon them. With these words, I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 30.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,61,180 for village establishment by 100.

I move this motion just to have an idea of what the Government intend to do in regard to the village officers in zamindari areas. Sir, in regard to the village officers in Government areas, their pay has been raised to Rs. 15 both in the case of the munisif and the karnam. But in the case of the proprietary estates and zamindari areas, the pay of the headmen is only Rs. 8 and that of karnam ranges from Rs. 8 to Rs. 15. I want to ask in what respect the village officers in zamindari areas deserve to be paid less. Is it because that the village officers in revenue villages are directly under the Government that they are treated more liberally by the Government? If it is a case in which the village officer has to work directly under the zamindar himself without any responsibility to or control by Government, I can understand his being paid less. But the village officer in zamindari areas has more onerous duties to discharge. While the village officer in ryotwari areas serves under only one master, the village officer in zamin village has to serve under two, the zamindar and the Government. He has to attend to the duties of the proprietor and the duties of the Government. When a proprietor or his agent or subordinate finds fault with him, and files a complaint, he has to defend himself. In the case of the village officer in the ryotwari areas there is no such risk at all. The village officers in the zamindari areas have therefore to please two masters. If charges are framed against them they are punished by the Collector. Some proprietors harass them with complaints which they have to answer. The duties being onerous, the responsibilities being greater, these officers deserve at least equal pay. All that can be said against giving them the same pay is that in the ryotwari area the village officers are paid out of the revenues of Government while in the zamindari area the ryots do not directly pay but what the Government get is the permanent *peeshkash*. If such an argument is advanced, that the zamindars should provide for the increase of pay; there must be some rule under which the proprietors can be asked to pay. There is absolutely no reason why these officers should be asked to work for the proprietor and

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should receive less pay. In the Salaries Committee Report it was stated that the pay of these officers was sufficient having regard to the work that they had to do to the Government. If that is the rule to be observed in fixing the pay, then these officers should be held responsible only to Government for the pay that they receive and should be given the freedom to stipulate for further payment with the zamindar for the work that they do for him. If the zamindar is not willing to pay, then he may choose his own collection officer and not have the services of this Government official. I may also draw the attention of the House, Sir, to the fact that about one-third of the total number of karnams are in the zamindari areas. Their case deserves the sympathy of the Government. I move this proposition only to find out the policy of the Government, whether the Government would insist as heretofore that the village officers in zamindari areas should do the duties of both the Government and the zamindar, or whether for the pay that they now receive they would be held responsible only to the Government. Act II of 1894 lays down that they shall do the duties entrusted to them by the proprietor. If the officers are to do all the duties but should not expect to be paid, it is certainly an anomaly. In the interests of these officials whose work is onerous and whose responsibilities are great, I submit that they should be given as much pay as the officials in the ryotwari areas or be allowed to stipulate for payment with the proprietors."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir I am glad the hon. Member himself has referred to the very elaborate discussion of this question by the Salaries Committee. They have very definitely pointed out in their report, of course after a very elaborate examination of the nature of the duties which village officials in the proprietary areas perform, that the salaries then given to them were considered amply sufficient. But times have absolutely changed and the salaries that are now being paid to the proprietary village officials are much more than what they were paid formerly. It is wrong to imagine that the nature of the duties performed by the village officials in the ryotwari areas and those performed by the village officials in the proprietary areas are identical. The nature of the duties performed by the former is certainly more onerous than in the latter case where the Government derive only a fraction of the help. It may be that the officials in the zamindari areas are doing some work for the proprietors as indeed they are bound to do, but that will not certainly be a justification for taxing the general taxpayer with a large expenditure on account of increasing their salaries. I therefore say, Sir, that the salaries which were recently revised are amply sufficient and the Government have no intention whatsoever of increasing them at all in the future. If the proposal which I had made before this House some time ago for the purpose of restoration of the village service cess had been accepted then probably it might have been possible to consider this question favourably. But unfortunately that was thrown out and the entire burden for the payment of the village officers in proprietary areas now falls on the shoulders of the general taxpayer. In the proprietary areas the House will notice that we are now spending about 26 lakhs of rupees in the shape of salaries to village officials. And that, Sir, is a large slice out of the revenues of the province for the nature and the extent of duties which these officials perform. I do not think I can hold out any hope that I will consider favourably the question of increasing the salaries any more."

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The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Mr. President, what my hon. friend from Chittoor has said, would leave an impression that the Government are paying the village officers in proprietary estates out of their revenues for doing proprietors' work. May I just point out that these officials are paid mainly from the inams resumed by Government? The proprietors never wanted the Government resuming the inams and paying the village officers inadequate amount of salary. If the Government cannot pay them adequately, the best course for them would be to disenfranchise the inams, restore them to the proprietors and ask them and the village officials to settle their own terms."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I thought, Sir, the hon. Member for Revenue would say something about the policy of the Government with regard to the duties performed by the village officers in proprietary estates. My main complaint is this. The pay that they now receive is said to be enough and even more for the work they do which the hon. Member said is only a fraction. But I ask what about the duty that they are insisted upon to do, on pain of being dismissed, to the zamindars. Are they allowed to stipulate for payment with the zamindars? I would request the hon. Member to consider this aspect of the case. It is hard upon the official if the zamindar were to say that the inam is enfranchised and that, therefore, he need not pay and if the Government were to say that they are not responsible. I am only voicing the sentiments of the officials that there is no reason why the Government should assume control over them and deny the responsibility for paying them. I expect a reply from the hon. Member."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"First in regard to the criticism of my hon. friend, the Raja Sahib, I may at once tell him that the total realized from the inams to which reference has been made is no more than six lakhs. The total expenditure under this head is somewhere about 27 lakhs. What exactly goes out of the tax-payer's money is over twenty lakhs. It is not quite correct to say that Government are realizing revenue in one shape or other and are paying it back to these men. It is not so at all. We are not realizing even one-third of the total amount that we pay to the proprietary village officers."

"Then, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, again presses that I should tell him definitely what I intend doing with regard to the nature of the duties of the village officers. I think, Sir, my own impression of course gathered from the reports made to me is that both the duties together—the duties which the proprietary village officials perform on behalf of Government and which they perform on behalf of the proprietors—that both the duties put together are not certainly equal to the duties performed by the officers in the ryotwari areas. If, therefore, the latter are paid a little more than the former, I do not think that there can be any argument raised that they are underpaid. My hon. friend has told us that they are serving under two masters. The answer lies in that very statement. Those who serve under two masters do no work under either. The salary that they get is not at all out of any proportion to their work. The hon. Member wants me to examine whether they could be relieved of the duties which they perform on behalf of the proprietors. There was some proposal that we should withdraw absolutely from payment to the proprietary village officials. The question was not completely and exhaustively examined, and if my hon. friend wants me to go into it I shall do so."

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The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member has stated that the actual amount realized from the inams is about 6 lakhs and that the expenditure incurred would be somewhere about 27 lakhs. I would only like to say that the work turned out by these village officers also would be in that proportion, because they are working both for the Government and for the proprietors."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I must differ from the hon. the Revenue Member in regard to the statement he has made that the work done by the village officers in question both to the proprietors and to the Government is much less than that of the village officers in ryotwari areas. But I am quite sure that after the enquiry which the hon. the Revenue Member has promised to make, he will be satisfied that the work of the village officers in the proprietary villages is more than that in Government villages, and that the case of the former deserves special treatment. As the hon. the Revenue Member has promised to make an enquiry into the matter, I do not want to press my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 31.

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, (Speech inaudible.) I beg to move the following reduction which stands against my name:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,41,400 for establishment for preparing revenue and agricultural statistics by Rs. 10,00,000.

My object in making this motion is to show that there are a large number of karnams. Their number is stated to be 6,920. We may take it that almost every village there is a karnam. The work which the karnams have got to do is submitting returns for statistical purposes every now and then and also submitting progress reports of cultivation, crops, etc. These reports are prepared not on actual information obtained and its truth ascertained, but only from the records available for the previous years. After they submit these returns, they have very little work, except casual work. Even with regard to reports showing the actual extent of land under cultivation of some crop or other, the karnams prepare them from the reports of the previous years. From these facts, I think that a karnam can easily look after two villages, and I do not also think that he will grudge it. It is known to everybody that the karnams want and get mamuls at the rate of so much for pottadar or otherwise, and if the karnam is asked to look after one more village, he would like it all the more because he looks forward to earning something more for himself, and by such means there would also be a saving to Government as well. Besides, he has very little work practically, and he has so much leisure that he attends to many other things. For instance, in every village there is lot of litigation and the parties will be paying him something. If the hon. the Revenue Member promises to look into the matter and see what steps are taken to reduce the number of karnams, so that one man may look after two villages, I will not press my motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, this is a motion of a type exactly opposite to the one which a few minutes ago had been urged in this House by my hon. friend from Coimbatore, who took me to task for going on rather mercilessly with the proposals relating to the regrouping of villages and the reduction in the village establishments. But my hon. friend coming from Tanjore tells me that I have been

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rather slow in that process and he offers me a present of as much as Rs. 10,00,000 in the matter of the reduction of the number of karnams. Well, I am really thankful to him for showing me this mine of wealth (Laughter), and if he would permit me to go on at this rate of retrenchment in the village establishments, I for one would certainly be glad. I have already told the House that I regard the present number as high and if the House also feels that it is very high and if they give me definite instructions that I should cut out Rs. 10,00,000 from the amount budgeted for the pay of karnams, I am quite prepared to carry out the mandate."

MR. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I say, Sir, that by asking each karnam to look after two villages, such amount can be saved?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already told the House that the amalgamation of the villages is being carried on not merely in respect of the village headmen, but in respect of the village karnams as well. Wherever regrouping of villages is carried on, one set of officials disappears according to the amount of work done in such villages, and this includes the karnam also. The assistant karnams have already been abolished to a very large extent in the course of the year and the Board of Revenue promises to carry out further reductions in the course of the next year also. If the hon. Member wishes to have figures in regard to these matters, I shall gladly furnish them to him. As regards karnams, we have already carried out reductions to the extent of 279 in the current year and in the next year we also propose to carry out a much larger reduction among the number of karnams. Well, after all is said and done, it is not quite correct to say that the karnam is a superfluity in a village. I regard the karnam's work as even more important from the statistical point of view at any rate than that of the village headman. The karnam is a clerk of the village headman as it were. If the headman is left by himself, I do not think he would be able to do the work. We have also got the village courts, and the karnam is the clerk of the village court also. He is to furnish various kinds of very important statistical information. I cannot therefore go on ruthlessly abolishing the karnams' places and rendering the administration absolutely paralytic, but I can assure the hon. Member that with the question of the regrouping of villages, the question of the reduction, and that a decent reduction, in the number of the village establishments including karnam, is now going on and in process of operation. During the current year we have carried out a large number of reductions and in the next year we hope to carry out no less reductions. So, Sir, if, without cutting it down to any particular amount, I am permitted to go on with my work, it would be indeed desirable."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

It being ten minutes past 5 o'clock, the demand No. I under Land Revenue for a grant of a sum of Rs. 252.90 lakhs *minus* the deductions already carried by the House, was then put and carried. The grant was accordingly made, namely, Rs. 252.90 lakhs *minus* the reductions made by the House already under the head 'Land Revenue.'

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

Q

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 13th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. ROBERT DANIEL RICHMOND was sworn in.

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.]

Representations regarding the Religious Endowments Bill.

865 Q.—Diwan Bahadur GOVINDAS CHATHURBHUJADAS: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether all the written representations received in his department regarding the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill will be printed and copies made available to the Members of the Legislative Council before the Bill is taken up for consideration by the Council?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.*

Moslem representation in menial service of the Judicial department in Ganjam.

866 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact—

(a) that two Muhammadans are shown as entertained in the Civil Judicial department in Ganjam district as per G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922, embodied in B.P. No. 125, Land Revenue, dated 12th October 1922; and

(b) that the District Judge admitted that the two Muhammadans said to have been appointed to posts in the Judicial department in the Ganjam district in the half-year ending 31st December 1921 were entertained as peons and not as clerks;

(ii) (a) who is responsible for this mistake; and

(b) how the person concerned was dealt with; and

(iii) whether the Government will be pleased to call for information if not available at headquarters?

* Copies of representations have been placed on the Council table.

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- A.—(i) (a) Two Muhammadans were shown as entertained in the return attached to G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922.
 (b) The return in question covered both clerks and peons.
 (ii) (a) The hon. Member appears to be under the impression that the return attached to G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922, was the return ordered in that Government Order to be thereafter submitted. If so, the mistake is his.
 (b) No disciplinary action has been taken.

Moslem representation in the Judicial department in Ganjam on Rs. 30 and above.

867 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Muhammadans employed in the Civil Judicial department in the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 on posts carrying a salary of Rs. 30 and above in the district of Ganjam;
 (b) who is the appointing authority; and
 (c) how long the Sarishtadar of the District Court of Ganjam has been occupying that post?

- A.—(a) The Government do not consider that the compilation of statistics called for will serve any useful purpose in view of the provisions of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, and the rules thereunder.
 (b) The hon. Member is referred to section 23 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, and the rules framed thereunder published in Home (Judicial) Department Notification No. 760, dated the 9th August 1920, at page 1043 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 17th August 1920.
 (c) The Government will call for the information.

Nominations to the Chingleput taluk board.

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

- (1) the reasons for nominating certain members of the Vellala community to three out of the six nominated seats in the Chingleput taluk board when that community had already 10 of the 24 elected seats;
 (2) whether one Mr. Namakathan Pillai and one Mr. Mannaperumal Pillai, both Adi-Dravidas, were nominated to the said board in succession; what their relative and respective qualifications were; the reasons for the nomination of Mr. Mannaperumal Pillai in preference to Mr. Namakathan Pillai; for the subsequent resignation of Mr. Mannaperumal Pillai, and for the nomination of a Brahman to fill up his place; and
 (3) whether petitions and memorials were submitted to Government pressing the claims of the depressed classes for nomination; and with what result?

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- A.—(1) & (2) Nominations to taluk boards are made by the president of the district board whom the hon. Member may address in the matter.
 (3) Only a telegram was received from the Adi-Dravida Conference, Chingleput, and no action was taken as the power of appointing members of taluk boards rests with the president, district board.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Did the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government approve of this practice of nominating members of communities who are already more than well represented in the taluk or district boards?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—“I want notice of that question.”

Water-supply for Adi-Dravidas.

869 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: With reference to item No. 28 of the proceedings of the nineteenth meeting for 1922–23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on 18th January 1923, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table the scheme for grants to panchayats for water-supply for Adi-Dravidas?

A.—A copy of the extract relating to the proposal in question will be communicated to the hon. Member.

Appointment of Honorary Presidency Magistrates.

870 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the office of Honorary Presidency Magistrate was conferred upon Mr. E. S. Nicholas while he was Licence Superintendent of the Madras Corporation?

A.—Yes.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Does Mr. Nicholas still continue as Licence Superintendent of the Madras Corporation?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“No.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“For how long did he hold his appointment in the Corporation after he was appointed Honorary Presidency Magistrate?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“The exact date is not within the knowledge of the Government.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Are there any other employees of the Corporation of Madras holding the appointment of Honorary Presidency Magistrate?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“I am not able to answer the question without notice.”

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Facilities for employment, etc., of ex-war service men.

871 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table all the Government Orders passed by them since August 1914 granting facilities for assigning lands and for securing employment for ex-war service men, both combatants and non-combatants, and for the education of their children; and

(b) to state whether it is the intention of the Government to publish the gist of these Government Orders in the vernacular languages for distribution among the ex-war service men?

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

(Government Orders regarding employment for ex-service men)—

- (1) G.O. No. 1358, Revenue, dated 8th April 1918.
- (2) " " 362, Public, dated 26th April 1918.
- (3) " " 106, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 13th March 1919.
- (4) " " 232, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 23rd May 1919.
- (5) " " 235, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 26th May 1919.
- (6) " " 254, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 4th June 1919.
- (7) " " 417, Revenue (Special), dated 10th September 1919.
- (8) " " 320, Revenue (Special), dated 2nd November 1920.
- (9) " " 319, Public, dated 8th April 1922.
- (10) " " 74, Public, dated 5th February 1923.

(Government Orders regarding educational facilities for children of ex-service men)—

- (1) G.O. No. 402, Home (Education), dated 23rd March 1918.
- (2) " " 663, Home (Education), dated 23rd May 1918.
- (3) " " 973, Home (Education), dated 27th July 1918.
- (4) " " 478, Home (Education), dated 12th April 1919.
- (5) " " 831, Home (Education), dated 4th July 1919.
- (6) " " 1340, Home (Education), dated 31st October 1919.
- (7) " " 1225, Home (Education), dated 22nd October 1920.
- (8) " " 1384, Law (Education), dated 16th September 1921.
- (9) " " 1364, Law (Education), dated 21st September 1921.

* Vide Appendix A on page 2218 infra.

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(10) G.O. No. 1599, Law (Education), dated 10th November 1921.

(11) " " 1101, Law (Education), dated 22nd September 1922.

The hon. Member is also referred to the answer to question No. 886.

(b) The suggestion will be considered.

Issue of stationery to departments.

872 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the issues of stationery to each of the various departments during the years 1913-14 1921-22, 1922-23?

A.—The Stationery Office deals with articles of over 500 different kinds and makes issues direct to nearly 1,000 different offices. Many of these offices serve two or more departments of Government. The Government do not consider that the enormous labour involved in compiling the statement asked for by the hon. Member would be justified by the result.

Assignment of lands to depressed classes.

873 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table statements, districtwar and talukwar, giving the extent of lands assigned to members of the Adi-Dravida and other depressed classes for cultivation and for house-sites respectively since 1st April 1922?

A.—A statement showing for each district the extent of land assigned to Adi-Dravidas and other members of depressed classes for cultivation from 1st April 1922 to 31st December 1922 is appended.* Details for each taluk are not available. Government have no information as to the extent of land granted for house-sites.

Rate of court-fees in Revenue courts.

874 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAH : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Revenue Courts are demanding the higher rate of court-fees at Rs. 11-4-0 per Rs. 100 for all suits for rent presented under the Madras Estates Land Act irrespective of the suit amounts;

(b) whether the Local Government have issued directions to that effect;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints, if any, from the ryots, landholders and the zamindars; and

(d) whether the Government propose to frame rules under the Estates Land Act regarding suits for rent under Act I of 1908?

A.—(a) The Government have no information but are inquiring.

(b) & (c) No.

(d) The Government will consider the suggestion on receipt of the information referred to in (a).

* Vide Appendix B on page 2242 infra.

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APPENDIX A.

I—(1)

[Vide answer to question No. 871 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th March 1923, page 2216 supra.]

G.O. No. 1358, Revenue, dated 8th April 1918.

With a view to improve the prospects of men returning from the war in obtaining employment in the Government service, the Government resolve to issue the following orders:—

Miscellaneous.

(a) In applying the limit of age prescribed by article 51 of the Civil Service Regulations for admission into Government service, heads of departments shall exclude from a candidate's age any period during which he was actually serving in the combatant ranks of the army.

(b) All appointments in the Government service on pay not exceeding Rs. 15 per mensem from now onwards and for the period of the war should only be filled up temporarily, so that men returning from the war may have a chance of getting such appointments.

(c) All men who now enlist in the combatant ranks may immediately on enrolment put in an application through the Commanding Officer to the head of the department of Government service in which they would like to get an appointment on their return. Heads of departments should keep a register of these applications and when the posts come eventually to be filled up permanently, the claims of these registered applicants, if otherwise qualified and suitable, should be given preference to those of the men temporarily appointed.

2. One District and Sessions Judge has notified that he will not take as process-servers men who are of the military age (18 to 25) and fit for military service. The Government desire to commend for the consideration of all heads of departments the desirability of issuing a similar rule in regard to appointments in the offices under them.

(True extract)

A. R. KNAPP,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

- „ all heads of departments under Revenue.
- „ all departments of the Secretariat.
- „ all Assistant Recruiting Officers.
- „ all members of the Provincial Recruiting Board.

Copy to the Divisional Recruiting Officer, Bangalore.

- „ „ General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) Division (with C.L.).
- „ „ Secretary, Central Recruiting Board, Simla (with C.L.).

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(2)

G.O. No. 362, Public, dated 26th April 1918.

Read—the following paper:—

Question No. 47 asked and the answer given thereto at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 3rd April 1918.

47 Q.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that the Punjab Government have instructed their Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to give preferential treatment, in making appointments to the Public Service, those who have rendered meritorious War Service or who are closely related to those who have done so?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing similar orders in this Presidency?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any such considerations have so far influenced the Government in appointing Hindus, Muhammadans or Anglo-Indians to the Public Service in this Presidency?

47 A.—(1) & (2) The Government are not aware whether any such instructions have been issued in the Punjab, but they approve of the principle that in making public appointments preference should be given to those who have rendered meritorious active service and they will themselves issue orders commending it to all officers having powers of appointment.

(3) If in any instance such considerations arose, they could not fail, other things being equal, to have influenced the decision of Government. No specific case can however be cited.

Order—No. 362, Public, dated 26th April 1918.

Communicated to all heads of departments for information and guidance.

(True extract)

L. DAVIDSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors.

- „ all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary.
- „ all departments of the Secretariat (for communication to heads of departments under them).

(3)

G.O. No. 106, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 13th March 1919.

In making appointments to Government service during the demobilization of the army, the desirability of facilitating the settlement in civil life of European and Anglo-Indian officers and men released from the army in the East should be constantly borne in mind. In respect of every appointment in Government service which falls vacant during the next six months, the question should be carefully considered whether it should not be utilized for this purpose and, if it is decided so to utilize it, it should not be filled until the Secretary of the Employment and Labour Bureau, Madras, has been consulted and given a reasonable opportunity of representing the claims of

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men released or ready for release from the army. The Secretary will be glad to assist in obtaining the release of any officer or soldier selected for employment in Government service, whether the selection is made with his assistance or not.

2. Orders were issued in G.O. No. 1358, Revenue, dated the 8th April 1918, providing certain facilities for discharged Indian soldiers to secure suitable civil employment. Supplementary orders providing further facilities for them will, if necessary, be issued later.

(True extract)

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

„ the Board of Revenue (all departments).
„ all other Heads of Departments under the Revenue (Special) Department.
„ the Secretary, Employment and Labour Bureau, Madras.
„ all Departments of the Secretariat [except Financial (Pension)].

Copy to the Postmaster-General, Madras (with C.L.).

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

(4)

G.O. No. 232, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 23rd May 1919.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from Major C. W. GWYNNE, Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, to the Secretary, Provincial Recruiting Board, Madras, dated Delhi, the 14th February 1919, No. 26-I.S.B.

It has been suggested to the Board that opportunities might be found in the several provinces for the employment of discharged soldiers of the labouring class on projects, etc., for which sufficient labour is not forthcoming in the province itself. The Board would be glad if provincial boards would in all such cases communicate the requirements of their provinces to each other in order that full advantage may be taken of such opportunities. When there are vacancies for Indians of skilled categories, i.e., maistris, mechanics, clerks, etc., the information should be duplicated to the Secretary, Central Employment and Labour Board, Delhi or Simla.

Order—No. 232, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 23rd May 1919.

The letter from the Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, No. 26-I.S.B., dated 14th February 1919, on the subject of finding employment for discharged soldiers is communicated to all heads of departments. They are requested to have the requirements of their departments, when suitable vacancies occur, communicated to the District Soldiers' Committees concerned in the first instance and to employ discharged soldiers as far as

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possible. The Central Employment and Labour Board, Delhi or Simla, may be addressed if sufficient labour for projects, etc., is not forthcoming within the province.

(True extract)

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the heads of departments under Revenue (Special) Department.

„ the Board of Revenue (all departments).

„ all Collectors.

Copy to other departments of Secretariat for communication to heads of departments under them.

„ the General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.).
„ the Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, Simla (with C.L.).

(5)

G.O. No. 235, Revenue, (Special) (War), dated 26th May 1919.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from Major C. W. GWYNNE, Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, to the Secretary, Provincial Recruitment Board, Bihar and Orissa, Ranchi, dated Simla, the 9th May 1919, No. 207-I.S.B.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 90, dated the 21st April 1919, and to say that no lists of discharged soldiers desiring employment are maintained in this office. From other correspondence received, however, it appears that the procedure to be adopted in dealing with applications from Government or private offices for the services of ex-soldiers is not fully understood, and that some further explanation is necessary.

2. Under existing regulations for the employment of pensioned or discharged Indian soldiers or reservists contained in Appendix XXXVI, Army Regulations, India, Volume II, to which your attention is invited, the Recruiting officer of the class concerned maintains a register of men desiring employment, in which the nature of the work which each man seeks, and is fitted for, as well as his age, qualifications and character are recorded, and in general acts as a medium between would-be employers and those desirous of employment. He will afford any information that may be required on either side.

3. When therefore applications for the services of discharged soldiers are made to provincial boards, the latter should make use of the existing machinery and either themselves communicate with the Recruiting officer concerned or put the applicants in communication with him. I am to enclose, for your information, a revised list * of recruiting officers.

* Not printed.

No. 208-I.S.B.

Copy of the foregoing, together with a corrected copy of the list of Recruiting officers, is forwarded, for information and guidance, to the Secretary, Madras Soldiers' Board.

C. W. GWYNNE, Major,
Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board.

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Order—No. 235, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 26th May 1919.

Communicated to Collectors for the information of the District Soldiers' Committees.

2. When applications are received for the services of discharged soldiers, the District Committee concerned should place themselves in communication with the Divisional Recruiting Officer, Bangalore, or the Pension Paymaster, Madras. These officers keep a register of men who desire employment, in which the nature of the work which each man seeks, and is fitted for, as well as his age, qualifications and character are recorded.

(True extract)

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

Copy to the Divisional Recruiting Officer, Bangalore.
" Pension Paymaster, Madras.
" General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.).

(6)

G.O. No. 254, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 4th June 1919.

In G.O. No. 1358, Revenue, dated the 8th April 1918, the Government directed, with a view to ensuring employment in Government service to as many returned soldiers as possible, that the limit of age for admission to Government service should exclude periods served in the army, that appointments on Rs. 15 and under should only be filled up temporarily for the period of the war and that men enlisting should be entitled to put in applications for appointments to be given them on their return.

2. The Government are now pleased to extend the operation of these orders for a period of one year after the declaration of peace in order to cover the time of demobilization. This will not, however, prevent the permanent appointment of demobilized or retired non-commissioned officers and sepoys. The Government are further pleased to lay down as a permanent measure that, in filling vacancies of the above description, preference should always be given to men who have served in the army, provided that they are qualified by character and education.

3. In the case of the senior posts of the above description, it has been suggested that retired non-commissioned officers of good character and sufficient education are particularly suited for such posts as that of daffadar, as their military training enables them to maintain discipline among peons especially among men who have been sepoys. The Government do not wish to lay down any hard and fast rule in this connexion but commend the suggestion for consideration. At the same time, they do not wish deserving men of long service to be unfairly treated and will not object to permanent vacancies being filled up by promotions of men now in service, where the appointing officers think that demobilized or retired non-commissioned officers or sepoys cannot be appointed without unfairness to them.

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4. In order to ensure that full effect is given to these orders, they would suggest that officers who have appointments to fill should place themselves in communication with the District Soldiers' Committees who will recommend the names of discharged Indian soldiers who are suitable for these appointments.

(True extract)

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

" all heads of departments under Revenue (Special).
" other departments of the Secretariat for communication to heads of departments under them.
Copy to the General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.)

(7)

G.O. No. 417, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 10th September 1919.

Read—the following paper:—

Letter from F. J. NOBIS, Esq., Officiating Additional Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Establishments), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 8th August 1919, No. 2100.

I am directed to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 1077, dated the 3rd December 1918, on the subject of the grant of concessions in respect of age and seniority and preferential treatment in the matter of civil appointments under Government to those who have rendered service in assistance of the prosecution of the war.

2. In the Home Department Resolution No. 1099, dated the 8th August 1919, the Government of India have made the necessary announcements and I am to request that the orders on the subject already issued by the Government of Madras may be examined and such modifications made in them as may be necessary in the light of the resolution.

ENCLOSURE

Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Establishments),
No. 1099, dated Simla, the 8th/21st August 1919.

The Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the question of granting concessions in the matter of securing civil appointments under Government to those persons who have rendered service in connexion with the prosecution of the war. With the approval of the Secretary of State His Excellency in Council is pleased to make the following announcements:—

First, no person shall be in any way prejudiced either in securing a civil appointment or in respect of seniority in such appointment by the fact that he has rendered service in the prosecution of the war or by the fact that his entry into civil employment has been delayed by such service.

Secondly, applications from persons who have rendered such service shall *ceteris paribus* receive preferential treatment in the matter of civil appointments under Government.

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2. The following kinds of service shall be deemed to be service in the prosecution of the war :—

- (a) Service in the combatant ranks of the Army.
- (b) All other service involving subjection to military law under the Army Act, or the India Army Act, and service in the Indian Branch of the Indian Defence Force.
- (c) Clerical and other service under military and munitions authorities (i) overseas and (ii) in India.

Preferential treatment shall be given to the various kinds of service in the order indicated above and persons who have rendered active service shall be given preference over those who have not. In order to make good a claim to preferential treatment an applicant must satisfy the authority making the appointment that the service rendered was whole-time service and was also approved service.

3. In pursuance of these decisions every person who has rendered service of the character described above shall be permitted to deduct from his age for the purposes of Article 51, Civil Service Regulations, the period of such service rendered up to the date of his release from military or other duties and, if invalided from such service he shall be permitted to include for the purposes of deduction the period from the time when he was invalided up to the date on which the war may be declared to have ended under the provisions of the Termination of the Present War (Definition) Act, 1918, 8 & 9 Geo. V, C. 59.

4. Notwithstanding any rules or executive orders prescribing educational, professional or technical qualifications, any person who has rendered service of the nature already described and has been prevented thereby from acquiring such qualifications may, at the discretion of the authority competent to make an appointment for which such qualifications are required, be admitted to such appointment, provided that the educational, professional and technical attainments which he possesses are deemed sufficient for the adequate performance of the duties of the appointment.

5. The principles herein laid down are subject to the following general reservations, which local Governments and, under their instructions, officers subordinate to them will apply at their discretion :—

- (a) The application of these principles must be consistent with the public interest.
- (b) There must be no injustice to the claims of persons already in Government service who had no opportunity of rendering military service.
- (c) No person may be appointed to a post the duties of which he is not competent to perform.

The principles are also subject to such other reservations as any local Government, or in the case of posts under themselves the Government of India, may deem proper to adopt.

6. The Governor-General in Council is also authorized to announce that the question of the application of similar principles to the services recruited in England is under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

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Order.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all local Governments and Administrations, the several departments of the Government of India (including the Financial Adviser, Military Finance), and the offices subordinate to this department for information and guidance.

Ordered also that it be published in the supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

W. S. MARRIS,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Order—No. 417, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 10th September 1919.

Recorded.

2. The resolution of the Government of India, Home Department, No. 1099, dated 8th August 1919, will be republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for general information.

(True extract)

S. WADSWORTH,
Secretary to Government (in charge).

To all Collectors.

- „ the Board of Revenue (all departments).
- „ all heads of departments under Revenue (Special).
- „ the departments of the Secretariat (for communication to heads of departments under them).
- „ the Superintendent, Government Press (for republication of the notification).
- „ the Superintendent, Government Press (with C.L.).
- Copy to the Postmaster-General, Madras (with C.L.).
- „ General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.).

(8)

G.O. No. 320, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 2nd November 1920.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from M. H. ORMSBY, Esq., Chief Auditor, South Indian Railway, Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to Government, Separate Revenue, dated the 12th August 1920, No. T.S./E.B./I.

I have the honour to state that at the request of the Adjutant-General in India and by permission of the Agent, South Indian Railway Company, I have undertaken work in connexion with the employment in India of men who, after a course of training in the late Overseas Training School, Saidapet, of which I was Commandant, proceeded on service overseas and are now returning with satisfactory certificates.

2. The Agents of the South Indian Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Companies and the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, have been kind enough to accord their help, and I have the honour to request that I may be informed whether the Government of Madras will be so good as to consider in a preferential manner the applications of such men as may be desirous of obtaining junior clerical appointments in the various Government offices.

3. My records of the men who were trained and sent overseas contain a complete history of each individual, including his school record and experience before joining the Training School and his progress while under training; each man returning is given a discharge certificate indicating the manner in

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which he performed his duties overseas and many men, in addition to this certificate, bring personal certificates from the officers under whom they served. From this information lists are prepared periodically and officers receiving them are in a position to form a fair estimate of the capabilities of candidates.

4. The number of men who have returned hitherto is not great, but, as most of the men who were recruited were on agreements for a period of eighteen months or two years, large numbers are expected to be repatriated in the near future, and I am anxious to be in a position to keep the district officers of the various departments informed of the names and addresses and qualifications of the men available, and will be glad to be informed whether Government will be so good as to approve of the submission of such lists by me to their departmental officers and will assist further by directing that the applications of the candidates mentioned in these lists are to receive special consideration.

5. I venture to make this request as it was entirely due to the support which was accorded by His Excellency in the matter of providing accommodation for the Training School in the New Engineering College buildings at Guindy, that this school was established in the Presidency. Over 1,700 clerks were trained and sent to Mesopotamia and other war areas overseas and nearly all these men belonged to this Presidency and have done credit to it.

6. I enclose * a copy of Government of India Resolution No. 1099 of the 8th of August 1919 on the subject of concessions in the matter of securing civil employments to persons who have rendered services in connexion with the war, published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*, dated 23rd August 1919, for information in connexion with the general question.

Order—No. 320, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 2nd November 1920.

Mr. Ormsby's letter will be communicated to all heads of departments in continuation of G.O. No. 417, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 10th September 1919, with the request that preferential treatment may be given to applications for clerical employment received from men of the class to whom he refers.

2. The training which such men have undergone and their practical experience overseas should in the opinion of Government furnish as valuable an equipment for certain classes of clerical work as formal educational qualifications in respect of which they may perhaps not have attained a high standard, and under paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Resolution of the Government of India No. 1099, dated 8th/21st August 1919, they are partially exempt from ordinary rules as to age bar and examination qualifications.

(True extract)

J. M. TURING,

Tempy. Addl. Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

„ the Board of Revenue (all departments).

„ all heads of departments under Revenue (Special).

„ the departments of the Secretariat (for communication to heads of departments under them).

Copy to M. H. Ormsby, Esq.

„ the Publicity Officer.

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(9)

G.O. No. 319, Public, dated 8th April 1922.

Read—the following paper :—

Resolutions of the Madras Soldiers' Board, dated 15th March 1922.

The Board considers that the reorganization of District Soldiers' Committees should proceed on the lines laid down in Madras Government's letter, dated December 1920, to the Indian Soldiers' Board. The Indian Soldiers' Board letter No. 5650, dated 15th November 1921, will be communicated to the Presidents of all District Soldiers' Boards with a request for their specific recommendations within one month on the subject of the future of their district organization and the best method of employing the funds allotted. Their advice will be particularly requested as to the means to be adopted to revive and sustain interest in the most important matter of safeguarding the interests of ex-soldiers and to devise the new methods of getting into touch with those who require employment.

2. The Board is of opinion that the efforts hitherto made to give ex-soldiers clerical and other appointments in Government service have been disappointing. They recommend that Government should issue orders that all posts on less than Rs. 30 should be reserved for ex-sepoys until further orders and that in filling up vacancies in clerical appointments heads of departments under Government should be directed to give preference to ex-soldiers with the minimum qualifications and that they should report every half-year the number of appointments so made. The Board is of opinion that there should be special opportunities for the employment of ex-soldiers in the police and jail departments and they recommend that the Government should issue an appeal on similar lines to the leading firms and employers of labour.

3. The Board is of opinion that applications from ex-soldiers for grants of land should continue to receive preferential treatment and that with that end in view Collectors should insist on getting a report from the subordinate revenue staff as to the disposal of every application.

4. The Board is of opinion that further information is required as to the state of affairs in this Presidency before they can make any recommendation in this matter.

Order—No. 319, Public, dated 8th April 1922.

In the series of orders read above the Government have from time to time issued instructions to their subordinates which were designed to secure Government employment for those who served their country in the great war, either in the rank and file of the army or in military clerical appointments overseas. It recently came to the notice of the Government that the orders contained in G.O. No. 1358, Revenue, dated 8th April 1918, and G.O. No. 254, Revenue (Special), dated 4th June 1919, regarding the filling of posts on Rs. 15 or under had either been misunderstood or were being evaded, and that the heads of certain offices were only waiting until the prescribed period of one year after the declaration of peace had expired to confirm persons who have had no war service in appointments which it was intended should be filled by ex-soldiers. The enquiries which were made showed that out of 18,192 such appointments which fell vacant in all the offices in the Presidency since the issue of G.O. No. 1358 of 1918 only 3,131 had been filled by ex-army men. On the other hand, since the termination of the war eight temporary battalions and three pre-war battalions of Indian Infantry have

* Not printed.

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either been disbanded or are in process of disbandment, and even those units that remain have had to demobilise a considerable number of men in order to conform to post-war establishments. It is estimated that probably not less than 15,000 men have thus been demobilised—many of them compulsorily and without hopes of settled employment. There should therefore be large numbers of men suitable to fill the posts referred to above; and the Government recognize that it is incumbent on them to take every reasonable step they can to afford employment to those of them who seek it.

In the case of men who aspire for clerical appointments there are similar reasons to believe that the class of men referred to in G.O. No. 320, Revenue (Special), dated 2nd November 1920, have not always received the preferential treatment that it was intended to show to them; and though it may be a matter of more difficulty to find work for all who desire it, the Government consider that there is no reason why persons with no war service should be given appointments so long as there are suitable men who have been trained in the Overseas Training School, Saidapet, and who have served with credit in Mesopotamia and other war areas.

The Government have therefore decided to give effect to the resolution of the Madras Soldiers' Board read above; that is to say, in future all appointments in Government service on less than Rs. 35 in the mufassal and Rs. 40 in the City will be reserved for ex-sepoys until further orders, and in filling up vacancies in clerical appointments heads of departments will be requested to give preference to ex-soldiers with the minimum qualifications required for Government service and to clerks who have been trained in the Overseas Training school. Further, every effort should be made to replace acting men appointed since the issue of G.O. No. 1358, Revenue, of 1918 by the permanent appointment of ex-sepoys; and all heads of departments and Collectors are requested to submit a report every half year showing the number of appointments so made. The first of these reports should be sent by July 15th, 1922.

If any difficulty is found in securing suitable men, applications may be made to any of the following recruiting officers:—

Assistant Recruiting officer, Madras.
District Recruiting officer, Bangalore.
District Recruiting officer (Technical), Madras.
District Recruiting officer, Trichinopoly.

As regards clerical appointments, Mr. Ormsby, who has till recently been in charge of an Employment Bureau with the object of finding employment for clerks returning from work overseas, will shortly forward to Collectors the personal files of the men belonging to each of the different districts in the Presidency. If these do not provide sufficient material for the selection of such clerks as may be required, application may always be made to the Secretary of the Madras Soldiers' Board.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. A. GRAHAM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors and heads of departments,
,, the other Departments of the Secretariat.

Copy to the General Officer Commanding, Madras District.
" Mr. Ormsby.
" the Publicity Officer.

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(10)

G.O. No. 74, Public, dated 5th February 1923.

As there appears to be some doubt as to the interpretation of G.O. No. 319, Public, dated 8th April 1922, the Government wish to make their position clear in the matter of the employment of men with war service. During the war the Government pledged themselves to do all that they could to secure civil employment for men who had rendered service in connexion with the prosecution of the war and they wish all heads of departments to co-operate with them as far as they can in redeeming that pledge.

In G.O. No. 417, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 10th September 1919, the Government communicated to all heads of departments the resolution of the Government of India which is reprinted as an annexure to this order and the Government of India which is reprinted as an annexure to this order and which may be taken as a general statement of their policy. In G.O. No. 319, Public, dated 8th April 1922, the Government further directed that all appointments in Government Service on less than Rs. 35 in the mufassal and Rs. 40 in the city should be reserved for ex-sepoys until further orders and that in filling up vacancies in clerical appointments heads of departments should give preference to ex-soldiers with the minimum qualifications for Government service and to clerks who had been trained in the Overseas Training School.

They now find that the use of the word "ex-sepoys" in G.O. No. 319, Public, 8th April 1922, has led certain heads of offices to reject the claims of men who have had war service but not in the combatant ranks of the army, and that the phrase "ex-soldiers with minimum qualifications and clerks who have been trained in the Overseas Training School" has led to the exclusion of men who cannot strictly come under either of these descriptions but who would otherwise be prima facie suitable for employment in Government service.

As regards appointments on less than Rs. 35 (or Rs. 40 in the city) the Government agree that in deciding between two men, one of whom has actually seen service in the combatant ranks of the army and the other has not, preference should be given to the former; but at the same time they invite attention to paragraph 2 of the resolution of the Government of India referred to above and wish to make it clear that all those who served under military law during the war and especially those who went overseas either as combatants or as non-combatants (as for instance as Followers or in the Labour Corps) are entitled to consideration and should be regarded as included in the terms of G.O. No. 319, Public, dated 8th April 1922.

As regards clerical posts the Government wish that a similarly broad interpretation of their orders should be observed. The expression "minimum qualifications for Government service" should therefore be read in the light of paragraph 4 of the Government of India resolution and should be taken to mean those whose qualifications are deemed sufficient for the adequate performance of the duties of the appointment. In all such cases the Government will be prepared to consider the question of exemption from the requirements of the Public Services notification

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Finally the Government trust that all heads of departments will recognise that the matter is one to which the Government attach considerable importance and in which they must rely on the discretion of their officers to carry out their orders in the spirit in which they are intended.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. A. GRAHAM,
Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors and the Board of Revenue (all departments).
„ all heads of departments.
„ the Departments of the Secretariat.
Copy to the General Officer Commanding.
Editors' Table.

ANNEXURE.

*Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Establishments),
No. 1099, dated Simla, the 8th/21st August 1919.*

The Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the question of granting concessions in the matter of securing civil appointments under Government to those persons who have rendered service in connexion with the prosecution of the war. With the approval of the Secretary of State His Excellency in Council is pleased to make the following announcements:—

First, no person shall be in any way prejudiced either in securing a civil appointment or in respect of seniority in such appointment by the fact that he has rendered service in the prosecution of the war or by the fact that his entry into civil employment has been delayed by such service.

Secondly, applications from persons who have rendered such service shall *ceteris paribus* receive preferential treatment in the matter of civil appointments under Government.

2. The following kinds of service shall be deemed to be service in the prosecution of the war:—

(a) Service in the combatant ranks of the Army.

(b) All other service involving subjection to military law under the Army Act, or the India Army Act, and service in the Indian Branch of the Indian Defence Force.

(c) Clerical and other service under military and munitions authorities (i) overseas and (ii) in India.

Preferential treatment shall be given to the various kinds of service in the order indicated above and persons who have rendered active service shall be given preference over those who have not. In order to make good a claim to preferential treatment, an applicant must satisfy the authority making the appointment that the service rendered was whole-time service and was also approved service.

3. In pursuance of these decisions every person who has rendered service of the character described above shall be permitted to deduct from his age for the purposes of article 51, Civil Service Regulations, the period of such

[18th March 1923]

service rendered up to the date of his release from military or other duties and, if invalided from such service, he shall be permitted to include for the purposes of deduction the period from the time when he was invalided up to the date on which the war may be declared to have ended under the provisions of the Termination of the Present War (Definition) Act, 1918, 8 & 9 Geo. V, C. 59.

4. Notwithstanding any rules or executive orders prescribing educational, professional or technical qualifications, any person who has rendered service of the nature already described and has been prevented thereby from acquiring such qualifications may, at the discretion of the authority competent to make an appointment for which such qualifications are required, be admitted to such appointment, provided that the educational, professional and technical attainments which he possesses are deemed sufficient for the adequate performance of the duties of the appointment.

5. The principles herein laid down are subject to the following general reservations, which local Governments and, under their instructions, officers subordinate to them will apply at their discretion:—

(a) The application of these principles must be consistent with the public interest.

(b) There must be no injustice to the claims of persons already in Government service who had no opportunity of rendering military service.

(c) No person may be appointed to a post the duties of which he is not competent to perform.

The principles are also subject to such other reservations as any local Government, or in the case of posts under themselves the Government of India, may deem proper to adopt.

6. The Governor-General in Council is also authorized to announce that the question of the application of similar principles to the services recruited in England is under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

II—(1)

G.O. No. 402, Home (Education), dated 23rd March 1918.

The Government have for some time past had under consideration the question of adding to the attractions of enlistment in the combatant branches of the Army and they are of opinion that an educational concession in favour of the children of those who enlist is likely to be appreciated and to give encouragement to recruiting. The Government accordingly direct that the children of men who have enlisted in the combatant branches of the Army since the outbreak of the war should, so long as they remain in the service, be exempt from payment of fees in elementary schools and allowed to pay half the standard rates of fees in colleges and secondary schools.

2. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to forward for approval the necessary amendments to the Educational Rules.

(True extract)

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
„ Accountant-General.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Local and Municipal Department.

[13th March 1923]

(2)

G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated 23rd May 1918.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from the Hon'ble Sir E. D. MACLAGAN, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Education), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department, dated Simla, the 2nd April 1918, No. 213.

The Government of India having received replies from all Local Governments to their circular No. 395, dated the 2nd of May 1917, I am desirous to enclose a set of rules which have been drawn up by the Government of India as a guide to local Governments in the grant of concessions to meet the education of the children of Indian soldiers.

2. It will be observed that the rules apply to the children of all men of all ranks, whether combatant or non-combatant; they would affect the children of all such men who have died or been incapacitated while on the active list whether at the front or not; and it is intended that they shall be applicable to the case of the children of men who have so died or been incapacitated both during and after the conclusion of the present war.

3. The rules are intended primarily to apply to the case of children studying in the ordinary schools, but they are not inconsistent with the establishment or employment of special schools if the local Government should desire to apply them to such schools. The Government of India would indeed suggest that in the case of (a) institutions intended exclusively for soldiers' children, (b) institutions dealing with a special *clientele* of an analogous character such as Rajput or Gurkha schools and (c) institutions of an industrial and non-literary character, efforts should be made to render the scholarships somewhat more attractive than in the case of ordinary schools.

4. It is contemplated that scholarships at high schools and colleges which would be reserved for pupils under these rules should be scholarships specially added to those at present available.

5. The rules would be applicable to girls as well as boys and it is hoped that special efforts may be made to utilize them so as to encourage the education of the girls to whom they are applicable.

6. They will also be applicable with such modifications as local Governments may think necessary to the case of the children of European and Anglo-Indian soldiers and in the case of Europeans it will often be possible to make use of the existing institutions for the children of European soldiers.

7. If any difficulties should arise as to the manner in which the rules should be worked, it should be remembered that the rules are only intended to indicate the general system on which the Government of India would suggest that the concessions should be arranged and local Governments which adopt the rules would in matters of detail and interpretation be free to issue their own orders. In doing so it is hoped that they will deal with the question in a liberal spirit. The cost of the scheme, which in most provinces will be inconsiderable, will appear in the civil estimates and will, like other educational expenditure, be Provincial. It is hoped that in respect of board schools the local bodies concerned will see their way to meet any expenditure

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falling directly on them in consequence of the scheme, but in cases where this cannot be arranged, it will be open to local Governments to refund the cost entailed to the local bodies.

8. In conclusion I am to draw attention to the fact that the initiation of this project has been subject to some unavoidable delay and to express a hope that arrangements may be made so as to allow of a scheme of the character now suggested being brought into working as soon as possible.

ENCLOSURE.

Suggested scheme for the education of the children of soldiers.

1. The scheme below will apply to the children (boys and girls) of all men of whatever rank, whether combatants or non-combatants, who have since 4th August 1914 died while on the active list duty or become permanently incapacitated owing to wounds or disease contracted while on the active list.

2. A list of all such persons in the form below, showing their place of residence, will be sent by the Adjutant-General to the Collector of each district in British territory for disposal under these rules. A similar list for Native States will be sent to the Secretary, Foreign and Political Department, for such action as that department may determine. Supplementary lists will be forwarded at the beginning of each calendar year.

3. The Collector on receipt of the list will ascertain and record the names and ages of all children under sixteen years of age (due regard being had in the case of girls to the customary feelings of the people as regards the recording of such names) of the men mentioned in the list and, subject to proviso (iii) of rule 4, will communicate to their guardians a certificate for each child stating that he or she is entitled to the benefit of these rules.

4. Any child producing such a certificate before the head of an educational institution will be entitled, under such rules as may be issued by the local Government,—

(a) to free primary education plus a small annual allowance to cover incidental expenses such as books;

(b) to a scholarship in any middle school, such scholarship being of the amount ordinarily given in the province and including (if this is not already the practice) the cost of fees;

(c) without prejudice to their competency for open scholarships to enter in competition for such scholarships in high schools and colleges as the local Government may reserve for the benefit of persons, possessing a certificate as above.

(NOTE.—When the pupil resides in a hostel and the ordinary scholarship does not cover hostel charges an addition will be made to the scholarship to cover such charges.)

Provided that—

(i) a concession or scholarship under these rules may be withdrawn if, in the opinion of the Inspector of Schools concerned, the progress of the pupil is inadequate or his conduct unsatisfactory;

(ii) no scholarship will be given to a pupil who has not passed such test as may be prescribed for entry into the class of school for which the scholarship is given; and

(iii) concessions or scholarships will not be open to children who up to the age of 10 have not attended any school.

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5. The Government will not interfere with the discretion of the guardians as to the institution to which the child should be sent, and the Local Government will make such arrangements as are necessary to recoup the authorities of institutions other than Government institutions to which children may be sent under these rules.

6. It will be open to the officer commanding any military unit to address the Collector concerned for information regarding the education of the children of any man of his unit coming under the category described in rule 1 above, and the Collector will give such information as is possible in reply to such enquiries.

Form.

1. Name and father's name and caste.
2. Unit and rank and number.
3. Division in India to which attached.
4. Whether (a) died or (b) permanently incapacitated owing to wounds or disease while on the active list since 4th August 1914.
5. Residence. Village, tahsil or taluka, district and Province.

Order—No. 663, Home (Education), dated 23rd May 1918.

The letter from the Government of India No. 213 (Education), dated the 2nd April 1918, with its enclosure is communicated to the Director of Public Instruction and to all Collectors of districts.

2. The Government are pleased to direct that the children of deceased or incapacitated Indian soldiers who produce the certificate referred to in paragraph 3 of the scheme framed by the Government of India be admitted without payment of fees into all elementary and secondary schools under public management. Managers of aided institutions are invited to grant similar concessions to the children seeking admission into their institutions. To induce them to do so, the Director of Public Instruction is empowered to compensate them up to the amount of the fee income foregone in the case of the children in question and this sum should be added to the grant otherwise admissible to the institution under the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

3. The Government are also pleased to authorize the incurring of expenditure in the provision of books, etc., for the pupils up to the limits specified below :—

Primary schools—Rs. 12 per annum per pupil.
Middle schools (Forms I to III)—Rs. 14 per annum per pupil.
High schools (Forms IV to VI)—Rs. 30 " "

The amount required for the purchase of books, etc., for pupils attending primary schools will be disbursed by the Assistant Inspector of Schools of the district. In the case of pupils reading in the middle and high schools the headmaster of the institution concerned is authorized to incur the necessary charges up to the limits specified. The amounts incurred in respect of pupils in aided institutions will be made good by Government at the time the annual grant is fixed.

4. The Government hope that local bodies will meet from their own funds any expenditure falling directly on them in consequence of the grant of the concessions.

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5. The continuance of the concessions herein sanctioned will be subject to the conditions laid down in paragraph 4 of the scheme and to any other regulations that may be framed by the Director of Public Instruction.

6. The question of the grant of concessions to pupils seeking admission into industrial schools or colleges and to those residing in hostels will be reserved for future consideration.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- " all Collectors of districts.
- " the Accountant-General (through Financial Department).
- " the Financial Department.
- " the Revenue Department.
- " the Local and Municipal Department.
- " all Presidents of District Boards.
- " all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.

Copy to the officer in charge of the Department of Industries.
" Public Department.
" General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) Division (with C.L.).

Editors' Table.

(3)

G.O. No. 973, Home (Education), dated 24th July 1918.

The Government direct that the concessions sanctioned in G.O. No. 402, Home (Education), dated 23rd March 1918, be extended to the children of sepoys who enlisted in the combatant branches of the Army prior to the outbreak of the war, so long as they remain in the service.

2. The orders issued in paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 595, Home (Education), dated 7th May 1918, in regard to the payment of compensation to managers of aided institutions who may grant the concessions will apply to the present case also.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

- To the Director of Public Instruction.
- " Accountant-General (through Financial).
 - " Revenue Department.
 - " Financial Department.
 - " Local and Municipal Department.

Editors' Table.

(4)

G.O. No. 478, Home (Education), dated 12th April 1919

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from the Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, C.S.I., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Education), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department, dated Delhi, the 12th February 1919, No. 165.

In continuation of this department letter No. 213, dated the 2nd of April 1918, regarding the grant of concessions to meet the education of the child

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of Indian soldiers, I am desired to forward a copy of a Circular No. 07389-20, dated the 27th January 1919, from the Adjutant-General in India to General Officers Commanding Divisions and Independent Brigades.

2. From the enclosure to my letter of the 2nd of April 1918, it will be observed that the scheme suggested by the Government of India was intended to benefit the children of all persons who have, since the 4th of August 1914, (i) become permanently incapacitated while on the active list and (ii) died while on the active list. In the Circular now enclosed arrangements have been made that the lists of all such persons should be supplied to Collectors by the Officers Commanding Depots and Units instead of by the Adjutant-General as laid down in paragraph 2 of the scheme forwarded with the letter of the 2nd of April 1918.

3. I am to add that, as a result of recent correspondence with the Secretary of State, the Government of India desire to emphasise the fact that, as noted in paragraph 1 of the suggested scheme, the proposals apply to the children of men of whatever rank and that they will be applicable accordingly to the children of Indian officers as well as to those of non-commissioned officers and rank and file. They also desire, with reference to paragraph 4 (c) of the suggested scheme, to intimate their wish that such provision as is made for scholarships in high schools and colleges should be on a liberal scale. They would also suggest, with reference to the third proviso of rule 4 of the scheme, that the exclusion of children who up to the age of ten years have not attended any school should not be too rigorously enforced in cases where hardship might ensue and this restriction should always be waived in cases where adequate private arrangements have been made for the elementary education of such children.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter from the Adjutant-General in India, to the General Officers Commanding all Divisions and Independent Brigades, dated Simla, the 27th January 1919, No. 07389-20 (A.G.-5).

In substitution of the instructions contained in this office letter No. 07389-1 (A.G.-5), dated 7th October 1918, I am to request that Officers Commanding Depots and Units should be directed to adopt the following procedure with regard to the submission of the lists in connexion with the "Suggested scheme for the education of the children of soldiers" promulgated under Education Department letter No. 213, dated 2nd April 1918, which was forwarded to you under this office letter referred to above:—

(a) Lists of all persons, of whatever rank, who have since 4th August 1914 died while serving at their ordinary duties in India, shall be forwarded to the Collector of each district in British territory. Similar lists for Indian States shall be forwarded to the Secretary, Foreign and Political Department.

(b) Lists of all persons, of whatever rank, who have since 4th August 1914 been permanently incapacitated from earning a living owing to wounds or disease contracted while on the active list, whether while serving with the forces in the field or in India, shall be forwarded to the Collector of each district in British territory. Similar lists for Indian States shall be forwarded to the Secretary, Foreign and Political Department. These lists will include only those persons who draw pensions for wounds and injuries of the 1st or 2nd degree, i.e., permanent incapacitation as defined in paragraph 1058, Army Regulations, India, Volume I.

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2. The information with regard to each person on the lists referred to in (a) and (b) above should be such as is required in the form below the scheme promulgated under Education Department letter No. 213, dated 2nd April 1918.

3. Attention is drawn to the concluding sentence of paragraph 2 of the scheme, and with reference thereto Officers Commanding Depots and Units should forward supplementary lists at the beginning of each calendar year.

4. The first lists should be furnished with the least possible delay.

Order—No. 478, Home (Education), dated 12th April 1919.

The letter from the Government of India, Department of Education, read above, with its enclosure, is communicated to the Director of Public Instruction and to all Collectors of districts.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ all Collectors of districts.
- „ the Accountant-General (through Financial).
- „ the Financial Department.
- „ the Revenue (Special) (War) Department (with notes).
- „ the Revenue Department.
- „ the Local and Municipal Department.
- „ all Presidents of District Boards and Chairmen of Municipal Councils.

(5)

G.O. No. 831, Home (Education), dated 4th July 1919.

In G.Os. No. 402, Home (Education), dated the 23rd March 1918, and No. 973, Home (Education), dated the 24th July 1918, the Government sanctioned the grant of certain educational concessions to the children of Indian soldiers so long as they remained in the service. At the instance of the Government of India they also sanctioned in G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated the 23rd May 1918, similar and enlarged concessions in favour of the children of soldiers who had died or been incapacitated while on the active list. The Madras Soldiers' Board now recommends that concessions in the matter of education should be extended to the children of soldiers discharged on other than medical grounds but not for misconduct or inefficiency. The Government accept the recommendation of the Board and are pleased to direct that the children of such soldiers be admitted into all elementary schools under public management on payment of half the standard rates of fees and, in addition, be furnished with books, slates, etc., at a cost not exceeding Rs. 6 per annum per pupil. Managers of aided institutions are invited to grant similar concessions to children of the above class seeking admission into their institutions. The Director of Public Instruction is hereby empowered to compensate the managers to the extent necessary at the time the annual grant is fixed.

[13th March 1923]

2. The Government hope that local bodies will meet from their own funds any expenditure falling directly on them in consequence of the grant of concession.

3. The parent of every child claiming the concessions herein sanctioned should provide himself with a certificate as to the child's eligibility signed by the Secretary to the District Soldiers' Committee or by the Collector of the district, the Divisional Officer, the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar in charge of the area in which he resides. The certificate should be left in the custody of the headmaster or manager of the school into which the child is admitted for the period of instruction in the school. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to prescribe the form in which the certificate should be prepared after consulting Collectors and Soldiers' Committees of selected districts.

4. The Government are also pleased to accept the recommendation of the Madras Soldiers' Board that, if a discharged soldier dies within twelve months of his discharge, his children should become entitled to the full privileges admissible under G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated the 23rd May 1918.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ all Collectors of districts.
- „ the Accountant-General (through the Financial Department).
- „ the Financial Department.
- „ the Revenue (Special) (War) Department.
- „ the Revenue Department.
- „ the Local and Municipal Department.
- „ all Presidents of District Boards and Chairmen of Municipal Councils.

Editors' Table.

(6)

G.O. No. 1340, Home (Education), dated 31st October 1919.

The Government are pleased to authorize Collectors of districts to extend at their discretion the educational concessions sanctioned in G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated the 23rd May 1918, to brothers and sisters of deceased or incapacitated soldiers if they were solely dependent on such soldiers and are left without other means of support.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collectors of districts.

- „ Publicity Officer.
- „ Director of Public Instruction.
- „ Local and Municipal Department.
- „ Financial Department.
- „ Accountant-General.
- „ Revenue Department.
- „ Revenue (Special) Department.

(7)

G.O. No. 1225, Home (Education), dated 22nd October 1920.

The Government direct that, in determining the fee concessions admissible under G.Os. No. 402, Home (Education), dated 23rd March 1918, and No. 831, Home (Education), dated 4th July 1919, to the children of Indian

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soldiers belonging to one of the recognized backward classes or communities mentioned in rule 102 of the Madras Educational Rules, the standard rates of fees shall be taken to be half the rates prescribed for ordinary pupils. Thus if the pupils are eligible for half-fee concession under the above-mentioned orders, they should be required to pay only a quarter of the standard rate of fees.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ all Collectors.
- „ the Accountant-General.
- „ the Financial Department.
- „ the Revenue Department.
- „ the Revenue (Special) Department.
- „ the Local and Municipal Department.
- „ all Presidents of District Boards.
- „ all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
- „ the Publicity Officer.

(8)

G.O. No. 1334, Law (Education), dated 16th September 1921.

The Government are pleased to extend the concessions sanctioned in G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated 23rd May 1918, to the children of all Indian soldiers, whether combatant or non-combatant, who were on the active list between the 4th August 1914 and the 11th November 1919 and are not in affluent circumstances, and to the children of all ranks of the Imperial Service Troops who are residents of British India and who were on the active list between the above-mentioned dates in all cases in which the parents or guardians of such children are not in affluent circumstances.

2. The Government hope that local bodies will meet from their own funds any expenditure falling directly on them in consequence of the grant of the concessions.

3. The parent or guardian of every child claiming the concessions herein sanctioned should provide himself with a certificate as to the child's eligibility therefor signed by the Secretary to the District Soldiers' Committee or by an officer of the Revenue Department of not lower rank than the Deputy Tahsildar.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

P. C. DUTT,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ all Collectors of districts.
- „ „ Presidents of District Boards.
- „ „ „ Educational Councils.
- „ „ „ Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
- „ the President, Corporation of Madras.
- „ „ Accountant-General (through Finance Department).
- „ „ Publicity Officer.
- „ „ Public Department.
- „ „ Finance Department.
- „ „ Revenue Department.
- „ „ Local Self-Government Department.
- „ „ Development Department.
- „ „ General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) division (with C.L.).

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(9)

G.O. No. 1364, Law (Education), dated 21st September 1921.

Read—the following paper:—

Letter from A. G. LEACH, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Ramnad at Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department, dated Madura, the 13th August 1921, No. R.O.C. 8187-21-A-7.

A pre-war military pensioner has applied to me for the grant of educational concessions to his children. In the case stated in G.O. No. 1204, dated 16th October 1920, the applicant was a pre-war pensioner, but the point then under consideration was the definition of school, not the status of the applicant and there appears to be no specific order extending the concession to pre-war pensioners.

2. The object of the original concession (G.O. No. 402, dated 23rd March 1918) was to encourage recruiting and the subsequent extensions of it were directed to the same object. There appears to be no suggestion in the various papers on the subject that a man who had taken his pension years before the war began should enjoy the concessions.

3. I therefore solicit definite orders in the matter.

Order—No. 1364, Law (Education), dated 21st September 1921.

The Collector of Ramnad is informed that the children of soldiers who retired on pension or were discharged prior to the outbreak of the Great War are not entitled to the educational concessions sanctioned in G.O. No. 831, Home (Education), dated the 4th July 1919.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

P. C. DUTT,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ramnad.

Copy to all other Collectors of districts.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Public (War) Department.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Local Self-Government Department.
" the Presidents of District Boards.
" the Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
" the Publicity Officer.

(10)

G.O. No. 1599, Law (Education), dated 10th November 1921.

In paragraph 6 of G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated the 23rd May 1918, the Government stated that the question of the grant of educational concessions to the children of deceased or incapacitated soldiers seeking admission into colleges will be reserved for future consideration. The Government are now pleased to direct that such children who produce the certificate referred in paragraph 3 of the scheme framed by the Government of India be admitted without payment of fees into all colleges under public management. Managers of aided colleges are invited to grant similar concessions to such children seeking admission into their institutions. To induce

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them to do so, the Director of Public Instruction is empowered to compensate them up to the amount of the fee income foregone in the case of the children in question and this sum shall be added to the amount otherwise admissible to the institution under the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

2. The Government hope that the Municipal Council, Salem, will meet from its own funds any expenditure falling directly on it in consequence of the grant of the concessions.

3. The continuance of the concession herein sanctioned will be subject to the condition laid down in paragraph 4 of the scheme framed by the Government of India and to any other regulations that may be framed by the Director of Public Instruction.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

P. C. DUTT,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" all Collectors of districts.
" the Accountant-General (through Finance Department).
" the Finance Department.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Local Self-Government Department.
" the Chairman, Municipal Council, Salem.

Copy to the Public Department.
" Officer in charge of the Department of Industries.
" General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) Division (with C.L.).

Editors' Table.

(11)

G.O. No. 1101, Law (Education), dated 22nd September 1922.

The Government are pleased to authorize Collectors of districts to extend at their discretion the educational concessions sanctioned in G.O. No. 663, Home (Education), dated 23rd May 1918, to brothers and sisters of all Indian soldiers, whether combatant or non-combatant, who were on the active list between the 4th August 1914 and the 11th November 1919 and to the brothers and sisters of men in all ranks of the Imperial Service Troops who are residents of British India and who were on the active list between the abovementioned dates, if they are solely dependent on such soldiers and are left without other means of support.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Collectors of districts.
" Publicity Officer.
" Presidents of District Boards.
" Presidents of District Educational Councils.
" Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
" President, Corporation of Madras.
" Accountant-General (through the Finance Department).
" Finance Department.
" Public Department.
" Local Self-Government Department.

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APPENDIX B

[Vide answer to question No. 873 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th March 1923, page 2217 supra.]

Extent of land assigned to the depressed classes for cultivation from 1st April 1922 to 31st December 1922.

	ACS.		ACS.
1. Agency ...	Nil.	13. Guntur ...	2,135.22
2. Anantapur ...	1,920.88	14. Kistna ...	1,039.89
3. North Arcot ...	966.42	15. Kurnool ...	2,101.00
4. South Arcot ...	217.85	16. Madura ...	1,879.74
5. Bellary ...	1,067.98	17. Nellore ...	1,292.77
6. South Kanara ...	13.44	18. The Nilgiris ...	Nil.
7. Chingleput ...	474.25	19. Ramnad ...	37.45
8. Chittoor ...	486.99	20. Salem ...	140.83
9. Coimbatore ...	366.90	21. Tanjore ...	73.17
10. Cuddapah ...	1,031.54	22. Tinnevely ...	203.20
11. Ganjam ...	343.81	23. Trichinopoly ...	470.05
12. Godavari ...	112.08	24. Vizagapatam ...	45.34

III

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table G.O. No. 98, Judicial (Police), dated 1st March 1923, regarding the payment of gratuities to members of the City Police staff who worked in connexion with the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.*

IV

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND II—EXCISE.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I beg to move Demand II—Excise Department—for the appropriation from the provincial receipts for the year 1923-24 of a sum of Rs. 29.07 lakhs."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Mr. President, as the circumstances of this particular vote are very peculiar, I would request permission to raise a general point of order before the House embarks upon the discussion of details.

"I may say at the outset that we have long since submitted proposals to the Government of India for the separation of Salt and Excise, and hoped to have received orders before the Budget. Unfortunately, there has been some difficulty at Delhi about the figures and we have had no reply from the Government of India yet. Nor have I received any answer to a telegram despatched on Saturday asking for permission to communicate the correspondence to the Council. We are, therefore, left with the same unsatisfactory situation that we had last year of a joint Budget which is voted upon by two different assemblies, this Council as regards Excise and the Legislative Assembly as regards Salt. The position is rendered more difficult because some of the items that go to make up the gross total, which is ultimately

* Vide Appendix C on page 2801 infra.

13th March 1923] [Sir Charles Todhunter]

divided in the proportion of two-thirds to one-third, relate entirely to Salt works and others entirely to Excise establishment, while the majority are for work relating to both branches.

"The matter was discussed last year and hon. Members were good enough to accept a sort of convention that items relating purely to Salt works should be left untouched and that votes for reduction of items which belonged both to Salt and Excise should not exceed two-thirds of the total amount so as to leave the one-third that belonged to the Salt administration intact.

"The legal position is somewhat obscure. It might perhaps have been contended that the only votable item here is a provincial share of the gross total. But that is a contention which, whether it was legally correct or not, I should never have ventured to suggest. On the other hand, short of that, it is difficult to see how the interests of the Central Subjects, for which I am responsible, can be safeguarded. I think the best means of doing this would be to adopt a convention on the lines of that which was adopted last year.

"I do not know if I am entitled to ask you for a ruling to this effect; but, if not, I would ask hon. Members who are moving motions on the subject to give me this extent of assistance in my administration of the central branch of the subject."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Probably the hon. Member will tell me exactly what the point of order is."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The point is whether the vote of this House on an item which refers purely to Salt administration can be taken and whether this House is competent, in the case of an item which refers to both branches of the department, to cut out more than two-thirds; in other words, to cut out the portion of the joint staff which serves the Salt Department and not the Excise Department."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Hon. Members may remember the discussion we had last year on this subject. It was then I think that several hon. Members were good enough to waive their motions on the assurance given by the hon. the Finance Member that before the Budget came forward again the two items would be separated. But, unfortunately, that has not been done. I am not blaming the hon. the Finance Member for it. No doubt, there is some difficulty in the matter. But the question, so far as we are concerned, is what exactly our powers are in regard to the items in the Excise Budget, and on this I have no hesitation in ruling that the powers of the House are complete. The only items which the Council is not competent to deal with are the italicized items which His Excellency has withheld from the vote of this House. The whole Budget is placed before the House by His Excellency, and it is perfectly competent to the House to vote upon any of the non-italicized items. But, at the same time, I think there will be no use in not recognizing the fact that any vote that the House might give so far as it affects the Salt Department will be really of no value, because the Council is not competent to deal with matters of expenditure which are not debitable to the provincial revenues. Therefore, it has to be understood that any retrenchment which the House may make will operate only so far as the percentage of expenditure is debitable to the provincial finances. I dare say it could not be very difficult for the hon. the Finance Member later on to make the necessary adjustments. That is all I can say at this stage. But it will be manifestly inconvenient in regard to these items to say just now how

[The President]

[13th March 1923]

far they relate to Salt or to Abkāri. The best thing will be to deal with the two departments as one. But, at the same time, if any motion for retrenchment should be passed, then of course the question how much of it will pertain to Salt, and how much to Abkāri, will have to be considered, and in putting the matter finally to the vote, we shall, if possible, try to split up any such item with the help of the hon. the Finance Member."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I take it, Sir, that you propose that we deal with this question at the close of this demand. Or would it be more convenient in the case of such items, as you have anticipated, to move for a supplementary demand on the 27th for any items necessary for the Salt administration?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think it will be well not to tie ourselves up to any decision just now."

MOTION No. 32.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—Sir, I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for two Deputy Commissioners.

"The Excise Department is one of those departments to which some of the general remarks I had to make during the general discussion of the Budget apply with very great force. One of the points, Sir, on the non-official side of this House that have been pressed on the Government is to consider the necessity for a long chain of officers who are supervising the work of those below each of them and so on up to the last man and for bringing into existence a more satisfactory and a more effective arrangement for the administration of the department. As I said, my general remarks apply with very great force to this particular department of Excise. In this department you have the lowest man who is called the salt peon; then you have the Sub-Inspector above him who is supposed to go out and do the work. Above him you have the Assistant Inspector whose functions it is rather difficult to indicate. It may be said that all these officers are necessary to supervise those under them and in that way lead to efficiency in the department. Above the Assistant Inspector again, you have the Inspector who probably has some executive powers in addition to those of supervision. Above him you have the Assistant Commissioners and then the Deputy Commissioners, and above these Deputy Commissioners you have the Commissioner. In addition to all these, you have also a Secretary to the Commissioner and thus there are a hierarchy of officials in this department.

"A layman like me who is not trained in the purely official method of doing things does not find any justification for this long chain of officers in one single department. I do not know, Sir, whether this long chain leads to absolute efficiency; but even if it does tend to the efficient working of the department, I should think we should be satisfied with even less efficiency and run this department with a smaller chain of officials. We, non-officials, really doubt whether this long chain of officials does tend to efficiency at all and whether the length of the chain itself does not lead to inefficiency in certain matters. By the Central Provinces Retrenchment Committee and by one or two other Retrenchment Committees, it has been suggested that there is no necessity for a Commissioner to look after Excise alone. Probably a Commissioner or a Director for Excise and Registration will amply serve the purpose. It is enough if one gentleman is

13th March 1923] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

asked to look after both the departments. I believe one or two provincial Governments are already contemplating the clubbing together of these two departments under one Director on the lines recommended by the Retrenchment Committees. I would appeal to the hon. the Minister for Excise to give serious consideration to the proposal of appointing one Director or Commissioner for both Excise and Registration. I hope he will not repeat the usual cry of efficiency and say that we have had the present system for very many years and that it is not easy to change it. In the Excise Department, we have three Deputy Commissioners and in addition to them we have the Assistant Commissioners. I do not see any necessity for having the link of the Deputy Commissioners between the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioners. There is one Deputy Commissioner in the I.C.S. cadre who is said to be non-votable and so I have not been able to include him in this motion. Confining myself to the other two Deputy Commissioners who are votable, I should consider that there is no necessity at all for them. I have left the other Deputy Commissioner out of account not because I approve of his retention but because he does not come within the purview of the Vote of this House. The hon. the Minister for Excise was of the same opinion as most of us when he was out of office, and I hope he will give effect to his own views.

"With regard to the splitting up of the Salt and Excise Departments it was said that the matter was under correspondence with the Government of India. In answer to a question of mine, the hon. the Minister for Excise said that the question of differentiating between the establishment necessary for Salt and that necessary for Excise was under correspondence with the Government of India and final orders were expected. Well, Sir, there are only two possible answers for this reference to the Government of India. One is the Government of India may accept the proposal. In that case I should like to know from the hon. the Minister what the position of these officers will be: whether they will continue or not. The other possible answer from the Government of India is that they are unable to accept the recommendations of the Local Government. Even in that case, I should press for the abolition of these two officers and I should like to know whether the hon. the Minister would give effect to the abolition of these posts. I do hope that the hon. the Minister has not changed the strong views which he held before entering the *sanctum sanctorum* and that he will adhere to them and give effect to them now."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. As has been pointed out, there are three Deputy Commissioners between the Assistant Commissioners on the one side and the Commissioner on the other. It seems to me that there is not enough work for these Deputy Commissioners. I think that the work is not likely to suffer in any way if the whole cadre of Deputy Commissioners is once for all abolished.

"With reference to the motions under this head, the hon. the Finance Member said just now that the officers did work connected with the Salt Department, which was wholly Imperial, and the Excise Department, which was wholly Provincial, and that the proportion of expenditure borne by these two Governments, namely Imperial and Provincial, was in the ratio of 1:2. He appealed to the House to help him in the administration of Salt which was purely an Imperial subject. Personally I am willing to help the hon.

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

[13th March 1923]

the Finance Member in all possible ways, and I believe the entire House will also be willing to render him any assistance he may require. Leaving aside for a moment the proportion of expenditure that is to be borne by the Imperial and the Provincial Governments, it seems to me that there is no difficulty whatever in discussing these motions on the combined Department of Excise and Salt. It has nowhere been laid down that any particular rank of officers, say the Deputy Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner, should do the work connected with the Imperial Government and the other officers should do the work connected with the Provincial Government. In the absence of any such restriction, there is no difficulty whatever in getting rid of the votable Deputy Commissioners.

"With regard to the legal difficulty raised by my hon. friend, the Finance Member, I cannot see any difficulty in it at all. Even accepting the difficulty there is no objection to reduce the amount of Rs. 36,000 by two-thirds, that is Rs. 24,000, and leave the balance of Rs. 12,000 to be utilized for expenditure on Salt administration. Having regard to all these circumstances, it seems to me very desirable that the House should vote for this motion of the abolition of the two Deputy Commissioners. We would have tabled a motion for the abolition of the third Deputy Commissioner also but for the fact that he came under the non-votable head."

MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I rise to give my support to the motion before the House. We are having a plethora of officers in this department; as my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, put it, we are having a long chain of officers in this department. The question for the consideration of the House is whether this link of the Deputy Commissioners should be considered to be an integral part of the chain so as to justify its retention any longer. We are having nearly 900 Sub-Inspectors and over 100 Assistant Inspectors, not to speak of the 11 Assistant Commissioners. The question is whether there is any necessity, much less justification, for the two Deputy Commissioners in addition to the one Deputy Commissioner who is untouchable because he comes under the non-votable head. Whatever may be the nature of the work that may devolve upon these officers, I venture to submit that the allotment for these two Deputy Commissioners might be cut out having regard to the very large number of officers that the department already possesses besides these two officers. I submit that the chain will in no way suffer by the omission of this allotment."

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATA RANGA REDDI :—"Sir, I beg to support the motion before the House. As pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, this department has too many officers. I submit that equally efficient supervision can be had with a smaller number of officers. At the top, there is the Secretary to the Commissioner; below him, there is the Deputy Commissioner who is non-votable; and along with him, there are two Deputy Commissioners. Below them, there are 11 Assistant Commissioners, 84 Inspectors, over 100 Assistant Inspectors and 900 Sub-Inspectors. I submit that the intermediary officers like the Deputy Commissioners may be done away with. They merely serve as post offices passing the papers from their subordinate to their superior officers. There is absolutely no necessity to retain them, and the efficiency of the department will in no way be impaired if they are done away with."

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I also want to say a few words in support of the motion before the House. At the outset, I should

[13th March 1923] [Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar]

like to say that there is no difficulty at all with regard to the question of *dyarchy*, between the Salt department and the Excise department. If this House vetoes this portion of the expenditure, the Government of India will only be very thankful to the House. They will be able to run this department at a lesser cost. If the expenses are decreased by one lakh, the Government of India will be immensely benefited. By accepting the motion to omit the allotment for the Deputy Commissioners, this House will be helping the hon. Members of the Imperial Assembly who are seriously engaged in retrenching the expenditure of the Government of India with a view to balance the Imperial Budget. If the motion is accepted, it will pave the way for the reduction of the proposed salt tax.

"Generally, the hon. Ministers are in charge of nation-building departments; but it is very unfortunate that the Transferred Department of Excise, which can in no sense be called a nation-building department but only a nation-destroying department, should be in charge of a Minister. If we cut down the grant under any of the nation-building departments, it will retard the progress of the country. But, if we reduce the grant under Excise, it will only be lessening the tyranny imposed upon the poor people of this country. By accepting this motion, the House will really be helping the people to a large extent.

"Coming to the question of Excise, it is most fortunate that the hon. the Minister who is in charge of this department should also be in charge of two other departments, namely, Education and Public Works. We are well aware that the hon. the Minister has effected drastic retrenchments in those two other departments while he has not been able to do anything in regard to this department. Instead of there being any reduction in the Budget Estimate under Excise, there is a considerable increase over that for the last year.

"To one other point I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister, and it is this. It is accepted by everybody in this House that the so-called intermediary officers who are doing merely post office work should be done away with immediately. These officers simply pass the papers from their subordinate officers to the higher officers. Unfortunately, in this particular Department of Excise, there is not one post-office, but there are two post-offices. The three Deputy Commissioners serve as one post-office and below them the 11 Assistant Commissioners serve as another. While we are struggling against one post-office in all the Transferred Department and we do not see in arms against two post-offices in a Transferred Department and we do not see any prospect of the hon. Minister raising up his hand to put an end to this evil.

"I hope, Sir, that at least at the end of this discussion, the hon. the Minister will be able to announce that he will do his best, if not at once, at least in the near future, to put an end to these posts of Deputy Commissioners. We see here, Sir, that there are not only three Deputy Commissioners, but also one other person drawing a large scale of pay as Secretary to the Commissioner. Of course, he may as well do all the work that is now turned out by these Deputy Commissioners. We do want retrenchment and reduction in this department, and if that cannot be done in this particular case where we can certainly have a reduction, then there is no other possible way of doing it.

[Mr. U. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [13th March 1923]

"I remember the hon. the Finance Member saying last time that these Deputy Commissioners were doing excellent work. As I said last time, I may again repeat to-day that our Vote on this particular case has absolutely nothing to do with personalities. If these appointments are taken away, the three persons who are now Deputy Commissioners will find some appointment somewhere else and they will not in the least be affected personally. Many of us know these officers personally and have very high respect for them; but that is different from saying that we should necessarily retain these gentlemen in these posts. So, I would appeal to the hon. the Minister once for all to give us some hope of reduction in regard to this. We do not want to force his hands in any way; but we do expect him to hold out some hope in this direction. In spite of the strong views held by the hon. the Minister himself on this point, this department is the one where nothing has so far been done and where the poison has been allowed to go on in increasing doses among the masses. The hon. the Minister has not given us any hope by way of lessening the drink evil, but I hope he will do something in this direction by a reduction of the expenses so that we can have some retrenchment. With these few words, I strongly support the motion."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, I also beg to support this motion for the abolition of the posts of the two Deputy Commissioners. I do not wish to add anything in support of this motion to what has already been said by my predecessors. But I would like just to point out to this House that even in Bengal the Retrenchment Committee that went into this question have recommended the abolition of these two posts. They say :

There are three Deputy Commissioners, but the evidence received by us is strongly against the employment of more than one, whose duties would be largely concerned with distilleries. We recommend that two of these posts be abolished.

And in Bengal they have not got the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner as we have here. So, I hope the hon. the Minister will see his way to abolish these posts."

Mr. SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB :—"Mr. President, I beg to associate myself with all that has been said about the abolition of the posts of Deputy Commissioners. After all that has already been said on the subject, I do not think it is necessary for me to speak at any length on the motion, of which I also have given notice. All that I would like to point out to the House is that this is the one question on which this House has always presented a united front. Time and again this question has come up before it, and invariably all the non-official members have expressed themselves in favour of the abolition of these unnecessary officers in the long chain of the establishment in the Excise Department. Every time this demand was made by the non-official members of this House, the Government were at considerable pains to make out a case for the retention of these officers; but, as hon. Members of this House know, all that the Government were able to achieve was merely to make a sort of apology for the retention of these officers. They were never able to justify the necessity for their continuance in this department.

"Now, Sir, as everybody knows, in all executive departments, such as the Police, Forests and so forth, it is only on the subordinate officer that the brunt of the substantial work falls. Likewise, Sir, in this department it is the ill-paid Sub-Inspector that has to do most of the preventive and detective

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duty. It may be said, Sir, that we should not leave everything to the discretion of the low-paid officers as the Sub-Inspectors, and that there is some necessity for some sort of supervision. I admit that it might be necessary to have some supervising agency; but, Sir, to have such a long chain of supervising officers is quite unjustifiable and not at all warranted by the circumstances of the case. We have here a number of Sub-Inspectors and a number of Assistant Inspectors, and above them there are a number of responsible officers like the Circle Inspectors, over whom, again, we have about eleven Assistant Commissioners. At the head of these Assistant Commissioners are placed these Deputy Commissioners, and at the head of the department sits the Commissioner of Salt and Abkari. It seems as though we are having too much of supervision in this department, and much of the trouble in the management of the affairs of this department is due only to this overabundance and the over-dose of supervision that we are giving.

"There is another point of view from which also I think there is a necessity for doing away with unnecessary officers like these. The declared policy of the Government has all along been in favour of temperance. If the Government are really sincere in their professions—and I hope every one of my colleagues in this House does believe that Government are really sincere in this—they must show their *bona fides* by taking some real step towards the attainment of their object. The motive at the back of the mind of the Government in laying out their policy in regard to the Excise administration was that the drink evil in this country must be put down. We have already given a very fair trial to this policy. For nearly thirty or forty years we have been trying it. What is the result? We see that the consumption in this province, as in all other provinces of India, has advanced with the same gigantic strides with which the duty has increased. Hence, we see that the policy which we have been following with the pious hope of putting an end to this drink evil has been an utter failure. Therefore, we realize, Sir, that something further should be done if we are really anxious to put down this drink evil. With these words, I beg to support this motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, seven hon. Members have spoken on this motion and have urged reasons to support that the system of having many intermediary officers is an evil in itself, and that therefore it should be remedied. I am not at all opposed to the hon. Members in their desire for doing away with any such intermediary and unnecessary system. It is true that the system of administration which we are carrying on has several grades of officers, and that there are intermediary officers. In some departments they are necessary, while in others they are unnecessary. Therefore, on the principle of reducing as many of these intermediary officers as possible I am in entire agreement with the House. Hon. Members have also referred to the fact that, while I was sitting on the other side of the House I had urged this very question of the abolition of the Deputy Commissioners and other intermediary officers. That is quite true and I have not given up those views even now (hear, hear). I do say that intermediary officers must be done away with wherever they are unnecessary, and the administration must be thoroughly revised in order that the system may be reorganized, efficiency and economy may be observed quite thoroughly in their real sense.

"In the case of the Excise Department, some hon. Members have asked me why it is that this is the only department that I have not been able to

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overhaul or reorganize its machinery. My hon. colleague, the Finance Member, has placed before the House facts to show that we are not at all idle in regard to this matter. As a matter of fact, a scheme for the separation of Salt and Excise was prepared and placed before the Government of India in November last, but we have not heard anything definite from them as to what their views on the scheme proposed are. In the scheme that we have proposed for the reorganization of the Excise services, the question which the hon. Members have raised was fully considered. How far it is necessary to maintain the strength of the organization of this department will be fully considered; and, when it is feasible, I shall be the first to propose the abolition of these officers. But without a thorough examination of the matter after the proposals are returned by the Government of India, it is not possible for me to give any definite promise; nor can I say at present that I will abolish them immediately. My hon. friend opposite to me (Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar) said that I should give the House some hope in the matter. I give the hope that as soon as the scheme returns from the Government of India, the whole matter will be thoroughly examined, not only in regard to these posts, but also any other posts which may be found to be unnecessary, and fully considered in the light of the opinion of the House before me. I would, therefore, request my hon. friend to withdraw this motion."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I am not satisfied, Sir, with the insufficient information given to us on this point. We are fully entitled to know whether in the recommendations which have been made by the Madras Government it was proposed to retain these appointments or to abolish them. We thought, Sir, that the hon. the Minister for Excise would have considered it proper to take us into his confidence with regard to this matter. The hon. the Minister himself admitted that there were a number of links in the chain which might be unnecessary. But I think we ought to know what the actual recommendations made by the Madras Government are before I finally withdraw my motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I shall place all the information before the Finance Committee, Sir, soon after I receive a reply from the Government of India. My hon. friend is a member of that Committee. The recommendation made by us is the separation of Salt from the Excise, and when Excise becomes independent and a fully transferred subject, these further questions will be taken up and placed before the Finance Committee."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"With this assurance, Sir, from the hon. the Minister and with the hope that any recommendations made by the Finance Committee will be given effect to by the Government, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 33.

11-45 a.m. Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, my motion reads thus—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,90,600 for Inspectors by Rs. 100.

The object of this motion is not to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,90,600 by Rs. 100, but is to bring to the notice of the Government how the supervision for which we pay so very heavily is not available just at the moment when it is wanted most. I wish to bring to the notice of the

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House how the renters of toddy shops are handicapped for want of this supervision. The *fashi* year of toddy shops begins with the 1st of October. The shops are sold somewhere in August, and the highest bidder pays his initial deposit and he is given his licence. On the strength of this licence, he is authorized to apply for the necessary number of toddy trees being marked. By the time he makes his application it is about the end of September, because he has to put in his application for marking the trees only when he gets his licence, and by the time the licence reaches him it is about the 25th or 26th September. The duty of the department is to see that the number of trees for which he makes his application are marked in time, so that he may be enabled to draw toddy from these marked trees to begin his work on the 1st of October. In these circumstances, it is the duty of the department to enable the renter to tap the trees marked, and it is the duty of the Sub-Inspectors to go to the trees and have them marked ready so that they may be tapped on the very day or even on the previous day. Now, most of these trees are not marked at all till the 7th or 8th October. In the meanwhile, most of these renters go and tap the trees before they are marked and the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors connive at the irregularity as a matter of course. I wish to point out to the House that the above interval gives a lot of room for corruption on the part of these Sub-Inspectors and when a renter complains that he is not enabled to start his work till the 10th or 12th October because the Sub-Inspector has not arranged to mark the trees, the supervising Inspector orders the prosecution of this renter (complainant). He does not use his discretion. The supervising Inspector, as soon as he gets a report from the Sub-Inspector that such and such a renter ought to be prosecuted for tapping the trees before they were marked, sanctions the same, and *ipso facto* the prosecution is begun. The supervising authority ought to use his discretion as to whether prosecution ought to be started or not. He does not use his discretion at all, and this goes a long way to justify the inference that the supervising Inspector also connives at the bad practice to share in the resultant profit. It is only to bring this fact which appears to be very common all over the Presidency to the notice of the hon. the Minister that I have brought this motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I am very glad that the hon. Member has brought this fact to the notice of the House. I will always be glad to inquire into such matters. In this connexion, I may inform the House that when a similar practice was brought to the notice of the Government, two Sub-Inspectors were dismissed immediately. The existence of such practices makes efficient supervision necessary and for that purpose it is that this demand is made. If any irregularity on the part of the subordinates is brought to the notice of the Government, the Government will be very glad to attend to it."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, in reply to what the hon. the Minister said, I would like to make one remark. When any complaint is made, it is the Sub-Inspector or some other subordinate who is punished; whereas the real source of the irregular practice is not taken to task. I request the hon. the Minister to see that in such cases the whole chain of the Excise Department is called to account. Since I have the assurance of the hon. the Minister that he will do his best to put a stop to these irregularities, I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 34.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, my motion is—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for the special pay of five Inspectors.

Sir, I do not think this is a local allowance for being posted to unhealthy places. I want to know why this allowance is given."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, this sum of Rs. 3,000 relates to the special pay of Rs. 50 each to five Inspectors. This special pay is sanctioned on account of the arduous nature of their duties, and has been allowed for a long time in the case of the Central Office people. The Retrenchment Committee considered this question and recommended the grant of a presidency allowance of Rs. 50 each to the First and Second Assistant in the Board Office and a duty allowance of Rs. 50 for the Excise Inspector of Railways. They declared that the last-named officer was not eligible for the presidency allowance. This recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee is under consideration."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 35.

Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARIYAR :—" I beg to move the motion that stands in my name—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for two probationary Inspectors.

As the department is already over-manned I do not see any necessity for two probationary Inspectors. It is for this reason that I have moved for this reduction."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, these Inspectors, or probationers, are taken directly to the service in order to infuse fresh blood into the service so that they may bring in more energy and thoroughness in the work of the Inspectors, who are promoted from the bottom of the grade and who by the time they reach the Inspector's grade become worn out. Therefore, in order to have some fresh blood and more energy introduced into the system it is necessary that we should have this recruitment. We continue this kind of recruitment in the interests of Indians. The complaint has been made that we have not been recruiting Indians as much as possible. This is one of the ways in which opportunity for direct recruitment is given to promising and energetic Indians. If the House wants to close the door to such energetic people, then it is for the House to consider how far it is a wise step to take."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 36.

Mr. M. NARAYANASWAMI REDDI :—" Sir, my motion is—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,47,200 for pay of officers by Rs. 1,11,600.

This allotment is for the pay of one Secretary to the Commissioner, three Deputy Commissioners, eleven Assistant Commissioners, etc. I think the establishment is very large. Anyhow, as the hon. the Minister has promised to investigate the whole question I do not want to say anything."

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The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I have already submitted to the House that the whole question of reorganization will be taken up on receipt of the reply from the Government of India."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 37.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The motion that stands against my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,07,900 for 99 Assistant Inspectors by Rs. 69,300.

Sir, I formally move for the reduction of this allotment for Assistant Inspectors. After the assurance that has been given by the hon. the Excise Minister, may we ask him not to fill up the vacancies that may arise during the year so that when the Salt and the Abkari Departments are separated, there will be room for reduction, as probably under the new scheme we may have to do away with some of these officers? It is, therefore, desirable that vacancies are not filled up until the final scheme is decided upon. I would ask the hon. the Minister whether he would not accept our suggestion not to fill up the vacancies until the above proposal becomes final."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, there is one great difficulty in fully accepting the hon. Member's suggestion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I only said 'as much as possible'."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I have no objection to give effect to his suggestion 'as much as possible'. The difficulty is that the distribution of these 99 Inspectors runs thus :—The major portion of it, viz. 61 Assistant Inspectors, are in charge of salt factories. Salt being a central subject we cannot interfere with it at all. Of the rest, 22 Assistant Inspectors are in charge of ganja stores, and these again are absolutely necessary. Fifteen Assistant Inspectors are working in distilleries. As hon. Members know, in the case of distilleries, we want officers of this grade to be in charge of stores and godowns, and to check the issues. This is a responsible work and we want responsible officers here. If there is anything above and beyond all these, I shall certainly enquire into the reasons as far as possible."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 38.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to move that—

The allotment of Rs. 2,50,000 for travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

This item is found on page 46 of the Budget. It has nothing to do with the fixed travelling allowances to Sub-Inspectors for which an allotment of Rs. 1,81,195 has been provided. Therefore, so far as this item is concerned, it leaves the large body of Sub-Inspectors, numbering over 900, practically untouched. I take it that this item of travelling allowance which is put down here at Rs. 2,50,000 is for the rank and file of officers above the rank of Sub-Inspectors who number about 200. The question for the consideration of the House is whether it is desirable or prudent to set apart the large sum of 250 lakhs for the purpose of meeting the travelling allowances of these 200 officers. While I have no desire to completely cut down the

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travelling allowances, my motion, if accepted, will have the effect of cutting the travelling allowance by about 10 or 15 per cent. I submit that it will be possible for the hon. the Excise Minister to issue definite instructions to the officers above the rank of Sub-Inspectors to limit their touring so as to bring about the reduction I plead for. Thereby we shall be enabled to scrape a fairly decent sum of Rs. 50,000 this year."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to say that the allotment for the travelling allowances of these officers has been reduced by Rs. 20,000 from that of last year. It is with very great difficulty that this has been done. In a matter like the administration of the Excise Department, hon. Members will remember that constant travelling and constant supervision are necessary; and just now, as the hon. Member from Anantapur has pointed out, it is necessary that supervising officers should move about more frequently in order to see that nothing irregular is done by these subordinate officers. It is absolutely necessary that these people should be travelling about and see that no illicit distillation or trade is conducted by the subordinates. Not only that. In the case of Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors, they have to be paid very high allowances because they have to go about all sorts of places where they can get no supplies whatever. I must say again that this item of travelling allowances has been examined and it has been reduced by a sum of Rs. 20,000 as against last year. Hon. Members will now see that I have effected economy in this matter."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 39.

12 noon. Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 47,000 for rewards.

Turning to page 47 of the Budget, we find that the amount allotted for this item in the Revised Estimate of expenditure for 1922-23 is Rs. 41,000. According to the Budget Estimate the amount of expenditure that was allotted under this item for the year 1922-23 was Rs. 47,000. Now an attempt has been made to carry on this figure of Rs. 47,000 for the year 1923-24, and this comes under the head of 'rewards'. I take it that these rewards are intended for spies and informers. I am not much enamoured of this system. It is true—and I am conscious of it—that this system has been going on for a series of years; but that is hardly a justification for us to allow it to continue. No question of prescriptive right should probably arise with respect to a system which is by no means good or equitable. Moreover, this system of rewards will, I fear, offer much premium to unscrupulous people to get up or concoct cases. Viewed from this standpoint, I venture to think that this will have a most pernicious effect upon the system itself, and through the system upon the people at large. It is only to bring out this aspect of the question I desire to make this motion, and I hope and trust that the hon. the Minister in charge of Excise will consider this matter."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I may say, Sir, that this question is also being examined by the department. Recently, when this question came before the Retrenchment Committee they proposed that instead of granting rewards for each and every individual case, a register might be kept for a whole year and the total amount of rewards found out for that year. This system would prevent officers, as my hon. friend has pointed out, from being

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over-zealous for making out cases because they do not get rewards immediately. In any case it will be a restraint on their doings with reference to the detection of crimes, as otherwise they go on without any control. The Retrenchment Committee is examining this matter and as soon as they have finished their labours, I will go into this question carefully and do whatever is possible."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I shall not pursue this matter. I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 40.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for purchase of tents by Rs. 10,000.

It seems to me that it is not necessary in the coming year 1923-24 to purchase tents for Rs. 20,000. In the year 1921-22 the amount that was allotted for the purchase of tents was Rs. 42,797. In the current year the amount that has been allotted for the purchase of tents is Rs. 14,000. It is proposed now again to purchase tents in the coming year 1923-24 for Rs. 20,000. No doubt tents are necessary particularly for officers who are employed in the Excise Department. But the tents that were once purchased should last for several years, at least for five years, and I do not think there is any reasonable necessity to allot so large a sum as Rs. 20,000 in the coming year under this head, after having purchased tents for Rs. 42,000 in 1921-22, and for Rs. 14,000 in 1922-23. I do not want to cut out that item altogether. But certainly it seems to me not necessary to purchase tents for so large a sum as Rs. 20,000. I therefore move that a reduction be made."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, this provision is made only to replace those tents that have become worn out and have gone to pieces. Tents that were purchased five or eight years ago have to be renewed. In some years we require more tents and in some less. My hon. friend will admit that the officers in this particular department will have to go to places where there are no bungalows or other conveniences, and it is necessary they should have tents with them. In the year 1919-20, the amount allotted under this head was Rs. 26,000. In the year 1921-22 it was Rs. 42,000, because we required a larger number of tents to be renewed that year. These tents are renewed or replaced year after year. After much scrutiny the estimated amount of Rs. 20,000 has been allowed to go in the Budget. In these circumstances I am sure my hon. friend will be satisfied that this amount is necessary and I trust he will not press his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 41.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,50,000 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 50,000.

It will be noticed that the amount that is allotted is for petty construction and repairs. Yet we find huge sums allotted for this purpose year after

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year. In 1921-22 the amount spent was Rs. 2,60,014. In the Revised Estimate for this year we find the amount that was spent was Rs. 2,75,000. In the Budget Estimate for the year 1923-24 we find the amount allotted is Rs. 2,50,000. I do not know whether petty construction and repair works should cease to exist by the 31st March every year automatically, for if construction of some buildings has been made in one year, I expect this work will continue for some years, and the repairs once made, I submit, must last for some considerable time.

"Under these circumstances, I do not know what these petty constructions and repairs are for, so that we may lay out large sums of money year after year under that head. I submit that we may as well forego a portion of these petty constructions and repairs and may reduce the provision to the extent of Rs. 50,000."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"This allotment relates entirely to Salt. There is nothing in it concerning Excise. The amount that will go towards petty construction and repairs is for building houses for peons and petty officers, and also for construction of roads from the factories to the main roads and villages. The amount that is required is entirely for the Salt Department and not for the Excise."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Does it not include also any construction of buildings for distilleries?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"It does not include."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 42.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,97,000 for total contingencies by Rs. 1,00,000.

There was a good deal of discussion and bargaining last year in connexion with this question, and the hon. the Minister for Excise was willing to make some curtailment on the whole; and there is no reason why he should not do so now, more especially that the Salt Department, as has been said, is going to be taken away from the Excise. Now, as regards the question of rewards, the one kind of reward is that which is given to informants, and the other is that which is given to persons who prosecute cases successfully. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar referred to the rewards given to informants and pointed out that they were quite unnecessary, and the hon. the Minister in charge referred to those that are given to the officers. Now, as regards rewards to informants, I think there are enough of factions in our villages which always take care to make complaints to the officers concerned about crimes or anything that occurs in their villages. So there is no necessity to continue the system of having informants and rewarding them for their services. As regards rewards to officers, there is no reason why they should be given any rewards. It is their duty to find out cases and prosecute them successfully. The question of allowance to officers may be explained away by saying that they do more arduous work and so on. I do not know why officers should be given rewards who are expected to do their duties in the ordinary course of their

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business. Whenever persons are prosecuted and sentenced, simply because the officers press for heavy fines being imposed on the culprits, it is no reason that a certain percentage of fines should be given as rewards.

"One other point I wish to add in connexion with the allotment for petty construction and repairs. The reply of the hon. the Minister was to the effect that that provision was entirely in connexion with Salt which was a Central Subject. I say that is the very reason why we should not vote for such sums. If the Salt Department is going to be taken away by the Government of India, why should we be asked to vote for sums which are required for the expenditure in connexion with that department? I think, so far as this item is concerned, we must ask the Central Government to defray that expenditure. But so far as the two items under the head of contract contingencies and non-contract contingencies are concerned, I think we may have some reduction made, and I have no doubt that the reduction of Rs. 1,00,000 which I have asked for is very little when compared with the amounts that are proposed to be spent under these two heads. I hope the hon. the Minister will be able to make some reduction so that we may avoid further discussion on the matter."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"The expenditure to be incurred is under the following heads. First, as regards the non-contract contingencies, there are charges for registration, charges for despatch of gunny bags, charges for carriage of stores, charges for repairs of machinery, charges for the preparation of statistics, for mounting maps, atlas-sheets, for copying judgments, batta for prisoners and witnesses and increase in postage and freight charges, etc., etc. Under all these heads this amount is distributed and hon. Members will see that not a single item has been over-estimated. It is not possible, I submit, to estimate accurately under all these heads. Charges under these items for previous years are taken into consideration and the allotment for the next year is made on that basis, and hence a lump provision is made. Taking into consideration the charges that were budgeted for non-contract contingencies for the years 1919-20, 1920-21 and 1921-22, for this provision made for the year 1923-24 is not very large. As for the charges for petty construction and repairs, these charges do not at all concern the Excise Department and therefore do not at all come under the provincial head. We are not at all anxious that these charges should be met from provincial revenues. They will be met by the Central Government, as the Salt Department will form part of the Central Government in future. I hope my hon. friend is now satisfied and that he will withdraw his motion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am not at all satisfied with the explanation of the hon. the Minister in charge of Excise. I do not know exactly what the Minister means when he says that the whole of the charges for petty construction and repairs will go to the Central Government. It is said in the note in the Budget on the particular page dealing with this item that two-thirds of the entire cost will go to the Provincial Government and one-third to the Central Government. If I am wrong, I shall be very glad to be enlightened."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"So long as we have a joint establishment, things should go on as they are. What we are endeavouring to do is to separate the establishments. As soon as we separate them I may assure the hon. Member that I will collect every pie from the Government of India that is due to us. In the meanwhile he wants

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to stop all work. That means that we cannot manufacture any salt this year. For instance, the boats cannot carry the salt if the channels are not cleared of silt. If he is going to ask us to stop all work of that sort he will deprive the country of salt."

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I will still say this: if we do not spend much money on this we will induce the Central Government to come to a decision very soon. With these words I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 43.

MR. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29.07 lakhs for Excise by Rs. 1,00,000.

I may say at the outset that the reduction of 10 lakhs in the agenda is a misprint for one lakh. As it is, the Excise Department has many sets of supervising officers. So many supervising officers means so much travelling allowance, this allowance and that allowance. If it is confined to the officers alone I would not object. Every officer means a lot of people along with him. If he is a supervising officer he should have persons to assist him in his work, and he should have a number of people to carry on the transport work. Therefore, unless the number of supervising officers is reduced, I do not think any useful purpose will be served. For instance, if a supervising officer comes to Negapatam, his servant has to go to Adirampatnam, a place at a distance of 18 miles, for fetching grass to the horse of the supervising officer because his horse will not eat the grass grown at Negapatam. Such things lead to a lot of inconvenience. If the number of the supervising officers is reduced such things will not happen.

"There is another thing. It has been said that our Minister has been able to do away with a lot of corruption in the other departments under his charge. As he is dealing with some departments successfully, it is all the more reasonable why he should deal successfully with this department also because there is so much corruption going on. The only thing I am sorry for is that he takes up only one department. I may also say this. If the head of the office is to be very strict he has sometimes to be very cruel also. That is why I am sorry. I think the Minister would do well to abolish the supervising officers. That will be the only way of saving money and meeting the deficit. With these words I hope the Minister will accept this motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I thought that this Excise department had been getting on very well and that this was one of the very efficiently-managed departments. But I am surprised to hear the serious charge of my hon. friend. If there is any such thing as the horses of the officers at Negapatam not eating the local grass, I think it is a case for medical inspection, or the Finance Department should see how far these officers should maintain their horses. I have not heard anything like that till now, and if there is any such thing I think it is a case for investigation. But that does not at all justify the cutting away of one lakh from the total grant. The cutting away of one lakh will not cure the evil. If there are any tangible facts that he wishes to bring to the notice of the Government I shall undertake to investigate them. Every department will be inquired into

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and therefore I will inquire into this department also. He does not suggest anything in support of the motion, and I hope he is not going to press this motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 44.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29.07 lakhs for Excise by Rs. 1,05,000.

We are thankful to the hon. the Minister, Sir, for having informed us that he still stands by the ideas he advocated from his seat when he was on the opposite bench, viz., that these intermediary officers are not useful and as such he would take all possible steps to do away with them as soon as possible. However, I think, that it is not always desirable to force him just to omit particular items of the demand. Therefore it would be convenient for him to adjust himself if we reduce something from the total grant. During the three days of general discussion on the Budget we have shown how the hon. the Ministers and the hon. the Councillors have not been willing—at least have not shown any inclination—towards retrenchment. As has been pointed out by other hon. Members, the retrenchments so far effected have only been in the case of the menials and clerks. Coming to this item of expenditure, I would draw the attention of the House to the expenditure under this item in 1917-18 we spent Rs. 18,04,000; during the three pre-Reform years. In 1917-18 we spent Rs. 18,04,000; in 1918-19 we spent Rs. 20,08,000; and in 1919-20 the amount was Rs. 22,46,000. Coming then to the three years after the Reform we see that the total expenditure comes to 30 lakhs 47 thousand in 1921-22; 29 lakhs 45 thousand in 1922-23 and 31 lakhs 41 thousand in 1923-24. Therefore, Sir, it is clear that the expenditure under this head is growing very rapidly. The second thing I should like to bring to the notice of the House is the increase of non-votable items under this head."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" You are speaking of the non-votable items. I do not think we have anything to do with them."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" It is only a total grant, Sir. I am just showing the enhancement so as to show the spend-thriftiness."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Spend-thriftiness in the non-votable items is not relevant."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" I submit to your ruling, Sir. I would, therefore, suggest that at least the expenditure that we incurred in the year 1921-22, that is the first Reform year, which amounted to 30 lakhs 47 thousand, might be adhered to. Even this year we have not been able to relieve the tax-payer by retrenchment. I therefore request the hon. the Minister to reconsider and agree to the modest reduction of one lakh and five thousand."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I wish my hon. friend suggests to me out of the abundance of his love the methods by which I can reduce the Budget items. If he considers that any particular item is extravagant, I shall be very glad to consider it. My hon. friend pointed out that the Budget item was increasing every year. That is due to the time-scale of pay given to the officers which has been introduced at the request of the public, and my hon. friend is one of those who joined in the agitation."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know whether it is due to the increase of pay or the increase in the number of high officers ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" The number of officers has not increased very much. The scale is increasing and hence the demand is increasing. He pointed out that the Reform scheme began with 30 lakhs ; but we find that 29 lakhs is the demand for 1923-24."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I may at once inform the hon. the Minister that I have included both the votable and the non-votable items."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I submit, Sir, that the Excise Department is one of the most economically worked departments in the whole of the administration. In this department which realizes $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees as revenue to the Government, we are spending only 29 lakhs of rupees as expenditure, whereas on the Land Revenue department which gets an income of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores, we are spending about $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" The collection is done by the Land Revenue department." (Laughter).

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I am not saying anything against the Land Revenue department. I only say that this department is so efficiently and economically organised. I may say that this is one of the most economically managed departments in this presidency. Only 29 lakhs are being spent on a department which realises a revenue of $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. Imagine the tremendous work done by this department. Hon. Members will certainly agree with me in thinking that 29 lakhs of rupees are nothing when compared with the revenue of $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees that this department realises. My hon. friend has said that some reduction in the staff is necessary. Here is a statement giving the reductions that have been made in the staff. This refers to the year 1921-22. From this statement, we find that previous to this period the total number of officials employed in this department was 8,000 and odd. The total number of officials now in employment is only 7,300."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know, Sir, how many Indian officers and how many other officers have been removed ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Except the Commissioner and the Secretary who are non-votable, the rest are all Indian-recruited."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I am sorry, Sir, my question has not been answered. How many Indian officers have been removed ? How many posts held by Indian officers have been abolished ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I shall be glad to give the details to my hon. friend during the lunch hour. But I may say that the total number of officers has been reduced, viz., from 8,000 and odd to 7,000 and odd."

SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB :—" Sir, I do not think that the hon. the Minister for Excise is justified in taking refuge under the fact that his department is more economically worked than other departments. The point at issue is this : whether even in his department there are not still possible avenues of retrenchment which are not yet explored. As has been pointed out time and again and also during the discussion of this morning, there are

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a number of ways and means shown to the hon. the Minister in charge of the department as to how best further reductions can be effected in his department. The hon. the Minister has said that there has been a reduction in the number of officers. But may I ask him, Sir, if that statement is not a deceptive sort of thing—I mean likely to mislead ? Do not petty officers, sub-inspectors and peons come under this category of officers ? As a matter of fact, if we refer to the note put up by the Secretary, we find that all the reductions that have been effected have been in the cadre of petty officers, sub-inspectors and peons. Every time the Budget came up before this House, there have been demands made from every part of this House—from every section—that Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, etc., should be removed. But some excuse or other is put forth every time. Last year, it was said that the times were not quite suitable, that there was some trouble, that these Deputy and Assistant Commissioners were very responsible officers and that they were required for the purpose of bringing life, energy and all that sort of thing to the department. All this is now gone. To-day when we ask for a reduction of these officers, we are told that some proposals have been submitted to the Government of India. These are the ways in which the demands of this House are slighted. The hon. the Minister is not justified in finding fault with the hon. Members of this House, who have asked for reductions of grants, for not showing the particular way in which the reductions ought to be effected. They have suggested every possible method by which reductions can be effected. I think it is highly desirable that some reductions should be made."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. the Minister for Excise for having told us about the extravagance of the Land Revenue department. It is for the hon. Members of this House to note the split in the camp. Apart from the merits and demerits of the Land Revenue department, which it is not my province to discuss here, I would implore the hon. the Minister to accept this and other similar motions which suggest the ways and means. He has told us that I have not shown him any directions in which he can make the retrenchment. I believe that my hon. friends who have spoken before me have indicated different lines in which retrenchment can be effected ; and all of them, to my knowledge have withdrawn their motions only on the assurance that the hon. Minister would take them into his confidence and see how far he could retrench. I now implore him not to retrench too much under peons and lascars and not to add to the number of the fat-salaried officers. I hope, however, that, when the hon. Minister comes before the House next year, he will come with a lot of savings. With these words I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 45.

MR. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29.07 lakhs for Excise by Rs. 46,188.

This amount includes also the pay of two Deputy Commissioners, which subject has already been disposed of. The remaining sum of Rs. 10,188 is the house-rent allowance proposed to be given to the Assistant Commissioners, etc. Out of eleven Assistant Commissioners, eight have been recommended for house-rent. The corresponding officers in the Police department are not

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given this house-rent. These Assistant Commissioners have their headquarters in large cities, where they can get comfortable lodgings. I do think, therefore, that any house-rent is necessary to be sanctioned for these officers."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, the question of house-rent allowance for officers is under investigation by the Retrenchment Committee. This is a very important question, and there have been proposals made from time to time on the housing of officers in the city or outside—how best we can afford facilities for them in order that they may live at least comfortably while discharging their responsible work. Hon. Members probably know that in the mufassal there is a very great inconvenience for the officers in securing proper accommodation. In rural areas the difficulties are great and often times the officers have pressed upon the Government for providing them with suitable accommodation. Proposals have been placed before the Government as to how far Government can remove the difficulties of these officers. The whole scheme of housing the officers is under the consideration of the Government. They are prepared to pay house-rent. The Retrenchment Committee is considering which of the officers are to be provided with housing accommodation. As soon as the report of the Committee is in our hands, I am sure these Assistant Commissioners about whom reference has been made will share the same fate as other officers in the several other departments."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"I beg to withdraw the motion."
The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 46.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29.07 lakhs for Excise by Rs. 100.

The hon. the Minister for Excise has just now stated that this department is the most efficiently and economically managed department of the Government. There is a serious difference of opinion about that matter. He himself has admitted more than once in the course of this day that the department is not, at any rate, the most economically administered department. Whether he means by his statement that the other departments are more extravagant, I do not know."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I do not insinuate that."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"If he means that, I have no quarrel with him. It is for the other Executive Members to take him to task."

"Then he said that for the first time to-day he heard about corruption in his department. There, again, I am sorry to note how little he knows about the department. People who have been taking any interest in the matter, would have found large numbers of people selling intoxicants on the roads, and in several places the licensed places were licensed merely in name. I am sure several hon. Members in this House will bear me out with personal experience on this matter. Of course to draw attention to this was not the intention with which I sent notice of this motion. My intention was to speak with reference to what has been done in the department hitherto,

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"It is now two years and three months since this Council was formed. What progress have we made in the matter of changing Excise administration? Well, opinions may differ on this point. But I am sure opinion is practically uniform that limits on drinking are absolutely necessary, even if total prohibition is not to be our aim as some of us want. What has been done towards this end within the last two years and three months? I beg to submit, Sir, that practically nothing has been done. During the last two years and a quarter we had great opportunities of doing something in this line. There was an awakening; there was opinion in the country in favour of total prohibition; and any Government, Sir, which is interested in the welfare of the people ought to have taken advantage of that feeling in the country and ought to have utilized it in bringing out some improvement in the Excise administration. But, unfortunately, we have not been able to do anything at all."

"Last year I pressed this question in this House and I obtained the promise that the whole question would be looked into and something done very soon. I tabled a motion in this House 12.45 p.m. for bringing this matter into prominence again. The hon. the Minister for Excise was pleased to agree to the appointment of a committee, but while I was speaking on the motion some technical objection was raised, and the motion was disallowed. I expected, Sir, that he will carry out the promise of appointing a committee to bring about some desirable change in the administration of Excise. We find a publication issued under the authority of Government to all Members of this House, and in it, what is being done by the present Government is supported, and we are asked to infer that the best that can be done for the administration has been done, and that there is no possibility of a change for the better."

"Then, Sir, a deputation was sent to the North, and though it is some months now since their report was submitted, nothing has yet been done. Only yesterday, in answer to a motion of mine, the hon. the Minister for Excise replied that the report was in the hands of the Advisory Committee, and that nothing could possibly be done in the course of this sitting or in the next two months, in the way of improving the administration of Excise. I do realize that the hands of the hon. the Minister have been full for the past few months, and he has been doing a lot in reorganizing the whole Education Department. But I cannot understand how there can be any excuse for not having taken any action whatsoever in this department. I should like to know what he is going to do within the next few months, and whether anything like a formal decision on the matter is likely to be brought before the Council when it meets next in July. We are almost at the fag-end of our term, and it is extremely desirable and necessary that we should arrive at some decision on a matter of such vital importance as the drink problem, before we dissolve. I have tabled this motion for the purpose of knowing definitely what has been done, and what is going to be done, in this matter, hereafter."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, my object in tabling this motion is to draw the attention of this House to the Excise policy that has been pursued by this Government, and also to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister for Excise to the urgent necessity for the adoption of a bolder policy of temperance reform than has hitherto been adopted by Government. I was all the more impelled to table this resolution on account of some

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remarks that fell from the hon. the Minister during the course of the general discussion on the Budget. Replying on behalf of the Government, my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, said :

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 are not at all possible in our country.

Sir, if that is to represent the considered attitude of this Government with reference to this question of excise reform, then I must say that we have got indeed a very gloomy picture painted before us. I should rather think that in giving expression to this view, my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, was reflecting the official or bureaucratic opinion and suppressing within himself the opinion of Patro, the social reformer that once existed.

"Sir, even considering the general finances of the country, I must say that the whole financial system of our province is something like a cripple walking on crutches, because more than 33 per cent of our revenue is derived from Excise, and the impression is abroad that we are not alone in this sorry plight, but the other provinces also are at one with us. In this matter the other provinces are not in such a sorry plight as we are. The revenue from Excise in the United Provinces,—I am quoting from the Revised estimates for 1921-22, is 160 lakhs; in Bengal, it is 181 lakhs; in Bombay, it is 330 lakhs; and in Madras it is 481.52 lakhs. So, it will be seen that our revenue from Excise is practically three times as much as the revenue derived from this source by the United Provinces. It cannot be denied that my hon. friend, Mr. Patro, has, during the last two years, taken a good deal of pains to arrive at some conclusion as to the exact policy to be adopted by Government, and the definite steps to be taken to give effect to that policy. But, unfortunately, he was drifting into the official groove when he said :

The policy which I must 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.

If my hon. friend is under the impression that he can bring about the desired temperance reform merely by means of enhanced taxation, then, I am afraid, he cannot in the least achieve his object. Already, the incidence of taxation in Madras is far higher than it is in other provinces. In Bengal, it is Rs. 11-11-9 per proof gallon; in Madras, it is Rs. 13-5-5 per proof gallon.

"I am, therefore, of opinion that so far as we are concerned we have reached the maximum level in regard to pressure of taxation. And it will interest my hon. friend Mr. Patro to know the opinion of some of the American experts on this point. In one of the pamphlets of the Anti-Saloon League of America, they say :

Demand licence, low, medium and high, has been tried in every conceivable form, and the restraining hand of the law has been laid heavily upon the traffic almost everywhere; yet, has the blight of the traffic continued to fall on our people until the whole church and the electorate have each alike felt the deadly sting of its touch?

This device of enhanced taxation and forcing up the price of liquor has been tried in America, and they have come to the conclusion that they had not the desired effect in bringing about that temperance reform which we have all so much at heart. Sir, we in this country are talking a good deal about the formation of public opinion in the electorate and our bowing down to that opinion. I may confidently say that if there is one point on which public opinion has been formed in this country, and that in no unmistakable

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terms, it is on this question of excise and temperance reform, and I trust that this House and the Government will fully realize the strength of that opinion."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, I beg to submit an observation or two upon this very vexed question. In a way, I consider it rather unfortunate that I should have come in as a sort of interruption of the eloquent speech of my hon. friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar.

"Sir, just now, we have been asked to hug ourselves on the consideration that from excise we derive the largest income possible. Certainly, Sir, we might congratulate ourselves upon this achievement with the reflection, 'so small a bait, so large a haul.' Sir, are we to sit content, contemplating with complacency the receipt from this source of so large a revenue, or does it also afford food for some other reflections? Sir, the income is, no doubt, enormous; but shall we be satisfied with only thinking of its enormity, or shall we be permitted to ask whether it involves also a certain measure of enormity? The other day, I was reading a book in which I found one startling observation. Discussing a certain question, the writer, in order to indicate the irrelevancy of an argument, said, 'this is like applying to a practising lawyer considerations of conscience'. (Laughter.) Sir, I do not know whether I shall be held responsible for similar irrelevancy if I sought to apply to high policies considerations of morality, private or public (Hear, hear). But trusting that I shall not, for the time being anyhow, be ruled out of order on that score, — I shall invite the attention of the House to one or two moral considerations.

"I remember, Sir, to have come across, years ago, in the course of my reading, a certain ancient precept of this land, relating to the best method of levying taxes. That precept said, 'He alone is a wise ruler who raises revenues from the people as a bee gathers honey from flowers, without injuring the strength, without impairing the charm.' Will it be permissible, Sir, without being at all disloyal or in any way fanatical, to ask whether or not this revenue derived in so large a measure, does in view of two considerations—namely, from people of what sorts and conditions does the bulk of it come, and in return for what services rendered or what benefit conferred do we make this demand—involve to a most depressing extent this threefold misfortune: namely, enfeebling the economical stability, injuring the physical stamina and impairing the character charm of a large section of the community? If, Sir, there is no irrelevancy in that consideration, then we have to ask ourselves whether any modern civilized Government, in this twentieth century of grace is doing the right thing in drawing this large revenue from the pockets of such people. Sir, there is a contribution to be made by this Presidency to the Imperial Government to the extent of 385 lakhs a year. We have unanimously decided that it is an impost, and we have as unanimously settled that it shall always be characterized as an 'iniquitous impost.' Sir, bearing that fact in mind, how shall we characterize this impost which comes to five crores and four lakhs net; all that drawn from the

1 p.m. people as Excise revenue? Sir, is it permissible, therefore, to ask whether Government is doing that which will commend itself to the people as a system of a civilized administration or whether it is doing a thing that is likely to tempt the people to think of it as a questionable system of administration? If the criterion, to which I have made reference,

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set by that ancient precept of the country, has to be accepted as a valid test, shall we be permitted to inquire whether, with reference to this particular department, we shall consider the revenue as either a shining star or a murky blot upon the escutcheon of British Rule in India?

"That is my first observation, Sir. The second that I beg to submit is this: The hon. the Finance Member, in that very justly applauded speech, noted for its lucid exposition and for its mastery of detail, observed that our excise revenue had recovered on account of the cessation of the Gandhi agitation. No doubt, Sir, as a statement of the immediate situation, from the financial standpoint, it is accurate enough. But all the same, perhaps, it will be permissible to remark that it would be nearer the mark to say that the counter-effort of the Government has in this direction successfully resisted a very widespread popular agitation, though unfortunately misguided in several respects. The reason why I mention it is this. I am second to none in this House either in rejecting the spirit or regretting the methods of the non-co-operation movement. Certainly, Sir, the non-co-operation movement as such was neither laudable in its aim nor wise in its methods. But at the same time, Sir, true statesmanship would be failing of that insight into, that living touch with, the reality of things if it fancied that, in this particular respect, the nation, as a whole, stood by Government, not because it was opposed to the methods of the non-co-operator, but because it was also altogether averse to some of the inner spirit and purposes of the non-co-operation movement. Sir, though in all other directions the non-co-operation movement might be judged an utterly undesirable thing, yet in this one respect relating to the excise policy of the Government—notwithstanding all aberrations, notwithstanding all extravagances—it could rouse the imagination of the people because it went direct to the heart of the nation, and appealed to the long-cherished national ideal of total abstinence. No doubt it is quite easy to refer to the praise of the soma juice in the *Vedas*, to catch at innumerable allusions to drink in our *Epics* and our *Puranas*, and to indulge in the pleasantries of making a present to us, temperance reformers, of the chapter on the Superintendent of Liquor in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*. But, all the same, Sir, the fact remains that through all these centuries, in spite of the vicissitudes of ages, one great ideal has had an inseparable hold upon the sentiment of the country, namely, the firm adherence of the best thought and the finest spirit of the nation to the ideal of total abstinence. As an index to that spirit I may refer to a verdict of old Manu himself, who was inclined to place in the same category of the five great sins, the *pancha mahapathakas*, *surāpanam* and *guruvaṅganagamana*, the drinking of liquor and the seducing of the guru's wife, that revered person whom we are taught to reckon as one of the five mothers of a man. That shows the measure of disgust and repulsion with which the better part of the nation viewed this evil of drink, and that attitude has remained quite unchanged notwithstanding the changes, political and social, that have come upon this country. That typical modern Indian, that pattern of a patriot, Mahadev Govind Ranade, said on a certain occasion that, to the normal Indian, temperance meant only, and nothing but, total abstinence. To an Indian, therefore, Sir, temperance has no other meaning; it denotes nothing other than total abstinence. Why I seek to lay stress upon this point is that on this vital question there seems to be an almost irreconcilable difference between the view-points of the Government and of the better section of the public. I may state that

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difference in the language used by Abraham Lincoln on a particular occasion, that is, whether the evil lies in the use of a bad thing or whether it lies in the abuse of a good thing. The nation has said that the evil lies in the use of the bad thing; but the Government have said that it lies in the abuse of the good thing. There is the contrast—the antagonism between the Government and the people. Sir, we have had the hope that with the change in the system, with the inauguration of the Reforms, with the installation of a ministry composed of the representatives of the people, this antagonism would rapidly disappear and the Government view-point would be brought into line with the view-point of the nation. But I find, Sir, after two and half certainly very busy years, we are told at last that the high-licensing system, which has been hitherto in vogue, is the only salvation for the country. Sir, I am anxious to lay stress upon this. The sentiment that I have already referred to, the sentiment that is current in the higher strata of all communities—not only the Hindus but Muhammadans as well, and I hope, also Christians—has to be reckoned with. According to this sentiment, might I say that the distinction drawn between licit and illicit drink is absolutely meaningless? As the Telugu proverb says: నా చెంబూ పానీ నీళ్లు; నీ చెంబూ పానీ తీర్చుము. The difference between licit and illicit drink is a purely official finesse in which the popular sentiment has no share. Sir, I may note that this distinction, with the popular sentiment, has as much meaning as the distinction between licit bigamy and illicit bigamy to a truly typical Britisher nourished in the traditions of monogamy. In the one case, bigamy, licit or illicit, is an evil that should be rooted out, in the other case drink, licit or illicit, is a monster that has to be eliminated. Unto this sentiment which is widespread and which, in the renaissance of India, will be rehabilitated as one lofty national ideal, unto this sentiment, again, that formula to which one's attention is drawn so often, namely, maximum revenue and minimum consumption, that formula is entirely wooden, absolutely apathetic, altogether unconvincing. That formula, Sir, will, unto this national sentiment and the resulting judgment, appeal as little as a formula that sought to relieve the anguish of the sorrow-stricken heart over the Malabar Train Tragedy—the formula: maximum numbers, minimum space. Therefore, Sir, I venture to urge that a change must come; that Government must be prepared to adopt another standard. Our Government should not fight shy of this good chance. If progress has to be made, if the nation as a whole has to advance, the best thought, the finest sentiment and the noblest aspirations should be installed both as the censor and the guide of the nation; and as the thinking, the feeling and the resolute sections of the community demand abstinence, this reform shall be achieved. With these words, I beg to support this motion." (Cheers.)

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, if I intervene at all in this debate, it is because I feel very strongly that the excise policy now pursued by the Government is causing untold misery to thousands of families in the country. My work, Sir, takes me very frequently to the rural areas and brings me into very close contact with the common people and it is a very pitiable sight to see the daily ruin, the daily misery these families are subjected to by this curse of drink. And the worst of it is that the Government do not seem to realise the gravity of the evil. They are very apathetic and very indifferent in regard to the bringing about of any measures for the benefit of these people. This Council has now and then in no unmistakable terms

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indicated to the Minister that the evil called for urgent relief. One of the very first things that the House did was in August 1921 to table a resolution for reducing this evil. And the Minister then agreed to appoint a committee and to refer the question for their consideration and also to be guided by the advice that the committee may offer. He promised to appoint a committee in August 1921 but took several months to appoint it and even then he never cared to refer this question to the committee for consideration. So that in March 1922, I was obliged to refer to this matter in the following words: 'What has the Minister done to put down the drink evil? He makes a lip profession that he is as anxious as anybody else to promote temperance. But what has he done or propose to do.' In the course of the reply to these observations the Minister said as follows: 'I have requested some leading persons in the matter to meet together, discuss the pros and cons of it and advise Government. I have requested Sir Charles Todhunter, than whom there is no one in India who has worked more in the excise administration to be kind enough to take the chair.' He continued: 'Even though the drink revenue falls our aim must be that people must improve and grow morally and physically. With that principle in mind, I am bringing about a committee in order that a national policy may be evolved for the province.' Now, Sir, did he carry out the assurance then given by him? He proposed to appoint a representative committee and appoint the hon. the Finance Member as the Chairman. Did he take any initiative in that direction at all? Or did the members whom he proposed to appoint decline the honour offered to them and refuse to serve on the committee? That was in March 1922 and many, many months afterwards, he appointed two people, one a member of this House and another an official to enquire into this question. They gave the report without any delay whatsoever. That report again did not come before the House for a very very long time. In the course of the general discussion on the Budget this year, I referred to the matter and in reply the hon. the Minister said that this report had been placed on the table and had been given to the Members of the House while as a matter of fact nothing of that sort had been done. It is only three days ago that that report was circulated. So I am feeling justified in charging the Government with indifference in this matter, with lack of earnestness in carrying out any reform in the excise policy. And I think, Sir, this is a position which none of us can ever for a moment countenance and it is up to us to force from the Minister a positive declaration of policy and to see that it is carried out."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I feel that I am in a position of great disadvantage, after the most magnetic influence that the House was placed under, after the speech of my revered friend Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu. Any attempt that I may make to explain the position would fall flat upon this House after the very eloquent, charming, spirited and almost spiritual address that he has delivered to this House. I do not at all differ from him nor disagree with him in the noble and high sentiments which he has placed before us and which the House and the nation should pursue in the matter of temperance reform. I have absolutely no quarrel whatever with all the principles that he has enunciated in order that we may adopt a policy of temperance reform in this country. But my difficulty is that we are under a system of administration, and it is that system of administration that we have got to reform and to modify, so as to be carried on in accordance with

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the wishes of the public. Therefore, I submit that there is no antagonism, as far as I am concerned, between what the policy of the Government should be and what the wishes of the people are in this matter. I have already stated in a note submitted to the Standing Advisory Committee on Excise that 'by all means let the revenue go but let the people improve and let us work towards that end.' How we are to work towards that end is the thing which I am seriously considering. I think every right-minded man would agree that we cannot sweep out the whole system at once, nor can we revolutionize the administration. It may rightly be asked what steps have been taken in the direction of reforming the present system. I have already submitted to the House in my general remarks on the budget the steps that were taken in the matter of excise reform. I submitted that, first of all before any change is effected or any step taken in the matter of reform we have to make sure that that step is a step in the right direction, and that the policy and the method we may pursue would lead to the end we have in view. That end should be not merely to wipe out the excise revenue, it should also be towards reforming the minds of the people. It is towards that end that we are to work, and as the high licence system which I advocated has been discouraged or criticized in this House, I may be allowed to say that the high licence system has been adopted preliminary or preparatory to prohibition in America. One of the authors of an American book on Temperance, one who has worked for over thirty years in America on temperance reform, Dr. Guild, has stated in that book which relates to the popular control of drink problem, that the high licence system is one of the surest means of leading the opinions of the people to ideas of temperance. That is what he found after all his experience, and that is what he found not only in one State in America, but in several States. I shall refer only to one or two extracts from that book in order to show that the principle we have adopted here, and which I had indicated in the note I submitted to the Committee on Excise, is not one arrived at without any consideration or investigation into the matter. The author above referred to also says that the high licence system that prevails in America has led to the closing of the saloons. But in the pamphlet on saloons read by my hon. friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar, the view was propounded that the high rate system did not do any good to the people there. But on the other hand here is a reformer, an author who has got 30 years' experience and who worked on this question, and he gives it as his opinion based on experience that this high licence system is one of the surest ways of leading to temperance and the abolition of saloons. He says that although year after year it was found that the high licence system was improving the conduct of the saloons, as a natural consequence, drunkenness was rapidly diminishing. That is the experience of this reform in the United States of America. Again, he says that the high licence system is the method most desirable for large states where restrictive measures do not work at all, and that it is the only effective form of control as demonstrated by experience. This is the recorded experience of one who has devoted himself for the work of temperance reform in the United States, and he states that the high licence system is the only effective form of control as demonstrated by experience. He also says that it may be applied to places where prohibition and local option would both fail, and it reduces the number of public houses within measurable limits both as to number and as to geographical situation. He further says: 'Although perhaps strictly a fiscal matter, the high licence

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system improves temperance . . . etc.' I do not want to tire the House with quoting the many other passages contained in the book written by this author. From his experience of the working of the high licence system in America, he says that it ultimately led to prohibition in certain States. Again, prohibition as understood by us and prohibition as understood in America are entirely different. I do not want to reiterate what I already submitted to the House during the general discussion on the budget. With regard to prohibition, or with regard to local option, there are different standards and varieties adopted in other countries. The methods vary from country to country. Therefore, to study the conditions of our province, and see what would be the best means by which we would be able to achieve our object, is the thing for which we have to work. In order to find out the particular means to be adopted, we have instituted inquiries as to what has been done in other provinces, and the report given by my hon. friend Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar and Mr. Strathie, bearing on that matter, is very interesting. They have enquired what has been done in other places and they have given us their views and experiences. There is difference of opinion in regard to one system, namely, the rationing system that has been introduced recently in Bombay, and I am watching that attempt in Bombay with great interest. If we find that the rationing system in Bombay is working on really good, sound and practical lines, I would not have any objection to adopt it as far as it is applicable to the conditions of this province. Here the high licence system and the rationing system may be combined and worked as far as they suit the conditions of this province. My hon. friend Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar prophesies that the rationing system is the surest way to prohibition, and he may be correct in his prophecy that that system may lead to prohibition in the long run. I am not at all differing from him in that matter. But let us judge of the matter in the light of our experience and the local conditions in which the system is to be applied. And when once we are sure of our ground, I am quite sure we shall not be behind Bombay in applying the principles of the rationing system to the conditions of our province, as far as they are applicable or suitable. Therefore, what else can the Government do in the matter? The Government, the reformed Government, or the popular Government that has come into existence, cannot, in a day, revolutionize the whole system that has been worked for so many years. It cannot alter the conditions and circumstances that have ruled the country for so many years. The administration has been sound and efficient; I am not at all against any attempts to modify the old policy or to suit it to the altered conditions here. But we have to investigate, we have to work up the details of the methods, and then adopt a plan and a policy to achieve the end in view. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that before we can achieve the end, we must examine the ground on which we stand, and it is for that purpose I say that we are investigating the conditions in this province. A questionnaire has been published and it is sent out to all persons interested in temperance reform; their views will be considered with great consideration; and after the committee finishes its work and makes its recommendations, then the Government will adopt the suitable policy. When all the details have been worked out and a scheme and plan formulated by the committee and submitted to the Government, then the Government will surely review the whole case and they will then formulate a policy. At present, I submit, we are not behind any other

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province in the matter of temperance reform. The report of Messrs. Shanmukham Chettiyar and Strathie will show that in the matter of the surcharge system or in the matter of the fixed fee system, or the system of licensing boards, we are not at all behind any other province, and perhaps, if I may repeat again, those policies have been adopted in this province long before the other provinces adopted them. I would not by any means rest satisfied because we have been doing something in the matter. We have to do more, and it is the anxious desire of the Government to see how that can be done and on what lines. I may assure my hon. friends that if any constructive suggestion would come from the committee after their deliberations are over, we are quite prepared to consider the whole matter of revising the entire excise policy in this province."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I am told that the Government have been really doing something in the matter, and I hope that they will pass their orders according to the considered opinion of the Excise Committee. With this further hope that the whole consideration will be over before we meet again in July and that the matter will be placed before the Council, I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand for the grant of Rs. 22.07 lakhs under Excise Department was then put to the House and carried, and the grant was accordingly made.

The House then (1-28 p.m.) adjourned for lunch.

DEMAND III—STAMPS

The Council re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m. with the hon. the Deputy President in the chair.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 5.85 lakhs under Demand III—Stamps. The details relating to the total demand will be found on page 4 of the printed list."

MOTION No. 47.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5.85 lakhs for stamps by Rs. 1,000.

I have tabled this motion to raise the question of swadeshi in stamps. The question is not a new one, Sir, and it is not known why we should still continue to get stamps manufactured in England. India is now capable of manufacturing many things. We are able to have our own mints where all coins are minted, and I believe there are a number of art presses throughout the country which are able to print very useful things. There is, therefore, no reason at all why we should have our stamps manufactured in England at a very large cost. The question was recently raised in the Central Government but no satisfactory solution has been arrived at. We only find the usual evasive reply, that the matter is under consideration. This matter, we are glad to see, is provincial as well as votable in this province. Therefore, I want to know whether this Government is taking any steps whatever—the point was raised by me last year—I want to know whether this Government is trying to get locally-made stamps either in this Presidency or from anywhere else in this country. I suppose the old theory that Indian manufactures are not good has been exploded, and I think that

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the hon. the Revenue Member probably knows that presses in India are now able to turn out very confidential communications and so many other things. I do not think there will be any difficulty whatever to get stamps manufactured in India either in private or Government presses. I, therefore, want to know whether Government has done anything in the matter, or, if not, whether they are going to do anything in the future, so that we may have a substantial reduction under this item in the future."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, it will be comforting to the hon. the mover of this motion to know that we are in correspondence with the Government of India on this matter. First we wished to be sure of the terms of contract entered into by the Government of India with a certain European firm in London for the manufacture of stamps and stamp papers, and we have since learnt that the contract will expire in December 1924. In the meantime, we have started an enquiry with the Government of India as regards the powers of the Local Government to manufacture their own stamps and their own stamp paper and everything incidental to them. After ascertaining all the facts of the case it was only on the 17th February last that a final communication had been sent to the Government of India expressing our views, and I am not permitted, Sir, to either lay on the table or to quote *verbatim* the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India. Until final orders are received, the intermediate correspondence cannot be laid on the table. However, I may assure the hon. Member that this question is engaging the attention of the Government."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I thought that the hon. the Revenue Member was going to give us some idea of the previous correspondence on this matter. We do not want a *verbatim* report nor do we want that the report should be laid on the table. However, I hope that he will bear in mind this matter, although the contract ends only in December 1924. Generally, we are told when any question is raised 'it is too early' or 'it is too late'. Let us not wait for two years till the old contract is over. Let us be sure of what we should do. This Council must make it clear to the Central Government that whatever they are going to do this Government will be, as it were, bound to give the contract locally. With these words, I beg to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 48.

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5.85 lakhs for stamps by Rs. 100.

The object with which I have tabled this motion for reduction by Rs. 100 is to ascertain from the Government if they have any intention of improving the status or the emoluments of the stamp vendors. I know that the remuneration or the discount that these stamp vendors have been receiving has been very small, and I understand various *mahazars* have been sent by them requesting the Government to increase the discount. A fear is entertained by these stamp-vendors, somehow, that not only will the discount be not increased but that the Government are going to reduce the discount that is already being paid. I wish to know whether the Government have any intention of reducing the discount, and whether they are prepared to increase

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the discount that is being paid to them. It is for this purpose, Sir, that I tabled this motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, as will appear from the Budget figures, the amount of discount budgeted for during the current year was only Rs. 2.75 lakhs. After the passing of the new Stamp Act it had to be increased to Rs. 3.5 lakhs during the current year, and the same amount has been carried forward in the Budget estimate for the next year as well. Therefore, under this head, it will be apparent that there is decidedly an increased expenditure. This, of course, has attracted the notice of the Retrenchment Committee as indeed it ought to have done, for this is clearly an item in which there is increased expenditure—and the matter is under investigation by them. I am not in a position now to anticipate what their decision will be. Until the Committee have finished their labours I cannot say whether they will allow the present rate of commission to continue or whether they will make a recommendation for the reduction of the discount."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA:—"I have not asked, Sir, for any assurance. I hope that the hon. the Revenue Member will remember that the discount now allowed is certainly too small, and that he will protest against any reduction which the Retrenchment Committee may propose. I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and granted and the grant was made.

DEMAND IV—FORESTS

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 44.16 lakhs under the head Demand IV. Forests."

MOTION No. 49.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 63,750 for contingencies by Rs. 1,000.

In this connexion, I may say that I wanted to speak of other things such as the question of village panchayats, etc., besides what I am going to say on this point. So far as the forest panchayats are concerned, I think there will be opportunities to speak on some other motions on which hon. Members are likely to concentrate their attention, and therefore I do not want to say anything on them. I simply want to deal first with the question of the officers of the Forest department. Very well, Sir, we are glad to see that some retrenchment has been made. I suppose the hon. Member in charge will be able to assure us that some more reductions will be made, instead of saying that the matter will be considered by the Retrenchment Committee and so on and so forth, and instead of simply pleading for the existing state of things.

"So far as the question of recruitment is concerned, it is not enough if we are only told what is likely to be done and all that. We have been hearing of so many suggestions which were made by the Chief Conservator and which are under the consideration of the Government. It has been made clear practically by all sides of this House that the pay of the Indian officers need not be so high as the pay of the Europeans. Therefore, I want to know whether hereafter the pay of Indians recruited either in India or in England

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will be fixed differently from the pay to be given to Europeans. On this question I do not want to say much. But there seems to be a little difference among the various Imperial officers in the various departments regarding the pay of Europeans and Indians. On a previous occasion, when I referred to the Revenue Department, the hon. the leader of the House challenged me by saying that all the Indians in the same grade as the Europeans were given the same pay as Europeans so far as the Collectors and Sub-Collectors were concerned. I did not have the Quarterly Civil List then. But since then, I have got a copy of the Civil List, and I find that it is not correct to say that the Indians get the same pay as the Europeans are receiving. Here I see that the Indian Collectors get far less pay than European Sub-Collectors. I will refer, Sir, if necessary, to the page in the Civil List—page 29. In the Agricultural Department, the Indian Imperial officer is started on a lesser pay than the European Imperial officer. For instance, the Indians are started on Rs. 350 and they go on getting some increments annually, whereas the Europeans begin on Rs. 500. Equal wages for equal work 'may be a good principle.' But still, from the point of view of economy, it is necessary that the Government should fix a lower scale for the Indians and get more Indians than Europeans. And if it is necessary to get European experts, then they may get them on some contract. So far as this question is concerned, it is surprising to me to see why there should be 26 appointments kept vacant. I am not saying that these 26 appointments should be filled up. But let us be sure once for all that these 26 appointments will never be filled and

2-45 p.m. that there will be no recruitment for them. Just before the new Reformed Council came into existence, the Government for some reason or other thought that their hands would be tied later on and created a number of new appointments in every branch of the administration. If any proof were needed for this statement, the Forest department might be cited. In it several Imperial officers were recruited and their pay was fixed very high. If this recruitment is allowed to proceed unchecked, the Secretary of State might soon double the number of officers. It is high time that the Secretary of State is told that recruits are no longer needed. At present there seem to be 26 vacancies, and it is better that the Government once for all make up their minds not to fill them."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"The motion before the House is to reduce the allotment for contingencies; and all that the hon. Member is now referring to is not relevant to the present motion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"These contingencies refer to the contingencies of the Chief Conservator of Forests and as he is the head of the Forest department, we are here discussing the forest policy adopted by the Government. Last year, on a similar motion, I raised the same question of policy underlying the Forest department and my reference was ruled as quite in order."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I am afraid that much of what the hon. Member has been saying in reference to this motion is quite out of order."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I can only quote last year's precedent."

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The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I would request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the contingencies covered by the motion before the House."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The allotment for the Chief Conservator is a non-votable item. Last year it was ruled by the hon. the President that in moving for the reduction of a clerk in the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, we could deal with the policy adopted by the Forest department. Following the precedent set up last year, I am discussing the forest policy on a motion to reduce the contingencies of the Forest department. In fact I referred to the very same question of recruitment last year, on a motion to reduce the contingencies of the Forest department."

"I was saying, Sir, that we have ever been crying for the reduction of the number of officers in this department. The result of our incessant cry is that they have stopped the recruitment of Ranger and the Extra Assistant Conservators. I understand that training is not given now for Rangers and Conservators. I understand that because we have already got enough of such Extra Assistant Conservators, the stopping of the recruitment of these lower-officers. Side by side with the stopping of the recruitment of these lower-paid officers, I want that for some years at least, the recruitment for higher officers should be stopped. The Extra Assistant Conservators and the Extra Deputy Conservators who have been drafted into the cadre of Deputy Conservators as if some special privilege has been conferred on them, now find themselves placed in a very awkward situation. The Imperial officers in all the other departments come under non-votable heads, but in the Forest department, the Indian promoted Deputy and Assistant Conservators who are also Imperial officers come under the votable item. That is why some of my hon. friends have given notices of motions to remove these seven officers."

"Then, Sir, so far as the Indianization of the Service is concerned, our resolution to reserve at least one Conservator's post for an Indian is still kept in abeyance. We do not know whether before the end of this Council or the end of the Council that is to come shortly into existence, any Indian will be appointed for the post of Conservator of Forests. The usual plea of seniority is often raised against this proposal. It is said that no one can go to the top ignoring the claims of those above him. As I have already said over and over again, these people by reason of their having entered the Imperial service come under a different category. It is impossible for them to live so long as to get over the various people above them. It is only the younger men that are above them and these younger men cannot be expected to retire soon making room for these Indian Imperial officers. I must say, Sir, that in these matters strict seniority cannot be enforced. For instance, there is an officer in the service of the Government of India who is much junior to the hon. the leader of this House and yet the former is drawing over Rs. 5,000. Therefore, I Rs. 6,000 and the latter is drawing only over Rs. 5,000. Therefore, I think it is too much to say that seniority should be respected irrespective of other considerations. I submit that these Deputy Conservators who have been promoted from the Provincial service to the Imperial service can never expect to get a Conservator's post if this principle of seniority is rigorously enforced. If the Government is anxious to respect the unanimous wish of this House, they should appoint at least one Indian as a Conservator of

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Forests. An Indian would know the Indian forest conditions much better than a European, and it is but bare justice that the claims of Indians should be recognized before it is too late.

"I once more wish to impress upon the hon. Member in charge of this Department the imperative necessity for stopping all further recruitment for the higher offices in this department at least for some years. It must once for all be declared that there is no necessity to fill up the posts which have now been vacant for some time past."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Mr. President, at the outset, I might take a technical objection that my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, has been discussing to a very large extent non-votable items; but I do not wish to insist upon that technical objection.

"The main point to which my hon. friend directed his speech was the general subject of recruitment, that is, recruitment for the higher grades of the service. I do not know whether he is aware what exactly our present position is. It has been decided that for the present, that is, for the next five years, 40 per cent of the vacancies occurring in the Imperial department shall be recruited in India. I am not quite sure how that is going to fit in with the promotion of men from the Provincial service to the Imperial service. I am afraid there may be such difficulties as have already occurred and as have been alluded to by my hon. friend, namely, that men promoted from the Provincial service will be considerably older than those Indians who come in direct. That is a matter which we shall have to face. I am afraid I cannot give my hon. friend very much satisfaction on the question of appointing the promoted Provincial service men to a Conservator's post above the heads of their seniors. I must adhere to the position that in the case of a man who can remain in the Provincial service but who has elected to accept promotion to the Imperial service, it is quite impossible to suggest that all considerations of seniority shall be set aside, and that he shall be put in later as a conservator over the heads of others who are by far senior to him."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"If a man does not elect to go into the Imperial service but remains in the Provincial service, will he get the chance of being promoted over the heads of his seniors?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"If he likes, we will cancel his appointment in the Imperial service, and then it is quite possible that he may get the chance of being promoted.

"If we were not promoting men to the regular ranks of the Imperial service I should be quite prepared to consider the question of assigning an appointment of Conservator to the Provincial service men. But we cannot do that as matters stand at present, because the Provincial service men are those who either because of their juniority or because they are less fit have not been promoted. It would be ridiculous to give the post of a Conservator to one of the Provincial service men as they stand at present, while the more experienced Indians who have been promoted to the Imperial service have to wait for their turn.

"My hon. friend referred to the case of Mr. Innes who holds a more important post than some of his seniors in the Civil Service. The fact that he was junior in the list did not stand in the way of his being selected.

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Mr. Innes, Sir, was selected as eminently qualified by his merits for the post he holds. No one can possibly object to selection on that ground. What I do object to is the suggestion that selection should depend not on merit but on racial consideration, and that on that ground the officers who have been promoted to the Imperial service should disturb the whole principle of seniority and go above the heads of their seniors. As regards the actual prospect of these officers ever succeeding to the appointment of a Conservator, I think my hon. friend is taking an unduly pessimistic view. On the other hand, the oldest of these seven promoted officers is only aged 43, and above him there are only three officers who have never officiated as Conservators. If we consider the rate at which these officers retire or take leave, the three places will not take very long to go through. It seems to me that the prospects of these officers promoted from the Provincial service being in the run for the post of Conservator are at the present moment very favourable indeed.

"Next, I come to the old question whether we should fill up the posts which are now vacant. We have already taken steps to inform the Secretary of State that there is no need for him to engage any one in the current year. My hon. friend may take it from me that there is no question of the Secretary of State for India suddenly making up his mind to engage half a dozen men and insist on our giving them suitable places. There is an impression abroad that, as regards the men who came last and who are coming this year, they have been foisted upon us by the Secretary of State. On a previous occasion, I was at some pains to point out to the House that it was unfair to attribute any such action to the Secretary of State. These men have to be indentured for three years before they actually arrive in this country. Three years ago all of us were under the impression that immediately after the War there was going to be a boom in forest exploitation and forest activities and that we were going to have a large increase in the output of the Forest Department. It is hardly fair to put the whole responsibility on the Secretary of State for having done a thing which we ourselves would have done if we had been in his position. We are now on our guard, and we have written to the Secretary of State that in the present year we do not want any new recruits, that is, recruits who will be available to us three years hence.

"I do not know if there is any other detail which my hon. friend wished me to refer to. On the general question of retrenchment he appealed to my hon. friend, Mr. Richmond, to tell us what he was going to do. I should like to remind my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, that this House has appointed a Retrenchment Committee to go into these matters and it would hardly be courteous to the Retrenchment Committee if Mr. Richmond were to lay his proposals before the House before the Retrenchment Committee has even seen them. All I can say is that Mr. Richmond has been engaged for the last six weeks in overhauling every single item of expenditure in the department. He has now got his data ready and he is shortly to discuss the whole matter with Mr. R. W. Davies. After putting their heads together, they will present their final conclusions to the Retrenchment Committee. But I should not like the House to go with the idea that any very large reduction of expenditure is to be expected in the Forest Department. The obvious reason for this is that by cutting down expenditure in the Forest Department, we shall be restricting the commercial side of our activities. We can economize if we want: we can cut off a lakh

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here and a lakh there; but this will really reduce our receipts. I have already referred to this view of the matter in this House and it obtains confirmation in a telegram received to-day from Simla. Referring to a certain cut of 4 lakhs made on the expenditure side, the hon. Sir Basil Blackett reminded the hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly that the cuts made by them were not going to reduce the deficit; on the other hand, they would probably increase the deficit by one crore. That is very much the position in our Forest Department though happily the results are on a smaller and less alarming scale. We should remember that for every lakh taken away from the expenditure side, we should deduct 2 lakhs from the receipt side."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, the hon. the Home Member 3 p.m. has referred to the Retrenchment Committee and to the work that is being done now by Mr. Richmond. It would, I think, Sir, facilitate the course of the discussion in this House if the Government would give us an undertaking in regard to one or two points. The first is that Government should carry out the recommendations that may be made by the Retrenchment Committee. The second thing that they should also undertake is that if retrenchments are effected by the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, they will not utilize the saving realized for other purposes by reappropriation. If an assurance is given on these two points, Sir, I think, it may perhaps simplify matters and shorten debates."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"If that will satisfy the hon. Member, Sir, I am prepared to assure the House that I will try to carry out any recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"What about the question of reappropriation, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"As regards that point, Sir, it concerns a general assurance which I think I must leave to the hon. the Finance Member."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"We are thankful of course, Sir, for small mercies, and the Forest Department is one of those departments where mercies are very rarely showered. We are very thankful, Sir, that for the present year no more recruitments are to be made. But I do not know what the 'present year' means—whether it is calendar year or financial year."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"It is calendar year."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"That was what I wanted to know, Sir. Another thing that I want to request the hon. the Home Member is to see that not only recruitments are not made hereafter at any time, but to be very careful not to recruit military officers. In spite of all that has been said, if a person has been a military officer and if he is recruited, I understand that all his previous military service comes to his service in this department, and people who have already been working here before he was recruited become his juniors by the fact that he was in the Military Department and brings back with him to the Forest Department the whole service which he had put in either in the Military Department or

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on the fields of war. Therefore, if we really want to improve the status of these people, either Indians or Europeans, I think it would be better to see once for all that no military officers are recruited.

"As to the other general point, Sir, I am very glad that to-day it has been said that if any Indian, either in the Provincial service, or promoted to the Imperial service, is found equal to the task, he will be appointed as Conservator."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I must make a verbal correction, Sir. What I say is that, if there is any one whose merits entitle him to be selected for the post, the fact that he is not at the head of the list will not prevent his selection."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Whether in the Provincial or in the Imperial service. I wanted only to qualify the hon. Member's statement. I think, Sir, that if anybody is found equal to the task—that is how I understood the hon. the Home Member—he will be appointed to the post. Well, Sir, that is a very great concession and I hope that some departmental objections will not be raised against it. With these few words, I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 50.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I beg to move, Sir, that the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for purchase of cattle be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

The Forest Department seems to be the pet child of the Government. We find from page 5 of the Budget estimate that the income has considerably been reduced by Rs. 1,20,000. Whereas, turning to page 9, we find that the expenditure has been increased by Rs. 2,19,500, so that we find that we have got less income and more expenditure. And yet in these days we find an increased provision for purchasing cattle to the extent of Rs. 30,000. The revised estimate under this head is only Rs. 13,000 as against a Budget estimate of Rs. 24,400 for 1922-23."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"May I ask my hon. friend to point out the item, Sir?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I refer to page 51 of the Budget, Sir. The actuals for 1921-22 were Rs. 21,337. If our income is to be Rs. 1,20,000 less than the revised estimate, and if our expenditure is really to be in excess by Rs. 2 lakhs and odd, I fail to understand why there should be an increased provision under this head. Perhaps they may claim that this increased expenditure is responsible for our monthly showers and in fact the very shower that we have had to-day may be ascribed to the existence of forests. I cannot go into that question now, because I am unable to understand the logic of it. Still I wish to know, Sir, why there should be an increased purchase of cattle this year when we are going to get only a less income from the forests."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, it might assist my hon. friend in the discussion of this matter, if I were to mention that out of the provision made for the purchase of cattle Rs. 18,200 is not intended for the purchase of cattle at all. It is money spent in capturing elephants. It is a very profitable business to capture elephants, and I do not suppose that my hon. friend desires to object to our maintaining an establishment for that purpose."

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"My hon. friend's objection, I take it, is to the increased total. I may tell him that of the increase, Rs. 17,000 represents the cost of replacing buffaloes which were destroyed in the Nilambur division during the Mappilla rebellion. That information, I hope, will be sufficient to satisfy my hon. friend that we are not indulging in extravagance in regard to this matter of purchase of cattle this year; we are merely replacing cattle which unfortunately owing to special circumstances were lost."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I did not know, Sir, that 'capture' meant 'purchase' according to their phraseology. Now I am enlightened upon that point: that purchase includes capture. The question is whether any captures were made during the current year and during the last year. If we were not able to effect any captures, then is there any possibility of effecting any successful captures this year? Therefore, it is only a problematical thing. It is said that Rs. 18,000 have been provided for it and the hon. the Home Member told us just now that Rs. 17,000 are intended for replacing cattle lost in the Malabar rebellion. If that is so, it comes to Rs. 35,000. Still, we have got a provision of only Rs. 30,000 here. This also I am unable to understand. If the hon. Member can effect a cut here, I think it will do some good to the people at large."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I can explain that point, Sir, if I am allowed to do so. The provision was Rs. 43,000, but in the Budget proposed by the Chief Conservator, it is reduced to Rs. 30,000. The figures which I quoted were those given by the Chief Conservator on the basis that he would have Rs. 43,000 to spend. This, I think, Sir, will explain the apparent discrepancy."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I do not press my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 51.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,86,645 to remove timber and other produce by Government agency by Rs. 50,000.

The amount spent under this head last year (i.e., 1921-22) was, as is seen at page 51 of the Budget, Rs. 4,13,909. In the current year, i.e., 1922-23, the amount under the revised estimate comes to Rs. 5,18,000. For the coming year 1923-24 the amount provided is Rs. 5,86,645, that is, an increase of nearly Rs. 70,000. Out of this increase of roughly Rs. 70,000 for the next year, I move for a reduction of Rs. 50,000, leaving an increased amount of Rs. 20,000 over the revised estimate for the current year.

"It may be stated in answer to this motion, Sir, that the larger the amount spent under this head, the greater will be the quantity of timber that the Government will be able to remove from the forests and therefore the greater the amount that will be realized also. No doubt this argument may hold good in some cases, but it cannot certainly hold good proportionately to the increased figures. I believe Government spend about Rupees 5,36,000 and odd for removing timber and other materials, and they will be able to substantially realize the same amount which they will be able to realize by spending this Rs. 5,86,000 and odd this year. In fact, after a

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series of deficits there is no need to unnecessarily spend this amount this year. For these reasons, Sir, I move for a reduction of this amount by half a lakh."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am not quite sure, Sir, whether I rightly understood my hon. friend's closing remarks. He appeared to say that he was quite certain that Government by spending Rs. 50,000 less than what they proposed to spend, would still make the same total profit. Well, Sir, I do not know whether my hon. friend has special information regarding the prospects of the timber market which is not at my disposal or whether he speaks merely from intuition. But I find it extremely difficult to accept his suggestion which would falsify the whole of our experience. These figures of expected receipts and expected expenditure have been put down after a detailed experience of many years; and I am entirely at a loss to understand why my hon. friend should still suppose that, in the coming year in particular, this transaction is going to be a much more profitable concern than it has been in the past. His main object, I gather, was to restrict our operations. Why, I am not quite sure unless it be that he would like to take this opportunity of reducing the deficit exposed in our whole Budget. I have already mentioned, on a previous occasion, that any cutting-off of money from this source will not reduce our deficit, but will, on the contrary, increase it. I think perhaps that that is a sufficient answer to my hon. friend's suggestion."

"If I may trouble the House with one or two details in support of this provision, I will read one or two extracts from the notes of the Chief Conservator which explain how he proposes to utilize this sum of Rs. 5,86,645."

"He proposes to spend Rs. 66,500 on the exploitation in the sixth circle. There he expects to find 50,000 cft. of timber. He anticipates 3-15 p.m. that the sale of that will bring in Rs. 1,20,000, a profit of nearly 100 per cent. He proposes to exploit 17 thousand cubic feet of timber in Wynad at a cost of Rs. 95,000, and the revenue anticipated is Rs. 2,95,000. Here, again, there is a clear gain of Rs. 2,00,000. If my hon. friend wants to cut off that project, we shall lose Rs. 2,00,000. Similarly, at Mount Stuart it is going to cost us Rs. 84,000 to carry out the work of exploitation contemplated and we expect a return of Rs. 2,50,000. This, again, is another 2 lakhs to be cut off from our receipts if my hon. friend's cut is to be effected. I hope that after these detailed explanations, my hon. friend will not press his motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"My hon. friend was quite right in his assumption that my object in moving this reduction is to effect economy. He went on to state that by reducing this amount we will not be able to reduce our deficit, but, on the other hand, we will be only increasing it. I was not quite able to follow his remarks. However, I do not wish to press my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 52.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR:—"Sir, the motion that stands in my name is

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,22,350 for conservancy and works by 1 lakh. My object in tabling this motion was to urge the speedier substitution of the contract system in place of departmental working in all possible

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ways. Hitherto, the nature of work seems to be first to work departmentally, and then, after undergoing a lot of trouble and expense, to give it on contracts or auctions. No doubt, the latter system is in many places found to be causing serious losses to the contractors also and hence the fuel and timber prices have been abnormally high, similar to the evil effect of auction system under Abkari. It is preferable to adopt a system of contract instead of auction. It is on account of the department undertaking that work we find that the net income from Forests does not justify the expenditure upon the department. As we are going to have Forest Panchayats in large numbers, it will facilitate still further the contract system and it may gradually be arranged that more work is given to non-official agency on contract system in the ordinary way or in the form of agreements where special circumstances require them. In this way a gradual transference of such works may be done from the official to the non-official agency.

"It is an admitted fact that Government agency is always costly and wasteful. Since the policy of the Forest Department, therefore, is admitted to be most expensive, I do not think there will be any difficulty in accepting my motion. No doubt the hon. Member in charge of Forests will be pleased to say that the Government will always avail themselves of such cheap working agencies wherever they find. But what I do want to impress upon the House is that Government should, instead of continuing departmental work in areas where, according to them, people are not found to take contracts, induce contractors to undertake the work, giving all possible facilities. Then only more persons will be found to come forward for taking contracts. In such areas, if better officers with more responsibilities are posted, I think much of the departmental working may be speedily replaced by the contract system which alone will bring in more revenue with less cost. If any expenditure on a large scale is included in the allotment of expenditure on account of any undertakings based on scientific investigations, exploitations, experiments and developments works, etc., such expenditure may be very safely omitted or reduced to a minimum under the present circumstances. I am afraid there is a tendency now-a-days to place very high hopes in adopting scientific methods in everything—as if we have exhausted our brain energy and practical experience which have withstood successfully for generations. It is quite possible to show a large increase in certain areas worked by Government. The reason may be quite different and we cannot be justified in allowing the practice to go on, for, in working large areas containing valuable timber, it is quite easy to show a profit. But we must take into consideration, leaving aside the value of the produce, whether the outturn of work under Government agency shows a profit in proportion to the amount spent or not. As I have already said, it is bound to be a loss when viewed in a business-like way."

Mr. R. D. RICHMOND:—"Sir, the proposal of the hon. mover is that the whole work of exploitation, which is now done by the Forest Department, should be entrusted to contractors, the arguments advanced in support of that policy being that the expenses would be cheaper and the profit to the Government greater. If we look into the figures at first sight, it might look like that. Under 'Conservancy and Works', in the accounts for 1921-22, on one side there is a sum of Rs. 19,45,002, and you find very little or nothing on the other side. One must not judge from that. Those who think that exploitation work might be left entirely to contractors would

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do well to consider the expenses of the contractors also in the matter of felling, carting, sending by train and marketing of timber. It remains to be proved that the contractor, after incurring all these expenses, would still make a greater profit than Government. When the systematic working of the Forest Department was first started, it was done by departmental agency down to the felling and carting of timber. I may say that it has been the policy of the Government to entrust to contractors as much of this kind of work as they possibly can. I have got the figures from 1913-14. In the year 1913-14 the revenue made by departmental exploitation of firewood amounted to Rs. 1,46,000. Our final figure in this respect for the last year is Rs. 57,000. It is clear therefore that the Government is pursuing this policy of entrusting to contractors works of this nature.

"As regards timber, the matter is rather difficult. For, it is difficult to find men with the capital and with the knowledge necessary to carry on extraction in the less accessible areas in which we now have to work. Were these men forthcoming, I have very little doubt, the Government will be only very glad to entrust the work to them and thus save the Government from the necessity of producing accounts. But they are not forthcoming and they have not got the knowledge and the necessary capital. So, until they are forthcoming, it seems to me only fair that the Government should carry on this work. In America the work of exploitation of forests is entrusted to private agency. There are people there with the necessary capital and skill. For my part, I think that the exploitation work carried on by Government agency would pay better. It is one of the questions over which there is much difference of opinion. If the department is going to be regarded entirely as a commercial concern, then we shall have to revise our establishments and do firewood business only. I do not advocate this policy, and I am not convinced how we could make more money by so doing. In this connexion, I would quote Madura as an example where the Government supplied fuel to the people in the hope that prices might be reduced. I hope it is not intended that the Government should do this kind of work. So, as regards timber, the moment that contractors are forthcoming to take up this work and pay us the price for the wood they may undertake to work and fell, then I have little doubt that Government will be prepared to hand it over to them. At present they are not forthcoming.

"Another means of interesting private parties to work out the forests is this: the Government should enter into some form of profit-sharing with private parties, whereby the Government should be prepared to supply the capital that is necessary and the private parties should undertake the working out of the forest produce. This system has been tried in the Punjab to a certain extent and when it was introduced in that province, it met with much applause from the public. An expert was engaged in America in connexion with this work, and he was instructed to buy machinery, and Government was responsible only for the capital. The work was conducted by private agency on a profit-sharing basis. I think this House would not be well advised in recommending once for all that we should abandon the policy of working the forests ourselves when we cannot get private people to work them."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR:—"I could not follow the hon. Member who spoke last. What I submitted was that an inducement should be made

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to the people for working out the forests. That would cheapen the work, save the cost of expenditure incurred by Government, and also be advantageous to the people. I submit that a reduction should be made."

The motion was put and declared lost. A poll was demanded 3-30 p.m. by Mr. Biswanath Das which was taken with the following results :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 17. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 2. " T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 18. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 3. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 19. Mr. Muttumanikkachari. |
| 4. " K. A. Kandaswami Kandar. | 20. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 5. " B. Maniswami Nayudu. | 21. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 6. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 22. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 7. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 23. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja. | 24. " M. R. Seturathnam Ayyar. |
| 9. Mr. W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. | 25. " T. Arumainatha Pillai. |
| 10. " A. Subbarayudu. | 26. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 11. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 27. Mr. T. Sivasankaran Pillai. |
| 12. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. | 28. Saiyid Muhammad Padsba Sahib. |
| 13. " C. Venkata Ranga Reddi. | 29. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib. |
| 14. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 30. Khan Sahib Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib. |
| 15. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 31. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razak Sahib. |
| 16. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 14. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-Jah Sahib. | 15. Mr. C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 16. The Rev. W. Weston. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkataraj Reddi Nayudu. | 17. Mr. M. Ratnaswami. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 18. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 19. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 20. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 21. " R. T. Kesavulu Pillai. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 22. Rao Sahib M. C. Madurai Pillai. |
| 10. " R. D. Richmond. | 23. " P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 11. " E. F. Thomas. | 24. Mr. A. J. Leech. |
| 12. " E. Periyannayagam. | 25. " A. M. MacDougall. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 26. Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chettiyar. |
| | 27. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. |

Thirty-one voted for and twenty-seven against

The motion was declared carried.

MOTION No. 53.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 60,300 for pay of seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators.

I may point out at the outset that these seven officers are going to be appointed in the coming year, and that they are not now in office. If they were in office, I would not have moved this motion. One of the ways of effecting economy is to cut away the provisions for new appointments; and from this point of view, I submit that there are very good reasons for not appointing these new men. The revenue that is expected to be derived under the head of Forests in the year 1923-24 is Rs. 52,52,000. The total expenditure is Rs. 51,89,000. Therefore you will see that after spending Rs. 51,89,000—I am speaking from the figures that are given for the

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ensuing year 1923-24—we shall get Rs. 63,000. This statement itself shows that there is something wrong somewhere. If we go a little more into the details, what do we find? We find, that there are eighty-six officers in the department excluding the seven officers who are to be appointed in the coming year. I am speaking only of the higher officers, namely, the Deputy Conservators and Assistant Conservators, and not inferior men like Rangers and others. I may say that I do not also include officers who are employed in the Forest College. I do not include the office of the Conservator also. Omitting all these, we find that there are eighty-six officers: six Conservators, thirty-seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators, one Forest Engineer, one Forest Utilization Officer, one Chief Forest Engineer, thirty Extra Assistant Conservators, one Lumbering Engineer, five Supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators, three Probationary Extra Assistant Conservators, and one temporary Extra Assistant Conservator for the development of a particular area. All these make up a total of 86 officers. In addition to these it is now proposed to appoint seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators. It seems to me that this proposal is absolutely unjustifiable. I submit that there are too many appointments already, and I hope I have made out a very good case."

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have also given notice of the same motion, namely, to omit the allotment of Rs. 60,300 for pay of seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators of Forests.

"This is entirely a new item in the Budget. My hon. friend, Mr. Tanikachellam Chettiyar, in his vigorous speech during the general discussion on the Budget pointed out how the Forest establishment went on increasing from year to year without a similar increase in the income of the department. The only considerable increase is in the fines and penalties extracted from poor ryots. Most of the high grade forest officers are recruited by the Secretary of State, and we in Madras are expected to pay the men dumped on us from above. It is time that we protest against this sort of imposition by omitting the allotment under discussion."

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATA RANGA REDDI :—"I support the motion.

3-45 p.m. I should like to know from the hon. the Home Member whether these seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators are promoted from the Provincial to the Imperial service, and, if so, why their pay alone is votable. If the answer is that they are promoted from the Provincial to the Imperial I have nothing to say. If they are officers who are to be newly appointed, I wish to oppose."

Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARI :—"I support the motion."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"I beg to support the motion of Mr. Krishnan Nayar. I also invite the attention of the House to the expenditure incurred which is Rs. 28,61,900 as against Rs. 27,96,000. Of course, it is said that these are new officers to be introduced in the coming year. There is also the personal allowance of Rs. 4,800. For these reasons I support the motion."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Mr. President, it would have saved a considerable portion of the time of the House, if my hon. friends had taken the trouble to listen to the statement made by my hon. friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, in the beginning of this afternoon's

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proceedings when he referred to and explained this matter. These seven officers are not new appointments at all. They are Provincial service officers who were promoted during the last two years to Imperial service posts. I am rather surprised that, even after this had been explained, no less than seven hon. Members are proposing to cut the pay of these seven officers. As regards the fact that this item now appears as votable, the decision, Sir, rests with the Accountant-General. The classification is his. We asked him a question on the subject, and he replied that the classification is correct."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I hope that in future preparation of the Budget more care will be taken in classifying the figures. As it is, on page 52 of the Budget we find that for 1922-23 a certain number of officers is given, such as Conservators, Extra Assistant Conservators and so on. Then, as against that column for the coming year also figures are given. Just to illustrate what I mean, the number of Conservators for 1922-23 is given as six. As against that, for 1923-24 the number of Conservators is also six. Then again the number of Forest Engineers for the year 1922-23 is one, and the same number is given for 1923-24. As against these seven Deputy and Assistant Conservators, the column for 1922-23 is blank shewing apparently that these appointments do not exist in the current year, and that they are to be created for the first time in the year 1923-24. Thus, if greater care had been taken in the preparation of the Budget the time of the Council would be better utilized. However, I do not wish to press the motion."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not wish to say anything except to repudiate the suggestion that the confusion is due to a careless preparation of the Budget. If the hon. Member had taken a little care to follow the earlier speeches, like that of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, this question would not have arisen."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 54.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I beg to move—

to omit the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for one Lumbering Engineer.

This appointment seems to be a new one for we had no such officer in previous years, and against him we find an allotment of Rs. 7,000. I should like to have information from the hon. the Home Member as to the nature of the work to be done by this officer, the extent to which the State is likely to be benefited by him, and whether the appointment is of a temporary nature or likely to be made permanent. After hearing the answers to these points I shall decide what I am to do with this motion."

Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARI:—"I support the motion."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I also support this motion."

Mr. R. D. RICHMOND:—"The scheme for developing and conserving the forest resources has been framed in order to increase the revenues. It has been decided to institute a new branch under the Special Forest Engineer. Many of the Members of this House would no doubt remember Mr. Martin who, as the Consulting Forest Engineer of the Government of India, was able to spend a good deal of his time in Madras making his preliminary investigations. As a result of his report it has been decided to go further;

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[Mr. R. D. Richmond]

that is to say, to carry the investigations further, and in the case of projects for extraction of timber on a large scale which appear to be profitable, to pursue them. The communication by the Government on the subject in G.O. No. 340, dated the 5th March 1923, has been laid on the table and, no doubt, has been received by hon. Members. As a part of the Special Forest Engineering Branch I referred to, the Lumbering Engineer is a temporary appointment for three years. It is not expected that he will be employed for more than six months in the coming year; hence, the provision is only for Rs. 7,000. Mr. Martin cannot undertake the detailed local investigations himself; for, if he were to do it, it would mean that only one of these projects would be examined at a time. Therefore, the idea is that he should go to America and bring back with him a qualified Lumbering Engineer who will assist him in the preparation of logging projects, that is to say, schemes for the extraction of timber on an elaborate scale. He will carry on the technical work in securing the data in these forests, and, where work has been started, he will supervise the erection and the operation of the machinery. The House will understand that few of our own officers are familiar with the use of the logging machinery. Further, this Logging Engineer will assist to train exploitation officers and others in the operation of the machinery in modern methods of forest valuation, and in the preparation of logging maps. These are rather technical matters, but very great importance is being attached to them in America, and we shall be taught the most up-to-date methods. It would of course be possible, and some may think so, to use the Chief Forest Engineer himself for this purpose. As I have already pointed out, to keep a highly-paid official in one place for a particular work without utilizing his services as much as possible is not sound policy.

"There is another point. It is on the advice of Mr. Martin that this Logging Engineer was appointed, and he holds strongly that he cannot do without a Lumbering Engineer. It is even said that he cannot take up his duties unless he has these assistants. As I said, it is not proposed to appoint these officers permanently. It is hoped that we shall pick his brains and be ready to get on hereafter with our own men, both Provincial and Imperial officers, Indians and Europeans alike. But there must be a staff ready and we must have the best advice. In view of this explanation I hope the proposal to reduce this allotment will not be pressed."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I rise to support this motion and wish to say a few words not merely on

4 p.m.

the question of the Lumbering Engineer but on the whole question of the administration of the Forest Department. Sir, we are dealing with Forest. Trees grow there, and we can appropriately expect this standard to exist in the Forest Department, namely, that a tree should be judged by the fruit it bears. Now, what is the fruit that this department has borne? Sir, I believe I made a mistake apparently in my calculations made in a very optimistic spirit in my last Budget speech when I said that the profit was about a lakh and fifty thousand rupees—but now, according to the Budget, we find that, after spending Rs. 52 lakhs and odd, we are getting a magnificent sum of Rs. 63,000. It is said that by the employment of this large number of officers we can wonderfully develop our forests, which will be a source of immense wealth to our country. Sir, we had in the year 1920-21 only an army of 27 Assistant Conservators; but now we have 44, and whatever my hon. friend, the hon.

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the Home Member, may say that intimation has been sent to the Secretary of State that no more recruitment should take place in England, I find in a book published by the authority of the Government, namely, the Civil List, that with reference to Forest Department, at page 113, under the head of 'Deputy Conservators', there are as many as 41 officers, and items 42 to 57 are left vacant. So apparently the sanctioned strength is 57. In addition to this, a gentleman has been re-employed after his retirement, and there are also two other officers, Forest Engineer and Forest Exploitation Officer. It is only a question of filling up the whole of the cadre, if not this year, next year. Again, Sir, I am indebted to the department which put in my hands a book, apparently for converting us into the belief that forest is a 'gold mine'; I am actually using the expression found in this book. It gives a review of the Forest Department for the past 30 years. We have got in the Budget the figures for 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24. It is curious to find that at the time when the number of these officers was the lowest, the revenue derived was the highest. The highest water-mark was reached in the year 1919-20 when for the first time we got Rs. 25,22,000. Previous to that year it was a small sum. But during the war it was rising gradually and the highest was reached in 1919-20, when there were not so many extra officers. Subsequently, it was Rs. 8,51,000, the amount spent being more or less the same. The next year when we expected a profit, we incurred a loss of Rs. 3,95,000. Sir, in the coming year we are asked to spend about 52 lakhs, and we are going to get a profit of only Rs. 63,000, and this sum of Rs. 63,000 is arrived at after adding the sum of Rs. 2,46,000 which we hope to get by way of fines and penalties. The hon. the Home Member the other day, in the course of his reply to the Budget speeches, said that in Madras they are following a new system of imposing fines on the ryots charged with allowing their cattle to graze in the forests. You stop them going to the magistrate and say 'pay some money to us; we shall allow you to go away.' By prosecutions of this kind probably they are able to compound with these offenders for a very large sum, larger perhaps than the magistrate in the softness of his heart may impose on them. The hon. Member also said that they did not divide the two things separately. I have referred to this last year—to the enormous amounts of fines and penalties that you take from these poor ryots—and I ask whether any inquiry has been made, how much has been the amount of fines imposed by the magistrates and how much by the forest officers themselves. The only difference is this. The accused in the one case stands in the dock but in the other he does not stand in the dock but stands before a ranger or other forest officers who imposes the fines and the total of such fines comes up to Rs. 2,46,000. All this amount taken from the villagers goes to fill up the hollow created by this large army of establishment which yields only a profit of Rs. 60,000. Referring to this and to the fact that it is so hopelessly bad from a business point of view I said that we might as well give up the forest administration. The hon. Mr. Knapp asked whether I was carried away by any feeling when I said this. But may I assure him, Sir, that considerations of prudence, business, habits and reason prompted me to suggest that, viz., we might as well abandon our forest administration than recover Rs. 63,000 after spending about 52 lakhs of rupees. My business friends here would say that if we put the money in Government paper or in fixed deposits we would be able to get a good deal more. Our friend, the newly admitted

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gentleman of the Forest Department, has told us 'Yes we shall have; we shall be creating a valuable addition of which the future generation will have the benefit at the cost incurred by us year after year'. While we were not giving much attention in the shape of appointing Forest officers, Assistant Conservators, etc., drawing a salary of Rs. 550 and 600, we were getting a profit of 25 lakhs of rupees. I think it is certainly a business proposition to leave the forests in charge of a lesser number of officers and allow the forests to grow themselves and give us the revenue or take away from the forests the activities of these officers whose fruits we in our generation will not be able to see but which our posterity may see if we have plenty of money.

"Another question to which I wish to draw the attention of this House is the fact that while we are all protesting against allowances given to officers in various departments, we find that overseas allowances are paid in this department not merely to European officers who are recruited in England but also to the Indian officers. Very often it is said that the European officers find it inconvenient to come over to this country and therefore to make it worth their while to come over to this country, they must be paid some overseas allowance."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the discussion of non-votable items is relevant? The overseas allowances in this case are non-votable items."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAN:—"I hope we are entitled to make remarks at least on non-votable items."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"No, no. The non-votable items have not been laid before the House. Though they are put in the Budget for the purpose of convenience, they are not liable for discussion. But the hon. Member can refer to a non-votable item, not by way of objecting to it but by way of strengthening his arguments."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAN:—"Thank you, Sir. We find here that several Indian officers are also paid overseas allowances and the *raison-d'être* is not patent. But when I turn to the other pages of the civil list I find that the Indian Civil Service officers who go to England for training and come away to this country do not get any overseas allowance. Well, people who live in our country, who are born in our country and who are bred up in our country but who go to European countries for training—why should they have any overseas allowance? Apparently expenditure does not seem to be a thing which the department concerns itself with. Under these circumstances I support this motion."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAN:—"Sir, I propose to confine my remarks to the motion before the Council. Those who have read the Government Order recently published will find that it contains the report of the Chief Conservator of Forests creating the new department of engineering in the Forest service. Sir, in considering the general scheme of the world supply of timber India's part in it was discussed at length by experts. One of the experts has observed as follows:

India imports Swedish pine, box shooks, boxes and general structural lumber. Her railways are bringing in 1,500,000 treated fir sleepers for experimental use this year from British Columbia and the States, while she has forests of her own, rotting within 40 miles of some of these same railways! A ship-load of lumber is now on its way from Puget Sound to Calcutta while Indian hill forests burn and are wasted to a greater extent than the wasteful

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American lumberman ever dreamed of. Egypt imports 8,000,000 sleepers from Canada. Why not from India, she has the forests and needs the money! Egypt asks for cedar squares from the States—we have the finest cedar in the world here in our deodar forests.

Why?

If India can treble her forest revenue, needs exports to stabilize exchange, desires industrial development to protect her people from famines in years of poor crops, should she not take advantage of this opportunity?

The answer as to how this may be done can be given in three words:—
Education—organization—transportation.

These are the conclusions arrived at by experts. I desired to say a few words more. There are opportunities for India's expansion in trade and industries, if we follow the conclusions arrived at the various conferences by various experts. Sir, unless funds are provided we cannot do this. Forests are a source of revenue and unless they are used and expert advice is sought and utilized, the revenue from the Forest Department will not be increased. I may refer here to a matter of local interest. Ten or 15 years ago the shares of the Carnatic and Buckingham mills worth one thousand rupees each were of no value. They had no market. Now, Sir, even at thirty times the value there are no sellers. The reason for this is not far to seek. It is due to expert millmen, improved machinery and careful management. If such an expert man as is contemplated by this provision is brought in I do not think we need be so doubtful of the result. Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar observed that whatever we spend now would be for the benefit of posterity."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"May I make a personal explanation. It was not my statement. I only repeated what the Forest expert said, that there would be a reversion."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR:—"In 1844, a Collector of Malabar planted teak at Nilambur, and at the end of the eightieth year the forest is now worth a million of money and the posterity is benefited. I therefore think that we should spend our money ungrudgingly towards developing the forest resources. Some may say that the Chenat Nair forests which have been worked at a loss ought to teach us a lesson not to spend any more money on such ventures. I beg to point out it is not so. On the other hand it is a profitable concern. In the Chenat Nair scheme accounts errors of three descriptions entered; at this stage the bell rang and further remarks were stopped."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I find myself really unable to understand why in this year for the first time this item has been put in. It cannot be said that our present finances are sound. Time will come when we may think of appointing a lumbering engineer. The present time is not quite opportune."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, with reference to the suggestion made by my hon. friend opposite, that the consideration of this matter might be postponed, I think an explanation on that point has already been given by my hon. friend Mr. Richmond, namely, that the Lumbering Engineer is required to work under Mr. Martin and to save that officer's more valuable time by making the detailed investigations for him. Therefore the suggestion that we should postpone the appointment for two or three years will hardly meet our case and the Council must make up its mind to face now the clear issue whether they will or will not agree to the appointment

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being created. As Mr. Richmond explained, another of the duties of the Lumbering Engineer will be to train our own men in the work. If we want to get on with our projects, we must have our men trained and to postpone the beginning of the training, as my hon. friend suggests, to two or three years, would be postponing any forest development at all.

"That brings me to the speech of my hon. friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar. I am not quite sure whether he was here earlier in the afternoon, if he was I should have thought that the information given in a previous discussion would probably have modified his views. But it has not done so. In his opinion, the whole management of the Forest Department is a hopelessly bad business and the best thing would be to abandon the forests altogether."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"The present forest policy."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am afraid my hon. friend's change of position—any hon. it seems to me that I was right after all when I suggested that his eloquence had carried him away on the previous occasion—rather takes the wind out of my sails."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Business considerations. A profit of Rs. 65,000 will be considered as discreditable to any person managing such a business."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"That point was referred to in the general discussion on the Budget. I pointed out that the Forest Department is not solely a business undertaking, and the hon. Mr. Richmond has to-day independently made the same statement. A very large part, in fact the most important portion of the Forest Department, is connected with protection. I quoted some figures the other day; I fear they have not made much impression on the hon. Member and so I propose to repeat them. There are 11,000 square miles of reserved forests which are required to protect major irrigation works irrigating seven million acres of land in this Presidency. And if, as my hon. friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar suggests, we abandon these forests, we will have to abandon also the irrigation and cultivation. To that extent, Sir, the Forest Department is not and does not pretend to be a business concern, and as I mentioned the other day, if you really want to approach it from the point of view of business, you must divide it into three different sections first, protective, secondly the section which deals with the supply of domestic needs of the ryot, agricultural implements and so forth and thirdly the exploitation side. Until my hon. friend has applied his microscope to the exploitation side by itself and proved to us that we are not only losing at present but are embarking on an undertaking which will continue to be a losing concern, I challenge his right to say that the Forest Department is a thoroughly and hopelessly bad business."

"I fear I have travelled rather far from the subject immediately under discussion. After the very careful explanation given by Mr. Richmond and the support which I was glad to receive from one Member of the House on the other side, I hope this House will have very little hesitation in accepting this very small item. It has been accepted by the Finance Committee after a good deal of discussion and after receiving the fullest explanation from

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Mr. Cox himself. If there are any matters of detail in regard to the exact work which this officer has to do on which Members of this House require information I shall in due course be very glad to give it. The whole matter has been laid in detail before the Forest Committee, and to the best of my recollection there was no opposition raised. I hope the Members of this House will be inclined to take its line, first of all from the Finance Committee, which has accepted it, and secondly from the Forest Committee which consists of Members of this House and which has given very careful consideration to this matter."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 55.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,370 for one Forest Panchayat Officer.

We were treated, Sir, to a good dose of lecture about the services of the Forest Department. It was said that our criticism of the forest policy does not take account of all the services rendered by the Forest Department. In this motion I am taking into consideration one aspect of the forest administration. I refer to class IV and class V Forests which are needed for grazing purposes. These are forests which do not require any special forest knowledge to maintain them. They are the gifts of nature; anything that grows there grows by itself and without any effort on the part of the forest officers. Time after time, this Council has been saying that these areas ought to be placed in charge of the village panchayats, and the opinion was also expressed that it was not the Forest Department that ought to administer them but the Revenue Department.

"Hitherto, Sir, we were given promises that as early as possible village forests would be formed and village panchayats would be formed to manage them. A few panchayats have been formed. After elaborate inquiry recently as regards the desirability of handing over these forests for administration by the panchayats, I believe the Government have come to the conclusion that the village forests might be handed over. But the Government have not definitely committed themselves to this policy and I think this House ought to insist that it should be adopted. Well, Sir, in the course of giving expression to that view, the Government want to appoint one Deputy Collector with a few assistants to bring the village panchayats into existence. Now, Sir, the area covered by the village forests is very large. It will be impossible for one officer with a few assistants to bring into existence sufficient number of panchayats to take over the management. The result of appointing this limited agency will be that the constitution of the panchayats will be delayed very long. Further, Sir, these forest officers are not keeping themselves in touch with the villagers. They are not people who know the important men in the villages to whom the administration could be entrusted. The Revenue officer is pre-eminently the man who knows the villagers and the way in which the forests can be managed by the villagers. As I said, there seems to be nothing special about these village forests and so it seems to me, Sir, that this extra establishment is quite unnecessary. As a matter of fact this extra establishment is going to stand in the way of giving effect to the policy which we all want to be adopted.

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The proper way will be to declare which area will be the village forest to be administered by the village panchayat, then to ask the Revenue officers to form panchayats for the areas. That is the only way by which the panchayats could be constituted early and entrusted with the administration of these forests. This method of having an inadequate establishment is not going to be effective and at the same time will delay the realization of the wishes of the people. On this ground I object to the special establishment and I move for the reduction."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I support the motion, Sir."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I rather hoped that this motion for the abolition of the Forest Panchayat Officer would have behind it the same motive as that which I find lying behind certain other motions on the subject, namely not that the forest inspectors should be abolished but a larger number of officers of the same kind should be appointed. But, unfortunately that does not seem to be the mover's point of view. I take it, Sir, that my hon. friend has read G.O. No. 774, Development, of the 7th June 1922, which was laid on the Editors' Table. It deals with the whole question of the appointment of this experimental staff for the purpose of stimulating the creation of the forest panchayat courts. I say experimental, because although recommendations were made to the Government for the institution at once of the staff all over the Presidency, we erred, as we always do, on the side of caution and restricted our sanction to a much smaller scale and only allowed a small experimental staff. My hon. friend suggests that it is a mistake to try that experiment and that we should hand over the whole work of stimulating the creation of panchayats to the Revenue Divisional Officers. I should like to refer him to the very deliberate opinion on this subject given at page 9 of the Government Order. It is there stated that experience has amply proved that it is no use expecting the Revenue Divisional Officer in addition to his other work to do this duty. It may be that now and then you may get a Revenue Divisional Officer who is particularly interested in work of this nature: such an officer being in constant touch with the people could do a good deal. On the other hand you have the other class of Revenue Divisional Officer to whom out-door work of this kind does not appeal and if a division should be unfortunate enough to have an officer of that kind, we may take it as certain that the formation of the panchayats would make little progress. It is on this ground that it was proposed to put on as an experiment a special officer—he is, as a matter of fact, a revenue officer—with a special establishment to go round the districts which were most backward in the formation of panchayats. That officer was appointed in August last. He took up his duties in October. He was first of all put through a short course of instruction in forest matters for it would be undesirable that he should be set to work without such instruction. He has been studying the matter which was new to him at the time and he has succeeded in forming sixteen new panchayat courts in areas which did not seem hitherto to be very favourably disposed towards the constitution of panchayat courts. In addition, he has already revived several panchayats which had died. That, Sir, is not a bad record of work for so short a period. And I hope the House will agree with me that it would be a very great pity to abandon these experiments before we have had sufficient time to prove whether they are a success or not. The impression that I gathered from the members of the Forest Committee is that it would be better to increase the establishment than to abolish it.

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But for the present purpose I would only ask the House to allow this experiment which has been in force since October last to continue until we are in a fair position to judge whether it is or is not a success."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I have given notice of a resolution for reduction by Rs. 100. The hon. Member, Mr. Knapp, said that my object was to insist on the appointment of more forest panchayat inspectors. The object of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar is that class IV and class V forests should be handed over to the revenue officials and they should form the panchayats. I think, Sir, there will be no difficulty for the Collector to exercise ultimate control acting under the orders of the Board of Revenue and for the inspectors to act under the Collector. Sir, the matter was discussed before the Forest Advisory Committee last year and all the non-official members definitely stated that in their view that Board of Revenue was the proper authority to constitute forest panchayat and not the Chief Conservator of Forests. The Government Order states: 'Some of the non-official members of the Forest Committee while they generally approve of the proposals are of opinion that it was necessary that the special staff should not be under the orders of the Forest Department. It was suggested that the best course would be to have the Board of Revenue as the controlling authority.' In spite of that opinion, almost unanimous, of the Committee that the revenue authorities, being the persons most closely in touch with the villagers, are the proper authorities, the Government Order declares the Chief Conservator of Forests the controlling authority. The hon. Member said there were three classes of forests, one intended to maintain irrigation projects, another for exploitation purposes and the third for grazing purposes. The Revenue Department, being directly in touch with the agricultural population, should be certainly in a better position to constitute panchayat courts. Therefore, Sir, I should suggest that, if the Government instead of pursuing a forward policy of handing over within the shortest time all the village forests to the villagers either through the agency that they now propose or through the Revenue Department, go on slowly creating panchayats then I think it will be ten or twelve years before the administration passes over and possibly by that time the experiment will be declared unsuccessful and may be abandoned. We are anxious that the forests should be taken over by these panchayats and if the Government lose time in giving effect to this suggestion, it may then be necessary to consider the question of disafforestation. If the hon. Member is prepared to extend the operation of the panchayat in forest matters I should submit that he is pursuing a lingering policy—the present staff would be quite unequal to the task and could not manage it. I expect the hon. Member to make a declaration that he would take the forward policy and hand over the forests to the villagers as soon as possible. If he does so, we would be willing to support him. Otherwise, the present staff, being unequal to the task, could not manage the affair.

"Secondly, Sir, if the forests can be handed over to the Revenue Department it is quite possible to have the tahsildars themselves to act as inspectors; it may be that we will have also the tahsildars' help for the purpose of constituting the panchayats and adding materially to the number of inspectors. For these reasons, I expect the Government to declare a policy of divesting themselves of these forests as soon as possible. Then, Sir, it is curious that while last year there was a provision of Rs. 28,000 for inspectors, this year they have provided Rs. 17,000. If it is a case of higher officers, a

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larger provision would have been made. But it is a case of appointing inspectors for the benefit of the rural and agricultural classes and hence they ask for less. Is that an earnest on the part of Government to pursue the policy of constituting as early as possible these panchayats? I expected the Government would come with a larger demand if they would adopt a forward policy. Is it the Board of Revenue or the Chief Conservator that should have control? That is the main question. If it is the Board of Revenue, it is open to them to utilize the tahsildars. The number of inspectors that is provided for is absolutely insufficient. About 403,000 acres of land there are, over which panchayats have to be constituted and it would be hardly possible for these four inspectors to extend the Forest panchayat system. More officers should be employed. Then is it the object of the Government to confine the constitution to only class V forests or do they mean to include class IV forests also? The Forest Committee in 1913 definitely stated that class IV forests should also be handed over for a fixed payment. I request the hon. Member to consider the suggestion of mine which was moved in the form of a resolution that in constituting areas to be handed over, non-official agency in each district may be associated with the special officer."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I just want to say one or two words with regard to the remarks of the last speaker. 4-45 p.m. My hon. friend agreed that the whole administration with regard to forest panchayats ought to come under the Revenue Department. He also admitted that the very large number of forest panchayats that are required cannot be formed and supervised by the present special agency. These are the two positions from which I argued that this special establishment ought to go. There is the ordinary establishment of tahsildars and inspectors which will be capable of looking after the formation of these panchayats. So we have got the superior agency for inspection also. So there seems to be no necessity for an extra agency in the form of these special officers. If you are going to have extra officials like this, the result will be that probably there will be three or four panchayats formed for each district. But the area throughout the whole of the Presidency to be covered by these officers is very large, and unless you are going to very largely increase the establishment, you will not be able to cover the whole Presidency. For both these reasons, it is absolutely unnecessary to have this special establishment, and for these reasons I think I ought to press my motion.

"Then, Sir, the hon. the Home Member said that this was only an experiment. That is just the thing which I should like to oppose. The non-official members of this Council do not consider this as an experiment. They consider that the policy that all these class IV and class V forests ought to be handed over to the villagers should be definitely accepted."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I just say a word of personal explanation, Sir. It is not the policy that I said was experimental; it was the method of stimulating the creation of panchayats."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I am glad to hear, Sir, that so far as the policy is concerned, the Government do not recognize it to be experimental. Then he said that it was the view of the district forest officers that the work of the revenue officers was not quite satisfactory. The difficulty is this. The boss of the show is the forest officer. The revenue officer does not care to go and pass remarks on what the forest officer does.

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If it is a matter of the revenue officer looking after the forest panchayats, he will do it. He is bound to do the work for village panchayats, and he can also be expected to do it in the case of forest panchayats. I may say if sufficient trouble has not hitherto been taken in regard to forest panchayats by revenue officers it is due to this diarchy between the Forest and Revenue departments, and the fact that the boss of the show is the forest officer and the revenue officer's remarks or advice may not be accepted by the forest officer. I do not see that there will be any difficulty if the work is handed over to the Revenue Department. The hon. the Home Member has also said that it is the duty of the special officer to inspect panchayats. How many forest panchayats can this officer inspect? He is only one man, but the forest panchayats are distributed throughout the whole of the Presidency. Is it seriously expected that one officer can go and inspect all these panchayats? It is an impossibility, and unless you are going to entrust the work to the officers in the districts, there can be no proper working out of the policy and no extension of these village panchayats is possible. It is on this ground that I urge my motion that this special officer should go, and I think that the work of organizing and inspecting the village panchayats ought to be entrusted to the Revenue Department.

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to say a word on this motion. I just want to say a word against the motion. I am afraid my hon. friend thinks that revenue officials, the tahsildars, will be able to do the work of stimulating and forming these panchayats. I do not think they will do it. From my past experience of tahsildars, I think that they do not take any interest even in checking the accounts of the panchayats. I believe, Sir, that special officers have to be appointed in order to stimulate interest in these panchayats, and then form them. I know as a matter of fact that, soon after the publication of the Forest Committee's report they appointed Mr. Davies, and he did splendid work and started a number of panchayats against the opposition of the Forest Department because they did not want to make reasonable concessions to the people and also against some of the revenue officers. In regard to the formation of panchayats this special officer, Mr. Davies, did much work. So far as other things are concerned, the revenue officers have already got enough of work to do and they will not worry themselves about these panchayats. So, I should like to state that I strongly oppose this motion made by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I do not think that I need detain the Council any longer. I take it that the Council is more inclined to accept the view of my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, than that of Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar. As regards the suggestion made by the former hon. Member that the work of the special officer is too heavy, and that the establishment is insufficient, I do not know if I can take it as an invitation to come forward with a supplementary grant before the end of this session and ask for a reallocation, possibly, of a lakh of rupees."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"That was my suggestion, Sir. We want that the Government should earnestly take up this question."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Then, Sir, I shall be very glad to ask my hon. colleague the Finance Member to consider whether any money is available for the extension of forest panchayats."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

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MOTION No. 56.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move the motion standing against my name which runs as follows:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,900 for six Panchayat Inspectors by Rs. 100.

"Sir, one of the objects with which I gave notice of this motion is to elicit from the hon. Member for Forests whether it was not intended to take up a forward policy in the matter of forest panchayats, and I am glad to hear the assurance of the hon. Member that he would try to make the necessary provision.

"At the same time, I want to raise the question whether the controlling authority in the matter of forest panchayats should be the Board of Revenue or the Chief Conservator of Forests. As I pointed out already, this point was discussed by the Forest Committee, and the non-official members of that Committee were all in favour of the Board of Revenue being the final authority. I need not say anything more in support of that view, but I may just state that the only authority which would take a sympathetic view about the agricultural classes in the matter of forest panchayats would be the Revenue Department. The Chief Conservator is stated to be the only controlling authority, but I may submit that he has not much touch with the villagers, and if the panchayats are worked under the orders of the Chief Conservator, I do not think the villagers would be any the better for it. The very fact that these panchayats have to be started, guided and be made a success, shows that they require much sympathy, co-operation and guidance on the part of the officers, and the Revenue officers possess these qualities. Therefore, in regard to the establishment for starting new panchayats, to fix them and give them all the aid that is necessary, I want that it should be under the direction and control of the Revenue officers, the District Collector or the Tahsildar. They alone know the requirements of the villagers, and they alone can depute the right sort of men to start the panchayats. For these reasons, I want to know whether the Government intend to consider the question as to whether the Board of Revenue would be the more appropriate authority to control these panchayats, than the Chief Conservator of Forests. I understand that a reference was made to the Board of Revenue on this matter, and they said that as it is they would not be able to take up the work, but if they know what kind of Deputy Collector is to be appointed—a long-term officer or a short-term officer—they would be able to state finally. Now, I submit that in the matter of forest panchayats, when a very large number of these panchayats have to be formed, there would not be any objection to a long-term officer being appointed. In such a case the only ground on which the Board of Revenue raised the objection would be easily removed, that is, by appointing a long-term officer.

"Secondly, I want to raise the question that in the matter of fixing the amount to be paid by the villagers, the non-official agency should be associated with the officer. Last year I tabled a resolution on the subject, and I was told that the matter would be sent up to the Forest Advisory Committee, and that it would be considered by them as soon as that committee is appointed. I do not know what has become of it, and I want to know at what stage the matter is. As matters stand at present the officials fix the amount, and the villager does not know what it is, and he cannot make representations. I know that sometimes very high rates have been fixed, and I have got complaints in my district that very high amounts have been levied. That is why I suggested the non-official agency for deciding the amounts.

"For these reasons, I move the motion which stands against my name."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I may say at once that I am quite prepared to give my hon. friend the assurance which he desires, namely, that if the Government are permitted they will pursue a forward policy in the matter of developing forest panchayats. The Government are as anxious as he is to decide this thorny question which has been regularly cropping up in the debates of this Council.

" My hon. friend is anxious that the control of this matter should be transferred from the Chief Conservator of Forests to the Board of Revenue. This point was discussed, and the conclusion came to at any rate as regards what I may still call the experimental party now working was that it had better remain under the Chief Conservator. Those hon. Members who know Mr. Cox and the interest he has always taken personally in the matter of panchayats, will, I think, agree that so far, at any rate, as Mr. Cox is concerned, we were very wise in leaving the matter in his hands. Whether after we make our experiment, we may find it better to transfer the work to the Revenue Department is a matter on which I personally have at present an open mind. I can quite understand the reason why this change is proposed. But I would like hon. Members to remember one fact, namely, that there are two difficult qualifications required for dealing with these forest panchayats. The people want a man who is in touch with and in sympathy with the villagers—a qualification which I am glad to find my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu recognizes in the officers of the Revenue Department; but they also need a man with a knowledge of forest work. As I already said, on the question of the control over this matter, I have a perfectly open mind and I am prepared to take it up and discuss it as soon as possible with the Chief Conservator of Forests. I hope that assurance will satisfy the hon. Member."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 57.

6 p.m. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I beg to move—
To omit the allotment of Rs. 24,950 for 31 temporary clerks and 104 temporary servants.

In doing so, he said :—" I want to know why such a large number of temporary clerks and servants costing Rs. 24,950 are employed. They are all temporary. Whether I should press my motion to a division or whether I should withdraw it will depend on the information that the hon. the Home Member may give."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" The question which my hon. friend puts is as to why it should be necessary to have so large a number as 31 temporary clerks and 104 temporary servants costing so much as Rs. 24,950. The answer, Sir, is that if they were not temporary, they would probably be permanent and then they would cost us a good deal more either directly or indirectly than the Rs. 24,950 which we are now paying. The whole question of these temporary appointments in the Forest Department has been engaging the attention of Government for some months past, and I am glad to say that the number is being reduced. But that is necessarily an economy. If my hon. friend would like to have details, I am quite prepared to give them, but I do not know whether a study of the details will add very much to the information that I have now given, namely, that those posts are temporary

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[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

until we are satisfied that it will be necessary to make them permanent and secondly that if we are thinking of economy alone it is cheaper to keep them temporary."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I withdraw the motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 58.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR moved—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 44.16 lakhs for forests by Rs. 100.

In doing so, he said :—" Sir, my object in giving notice of this motion is to draw the attention of the House to the policy adopted in this department, some matters have already been pointed out in the remarks made by Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyyar. Well, Sir, the total income from forest is only a matter of Rs. 52.5 lakhs and the total expenditure that has been budgeted for to be spent in India comes to Rs. 51,06,000. So, Sir, the net income, if figures are accepted as they are, will be only a matter of Rs. 1.60 lakhs. Now, Sir, the hon. the Home Member explained that this expenditure was not to be taken along with the income and the two were not to be treated as the budget of a trading concern, but that there were other matters to be taken into consideration. He said, Sir, that the Forest Department was serving several purposes, that there was the question of protection, that there was the question of the supply of fuel and other things, and thirdly that there was the question of exploitation. Well I should remind him that there is a fourth thing also, namely, the question of the grazing grounds which are now under the Forest Department."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" I include that in the second class."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" If they are going to take credit, Sir, for the Forest Department in the matter of the services they do for protection, I beg to submit that the income from the supply of fuel and the supply of grazing has also to be taken into account and the services rendered by the Forest Department for those purposes ought to be separately assessed. If that is done, I should think, Sir, that the last item of exploitation will have very little left to show the result of a business method of administration. Well, Sir, taking the income from the forests, I find the grass and other minor produce from forests worked by Government agency are expected to yield an income of Rs. 54,700, and then again on page 20 of the budget you find that the grazing and fodder grass alone yield an income of Rs. 8.49 lakhs, that is to say, these two items alone yield over Rs. 9 lakhs. Well, Sir, as I said already, these are things for which the Forest Department is actually doing very little. They may say that they are guarding in the case of the fuel forests. In the case of the grazing grounds even this guarding is not necessary, but in the case of the fuel forest some amount of guarding is necessary. But what is necessary for the purpose of guarding will have to be separately assessed. It seems to me that that figure would not amount to a very large one. It ought to be very small indeed.

" As I said, Sir, class IV and V forests are no forests at all, and they should be handed over to the Revenue Department at once with a view to placing them under the forest panchayats. If this is done any expenditure that is incurred on them which, as I said, will be a very small figure will vanish on the debit side and then the huge figure of 9 lakhs realized on this account will also go out. If that goes out, the income will be only a matter

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [13th March 1923]

of Rs. 44 lakhs and the expenditure nearly 52 lakhs. That is what we will have. Is it anything of which we can boast ourselves? The hon. the Home Member also said that there was the question of protection which we had not taken account of. But, there is the other thing also, namely, the property; there is the capital value for which you give no credit at all. If any forest is leased out, or if any large property exists, you ought to set apart something for the lease of the property, i.e., for the advantages you derive by having the property. It is not a matter of merely spending money."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask a question, Sir, as to what exactly is the sum that should be so set apart?"

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"It is not a question, Sir, as to what amount should be set apart. But what I said was that if he wants to take credit for the protection work he was doing, he must also have a debit for the use of the property and the natural advantages from the forests. I think that is a business proposition. If a company was to work a forest for exploitation purposes, it will have to pay some rent, then it will have to pay some amount for working the timber and so the value of the timber will have to cover not only the expenditure on that forest but also the rent. I am only saying here that in the case of the accounts that are supplied to us in the budget no credit is taken for the value of those forests. So, there are those two items. If Rs. 9 lakhs, and if the interest for the capital on those forests have been debited against the administration, then we will be in a position to see what we should credit for the protection work done. So, we must know, Sir, as to how these things are being done and what profit there will be if this be done. But that is not done, Sir. Last year, the question was raised by several Members when the question of the Chenat Nair forest came up and we were all of opinion that the whole thing ought to be treated as a commercial proposition. I mean that this question of exploitation alone ought to be treated as a commercial proposition and some account ought to be kept in order to show in the budget the amount you allow for the use of the property. Now, Sir, we are working the Russellkonda forest, we are working the Mount Stuart forest, Nilambur forest, and the Chenat Nair forest. These are being worked on an exploitation basis. We ought to have accounts of the exploitation both the credits and the debits.

"Then, Sir, there is one other thing about which a lot has been said; I mean conservation. Well, what sort of conservation is necessary? Is anything done, anything like a systematic arrangement carried on in the forest administration? We have got four forest officers in a place like Coimbatore alone. I should think that a major number of those officers have to deal with forests containing only grazing grounds. Each one of these officers has a very costly establishment, a large number of forest rangers and so on. Is all that necessary? To what account is it to go? Is it for protection, or conservation, or exploitation? Let us know something of them. So, Sir, the sooner we divide these forests into protective forests, exploitation forests, and other forests, the better. Then, as I said, we ought to have separate accounts of both debits and credits in regard to exploitation forests, and then again with regard to class IV and V forests I recommend that they should be handed over at once to the Revenue Department. If that is done, they will disappear from the forest budget. We ought to know what is actually being done for these big exploitation schemes instead of our accepting something that is said or leaving the matter with a mere picture of words that convey no meaning to us."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, my hon. friend is quite right, suggesting that the accounts of exploitation work should be kept separately. We are taking steps to separate these accounts. For some months past we have had trained accountants advising us as to the form in which these accounts should be kept. In the case of the Chenat Nair and the Russellkonda schemes, we have submitted proposals to the Auditor-General for his sanction to bring the projects under what we call the commercial accounts system. As soon as sanction is accorded, the accounts will be drawn up on commercial lines and they will be placed at the disposal of hon. Members of this House."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"May I know, Sir, whether the accounts of the Russellkonda saw mill will be made available to us?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"The new system of keeping accounts has not yet been introduced. It is proposed to introduce it from the beginning of April next. From that date the accounts of these concerns will be kept on the lines approved by the Auditor-General."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"Sir, we were assured that the Russellkonda saw mill was run on business lines; if so, accounts should have been kept separately on a commercial basis from the very beginning."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not know if any commercial concern ever thinks of presenting its accounts in less than one year. The first year's accounts of the Russellkonda business will shortly be made up and will be made available in due course."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The question that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 44.16 lakhs minus 1 lakh under Demand IV.—Forests was put and carried.

The grant was made.

The House then adjourned at 5-20 p.m. to meet at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

APPENDIX C.

[Vide page 2242 supra]

G.O. No. 98, Judicial (Police), dated 1st March 1923.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 15th September 1922 the Council sanctioned a supplementary grant of Rs. 10,674 under "47. Miscellaneous" to meet the cost of granting certain concessions to Police officers and men who worked in connexion with the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. One of the items of expenditure included within this grant was the payment of gratuities to the members of the City Police staff at a total cost of Rs. 6,608 on the following scale:—

	RS.
Constables	3 each.
Head constables	4 "
Sub-inspectors	20 "
Sergeants	25 "
Inspectors	30 "

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The sub-inspectors have now represented that the duties which they had to perform were as responsible and onerous as those of the sergeants, and have requested that they might be granted gratuities on the same scale as those sanctioned to sergeants. The Commissioner of Police in supporting the request, points out that according to Police Orders, the status of a sergeant is the same as that of a sub-inspector and that no distinction should therefore be made in the grant of gratuity between these two classes of officers. In the circumstances the Government are pleased to raise the scale of gratuity sanctioned to sub-inspectors in the City Police to Rs. 25.

2 The additional cost involved by the sanctioning of this proposal is Rs. 300. Owing however to an error in calculation, whereby the grant already sanctioned by the Council included provision for gratuities to 301 head constables instead of 201, the sanction will not cause the grant to be exceeded or necessitate any further supplementary grant.

3. Copies of this Government Order will be laid on the Legislative Council table.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. A. GRAHAM,
Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Police.
„ Finance Department.
„ Accountant-General.
„ Inspector-General of Police.
„ Political Department.
„ Secretary to the Legislative Council.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 14th 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.]

Purchase of lands and houses by sub-registrars.

875 Q.—MR. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state the names of sub-registrars who applied for permission to purchase lands and houses in the years 1921 and 1922 arranged according to caste as Brahmans, non-Brahmans, Muhammadans and Christians; in how many cases permission was refused by the Inspector-General; what are their names and what is the cause for refusal of permission?

A.—The Government have no information.

Communal representation in the inferior service.

876 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the object of the Government in issuing G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922, is to include the number of inferior servants appointed in the return called for by the Government; and

(b) whether it is a fact that peons and other inferior servants are included in the half-yearly return?

A.—The hon. Member will find the reply to his questions in paragraph 3 of the Government Order on which they are based.

Moslem representation in the Registration Department in Ganjam.

877 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state the number of Muhammadans employed in the Ganjam district as clerks and sub-registrars by the present Inspector-General?

A.—The Government have no information.

Translation into vernaculars of all Government Orders relating to depressed classes.

878 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is the intention of Government to publish in the vernaculars a gist of all the Government Orders issued by the Government

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since January 1920 relating to the depressed classes offering concession for education, darkhast lands, house-sites, loans for cultivation, appointments, etc.?

A.—There is no such proposal now under consideration but Government will consider its feasibility.

The resettlement of Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts.

879 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the draft notifications regarding the resettlement of Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts?

A.—The hon. Member will be furnished with copies of the draft resettlement notifications.

Resettlement in South Arcot, Chingleput, Madura and Tanjore districts.

880 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the resettlement introduction reports of South Arcot, Chingleput and Madura districts and resettlement draft notification of Tanjore district?

A.—The hon. Member will be furnished with a copy each of the following Government Orders:—

(1)	G.O. No. 2608, Revenue, dated 28th November 1921.
(2)	" 2731 " " 15th " 1920.
(3)	" 2765 " " 16th September 1912.
(4)	" 2703 " " 1st " 1917.
(5)	" 145 " " 20th January 1920.
(6)	" 820 " " 7th April 1919.
(7)	" 3069 " " 24th December 1920.
(8)	" 2875 " " 2nd " "
(9)	" 2095 " " 26th August "
(10)	" 1122 " " 17th May 1920. "
(11)	" 2219 " " 12th December 1922.

Annual assessment foregone in the free assignment of lands to ex-war service men.

881 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the total annual assessment foregone till now from 1915 in the free assignment of unassessed or assessed waste lands to ex-war service men?

A.—The Government have no information.

Discontinuance of crop-cutting experiments.

882 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state why crop-cutting experiments in the Bellary district were discontinued in regard to the following crops from the dates noted against each:—

Paddy ...	...	...	28th November 1919;
Irrigated cholam ...	...	...	31st October 1917;
Unirrigated cholam ...	...	...	11th November 1917?

A.—The Government are not aware that the experiments have been discontinued.

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I have given specific dates from which these experiments were discontinued. I request the hon. Member to make enquiries and ascertain the reasons for the discontinuance of these experiments. We want the figures for settlement purposes. I personally ascertained from the office of the Director of Agriculture that these experiments had been discontinued."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"These experiments are no longer conducted by officers of the Land Revenue Department; they are being attended to by officers of the Agricultural Department."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I know that the experiments have been discontinued by the Land Revenue Department staff and that they have been ordered to be conducted by the Agricultural Department staff. It is because the Agricultural Department also have discontinued, I want the reasons for the discontinuance."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"That information is not within my knowledge, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I give the hon. the Revenue Member a statement of fact; will he not be pleased to make enquiries at least now?"

Representation of Provincial-aided Teacher-managers' Association in the District Educational Councils.

883 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the names of the districts in the Madras Presidency wherein the Provincial-aided Teacher-managers' Association has not been represented in the District Educational Councils?

A.—All districts except Madras.

II

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table the Press Communiqué,* dated the 5th February 1923, issued with reference to the resolution passed by the Council at the meeting of the 14th September 1922 to increase the number of Government audit certificate-holders.

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Mr. President, may I just bring to your notice the fact that copies of motions on the budget were furnished to us only a few minutes ago, just before the Council assembled? I wish to know whether we are not entitled to some notice with reference to these reductions of budget grants."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We are going to take up now Demand V—Registration, and surely motions on this demand were circulated to the hon. Members on Monday last."

* *Vide* Appendix on page 2364 *infra*.

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24

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The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I am referring to the motions on Demand VIII—General Administration, which I suppose will be taken up for discussion very soon."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is very unlikely that Demand VIII—General Administration will be reached to-day; at any rate, I can assure the hon. Member that it will not be reached in the forenoon of to-day."

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I beg to move—
That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 23.52 lakhs under Demand V—Registration."

MOTION No. 59.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23.52 lakhs for Registration by Rs. 100.

My object in making this motion is to invite the attention of the hon. the Minister to certain aspects of the administration of this department. I know, Sir, he is taking considerable interest to re-organize and place the department on a very satisfactory footing. In this task he is assisted by a very zealous Inspector-General of Registration who co-operates with the hon. the Minister most loyally. All the same, I should like to know whether the money they are saving out of the administration of this department should not go to the relief of the people concerned. I think it is in the interests of the Government as well as the people that registration should be as easy as possible for the ryots to have recourse to. It was only last year we increased the registration fees considerably. I would like to know whether it is not the intention of the Government to revise their policy of enhancing and restore the registration fees to the figures they originally stood at.

" I think there is also considerable room for further retrenchment in this department. Formerly, we used to have one District Registrar attending to the work of two or more districts. I wish to know whether that old system cannot be resorted to advantageously. Frankly, I feel that there is no necessity for the appointment of one District Registrar for each district and the work that they are now called upon to do in each district is not worth the money spent on them."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I thank the hon. Member for stating that we are doing the work in the Registration Department most efficiently. But I shall not be vain enough to claim all the credit to myself, for the re-organization of this department was taken up by the hon. Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar when he was in charge of it. He began the re-organization and I am continuing the policy which he has inaugurated.

" My hon. friend said that separate District Registrars are not necessary for each and every district; but I think that one District Registrar is absolutely necessary for each district in the interests of the people. From practical experience we find that it is quite essential that each district should have its own District Registrar. My hon. friend has also raised another question, namely, that the profits of this department should be devoted entirely for the expansion of this department or for the relief of the people by way of reduction of rates. As regards this, I can only say that it is a very large question.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

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Financially, we cannot say that the surplus revenue in any department should be utilized for the development of that particular department. The surplus revenues from all the departments should go to the common fund. Where a department yields much revenue, no doubt, it is necessary that a certain proportion of the revenue should be devoted, not actually ear-marked, for the development of that particular department. All these questions are under consideration and as soon as our financial condition improves, the whole question will be re-considered."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Sir, as I have put down another motion for reduction, I am very thankful to you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on this notion. I am not a financial expert, but it seems to me that the expenditure on the Registration Department is out of all proportion to the revenue derived therefrom. In 1921-22 the proportion was as much as 66 per cent, in 1922-23 it was 60 per cent and in the ensuing year 1923-24 it is 62 per cent. Sir, when in other countries the Registration Department is run most economically, I would ask why an effort should not be made in this province to run the department though not as economically as in other countries at least much more economically than it has hitherto been done. If the hon. the Minister in charge of this department finds it absolutely impossible to work this department except with the amount of expenditure that he has budgeted for, I think he should devise ways and means for increasing the revenue of this department. To a layman like myself it seems that if we are to spend such a large amount only to derive the little revenue that we are getting now, we might as well drop this source of revenue altogether. The hon. the Minister might defend the position of this department by saying that it is merely intended to defend the rights of property of the people in this country. Are not, in other countries, the rights of the property defended as well and even much better than they are secured here, and still they are able in those countries to run the Registration Department much more economically than it is done here? As I have already pointed out in my speech during the general discussion of the Budget, I think we have to attack questions of policy rather than tinker the expenditure here and there, and I think that until a more radical spirit is introduced in the administration, the finances will continue in their present condition."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has advised us that we should cut down the rates of registration fees in order that the people may be relieved of a portion of their burden. Now, my hon. friend, Mr. Ratnaswami, suggests that we should increase the rates of registration fees so that the department may get some more revenue."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Sir, I did not suggest any increase in the present rates of registration fees. All that I stated was that ways and means should be devised for increasing the revenues of this department."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, one of the ways in which the revenues of the department can be increased is by enhancing the present rates of registration fees."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Another way of increasing the revenues is by reducing the expenditure incurred on the administration of the department."

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The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"The expenditure has been reduced to the barest possible minimum in this department. We have got applications from different parts of the Presidency asking for the opening of more Registration offices and in order to meet the incessant demands of the people we have introduced the itinerant registration system. If we are satisfied that there is a proper demand for registration in a particular locality, we shall make these offices permanent. Having done all that we can in the matter of reduction of expenditure, I am unable to say at present how we can do anything more than that."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The question that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 23.52 lakhs for Registration was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VI—IRRIGATION—CIVIL OFFICERS.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB
11-15 a.m. Bahadur :—"Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 8.21 lakhs under Demand VI—Irrigation—Civil Officers."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—"Sir, I have tabled the following motion :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 23,760 for eleven supervisors.

My object was to cut down the establishment charges under Minor Irrigation. Considering the amount spent in other departments in the matter of establishment charges and the work turned out by them, the House will find that the work that is being done by this department is very little compared with the amount spent on its establishment. So, the Public Works Department may as well be asked to undertake this work also by dispensing with the services of this establishment. By cutting down this establishment we shall be saving some money which may be utilized for this purpose. Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar has tabled another motion of this kind and he will be able to deal with this matter better. I therefore propose to withdraw the motion."

MOTION No. 60.

MUSTAPHA RAVUTTAR AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB :—"Sir, the motion standing in my name is this :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 23,760 for eleven supervisors.

In moving this I should like to indicate a few points for the consideration of the House.

"When retrenchment has become the burning topic of the day, and when officials in all the districts of this Presidency are trying their level best to find out ways and means to reduce the enormous expenditure, I am glad to have this opportunity of making this motion. I have to ask of you earnestly to lend me your patient ears when I give you some of the facts and figures. Out of the 21 districts of this Presidency only 11 of them can boast of possessing minor irrigation supervisors. The fertile districts of Gōdāvari, Kistna, Nellore, Tanjore and Trichinopoly do not seem to suffer in the least from the want of a supervisor; but the less fertile and larger allotment-possessing districts must needs be burdened with one of these superfluous supermen.

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That this is an ironical situation, and that the services of the supervisors are superfluous can only be judged if we carefully examine the work they do. The sub-overseers have to submit the estimates to the Collector; these are checked by the supervisor with the assistance of a clerk-draughtsman and then sanctioned by the Collector. The Collector, it seems, has no power to sanction estimates above Rs. 1,000. These are sent to the Superintending Engineer for his scrutiny, and only after his approval are the estimates sanctioned. The minor irrigation overseer thus plays very little part in these matters. The same applies to uninvestigated works.

"Many of the tanks of the Revenue Department are rained, and the chances of complicated repairs are practically nil. Even if there be any, there are very many overseers, subordinates of the Engineering College, possessing the same qualification as the highly-paid supervisors, to whose charge the whole responsibility might be relegated. But there is very little chance even for the overseer to show his technical skill and learning since most of the repairs in these tanks are earthwork, repairs to the sluice and surplus work. According to the Board's Standing Order the tahsildar is the check-measuring officer, and it is his duty to look after the work of the overseer. That the minor irrigation supervisor plays an insignificant part even as an out-door officer is evidently proved by the Tinnevely Collector's communication which runs thus :

The minor irrigation supervisor is not the check-measuring officer. His inspection is intended only to help the check-measuring officers as a safeguard against any fraud and to ensure efficient execution. If the tahsildars who are responsible to be proceeded against for any loss think that in any case there will be risk that they will be defrauded and work done inefficiently, they may apply in such cases alone for inspection by the professional expert. It is not therefore essential that the supervisor should check all works costing over Rs. 1,000 before final payment. This will also avoid any delay in payment on the score of his inspection. . . .

When we glance through the minor irrigation establishment for the whole of this Presidency, we find minor irrigation supervisors are appointed to those districts which have higher allotments than others. That this is not a good criterion, any intelligent man can say with but a moment's thought. Firstly, because the Board's Standing Order has given powers to the tahsildar to be a check-measuring officer; secondly, the nature of the repairs to these tanks does not require any technical expert; thirdly, the supervisor is not in any way better qualified than the subordinates; fourthly, even if he be one with better qualifications, his powers are very limited.

"The ten districts which manage without the help of a supervisor are helped by the Public Works Department. We have one Engineer assisted by four subdivisional officers in every district. Cannot the help of these officers be obtained in times of emergency as is done in these ten districts? In all districts minor irrigation works costing over Rs. 2,500 styled as 'minor irrigation large works' are finally billed for only when a Public Works Department subdivisional officer approves that the work has been executed satisfactorily. The minor irrigation supervisor's voice is of no value. Regarding works costing less than Rs. 2,500 the tahsildar or the revenue divisional officer checks the work; here again the high-pay-no-work supervisor is very rarely called for assistance.

"Under these circumstances, it is my humble opinion that the services of the supervisors are quite superfluous and unnecessary. The clerk-draughtsman can be retained just to check the estimates; but it is high time, I think, to dispense with the services of the supervisors who may be entertained in

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the Public Works Department. By doing so each district will save at least Rs. 2,600 per annum. I leave the motion to be discussed by the House and to be accepted if hon. Members think that it can with reason be accepted."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, this question regarding the necessity or otherwise for the continuance of the office of supervisor in the Minor Irrigation Department came under discussion during the last Budget debate, and I then undertook to investigate into the matter and see whether that class of officials was any longer necessary. The question was very carefully considered and I may inform the House that we have come to the conclusion that this class of supervisors is no longer a necessity. We have at present eleven supervisors with varying services in the department. Some of them may probably retire in the near future; but all of them will not; nor can we force them to do so. We tried our best to offer some of them, whom we could not get rid of immediately, to the Public Works Department, but the latter pleaded that they had more officers than they wanted. It is therefore impossible for them also to absorb either all our supervisors, or a large number of them. We are, therefore, proposing, Sir, to circularize those Collectors under whom supervisors exist to see to it that those who can retire are made to retire immediately and that when vacancies occur, they should not be filled up. Thus, I think, this class of supervisors will become extinct as early as possible."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 61.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, the motion that stands in my name runs as follows:—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,28,628 for establishment.

The hon. the Revenue Member has just now been explaining the position with regard to a portion of the grant which I want to get rid of altogether. Mr. Ahmad Miran Sahib has given very good reasons for my motion. He has shown that so far as works which cost over Rs. 1,000 are concerned, the estimates have to be sanctioned by the Public Works Department officers and before payment is made, the works have to be checked and passed again by them. He has also stated, Sir, that there is very little of technical skill required in the execution of these works. Even though he has made a motion only for the omission of the allotment made for 11 supervisors, he has argued for the omission of the allotment for establishment. There is absolutely no necessity to have a separate establishment like this to look after works that are still under the Revenue Department. The total allotment for the works is only Rs. 5,98,000, and the cost of establishment alone, for the omission of which this motion has been tabled, comes to Rs. 2,28,000 and odd. That shows how expensive the establishment is.

"Besides, in every district we have got a Public Works Department establishment which is supposed to look after all the irrigation works, and we have got more Public Works Department officers than minor irrigation officers. That is to say, the minor irrigation officers have to cover a larger area than the Public Works Department officers. So, in order to get something done in a particular jurisdiction, a man paying a large amount of travelling allowance has to come from a long distance and look after it when, as a

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matter of fact, we have got a Public Works Department officer to look after it—a man better qualified for it and better entitled to see that it is carried out. So, Sir, both with regard to efficiency—which is a term very often thrown at us by the other side—and with regard to economy, it is absolutely essential that this establishment, costing a sum of 2 lakhs and odd when the whole of the allotment for works is only costing us 5 lakhs and odd, should be abolished.

"Then, Sir, it may also be said that these minor irrigation officers are not people of very high status and it is more often than not that they find very great difficulty in finding contractors and getting work done.

"It is not very rare to find them seeking the help of Revenue officers and giving them all sorts of trouble; on the other hand there is the Tahsildar who is made in some cases responsible for the non-execution of the work saying that the minor irrigation officer is responsible and so on. The Tahsildar has very often to go with Minor Irrigation officers and find contractors for the carrying out of works. So these Minor Irrigation officers are more in the way of things being done than really advancing the cause for which they are there. There are officers already who can undertake the work. It cannot be said that the Public Works Department has got other works and that it cannot undertake this additional work. As a matter of fact, the Public Works officers are too many and they have not enough work. We have to keep up the present establishment of the Public Works Department only for fear that if we reduce the number the circles will have to be made larger and not on account of heaviness of work. So this additional work is not going to break the system either in the Public Works Department or Minor Irrigation Department. So, both for the sake of economy and for the sake of avoiding all sorts of trouble it is absolutely necessary that this establishment should go. There is always the obligation on the part of the officers of the Public Works Department to check-measure and this sometimes leads to trouble. To avoid all these things the best course would be to put the major works in the hands of the Public Works Department, and, where the work is very small, to ask the revenue officials to carry it out without any additional establishment. It is with this view that I move this motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUMAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, it may be well if the House has an idea of what is exactly understood by the term 'minor irrigation work'. Minor irrigation works are divided into three classes: (1) works which are intended to irrigate 10 acres and less; (2) works which are intended to irrigate 50 acres and less; and (3) works which are intended to irrigate 200 acres and less. All works which are intended to irrigate over 200 acres are under the control of the Public Works Department. I might also at the same breath give to the House an idea of the total number of minor irrigation works in the province. We have at the present moment 28,705 minor irrigation works spread throughout the presidency. Sir, some of these works fall under the first class, which I might term as the 'tiny tanks'; and they are spread throughout the area of a taluk or a division or a district as the case may be. A large number of them are situated almost in inaccessible tracts of the country. The number of tanks under the control of each sub-overseer in charge of minor irrigation works is between 200 and 250. It is wrong to imagine that the Revenue Department should have no manner of connexion whatsoever with the minor irrigation works. I would say that the Land Revenue

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Department has the fullest responsibility for the maintenance and control of minor irrigation works. The ryot who is called upon to pay the tax in respect of the land which receives water from a particular irrigation source looks, and looks only, to the officers of the Land Revenue Department to rectify any defect which he might notice in the work from which he is entitled to get water. He does not recognize the officers of the Public Works Department even in cases where the tanks are in charge of the Public Works Department. He invariably rushes to his Revenue Inspector or the Tahsildar and lays his complaint at his door and it is these officers who in their turn have to serve as the post office for the transmission of these complaints to the officers of the Public Works Department. It takes time before these preliminaries are resorted to, and by the time the officer of the Public Works Department goes there, looks into the matter, prepares his estimate on the schedule rates and sends it up to the Executive Engineer, and he to his Superintending Engineer, and so on, a good lot of time intervenes. But in the case of minor irrigation works which still continue in the charge of the Revenue Department—and rightly so—each sub-overseer has got a certain number of tanks under his control. It is his duty to be patrolling these tanks in order to see what repairs are necessary. It is his duty again to go to the village and consult the village officers and the villagers themselves, draw up an estimate post-haste and send it to the Tahsildar so that the work may be speedily done. If the work cannot be speedily done, and the ryot is called upon to pay tax, he will have every right to ask his revenue officer whether there was any liability on his part to pay his tax when the officers of the Revenue Department would not hold themselves responsible for the repair of those very sources from which he must get the water to irrigate his field and raise his crop. I think it will be a sad day when the Land Revenue Department will divest itself of the responsibility for the maintenance of these minor irrigation works. What happens Sir? These works have necessarily to be carried on during the non-monsoon period. These works numbering 200 to 250, as I have already informed the House, in charge of each sub-overseer, have to be promptly inspected, estimates prepared and executed before the rains set in. On account of the fact that most of these works are small and that a large number of them are situated in inaccessible portions of the country, it is impossible to attract responsible contractors to them. Therefore, the obligation is cast upon the minor irrigation sub-overseer to go to the village, sit *darna* at the door of the village officers and either induce them to take up the work or induce some ryot or other to take it up and somehow see that it is executed. His responsibilities in this direction extend not merely to one work or two works but to 200 to 250 works and he has got to be always up and doing all those months; because you will find that works started in different parts of his jurisdiction require his supervision from time to time. That being the nature of the work to be done, is it expected that the officers of the Public Works Department can undertake it and look after all these tiny little tanks to the number of 28,000 and odd, spread over all parts of the taluk, village and district and be always at those places and carry out the works in time? His responsibility does not end with mere repair. The sub-overseer has to be constantly moving in order to see that the repairs are properly carried out, and that the money is properly spent. Even after the repairs have been made, he has to be patrolling those tanks to see if those repairs are substantial. This is his work all the year round. If all this work is going to be transferred

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to the shoulders of the Public Works Department the inevitable consequence will be that they will not be able to do it in time and they will naturally clamour for more staff, and when they clamour for more staff, I can assure the hon. mover that the cost to be incurred will be much more than the cost now incurred. I consulted the Public Works Department whether they could shoulder the responsibility for the whole of this work and the answer has come to me in the negative. In this connexion I may inform the House that when I was touring in the deltas, the complaints to me from the ryots were not that these minor irrigation works were in charge of the Land Revenue Department, but for the transfer of the major works also under their control. That is the demand of the ryot; and I say, Sir, that if this House is going to pass this motion, they will be only doing a thing absolutely against the welfare and the wishes of the ryots."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I was quite surprised at the answer of the hon. the Revenue Member. It was not my proposal that these works should be taken away from the Revenue Department and entrusted to the Public Works Department. All that I said was that this separate establishment was unnecessary and that where we had a complicated work which required any technical skill, such work could be carried out with the help of the Public Works Department. That is what I said. The hon. the Revenue Member himself admitted that the number of tanks which a sub-overseer would have to look after was 250. Does he seriously want us to believe that for each one of these 250 tanks, a sub-overseer has to prepare estimates in a year? He said that the hon. the Minister for Public Works has asked for additional establishment and that was one of his reasons for opposing this motion. I find something like a domestic breeze is going on. The Public Works Department does not want additional establishment for carrying out the minor irrigation works. Sir, it cannot be said that these sub-overseers are really in charge of these works. What really takes place is this: The revenue officer is really in charge of these works and he is responsible for the upkeep of these tanks. It is his duty to arrange for their repairs and to see that sufficient supply of water is given to the ryots. The revenue officer, I repeat, is the person who is in charge of these tanks. So, what I suggest is that when the work required to be done is very meagre and requires no technical skill, it might be carried out by the Revenue Department. The hon. the Revenue Member stated just now that these minor irrigation officers had to go and remain in the village and sit *darna* in the house of the village munsif in order to induce him to arrange to do the work. My experience is otherwise. All that these officers do is that they go to the Tahsildar and force him to undertake a journey to that particular village where there is work to be done and ask him to induce somebody to take up the work. That is what is done usually. So really the responsibility that is put on the shoulders of the sub-overseers is practically borne by the revenue officers. This is only an additional wheel to the cart and nothing more. So all that I proposed was that the minor irrigation works should continue under the control of the revenue officers as hitherto, but that any work which requires technical skill and supervision should be executed by Public Works Department through the contractors chosen as at present, by the Revenue Department. It is not proposed to take away all these minor irrigation works from the revenue officers or that nobody should look after all these things and that the people should be put to all sorts of trouble. As a matter of fact I have heard complaints against

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the sub-overseers to the effect that it was on account of them that several works which have been sanctioned have not been carried out within the allotted time.

"Then, Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member also stated that all the works had to be done in the non-monsoon period.

"I do not know whether this is quite correct. In many places the work has to be done throughout the year, or whenever occasion arises. For instance when a breach occurs in a certain place, it has to be attended to at once, not really during non-monsoon season. It is the revenue official who actually does the work and not the overseer or the sub-overseer. The actual amount allotted for repairs and maintenance is Rs. 5,98,700. The cost of establishment alone is Rs. 2,28,000. This I consider is unconscionable. It is on that account that I move this motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I am afraid I cannot agree with my hon. friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar in the line of argument which he adopted with reference to this motion. I am really surprised at the remedy proposed by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, namely, that the whole establishment should be abolished. The remedy that has been suggested by a very representative committee, which is known as the Public Works Department Reorganization Committee, at least with reference to minor irrigation works, is this: that all the small works scattered in the various parts of the Presidency, as pointed out by my hon. friend the Revenue Member, should be transferred to the control of the district boards, so that the people may have a real voice in getting their works pushed through and completed to their satisfaction, just as they are now doing with regard to local fund works. That being the real remedy, to say that the Public Works Department should be in charge of minor irrigation works is a thing which I for one cannot understand. I am quite certain that the Public Works Department is too powerful even in the maintenance and control of the minor irrigation works, and if the Minor Irrigation department is entirely abolished I do not think the wishes of the people will be carried out in time. If my hon. friend's proposal is carried out, it seems to me that the Revenue Officers will not be in a position to carry out these works which they are supposed to supervise. If my hon. friend's object is really to further the improvement of the minor irrigation works, it is certainly not by getting rid of all the establishment which is looking after them, but by getting the controlling and supervising work of this department done in such a manner as to expedite its constructional works. I know that in previous years there was a complaint in this Council that the cost of establishment in the Minor Irrigation Department was far too small and several hon. Members, who took part in the debate, urged that the expenditure should be increased. Therefore the remedy suggested by my hon. friend that the whole of the establishment should be got rid of is certainly not a remedy which ought to be adopted in a case like this. I am certain my hon. friend in his enthusiasm for local self-government wants to transfer the work which is now in the hands of the Revenue Department to the Public Works Department. I think the best course for him would be to propose that all minor irrigation works should be placed under the management of district boards. Under these circumstances I trust my hon. friend will see his way to withdraw his motion."

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I wish to say only one or two words at this stage. The suggestion of the hon. mover in the course of his reply was that what he really intended was that the work of estimating, execution and supervision should be transferred to the officers of the Public Works Department but that the officers of the Revenue Department should all the same remain responsible for their maintenance. I am hardly able to understand the exact manner in which a proposal like that can be given effect to. When once these works are handed over to the Public Works Department, human nature being what it is, the officers of the Land Revenue Department will be absolutely careless about them, whereas they will be bombarded with requests for repairs and other works from the ryots with whom they have to deal from morning to evening and from whom they have to collect land cess by proving the justification for such collection; and if the ryots are not satisfied in certain cases, the only power that these Revenue Officers will possess is that they can carry the complaint of the ryot to the Subdivisional officer or the Engineer concerned. That would be, I think, a very undesirable state of affairs, so far as small ryots are concerned. Another matter is that the Minor Irrigation Officer has to get work done in the form of *Kudimaramat*. It is a system by which the ryot is bound to contribute either in the shape of labour or money for the part of the work for which he is responsible. If this work is transferred to the Public Works Department, I am afraid the officers of that department will not be competent to carry out the *Kudimaramat* work. Here, again, the officers of the Revenue Department will have to step in and carry out the work of the *Kudimaramat*. I am afraid, Sir, this system of *diarchy* with which the hon. mover started his speech will not work well. I have consulted all the Collectors and all of them are vehement in their opposition to the system of transferring this kind of work to the Public Works Department."

The motion was put to vote and declared lost.

MOTION No. 62.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,18,000 for works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept, by Rs. 100.

"I move for a reduction of grant under this head by Rs. 100. I am glad that this House has vetoed the proposal to omit the whole of the establishment for minor irrigation works, because I attach very great importance to the satisfactory execution of repairs of these irrigation works scattered all over the Presidency. My complaint is that the department has not been doing justice to the paramount necessity of carrying out the repairs to the various irrigation works scattered throughout the Presidency. This is my complaint. I shall presently show that owing to various causes at work which require further examination, the Revenue Department has not been in a position to push through the execution of repairs of the various works, as they ought to be done. It will be remembered that these irrigation works consisting of wells, springs, tanks and works of various description have been out of repair for several years. What the department has been doing is to get the estimates prepared for such of those works which can be repaired with the aid of the establishment already sanctioned and provide men and

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money necessary for that purpose. I would draw the attention of the House to the discussions which took place in this Council in pre-Reform days when we had the right of suggesting increased expenditure under the various heads. Now it is unfortunate that we can ask only for reduction of grants, and not for increased expenditure leaving the Government to suggest increased expenditure. I may remind the House that invariably for five or six years when resolutions were moved in this Council asking for increased expenditure under minor irrigation works, the uniform reply on behalf of the Government was that they could not spend more money, and that therefore there was no necessity for increased allotment for minor irrigation works. The expenditure under this head has been stationary during all these years, somewhere between six and seven lakhs of rupees during all these ten years, sometimes slightly less and sometimes slightly more. It is recognized at the same time that there are several works which are out of repair, they having been repaired several years before.

"In this connexion, I would draw the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to the unfortunate circumstance that, notwithstanding the enthusiasm which he has now displayed in opposing the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, we have not been in a position to obtain correct information as to the various irrigation works which are really out of repair. May I also draw his attention to the fact that the Land Revenue Reports published ten years ago supplied us with information districtwar about the irrigation works, enabling us at the same time to understand how many of them were out of repair. With that information before us it was possible for us to judge what measures were taken by the Government for the purpose of repairing those works, which were out of repair. But what do we find now? From the executive orders of the Government, they have now omitted that statement from the Land Revenue Report. Either the Board of Revenue or the Government did not think it best that we should have such information. We find some meagre information furnished in the financial statement No. 19 appended to the Land Revenue Reports. It only gives us the total number of irrigation works. I will take the latest report, in which it is stated that there were 29,007 irrigation works and the number of irrigation works repaired during the official year up to 31st March 1921 was 3,000 and odd. Instead of a detailed information which we had in the past as to the various minor irrigation works in the various districts of this Presidency, we are merely given the total number of irrigation works, and the total number of works repaired. I would like to know from the hon. the Revenue Member how many irrigation works, wells and springs there are in the various districts really out of repair, and whether the number of works to be repaired next year represents at least a correct proportion of the number of works which are yet to be repaired. If he is not in a position to satisfy us that what is necessary for the purpose of repairing small irrigation works has been done, I think it is time that we should request him to go ahead and make better proposals for carrying out the repairs of these minor irrigation works to a larger extent. It may be that an allotment is necessary to that extent; but we are bound to give it. We are having proposals for carrying out major irrigation works, and owing to financial difficulties we have not been able to cope with the demand from the public exchequer; and we are not in a position to carry out the various irrigation projects, which will provide facilities and relief to the ryots to which they are justly entitled. The object of my motion is to impress upon the hon. the Revenue Member

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that he must not be merely satisfied with the sum of Rs. 5½ lakhs which have been budgeted for in a stereotyped manner for works. He must have the satisfaction of carrying out those works. He must find more funds, if necessary, to carry out the repairs of minor irrigation works to a larger extent. I may also point out that the suggestion of my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, requires a very careful consideration. The establishment charges alone come to Rs. 2,28,000, whereas the amount provided for repairs and maintenance of works is about 6 lakhs. It is quite certain that the establishment charges are quite out of all proportion to the amount really spent."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is, I fear, not to the point. We are not dealing with establishment charges now. The motion dealing with 'Establishment charges' has been decided just a few minutes back, and I think hon. Members are not entitled to interfere with it now. The hon. Member began by saying: 'I am glad that this House has vetoed the proposal to abolish the establishment'. The majority has taken that view already, and it is not proper that another hon. Member should say anything more with reference to the propriety or otherwise of the decision already arrived at."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"May I point out that I was just dealing with that question in order to show that because we have allotted a sum of Rs. 2,20,000 for the establishment, it is our duty to provide for more allotment for the purpose of repairing the irrigation works? I wanted to impress upon the hon. the Revenue Member that when he has at his disposal for the purpose of carrying out these works a costly establishment at an expenditure of Rs. 2,20,000, it is necessary to show a proper outturn of work."

12 noon. "I think the provision of five or six lakhs is nothing when we have got such establishments for the purpose of carrying out minor irrigation works. If I am right in my contention that a large number of works require repairs and that the provision in the budget is nothing compared to the number of tanks requiring repairs, I think Government ought to change its present policy and ought to provide more funds, at least for minor irrigation works to give some partial relief to the agriculturists."

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATA RANGA REDDI :—"Sir, I wish to say a few words in support of this motion. My complaint is that so little money is spent on works and so much on establishment. The amount allotted for establishment is 2,28,000 and for works about six lakhs. The establishment charges are certainly heavy when compared with the amount allotted for works. If the minor irrigation works are entrusted to the local boards, which have already got sufficient supervisors. If necessary, a sub-overseer or two may be appointed to cope with the work if it is heavy. In this connexion, I may submit that the Ceded districts are neglected in this matter also. Very little money has been allotted for minor irrigation works in these districts. There are many tanks there which are out of repair and which require urgent attention. With these few words, I support the motion."

Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"Sir, the complaint is that more money is not spent on works and that out of the amount allotted, a third is spent on establishment. The presumption seems to be that the works are all concentrated at one particular place. Take the district of Tinnevely; you will

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find that the minor irrigation works are spread all over the district. Eleven supervisors and 127 sub-overseers are provided for the whole Presidency. That would mean that many districts go without a supervisor and that as regards the sub-overseers there will be four or five. Taking all together we must give at least two sub-overseers for each taluk. At present in many cases the lascar is left in charge of the works under the supervision of the sub-overseer who will be travelling over a larger area. In the nature of things it will not be possible to curtail the establishment. If more money is needed for works, it would mean more money is also needed for establishment. What would become of the works that are in need of repairs in other parts of the district if the establishment is all located at one place? So there is that practical difficulty, and the best solution is the present method. If they are handed over to the Public Works Department they have less establishment and they cannot effectively supervise. The Revenue Department is the best supervising agency. So I fail to see that any case has been made out for the reduction of the establishment. If the establishment is reduced it would mean that the number of works also should be reduced. In the nature of things it is impossible to do so."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—
 "I am glad that a sort of enthusiasm has been displayed by those hon. Members who have spoken on this matter to secure more money for minor irrigation works. Nobody would be gladder than myself if the financial position of the province would permit larger sums being spent on minor irrigation works. That will certainly conduce to the welfare and happiness of the ryot. But we have to cut our coat according to the cloth. The complaint is not that next year we are going to starve these works. The only complaint is that we are more or less remaining stationary and that we do not show anything like an appreciable advance. Following the line of argument adopted by the previous speaker, I should say that if more money were to be spent on minor irrigation works more money would be needed for the purpose of establishment as well. At the present moment, there are districts where there are no more than two overseers employed for the entire area. The Tinnevely district, to which my hon. friend referred, has no more than eight sub-overseers and there are 1,600 tanks situated in the district which are scattered in all parts of the district, a large number of them being inaccessible. If, therefore, the House is asking me to budget for more money I only give them this previous warning that it will probably be necessary for me to ask for money for more establishment as well. However, some time ago Government took pains to find out what the average expenditure on minor irrigation works should be. It was impossible, of course, to decide by any rule of the thumb how much money should be spent in a particular district and how much money should not be spent. However, the Government laid down a certain formula. Every Collector before budgeting for the amount of money required for minor irrigation works was to observe this formula. That formula was that in the case of the wet lands the expenditure should be at the rate of 12 annas per acre and in the case of the single crop land it should be 6 annas per acre. Although this formula was laid down the Collectors were at the same time authorized to budget for more or less, indicating the reason for the departure from the formula. The Collectors are following this rule and there has been no neglect on the part of these officers to maintain minor irrigation works in as good a condition as it has been possible for them to do. My hon. friend complained that the Members did not get enough information

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was to whether all the works needing repairs have been repaired or not. The other complaint was that the elaborate statistical information that they used to be supplied with has been withheld. I am not quite aware of the exact reason which induced the Government to withhold that information. Probably, there were committees appointed from time to time for the purpose of reducing the bulk of work by omitting from the annual administration reports matters in which the public take little interest. Probably, they have been substituted by triennial or quinquennial reports of administration, thus rendering the administration reports as much readable as possible and omitting the tabular forms. I do not know if this is one of the recommendations of that committee. I might say that it might have been; for in these days we are all economizing expenditure, and if all the volumes of statistical information which should form part and parcel of these reports have to be printed by their thousands, I think the cost of printing will enormously increase.

"Then, Sir, it was contended that these works might as well be handed over to the control of the local fund department with one or two sub-overseers only. It was hinted that the local fund departments had a plethora of staff who can take this additional responsibility as well, and that there was no need for so many men. I do not know, Sir, whether I can accept that suggestion at this stage. I shall reserve my comments till the question is really raised."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I am not satisfied with what the hon. the Revenue Member has said that all that is necessary has been done for the purpose of improving the minor irrigation works. He gave us the warning that if the object we have in view, of spending more money in minor irrigation works, is to be achieved, it will necessitate his coming to the House with a demand for additional establishment. If we are to realize the necessity for improving irrigation, even if that involves by itself additional expenditure we must be prepared for meeting that additional expenditure. If, I still think, Sir, that it is necessary to press this motion even after the explanation, it is because I think there is keen dissatisfaction in the country that, so far as irrigation is concerned, we have not been able to show any advance or any marked progress.

"I now begin with minor irrigation works and there will be time enough to consider the major irrigation works. It will be remembered that we have provided for increased expenditure in all departments by so many crores. Are not the people justly entitled to complain that no substantial portion of the expenditure has been devoted to the carrying out of the irrigation projects or repairing irrigation works? My hon. friend, the Revenue Member, told us that we must cut our coat according to the cloth. Does this apply only to the allotment for minor irrigation works? If we are not able to limit our expenditure in other increased items, I think it is not correct to say that so far as these irrigation works are concerned we must limit our expenditure. As to the information which is now omitted from the land revenue report, I may inform him that it was formerly done without the help of the committee. A resolution to that effect was moved and adopted in this House. Government then stated: 'we cannot proceed further; we think that the information will not serve any public purpose; we shall give some information in a limited form.' The Council then stated—I hope the

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hon. Member will refer to the matter and verify it—that meagre information would serve no useful purpose. I hope he will look into the matter again and do the needful.”

The motion was put and lost.

Demand VI was put and carried; and the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—IRRIGATION—PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I move—
12-15 p.m. for a grant not exceeding 52.67 lakhs of rupees—Demand
VII—Irrigation—Public Works officers ”

MOTION No. 63.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“ Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,00,000 for working expenses (under irrigation works—Productive) by Rs. 100.

The case for minor irrigation works having been stated, it now falls to my lot to make a few observations on the question of major productive works which are covered by this grant. Sir, it was expected that in consequence of the Reforms under which the Council is now working, greater liberty would be given to the provincial Governments in the matter of expediting the expansion of productive works in this Presidency. As hon. Members are aware, the powers of Local Government for sanctioning expenditure have been considerably increased after the Reform scheme. Irrigation is now a provincial subject and many of the schemes of expenditure which hitherto went up to the Government of India for sanction are now within the power of the Local Government to sanction. That being so it is a matter of regret to me to find that, during these three years, this question of increased expenditure in the improvement of major productive works like the Gōdāvari and Kistna deltas, has not received that attention of the Government which it ought to. In previous years, I raised the question of improvement of the drainage of the Gōdāvari and Kistna deltas. The matter has been continuously brought in the Council for the last ten or twelve years and the Government of four or five years ago, made out a comprehensive programme of improvement of the drainage works in both the Gōdāvari and the Kistna deltas costing about 20 or 30 lakhs of rupees. They also issued an order stating that these works should be carried out. I regret to find that this budget—I don't speak of the previous budgets—does not show any evidence of increased expenditure on these works. On the other hand, if hon. Members turn to page 30 of the Irrigation Budget, they will find that the working expenses under productive irrigation works for the current year, i.e., 1922-23 come up to Rs. 17 lakhs, and that for the next year a provision of only 16 lakhs is made under this head. I need not at all dilate very much on this aspect of the question. The improvement of drainage conditions in both these deltas—conditions which have caused enormous loss on account of submersion by floods—is a matter within the knowledge of the district authorities as well as the Government. The question is, why has not this comprehensive programme of improvement of drainage works been carried out? The hon. the Law Member speaking on the previous motions referred to the present financial condition of this province. Well, Sir, the present financial condition of this

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province is a very convenient excuse for many purposes. But hon. Members are aware that increased expenditure on major productive works comes entirely from loan funds. We have been borrowing money within the last two or three years and even next year the hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for loans for various works of public utility. May I ask the hon. Member whether he does not consider irrigation works as works of public utility, and why he has not taken steps to see that this programme, which has been laid down four or five years ago after considerable agitation from those districts, or even a portion of it is not given effect to in this Budget? Sir, I should like to bring to the notice of hon. Members of this House that no difficulty is felt in finding money for the purpose of drainage works and water-supply schemes in municipalities, for the Cochin harbour, for the improvement of the Cooum and various other purposes mentioned in the Budget. But the grievances of these ryots who are suffering from difficulties of drainage have not received any attention. I, therefore, ask the hon. Member to see that, whatever might have happened in the past, at least a portion of the programme for the improvement of drainage in the two deltas of Gōdāvari and Kistna with which I have some intimate knowledge, is given effect to.

“The second point which I wish to mention is with reference to the silt-clearance of the canals. My hon. friend, Mr. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu, in his speech on the Budget a few days ago, referred to the extreme case of the silt congestion in the Samalkot canal of the Gōdāvari delta. He said that the municipality had to repair it at their own cost for leading the water from Samalkot to Cocanada, a distance of ten miles, for the purpose of feeding the municipal water works at Cocanada. I wish to know whether that is a compliment to the Public Works Department. There has been a complaint that silt-clearing has been neglected, and even in this present Budget I see that the allotment for maintenance is not satisfactory. Taking the Gōdāvari, for instance, we find that the provision of Rs. 4,70,000 is reduced to Rs. 4,21,700. The fact remains that silt-clearing has been neglected for the last two or three years. Works which yield a good return on the capital outlay should not be neglected.

“A third matter to which I wish to invite the attention of the hon. Members is with reference to the establishment. On account of retrenchment of various kinds, some of the subdivisions in the deltas have been abolished. Many of the sections in charge of overseers who are the officers in direct charge of the water have also been abolished. I brought this fact to the notice of the Government about four or five months ago. I informed the Government that the *mamool* of these officers has considerably increased in consequence of the retrenchment policy of the Government in this department. I said so in a letter which I addressed to the Chief Engineer and I asked him to look into the matter carefully. In the interests of the ryots, it is better to see that the present policy of retrenchment in regard to the removal of these officers in charge of public works is reconsidered. The result of cutting down the establishments has been that subdivisions and sections have been made too large and the ryots cannot conveniently reach the officers whenever they want water. They have to run after the officers for 40 or 50 miles before they can see them. The arrangements before the retrenchment had been working for many years. Till last year the idea had been that each of these section officers should have twenty thousand acres under his charge for purposes of distribution of water. This has been the

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result of continuous work of 10 or 15 years. The present policy of retrenchment, in cutting down these sections and divisions, has again brought about the very evils which once existed.

"These are the three points which I wish the hon. the Law Member to consider and I trust in these three directions, namely, carrying out a comprehensive scheme of drainage in the deltas, undertaking silt-clearing and solving the question of establishment, some attention will be devoted. I am perfectly certain that there are other hon. Members who may be willing to say something on the other projects which are included under this head."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I shall deal with the matters dealt with by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, in the order he has adopted. First, with regard to the general complaint that there has been no progressive policy in productive works, I hope my hon. friend will appreciate the limits which are placed on the loan policy of this Government. Limits are imposed by the Government of India as to the maximum that should be allotted to this Government with regard to loans."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know what the figure is?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"One hundred and twenty-five lakhs is the maximum that will be spared to us. It is not that we won't ask for more. It is in order to emphasise the point that this Government have not been unmindful of their obligations in this respect and of the right lines of progress that I desire to advert to this subject, namely, that there are limits laid down with regard to the loan capacity of this Government, beyond which we cannot go. I may at once mention, Mr. President, that this Government have been anxious to expedite these schemes. I may also mention that if in the Budget for the next year no project has been brought forward under the heads to which reference was made by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, it is simply because it is not possible to get the things through during the course of the year. We cannot have the things done in the course of the year under review. Having regard to the fact that our loan capacity is limited and having regard also to the paramount importance of this branch of administration, this Government have been willing, and are willing, to extend their irrigation policy to the utmost possible limits of expediency."

"As to silt-clearing, I may give certain figures to indicate that far from going backward in regard to that, there has been considerable progress. So far as the year 1923-24 is concerned, Rs. 1,14,000 have been set apart for Godavari and Rs. 1,42,000 for Kistna as against the corresponding figures of Rs. 1,05,000 and Rs. 1,41,000 in the previous year. In regard to this aspect of the matter it may be said that our programme of work is strictly limited to our financial capacities. As regards Cocanada, to which reference was made, it will be noticed that it stands on a different footing by itself. The canal runs practically through the municipality and there are many complications with regard to that matter."

"Then, as regards the retrenchment policy, which, according to my friend, has led to untoward results and unforeseen exactions, no doubt it is a point to which attention has to be paid; but it will be remembered by my hon. friend and Members of this House that it was a ruthless policy of retrenchment that was resorted to and that it was this House that was responsible for

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it. I am sure, Government are grateful to my hon. friend for having brought these circumstances to their notice. I shall conclude, as I began, by saying that in this matter it will be the endeavour of this Government to pursue a forward policy, but they are at present limited solely by their financial capacities."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, I was not able to understand the hon. the Law Member when he said that the financial capacities of this Government are limited with regard to pushing forward schemes of irrigation. I do not for a moment admit that the Government's capacity to borrow is limited or can be limited by the Government of India. As long as the Government of India is looked to as the sole creditor, they may indicate their own terms; and as long as this Government has been budgeting for deficits, they may put their own limitations. But my question is how much of the 125 lakhs allowed by the India Government was utilized by the Madras Government. According to the Budget I find that in the current year they proposed to borrow 115 lakhs and that there is a deficit of 10 lakhs under this head. They could have freely borrowed the 10 lakhs and utilised it for irrigation projects. We were told that our deficit Budget would not be as large as it appeared and that there would be a saving of 30 lakhs. I do not see the reason why Government should not borrow the 30 lakhs and utilise it for irrigation projects. If really the Government is bent upon a policy of carrying out good irrigation projects I do not think that there will be any limitations put on them. On the other hand, we notice that the Bombay Government has launched upon the Sukkur project and they are going to borrow the required amount. When such is the case, I am not able to understand how the hon. Member for Irrigation can justify the present policy of Government in borrowing only 9 lakhs for irrigation when there is so much latitude allowed to them in the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the hon. the Law Member said that he was as anxious as anybody else to push forward many schemes of irrigation, but that he was hampered by the limitations of the Government of India. Even so, is it not his duty to distribute the amount that is placed at his disposal among the several districts in proportion to their needs? I should like to know what he has done now with regard to poorer districts which are more in need of irrigation schemes than any other part of the Presidency? Am I to understand that he has no projects at all that are mature or ready for execution? If he says so he cannot be right. So, I wish to know from him what portion of this amount he has earmarked for being spent on the poorer districts."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I wish to ascertain from the hon. the Law Member before he can satisfy this House as to the policy of the Government in respect to this question and as to what attempts have been made during the last ten years to secure funds for the purpose of carrying out these irrigation works. I am suggesting ten years because I remember that this question was agitated in 1913 when a resolution was moved by me asking that definite steps should be taken for improving the irrigation of the Pennar canals and the Kurnool-Cuddapah canals. I remember that Mr. Clarke, who was then in charge of irrigation, replying on behalf of the Government, gave a succinct account of the various steps taken by Government for the purpose of improving the irrigation of those canals, and finally

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accepted the resolution. I shall only ask the hon. the Law Member to examine whether any *bona fide* and earnest attempts have been made since the acceptance of this resolution for providing adequate funds to improve the irrigation systems referred to in that resolution as well as other irrigation systems in the Presidency. It is also necessary to inquire whether even within the limitations to which the Government are subject they have been making efforts to secure adequate funds, whether they have failed in those attempts, and, if so, why they have failed, whether they have made representations to the Government of India and whether they were not successful in getting that amount necessary for carrying out the irrigation schemes. There is not the slightest doubt that the whole country will agitate so far as that matter is concerned. Before the hon. the Law Member satisfies that the Government have taken the necessary steps, it is absolutely essential that he should place before us more information as to the definite steps taken by Government in respect of this matter and the funds which they were able to secure and the reasons which have led to their failure. It is only after a full explanation of these circumstances that we can agree to accept this motion."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Sir, with regard to the distribution of money for irrigation schemes, it is very unfortunate that Ganjam should not be given the consideration that it deserves. We have only eighteen projects in Ganjam that have been investigated and none of them have been cared for. In answer to a resolution of Mr. Patro, two years back, the hon. the Revenue Member promised that the first project in the Presidency will be the Bordapalle project. Again, in answer to an interpellation of Mr. Abdur-Rahman Sahib, the hon. the Revenue Member said that the Girisola project would be taken up. I wish to know what became of the promises to these hon. gentlemen. Now, we heard of quite another scheme as being investigated: the Nirumapalle reservoir scheme. What is the object of these investigations, if the projects that were already investigated are not put into execution? I therefore request the hon. the Law Member to consider the cost of the projects already investigated and give effect to the Girisola project or the Bordapalle project immediately as unless this is done the Ganjam people will not be satisfied and the Rushikulya system will not be productive."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I rise to raise my protest against the undue distribution of money without considering the wants of the different districts. My hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has already informed the House that the hon. the Law Member has not given due consideration to the needs of the different districts, especially the famine-affected areas of this Presidency. That being so, I am sorry that no attention whatever has been paid to the irrigation works of the Ganjam district. It was two years back that the hon. the Revenue Member, who was then in charge of Irrigation, informed us that immediate attention would be paid to supplement the Rushikulya system, and he was also kind enough to accept the resolution of Mr. Patro (now the hon. Mr. Patro) and to do his best to take up, if I remember aright, the Bordapalle project. That was afterwards given up, and we were told that they were going to take up the Girisola project. Just after five months even the Girisola project was given up, and I do not know why and for what reasons Government came to this conclusion. Inquiries are still going on and we do not know what conclusions they will arrive at. If investigation of works will take

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three, four and five years, I am sure no benefit will be done to the people. I would therefore request the Government to make up its mind to take up some work at least this year out of the eighteen works that have been investigated and for which papers, I hear, are ready."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the fact that three or four members representing various districts have spoken on this motion shows the importance of Government having a forward and strong irrigation policy both for productive and protective works, and I trust that this debate at least will induce my hon. friend, the Law Member, to formulate such a policy. We have been speaking of irrigation projects for the last fifteen or twenty years, and hon. Members who represent the Deltaic districts as well as other districts have always ventilated their grievances here; but I am sorry to say that notwithstanding my optimism we have not made any clear headway in this matter. It might be that it was partly due to the limitation placed by the Government of India in regard to obtaining funds. But when irrigation is a provincial subject and the powers of borrowing are definitely laid down, and the Government have access not only to the Government of India but also to the open market for obtaining funds, there can no longer be any delay in pushing these projects all round, both in the famine-affected areas and also in districts where these productive projects can be started."

"Having said that, I do not wish to press this motion to a division. I should only like to invite the attention of the hon. Members to the Local Government Borrowing Rules, where they say that the Local Government may borrow to meet any class of expenditure on irrigation under rules in force before the passing of the Act from out of loan funds. I do not really understand what the hon. the Law Member means when he says that the Government of India has fixed a limit of 125 lakhs. Is it under Rule 3, where they say the amount can be fixed by the Local Government? Or, is it that the Government of India have stated that they will only be able to make a loan to this Government up to 125 lakhs? Or, is it a fact that the Government of India have definitely stated that the Local Government cannot borrow more than 125 lakhs in a single year? What really is the situation I should like to know definitely from the hon. the Law Member."

"Sir, the feeling is so strong in this House that it is easy for me to carry this motion; but in withdrawing it, I trust the hon. Member in charge of the subject, simply because the motion is withdrawn, will not leave the matter where it is and wake himself up to it next year by this time. Sir, in 1921 when this Council was started I brought this important matter to the notice of the hon. Mr. Habib-ul-lah who was then in charge of the subject. He said he did not know much about it and it is now two years since promises have been made, and to-day we are told by various Members that promises have been held out that something would be done for the Ganjam district, something for the famine zones of which my hon. friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar is anxious. How is any advance to be made unless the Local Government has got a definite policy of putting a certain amount every year on the irrigation projects, both productive and protective? We have gained liberty by the constitutional reforms and that should be availed of for the sake of pushing

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forward schemes of irrigation in which the people are greatly interested. I trust the Government will lose no time. It is now already three years. As the electorate has been referred to on the last occasion, I should like to ask any hon. Member whether he has persuaded the Government to start one single new project though the Government can borrow funds for the purpose and need not depend on its own resources."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I do not desire to detain the House long. But I want to mention that so far as the Ganjam projects are concerned, the Rishikulya project has been investigated; the investigation of the Girisola project has also been completed and the estimate is ready."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, may I know what amount of money has been sanctioned for the Ganjam works from this year's expenditure?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I said, Sir, the estimates were about to be sanctioned."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I wish to know, Sir, what the Government can afford to spare for Ganjam irrigation works from this year's expenditure."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I said the Girisola project had been sanctioned and the estimates were about to be sanctioned. My hon. friend will realize that I have not got the actual figures on hand."

" As for the remarks that fell from Mr. Krishna Rao with regard to the attempts made during the last ten years, he has probably forgotten that from 1914 there has been a strict embargo laid upon this Government and from the ten years' period, this fairly big slice of years must be taken away."

" As for the Ceded districts, of which my hon. friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has been a stout champion, the hon. the Revenue Member has given him hopes in regard to the money that will be set apart. Investigations will go on and as soon as they are complete, steps will be taken to put them in execution. It must be remembered that there are no schemes ready enough to be included in the Budget by way of relief to the famine stricken districts."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I beg to say, Sir, that the head we are now dealing with relates to productive works. That being so, I beg to inform the hon. the Law Member that there is a scheme for the extension of the Basavanna channel for about two lakhs and the estimate has been sent. That is my information. If it has not already come to him I daresay it will be coming soon, and I wish that he kindly bears it in mind and provides money for it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Of course, when the estimate comes before me, I am sure to look into the matter."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I be permitted, Sir, to explain the position? As hon. Members are aware, there are two ways in which we can borrow. We may either go to the Government of India, or we may go to the open market. If we choose to raise a loan in the open market, there are limitations which the Government of India may impose on us. As hon. Members are aware, some Local Governments have gone to the

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local market. But the Local Governments have to go there after the Government of India have done their borrowing, and they have to borrow at a higher rate than the Government of India. Besides, they have to pay interest on the loan pending the utilization of the amount borrowed. I would ask further hon. Members to consider whether we can borrow a crore and a quarter in the open market in Madras at the rate at which the Government of India borrow, or at any rate. I have taken expert advice on the matter and understand that we should not get the amount unless we paid a much higher rate of interest. I therefore put it to the House that we are very much better off if we borrow from the Government of India. We were pressing the Government of India for a much larger amount than they were willing to give. We got the amount raised to a crore and a quarter. I hope with the loan which they are going to float this year they will be willing to listen to any proposals we may make for increasing the loan to us. That is why we want to get proposals ready, so that, we may tell them that, if they get more than their 25 crores, we would be glad to take a certain further sum from them. There is a further advantage in this course. For, what we really do is to overdraw on our bankers and we pay interest on the outstandings from year to year. It is therefore advantageous as we are not obliged to pay interest even before we utilize the money. As regards finding money for irrigation from loans, for productive works, nobody would be gladder than I to invest as much as possible in investments which will yield as much as 18 per cent or anything over and above the rate of interest we have to pay for the money."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I rise to inform the hon. Member that I am heartily at one with him with regard to borrowing from the Government of India. He knows my views on the matter. All that I say is that the matter must be pressed. I am certain we are thankful to the hon. Member for doing what he has done and I hope he would do better."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 61.

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Sir, I move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,00,540 for maintenance and repairs for irrigation works (unproductive) by 20,000."

Sir, my object in moving this motion for reduction is to emphasize one or two facts. First of all, there is a feeling in this country, supported by the criticism of the Accountant-General in his public accounts, that the supervision is very inadequate with the result that there is a wastage of material and very often unusual and unnecessary delays. Therefore this department requires a good deal of shaking up. Then only, can we have better supervision and some saving also, and some funds may be released for productive works. Secondly, Sir, the allotting of a certain amount and the manner of spending it looks like a matter of routine—an arrangement to keep up the establishment and the army of contractors. There is also the disposition, thirdly, to make the repairs in a very careless and flimsy manner. If the repairs could be more solid and substantial,

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I think that after a few years there would be no necessity for constant renewals and repairs. Therefore, I think there is room for reduction here."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I can understand, Mr. President, a motion like the one which the House has just been discussing, a motion for the reduction of the grant by Rs. 100 or Re. 1 for the purpose of raising questions akin to those which have been adumbrated by my hon. friend who has just sat down. But I may venture to tell him this, the method he has gone about to adopt, namely, the proposal for a reduction by Rs. 20,000, a fairly substantial sum out of a Budget allotment, which it has been practically unanimously felt as inadequate for the purpose of the Government, is, I may submit with all possible respect, the wrong way to go about."

"So far as the specific matters which have been adverted to by the hon. Member, I think we are indebted to him for pointing out the possibilities in which money might be slipping away. But I think at the same time I must say that he has done no more than pointing out these possibilities. If any specific instances of such irregularities or shoddy or shabby work as has been rightly objected to by the hon. Member are brought to the notice of the Government, the hon. Member may be quite sure that no step will be left for doing away with such things. I appeal to him not to press this motion which is for the reduction of an already inadequate budget provision."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 65.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,00,540 for maintenance and repairs for irrigation works (unproductive) by Rs. 100.

Sir, this motion is practically covered by the previous one and it relates to unproductive works. It is a difference in classification. The works which we were dealing with in the previous motion of mine are works which are classed as productive. This motion relates to unproductive works on which the stipulated rate of interest is not being received, works like the Rushikulya project and the Nagavalli project. Even here there is room for considerable improvement in expenditure. Just now, my hon. friend, Mr. Das, mentioned that a certain definite scheme for the improvement of the Rushikulya project has not been carried. I think that even with reference to these works, which under our classification are called unproductive, they are works on which considerable outlay has already been incurred, works of irrigation of considerable importance like the Rushikulya project, the Nagavalli, Havani and Muniyalu projects. I think there is justification for incurring more expenditure."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I am at one with Mr. Ramachandra Rao in saying that there is room for more expenditure in this direction. In fact, under this head, the grant proposed by the department was less than the department is able to get. The Government are mindful of the circumstance that a forward and progressive policy is quite necessary."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 66.

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move
1 p.m. the following motion which stands in my name:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,53,092 for works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept by Rs. 3.66 lakhs.

Sir, my object in giving notice of this motion is this. We find that a sum of about 22½ lakhs has been provided for unproductive works in charge of the Public Works Department. In view of the fact that the provision made under Minor Irrigation works is only about 6 lakhs, and there are repeated protests, complaints and requests from the public that the case of minor irrigation works is most important and that their repair and maintenance is absolutely necessary, I think a sum of Rs. 3.66 lakhs may be cut out from the said unproductive works and utilized for minor irrigation works. I myself repeatedly made requests that minor irrigation works should be better attended to. There are about 40 thousand minor irrigation works in the whole of this Presidency, and the Irrigation Commission has emphasised the necessity of attending to the repair and maintenance of such works and they said that a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs should be spent for that purpose. That was in the old days when the value of the rupee was high, but now at present the value of that Rs. 20 lakhs would be even double or treble and the works themselves in many cases have since very much deteriorated. I find no adequate provision made for minor irrigation and no proper attention has been hitherto paid to it by the department concerned. I think that the unproductive works for which the sum of about 22½ lakhs has been provided cannot be said to be more important than minor irrigation works, and this amount of 22½ lakhs can be reduced by Rs. 3.66 lakhs and the latter amount utilized for minor irrigation works, the importance of which cannot be over-rated. I want information from the Government on the matter of the attention paid to the urgent necessity of repairs and improvements required for the minor irrigation works."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If my hon. friend will wait a little and finishes his speech, I shall give fairly sufficient information as to what the programme of the Government is on the matter. But I may mention at once, as he has asked for information, that the Government are alive to the necessity and the expediency of attending to minor irrigation works. But what the hon. mover now asks is the reduction of 3.66 lakhs out of a total allotment of about 22½ lakhs, and I am going to justify that we do want that money and more under this Budget head, and that is what I am endeavouring to show. Undoubtedly the object is laudable, but I am afraid the remedy suggested seems difficult for me to appreciate."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"My object is not the reduction of expenditure on irrigation works, but I want to know whether there is any definite policy laid down in regard to the maintenance and repair of minor irrigation works, what measures the Government have taken up till now and what they are going to do hereafter."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, it seems to me that the question, undoubtedly an important question, raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Shanmukham Pillai, was perhaps more appropriate to have been raised when the subject of minor irrigation was on the tapis. But he has chosen another method, namely, that of endeavouring to starve this

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department by 3.66 lakhs, which is not a nominal reduction but a substantial one. But I may mention that so far as this particular head is concerned, the original demand made by the department was considerably larger, and it is because we are not able to get more than this particular amount of 22½ lakhs, we have provided only so much. Now it may be noted that there are further applications for additional grants under this head, aggregating to 1.87 lakhs, which have since been received from local officers. It is therefore possible to spend more and much more under this head than what has been provided for it now, and I would ask my hon. friend not to press this motion in its present form, but to take some other and more adequate opportunity to raise the extremely important question to which he has drawn attention."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"I am satisfied, Sir, and I do not want to press my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 67.

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to move the motion standing against my name, that is—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,53,092 for irrigation works by Rs. 100.

Sir, the object of my giving notice of this motion is to invite the attention of the Government and also of the House to the scant attention that is paid to the matter of providing irrigation facilities to what is known as the famine zone in this Presidency. I have searched in vain in the Irrigation Budget supplement that has been given to me for any appreciable provision for the Ceded districts. Not only that, what I would also complain here about is that there is no definite policy laid out with regard to the irrigation schemes in this famine zone. If a certain quantity of money is available under this head, I think preference ought to be given to these backward districts which are always affected with distress conditions. I would ask the hon. the Member in charge of Irrigation to make this a definite policy. Supposing there is an amount of Rs. 100 to be spent under Irrigation, I would suggest a certain percentage, say 25 per cent, must be spent for providing irrigation facilities for these backward tracts, and the rest may be disposed of in the manner the Government likes. That is the policy which I would recommend that the Government should adopt in this matter. What is still worse is, unfortunately in my district, under the Kudimaramat Act a lot of unlawful levy is being made. I brought this to the notice of the Government by means of an interpellation five or six months ago, but it was answered in a slipshod fashion. The question put by me was:

Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (1) in how many villages of the Anantapur district levies were made under the Kudimaramat Act and what the amount collected is from each and for what purpose, in each of the three faslis ending with 1331;
- (2) whether a sum of about Rs. 700 was levied and collected from the villagers of Kuruvollapalli, hamlet of Rampuram, Penukonda taluk; and
- (3) what the circumstances justifying the levy of the sum are, for what purposes was the sum levied, and whether the purpose for which it was levied has been accomplished, and if so, to what extent; and if not, why not?

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"This was a circumstance which came to my notice, and I brought this to the notice of the Government five or six months ago, and it was only sought to be answered in a half-hearted manner, as follows:

The Government have no information but will call for it. From these circumstances, it seems to me, Sir, that my district is made not only to suffer for want of sufficient irrigation facilities, but on the poor ryots is imposed the additional burden of having to pay these levies. These levies are pretended to be made under the Kudimaramat Act. The Act provides for the levy under two circumstances. One is in the case of inundation. My district has only an average rainfall of 22 or 23 inches, and not more than that, and even this is ill-distributed and is not timely. For the last five or six years there was not even this quantity and there could be no inundation, but yet this additional levy is made, it would appear, at the instance of the Public Works Department. It was not at the instance of the ordinary Revenue Department but that of the Public Works Department. The other circumstance under which the levy is justified is whenever there is a custom among the villagers to attend to certain kinds of work. I am not aware of any such custom in my district; especially when a supply channel or a tank-bed is overgrown with rank vegetation, it is never said to be the custom for the ryots to attend to it. My complaint is firstly that sufficient provision is not made for irrigation facilities and secondly that additional levies are made on the poor ryots under the Kudimaramat Act. It is with the object of bringing these to the notice of the Government that I have given notice of this motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, the hon. Member who has just spoken has emphasised the necessity of paying special attention to what he called the famine zone. If I may say so, there is not much difference of opinion or of policy regarding that matter, and if money becomes available, as I hope it will be, those schemes which have been investigated and are in a fairly ready stage in regard to that zone will be attended to, though it is impossible to lay down any such hard and fast percentage scale as has been suggested by my hon. friend. With regard to the kudimaramat, the matter is engaging the attention of the Government and it will be investigated. Though there has been some delay, I think, the hon. Member will be furnished with the necessary information very shortly, and steps will be taken to see that the grievances he complains of are remedied."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 68.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I move the following motion:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,31,689 for irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept by Rs. 100.

Sir, I really wish to ascertain from the hon. Member in charge whether it is under this head that the cost of repairs to the irrigation works which recently breached in the southern districts has been incurred. I am not quite sure whether this is the head under which expenditure for repair of works in which there were breaches, as those that occurred in the southern districts last September is to be debited. Hon. Members will notice from

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page 59 of the budget that there is practically no difference in the figures under this head, for the amount was Rs. 6,57,000 for 1922-23, and it is put down as Rs. 6,65,000 for 1923-24. But the definite information I would like to ask for is as to whether any expenditure has been incurred in connexion with the restoration of irrigation works which have breached in the southern districts, and if any expenditure has been incurred, under what other head it is shown in this budget."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, the particular amount which my hon. friend referred to regarding the repair of the breached irrigation works, does not come under this head. If my hon. friend will look at page 59 of the budget, he will find the general head 'Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues,' and the amount referred to by him would come under that."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 69.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I move the following motion :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,54,955 for other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues by Rs. 1,000.

Sir, before stating why I wanted to move this reduction, I just want to say a few words. I think we should express our thanks to the hon. the Minister in charge of the Public Works Department and other Members of the Cabinet for having appointed an experienced Indian as the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. But we may say that those thanks are not chiefly on the question of economy, but on the hope that his services will be fully utilised in improving the irrigation of the Presidency in the very near future, and if that is not done, there will be very great disappointment from all sides.

"Coming to this question, it is very difficult to draw the line between the various departments that deal with this question of irrigation. I said yesterday that the Ministers have got one nation-killing department, that is Excise. But if there is one nation-building department out of their hands it is Irrigation. So far as irrigation works are concerned, we can easily call it triarchy instead of diarchy (laughter). I am not exaggerating facts. I find, thank God, one small provision in this budget for the repair of a tank in the Coimbatore district. That tank has a large area under it irrigated, and there was a breach in it. The Revenue Department was said to be dealing with the question, as also the Public Works Department. I wanted something to be done in the matter of repair of the tank and raised a question about it two years ago. The matter was under correspondence between three departments of the Secretariat, namely, the Revenue Department, then the Irrigation Department and then the Public Works Department, and after two years of correspondence they have been able to give about Rs. 10,000 for the repair of this tank.

"All that I would say, Sir, is this: whatever may be the obligations of the Government to construct large irrigation works, they are under moral obligation so far as these small projects are concerned, especially so far as the restoration of tanks is concerned which has been very much neglected; and I think the sooner something is done

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the better. I do not want to echo the feelings of my hon. friend Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai in raising inter-district questions. A good deal of time is now spent in the Assembly on inter-provincial questions. Our main object should be a continuity of policy in getting more and more money for irrigation, and once, more money is got, we are sure to get more money for every district in all its branches. It may be some of the districts are famine-stricken to-day, and it is the absolute duty of the Government to get them bettered. At the same time also, they should take care not to add to the list of those famine districts more places by neglect of irrigation schemes. As I see, Sir, in my district, the complaint is not want of rain, the complaint is not against God, but the complaint is against the Government. Yesterday, the hon. Mr. Knapp when dealing with the Forest department was saying that a large portion of the work of the department was protection work. So far as our district is concerned, there is one District Forest Officer for the small taluk of Kollegal, and all the water that comes by rainfall flows over to the Tanjore district or the adjacent state of Mysore, and we have nothing at all left to enjoy. I have raised this question also in interpellations and the Government have been pleased to say that the matter is under consideration. Long consideration indeed! I hope that some good result will soon come out of it. Anyhow, it is something gratifying to see that this year the allotment for works under the first class has been raised to Rs. 4.35 lakhs. Our grievance still seems to be the high expenditure incurred on establishment; that is to say it costs as much as 50 per cent as the repairs that are necessary, and thus a very large item out of the money necessary for repairs is taken away. It is desirable that the establishment should be cut down; or if you want to have the establishment there as it is, you should increase the number of works and carry out more repairs where it is necessary. So, we will certainly be glad if it is increased by ten times four lakhs in this year, and a supplementary grant, would not be grudged so far as the question of irrigation is concerned, whatever may be our views on other points. We are glad to see that the position is much more satisfactory than it was before. If our Excise Minister wants more money, he must give more money to the drinking classes, the coolies, and if the coolie is to get more money more grain should be produced which will be the case only if there is better irrigation. So the whole question moves in a circle. So far as this one question is concerned, it is necessary that all the heads of the Ministers and Members should be put together to see some substantial increase made not in the budget of 1924-25 but in the budget of 1923-24 itself. It is not to be left till the Retrenchment Committee is able to make a present to us of some money. I see the three hon. Members opposite sitting together and talking together, and I hope that these three gentlemen will at once combine together to give us an announcement now."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"May I venture to make a general observation before I deal with this particular matter? Did I understand my hon. friend to contend that we should combine to bring in supplementary grants . . . ?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I will wait for the result and then say, Sir."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"If all that he asks for from what he has been pleased to call as 'triarchy' is an application for a

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supplementary grant, at the earliest next occasion possible I think no efforts will be spared to ask for a supplementary grant if things are progressing satisfactorily, as I hope they will.

"Now, with regard to the tank restoration parties my hon. friend and the House will remember that on account of the general retrenchment carried out the tank restoration parties were absolutely abolished, and there are only five sub-divisions now working, and it is that circumstance which I thought my hon. friend did not sufficiently advert to in the remarks that he has been pleased to lay before the House. Now, it will be noticed that in regard to this particular head we asked for more than we got. With regard to tank restoration, we have got a budget allotment of Rs. 3 lakhs and we wish that it is utilised as best as we can, but I do not say that more will be utilised for the Coimbatore district. But it will be utilised to the best possible extent."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I see, Sir, that my hon. friend Mr. Vellingiri Goundar has tabled a resolution to the effect that more money should be spent on tank restoration, and I hope, Sir, that not three lakhs but thirty lakhs will be spent, so that each district might get one lakh. Then, Sir, there will be time enough to thank of the 'triarchy'. I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 70.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,54,955 for other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues by Rs. 100.

The item of expenditure in question now is one which is met from ordinary revenues, and therefore I believe that Government will have nothing to say relating to their capacity for loans. Sir, after the Reforms, the Government of Madras have got increased revenue at least to the extent of 40 per cent, besides the provincial contribution, and I am sorry to note here that the amount of money that is allotted under this head does not show any sign of enhancement. In the year 1921-22 we had Rs. 24,05,000; for the coming year we have got Rs. 23-66 lakhs, and in the year 1922-23, we had much less. It is therefore very clear that Government have not realized their duty towards irrigation works and have not kept their pace along with the increased revenue which they got from the financial settlement with the Central Government. In this connexion, it is desirable also to know what other provinces have done regarding irrigation. India, fortunately or unfortunately, is an agricultural country, and Madras is more so. Looking under the column of net area under cultivation or the cropped area according to the latest returns, we see that Madras has 3,176,000 acres out of which only 9 lakhs have been irrigated. Looking for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh we have 3,152,000 acres of land of which 1,120,000 have got facilities for irrigation."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I ask as to the figures read out whether it is lakhs or millions?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"So far as my recollection goes it is lakhs. I should be glad if they are millions."

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"Then, the Punjab has got 19 lakhs of acres of cultivated land of which 11,87,000 have irrigation facilities. These figures, be they millions or lakhs, do not augur well for Madras. So, I would request the Government to pay more attention to this item of expenditure and to the irrigation works which have been very rightly called by my hon. friend from Coimbatore the nation-building activities of the Government. With these words, I make my motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The Government realizes that in this Reserved department, at all events, there will absolutely be no distinction between one aspect and another, and it is with that hope that the Government have taken the lines they have. The remarks that fell from the hon. Member will be carefully attended to, though I am afraid the figures are not convincing. It seems to me that a cipher from them was dropped out somewhere."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU (who had also tabled a similar motion as above) then said:—"I wish to have, Sir, your ruling whether this is to be treated as a separate motion from mine. On the last occasion at the time of the budget, the point was specifically raised whether if a number of motions for reduction of a grant by a similar figure, say, Rs. 100, are to be moved, they are to be treated as one or different motions. I think the ruling was that they are to be treated as separate motions."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I think we can now regard these motions as one for the sake of economizing time."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"That was a point of order which I wanted to make clear before speaking on this motion."

"The point regarding which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member for Irrigation is that as he has shown considerable enthusiasm in assuring hon. Members of this House that he will push through irrigation projects, he will see his way to remove certain difficulties which really lie in the way of carrying out all these irrigation projects. We have been told, and we have received with satisfaction the assurance that the hon. the Law Member would even try to come up before this House for a supplementary grant, if need be, for the purpose of pushing through irrigation schemes. I wish to point out certain difficulties, because I fear that unless these difficulties are solved, the Government will not be in a position to make headway in carrying out their irrigation policy. The Government have adopted a classification into productive and non-productive works which I may point out really lies in the way of carrying out useful projects. They have adopted a classification whereby unless the interest on the capital works out at nearly 6 per cent it is to be treated as a productive work; and they having adopted that classification, we have been handicapped in pressing the Government the need for taking up certain irrigation projects. I will illustrate it by referring to a few concrete examples. There is one project known as the Vangalapuram project in the Nellore district. It has been under investigation for several years, then the plans and estimates have been sanctioned, and the Government have been pleased to assure us that if the ryots are prepared to pay more than the usual water cess of Rs. 4 an acre, a rate somewhat higher than the usual rate, to meet the interest on the capital outlay, the scheme will be taken up. Some inquiries were made through the Agricultural Department, and most of the persons concerned agreed to pay

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water cess not at the old rate of Rs. 4 an acre but at Rs. 10 or Rs. 12½, and signed statements were also taken from several persons affected. Notwithstanding that, I regret to learn that the Government have not been in a position to push forward that scheme any further, because they find that even with a water-rate of over Rs. 12, i.e., three times the usual rate, it would not cover their conventional rules of getting the interest on the capital. If really the Government are sincere in doing anything for the good of the agriculturist, let them only consider and lay down what reasonable amount can be fixed as water cess to be levied from the people; and let it not be an oppressive rate but a reasonable rate, a rate which the people concerned can pay with profit to themselves and with profit to the Government. If once the Government are in a position to satisfy themselves that with due consideration to the difficulties of the ryots and with due consideration to their troubles a certain rate is reasonable, the Government must be in a position to find the extra cost required for the carrying out of the irrigation project. If they do not accept this position, I may inform this House that all their sympathy for carrying out irrigation projects will not produce good results. There is a limit to the amount of water cess to be levied, and let that limit be fixed with due consideration to the conditions of the locality. Having done that, let not the Government turn round and say that it does not get its interest of 5 per cent or whatever percentage it may be. But the extra cost which is necessary must be borne by the Government. Unless such a system is adopted, our sympathy and our enthusiasm for irrigation projects will be merely in vain and we will not be able to produce any substantial result.

"There is no information so far as the Vengalapuram project is concerned. At about that place there is a river called Palar. A causeway

1-30 p.m. on that river has been under construction for several years past. After the construction was partly finished, a revised estimate had to be submitted to the Government. The traffic was obstructed owing to the construction of this bridge and the work could not be pushed through owing to want of sanction of the revised estimate by the Government. After a long delay the revised estimate was returned by the Superintending Engineer without sanction. They said that the Vengalapuram project was under construction and that the plans and estimates must be so designed as to provide for that project. I do not know whether this means that the Government would take the work in hand a few years hence. Can it be contended that, because the Vengalapuram project is under construction, we should not be in a position to complete the partly constructed bridge on the river Palar. I wish to point out to the House that that is one important aspect to be carefully considered. Unless the hon. the Law Member carefully considers all these questions and comes to a definite conclusion regarding the classification of productive and unproductive works and the hard and fast rules framed in regard thereto, no real improvement could be done in the irrigation projects of this province.

"I wish to draw the attention of the House to one other important matter and it is this. In budget page 59, under 'Miscellaneous expenditure', we find that for 'Irrigation Projects Division' a certain sum was provided in the accounts of 1921-22 and both in the budget estimate and revised estimate for 1922-23, we find some amount under this head. But in the budget estimate for 1923-24 no amount is allotted under this head. I wish to know whether this work has been completed and if not whether there is no

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necessity for the continuance of the work. If the work is still incomplete, I do not know why no amount is provided for the same."

At this stage (1-35 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch.

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

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I am indebted to my hon. friend Mr. Krishna Rao for having invited the attention of the House to three matters on which he has addressed himself. I shall first deal with the Vengalapuram project. So far as the Vengalapuram reservoir is concerned, the proposal is to form a reservoir by damming the Palar. The capital cost was originally estimated at 34 lakhs and the present estimate is about 50 lakhs. So far as the financial aspect of the scheme is concerned, even assuming the rate of Rs. 12-8-0 per acre as the standard, 3-6 per cent is the utmost that is likely to be got out of the project. As was pointed out by the hon. Member, in 1918, the Director of Agriculture was requested to negotiate with the ryots and his report showed that out of 31 villages, the ryots of only 17 were willing to pay the higher rate. It was therefore decided that the further consideration of the scheme should be deferred until the general question of the policy of water-rate assessment was settled finally. Now, that is not the only aspect of the matter. My hon. friend also referred to the obliteration of the difference between productive and protective schemes. Regarding that, I think my hon. friend will remember that after the publication of the Irrigation Commission Report, the Government of India considered the matter and in their despatch dated 1911, they laid down that certain percentages have to be secured up to 1st April 1919 and certain other percentages afterwards—6½ per cent in the present case and later on 6 per cent. The matter is consequently one which is not entirely within the cognizance of the Local Government; it is a matter entirely for the Government of India to decide in pursuance of their general policy whether this classification is right and should be kept on, or whether it has to be discontinued. I dare say that there are many cogent arguments not only in special cases but also in general cases for giving up that classification. I hope the hon. Members will realize that this Government cannot take any final step in the matter. Moreover, it has to be remembered that there is the question of interest on the sinking fund and the question of amortization of these debts. If proper provision is not made on these lines, the result will be the imposing of heavier burdens on the general taxpayer which I am sure the hon. Members will neither welcome nor demand.

"Then, Sir, so far as the Irrigation projects division is concerned, I may say it was abolished on account of the general retrenchment policy. But I may inform hon. Members of this House that an application is expected for completing the projects partially undertaken and to inaugurate the Tungabhadra and Kistna projects. When the application is brought forward, it will be favourably considered by the Government."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA IYER:—"Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Krishna Rao stated that in the case of special projects which were not productive, the Government should bear the surplus charge, which meant that the general tax-payer should be debited with that amount. I want to enter my emphatic protest against the soundness of such a policy. If it is stated that the whole irrigation revenues and the interest on irrigation projects,

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past and future, should be taken as one business concern, that stands on a different footing. But even limiting the general proposition to that extent, I cannot accept that in future all classifications between productive and protective works shall be done away with, that all protective works alone shall be undertaken and that the excess charges in the shape of interest, amortization, etc., shall be borne by the general tax-payer. I think it will be a very dangerous policy to pursue, and the future generation will not accept such a policy. For my part, I very much like to see that all irrigation projects, both past and future, are undertaken as one business concern, and the total outturn must be taken into consideration as long as it is a paying concern. However limited the incomes may be, it may be run for a greater number of years. Now we are paying about 40 lakhs as interest upon irrigation works, and, according to the Budget figures, the land revenue dependent upon irrigation is about 93 lakhs. There is thus a margin of 53 lakhs which entitles the Government to launch irrigation projects to the extent of nine crores in future, even calculating at the rate of 6 per cent. According to present rules, the policy of the Government is to call upon the ryots benefited by the proposed irrigation projects to pay a higher rate of water cess. I believe there are already some projects that were undertaken where a majority of the ryots undertook to pay the enhanced rate. A principle to this extent was embodied in the Irrigation Bill which was thrown out by this House the other day. I believe none of the Members of this House ever questioned the soundness of that portion of the Bill."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, in view of the few remarks that fell from my hon. friend Mr. Narasimha Raju, I am inclined to state my position clearly. My hon. friend has drawn the attention of this House to the desirability of asking for a joint account of the irrigation revenue derived from all the projects and of its being set against the interest over the capital outlay of all the schemes. I accept that view. He took objection to the course suggested by me regarding the modification of the distinction between productive and unproductive works. I believe my hon. friend fell into an error in not understanding my position properly. I do not suggest that all distinctions between productive works and protective works should be obliterated at once. I never suggested any such course. I stated that the present method of arriving at a project being unproductive was wrong. To determine a project as unproductive, we calculate interest at the high rate of 6 per cent irrespective of the fact that the ryots are called upon to pay more than other persons in other deltaic areas. This is a very unreasonable calculation. If the principle enunciated by my hon. friend Mr. Narasimha Raju is accepted, there is the danger of the course of action adopted by the Government making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The deltaic systems were introduced in some districts in favourable times and they are taking advantage of the system by paying a moderate rate of cess. Is it unreasonable for me to suggest that, in the case of these less fortunate districts in whose case it is necessary to expand the irrigation projects further, the Government should levy a reasonable rate of interest, no doubt more than the corresponding rate levied from those who have the advantage of the existing deltas? All I suggest is that there should be a limit to the levy. If the rate of levy is not modified, the result will be that those who have the irrigation system already will be greatly benefited, whereas new comers in the famine districts will always remain in the same predicament as before.

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"While realizing the difficulties pointed out by me, the hon. the Law Member only stated that the remedy lay in the hands of the Government of India and that nothing could be done by the Local Government. He pointed out that there were cogent reasons for the modification of the system, but he expressed his inability to go further into the matter. May I request him to make a representation to the Government of India so that they may move in the matter and bring about some modification in the directions suggested by me already? If he is at least prepared to give me the assurance that the views expressed in this House will be communicated to the Government of India and that he will insist on them to revise their rules and regulations and embark upon a more liberal policy, then I am willing to withdraw my motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I am relieved from the necessity of offering any lengthy remarks on account of the remarks that have fallen from my hon. friend Mr. Narasimha Raju. May I point out to my hon. friend Mr. Krishna Rao that the Government of India have not only made recommendations but have also laid down positive rules in regard to this matter? The Government order says:

'Where the schemes are productive, the rate should be 6½ per cent.' This afterwards became 6 per cent.

"The percentage rates referred to are those prescribed for the time being subject to alteration at the discretion of the Governor-General.

"These percentages, I have already referred to; and it is unnecessary for me to advert to it in any great detail. I may assure my hon. friend, Sir, that the proceedings of this Council will

be transmitted to the Government of India for such action as they are prepared to take.

"There is one other matter which I think it is necessary to clear, and that is, with regard to this lumping up of irrigation projects. It can undoubtedly be taken as an admitted proposition that famine areas stand on a separate footing. It is only in regard to areas other than famine areas that the question of productive works comes into operation. It is in regard to those areas, where I think my friend Mr. Narasimha Raju wanted to confine his remarks, viz., in regard to other than famine areas, you will be putting a greater burden upon the general tax-payer if you adopt that policy—a policy which I thought Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao was at first in favour of, but having heard now what has fallen from him, I do not think I need say anything further on the matter."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I withdraw my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 71.

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—"Mr. President, the motion that stands in my name reads as follows:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 77,591 for new works by Rs. 100.

Sir, I am at a loss to understand what is meant by new works and whether for new works the allotment of Rs. 77,591 will be sufficient. I wonder

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whether there is any printer's mistake in the case of these figures also. Yesterday on demands under Excise it was pointed out by my hon. friend Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai that there was a printer's mistake in the case of a certain figure and he protested against it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I point out, Sir, as it might perhaps cut short discussion on this point, that the allotment of Rs. 9,47,745 mentioned in motion No. 225 is inclusive of the Rs. 77,591 mentioned in motion No. 224. The total grant under the head, inclusive of the non-voted charges, is Rs. 9,98,000 as I shall presently show."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I am glad to hear that statement, Sir, from the hon. the Law Member. I may also point out, Sir, to the lack of policy on the part of the Government as far as irrigation projects are concerned. When so much of money is being spent in every direction and when the revenue of the country depends on irrigation to a large extent, one wonders why so very little is spent on irrigation projects and works. Taking my district into consideration, Mr. President, there are ever so many repairs to be made in our irrigation works for the last twenty or twenty-five years, but nothing has so far been done. There are one or two projects to be carried through, but nothing has yet been done to carry them out. Mr. President, I must here bring to the notice of this House that some time back Government thought it necessary to have the Periyar project put through in order to give relief to the famine-ridden areas of Melur and Madura taluks; and by beginning the work and supplying water to the people, the inhabitants of those places, most of whom belong to the Kallar community and who were in the habit of earning their living by robbery, have given up their bad habits and settled down to agricultural life. Now, Sir, there are one or two other taluks in which the predominant population is made up of Kallars, and they are suffering from lack of water. It would be a very great relief to them if only water could be supplied to them. As a matter of fact, Government have taken the trouble of appointing an officer for doing reclamation works in these parts and are spending lakhs of rupees on it. But that, I may say, Sir, is only a temporary measure. If we really want to put an end to the bad ways to which the Kallar communities are addicted, we must find out radical remedies. The radical remedy that I would suggest is to supply them water so that they may settle down to peaceful avocations as those in the once famine-ridden taluks of Melur and Madura. If the hon. Member will give us an assurance that he will take some steps towards this, I have nothing more to add."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I have already indicated that the sum of Rs. 77,000 and odd does not have the significance which at one time my friend Mr. Rajan was inclined to attach to it. So far as unproductive works are concerned, the demands preferred by the Public Works Department were completely allotted. But so far as the productive works are concerned, as was pointed out in the course of the debate, financial considerations have stood in the way of their getting as much allotment as they asked for.

" Now my hon. friend wanted to know whether I could give an assurance as to the possibility of reclaiming the Kallar population from their present somewhat uncivilized ways by giving them irrigation facilities. Now, my hon. friend will remember that there are schemes which are ready; there are

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schemes for which estimates have been called for, and there are schemes under investigation. These have to be taken up in the order of readiness and in the order of their being liable to be put into execution at once. Day after day, I am getting more and more schemes. I have in my hands schemes which will cover this amount and five or ten times that amount. If my hon. friend will forward any particular idea that he has to the department, the department will give earnest attention to the proposal. But I cannot possibly, in view of the schemes which are absolutely ready for execution and in respect of which the money at the disposal of the department is not adequate to cover all the demands that are likely to be put upon it, give any further, or more thorough or comprehensive, assurance than that."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, no doubt the hon. the Law Member said that there were more urgent schemes in other districts for which work had to be started. But, Sir, the talk about the irrigation project in Madura has been going on for the last ten or fifteen years. It is of as much importance as other projects. The other day, Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the late Law Member, gave an assurance that he would take some steps and that, as a matter of fact, he was taking some steps in that direction. If my hon. friend the Law Member will at least give an assurance that he will pay his attention to it, I have no desire to press my motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, as to that particular matter, the Government have called for information which they are awaiting. And it is because Government are not in possession of the information which was referred to by my predecessor in office and on the basis of which alone any definite assurance on that particular scheme can be given that I had to give the answer that I gave."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I am satisfied as regards that, Sir. As for the other portion of it, Sir, my hon. friend referred me to the officers concerned, but if we go and refer the matter to them, they say that they have not got sufficient money. The sum of Rs. 77,000 provided in the budget is not at all adequate. So my hon. friend the Law Member will try to get as much money as possible to carry out the work."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That is my ambition, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 72.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the total grant of Rs. 9,47,745 by Rs. 100.

" I beg to invite the attention of the House to an unjust practice that prevails in regard to the levy of water rate for lands irrigated by what we call spring channels. I shall briefly explain the practice that obtains at present. These lands are irrigated by water taken from the rivers. There is no direct flow from the river; but the ryots concerned are to continually work on the bed of the river and outside it if they are to take water to their lands. These channels are often over a length of three or four miles and the practice is that for every acre of land that is irrigated under this channel, the owner sends a man to work at this channel, not for one or two days, but throughout the cultivation season which is for many months together. And if any particular man does not go and contribute his customary labour, then he is fined the amount that is necessary to appoint another in his

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place to do the work which he should have done. Sometimes those people who are not able to contribute this labour personally, employ a person to attend to this work and the wages they pay for this is about Rs. 30 if the man attends to both the crops, or Rs. 16 if he attends only to a single crop. So that the irrigation charge which they themselves have to pay out of their pockets for irrigating a single crop is roughly about Rs. 16 per acre. Now supposing these lands were situated close to a first class never-failing source, the Government would not charge more than Rs. 6 or Rs. 8 for water which was available by direct flow without any trouble on the part of the ryots whatsoever. But in a case of this sort, the ryots are obliged to spend not less than Rs. 16 for a single crop and yet the Government claim a water charge and levy Rs. 4 or Rs. 6 for each acre of land. This is a great discouragement for the people to bring additional lands under irrigation. In areas like my district it is to the interest of the Government as well as of the people to allow more facilities for irrigation. When water is allowed to them from a first-class source, the Government will not charge more than Rs. 6 or Rs. 8; but to charge an additional amount of Rs. 4 or Rs. 6 over and above the Rs. 30 or Rs. 15, as the case may be, which the ryot is already spending, seems to me, Sir, rather iniquitous. I therefore suggest that, if the Government want to retain the right they undoubtedly have over the water, they may charge a nominal rate of 4 annas or 8 annas per acre in these cases. Nothing more than that is justifiable in these cases. I wanted to bring these things to the notice of the hon. the Law Member, who is in charge of this department and so it was that I tabled this motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, while I am indebted to the hon. Member for having drawn my attention to these points, it is impossible for me to say anything more than this, viz., that I will look into this matter carefully."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Does Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar withdraw his motion?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"With pleasure I withdraw, Sir, because the hon. the Law Member's conduct has been throughout refreshingly good in this Council."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 73.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"Mr. President, I beg to move—
To omit the allotment of Rs. 47,360 for hydro-electric surveys, Madras.

My object in tabling this motion is to find out how far we have been progressing in these hydro-electric surveys. No doubt we have had enough of reports and pamphlets about them, and the report published recently covered some two volumes, if I remember aright. Under our present financial conditions, what is the immediate necessity for having any of these hydro-electric surveys when there is not the least opportunity of doing anything in that line? I do not see any necessity for a separate investigation or a separate allotment for it. So, I press my motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I am glad I am given an opportunity of making a statement on this matter. The Hydro-Electric Survey Department will be closed down at the end of

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March 1924, and the investigations on hand for the reconnaissance of 27 sites for which provision has been made will be completed before that date. The investigations in progress are expected to be completed by October 1923; but during the remaining part of the year, the Executive Engineer will be engaged in inspecting the sites to be reconnoitred, and this will entail travelling. With this information before him I do not know whether Mr. Vellingiri Goundar will persist in his motion. It has been determined to put a stop to the activities of this department on account of the general policy of retrenchment, however useful such activities might have been in normal and more prosperous financial years. But it is necessary to complete what has been begun as it will not do to leave things half done; it is from that point of view that this demand is proposed."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"I hope some useful purpose will be served by the activities of this department. I do not press my motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

MOTION No. 74.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,295 for Electrical Inspector by Rs. 500.

Sir, I wish to say a few words on this motion. The bulk of the charges on account of the Electrical Inspector comes as the last demand we are proposing to cut. I want to know whether really any work of a useful nature has been done by this Electrical Inspector. No doubt, I am aware of the fact that probably through his exertion a large number of licences have been granted throughout the Presidency, and in my own neighbourhood in the Nilgiris, as many as three licences have been given. I want to know whether after the issue of these licences, the Electrical Inspector has cared to know whether any work has been done or whether there is any prospect of any work being done in the near future, because the country is at present very much interested in the progress of this department. We want power for all our industries; and we want also power for lighting municipalities, etc. Probably it is for lighting the municipalities that a large number of licences have been given. I will be very glad if the hon. the Law Member will be able to give us some information as to whether we can expect any real progress in the production of electric power at an early date."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I have before me papers which demonstrate that the work that the Electrical Inspector has to carry out is of a varied character. It will be remembered that under the Indian Electricity Act he has to undertake inspection on a very vivid and comprehensive scale in addition to which, as he points out, he has to be touring regularly in the Vizagapatam district for the hospital electrical work there and in Tinnevely for another electrical work. He has to be on the look out always on account of the fact that he has to conform to the very exacting rules of the Indian Electricity Act. The granting of licences is not the only task before him; he has a very exacting kind of work. I have here details of his work; but I will not weary the House by telling them what exactly he has got to do. I think any one who reads through the Electricity Act and knows that there are many electrical ventures now, either being undertaken or about to be undertaken in this Presidency, will realize that any attempt to cut this small allotment would not be in the direction of any real progress."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I will be the last man to out any item which advances the country's progress. I know that this Inspector has some police duties also. I think it will be better to take away from him that power and give it to the proper person."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I take it that the creation of electrical power involves the laying down of electrical plants; and the grant of licences for such purposes involves in turn considerable responsibility."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Demand VII—Irrigation Public Works Officers—for a sum not exceeding Rs. 52.67 lakhs was then put and carried.

DEMAND VIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Mr. President, I beg to move for the grant of 4.89 lakhs under Demand VIII—General Administration."

MOTION No. 75.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, I beg to move—
For the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 11,920 for pay of Indian ran and file by Rs. 100.

This is an amount provided for His Excellency's Bodyguard. If you look at the retrenchment proposals of other provinces, there is a recommendation from the Bengal Retrenchment Committee that this allowance should be deleted from the budget, and it is expected that it will result in a saving of Rs. 1.20 lakhs. After all, conditions have now changed. There is no longer the same necessity for His Excellency to have a Bodyguard as he had earlier days. Most of his tours are now done by motors and the necessity for a Bodyguard does not exist. The only occasions on which he is in need of these people is when he visits the Senate which is only once in a year. I think it will meet with the approval of His Excellency and others if this provision can be deleted as no longer necessary."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Mr. President, I understand that the hon. Member has brought this motion because in Bengal the Retrenchment Committee have proposed the reduction of His Excellency's Bodyguard. My hon. friend has not told us whether that Committee's recommendations have been actually carried out."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I do not know that, Sir."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"With regard to the general question, I must inform the House that the question of retrenching by the abolition of the Bodyguard has already been under very careful consideration. His Excellency has given it his best attention and has come to the conclusion that on the whole the saving to be effected by the abolition would hardly make up for what would be lost by its disappearance. In Madras at any rate it has more than once been of great use in times of emergency, as for example in Guntur. Apart from that, I think hon. Members will agree that, except under the stress of the gravest emergency, it would be an ill-advised action to do away altogether with this appanage of His Excellency's position as the representative of His Majesty the King the more so when it is remembered that the ruling Princes and even some of the zamindars in

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this Presidency have their bodyguards. To a stern philosopher, like my hon. friend, the bodyguard may seem an useless expense; but I honestly think that in the eyes of a very large number of people in this Presidency it is not only an attraction but it carries with it a lesson of discipline and loyalty. During the war, when we were driven to an extremity, the Bodyguard disappeared and if such an emergency were to recur certainly this would be the very first item to come under the axe. As matters stand at present, I would suggest to the House that they should accept this assurance that the matter has been carefully gone into and agree that though the Bodyguard may be a luxury—it is not a luxury of His Excellency, but of the Madras Government—it is not desirable to abandon this visible sign of His Excellency's position as the Governor of the Presidency."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I dare say the matter will come up again before the Retrenchment Committee and therefore I have no objection to withdraw."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 76.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance of personal staff of His Excellency the Governor by Rs. 3,000.

I find on page 63 of the Budget that the amount provided for in the Budget Estimate for 1922-23 is only Rs. 7,000 and that there is no disparity between the budget estimate and revised estimate of that year, whereas in the budget estimate which we are now considering I find a sum of Rs. 10,000 allotted for this purpose. This makes a difference of Rs. 3,000, and I am anxious to put it out. No explanation has been given to us for this increase, on the original budget, of Rs. 3,000 which, though small, attracts one's attention. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation I am tempted to press this motion."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, the explanation of the increase in the provision lies in the increase of the railway fares by 25 per cent. This rise in the railway fares had not come into effect when our last year's Budget Estimate was prepared."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 77.

Rao Sabib U. RAMA RAO :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,575 for the purchase of horses by Rs. 4,575. Sir, in the accounts for the year 1921-22 the expenditure under this head was only Rs. 1,470. For the year 1922-23 Rs. 9,575 were provided. For the coming year again a sum of Rs. 9,575 is allotted under the same heading. I want to know why this sum is asked for, and whether the horses that were purchased last year have become too old."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The question of the provision for these horses was fully discussed last year when Sir Lionel Davidson gave the House a detailed explanation of the manner in which the figures were arrived at. I think it was Mr. Narasimha Chariu who raised the discussion. This year the provision for the purchase of horses is merely repeated. I am not

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quite sure what is in the mind of the hon. mover who objects to this provision. I do not know whether he objects to the calculation of the Military Secretary. The Military Secretary's calculation is that the life of the Bodyguard horse is ten years. You will see that with an establishment of 70 horses we require to replace seven horses regularly each year, and taking into consideration accident, sickness, and so on, that may occur the annual requirement is placed at ten. The price of horses has risen very considerably, and that being so, the sum that has been allotted is very reasonable."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 78.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,523 for the medical establishment of His Excellency the Governor by Re. 1.

Mr. President, Sir, I want to elicit information under this head, i.e., the Medical establishment of His Excellency the Governor. The pay provided for the Surgeon is Rs. 1,700. I want to know whether this amount includes the allowance of Rs. 200. If it be so, that item ought to have been shown separately."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"That is a non-votable item."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I want to know whether the allowance of Rs. 200 is also a non-votable item."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, the amount of Rs. 1,700 even if it includes the allowance of Rs. 200 is a non-votable item. I would, therefore, ask you, Sir, to rule out that it is not a subject coming within the scope of the present discussion. If the hon. Member wants any information on this subject he can ask me, and I can give it."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I want information as to whether this amount of Rs. 1,700 includes the allowance of Rs. 200."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"My point is that this item is put in italics, and therefore it is a non-votable item. Therefore following the ruling which the hon. the President gave this morning the hon. Member will be out of order if he discusses it. What the President said was that such items may be quoted or referred to but cannot be discussed."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I learn that the pay of the Surgeon is a non-votable item and that His Excellency has ruled that his allowance also is a non-votable item. I, therefore, think that the matter cannot be discussed."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 79.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,49,445 for staff and household of His Excellency the Governor by Rs. 1,000.

Sir, all that I can say is that my idea is not to do away with all those gentlemen who form the staff of His Excellency the Governor. We see that so far as the present staff is concerned, there are nine people who are

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doing the work and my idea is that the Government may consider the desirability of dispensing with the services of some of them. In the case of the Bodyguard the example was cited that all our native Princes and several zamindars had this paraphernalia and therefore our Excellency the Governor nor also should have it. I do not want to say anything on this aspect of the question, but I would prefer that His Excellency the Governor himself shows an example to our Princes and other Ruling Chiefs by reducing as far as possible the number of his personal staff, more especially, as I am of opinion that in these democratic days a popular Governor, like His Excellency Lord Willingdon, would only be too glad to meet the wishes of the people, wherever possible, and would effect a considerable saving of expenditure so that the nation-building departments might utilize it for their purpose. Several Ruling Princes and Chiefs may have some other sorts of paraphernalia but I am sure His Excellency Lord Willingdon will not like to have them. I do not pursue this matter further.

"There is another point and that is the allowance to the honorary Indian Aide-de-Camp. It is certain that he is doing this work honorarily. We do not know why this sum of Rs. 3,500 comes under that head."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, to take first the question last raised by the mover of the motion the Honorary Indian Aide-de-Camp is paid Rs. 7-8-0 for each day he is called to duty."

"I may explain that the arrangement, which was sanctioned by the Government of India and is in force in other presidencies as well as here, is that His Excellency has a certain list of Indian officers whom we may call up to do duty as Honorary Aide-de-Camp. One of these officers when called up receives the payment I have mentioned. The number of days for which these Indian Aide-de-Camps are called up for duty is a matter at the discretion of His Excellency. All that we do is to provide in the budget a sufficient sum to cover their allowances when they are called up. These appointments are in addition to His Excellency's other Honorary Aide-de-Camps who receive no kind of allowances."

"As regards the general question of a reduction in the staff of His Excellency the Governor the matter has been considered by His Excellency. The mover of the resolution seemed to compare the personal staff to the Bodyguard and to regard both as mere paraphernalia maintained for the purpose of display. This is by no means justified. While the Bodyguard may be maintained largely for the purposes of display the personal staff are employed for actual work. I can assure the House that they are not merely ornamental but that His Excellency—and perhaps I may say so even more Her Excellency Lady Willingdon keeps them very well employed."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I may bring to the notice of my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, that the expenditure under the head of 'Bodyguard' was not debitable to the provincial revenues before. In the year 1921, when the Reforms Scheme was inaugurated, it was placed on the provincial estimate for the first time. I should think that if my hon. friend really considers that it is an ornament, as he puts it, it has really to be paid by the Government of India, because they have got a large army at their disposal and if they consider it necessary to place some of their men as Bodyguard to His Excellency the Governor, they may do so. My suggestion

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is that these charges should not be met from the provincial funds, apart from the necessity and various other questions raised by some hon. friends stating that these Bodyguards are required to maintain the dignity of the zamindars and Native States. I am really suggesting to the hon. Member to consider the advisability of asking the Government of India to have a portion of their cavalry at their disposal stationed at Madras. The Bodyguard, instead of being stationed at Secunderabad or Bangalore, may well be left in Madras and paid for by the Government of India. I do not see why the provincial Government which did not pay before the year 1921 should be asked to pay now. The Government of India were anxious to get rid of their expenditure as much as possible and it looks as if they said 'here are Bodyguards and if the provinces want, let them have them and pay for them'. Some earnest attention is therefore necessary to get rid of this expenditure and if a Bodyguard is required by His Excellency the Governor, the Government of India should be asked to furnish it, the expenditure for the same being met by them."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I wish to ask the hon. the Home Member 3-30 p.m. some information about this sum of Rs. 3,500. He told us, Sir, that the Indian Aide-de-Camp was paid a sum of Rs. 7-8-0 on each day that he was called to do duty. Even assuming that he is called to duty every day in the year it comes to only Rs. 2,737-8-0. I wish to know how the hon. Member arrived at Rs. 3,500."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"As regards the Bodyguard I may say that when it was proposed to transfer the cost of keeping it from the Military budget to our provincial budget we put up a fight but without success. The hon. Member has suggested that the Government of India might provide the Bodyguard from some of their Cavalry Regiments without extra expense. I am obliged to him for the suggestion but I foresee various difficulties. I am afraid a Regimental Colonel would be likely to object strongly if a portion of his Regiment had to be kept away in Madras permanently. As for getting a Cavalry Escort when it is needed it must be remembered that there is no Indian Cavalry nearer than at Secunderabad and it would be very expensive in trainage backwards and forwards, apart from the difficulty of foreseeing exactly when His Excellency would require their services. My hon. friend's other suggestion is that we should have Cavalry stationed in Madras. I wish we could. That might solve the difficulty. I will look into the suggestion but I am afraid I have very little hope that it will prove practicable."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—"Mr. President, I have one remark to make. I do not think that stationing cavalry here in Madras would enable us or help us to save much. Secondly, the maintenance of Bodyguards is not for purposes of mere show and *thamasha*. It is a mark or symbol rather of the prestige and honour which must be attached to the representative of His Imperial Majesty. The removal of the Bodyguards and the substitution of cavalry will show a kind of distrust of the loyalty of the people of this Province as if His Excellency was always in need of a military escort, and should have cavalry alone for his guards. I think the substitution is not justifiable."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I think a Daniel has come for judgment and I think my friend has gone much farther than the hon. Mr. Knapp himself. There are two sides; one useful and one showy. The

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useful portion also is sometimes showy. Therefore the more showy portion must certainly be omitted. Seeing that His Excellency himself is liberal in these matters and hoping that the Government itself will press upon His Excellency this point I am withdrawing this motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 80.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 86,000 for tour expenses by Rs. 6,000.

Sir, year after year we have been complaining that His Excellency has been touring unnecessarily because the Government is now splitted up into a number of Ministers and Councillors. Therefore there is no necessity for His Excellency to go on tours. As has been pointed out last year I think that so much touring is unnecessary, and hence I am moving this motion for reduction. The provision for special trains for His Excellency's own use and haulage of his saloon carriages is made already for the current year. Notwithstanding that there is a typed copy of a supplementary demand placed in my hands—though it may not be moved just now—which indicates that the hon. Member will move a supplementary demand of Rs. 15,000. In this way instead of reducing they are adding to the tour expenses. By bringing this motion I wish to draw the attention of the Government to these facts."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"The hon. Member mentioned that he proposed a similar motion last year. In fact year after year he has been moving it. I hope he is going to follow the example set by himself last year and will accept my assurance and withdraw the motion."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I may not do this time."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"The matter was discussed last year, and Sir Lionel Davidson announced His Excellency's intention to restrict his tours to absolute necessities. I may say that the more His Excellency tours in the various portions of the Presidency the better it will be for the administration in general. I am certain that the people of the districts are very glad to see His Excellency go down to their places. The charge has not actually increased, and it will be seen that the accounts for 1921-22 show a much higher figure: 86,000 is the revised estimate. But there is going to be a supplementary demand, which I may submit represents a capital item, viz., the actual building up of a carriage. It does not represent a recurring travelling allowance. For the next year we retain the same figure of Rs. 86,000. The only assurance that I can give is that His Excellency and the Military Secretary having got their sum fixed will take care and do their best not to exceed the allotment. We may be certain that they will do their very best."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the Home Member and press the motion."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 81.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,51,600 for miscellaneous and unforeseen charges by 1,00,000.

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"I am glad, Sir, I was the means of getting two mistakes corrected or the means of getting reduced two motions by my tabling motions here. One is 237 and the other is 239. I was under the impression when this 237 motion was tabled by me that the Government wanted Rs. 3,51,600, for meeting miscellaneous and unforeseen charges. You will find at page 214 of the Budget the above provision made. Now, I find from the erratum slip that was placed in my hands that this 3,51,600 is a mistake for 1,51,600. No doubt, Sir, I am glad that I have been the means of rectifying the mistakes for in the course of the year it may be assumed that it is three lakhs and odd and spent. I wish to know whether this is really a clerical error or whether subsequently the Government cut it down into 1,51,600. Even then the question remains the same: whether there is necessity for so much amount, when according to the revised estimate, only Rs. 14,000 has been put down and when the actual accounts of 1921-22, a similar amount of 14,040 has been put down. Now what is the meaning of these unforeseen and miscellaneous charges? According to the erratum slip a sum of Rs. 1,51,600 has been put down. How can these unforeseen charges be foreseen to such an exact figure of 1,51,600? I can understand a round figure being put down to meet the unforeseen charges. The unforeseen seems to have been very much foreseen and it would have been better if they had added eight annas four pies to show it as a very correct figure. Now so much money should not be put down especially when they come with a number of supplementary demands. What this amount is intended for, I do not know. Therefore I submit, Sir, that this 1,51,600 should be reduced by a lakh. Not only that. There is the next item about which I have not tabled any motion because I thought this one lakh would be reduced. There is a reserve provision at the disposal of the Government of 1,05,500 and the total is put down as 4,57,100. We have not got an erratum slip for that. Therefore, I say, Sir, that 51,600 is amply sufficient to meet the miscellaneous and unforeseen charges."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Mr. President, Sir, I must disclaim the marvellous foresight in foreseeing the unforeseeable which the hon. Member attributes to us and tell him that the item of Rs. 1,51,600 consists of 1,47,600 for miscellaneous charges which are foreseen and 4,000 for unforeseen. The total amount which is available for us to waste—as the hon. Member would put it—is Rs. 4,000. The item of Rs. 1,51,600 is made up first of 1,25,000 required to pay the Government servants in Malabar for losses of their property in the course of the rebellion. In the case of Government servants, it has always been the custom to make up for the loss which they may incur in doing their duty. This estimate includes the amount payable to village officers who suffered and lost their property. Then there is the item of 22,600 advances made to persons in criminal settlements, which we will have to write off. The explanation of this is, Sir, that when we transferred some of the Kavali settlers to Bitragunta and Alur we had to give them money to keep them while they reclaimed the land and brought it under cultivation. Some of the people who received advances died before they repaid the advance. In other cases they have left the settlements. But in spite of these losses the giving of the advances was entirely justified financially. The value of the land at Alur has risen by Rs. 400 or 500 an acre since they were reclaimed—from Rs. 100 an acre to Rs. 500 or 600. There are about 200 acres concerned, and it is clear that the advances written off are much more than covered by the rise in the

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value of the land. In fact we must regard this Rs. 22,600 as spent by us in improving our land. The remaining item is Rs. 4,000 which represents the unforeseen charges."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, in view of the information given by the hon. Mr. Knapp that the sum of Rs. 22,600, being the advances paid to the settlers in the Kavali settlement, is to be written off, I think that the matter requires further consideration before this House can accept that position. Further investigation as to the manner in which the Government have been aiding the various bodies at work in respect of these criminal settlements, is necessary. I wish to ascertain whether, in respect of this amount which is proposed to be written off, due enquiries were made from time to time and whether, when large sums were placed in the hands of private agencies for the purpose of doing the work like the one under discussion, that amount of care which one would expect in such cases had been taken. I have some intimate knowledge of the working of this criminal settlement now under discussion. I am associated with it as one of the non-official visitors, and I have had several opportunities of examining the question myself. I wish to know whether, when large sums of money were placed for the purpose of helping these settlers, there was a regular audit of accounts by responsible officers from time to time, whether they were scrutinised with that care and circumspection which the circumstances necessitated, and whether the Government made any investigation regarding the possibility of recovering these advances. I wish that we should have full information about these matters before we are called upon to vote for writing off this sum of Rs. 22,600 handed over to the private agency at Kavali. If, without a fuller investigation, we sanction this writing off, I think it would be a very bad precedent, and Government may take advantage of it in giving monies to private agencies for carrying on their work. For these reasons, I think that at least to the extent of Rs. 22,600 the House should withhold its sanction. If the hon. Mr. Knapp, after a further investigation, can satisfy the House for sanctioning this amount, he can come forward with a supplementary grant later on. But, at present, with the information placed before us, I don't think the House will be justified in sanctioning the amount. I, therefore, press upon the attention of this House not to accept now the proposition brought forward by Mr. Knapp to write off these advances."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, my hon. friend is not accurate in describing the money in question as having been given to private agencies. The money in this case was not given to private agencies at all but was actually given to individual settlers."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know, Sir, if the money was paid direct to the settlers or handed over to the manager of the settlement, who is a private agent, for being paid to the settlers? If the Government gave the money to the individual settlers direct, I have no quarrel. But if the Government handed it over to the manager of the settlement for being distributed among the settlers according to his discretion, according to his own principles and according to his own arrangement, I think it is objectionable."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ I do not know, Sir, if the hon. Member implies that the manager utilized the money for his own purposes. I may say that we are quite satisfied that the money reached the hands of these settlers. I want to make it clear that it is not a question of handing over a lump sum to private agencies of any kind. As regards the question whether sufficient inquiries have been made in this matter, all I can say is that it went to the Finance Committee; the Finance Committee first examined it and not being quite satisfied wanted that further inquiries should be made. Further inquiries were made; the matter passed through very careful scrutiny on the part of the Finance Department and finally the Finance Committee accepted it. I do not know if that will satisfy my hon. friend.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ Sir, as regards the first point that 1½ lakhs of rupees will be necessary for giving compensation to the Government servants in Malabar for the damages caused to them during the rebellion, I submit that only the other day this Council rejected a motion for a supplementary grant of nearly 9 lakhs of rupees intended for writing off the loans granted to certain persons. I submit, Sir, that unless the Council is in a better position to know the persons who sustained losses and the amount of losses sustained, we should not vote for the money, which can be utilized for certainly better purposes. I should also point out that in the explanatory note prepared by the Finance Secretary, the same amount of Rs. 3,51,600 is repeated. It is there explained that a sum of Rs. 3,25,000 is towards the payment of compensation for losses sustained by the officers in the Malabar rebellion. I asked the question whether this was really a clerical error or whether the amount was subsequently reduced, i.e., from Rs. 3,51,600 to Rs. 1,51,600. But that point has not been answered by the hon. the Home Member.

“ Secondly I wish to know why this question of writing off the money granted to the criminal settlers was not specifically mentioned in detail either in the Budget estimate or in the explanatory notes. I submit, Sir, that we are entitled to have some detailed information on the matter and I am not at all satisfied whether these two are legitimate items of expenditure on the provincial finance. I therefore think that this one lakh of rupees should be omitted.”

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 82.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,51,600 for miscellaneous and unforeseen charges by Rs. 100.

The figure which originally stood in the Budget against miscellaneous and unforeseen charges was Rs. 3,51,600 or roughly 3½ lakhs and it was for reducing that amount by Rs. 100 that I gave notice of this motion. I find on the agenda paper—and it is also confirmed by the hon. the Home Member in his speech on the previous motion—that the figure 3,51,600 has been reduced to 1,51,600 so that instead of the original provision of Rs. 3,51,600 we have now Rs. 1,51,600. This House may remember, Sir, that at the time of the introduction of the Budget, the hon. the Finance Member stated—and that was confirmed by the hon. Mr. Knapp—that a sum of Rs. 3,25,000 had been allotted for payment of compensation to those persons who suffered

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losses during the Malabar rebellion. My hon. friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu referred to this in his concluding speech on the previous motion and referred also to the previous demand which the hon. Mr. Knapp submitted to this House but which he subsequently withdrew, that demand being for 10 lakhs. I may be permitted to inform my hon. friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu that this sum of Rs. 3,25,000 has nothing to do with the other sum of 10 lakhs which was discussed in this House. This is intended for payment of compensation for losses sustained and the other was intended for writing off the loans which had already been advanced.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ May I explain the matter, Sir? It is not quite correct to say that this hypothetical sum of Rs. 3,51,600 represented the amount of compensation payable to the officers. This hypothetical sum of Rs. 3,51,600 included two lakhs which was included in the 10 lakhs grant for which I unsuccessfully moved last month.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ What I was submitting to the House was quite correct, Sir. I submitted that the amount of Rs. 3,25,000 which was originally included in the provision was a separate item. Well, whatever it is, it is unnecessary to go into that question now. The hon. the Finance Member stated that he had intended this sum of Rs. 3,25,000 for payment of compensation to those who suffered losses in the rebellion. When this question came before the Finance Committee, I find that they made this note :

The Committee recommend the Budget provision, that is, Rs. 3,25,000; but would ask that before grant for distribution is made they should be advised of the principles on which it is proposed that the money should be distributed.

If I may be permitted to say so, I think that the observation made by the Finance Committee is a very reasonable one and before this money of Rs. 3,25,000 is actually distributed, I hope that this House will be informed of the principles on which it is intended that the money should be distributed. But after I have given notice of this motion, that is, to-day, I learn from the speech of the hon. Mr. Knapp on the previous motion that it is not now intended to allot Rs. 3,25,000 for payment of compensation to these sufferers.

“ My hon. friend Mr. Knapp stated that the amount that is proposed to be debited now is not Rs. 3.25 lakhs but only 1.25 lakhs.

4 p.m. In other words, out of the original provision that was made in the budget, the Government have reduced the amount by 2 lakhs, and this 1.25 lakhs is intended to be distributed amongst the Government servants who have suffered loss during the rebellion. Of course I have no objection to this. I only wish to point out how the Government are constantly changing their mind. I should like to know whether they intend to distribute any portion of this amount to the ordinary sufferers. As remarked by the Finance Committee, this House should be informed of the principles on which the distribution is to be made. So long as Government do not recognize their legal liability to make compensation, a difference should be made between the persons to whom this compensation is paid. That is to say, those rich persons, whether individuals or companies, who are really able to make good their loss in course of time, those persons should not be given compensation, but those who are unable to make up their loss may be given.”

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Am I to understand that my hon. friend is trying to apply his criterion of rich and poor to Government servants, who alone are contemplated under this provision? Are we to distinguish between rich Government servants and poor Government servants?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"My hon. friend has misunderstood me. If he had attended to my remarks with some care he would certainly not have misunderstood me. I have no objection whatever to the payment of compensation to Government servants who were doing their work at the time. I make no distinction between the rich and poor among Government servants. My point is that the provision that was originally made was subsequently reduced to 1.25 lakhs and Government have changed their mind again."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is very clear that the hon. Member is not talking on this grant. He has not said one word about this Rs. 1,51,600. He gives advice to the Government in case they sanction something which is not here."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It was not 1.51 lakhs. It was stated in the budget statement placed before us that the amount was not 1.51 lakhs but 3.51 lakhs. Referring to this again, the Finance Secretary in his statement has said in one portion which is specifically devoted to this subject that it was intended to be 3.25 lakhs. This was supplemented by the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter in his speech when introducing the budget. This was again supplemented by the hon. Mr. Knapp. It was with reference to these figures that I gave notice of this reduction, not out of 1.51 lakhs as it appears now on the agenda paper, but out of 3.51 lakhs as appeared in all the previous Government records."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will forgive me if I point out that at present the House is only dealing with 1.51 lakhs."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not responsible for it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I know that the hon. Member is not a Member of the Government and so he is not responsible for it; but he is certainly responsible for his motion. Whatever his misapprehension might have been at one time, at present the motion before the House is to reduce the allotment of 1.51 lakhs by Rs. 100. So far as I can gather he has not said one word objecting to it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I mention, Sir, in defence of my hon. friend that he said he had no objection to the Rs. 1,51,600?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I understand that he does not want to press this motion to a division."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I do not Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 83.

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

To reduce the allotment of 4.89 lakhs for general administration by Rs. 100.

Sir, in this case also, the original amount was Rs. 6.89 lakhs, an erratum slip was recently issued and it is now put down as 4.89 lakhs. The point

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I wish to raise is this. It has been strongly and persistently said that this Council will be dissolved about August or September or even in July. We are not sure when it will be. Sometime ago it was said that the life of this Council would be prolonged. I for one am neither for prolonging it nor for dissolving it. According to the Government of India Act the life of the Council is ordinarily three years from the date of the first meeting of the Council. No doubt, the section provides for an early dissolution of the Council by the Governor of the Province, but there must be good reason for the Governor of the Province to dissolve the Council before its life is out."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I rise to a point of order? I understand my hon. friend is discussing Legislative bodies which form part of the next demand."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"My answer to that is that I tabled my motion under this head for the reason that it is His Excellency the Governor that exercises the privilege of dissolving the Council earlier. As His Excellency the Governor comes under this grant I have tabled the motion here. My point is that His Excellency the Governor should not exercise the discretion of dissolving the Council before its usual term. I wanted to convey my impression about such a course to His Excellency so that he might take note of it at the time. It is stated that the usual election time of November would be inconvenient because it is a rainy month and therefore inconvenient. But I would submit that the proposed remedy would be worse than the existing state of things. If an election is held in August or September, that would be the cultivation season and the ryots would be very busy."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order. I understand the hon. Member thinks that the Governor would be well advised not to dissolve the Council in July or August as rumoured, but on the due date, i.e., in November. He seeks to express that view by moving a reduction of Rs. 100 under this grant. I do not think he is in order, because the Governor's discretion is hardly a matter which can be discussed by the House. He is outside the whole machinery."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"We are inside the machinery, Sir. There is the Council and whatever action His Excellency the Governor may take on it is a matter pertaining to us. Can we not express our opinion so that His Excellency may take note of what we think upon this subject before he exercises his discretion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"There is absolutely no objection; all that I say is that the hon. Member should not do it in this particular way. I quite see that the hon. Member wants to give a piece of advice to His Excellency on this point." (Laughter).

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I do not arrogate to myself that task as to how he is to conduct the administration. Certainly not. It is in the interest of the Council and as a member of the Council and in my own interest too that I said that. (Laughter). I do not wish to give a piece of advice to His Excellency on a point of administration."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I appreciate the hon. Member's modesty. I daresay the hon. Member is entitled to give his advice. He is entitled to ask for an interview and express his opinions personally to His Excellency. All that I say is that he cannot discuss that question here on a vote for the

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reduction of an allotment. His Excellency's powers as a controlling officer are quite apart from the Government. We are dealing with the budget, and I do not think I can allow any discussion as to what the proper time for the dissolution of the Council is and other things. The whole thing will be out of order. Any how the hon. Member has made his speech. I am sorry I did not rise earlier. So we will go to the next thing."

Demand No. VIII was put to the House and carried; and the grant was made.

DEMAND IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I rise to move Demand IX—General Administration—for a grant not exceeding 4.63 lakhs."

MOTION No. 84.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,40,000 for the travelling allowance of non-official Members and voting delegates by Rs. 70,000.

My reason for bringing forward this motion is that the expenditure under 4-15 p.m. 'General Administration—Provincial Legislative Council,' has gone up very much in this year's budget. The budget estimate of last year provided for only 2.77 lakhs. It has gone to 4.41 lakhs this year. Motions were tabled last year for the reduction of the travelling allowances but the Council was not willing for the reduction. But now finding that the expenditure is almost doubling, that the Government and the public officers are finding fault with us that we do not agree for a reduction in our allowances while we are very enthusiastic about cutting down theirs, it is incumbent on this Council to make up its mind to forego a portion of the allowances. With these words, I move for the reduction."

MOTION No. 85.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,40,000 for the travelling allowance of non-official Members and voting delegates by Rs. 60,000.

Sir, in my opinion the travelling allowance of the non-official Members of this Council may be reduced to one first-class for himself and a third-class for a servant. The hon. Ministers have shown their self-sacrifice by agreeing for the reduction of their salaries and it is but reasonable that the Council should also show their sense of self-sacrifice by reducing their travelling allowances and thus add their mite to the retrenchment of expenditure."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I also support the motion for reduction of the provision made for the travelling allowance. This question came up during the previous session of the Council and several of us supported it but unfortunately we were not able to carry out our intentions. And it is not too late to mend the previous decisions of this House. So long as we have been urging upon the attention of the Government the necessity for reducing the allowances in the case of their officers, it is but necessary that Members of this Council should set the example in the direction themselves. Otherwise they will lay themselves subject to the remark that, while they are advocating reduction in the case of others, they are not prepared to apply it to themselves. I hope the Members of the House will realize that

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aspect of the question and will willingly support the reduction moved. Otherwise we will not be justified in our demands for reduction of allowances of other officers."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Member support the motion for reduction by Rs. 70,000 or the motion for the reduction of Rs. 60,000 or does he move his own motion for reduction by Rs. 40,000 ? "

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I began by saying, Sir 'I support the motion of my hon. friend Mr. Appalanarasayya Nayudu for reduction by Rs. 60,000.' If the reduction by Rs. 60,000 is not accepted, then, Sir, the motion for Rs. 40,000 may be voted upon."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes. But the motion for reduction by Rs. 40,000 cannot be voted upon unless it is moved."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, there are four or five other Members who have given notice of motions for reduction by Rs. 40,000. I leave it to them to move the motion. I now support the proposal for the reduction by Rs. 60,000."

MOTION No. 86.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" In addition to the ground stated by the previous speakers, I have got another ground for the reduction, namely, that there will be no Council after July. As there will be no meeting there is no necessity for making any provision in the current year for so much amount. As there is to be no meeting for four months, I calculated that the reduction could be to the extent of Rs. 40,000." I therefore move—

to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,40,000 for the travelling allowance of non-official members and voting delegates by Rs. 40,000."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" 'Better late than never' were the words that I used when I thanked the hon. Ministers of this House when they agreed for the reduction of their salary. Of course there is no question of being better late than never when we were thanking you, Sir, for the reduction that you were pleased to make. But I must say, Sir, better late than never for this Council. I was responsible for a motion suggesting a reduction in the allowances, but year after year the Council was pleased to reject it. If the new elections are not going to be of much use to the people at least it is of a little use to remind the members of this House that they have a master outside in the electorate. I propose a reduction of Rs. 40,000 not on the grounds advanced by my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu. He does not want to reduce a pie out of the allowances but calculated the reduction from the possibility of there being no meetings for some four months. I do specifically say that this amount of Rs. 40,000 can be reduced not on any such possible contingency for even if there is an early election there will be an early meeting in October or so and the expenses will be practically the same. It is not merely imaginary to say: 'You cut off 60 or 70 thousands.' The principle that I am always trying to apply is that already proposed by Mr. Appalanarasayya Nayudu that one first class and one third class will do. The sum of Rs. 40,000 will be necessary for daily allowances of the Members, for the travelling allowances, Rs. 50,000 will be enough for one first-class fare and Rs. 10,000 will do for a third-class fare. So that a lakh of rupees will suffice on the whole. The calculation is fairly correct and leaves a saving of Rs. 40,000 from the

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provision made. This is not the first time, Sir, as I have already said, I move a proposition of this kind. It is high time that we should follow the example set by the Ministers. If we make this reduction, I am sure the Ministers will try to be even more liberal than what they have been already. Precedents are not wanting to show that a first class and a third class will be enough. The committee that sat on the State Aid to Industries Act presided over by Mr. Thomas agreed for a first and a third class. We shall follow the precedent and show to the public that we are also prepared for sacrifice. After all it is not a very great sacrifice.

"Again, Sir, I wish to point out that the calculation on which I have proceeded in moving for this reduction is to provide for a single first and a single third class and as it is a fairly correct calculation, I suppose there will be no necessity felt for moving for a supplementary grant at the end of the year. I therefore move—"

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Sir, I rise to support the motion for the reduction of Rs. 40,000 on the ground of retrenchment and on the ground that the reduction would lead to a solution of the question of the congestion of business in this Council. Sir, I take it that the latter subject is a method of retrenchment also. Sir, you have been good enough to appoint a committee to suggest methods by which the congestion of non-official business of this House could be relieved. The committee has sent its report. Unfortunately, I had to differ from the majority. The committee has suggested that the Council should sit for seven days at the most allowing three days for official, two for non-official business and if necessary for two days more. I submit, Sir, I had also the good fortune to sit in the pre-Reform Council for a year and a half and I would like, Sir, that the procedure adopted in that Council should be adopted here also. I do not see any reason why the old Council should find it possible to sit from day to day till the business before it was over and why the present Council should sit only for five days and push through as much work as is possible, then carry it over to the next sitting, reprint the agenda for circulation and incur printing charges therefor. It is not a question of my reducing the double first class which my friends from the mufassal are drawing or the daily allowance of Rs. 10 but what I say is this; that if you are able to sit till the agenda is over it is possible for us as representing the electorate here to finish matters in the interests of the public. There is no use for the moment saying that the whole non-official business is being blocked by official business. We have to take into consideration the official business also for that is the most important thing. There is no use of filling up the agenda with resolutions on matters of general public interest and to sit only for five days and then to clear out. For two years we have seen how motions notice of which was given about July were not reached till March of next year. Look at the wastage the whole business involves in reprint of the agenda for distribution month after month. If we are going to sit for a month and finish the agenda, it may not be necessary to sit during the next month. The travelling allowances may thus be reduced and the daily batta will also go down. It is on this ground of retrenchment and as a method of relieving the congestion of non-official business that I move for the reduction."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir I must express my gratification that so many Members have tabled a motion more or less with the same purpose. Like my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar,

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I took some trouble to calculate what the probable savings are likely to be, if we accepted a single first-class fare and a third-class fare for a servant. The savings work out to Rs. 40,000, and I have put down that figure in this motion for reduction. If this proposition is accepted to-day in this House, Sir, I am sure you have made that acceptance possible by your worthy example, followed by that of the Ministers. (Cries of 'Hear, hear'.) Here I am tempted to state, Sir, that in my own district, poor as the people are, they have set us the example of taking less allowances than we are eligible for. We have a taluk board president there who does more touring than even the busiest Government official, and he does not claim any allowances though he is entitled to do so. I know of a board whose members have agreed unanimously to take only one second-class fare, and of a taluk board president who has restricted himself to Rs. 200 a year for all his touring. On the one side we have such eminent examples, as we see in this House and on the other side we have comparatively poor people who in the interests of the country are foregoing their claims for greater allowances. I hope we shall not be wanting in our readiness to follow them. The present system is not even equitable. People coming from long distances and claiming double first class draw more than what I consider to be reasonable. A person may be coming from a short distance, but he may be spending quite as much time to reach Madras as the one who comes from a distant place. All these inequalities would disappear if this motion is accepted. If any constituency wants a member who cannot afford to attend this Council under the present arrangement, it is up to the constituency to make it possible for him to represent them if they care to have his services, and I think this Council need not concern itself with such exceptional cases."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I have no objection to accept the earlier motion which has been just moved for a 4-30 p.m. reduction of Rs. 40,000. But at the same time I have given notice of a motion to reduce the travelling allowances by Rs. 25,000. I would, however, formally move my motion, namely,—

MOTION No. 87.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,40,000 for travelling allowance of non-official members and voting delegates by Rs. 25,000.

So that, in case hon. Members may find that it is more acceptable to them, they may vote for it. My reason for asking for the reduction by Rs. 25,000 is this. First-class officers and Members of the Legislative Council were paid in the old days two first-class fares. But since then there has been an increase in the railway rates, with the result that from the extra first-class fare the Members of this Council and first-class officers are making a profit, and that is a profit which is not due to any additional expenditure they are incurring but a sort of windfall, if I may say so. The first-class fare now would cost the Government more on account of the increase in the railway rates. I do not think it is justifiable that we ought to claim this additional advantage. So, about 1½ first-class fares would cover what the first-class officers and Members of the Legislative Council were getting in the old days. I may also add that quite recently we heard that in Bombay it has been decided or recommended, I am not quite sure which, that 1½ first-class fares would be quite sufficient for first-class officers. That is a standard which has been fixed independently by another Government, and so we thought in the Finance Committee, at any rate some of the non-official

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members of that committee thought that that standard might be made applicable to this province also. If that is to be made applicable here, a reduction of Rs. 25,000 out of the allotment of Rs. 1,40,000 under this item, would be possible. It is on that calculation that I mentioned the figure for reduction as Rs. 25,000. Personally I have no objection to the reduction of Rs. 40,000, but all the same, I move this reduction of Rs. 25,000 on this basis, namely, that in another province, Bombay, they have adopted the rate of $1\frac{3}{4}$ first-class fares."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to support the motion of my hon. friend, M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu, Sir, and do not move my own motion on the paper."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, from the very nature of things, I am not going to make any lengthy reply in regard to these motions. It may be of interest to the Members of this House to know that the actual expenditure under this item comes to nearly Rs. 1,20,000. The matter was thoroughly thrashed out on the last occasion when the question came up last year as to the travelling allowances of the non-official members, and all the arguments for and against were advanced by the non-official members on the one hand and Mr. Moir and others on this side. It is a matter entirely for the House to decide, that is, the question of travelling allowances of Members, and I do not think I need intervene for a moment between the debate and the vote." (Hear, hear.)

The motion of Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu for a reduction of Rs. 70,000 was then put to the House and lost.

The motion of Mr. Appalanarasayya Nayudu for a reduction of Rs. 60,000 was next put to the House and lost.

The motion of Mr. Narasimhacharlu for a reduction of Rs. 40,000 was next put to the House and carried.

Rao Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS :—"Sir, I only wish to know whether orders for the revision of the electoral rolls have been issued."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member had better formally make the motion, and then ask for the information."

MOTION No. 88.

Rao Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS :—"I beg to move the following motion which stands in my name :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for additional establishment in the Secretariat for new elections by Rs. 1.

In doing so, I should like to know whether orders for the revision of electoral rolls have been issued by Government, and if not, when they will be issued."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, in view of more than one motion tabled on this subject and standing on the agenda, I wish to take this opportunity of explaining the position. The first preliminaries have been gone through with regard to the preparation and the making of arrangements for the revision of the electoral rolls. The Collectors have been asked to bring forward proposals in regard to that matter. When those proposals come up before the Government, proposals for additional establishments and requests for information are also likely to come up. Then, there is a conference now sitting at Delhi to consider the question of the system of

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electoral rolls and the preparation of them. When that conference has arrived at some conclusion, the question as to what steps this Government should take to come into line with such conclusions if necessary will have to be considered by Government. It is a matter in deciding which great weight will be placed on what is to take place at Delhi. All these things and the regulations for the conduct of elections remain to be put through. It is with a view to provide for all these things that the Budget allotment that is now sought to be reduced by Rs. 1 has been put in, namely, an amount of Rs. 13,000. That amount of Rs. 13,000, I may mention to the House, is only the maximum. It is made up of the salary of an assistant secretary, a superintendent, an upper division clerk, two lower division clerks and three peons. At present we are only working with one superintendent, an upper division clerk and a typist. That is all. It may be necessary for the other establishment to be called into aid if the work increases. It is not possible at this stage to foretell exactly the amount or the quantity of work which will fall to the share of the department, and very much will depend upon the reports we receive from the various local officers on that matter. We are working with the minimum staff, only a superintendent, an upper division clerk and a typist; but this Rs. 13,000 is the maximum provision designed to be utilized if and when occasion arises. On that basis and that basis alone is the demand made."

Rao Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS :—"I thank the hon. Member for the information he has given, and I do not press my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 89.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move the following motion which stands in my name :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,73,000 for charges on account of new elections by Rs. 1,00,000.

Sir, my reasons for suggesting this reduction are these. At page 66 of the Budget, we find that this provision is entirely new. We also find from the figures in the Budget that the expenditure on the Legislative Council is proposed to be increased from about 2½ lakhs in the current year to about 4½ lakhs in the next year. In the year 1920-21, I think that in the old Budget there was entered an expenditure of only Rs. 21,700 under this item of election expenses. I do not see the necessity of expending so much as Rs. 1,73,000 next year as against Rs. 21,700 in the year 1920-21. I therefore urge that this reduction may be accepted by the House."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, I am afraid there is some misapprehension on this matter. During the last general election the Secretariat establishment came to nearly Rs. 2,00,000. Apparently the misapprehension has crept in from the circumstance that it was put in under the head 'Reforms Secretariat'. So, the expenditure was Rs. 2,00,000 and odd on the last occasion. My hon. friend is not, therefore, correct in saying that this is a new item of the expenditure which has crept in on account of these elections. Now my hon. friend would realize that the work of preparation of the new electoral rolls has to be gone through, and elections have to take place betimes. As a matter of fact, as early as July 1921 all the Collectors and Commissioners were requested to furnish estimates of cost. They estimated it at Rs. 1,39,000, and Rs. 1,000 more has been added to that estimate. We all hope that the actual expenses will be less."

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Hon. Members will see that the electorate is presumably much more educated now than it was on the last occasion, and the work on account of elections may conceivably increase. I trust that, on the whole, especially after the information furnished by me, he will see that the demand is not very extravagant."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 90.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I formally move the motion standing against my name, which runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,73,000 for charges on account of new elections by Rs. 1,000.

My object in moving this reduction is to get some information about the new elections. I do not think in asking for this information, I am encroaching upon the privileges or prerogatives of His Excellency the Governor. So far as the dissolution is concerned, we need not trouble ourselves about it, but I think it is desirable to know at this stage as to when the new elections are likely to take place. Is it this year or next year? If they are to be held this year, the Budget would be all right so far as this item is concerned. That is how, I think, this matter comes as a question in this Budget. The matter as to the portion of the year in which the election is to take place also comes under this Budget, because if it takes place in the rainy season it will cost more and if it takes place in the dry season it will cost less. This information as to the probable date of the election is very useful to me in deciding as to whether I should press my motion or not. We are entitled to know when the new elections are likely to take place. The hon. the Law Member who is in charge of elections would certainly be giving advice to His Excellency as to when the elections are to take place, and I suppose it is within his province to do so.

"There is also another point. We want to know when this election will take place, and whether it will be along with the elections to the Assembly, and that again becomes a question of the Budget. We do not know who is to be responsible for the elections to the Assembly, and if these elections take place at the same time, the cost will be less. We are entitled to know the date of the new elections on these grounds which have all a bearing on the question of cost which is connected with this Budget, apart from the question of facilitating the candidature of persons for the local Councils, the Legislative Assembly or the Council of State. I hope for these reasons, that the hon. the Law Member will take us a little into his confidence, as whatever he may say need not necessarily bind him, and inform us when the new elections will take place."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have no desire to withhold from any hon. Member of the House any information that is available to me. But as has already been pointed out by you, Sir, section 72-B of the Government of India Act vests the dissolution of this House in the Governor. No doubt, by a process which was, if I may say so, characteristically ingenious, my hon. friend has striven to bring this matter under another category in order to press for his information. I may at once tell him that in all probability His Excellency the Governor will make a definite announcement on these matters at no very distant date. I find that there is a smile going round the House, and it is not

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a date which will be so distant as to justify any smiles or laughter. In the course of a very few days, as a matter of fact, it is expected that an announcement will be made regarding the question of the dissolution of the Council and of the arrangements for the new election and so forth, and I am sure my hon. friend will be perfectly satisfied when he sees that the announcement is made.

"Reference has been made, Sir, to the Assembly election and the election for this Council, but so far as we are concerned, we have to concern ourselves only with the preparation of the electoral roll for the ensuing election, as the fixation of the date of the Assembly election is not with the Governor but elsewhere. Therefore, it is impossible for me with all the will in the world to give a definite information; nor is it possible for His Excellency the Governor to give any definite information. I am sure the hon. Member will realize that, in so far as that point is concerned, questions will have to be asked elsewhere and information elicited."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. the Law Member has misunderstood me. First of all, I may say that our smile or laughter had reference to the really clever way in which the hon. Member met my arguments.

"What I was saying was that if the Government was not responsible for the Assembly elections this Government might wait a little till an announcement of the date of their elections was made by the Government of India, after which the date for the elections of this Council might be declared. I think the Government will not take it to be so unreasonable because a little correspondence will settle this matter easily, and I am sure some amicable settlement might be come to, so that the Assembly and the Council elections might be held together, and this will save much trouble and expense to the electors, to the candidates and to the hon. the Finance Member. I withdraw my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 91.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB :—" Sir, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name, viz.—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for Persian and Hindustani Translator by Rs. 100.

The post of Hindustani Translator to Government has hitherto been held usually by Europeans of the Army Department. Subsequently the post was held by Khan Bahadur Bazlullah Sahib Bahadur, Commissioner, Madras Corporation. Owing to certain technical legal difficulty he was asked to resign and that vacancy, I understand, has not yet been filled. Of course, the Government will be able to enlighten me on the subject and say whether my statement is correct. My object is that the post of Hindustani Translator should be held by a qualified Muhammadan. The present Commissioner of the Madras Corporation, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazlullah Sahib Bahadur, who is a great scholar in Hindustani and Persian, may be appointed if the Government is so willing and if the Commissioner is willing to accept it. Otherwise, it may be given to any other qualified Muhammadan. The object of this motion is only to invite discussion and elicit information whether there was a dearth of Muhammadans qualified to hold the post of Hindustani Translator and why the vacancy is kept unfilled. Is it on the ground of

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economy? It is not clear why provision is made separately under two heads, viz., 'Hindustani Translator' and 'Examiner in Hindustani', unlike the case of other translators to Government."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I take it that the object of this motion is to elicit information as to the way in which a pending appointment is going to be filled up. The appointment has not yet been filled up. But I can tell this House this: that there is no idea at present of appointing a European for this place, but that every effort will be made to appoint a suitably qualified Muhammadan gentleman for this place. I cannot give any further information as to the actual incumbent or the likely candidate. I trust that with this assurance my hon. friend will not press his motion."

Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib did not press his motion, and it was by leave withdrawn.

DEMAND No. 92.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, on page 69 of the Budget under the heading of 'Travelling Allowance' for the year 1922-23 Rs. 2,500 was provided, but only Rs. 500 was actually spent. In these circumstances, I see no reason for allotting Rs. 2,000 for 1923-24. So I formally move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,000."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I think this is one of the motions which I shall be able to accept, because as a matter of fact only Rs. 473-12-0 was spent last year. This expenditure arose on account of the possibilities of the Translator having to attend courts and to pay for his attendance. I have great pleasure in accepting this motion."

The motion was put and carried.

Demand IX—General Administration for Rs. 4.63 lakhs minus the reductions made was put to the House and carried; and the grant was made.

The House then adjourned at 4-55 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 15th March 1923.

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

APPENDIX

[Vide page 2305 supra.]

NOTIFICATION.

Fort St. George, February 5, 1923 [G.O. No. 410, Law (General)].

No. 125.—The following Press Communiqué will be issued :—

At its meeting held on the 14th September 1922, the Legislative Council passed the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Government to increase the number of Government audit certificate-holders by granting certificates as hitherto done to men of experience in auditing accounts of firms."

2. With the introduction of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, the necessity for creating a class of auditors qualified to audit the accounts of companies arose,

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and as this class of men had yet to be brought into being, certificates were issued under certain conditions, mostly for short periods, as a temporary expedient, to persons who desired to take to the profession of auditing either as a primary or secondary occupation in life. Later, with the object of providing facilities for the study of, and training in, higher accountancy, an Institute of Commerce was established in Madras. It was also decided that the Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, Bombay, should be utilized as a central examining body for candidates studying in the institution and for those who desired to enter this profession. Two years after the opening of the institute rules were promulgated prescribing the qualifications which would render candidates eligible for the grant by Government of certificates for auditing. Under them permanent unrestricted certificates could be granted only to holders of the Government diploma in Accountancy granted by the Government of Bombay and restricted certificates to those already holding temporary certificates.

3. In 1921 the Government being satisfied that a sufficient number of qualified men had come into the field resolved to put a stop to the tentative arrangement made to meet the needs of companies during the transition period. As in the meanwhile some of the persons who had been granted temporary certificates had seriously taken to auditing as a profession, the Government took stock of the total number of companies to be served and the number of auditors that were necessary for their audit and issued restricted certificates without any restriction as to time to certain men who were considered competent by long experience and who had become full-time auditors and in several cases commanded a large practice. The system of issuing fresh certificates to unqualified men has been stopped for the last two years.

4. In the course of the debate in Council much stress was laid by the supporters of the resolution on the paucity of certified auditors and the consequent high rates of fees charged by the men available. With reference to this resolution the Government have made further investigations into the matter and have enquired about the state of affairs in some of the sister provinces, e.g., Bombay and Bengal. The Government have come to the conclusion that there is no dearth of auditors in Madras so far as the requirements of companies are concerned and that as a matter of fact no serious complaint has up till now been received about the paucity of men required for the purpose of audit. It must further be borne in mind in this connexion that a large number of companies in this Presidency fall under the class of *nidhis* which has elicited the fact that it is these little work to auditors, and the enquiry has elicited the fact that it is these *nidhis* and companies without share capital, most of which are associations not for profit that need the services of such auditors as can conduct the work of auditing at a small cost. The Government have given the subject their careful consideration and believe that they will not be justified in adding to the number of auditors by issuing fresh certificates to unqualified men inasmuch as this would result in prejudicially affecting the profession of auditors and would be unfair to those who have taken to auditing as their profession. It has further been ascertained that no fresh certificates are now being granted in the other provinces mentioned above except to qualified men.

5. As regards the heaviness of the fees charged, the Government understand that the high rate is partly due to the general rise in prices and partly to the fact that the certified auditors are generally employed in the preparation of accounts and balance sheets, instead of being restricted to the duty of auditing balance sheets.

6. In these circumstances, the Government regret that they are unable to see their way to give effect to the resolution of the Council.

P. L. MOORE,
Acting Secretary to Government.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m., on Thursday the 15th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

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

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

Muhammadan representation in the Revenue Department in Ganjam.

884 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Muhammadans employed in the Revenue Department as deputy collectors, tahsildars and sub-magistrates in the district of Ganjam in 1922 and 1923 ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the Quarterly Civil Lists and the District Revenue Establishment List for 1922 and the Annual Civil List for 1923 which have been placed in the Legislative Council Library. The District Revenue Establishment List for 1923 will be available only on or after 1st June 1923.

Translation into vernaculars of Government Order revising darkhast rules and G.O. No. 1396, Revenue, dated 31st July 1922.

885 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government Order revising darkhast rules and G.O. No. 1396, Revenue, dated 31st July 1922, have been communicated to the Publicity Officer ; and

(b) whether the Publicity Officer has translated them into the vernaculars and published them broadcast among his correspondents in rural areas ?

A.—(a) Yes.
(b) No.

Tree-tax on waste and occupied poramboke lands.

886 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to state whether it is the intention of Government to give half concession rates in respect of the newly revised tree-tax on waste and unoccupied lands, if the owners happen to be depressed class pattadars ; and

(ii) to lay on the table all the Government Orders regarding the tree licence system on poramboke lands ?

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A.—(i) No.

(ii) The hon. Member's attention is invited to G.Os. No. 1732, Revenue, dated 11th June 1912 and No. 2326, Revenue, dated 18th June 1918, which were placed on Editors' Table and to the Press Communiqué, dated 20th March 1916.

Exemption from water-rate and assessment in respect of waste land.

887 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(i) the number of depressed class pattadars in Nellore and Kistna districts that enjoy the benefit of exemption from water-rate and assessment in respect of waste lands assigned to them; and

(ii) why this concession has not been extended to the assignees of waste lands among the depressed classes, in southern districts like Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly?

A.—(i) The Government have no information.

(ii) The concession is a temporary one and the Government saw no reason to extend it to other districts in the Presidency.

Rewards to officers in the Police department.

888 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(a) to state the names of gentlemen in the Police department to whom jaghirs or land revenue assessments have been given by Government during the last four years in addition to their respective pensions or salaries;

(b) to lay on the table the connected correspondence on this subject; and

(c) to state whether it is the intention of the Government to extend this sort of reward to such of the officials or non-officials who have rendered meritorious service on behalf of (1) the depressed classes and (2) Government in fighting non-co-operation?

A.—(a) Assignments of revenue have been made in favour of—

(1) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. Parankusam Nayudu Garu.

(2) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur S. Bhavanandam Pillai Avargal.

(3) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Abdul Karim Sahib Faruqi.

(b) The correspondence on the subject cannot be laid on the table.

(c) The Government have no such intention at present.

Communal representation among Inspectors of Co-operative Societies.

889 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: With reference to Government's reply to question No. 605 (b) at the meeting of the Council on 12th October 1921, regarding Muhammadan Inspectors in the Co-operative department, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state what special steps the Government have taken till now or intend taking hereafter for encouraging or entertaining at least three Adi-Dravidas and three Muhammadans as Inspectors of Co-operative Societies in each of the districts of this Presidency?

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A.—In the reply to question No. 605 (b) at the meeting of the Council on 12th October 1921, the Government did not promise any special steps. The Government's attitude was defined in the last sentence under clause (b) of the answer to that question. No question was then asked as regards Adi-Dravida inspectors. The Government have no information as to the number of applications received for such appointments from qualified Muhammadans or Adi-Dravidas but will obtain the information.

Touring expenses of Ministers and Members of Council.

890 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: With reference to the answer given to question No. 257 on the 15th September 1922, regarding touring expense of His Excellency the Governor and the Members of the Government, will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(a) to state what portion out of the total charges of touring expenses given in that answer for each Minister and Member of Council was actually drawn by each of them for expenses incurred by each, and what portion thereof was the money credited to the Railways by way of adjustment or otherwise; and

(b) to give the amounts of expenditure under the above classification for the period from 31st March 1922 to 31st December 1922?

A.—The Accountant-General has been asked to furnish the information asked for.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask, Sir, as to whom the information will be furnished? May I suggest, Sir, that it should be laid on the table of the House?”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“I have no objection to laying the information on the table of the House.”

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24

DEMAND X—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“Mr. President, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 15.51 lakhs under Demand X. General Administration—Secretariats, etc.

Sir, the House will observe that I am asking for a sum which is less by Rs. 33,000 than the amount set down on the agenda. The reason for this is that I am following the example of the hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India in dealing with the reductions recommended by the Income Committee. In the present instance, since the Budget was printed, it has been decided to amend it with reference to the salary of the hon. the Ministers who have offered to accept a reduction in their salaries each by Rs. 1,000 a month with effect from the 1st April next. The Council accepted this reduction with acclamation the other day when I announced it in the course of my Budget speech. The salary for March being paid in April, this reduction will not appear in the accounts until the month of May and that is why the reduction for next year is only Rs. 33,000. I therefore propose to reduce the amount shown under Ministers from Rs. 1,92,000 to Rs. 1,59,000 and consequently the total amount of the Demand that I move is 15.51 lakhs.”

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MOTION No. 93.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,120 for peons by Rs. 780.

Sir, as is well known to hon. Members of this House, the Government are very active in effecting retrenchment and from more than one quarter we have heard that retrenchment very often affects the peons, menials, etc. I should like to know whether the departmental heads do not think that any retrenchment is possible immediately around them. I find there are six peons attached to each of the Council Members, two chobdars and four peons. I wish to know whether they cannot do away at least with one of them."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I am surprised to find a motion for retrenchment being made exactly on the lines of the action which the Government is so often and so unjustly accused of taking. However, I am only too glad to reply to the hon. Member, who asks whether we cannot reduce the number of our personal peons. My reply is we have already done so and the figure now shown is one less than what we used to employ."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Was it seven before ? "

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Yes, Sir, we had seven peons before and now we have six."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Even six seem to be too many and I hope that next year they will be reduced to five."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 94.

Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARI :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for temporary steno-typists.

Sir, my object in making this motion is to elicit information regarding the additional work that necessitates the employment of steno-typists. I wish to know why such a large sum of Rs. 1,800 should be spent on temporary steno-typists."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, even admitting that the hon. the Finance Member needs two steno-typists, the total number should be only five. On the other hand, with this temporary steno-typist, the number comes to six. I therefore wish to know the necessity for this temporary steno-typist."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, as there are five motions on the agenda all dealing with the same question of steno-typists to Members and Ministers, it will be for the convenience of the House if I deal with them all together. It is perhaps hardly necessary for me to say that these steno-typists are the personal clerks of hon. Members and Ministers. Hon. Members of this House will remember that when a Committee presided over by Sir Llewellyn Smith was appointed to revise the arrangements in the Government of India Secretariat, they recommended that each Member of the Government should be given a junior civilian as his Personal Assistant. We have not reached that stage of luxury, but each of us is satisfied with a personal clerk who takes down notes to dictation and makes himself useful in picking up references, looking up sections of Acts, working out calculations and in numerous other ways that save us a deal of time.

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" Now, the question is asked, in the first place, why we should have so many as five permanent steno-typists. Of these one works under His Excellency the Governor and that accounts for the five men set down against the Members of Council. Then, as regards the temporary men, one of my hon. colleagues, the Ministers, has had recently great pressure of legislative work and so employed a second man to help him. The hon. the Law Member is likewise going to have a second man during the coming year. Personally, I am the chief culprit; I took on a second man last year and I have not yet been able to dispense with him. As a matter of fact, I have two men constantly attending on me from 8 o'clock in the morning to 8 o'clock in the evening and they attend to their duties in shifts. If I can dispense with them, I shall be only too thankful to do so; but I find very great difficulty in dispensing with them so long as the pressure of work is what it is. That accounts for the five permanent men and three temporary men. From April of the next year, the third temporary man is going to be dispensed with and thus there will be a small reduction in that item. I propose to incorporate the reduction in the Budget before it is finally printed."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 95.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for travelling allowance of Executive Council Members by Rs. 100.

Sir, it will be clear from the nature of the motion that I make that I wish to impress upon the attention of the House the desirability of a good example being set by the higher officials in the matter of retrenchment, so far as the allowances are concerned. It will be within the recollection of this House that various motions have been made from time to time asking for retrenchment in the matter of travelling allowances with the result that orders were issued last year curtailing the amount of allowances by several lakhs. What I wish to ask is whether when those instructions were issued, steps were taken to ascertain whether it was not possible to effect retrenchment in the matter of travelling allowances of the Members of the Executive Council. I will not be so unfair as to suggest that anything which would affect the dignity or status of the hon. Members of the Executive Council should be done. But still there are complaints in some cases that at least some of these tours are not quite necessary. At this stage, I do not wish to enter into an elaborate discussion as to whether a particular tour was or was not necessary and whether it was conducive to the public interest or not. But I wish to raise on this occasion the question as to whether all the tours were absolutely necessary and whether there was any justification for the incurring of such a large amount of expenditure under this head. I am glad, Sir, that yesterday, by a vote of this House, a fine example was set by hon. Members in the matter of travelling allowances. It will be remembered that when the Government order was issued curtailing the allowances, several officers both in the higher order and in the lower grade were prejudicially affected. I will take the example of the Revenue Divisional officers. When the pay is fixed as the criterion for drawing allowances, we find that persons doing exactly the same duties are obliged to draw second class. There have been very loud complaints against this invidious distinction. I have also got similar complaints from the lower grade officers. When in the interest of economy and retrenchment

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we have followed the example of reducing the allowances, is it too much to ask that the same example should be set by the Members of the Executive Council themselves? As to how the details are to be worked out, I will entrust that task to the Members themselves. What I wish to impress upon the House is that the hon. Members of the Executive Council should take it into their heads to follow the fine example set by the members of the Legislative Council and should devise means whereby the heavy allotment under travelling allowances can be reduced."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Mr. President, I may assure the hon. Member that this appeal will not fall on deaf ears. So far as touring goes, I can say for myself that I never take a saloon if I am going on a journey on which a compartment will serve and I am sure I may say the same for other hon. Members. Take for instance the expenditure on journeys to Simla and back. A very large amount of expenditure would have to be incurred if saloons had been taken on every occasion on which Members of Council have had to go there, and I may say that no saloons were taken by Members of Council on journeys of that sort made last year.

"As regards the necessity or otherwise of tours, I think hon. Members must leave that question to the Members and Ministers concerned to decide. I would remind the House that it has been especially pressed upon us by the Joint Committee, the Reforms Report, etc., that we are required to be more vocal and to go about to explain policy and to take quite a different line of action to what was taken before the Reforms. But subject to that, I am sure, if anything can be done to reduce expense, it will be done."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 96.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 66,000 for Executive Council by Rs. 1,000.

My first object in moving this is, as is well known and as was done last year also by me on a similar motion, to ask for the correspondence on the subject of the reduction of the Executive Council Members. In answer to a question put by my friend Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar a few days ago we were told that the correspondence was still going on. I may tell the House that this correspondence began before the last budget. There is a large number of steno-typists here and surely there cannot be any delay here; the delay may be with the Governor-General or the Secretary of State. If so, if our Government recommend them to have still more steno-typists, perhaps the delay can be avoided. My idea is this: I want to know whether the Government cannot, on the eve of the new elections, tell us something without binding them in any way, as to the effect of this correspondence, or at least what the likelihood of the result of this correspondence is going to be.

"Secondly, Sir, I want to know if there is any chance of the example set by our Ministers in the reduction of their pay, being followed—voluntarily of course—by any of the Members of the Executive Council. At the time of the general discussion of the budget, an appeal was made, at least so far as the Indian Members were concerned, as to whether they would be willing to make a reduction. I simply want to know if they are still thinking about it, or, if any conclusion has been arrived at, whether it cannot be communicated to us.

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"The other point is as regards travelling allowances. The information that I want is this. I want to know how the round figure of Rs. 30,000 has been arrived at as the revised estimate of travelling allowance. I know there are a few days more for the year to close, but I want to know whether the Rs. 30,000 is offered as the special charge for saloons, or whether it means anything else. It is very gratifying to us to learn that Members of the Executive Council are generally travelling in first-class compartments and that is a very good example to be followed up by the hon. the Ministers also, because, so far as we know, the Ministers have not been very strict in being economical in regard to that. We certainly do not grudge the movements of some of these hon. gentlemen, but certainly we want them to be as economical as possible in that respect. We do not grudge their engaging saloons in extraordinary cases, but in these democratic days when some of them also represent democratic parties, I think it is better to have a rule made once for all that first-class compartments will do for them. It is only for the purpose of eliciting that information that I tabled this motion. I think we are under the impression that the Ministers are travelling more than the Executive Council Members."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I wanted to call the hon. Member to order even before. Everything the hon. Member has so far said about the Ministers is quite out of order. At present the House is dealing with the question of the reduction of the allotment for Executive Councillors and if the hon. Member wants to say anything about the Ministers, he must wait till we come to that."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I was simply saying, Sir, that the Ministers would follow the example set by the Executive Council Members in this matter. Although the Executive Council is larger by one Member, and in spite of the fact that we have been hearing that the Ministers are travelling more than the Executive Council Members, when an allotment of only Rs. 20,000 is shown as the travelling allowance of the Ministers, there is no reason why Rs. 30,000 should be put down as the travelling allowance of the Executive Councillors. But, as I say, the reduction will only be very small on that score. Therefore, so far as the travelling allowance goes, it is better that some more definite statement about the use of first-class carriages rather than of saloons is made, than what has been said by the hon. the Leader of the House that he has been personally using the first-class carriages and that another Member is cheerfully following that example. It is better that some rule is made—which may of course be broken under extraordinary circumstances—that they will under ordinary circumstances travel only in the first class."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, I do not know in the first instance whether I shall be in order in replying to what the hon. Member was saying about the number of the Executive Councillors. I have your ruling here, Sir, of last year. You said: 'The motion is to reduce the total grant of Rs. 3,22,000 by Re. 1 on the ground that the number of Executive Councillors is excessive and that their pay is too high. That is out of order'."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I may say, Sir, that this question was discussed by me last year under a motion for reducing the number of stenotypists, but I then said that the object of that motion was to know if a reduction could not be made in the number of Executive Council

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Members. I was, Sir, allowed to go on with that question, and I then said that it was never my object to reduce the number of steno-typists, but that I wanted a reduction only in the number of the Executive Councillors. Therefore, Sir, under whatever head it might be, the matter was discussed and information given last time."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member wants to have information on the point, and if the hon. the Finance Member thinks that he cannot give it, it is perfectly open to him not to give it."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, if I am in order, I have no objection to replying and in so doing I should like to say this that, I do not quite understand why this appeal to self-sacrifice or patriotism should be made to one profession alone. Hon. Members are never tired of insisting that they want the best men that they can get for the service of this country, and the process when I entered service was to get 400 or 500 of the pick of the public schools in England and send them to the stiffest competitive examination that then existed and take ten per cent or so of the successful men and bind them to the service of this country. Many of the unsuccessful men, that is, those who failed in the examination, are now leaders in various professions, law, medicine and commerce. No one, so far as I am aware, appeals to them to sacrifice their income on the altar of patriotism, and I do not quite understand why that appeal should be made only to the ten per cent who succeeded. Let us suppose that you did apply it to some of the professions. Suppose you engaged a leader of the bar by agreeing to pay him Rs. 50,000 to defend a Government suit and he did so with success. Would you then go to him and say, we are hard up for money, we know we agreed to pay you Rs. 50,000, but we ask you to be patriotic and take Rs. 40,000? What would be the reception given to such a request? As a matter of fact, the appeal to patriotism is made to all professions alike in a much more persuasive way by the collector of income-tax, but that method of appeal is applied also to the members of the Government services. Perhaps I might say it applies with more force in their case, because everybody knows that they earn and they are unable to evade it if they would. Why then, when they are making the same sacrifice on the altar of patriotism as everybody else, should they be asked to make a sacrifice out of their salaries in addition. I should like to add, Sir, that whatever may be said about the highest paid service in the world, there is the actual fact, which any one who has examined the family budgets can understand, that in many cases the salaries are quite inadequate to enable them to bring up their families and to send their children to their home country. I need not, however, press that point here, since the whole question of mending or ending the services will be dealt with shortly by the Royal Commission. In the meanwhile, I would suggest that the appeal to patriotism should be addressed to all professions alike.

"As regards the question how we are able to arrive at an exact figure of Rs. 30,000 in regard to the touring of Members of the Executive Council, I would ask leave to remind the Council of what is apt to be forgotten, viz., that the Budget Estimate is only an estimate, and so is the Revised Estimate. We have the actual figures for 1921-22, that is, for Members of the Executive Council Rs. 32,494, and for Ministers Rs. 34,946. Those are the only actual figures we have and naturally we put our estimates in round figures.

"Lastly, Sir, as regards saloons, while I shall not forget what the hon. Member has said I would add that my hon. colleague, Mr. Knapp, has just

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given me a shock by telling me that the cost of saloons is actually less than the cost of first class compartments, because in the case of the saloon you have to pay the hauling charge only, while in the case of a first class compartment you have to pay for a certain number of tickets. So that, as a matter of fact, our endeavours to economise in that direction would appear to have involved the Council in increased expenditure."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I have tabled a motion—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 66,000 for Executive Council by Rs. 100

in order to elicit information as to the fate of the resolution of this Council recommending a reduction in the number of Executive Councillors. In another province a similar motion was carried and given effect to within a few months, but in this province, it is a long time since a resolution was carried and I think it had the support of the Government also behind it. We do not know who is responsible for the delay. I put a question with reference to that and the answer came only day before yesterday, but that answer did not make things any more understandable than before. Under these circumstances, I wanted to ask the Government to say definitely whether the matter had been sent up, if it was not against official discipline to divulge it, and what the reason was for the long delay in the disposal of this matter. The hon. the Finance Member took objection on the ground that he was not bound to reply to a question like that. Well, Sir, this subject is arguable in the way that has been suggested, for instance, by saying that one of the steno-typists under this head is unnecessary, or by saying that the movements of the Executive Councillors should be reduced. So, I do not think that even a discussion like this can be avoided. It only remains to the Government to consider whether they are going to take the people into their confidence, or to leave things alone. It is a real grievance that the number of the Cabinet is too large and can very well be reduced. It is of course left to the Government to take any attitude that they like. So, Sir with these few words I would request the hon. the Finance Member very earnestly to state whatever he possibly can."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the hon. the Finance Member who replied to this motion felt some difficulty on the score of a point of order. The whole point is that it has been ruled in this House by you, Sir, that in regard to non-votable items, we have certainly no power to subject them to the vote of this Council. But when there are votable and non-votable items, it is within our competence to reduce the votable items in order to compel my hon. friend the Finance Member to give us a reply as to how a particular matter stands. So what is proposed to be done in this case is to reduce the votable items under Executive Councillors by Rs. 1,000, and if the hon. Member is not willing to tell us in what state this question of the reduction in the number of Executive Councillors is, I think, we shall be perfectly within our rights to cut down, as is proposed to be done in this motion, the votable items. The result of it will be my hon. friend will not have the services of a steno-typist and he will have to do all his work without the help of stenographers whose pay can be cut down. I say all these by way of preliminary observations.

"My hon. friend made several observations of a very interesting nature in regard to the public services. I only wish to say that in view of the announcement about the Royal Commission on

11-30 a.m.

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Public Services, I think this Council should take the only sound line that they ought to in regard to the pay of the All-India Services and the Provincial Services. Sir, it has been felt for a good long time that the pay of these All-India Services is far too much above the capabilities of this country. I am not at all now arguing what the pay of Imperial Services or the Indian Services ought to be. I trust that the only line we should take should be as to whether any of the services now performed by the All-India Services cannot be transferred to the Provincial Services in order to reduce the great strain upon the finances of this country and I trust that the Government of this Province will endeavour to reduce this strain in the way in which it ought to, viz., by provincialising as far as possible, consistently with the efficiency of our administration, those services which are now being performed by the All-India Services. Sir, there is absolutely no doubt that the pay of the All-India Services is a great strain upon our resources and now that there is an application for increased pensions and increased allowances, whatever may be the reasons for it, it seems to me that the whole question of the services, which is now looming so large that one is sometimes inclined to think that there can be no salvation for the country at any time, should be viewed from the standpoint of the financial capabilities of each of these Provincial Governments. Therefore, I am glad that my hon. friend has opened this subject under this motion, and I take the earliest opportunity of placing these views before him in view, as I said, of the approaching visit of the Royal Commission on Public Services. I trust that my hon. friend will take the opportunity of discussing with this Council all his proposals in regard to this matter, and the whole thing will be viewed from the broadest standpoint of economy and efficiency."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—" Sir, I did not want to intervene in this debate until after the hon. the Finance Member had spoken. The points of view that he has given expression to compel us to take a somewhat wider survey of the question now before the House than what the motion necessitated. As I mentioned on another occasion in this House, I refuse to accept the position taken up by the hon. the Finance Member, and I insist on it, that gentlemen in the position of the hon. the Finance Member should be treated on a somewhat different standpoint from some of his hon. colleagues. I have also given on that occasion some reasons, which appeared to me to be sound, and I think the House also considered them sound, why it is that gentlemen who take the trouble of going out to a far-off country for the purpose of carrying out the administration of that country, should be placed on terms much more favourable than those offered to one whose interest is something more than merely pecuniary, viz., the service of the country. It was therefore that I suggested that the system of overseas allowances might be adopted, in which case the necessities of the situation would have been met, and the gentlemen, who had been picked out of a large number for the purpose of giving their efficient services to the country—it will be their country of adoption during the time they chose to live there—would have been properly rewarded. But my hon. friend, by way of illustrating his position, made a reference to another consideration, and to that I have now to direct my reply.

"He said that an appeal to patriotism was made to men like him or persons similarly situated to him, and that such an appeal was not made to the members of the other professions. Both on questions of fact and on questions of principle, it seems to me, Sir, that his reference to the other professions is

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altogether uncalled for. I may say, Sir, from such experience as I have had of Government engagements so far as the profession of the Law is concerned, that the Government is not a much better paymaster than any other ordinary client. As a matter of fact, members who have to appear for the Government, in the legal profession at any rate, are paid much less than for similar work done for private clients. Therefore, so far as the members of the legal profession are concerned, they have been much more patriotic than my hon. friend will give them credit for. But that is not the ground on which I wish to oppose the view he has taken. He has told us that an appeal should be made to the other professions. I do not think, Sir, so far as Commerce is concerned you are going to have a net work of protective tariff so that, so far as Government is concerned, prices must be lower than for ordinary persons. Those who are engaged in the trades and other avocations will be guided by the ordinary rules of supply and demand, and not by any charges being lowered simply because the Government is in the bargain. It will be found that in the case of the members of the legal profession they have to do work for private individuals, and they are not paid from the taxpayer's money. It is a question whether a particular person is willing to pay according to the terms that are given to him. In that case there is really no place for any appeal to patriotism or other instincts. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that although my hon. friend has succeeded in drawing a red-herring across the line, this is not a matter which concerns the particular question now before the House.

"The question remains still before the House, and I do not think that on that point there will be any difference of opinion as to whether it is not a case that for the services that are being rendered to the country by gentlemen very eminently placed, fully qualified for the work and thoroughly deserving our gratitude, we are not paying a little too heavily, and whether for equal services it is not possible for us to pay a lesser amount. As my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has pointed out, that is the legitimate question to be considered by the Commission that is now coming. I would not therefore enlarge upon their functions. It is a question for all parties in this House, and all sections of the services should lend a helping hand to devise means by which the total expenditure of the services can be reduced. I know that in doing this some hon. Members at any rate, and some members of the services, have to make some self-sacrifice. Perhaps they may have this consolation that such an act of self-sacrifice will not immediately affect them, but will affect others who will have sufficient notice of self-sacrificing to be done before the shears are applied."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I wish to say a few words. Even if it may be presumptuous on my part, I wish to congratulate the Leader of the House that though he failed in his attempt to get a ruling on the question, he has very ably followed the advice given by the Chair. Though he might have answered the point regarding the reduction of the Members of the Executive Council which was pressed by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, and myself, discreet silence has been observed. The most important point and the most legitimate point in regard to which we want to have more information is why this correspondence has been going on for nearly two years. We are probably in a worse position than when we began. The hon. the Finance Member has not given a proper answer even to the second point that I raised. I think my request is relevant to the appeal made in this House, during the general discussion of the budget, to

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the two Indian Members of the Executive Council as to whether they would be willing or gracious enough to make any reductions in their salaries. I am far from saying that their services are not valuable. I may say, Sir, that they are more valuable than the pay they are getting now. Their getting the present pay is itself a very large self-sacrifice and if they forego a little of their salary, it will be a small addition to their self-sacrifice (Laughter). The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, as human beings, has put forth his own grievance, and those of his own class, that his pay is not adequate for the costly education he has to give his children in England. But my appeal was made to the Indian Members of the Executive Council. I would appeal to him once more to give me a reply."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

MOTION No. 97.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,92,000 for Ministers by Rs. 48,000.

I must, at the very outset, express my feeling of gratitude to the hon. Members, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyyar and others, for withdrawing the motions they had tabled for reducing the salary of the Ministers from Rs. 5,333-5-4 to Rs. 3,000. The effect of my motion, if accepted, will leave the Ministers a salary of Rs. 4,000 each. Hon. Members of this House may know that just a fortnight ago, an announcement was made by the Leader of the House—and it was received with applause and acclamation—that the Ministers were willing to forego a small portion of their pay, viz., Rs. 1,000 per mensem. But my motion goes a little further, for its object is that the pay of the Ministers may be brought into line with the pay which the Ministers in three other provinces have agreed to take. Encouraged by the happy announcement made by the hon. the Leader of the House and inspired partly by the noble example set by the Ministers of Bombay, the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa, I was emboldened to table this motion which, if carried, will not deprive them of a very large portion of their emoluments but leave them at Rs. 4,000 per mensem. The old orthodox argument whereby we are always tempted to judge a man's prestige by the emoluments that he receives can no longer hold water, and I shall make my position quite clear by at once stating that this motion of mine ought not to be viewed in the light of any want of confidence in the Ministers (cheers) but as a practical business motion. I may point out that the Ministers generally command the confidence of the House and claim to command the confidence of the country. A man's prestige cannot be made to depend upon the pay which he receives from the public exchequer; it depends and must depend very largely and essentially upon the services which he renders to the State and on the self-sacrifice he is prepared to make. That is the scale by which we measure a man's patriotism. Oftentimes Ministers are drawn from the classes of great publicists and politicians, and it is high time that when the State claims the services of politicians and publicists, they must be prepared to set an example to the country by being prepared to work for less emoluments and less wages. It is with that object in view I tabled this motion and on no other ground. We have had an example set to us the other day by the Ministers of three provinces so far as the pay is concerned though I am not in a position to judge of the nature and the qualities of the work of the Ministers of the other provinces.

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" But apart from that, let there be uniformity instead of diversity in the matter of pay. After all, if my motion is accepted, the reduction that will be made is a very small sum of Rs. 333 per mensem or, in other words, Rs. 4,000 a year. From my place here in this Council, I think it is my duty, while expressing my indebtedness and thanks to the hon. the Ministers for coming forward with a voluntary reduction of their pay by Rs. 1,000, to make once again my impassioned appeal to them, and to the party in power and other hon. Members of this House to accept my motion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am sorry to expect that I will not succeed in the matter of reduction of all this grant. I have never been modest in my enthusiasm for effecting retrenchment. But all of a sudden one morning when I happened to go through the various reductions that have been asked for, I thought it modest enough to ask for the reductions I have proposed, when I found that Members from the other three blocks of this House had given notice of motions for reduction further than myself. It may be that respect for the hon. the Ministers, and what is more loyalty to the party in power, have induced them to observe silence to-day so far as these motions are concerned. On this aspect of the matter, I may say that I can claim to have as much respect, if not more, for the Ministers as any other Member (Hear, hear). The only difference is that I am not bound by any party loyalty with a view to silence my conscience. I know however that there was some discussion among some Members of the party in power in the Cosmopolitan Club about the reduction of the salary of the Ministers to Rs. 3,000, but some of the staunchest and loyal supporters of the party thought that the salary of the Ministers should not be less than Rs. 4,000. I thought, and I do think, that at the present state of our finances Rs. 3,000 per mensem will be enough for an Indian High Court Judges and our Members who With the only exception of the High Court Judges and our Members who must be shown respect, all the hon. Ministers of this House who are getting more than Rs. 4,000, may reasonably agree to a reduction of their salary to Rs. 4,000.

" Just about this time last year, when we were discussing this question, we were informed that we were not behind other provinces this year. We can just consider what has been done in various other provinces. In some provinces the Ministers have agreed to receive Rs. 4,000; while in Bombay, I believe, in spite of their refusal to accept Rs. 4,000, the House fixed the pay at Rs. 4,000. I know there will be no use in pressing this motion for a division. Still, I have some doubt as to whether this motion will not be carried as some Members may be neutral in voting. I believe they have got some voice in this and they will not vote against what they believe. I only appeal to the Ministers and also to the Members of the party in power to see whether the reasons that I have urged are not sufficient for them to come to a conclusion and vote in favour of this motion, which, after all, asks for the reduction of a small sum of Rs. 333-5-4. It may be that the party in power has already decided that only a sum of Rs. 1,000 should be reduced; but it is quite possible for the Ministers to accept this small cut without consulting their followers. I am sure that if the hon. the Ministers are agreeable to my suggestion there is absolutely no chance of anybody being blamed for being too lenient towards public money. I appeal to the Ministers and the revered leader, Mr. Tyagaraya Chettiyyar, to accept this cut so as not to be

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behind other provinces. Saying as we do, and pretending as we do that this House is more democratic than others and that it represents the dumb millions much more than other provinces, we will be showing ourselves to be consistent with our professions, if we agree to go on a line with other provinces. It is on this ground I appeal."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Will it be parliamentary to accuse the Members of this House to be pretending to do something, and so on?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I simply said that these pretensions should be translated into action. Pretensions are not always wrong. Sometimes pretensions are very good. All pretensions need not be false pretensions. Therefore I say that we have been pretending in some cases falsely and in some cases rightly. We pretend to represent the dumb masses of this Presidency better than other councils in other provinces. In order that our pretensions may become just pretensions, I say that some of them should be transmuted into action."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I have no doubt there will be many of us here who have paused to watch a wordy warfare between two old ladies in the bazaar accompanied by screams of passion and appeals to the high gods, who have, when they had the curiosity to enquire into the matter of the dispute, discovered that the battle was waging on the question whether the price of a brinjal was to be 2 pies or 3 pies."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I ask who the brinjal is in this affair?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I rise to a point of order. Is it proper on the hon. Member's part to compare other Members to brinjals?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Finance Member has not compared any Member to a brinjal."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I was going to say, Sir, when I was interrupted that I was reminded of such a wordy warfare in the bazaar when hon. Members, instead of accepting the generous gift of the Ministers, make impassioned appeals and appeals to conscience in an endeavour to secure a few rupees more. Nor, Sir, am I able to accept the grounds upon which this appeal is based, namely, that we must measure a man's patriotism by the extent to which he is prepared to sacrifice his salary. In refutation of that proposition, I appeal to the authority of an author much quoted and respected in this country and whom I may claim as one of the greatest advocates of retrenchment in his own day. I refer to Edmund Burke. Writing on a similar subject, he said:

I will even go so far as to affirm that, if men were willing to serve in such situations without salary, they ought not to be permitted to do it. Ordinary service must be secured by the motives to ordinary integrity. I do not hesitate to say that the State which lays its foundation in rare and heroic virtues will be sure to have its superstructure in the basest profligacy and corruption. An honourable and fair profit is the best security against avarice and rapacity, as in all things else a lawful and regulated enjoyment is the best security against debauchery and excess.

"That, Sir, is what Burke says on the subject, and as I have said, in quoting him I am quoting one of the most strenuous advocates of the retrenchment for the securing of which this motion is moved.

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"The only other argument that has been urged is that the Ministers of some other provinces have consented to accept a salary a few rupees less than that for which I have made a demand. Well, Sir, as to that I only ask hon. Members to say whether they do not think that the Madras Ministry is worth more than any other in India."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"It seems to me that the dulness of the debate during the last three days has been somewhat relieved to-day by the very humorous speeches that have been delivered in regard to the question of the Ministers' salary. Certainly I appreciate very much indeed the parallel which my hon. friend has drawn in comparing his colleagues to a particularly delicious article of diet which we find in our dietary. So far as I am concerned, I agree with my hon. friend that this question should not be decided on any question of personal appeal either to the Ministers or to the Members of the Executive Council. Although my hon. friend depreciated the appeals either personal or to conscience, and in conclusion quoted an authority of the 19th century in support of his position, and whatever may be the arguments that have been put forward, I think that this question of the pay of Ministers should be decided, as I said, on a question of Indian pay and European pay which as hon. Members are aware has been fixed at two-thirds of the full pay of the services, and the pay that is proposed, namely, Rs. 4,000 more or less approximates to that number. Therefore, judged from that standpoint, I think that this motion has to proceed upon a certain principle, and not on the arbitrary action of either the Ministers or the hon. friends who support them. So far as I know many eminent gentlemen who are shining lights in the party, like my hon. friends Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar, Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai and others have themselves thought that Rs. 3,000 were quite adequate. That being so, if any of my friends on this side of the House think that Rs. 4,000 would be approximately a correct valuation of the services of my hon. friends the Ministers, I think nobody ought to cavil at that opinion. Having given notices of several motions for reduction of the salary in question, my hon. friends have chosen to withdraw their motions. Not only this: they have not at all spoken on these motions in order to explain the grounds upon which they have desisted from saying one way or the other.

"We learn a great deal from the 'Madras Mail' now and then and it has said much on this question, and every hon. Member should have read it. My hon. friend Mr. Subbarayan has given notice of an exactly similar motion which is in terms of the one which has been moved just now. Of course, my hon. friend the Finance Member said that the analogy that the Ministers of other provinces had accepted a lower salary should not be brought into comparison and that our Ministers are worth much more than those of other provinces. My friend is entitled to express that opinion.

"Certainly he can do so. But we prefer to go upon a certain principle and if the Ministers in Bengal, the United Provinces and Bombay are content to receive Rs. 4,000, it seems to me that Madras will not be doing any wrong thing in adopting this scale. Therefore, on these broad grounds, it seems to me, not only for the present but for the future, that this sum of Rs. 4,000 which has been put forward is quite an ample pay and is consistent with the principle of fixing the pay of the services which have been adopted by the previous commissions. On these grounds I support the motion."

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, in the course of his reply, Sir Charles Todhunter reminded us of a dispute over brinjals. There the difference was only a pie while here the difference is Rs. 12,000. I do not view this discussion in the light of a fight or dispute, but regard it as more or less in the nature of a friendly discussion. I make this appeal, more in the interest of the party and more in the interest of the betterment of the country, that we must make up our mind to agree to Rs. 4,000. Sir Charles also found fault with me for my conception of patriotism and took serious exception to the statement that patriotism must be measured by sacrifices and in support of his contention and in support of the position he took up drew the attention of the House to the remarks of Burke. Burke was an Englishman, at any rate he was an European."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"An Irishman."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I said he was an European. At any rate he was not an Indian and that is the point. We are dealing with the pay of the Indian Ministers and it is the standard of Indian patriotism that should be taken as an example to be followed. I do not think there can be any quarrel over that. I once again most fervently and humbly appeal to the Ministers to accept my suggestion."

A poll was taken and 14 voted for the motion, 55 against it and 11 remained neutral. The motion was lost.

Ayes.

1. Mr. Adinarayana Reddi.
2. " Ramachandra Rao.
3. " Krishna Rao.
4. " Venkataramana Ayyangar.
5. " Venkataratnam Nayudu.
6. " Suryanarayana.
7. Sriwan Biswanath Das.

8. Mr. C. B. Rama Rao.
9. Mr. U. Rama Rao.
10. " Sriwan Sasibhushan, Rath.
11. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
12. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
13. " Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
14. " Sivasankaram Pillai.

Noes.

1. Sir Charles Todhunter.
2. " Muhammad Habib-ul-lah.
3. Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar.
4. " Lloyd.
5. " Campbell.
6. " Madhavan Nayar.
7. " R. D. Richmond.
8. " Sivagnanam Pillai.
9. " Thomas.
10. " Periyasayagam.
11. " Tangavelu Pillai.
12. " Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
13. " Ethirajulu Nayudu.
14. Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar.
15. Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu.
16. " Krishnan Nayar.
17. " Ramalinga Reddi.
18. " Tanikachala Chettiyar.
19. " Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.
20. " Kuppuswami.
21. " Muniswami Nayudu.
22. " Muttakumaraswami Chettiyar.
23. " Narayanaswami Reddi.
24. " Natesa Mudaliyar.
25. " Pakkiriswami Pillai.
26. " P. T. Rajan.
27. " Ramayya Punja.
28. " Saundara Pandiya Nadar.

29. Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar.
30. " Sitarama Reddi.
31. " Subbarayadu.
32. " Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu.
33. " Venkataranga Reddi.
34. " Muttomanikkachari.
35. " Arpudaswami Udayar.
36. " Arumainatha Pillai.
37. " Mascarenhas.
38. " Palmer.
39. " Ratnaswami.
40. Raja of Ramnad.
41. Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan.
42. " Congreve.
43. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
44. Bayothi Sahib Bahadur.
45. Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur.
46. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur.
47. Saiyid Diwan Abdul-Razaak Sahib.
48. Muhammad Sadullah Badesha Sahib Bahadur.
49. Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
50. Mr. Kesavulu Pillai.
51. " Madurai Pillai.
52. " Vandanam.
53. " Venkatarangayya.
54. " Namburumal Chettiyar.
55. " Rencontre.

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Neutral.

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|---|--|
| 1. S. Ry. Ankineedu Prasad Bahadur. | 6. The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. |
| 2. Rao Bahadur C. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 7. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar. |
| 3. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 8. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. |
| 4. The hon. the Raja of Panagal. | 9. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 5. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi. | 10. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| " Nayudu. | 11. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |

MOTION No. 98.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 852 for temporary steno-typists.

The three Ministers have four steno-typists. The necessity for the fourth is not clear."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I have already replied to this in my former speech when I dealt with all the steno-typists together. One of the hon. Ministers has had a temporary steno-typist during a heavy pressure of work and he anticipates that he will want him for three months next year. He will therefore have to be paid only for March in April and for three months of next year."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"But, here, Sir, the provision is definitely for twelve months. Will the hon. the Finance Member reduce it proportionately?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I shall be very glad to accept a reduction by half."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"On that assurance I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 99.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 100.

The House is aware that on a similar motion made by me in the case of the Members of the Executive Council the hon. the Leader of the House was good enough to assure us that the appeal would not fall on deaf ears. I hope the Ministers will see their way to set proper limits on their tours. Sir, I wish to state that in making this motion, the case of the Ministers stands on a stronger footing than the Members of the Executive Council. There has been a complaint that in some cases in respect of the Members of the Executive Council the necessity for tours is not clear. There is a louder and stronger complaint in the case of the Ministers than in the case of the Members of the Executive Council that they have to exercise their discretion in the matter of tours. In their case the people have a right to expect that they show proper necessity for their tours. Secondly, Sir, they may consider whether in the case of the Ministers who are the elected representatives of the people, they cannot have recourse to methods by which they can lessen the cost of their tours. For example, a first class compartment will be enough for all ordinary business tours; especially when they have to move with the people, it will be sufficient for all practical purposes. I am making this suggestion as one of the directions in which there may be some reduction. I do not think, Sir, that in the case of the Ministers they ought to have good

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saloons or any other special concessions. As regards the curtailment of travelling by Members of the Executive Council, I quite realize that they must have sufficient discretion. In the case of the Ministers there is a sort of dissatisfaction that tours are undertaken more often than they are necessary and on a more costly scale than is justifiable. In these circumstances, I hope they will curtail the tours. With these remarks, I place the motion before the House."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I may assure the House that when I said that the appeal would not fall on deaf ears, I was speaking for the whole of the Government. As regards the necessity for tours, I must remind the House, as they are so constantly reminding us, that the hon. the Ministers are responsible for nation-building, and they cannot do their nation-building if they do not go out to see how the building is getting on. Hon. Ministers who are responsible for the development departments must go out to see the developments. I would further remind the hon. Member that, as I have just said, it appears that a saloon is really the cheaper way of travelling."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" A compartment is not a carriage."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" In the case of the saloon the Railway Department only charges the haulage charges, whereas in the case of the compartments we have to pay for a certain number of tickets."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 100.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for hall journey allowance by Rs. 2,000.
Turning to page 65 of the Budget Estimate, we find that for the year 1922-23 a Budget provision of Rs. 2,600 was made, but under the Revised Estimate of that year we find only Rs. 500. That means only Rs. 500 has been spent this year, and I do not see any reason why Rs. 2,600 should be provided for next year."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I am bound to confess that I am not, on the spur of the moment, able to explain why the Revised Estimate is so low. But according to our calculations the reduction that is proposed by the hon. Member would have the effect of depriving the hon. Ministers of any attendants in the hills except their peons. It would deprive them of their Council secretaries, of their steno-typists; and they would have to proceed to the hills with peons and peons only."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" The question which I have raised has not been answered at all."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I supplement my statement, Sir? I now understand that the reason why the Revised Estimate is so small is that a considerable portion of the actual expenditure is shown by the Accountant-General under the head immediately above it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 101.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 71,250 for the pay of officers by Rs. 100.

In doing so, I wish only to refer to two points in support of my motion. In any well-organized establishment, the practice is that as we go higher and higher, we reduce the number of supervising agencies till at last we end in one. But here that rule does not seem to have been observed at all. For instance, turning to page 68 of the Budget Estimate, we find that there are as many as three Secretaries, not to speak of the Retrenchment Secretary, and these have six superintendents to look after. Again the clerks are not more than 19. The number of superintendents for 19 clerks as well as the number of Secretaries for supervising the work of six superintendents is far too much.

"Another matter to which I want to refer in this connexion is the unsatisfactory way adopted in the appointment of the Retrenchment Secretary. Sir, we had a Retrenchment Committee, and, I think, that in the natural course of things a Secretary should have been appointed to the Retrenchment Committee. The Government did nothing of the sort but appointed their own Secretary, so that the Secretary had to take his orders from some person who was altogether independent of the Committee. That was an unsatisfactory arrangement and I wish to draw the attention of the House to that matter so that the mistake may not be repeated later on."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, as regards the first complaint, that the number of officers should vary directly with the number of clerks, I should like to observe that the hon. Member apparently is not in accord with another of his colleagues who has proposed a motion, with reference to the Chief Secretariat, to abolish all the clerks and leave us nothing but the officers. I think that as a matter of fact the latter hon. gentleman is on the right lines and not the hon. mover of this motion, because after all what we want here is the opinion or the statement of the Member in charge. We are always being appealed to for more businesslike management of our offices. I would ask the hon. gentleman to take the telephone guide, take any of the business houses and look at the number of officers in them. You will find, Sir, that any large firm has got as many or more officers as the Secretariat. That is because they want to get their business done promptly. The delays of which complaint is made in this House in connexion with certain departments are due to a certain extent to the fact that we have a great disproportion of clerks and superintendents to officers, and the result is that when some question is asked it has to filter down to a clerk who may spend days and weeks in attempting to discover the answer which an officer could put up straight away if there were enough officers to handle all the letters that come in. That is the difference between Government office and a business house. A business house has got a certain number of assistants, each of whom can dispose of his branch of the business by himself with the help of a steno-typist and one or two clerks. That is what we shall have to do if we really want to be businesslike."

"As regards the other complaint which the hon. Member has made, I can only say this . . ."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I made a mistake, Sir. I should have dealt with the Chief Secretariat. On the other hand I dealt with the

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Finance Secretariat. The question of the appointment of the Retrenchment Secretary does not arise in connexion with the Chief Secretariat establishment. I find that under the head 'Chief Secretariat' there are only three superintendents and not six."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I take it then that the hon. Member does not want me to answer the point about the Retrenchment Secretary now."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The hon. Member may answer it now, Sir. I have no objection."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, let me first deal with the question of the number of officers in the Chief Secretariat. This number affords a further illustration of what I was saying just now. The Chief Secretariat has a comparatively small number of clerks because one of the officers deals with a great deal of confidential work and he does the whole of the office routine, filing, copying, etc., himself. He has fewer superintendents because he does everything himself. He types his own letters and so on."

"As regards the Retrenchment Secretary, I must say in the first place that I am surprised to hear from a member of the Retrenchment Committee a complaint of which I heard nothing in the Committee, although it has sat on many occasions."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the first thing I did was to write a letter to the hon. the Finance Member suggesting among other things that a certain procedure should be adopted with regard to this matter, but that paper was never brought forward."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I was certainly not aware of any dissatisfaction in the Committee with the way in which the Secretary was doing the work."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"That does not arise at all, Sir. The only question is about the way in which the appointment was made. That is all."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Then, I must ask what the complaint is. Apparently the difficulty is that he was appointed as Retrenchment Secretary instead of Secretary for Retrenchment. If so, I have no objection to having the name changed."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I do not think that the hon. the Finance Member has really not seen my point. He was appointed as Secretary to Government and not as Secretary to the Retrenchment Committee."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I rise to a point of order, Sir. The hon. Members are dealing with the Finance Secretariat. Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar said that he made a mistake in dealing with that. But I see that the mistake is continued by both the hon. Members attacking each other. I think we can deal with this subject when we go to the Finance Secretariat. We are now dealing with the Chief Secretariat."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (in the Chair):—"Is the hon. Member (Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar) still willing to continue this sort of duel?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"As other hon. Members seem to be willing to take part in the discussion on the subject, I don't wish to pursue the matter further. But I press my motion so far as the Chief Secretariat is concerned."

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The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"With due deference to the wishes of this House that this discussion on the appointment of the Retrenchment Secretary should not proceed, I will not say anything more about it now."

The motion was put and lost.

MOTION No. 102.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 14,400 for one Assistant Secretary.

Sir, on turning to page 68 of the Budget Estimate, we find that there is one Finance Secretary, one Deputy Secretary, one Retrenchment Secretary and two Assistant Secretaries. The Finance Secretary came with the Reforms for the first time. Next year, provision is made for another temporary Additional Assistant Secretary on Rs. 500—50—850. Probably, the Assistant Secretary for whom the allotment of Rs. 14,400 is made also existed in the year 1922-23. But in view of the fact that next year we shall have a temporary Additional Assistant Secretary there is absolutely no reason why we should continue to have the old Assistant Secretary on a much higher scale, namely, Rs. 1,000—50—1,200. We will be having the same number of officers as before, namely, the Finance Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Retrenchment Secretary and a temporary Additional Assistant Secretary instead of one of the Assistant Secretaries. I therefore, move that this allotment of Rs. 14,000 be omitted."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I think, Sir, it will be for the convenience of the Council, as there are several motions covering a great part of the Financial establishment, if I explain generally the whole of our present organization without being scrupulously particular as to which falls under the Votable and which under the Non-votable items of the budget. I am afraid, Sir, that in doing so, I may exceed the ten minutes' limit, but in view of the fact I shall be answering practically a number of motions together, I hope I may be permitted a small extension of time."

"It is hardly necessary for me to quote authority for the position that one great essential of the new constitution is a strong Finance Department. I may, if I am permitted to do so, begin my quotations with Kautilya, who said that 'All undertakings depend upon Finance', and carry them on through the Reforms Report and the despatches thereon down to the pronouncement of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee who have stated: 'Another important factor is the increased powers and duties of the Finance Department since the introduction of the Reforms. Practically all secretariat files go to the Finance Department at some stage or other, and it is here that the real examination of proposals is made in the light of the canons of financial powers, and in the interests of economy. . . . The examination in the Finance Department is not only required by the present constitution, but is essential for the proper control of departmental expenditure.' That is a very authoritative pronouncement of a committee composed mainly of non-officials."

"But I take it the Council do not wish to deny the necessity of a strong Finance Department. What they wish to be assured of is the real necessity for each of the establishments set down."

12-30 p.m.

"Let me begin with the normal staff under the old arrangements. The one officer who has not been attacked is the Finance Secretary, and I take it

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the Council agrees that we must have a Finance Secretary and that we require for this office an officer of general administrative experience to apply financial principles to the policies of departments. With him there has been associated for many years a specialist, that is an officer of the Finance Department of the Government of India. This is the Assistant Secretary on Rs. 1,000—50—1,200, and the reason for that special rate of pay is that the officer employed is recruited from the Finance Department and that we cannot secure an officer of the right sort from the Government of India's Finance Department on a lower salary. The Council will observe that this officer takes the place of the Under Secretary in other departments and draws practically an Under Secretary's pay. This specialist officer is employed upon all the innumerable routine files that come through from the departments for examination and he examines them with reference to the exact application of the financial codes and rules.

"I now come to the two Assistant Secretaries on the ordinary rates of pay (Rs. 500—50—800). One of these officers, the officer shown as temporary, is employed on the work which is done in the Finance Department which is other than financial, that is to say, work on behalf of the Central Government. This includes Salt, Customs, Income-tax and other branches, of which I may mention that the Marine branch, now that we have so much port development, is an unusually heavy one. This officer is paid for by the Government of India, so that I presume the Council will not object to him.

"The other Assistant Secretary was originally employed for six months in the year for budget purposes, as it was found that it was absolutely impossible with the existing staff to get through the enormous volume of work involved in a budget on the new lines. Last year, we found we needed him for more than this. When the Finance Secretary and I returned from the Financial Conference at Simla we found that the work had accumulated during the time of the preparation of the budget to such an extent that there were many hundreds of files in arrears. We ought to have applied for special help. We did actually keep on the Additional Assistant Secretary, and he and the rest had been working overtime ever since, trying to restore things to the normal. They had very nearly succeeded when the pressure of the present budget work began. But I am afraid that that has caused an accumulation again, although the staff are working overtime every day. If we find we can dispense with an officer during the recess, I shall only be too glad to do so. But I would ask the Council to remember that, though their budget work will be over on the 27th, ours will be only beginning. The whole of the budget may have to be re-written with reference to the result of the voting on the thousand and odd motions that have been tabled, and then we have to get it out with the least possible delay to the departments concerned. Last year, we were not able to issue the final budget to the departments until September, and the Council will see how hopeless a state of affairs this involves, if we do not tell the departments until September how much they have to spend in 1923-24, while we ask them to submit by October their proposals for expenditure in 1924-25. Nor is this all. As I have several times represented to the Council, the Reforms have meant the complete recasting of practically everything in the Finance Department, and the Council are insisting on more particularly in our budgeting. I do not for a moment wish to complain of this. But it is practically impossible for us to carry out a much more elaborate system without increase of staff. Let me take a

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single instance, the matter of the supplementary grants, that is to say, the moving of the revised estimate. I quite agree with hon. Members who have remarked that it is most undesirable that departments should over-spend, but for one thing, as I have said, if you are going to prevent them over-spending, you must let them know at the outset what are the allotments given them for disbursement. For another, you must have some sort of machinery for watching the expenditure of departments, to see whether it is within the budget allotment and for pulling them up as soon as they exceed it. We have such machinery in one or two departments, but in others we have not. One officer employs the expedient of circularising his subordinates and asking them how much they are ready to give up, and the reply generally is that none of them are ready to give up anything. Another depends on the Accountant-General to keep him informed of the progress of expenditure. Another keeps some sort of a register in which is posted every item of expenditure against the budget allotment; and what I want the Finance Department to do is to establish a recognized practice, so that when there is a danger of an allotment being exceeded a report may be made with either a request to be given more money or a proposal that some special branch of expenditure may be shut down so as to keep within the total allotment till the close of the year. All this means a lot of patient organization and work which cannot be done unless there are officers with a capacity for organizing and carrying it through, and if it is found necessary to keep on the temporary Assistant Secretary for the whole of the year again, I feel sure that he will do much more than pay the cost of so doing.

"I should like to mention one more piece of work that falls to this Assistant Secretary and that is the work connected with the meetings of the Finance Committee. As I have told the Council, the committee have held 29 meetings, and the notes presented to them amount in all to about 1,000 pages of foolscap print; and the task of getting these ready, keeping a record of their decisions and seeing that it is communicated with the least possible delay to all concerned is no small addition to the work of the Finance Department.

"I now come to the work of the Deputy Secretary. He was employed in the first instance as the result of a scrutiny by a committee of all the Secretaries of the causes of accumulation of arrears in the Secretariat; the object of his employment was to relieve the Finance Secretary during the budget season so as to give him time to attend to the Budget, which by itself provides a full day's work. If it were not for this, we should be in the same state of arrears this year as we were last. Why then is it proposed to continue him? Well, the answer is that we propose to give him an entirely new piece of work arising out of the Reforms, and we might, if we had thought of it, have put the demand more specifically as for a special officer. I would here remind hon. Members that the Devolution Rules lay upon the Finance Department the statutory duty of framing financial rules for all other departments. Now, this is not a small matter, nor a routine one. The codes that have to be revised amount to about a dozen volumes. I have here a collection of them and every one of them is the result of many years of case-made law. They are just as important to Finance officers as are the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to criminal lawyers. There is much, however, in this case-made law to which local officers and local Governments have very greatly objected, and one of

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the objects of the Reforms was to impose greater responsibility on local Governments and to free them from the restrictions imposed by the Government of India through these codes. But if you remove one restriction and do not very quickly replace it by something else, you are apt to run the Government in for an enormous increase in unnecessary expenditure. Let me take one instance. Under the old rules, no officer could be given leave after he had attained 55 years of age. Then the Government of India made some slight exceptions to this. Finally, they added a clause to the effect that he might have leave after attaining the age of 55, and even after he had finished serving, provided there were special circumstances. When the Reforms came, the Government of India, in the exercise of their policy of devolving powers upon local Governments, left it to local Governments to define the circumstances in which leave might be given after 55 years of age. But they did it in a way which provoked claims, that is to say, they made the rule, not that leave may not be granted after 55 except under very exceptional circumstances, but that it may be granted with the permission of the local Government. The effect of this rule was to make every officer believe that he was entitled to take leave after his retirement, and applications poured in. Now, Sir, as very few officers reach the end of their service without having leave in hand, the effect of this rule would be to give every officer on his retirement a bonus equal to the difference between six months' pay and six months' pension. We had therefore to get busy framing the rules under which Government intended to exercise their discretion. At the same time, there is, I am convinced, an enormous scope for removing from the manuals numbers of pettifogging rules based on *obiter dicta* or orders passed many years ago which it has never been found necessary to refer to. In the case of the Travelling Allowance rules, we succeeded in reducing the bulk by something like 75 per cent, and I hope we shall find it possible to do this in the case of the other rules. But again, if we are going to do that, it must be quite clear that this work cannot be done with scissors and paste. It must be done by an officer who can collect together all the rules that bear on a particular subject, trace them to their origin, see what is really the underlying principle and try to put up a simple set of rules which will explain themselves, will not impose irksome restrictions upon officers, but at the same time will suffice to prevent the loss of Government money. This, Sir, is the work for which we require a special officer for a period of about four months, and we thought we could not do it better than by utilizing the officer who has been dealing with cases arising under those rules for the past six months.

"I now come to the Retrenchment Secretary. Let me clear the ground first by dealing with the case of Mr. Moir. The Council are aware that we have two representatives on the Assembly, and that in the ordinary course a special appointment is created for each such representative for the period that he actually works. If any such officer returns for short periods to the Presidency between the sessions, then he has to be found other work. Mr. Moir has actually been in the Presidency since he went up to the Assembly for a period of 25 days. In order to give him an appointment and to save useless transfers he was gazetted a Retrenchment Secretary and he took in hand the overhauling of one of the departments and has sent down several notes the writing of which could not have been completed during the 25 days."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya:—"May I know as to whether there is anything in the rules that only an officer can be our representative in the

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Indian Legislature. What I mean is that a man from the party in power may be nominated to represent the Government of Madras. The party in power are the Government in fact."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"The hon. Member will be glad to hear that of the nominated members one in the Council of State and one in the Legislative Assembly are non-officials."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I rise to a point of order. The motion before us relates only to the Assistant Secretaries, and I do not know whether the hon. the Finance Member is in order in referring to the Retrenchment Secretary."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"He explained beforehand that he was going to deal with all these subjects, so that he might give a reply that would cover all points, as otherwise he would not be perfect or complete. That was what he stated, and he wanted a little more time, which was allowed."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have no objection to your giving him time. What I say is he is at a disadvantage. Probably he may say all these things after hearing the other speakers on the motion."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"He has taken the risk."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I was consulting the convenience of the Council so that I should not have to go over and over again the same matter on a number of different motions. Hoping that the Council will accept that point of view, I will, with your permission, continue to deal with the case of the other Retrenchment Secretary. He was originally our second representative, and as we expected that he would not be required for very long periods at Delhi, we thought we might save money and save useless transfers by combining the two functions. I may say here that Mr. Davies, though he was absent at Delhi from 7th January to 21st February, was carrying on the work of the Retrenchment Secretary the whole time and in fact was employing a second clerk at his own expense while at Delhi. As, however, the work of the Committee was not progressing as fast as it should have done under this arrangement, we recalled him in February and secured the sanction of the Government of India to his being replaced by another officer so that he might be able to attend the almost daily meetings of the Retrenchment Committee which have been going on since 23rd February. I may say, however, that this course involves him in the loss of a very considerable sum of money in the shape of allowances, in addition to which he has left his car at Delhi and has been compelled to hire one ever since. So much for his work up to date. As regards the provision in the budget, I am prepared to agree that that can be reduced. We started with the idea that it would be necessary for him to overhaul the organization of each of the departments one after another; and, judging from the time taken by the Retrenchment Committees in other provinces, we estimated that it would take him till the end of September to complete the work."

"As the Council are anxious for an early report, we shall, I think, have to confine ourselves to a complete overhauling in respect of one or two departments and to more general recommendations, which will involve further enquiries, in the case of the others. On this basis, I am requesting the

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Committee to sit throughout April and I hope to have something in the shape of a report ready early in May. Whether that will actually be practicable depends on many circumstances, including the time when we shall receive the reports of other Committees which are sitting on particular departments. I hope, however, that it will be practicable at any rate to halve the allotment made on account of this officer.

12-45 p. m. "As regards the items relating to staff which are the subject of attack, I may say that the temporary Superintendents are absolutely essential for budget work and that the allotment of two peons for the Deputy Secretary and temporary Assistant Secretary cannot be said to be excessive. One hon. Member has given notice of a motion regarding travelling allowance under the impression that the item of Rs. 2,745 in page 68 of the Budget estimate is the travelling allowance of the Retrenchment Secretary, and I am sure that he will withdraw it when I tell him that the figure represents the running total of the previous column."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"After the interesting details given in the course of the speech of the hon. the Finance Member, there can be little doubt that the Finance Department is bombarded with heavy work and I would like to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 103.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I propose—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,03,160 for the pay of officers by Rs. 100.

I have already stated my case so far as the number of Secretaries and Superintendents are concerned. I am glad, Sir, that I have another opportunity to speak on this for I wish to take advantage of this opportunity and emphatically repudiate any suggestion on the part of the hon. the Finance Member that I have any grievance against the Retrenchment Secretary. Far from it, I say that we could not have had a better Secretary than the one we have at present and in saying so I am sure that every one of my colleagues in the Committee will share the view (hear, hear). I only take exception to the method of his appointment. If he had been the Secretary of the Committee, it would have placed him in a different position from that which he now holds as Secretary to Government for Retrenchment. If he were the Secretary of the Committee, the Committee would have had some control over him and given him some instructions as regards the work to be done. But now, I think, he is precluded from taking any instruction directly from the Committee. It was to bring this aspect of the matter into prominence that I referred to it, and not because I had any reason to be dissatisfied with the Retrenchment Secretary or his work. As I said, we could not have had a better Secretary for the independent and fearless discharge of the work entrusted to him."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I have already trespassed a great deal upon the patience of the House and I do not think that I need say anything more upon this particular point than that, if the Committee wishes to give any instructions to the Retrenchment Secretary, I shall be only too glad to consider their desire."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"That is only a side issue, Sir. The real thing is that the establishment is for too much. I wanted to have it on record that the establishment is really more than what is considered actually necessary."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 104.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,745 for travelling allowance of Retrenchment Secretary by Rs. 1,372½.

Sir, in answer to one of the previous motions, the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter stated that the sum of Rs. 2,745 was really the travelling allowance of the officer who went to relieve the Retrenchment Secretary at Delhi; so that the allowance was not really for the Retrenchment Secretary. I wish to know what portion of it, if any, is to represent the travelling allowance of the Retrenchment Secretary."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I am afraid my hon. friend has not understood me. It is not the travelling allowance that the figure represents, but the total of the previous column."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I beg the hon. Member's pardon. The figure is put down against 'travelling allowance'. That is why I move for its reduction. What I want to know from the hon. Member is whether the whole sum or any portion of it is intended for travelling allowance, if so, for whose travelling allowance."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"If the hon. Member will add the figures in the left column he will find that they yield the total of Rs. 2,745. The travelling allowance is represented by the figure 2,000 just below. That is the travelling allowance for clerks and officers going to the hills."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 105.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,79,500 for Finance Secretariat by Rs. 40,000.

Sir, I first of all wanted to say that the Retrenchment Secretary might not be asked to duplicate himself once here and once in Delhi. I am glad, that the hon. Member has told us to-day that he will only be here. There was an idea in the minds of some of us that it was to put off retrenchment as long as possible that this Secretary was nominated to the Assembly. I do not mean however to question the honesty of Government in this matter. But I only wish to say that if only the gentleman were here, the work could have been expedited. Regarding this particular motion, I wish to have some information on one or two points. We were under the impression that there were only two types in the Budget, but now there is a third type in regard to the item, Assistant Secretary, the fifth item in the column. I wish to know why it is in a different type. Probably it is a printer's devil. Or, may it be purposely put down because the same type is adopted for the item 'daffadar' some lines below? I wish to be informed on the point.

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"Next, Sir, reference has been made to Kautilya. Kautilya wanted that the finances of the State should be strong and not the Finance Department. As for the Finance Department of this province, we have a strong person at the head in the person of the Leader or the House. We want the Finance Department to be strong with regard to other departments of the State, but we do not want that it should swallow a large portion of our finances. So far as the department is concerned, we know that the officers are very able and some money can be spared. I say, Sir, once more that the object of many of us is not to curtail from lower down the scale. I am always prepared to congratulate people where congratulations are due. To-day I am told that one of the two men pumping water here is to be sent away. That, I suppose, goes to the credit of the Retrenchment Secretary. I would certainly say, Sir, if we want really to do any work we want more officers lower down and not higher up, because I believe, the more the people above and the less those below, the less will always the work be. I understand that the Record Office attached to the various departments has been removed some distance off with the result that a number of attenders have been sent away and with the further result that if any of us want an information, the clerk in charge has to run to the Central office and search the files for information, which means a long time of a highly paid officer being utilized for the services which an attender can do. Again, Sir, I understand that there is also retrenchment proposed by way of combining the Legislative Council Department with the Law Department. I hope and I wish my information is wrong. So far as we in this Council are concerned, we would like to have a department for ourselves though it might be a little costly. From our personal point of view, the Council department is very cheaply run and combining this department with any other department will make our position more difficult. So, let not the retrenchment proposals put us, Members of this Council, to more trouble than we are already put to occasionally. As I say, I put the figure 40,000 because by dispensing with the services of some superior officers higher above we can certainly curtail and save that amount. Having the services of Mr. Davies all for ourselves for some months will certainly enable us to spare this amount. Many know him personally, as well as I do, and I have got confidence in him. Only, he should be given the opportunity of using his axe a little higher up the tree. With these words, I would formally move the motion."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, as regards my hon. friend's complaint of the printer's devil—I hope he is not objecting to the use of the word in this House—I should say that he has been trying to do a little economy. For the hon. Member will see that wherever the amount of matter requires extra space, the small pica type is used to save overrunning of the matter to the next line."

"As regards the general case of the Secretariat, I should like to ask hon. Members to make a comparison of our position with that of our sister Province which has claimed great retrenchment more by words than by deeds. I would appeal to the evidence of figures, which talk as much as either. Bombay has about half our population and spends on its Secretariat 16·24 lakhs as against our 10·16 lakhs. Again, Sir, as I am glad to see that a distinguished administrator of Travancore in time gone by is keenly following the debate, may I appeal to the example of Travancore?"

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They have a population of four millions. We have one of forty. They have four Secretariats. Might we not on their example ask for forty?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I feel flattered, Sir. Travancore is more progressive than this Presidency, Sir."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I am very glad that my hon. friend bears testimony to the fact that a large number of superior officers in the Secretariat is a sign of progress."

"The next objection was taken to the Central Records system. That really is an item that falls under the Director of Office Systems, but as it has been raised, I will deal with it here. The Director found that in respect of record-keeping, despatch and cash in the departments there was a good deal of waste, waste of money and waste of effort. Each department had its own record-keeping arrangements, its own despatch arrangements and its own cash-keeping arrangements. He found that he could save a good deal by a proper division of labour and putting these arrangements under one head in every case. As a matter of fact, there has been a very considerable saving, and once the new arrangement has got into working, it will be found to be much more efficient than the old arrangement. In the case of the records the first result of getting them under proper control was to reveal the fact that hundreds were unaccounted for by reason of the slackness of the old ways."

"Lastly, as regards the question of the possible combination of the Legislative Council office with the Legislative department, all that I will say is this, that that is the arrangement in Bengal and that, as I understand the House wish to exploit every possible avenue of retrenchment, this is an avenue down which the Retrenchment Committee is likely to make a journey, the end of which cannot be foreseen at present."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not press my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 106.

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—"Sir, I beg to move the motion standing against 1 p.m. my name, which runs thus—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,500 for the Director of Office Systems by Rs. 9,625.

Sir, at the time of the last budget discussion, it was said that the services of this officer would be required only for nine months; but we see from the budget for 1923-24 that has been presented to us, that provision is made for his continuance for one year more. As far as I am concerned, I do not know what services this officer has done. All that I know is that this officer has been making retrenchments in the menial services, and that, further, he has been interfering with the housing accommodation of the Members of this Council. Probably the hon. the Leader of the House may be able to give us some information as to what the work is that has been done up to now and why the services of the Director of Office Systems are required for one year more."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, again, I have to reply to a large number of motions on this particular item, and I would ask you to

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allow me a little extra time if I am really to give the hon. gentleman all the information he desires to have. I do not know whether the other hon. Members who have tabled motions on this subject would like first to move them and allow me to answer them afterwards."

None of the other hon. Members who tabled other motions rose in their places to speak.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. the Finance Member may reply to the motions as a whole."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I should like to lay stress in the first instance upon the fact that efficient office management is a profession in itself and one requiring far more training than is commonly realized. I might refer in support of this statement to numerous authorities including the United States of America Commission on Economy and Efficiency and the Llewellyn Smith Committee on Secretarial procedure in the Government of India, I might quote Lord Haldane on the art and science of administration, but the time limit does not permit. Let me content myself with a single quotation from an authority nearer home, that of an hon. Member of this House. When this matter was under discussion last year Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar made use of the following expressions:—

'There is plenty of work which can be saved. . . . Inasmuch as the heads of departments are not well versed in the details of departmental management, do not know much about the nature of routine work, and have neither the time nor the mental equipment to examine and find out how economy might be effected, I think it necessary that we must depute a person who has considerable experience of the details of office management and knows exactly whether a particular piece of work is superfluous or whether a particular clerk is unnecessary, to go into the whole question.'

"If the necessity for a special officer is accepted, I do not think I need lay stress on the fact that in the present officer we have secured a very good bargain. Mr. Schmidt has been through the mill; he knows all about the posting of registers because he has posted them himself. In addition, he has made a speciality of office procedure all his life, and the final proof of his fitness for such an appointment was found in the fact that when he was Inspector-General of Registration the proposals emanating from his office could be dealt with in a fraction of the time involved in handling similar proposals from some other offices. That is to say, when he had, for instance, to put up a proposal for an additional registration office, his letter would come forward complete in itself with all the information necessary for a decision. So in the case of proposition statements, notifications, etc. In fact, the proposals coming from him took a quarter of the time taken by an officer who did not know the details of the office procedure . . ."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"May I ask, Sir, whether it is not a reflection on some of his distinguished predecessors, like Diwan Bahadur P. Rajaratna Mudaliyar, Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar and others?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"As regards the work which Mr. Schmidt is doing, it would take me far more than the limit of time allowed to give even an outline of it. Let me take the work he has done in the Secretariat in the first place. I notice that there are motions on the agenda for striking out the Central Issue and Despatch branch and the Central Cash

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branch. I think hon. Members who have put forward these motions can hardly realize what these branches represent. Previously every Secretariat had its own arrangements for issue, cash transactions, payment of salaries and issue of stationery. Mr. Schmidt has applied the principle of division of labour and put all these under central heads. In so doing he has not incurred any additional expense. On the other hand, by taking away the clerks dealing with these questions from the departments and putting them under one head, he has been enabled to show a saving of Rs. 5,000 a year, but that is by no means the whole of the saving. It will be perfectly obvious that there must be an enormous saving in stationery, stamps, etc., when all the letters to a particular office from different departments go out in the same envelope instead of each department despatching its own. In this connexion I should like to mention the saving we can effect by the use of the economy label by which an envelope can be used several times over instead of being torn up after the first use. When it is remembered that we use $5\frac{1}{2}$ million envelopes a year, it will be seen what a very large scope there is for saving under this comparatively insignificant head. Similarly he has done a great deal to save time, and incidentally to improve the health of the staff, by rearranging the offices and putting each set of men into direct touch with the officers under whom they serve. More than this: he has been able to make arrangements for the office accommodation which will, I hope, result before the next session of the Council in making available an admirable library, and in improving the arrangements for tiffin both for hon. Members and for clerks and others. These arrangements and similar arrangements in other offices have further involved the discarding of furniture to an amount of Rs. 8,000 in value, the amalgamation of a number of libraries which were not really serving any useful purpose and the establishment of a central library which, I hope, will prove of great value both to hon. Members and to the Secretariat. Other minor changes are the removal of waste paper, which was a great danger from the point of view of fire, out of the building, and the reorganization of the conservancy and watching staff at a saving of Rs. 3,000 a year, which is not a trifling matter. I am not sure whether the pumping establishment referred to comes under this head, but I think it does. As regards despatches within the city, a large saving has been effected by establishing a regular system of motor deliveries to all Government offices and by starting a trolley for carrying heavy bales of paper between the Stationery office and the Press. Again a great saving has been made by merging in the gazette all documents which have to be distributed to a large number of officers. These were formerly distributed to the heads of departments who distributed them in turn to Collectors, Collectors distributed them to Divisional officers, Divisional officers distributed them to Tahsildars and so on till they reached the lowest grade of officers addressed. Hon. Members will realize what an enormous amount of labour, paper and postage was involved in a system of this kind. Now we are working up an arrangement under which all orders that are for information only go straight to all officers who receive the gazette. Nor is this all. We hope, when we can secure a building adjacent to the Government Press, to establish at the Government Press a central despatch bureau in respect of all matter that is printed for despatch to a number of offices.

"As regards the actual amount of printing, I may remind the Council that the Government of India have established a central printing clearing house,

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the object being to distribute the work of the presses evenly and to stop the printing of matter that need not be printed. The Director of Office Systems has been working on similar lines here. Everything that is printed goes under his scrutiny and whenever he thinks that a piece of printing is unnecessary he challenges it. The result has been so great a reduction in printing by the Secretariat that we have been able to take over to the Government Press the whole of the printing on behalf of the High Court with a comparatively small addition to the staff. Similarly there is an enormous saving in printed forms. There are reductions also being made in the issue of publications like the Quarterly Civil List, etc. We hope to cheapen and improve the arrangements in respect of the Editors' table and we have already made a saving of Rs. 1,000 by reducing the number of newspapers supplied, and a further Rs. 3,000 under books and periodicals.

"Hon. Members are very rightly critical of the large expenditure on stationery, and this is another matter for the reduction of which we are utilizing the Director of Office Systems. I may say with regard to this, as in regard to so many other matters, that, as far as rules go, it would be difficult to improve upon the elaborate arrangements for check of unnecessary expenditure provided by the rules of the Madras Government. But we cannot expect executive officers like Collectors to spend their time on questions like stationery distribution. The result is that such work drifts into the hands of low-paid people who cannot exercise the necessary control. The Director of Office Systems is now starting a new plan which will, I believe, effect very much saving in stationery. It is for that reason we have made in the Budget provision for Inspectors of Stationery, because we discovered that thousands of rupees worth of stationery was not properly used and has been indented for without proper necessity. Similarly in the matter of office buildings. This is not by any means the only building on which the Director of Office Systems has been at work. Our office buildings are a great asset and I have been trying for years to get proper value out of them. I was unable to do it until, through the appointment of the Director of Office Systems, I was able to insist on the enforcement of standards of accommodation and the redistribution of buildings in the manner most useful from the general point of view. The result has been a saving in rentals to the extent of Rs. 15,000.

"In the above remarks, I have confined myself mainly to the work that has been already done in the Secretariat, but there has also been considerable saving effected in outside offices both in Madras and the mufassal. The Director has effected savings of thousands of rupees in offices he was sent to inspect on the ground that they were asking for an increase of establishment. As regards his continuance in office, there seems to be an idea that it is sufficient to work out a system in one office and then tell the other offices to adopt it. If the issue of orders would have done all that was needed, we should have saved lakhs of rupees long ago. The trouble is that it is not sufficient to issue orders. You have to see that they are carried out. I may cite the instance of one office which I found, after the issue of the orders regarding the economy label, sending me a new cover every time, as often as not pasted up, with four different printed forms plastered on to it. In other words, they have made the economy label a source of considerable new expense. We want the Director of Office Systems, not only to introduce new systems, but to see that the systems are carried into effect. Again the

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reorganizing of an office is not a matter that can be done in a minute. If we ask the Director to overhaul an office he has to sit down, burrow into the work that is actually being done by the clerks, and see what each clerk is doing, and what is the best way to do that work.

"The Director of Office Systems has already saved the Council one lakh of rupees, and I hope that he will be able to save us at least one more lakh. We cannot really expect executive officers to sit down and attend closely to the details of overhauling columns of registers or counting envelopes and stationery. But if we can get these details properly attended to, we can save very large sums. I have already given a guarantee that, if at any time we find that the office is not paying its way, we will abolish it at once, and I gladly repeat that guarantee now.

"For these reasons, I hope that the Council will not press the motion for the abolition of this office, and thus attempt to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"Is the officer going round the districts also?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"The officer is intended to go round the districts. He has already visited one set of district offices, and the result of his recommendation with reference to that set of offices is expected to give a saving of Rs. 18,000."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"Mr. President, I was somewhat officially connected with this question, and when this question was considered in the Finance Committee, last year, I happened to be a member of that body. I wanted previously also information regarding the report sent by Mr. Tottenham who was placed on special duty to make retrenchment in various offices; but this information was not given. I have been asking for this in the Council ever so many times, and every time I have been told that the report is confidential. When this question came up before the Finance Committee last year, I asked the Chairman of the Finance Committee to give us an idea of the recommendations made by Mr. Tottenham. Then, I was furnished with an extract from his report which I confess I found absolutely unintelligible. And on this particular question of the appointment of the Director of Office Systems the Finance Committee, I believe, by a majority, if not unanimously, refused to accord their approval to this appointment, and this officer was then granted leave. During his leave period, he was asked to inspect some offices and to suggest economies; and on the report which he sent then, the Chairman induced the Finance Committee to accept the appointment of this officer for a period of nine months, and this was agreed to. Now, from the motion tabled I find that the appointment is sought to be continued for one more year. I give an illustration with reference to one of the various items of economy effected by this officer, which to my mind does not appear to be real economy. For instance, each department was issuing Government Orders in separate sheets. Taking for example the Local Self-Government Department, they were printing 400 or 500 copies of Government Orders to be circulated to the various local bodies concerned. But now they are printing a page in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and I am afraid, Sir, that will involve a printing of about 5,000 or 6,000 copies—the number of the *Gazette* copies printed—instead of 300 or 400 sheets. Further, these Government Orders are communicated to all the people who get copies of the

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Gazette, to whom they are not intended. I do not know whether this is considered economy and whether there is any saving at all. This is one matter on which I should like to ask the hon. the Finance Member for some information as to why such a thing was done and if the serious loss resulting from this innovation was at all considered. Furthermore, I think this sort of effecting economy must be made by the officers concerned and not by one officer sitting in Madras and trying to go to district after district interfering with the work of the district officers. For these reasons, I am obliged to support the motion made by my friend, Mr. Rajan."

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, this appointment of the Director of Office Systems seems to have been introduced because the systems which were in existence in offices before were considered to be no systems at all, or if there was any system perhaps it was not properly worked. In the first year there was an expenditure of Rs. 2,565, in the next year it was Rs. 11,000, and then, of course, for the coming year it is Rs. 23,100. Perhaps this is a system of increasing expenditure. If that is not the object, what else it is I cannot understand. There is one retrenchment department already, which should be allowed to deal with all matters of retrenchment and to see that every department is kept on without increasing expenditure year after year. First, this appointment was made for nine months, and now it is to be continued for one more year. Of course, this officer had much experience of the Registration Department, but I do not think that he is assisting other departments in reducing work but the other departments are assisting him by giving more work to him. I think this appointment is absolutely unnecessary and that it should be done away with."

Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I oppose this motion. In the first place, I may say that I know the officer personally for a number of years, and everything that he has been doing from the time he was appointed Director of Office Systems conduced to effect savings both in the permanent charges and in the non-recurring charges. Again, in reply to an observation made by a non-official Member here that this appointment should not be made permanent, we have been given the assurance by the hon. the Finance Member that so soon as the officer is not able to show a profit, the appointment will be abolished. In these circumstances, there need be no apprehension at all that the appointment will be continued long after it becomes unnecessary."

"As regards one remark made by my hon. friend the Raja of Ramnad, I wish to point out that in the Government Orders originally issued though they contained ten or twelve lines a whole sheet was wasted, but under the new arrangement not even a quarter of a sheet is wasted."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I know that Government Orders were issued in smaller sizes also."

Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Under the new arrangement, it is not that everything is being reproduced in the Gazette, but it is only an abstract that is printed there and it comes in a compact form. This minimizes the work of distribution to the several offices. What we have now to see is whether the appointment should be continued or discontinued. So far as the necessity for its continuance is concerned, we have the arguments and the facts stated by the hon. the Finance Member that till now the officer

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has effected a saving not only in the recurring charges but also in the non-recurring charges. Everyone of us must therefore give our vote to see that the officer is continued, especially on the assurance of the hon. the Finance Member, if it is necessary to see that economy is effected everywhere."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, I beg also to oppose this motion. When this question was considered by the Finance Committee, the hon. the Finance Member placed before us all the papers connected with this appointment. The impression we had from those papers was that real retrenchment was effected in the course of the last year, and we therefore expected more retrenchment would be effected in all the offices if the officer continued for one more year, and we therefore came to the conclusion that he should be continued for one year more. If the House allows this item to remain, I think that it will be dropped afterwards. Therefore, I do not think that any real retrenchment can be made by cutting down this item. I think the hon. the Finance Member has made out a very strong case for the continuance of this office, and his arguments should be accepted by the House. I very strongly oppose the motion."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"After hearing the arguments of the hon. the Finance Member, one is struck by the compliment paid by him to the officer in charge and also by the amount of savings effected by the existence of this officer. The hon. Member who has just finished his speech indicated that if we allow this provision to stand in the Budget, the office would automatically cease at the end of the year. May I ask him whether at the time of the discussion of the Budget last year it was not understood that the office was only to last until the end of the year? But the Finance Committee made up its mind to continue the appointment and provision was made in the Budget. If once we allow these temporary appointments to continue, there is the danger that they are likely to be made permanent. When once a post has been created, I have not the slightest doubt that some work will be found for that post and some work will be said to be carried out. The question for consideration is whether the work which has been carried out and which is likely to be carried out is one which cannot probably be effected through the agencies already at work. Some indication has been given as to the retrenchments effected. I would ask the hon. the Finance Member to consider if by issuing necessary directions to the heads of offices themselves, retrenchment on the lines indicated can be carried out, and whether the necessity for the continuance of this appointment would not cease to exist. It has been pointed out that in the case of the notifications published in the gazette, it may be considered to be a matter of retrenchment. I think, Sir, it is not correct to state so; because the gazette is being circulated to a number of persons for whom they are not intended or who will not be benefited by the communication of these notifications."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I remind the hon. gentleman that the whole gazette does not go to everybody? The gazette is issued in different parts."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I am aware of that fact. Even then this notification which affects a certain number of persons is communicated to other persons who are not directly concerned. The matter does not stop here. If the notification is sent out and if it is to be

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communicated to other officers who are not supplied with the gazette, it necessitates further correspondence and further expenditure of postage, stationery and other things. If it is stated that all the persons for whose benefit this notification is intended will be supplied with the gazette, I can understand the position. But it is not so. The official who gets the gazette must get copies prepared of these notifications, or must purchase or obtain copies from the Superintendent of the Government Press and circulate them to various other officers. That means necessarily extra postage and extra stationery charges being incurred in another office. I beg to submit that so far as this office is concerned, it is not that we are thinking of a specialist or expert whose presence is necessary for the purpose of carrying out measures of retrenchment, but it is only an application of the ordinary rules of procedure by the heads of offices concerned. It might be true that the heads of offices concerned have not been able to exercise that care and that check over those whom they control as they should; but is it necessary that we should have a full-time officer and allow him to continue for a long time even in respect of matters which are not special matters for which an expert or special officer is necessary but which only require some supervision exercised over their subordinates? Therefore, I think that the continuance of this appointment is unnecessary and that the sooner this is done away with the better."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—"The hon. the Finance Member has said that a saving to the extent of one lakh of rupees has been effected by this officer, and so on the assurance given by him that the services of this officer will be dispensed with as soon as the work is finished, I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-30 p.m.

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

MOTION No. 107.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 3,000.

Sir, though a provision of Rs. 4,000 was made in the Budget estimate of 1922-23, we find that a sum of only Rs. 500 was spent according to the revised estimate of 1922-23. Instead of carrying forward that figure in the Budget estimate for 1923-24, we find that an allotment of Rs. 6,000, that is, twelve times the expenditure incurred for the last year, is made for 1923-24. I should like to have some clear statement from the hon. the Finance Member with respect to this appallingly large disproportion between the revised estimate of 1922-23 and the Budget estimate of 1923-24.

"Another reason that prompts me to make the motion that is before the House is this. We find that the establishment under this head costs actually Rs. 15,382, whereas the allotment under Travelling Allowance comes to the magnificent sum of Rs. 6,000, bearing a proportion of nearly 40 per cent. Is it good business to spend a sum of Rs. 6,000 on travelling allowances when the establishment itself costs only Rs. 15,382? In various other departments, we find the expenditure under travelling allowances bears a

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proportion of about 25 to 30 per cent. In the present instance the proportion is nearly 40 per cent, and that is a disparity on which I should like to have some light thrown by the hon. the Finance Member."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, as regards the sum of Rs. 6,000 allotted for travelling allowances, the explanation is this. With the approval of the Finance Committee, we have made provision in the Budget for two Stationery Inspectors. We found that by overhauling the stationery arrangements in the offices in Madras we were able to make a very large saving in the expenditure of stationery. We propose now to send round two men for the inspection of stationery in other offices, and these men will be under the immediate control of the Director of Office Systems. By this arrangement we will be able to make similar savings in the up-country offices. So, we have made additional provision for travelling allowances to enable these two men to travel throughout the Presidency. As regards the proportion of the cost of the travelling allowance to the cost of the establishment, I am afraid that it is not possible to fix any definite standard which can apply to all offices. In the Secretariat, which has got a very large staff, only a sum of Rs. 2,000 is spent on travelling allowances, because the clerks in the Secretariat do not travel. In the Salt Department, where the officers are expected to be on tour for 25 days in the month, the proportion of travelling allowances would be much higher."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I only wanted to point out that in no other department was the proportion of travelling allowances 40 per cent of the cost of the establishment."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"The hon. Member might perhaps have put his grievance in another way, and have complained of the inadequacy of the establishment in proportion to the amount of travelling to be done. The Director of Office Systems has practically no establishment worth the name. He has only these two Stationery Inspectors, and he and they are going to tour through the whole Presidency. That is why the expenditure put down for travelling allowance is disproportionate to the expenditure on the pay of the staff under the Director of Office Systems."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"As the hon. the Finance Member seems to be rather keen about it, I do not want to press this motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 108.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move—
To omit the allotment of Rs. 23,100 for the Director of Office Systems.

Sir, no doubt I have carefully listened to what the hon. the Finance Member said about this officer while we were discussing another motion. But still I am not quite satisfied as to the necessity of this officer for another year. Last year it was stated that he would be engaged only for one year and now it is sought to extend his lease of life by another year. Eventually, there is the likelihood of this officer being made permanent and with him his establishment also. The only work entrusted to the Director of Office Systems is to effect retrenchment in the various departments, and I believe this can very well be attended to by heads of departments. I therefore suggest the omission of the allotment for the Director of Office Systems from the Budget."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, I want to say a few words in support of this motion. After listening to the illuminating speech made by the hon. the Finance Member in connexion with another motion dealing with the same subject, I have been reminded of a story. A gardener was appointed to economize in domestic expenditure, and at the end of one year he came and said to his master that much was saved because fuel was no more necessary for household purposes, and that the number of gardeners could be reduced. The master went into the garden and found there were no fruit trees for the gardener to water. However, I do not think that that analogy holds good in the present instance. It remains to be seen how far the hon. the Finance Member is right in making that special pleading which he did just now. No doubt, the hon. the Finance Member has got the knack of dealing with every department in the most praiseworthy way. The hon. Member has taken care to throw great light on the workings of the various departments and to say how all the departments under the Government of Madras are so spendthrift as not to effect any savings at all and how it has been left to this great prodigy, the Director of Office Systems, to bring things into order and effect drastic economy in all the departments. I do not in the least pretend to know this gentleman, and so I can speak very impartially on facts and on the information I have got.”

“ I wish to point out to this House one important matter about this gentleman. When he was the Inspector-General of Registration, he applied for two more Deputy Inspectors-General and an Inspector of Registration Offices to inspect all the registration offices in the Presidency. So when he was in active service, he wanted to employ more officers in his own department. Now, I understand that after the present Inspector-General of Registration has taken charge, he has not found any necessity for the three appointments recommended by his predecessor. So far as this particular officer is concerned, it is one of those cases where charity alone begins at home and not sacrifice.

“ The amount that is allotted to the Director of Office Systems and his establishment is very large and there is no necessity for imposing such a heavy burden on the tax-payer. Sometimes, it may be said that we are enamoured of particular individuals and want to ascribe all the virtues in the world to the teaching of that particular individual. I wish to know whether no retrenchment can be effected if this office of Director of Office Systems is abolished once for all. Let us make the experiment and see whether economies are not going on in the same way as we find now. I do not think that all credit for the present retrenchment can be given to any particular individual. I strongly feel that this contagion of patronizing officers and of increasing the number of offices both in the higher and in the lower grade has spread throughout the administration. I therefore suggest that, as an experimental measure, we may abolish this office and ask the Director of Office Systems to take some rest for a short period. If we find that the departments are not getting on well without his aid, then we can indent for his services again. This method of introducing new offices should be put an end to once for all. I do not think either myself or any of my hon. friends are convinced by the elaborate arguments of the hon. the Finance Member that the Director of Office Systems is one of those persons who is absolutely indispensable for the efficient administration of the Presidency.”

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Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—“ Sir, the hon. the Finance Member in dealing with another motion this morning gave a long list of accomplishments of this gentleman, the Director of Office Systems. One of his duties is to look after the equipment of the offices in the Secretariat. Surely, the electric fan in this Chamber which has just now been stopped (it was stopped because it was playing too fast and was creaking against the ceiling) is eloquent testimony to the efficient way in which he is discharging his duties.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“ May I remind the hon. Member that the Director of Office Systems is not an Electrical Inspector ?”

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—“ I know, Sir, that he is not an Electrical Inspector. But he is not the Manager of the Public Works Department either ; yet one of the accomplishments, as given out by the hon. the Finance Member, was to open rooms and windows, to let in more light and air into the dark rooms. The other accomplishment which was claimed for him was the new library and the new tiffin rooms. I believe, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member when he referred to the library had in his mind the Council library. I do not know why our Secretary to the Council, who has taken a lot of pains in the formation of the Council library, was not referred to at all. I believe the formation of the Council library was solely due to the efforts of our Secretary, and I can confidently say that the arrangements of the library would be far better attended to by our Secretary than any body else. Another accomplishment claimed for this Director of Office Systems was the removal of waste paper. Surely, for this difficult task we do not want an officer on Rs. 875 per month. Another accomplishment claimed for him was the putting of large matter into the *Gazette*. That seems to be rather a dubious compliment to the Director of Office Systems.

“ It is stated that this officer has removed certain clerks and thus effected a saving of Rs. 5,000. That is all the solid achievement to his credit. By removing some clerks and attenders and by arranging all the records and the library books in one place, he has made the clerks do the work of attenders. The clerks are expected to attend to more important work than merely picking up reference books, etc.

“ Then, Sir, it was said that another accomplishment of this officer was that he taught office work. Is that a matter to be congratulated upon, Sir ? I thought that the officers, prior to the time of this Director of Office Systems, knew their work very well and that they were doing their work efficiently also, and I do not know whether the hon. the Finance Member in saying that was really paying a compliment to the heads of the various offices which existed prior to the time of this special officer.

“ It was stated that this officer was able to effect a lot of saving in the matter of printing. I can very well understand, Sir, what the real fact is. We have now got our cause lists in the High Court and we can judge these lists by those which were prepared before by private companies. A comparison of the two cause lists will naturally show some sort of saving ; but never the sort of efficiency. One who is accustomed to see these lists will at once say that the cause lists prepared by the Scottish Press were much better than the cause lists now prepared by the Government.

“ Then, Sir, it was stated that so far as this officer was concerned, he was needed for another year, because he had to give directions, he had to go round, he had to sit by every clerk to see what work he did, to see if he did not do his work properly, to teach him how to do the

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work, to draft letters most probably and to put in letters in the box in this way and not in the other way, to put in chairs in one direction and not in the other direction, to put in tables to the east and west, rather than the north and the south. These, Sir, are some of the directions most probably for which this gentleman is to be kept on a pay of Rs. 875 a month. If that is the case, Sir, I submit that this officer must go."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I rise to support this motion though I have given a motion under this head for the reduction of a portion only of the allotment. The hon. the Finance Member stated that a lot of retrenchments had been effected by this officer in the course of one year, and if I understood the hon. Member correctly, I believe the proposal now is to send this officer out to the mufassal to the various offices after retrenchments have been effected here. When resolutions were tabled to do away with intermediary officers like the Deputy Conservators, Deputy Superintendents and so forth, it was stated that a large amount of routine work was done by these people; so that, for dealing with principles and policies, we have got the heads of departments; and if these intermediary officers also are to continue and if thereby the work of the heads of departments will be lessened, I see no reason why this setting of things in order cannot be done by them and why another officer should be sent out to find out what mistakes are going on there and remedy them. I do not know if the special officer is to be treated as an Inspector of mufassal offices, just in the same way as we have the Inspector of Municipalities, to see wherein the heads of departments err in having either allowed too much of common forms to be stored unnecessarily, or more space being occupied in the office than is absolutely necessary. These things, Sir, can be done much better by each head of the department himself, if only he is directed to look after them himself. If it is to be taken, Sir, that this officer is to find out mistakes and draw their attention to them so as to avoid their further recurrence, I can understand it. But if it is proposed to give this officer the duty which the heads of offices ought to do, and to put him thus above their heads, I think this House would be sanctioning an office which is quite unwarranted by the necessities of the case or by expediency."

"In the revised estimate for 1921-23 we find that the expenditure is Rs. 11,000 and odd and now the proposed expenditure is Rs. 23,000 and odd and there is also a provision of Rs. 6,000 for travelling allowance. The main department we are concerned with in the mufassal, that is the department of Revenue, is now controlled by the Board of Revenue and we have a number of Indian Civil Service officers there who are sometimes taken on as Under Secretaries to Government, or are sent out to do some other duty, and I do not see any reason why some such officer should not be put on special duty in regard to this work also, so that, that particular officer will be drawing only his usual pay and will at the same time be doing this work. In these circumstances, I see no reason at all why a special officer should be appointed to do the duty which the various heads of departments are expected to do. If, during this period, this officer has been able to introduce any new system here by which retrenchments can be effected and much of public money can be saved, that, Sir, should be sufficient to induce heads of departments also in the mufassal to carry on investigations on these lines and see if such savings cannot be effected there also. If, for instance, common forms are found to be stocked unnecessarily, it will be enough if

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only the attention of the heads of departments are drawn to it. As regards indents for stationery, it is stated that heads of departments do not generally pay much attention to them and the work is left to be done by inferior clerks. If the special officer were to go out for this purpose, I do not know if he would be able to attend to that work himself and would not also have to leave it in the hands of his inferior clerks."

"For these reasons, I submit that this particular officer is unnecessary and should no longer be allowed to continue. He has now done the work so far as the Secretariat is concerned. With regard to the mufassal, there are various controlling authorities who can do these things much better, cheaper and more satisfactorily than one officer going round the Presidency and dictating what is to be done and what is not to be done. We do hope that the various heads of departments can take advantage of what has already been done in the Secretariat and effect economies in their departments. From the way in which things have been put before us, there is just the possibility of the hon. the Finance Member saying that this office should be made permanent and I therefore oppose this appointment on that score also. There is absolutely no necessity to perpetuate this appointment and I support the motion that this officer should go."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I feel strongly inclined to support this motion. So far as the establishment is concerned, I think the amount may be cut down. Last year, the expenditure was only Rs. 11,000; but it has now been increased to Rs. 23,000 and odd due to the increase in the establishment. The work required to be done in the mufassal may as well be asked to be done by the District Officer's establishment. With these few words, I support the motion."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, in replying to a previous motion on the same head, I asked the Council not to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. Now, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, out of his own experience, has given us another proverb. He compares himself to a head-gardener who saved money in watering by cutting down the fruit trees that ought to have been watered. If you abolish this appointment, you will, like that head-gardener, be cutting down a fruit tree that is yielding you a great deal of fruit."

"The main attack upon the office has been on the lines that we have already got heads of offices, and that all that we have got to do is to issue the necessary orders, leaving it to them to carry out the instructions. Well, we have issued the orders. As I have already told the House in opening this question, we have issued volumes of orders, but the answer is contained in what Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao said, that what you want is only supervision. That is exactly my case. We want supervision, and the supervision we want is that of Director of Office Systems. You cannot expect heads of departments, who are very busy men, to spend their days in seeing that clerks are preparing statistics in the cheapest possible way. Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai suggested that the Retrenchment Committee should undertake this work—the retrenchment department as he called it. This is the first time I have heard of the Director of Office Systems, to go round every office in the Presidency and revise the registers and count the stationery, I suppose he also expects them

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to take over some of the detailed work of the other branches of administration also; if so, I can only say that he is going to impose an intolerable burden upon them and to spend in the end far more than he saves.

"Then again, Sir, we are told that heads of departments do not want any teaching in regard to this matter. May I in that connexion again quote the authority of Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, who told us that the heads of departments are not well-versed in details of departmental management; they do not know much of routine work and they have neither the time nor the mental equipment to examine and find out how economies can best be effected?"

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"May I know if this teaching is to go on for ever?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"In the Government of India I believe the appointment is a permanent one. We have not proposed to make it a permanent appointment here. But so long as we have professional heads of departments—you may take for instance a man who is a very admirable doctor and you promote him at the close of his service to the head of an administrative department—do you expect him to know all the financial codes and rules, what the best ways are of extracting information out of statistics and so forth? He is only too grateful to get assistance in showing to his clerks how to do that sort of work, and as I have said, the Director of Office Systems has saved money over and over again in helping professional heads of departments in putting their offices into order.

"Then again it was said that we can leave the re-arrangement of offices and so on to the heads of departments. We will take the case of the Secretariat. What has been going on here is the re-arrangement of the work that is common to all the branches, bringing all the concerned clerks together and distributing the work among them. This has saved us thousands of rupees a year. But this was not work that fell altogether under any one department. It was the fresh division of labour that was common to all that effected the saving, and it is the same elsewhere.

"Then again, no one particular system will serve all the offices. The correspondence work in a doctor's office is quite different from the correspondence about grants-in-aid to schools or agricultural statistics. Every well-conducted concern in England has a special system for doing these things and working them on proper system is found to effect a saving of thousands of pounds. That is what we have been trying to do here.

"A good deal has been said about the Gazette. Well, I dare say there is yet room for improvement in what has been done in that respect. But, in the first place, I should like to say this. There has been no increase in the number of gazettes issued. Gazettes are issued in parts and only those parts which belong to a particular department go to officers under that department. In the second place, the printing of orders in the Gazette uses up much less paper than if they are printed on separate sheets, and thirdly, we do not send the whole Gazette to every officer. Thus, orders relating to Local Self-Government go into the Local Self-Government part and hon. Members are mistaken if they think that they are distributed to officers who have nothing to do with Local Self-Government and to whom we send the part relating, say, to Salt and Abkari. Still there is room for further improvement and

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that, as I have said, we hope to effect when we get a building in which to set up a general central despatch office adjacent to the Government Press.

"Then some reference was made to the fans. As to these I certainly hope that, with the aid of the Director of Office Systems, we are going to get a very considerable saving in our bill for the current consumed."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Has nothing been done during the last nine months so far as this building is concerned, Sir?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"That is a matter that involves alteration in the switch boards in the first place in order to get general control. Telephones are another similar item. We are spending Rs. 50,000 a year in telephones, and one of the things which the Director of Office Systems is attempting to do is to set up internal telephones in blocks of offices and reduce the number of direct lines which is expected to result in a considerable saving.

"About the library it has been said: why do you not leave it to the Council Secretary? Well, if the Council Secretary has got time to undertake it, we shall be very grateful. Our proposal, however, relates not to the Council library but to the bringing together in one place of a large central library for all the headquarter offices."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Sir, is there going to be a separate library for the Council?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"The intention is to bring a number of libraries together, the Secretariat library, the libraries of the heads of departments, the library of the Publicity Bureau and the Council library and to render them all available, after being re-sorted and catalogued, to Members of this Council. A surplus of books and papers amounting to several tons has been carted away. We are despatching this surplus, as far as possible, to the other libraries in the Madras town and elsewhere and several tons of it have been sold as waste paper.

"As regards the printing of cause lists, the Director of Office Systems has nothing to do with that. What he has been trying to do is to reduce printing in the Secretariat so as to enable the Government Press to take over the work which the contractors were unable to carry on.

"To conclude, Sir, as regards the abolition of this office, I should like to correct one hon. Member who has said that the intention is to maintain it for a single year more and then to abolish it. What I have guaranteed is that we will abolish it the moment it ceases to pay its way. If we find that it has ceased to be profitable to us we shall not wait for the expiry of the year. We shall abolish it at once. If the Council accept the statement that it has saved already a lakh of rupees and find this time next year that it is continuing the good work, it will be for the Council to say whether they will continue the office or not. But at present I can assure the Council that it has made large savings and is engaged on work which involves many more. I therefore appeal to them again not to destroy the fruit tree which is yielding valuable fruit in order to save the cost of watering it."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, when that good fortune will come?"

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Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" I am sorry I cannot withdraw the motion, for the majority seems to be in my favour."

The motion was put to the House and declared lost.

Mr. T. Arumainatha Pillai demanded a poll and the result of the poll was as follows :

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 15. Mr. W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. |
| 2. " M. Appalarasayya Nayudu. | 16. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 17. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 18. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. |
| 5. " T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 19. " Q. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 6. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 20. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 7. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 21. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 8. " J. Kuppuswami. | 22. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachariu. |
| 9. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 23. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 10. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 24. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 11. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 25. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 12. " V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 26. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 13. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja. | 27. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 14. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. | 28. " T. Arumainatha Pillai. |
| | 29. " A. T. Palmer. |
| | 30. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 16. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayana-murti Nayudu. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib. | 17. Rev. W. Meeson. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 18. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 19. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 20. Mustapha Ravuttar Ahmad Miran Sahib. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 21. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 22. " Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 23. Mr. M. C. Raja. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 24. " L. C. Guruswami. |
| 10. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 25. " R. T. Kesavalu. |
| 11. " R. D. Richmond. | 26. " M. O. Madurai Pillai. |
| 12. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 27. " G. Vandanam. |
| 13. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 28. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 14. " E. Periyamayagam. | 29. Mr. T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 15. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | |

Thirty voted for the motion and 29 against. The motion was carried.

Demand X—General Administration—for a grant not exceeding Rs. 15.51 lakhs minus Rs. 23,100 was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XI—CIVIL JUSTICE

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 47.19 lakhs under the head XI. Civil Justice."

MOTION No. 109.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Sir, my motion is—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 61,752 (52,320 + 9,432) for translators and clerks by Rs. 15,852.

Under this head the Budget Estimate for last year was Rs. 45,900 and this year it has been raised to Rs. 61,752. In these days of deficit Budgets,

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I do not see any necessity for enhancing this item by Rs. 15,852 as proposed in the Budget."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I think it will be necessary for me to explain the position somewhat more in detail inasmuch as my explanation will relate not only to this particular vote but to many others as well. This motion of my friend, Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu, is for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 61,752 for the translators and clerks. This allotment comprises the salary of 35 translators and 10 clerks of the permanent establishment. When the revision of the High Court establishment was sanctioned the question of the sufficiency of the pay of this establishment was also under consideration. Hon. Members of this House will remember that in the matter of the fixing of the salaries of the establishment of the High Court, the Chief Justice stands on a peculiar footing. In order to refresh the memory of hon. Members, it may be permissible to refer to the Letters Patent constituting the High Courts under which the Chief Justice is given the authority and power. It says :

the Chief Justice shall from time to time appoint for each office or place such and so many ministerial officers and clerks as he may choose and the salaries shall be as the Chief Justice may prescribe from time to time subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

" This control of the Governor in Council is, having regard to the peculiar position of the Chief Justice, only of a residual character to be exercised on special occasions. The Chief Justice insisted that, having regard to the work that these translators are doing, their pay should be revised.

" I may mention to my hon. friend that the number of posts remains the same as last year. There is no addition of a single man to the establishment. With regard to the objection that the total pay is in excess of the original pay, this Council no doubt considered that the original pay was adequate, but the High Court pressed their claim by virtue of their power of increasing the pay of their establishment. It seems to me that in a matter like this, under the Letters Patent, the High Court holds a peculiar position which this House will do well to consider. It seems to me, moreover, that so far as the particular item of 'translation and printing' is concerned, the receipts under this head more than cover the expenditure. Having regard, therefore, to the peculiar position of the High Court, to the fact that the printing charges levied from the parties more than counterbalance the expenditure, and to the further question whether if there is a surplus income under this head the general tax-payer is entitled to the benefit of the surplus income derived from the translation and printing charges which are levied from the parties, I trust the hon. Member Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu will not press his motion."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" In view of the information that has been given by the hon. the Law Member I do not press my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 110.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,000 for printing and translation charges by Rs. 19,000.

[Mr. T. Balaji Rao Nayudu] [15th March 1923]

I think the same explanation given by the hon. the Law Member with respect to a previous motion will hold good for this motion also. Therefore I do not press my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 111.

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,45,234 for High Court.

Sir, I intend pressing this motion to a division. Thereby I do not mean any reflection on the hon. the Law Member who has been placed in his office only a few days ago, and who has yet to be judged. I have been mentioning in this House many a time that the High Court and the Judicial Department have been persistently discarding the resolutions of this House and the various communal D.O.'s thereon. Though, according to the Letters Patent, the High Court is not to be guided by the rules framed by the Government, I think it would be well if I read here the passage from the Letters Patent :—

We do hereby authorize and empower the Chief Justice of the said High Court of Judicature at Madras from time to time as occasion may arise and subject to any rules and restrictions which may be prescribed by the Governor-General in Council.

Again it says :

We do hope that whenever appointments are made, proposals for making such appointments shall be submitted to the Governor in Council."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"May I say, Sir, that the Letters Patent have recently been amended, and what my learned friend is reading is the old arrangement."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Anyhow, we shall couple them.

"Now coming to the motion in question, if the High Court is not amenable to the wishes of the Government, as my hon. friend Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar says and if the Letters Patent are to be repealed, it is our duty and the duty of this House to address the Secretary of State immediately to bring the High Court to order. The communal claim has been accepted even by the Government of India and the Legislative Assembly. It has become an All-India question now. In the early period of the British Government, non-Brahmans were keeping positions of trust and honour. Later on, under extraordinary circumstances they were driven to a state of despondency, and non-Brahman young men with distinctions were deemed unfit even to get a despatching clerk's post in the various offices. The Brahman superiors found them unfit and put their opinions in writing in the records of the various offices. However clever these non-Brahmans might have been, as they were not successful in being able to get any appointments, they became despondent. Some of the non-Brahman young men thus treated died demented and disheartened. Others plodded through their miserable existence. Thanks to His Excellency, Lord Willingdon, and his Government who gave effect to the various resolutions that have been passed in this Council, a gleam of hope has pierced through the intense gloom. But, Sir, all these resolutions and Government Orders have not been given effect to by the High Court in recruiting persons to the various appointments. They are not only not giving the non-Brahmans their usual precedence and

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seniority in the matter of promotions, but are also reverting all the non-Brahmans who are acting in higher appointments to lower appointments. Sir, persecution has replaced the original oppression. I can understand the attitude of Brahmans towards non-Brahmans, for it is a struggle to retain their supremacy, political, and social. This supremacy they were having from time immemorial and it is quite legitimate that they should resent their supremacy being snatched away by non-Brahmans. But I cannot understand the attitude of some of the Europeans. When India was seething with sedition, when the very British rule in India was almost shaken, the non-Brahmans of our province came to the rescue of the Government. As far as our province is concerned, the non-Brahmans assisted the British Government in laying the foundation of the British Empire in India. It is the non-Brahman who fought the non-co-operators, and it is the non-Brahmans who helped the Government with men and money to fight their enemies."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"It is a non-Brahman that leads the Non-co-operation movement" (laughter).

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"In spite of what the British Government have done for the non-Brahmans and in spite of what Lord Willingdon in particular has done to us, I can say that the attitude that some of the Europeans take towards certain non-Brahmans rather savours of ingratitude. Let me be pardoned for using that word. I do not want to use that word any more. In conclusion, I request the Members of this House to vote for this motion to a man and save the non-Brahman community."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"My hon. friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar will excuse me if I do not travel into those realms of history into which he has travelled. Far be it from me to deny that the whole of the non-Brahman community was instrumental in laying the foundation of the British rule in this country. But at the present moment we are discussing Motion No. 111, 'for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs and odd by one hundred rupees'. Now if it were made out, as my hon. friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar sought to make out, that the High Court was guilty of a policy of persistently discountenancing or of deliberately ignoring the claims of senior men and of perpetrating injustice, either communal or individual, it is certainly a matter which must be taken into account. If, he had specific instances in a matter of this kind, it would have been quite imperative for my hon. friend to have brought forward such instances to the notice of this Council. But so far as this particular motion is concerned, in spite of what my hon. friend has stated, I trust he will not press it to a division, because, as we have pointed out, the High Court is vested with certain powers in regard to appointments and the fixation of their salaries. I do not deny for a moment that any resolution of this kind or any order of the Government will be paid due heed by the High Court. In making the selection for appointments—it is not my concern to quarrel with this position which I think may be clearly stated and acknowledged—, following the example very recently set up by the Legislative Assembly as far as possible, the claim of communities who produce persons who are fit for particular appointments will be considered (with special reference to the disabilities, if any, as to such recruitment in the past. I take it that to a proposition like that, the hon. Judges of the High Court will not demur.

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [15th March 1923]

If we have been furnished with specific instances where injustice has been done in the matter of appointments, I think I shall be in a position to answer. But having regard to the circumstance that the control which has to be exercised by the Government is only of a residual or ultimate character and having regard to the circumstance that this discussion will be noticed by the authorities of the High Court and that they will pay their due deference to the sentiments of the large community which my hon. friend claims to represent, I take it that he will be well-advised, and I would appeal to him, not to press his motion to a division."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" There is a similar motion standing in my name—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,45,234 for High Court by Rs. 100.

This Council will remember that a similar question was raised relating to the recruitment of the District Munsifs last year during the Budget debate in 1921-22 by me and was subsequently followed by a resolution moved by Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar that this power of appointing Munsifs should be taken away from the High Court and vested in the Government as it is in the other provinces and as it was recommended by the Public Services Commission. The debate is reported on page 1586 of the Council Proceedings of the second session and this was what the hon. Sir Lionel Davidson said on the occasion :

I should like to say, Sir, that the assurance that I have given is not binding upon the Government unless the resolution is withdrawn. I take it, Sir, that if this resolution were carried by a majority of the House, it could hardly be construed otherwise than as an indirect censure of the High Court.

It was this very contingency that I particularly wished to avoid, when I offered further consideration in consultation with the High Court. I therefore request you 3-30 p.m. Sir, to allow me to repeat my appeal to the mover of this resolution not to press it to a division. If it is withdrawn the whole of the debate will be communicated to the High Court and the matters at issue will be considered both by the High Court and the Government.

"Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar thereon withdrew his resolution. The difficulty that we find is that in the appointment of the District Munsifs power is vested in the High Court. We are in a difficult position here in this Council to say anything against the High Court Judges. They have not always exercised their discretion properly and because of their eminence it is difficult for us to say anything against them. It is in order to make it possible to debate the question of the appointments in this House and in order that public opinion may be expressed in this House that the power of appointment is sought to be vested in the Government. Subsequently, a note was put in our hands containing the opinion of the High Court Judges where it was said that the power of appointment was vested in the High Court and that the rules of Government could not be applied. A non-Brahman Judge, Mr. Justice Krishnan, was of opinion that the High Court might well accept the opinion of this Council. There, Sir, the matter stood and nothing further has been done. We wish, Sir, in this motion, to ask the hon. the Law Member, though he has taken charge of the portfolio only recently, to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras Civil Courts Act and vest in the Government the power of appointments. This is intended to avoid the unpleasantness of speaking against the High Court Judges. Whenever questions were asked in this House about the injustice caused by the appointments made by the High Court, the Government always

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said that they had no information. Surely the Government will have no information in such matters, if Government do not think it necessary to call for the information. I do not know if it is an answer that can be given by this Government. Whenever the questions are asked, the usual reply that we get is that the whole power is in the hands of the High Court. That is why I press that this power ought to be taken away from the High Court and given to the Government.

"Another thing that I wish to draw the attention of this Council to is that in two consecutive sessions I moved a resolution that the Sarishtadars of District and Subordinate Judges' Courts should be transferred once in three years as other officers and heads of departments. It was stated that the High Court would be consulted and that the debate would be communicated to them. Nothing came out of it. I moved a similar resolution last year, but nothing came out of it. To quote a specific instance out of personal experience, I may say that the Sarishtadar of the Sub-Court in Chittoor has been there for the past 12 years and has not been transferred as yet. The only difficulty is that whenever a question is asked the Government reply, 'we have nothing to do with it.' Public opinion must make itself felt, and the only way in which it can be done is to relieve the High Court of all unpleasantness by taking this power of appointment away from them and vesting it in the Government. We shall then be able to voice forth public opinion effectively.

"Then, Sir, recently, a question was asked by Mr. Palmer whether the appointment of a non-Brahman Sarishtadar by a District Judge was overruled by the High Court. I do not know the details of that incident. The Government said we have no 'information' in their characteristic way. If Government were to say 'we have no information' how are we to bring public opinion to bear on them. We can bring our opinion to bear on the Government whenever it asks for money. It is then, Sir, our turn to say that things are not done as they ought to be and that Government should make itself responsible for these appointments. It is for that purpose that this motion has been brought forward.

"Then, Sir, I see from this Budget that some more temporary Judges and temporary Munsifs are to be appointed. The question to be asked is what has to become of the feeling of the public about the appointments? Taking the Civil List one will see that there is a very small representation of non-Brahmans in the Judicial Department. May I ask the hon. the Member for Law whether the feeling of the non-Brahmans will be given due weight in making these appointments?"

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have tabled a motion—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47.19 lakhs for Civil Justice by Rs. 100.

That is intended, Sir, to express before this House the grievances of the Indian Christians on the treatment they have received from the High Court. The hon. the Law Member wanted us to give specific instances of such grievances. But I do not think, Sir, it is expedient or wise to give specific instances. It is for the High Court to see if any such grievances exist and to correct wherever they can. Sir, there are many Indian Christians who are quite fit to administer justice in this department. I know there are many B.L's., many intelligent B.L's., and many young B.L's. too, who can reasonably

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be appointed as District Munsifs or as Sub-Judges in the department. But I am afraid, Sir, that this High Court is a close preserve. I am afraid, Sir, that the grievances of the Indian Christians are not voiced in that august House. I request the popular Law Member to do his best for the Indian Christian community."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, I should just like to say a few words on this occasion. I cannot help saying that the Muhammadan community is very inadequately represented in the Judicial Service. We have very few District Munsifs and Sub-Judges and no District or High Court Judge. It is very important that we should have a High Court Judge. Government will say that there is no properly-qualified man for that high post. It is true I admit, but Government can always bring a proper person from other provinces as it was done before in the case of Sir Abdur Rahim and Mr. Tyabji. The hon. the Law Member in one of his public speeches during his non-official days once said that the flower of Moslem intelligentsia is to be found in Northern India. That being so I, on behalf of my Moslem colleagues, request him to import a Muhammadan to the High Court Bench. Further I learn that some temporary Sub-Judges and District Munsifs are going to be appointed. I request the hon. the Law Member to give us our due share in those appointments."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, if I rise now it is to pour oil on troubled waters. I think in the administration of the Judicial Department, in so far as it is vested in the Government, there has arisen a suitable opportunity for Government to give a lead to the High Court. For we have been asked by this demand money for the administration of Civil Justice, for the appointment of nine temporary Sub-Judges and five temporary Munsifs. Apparently the appointment of Sub-Judges, whether temporary or permanent, is in the hands of Government. So far as the Government is concerned, it has set to itself an ideal to be found in the Government Order which has been issued on the 15th August 1922, superseding what was thought to be a very unsatisfactory Government Order on the same subject dated some day in September 1921.

" We hope, Sir that that Government Order will find a loyal acceptance on the part of the Government in the appointments
3-45 p.m. to be made. For, it is a Government Order which has emanated from the Government office—from the Cabinet itself.

Unlike district authorities who have been very careless in giving effect to that order, I hope the Government and the hon. the Law Member will strictly adhere to it. Here is an opportunity afforded, and I hope that no injustice will be done to the non-Brahmans in the matter of appointments. This will give an opportunity to the Government to adhere to its own proposals, and I hope they will give encouragement to these non-Brahmans in order that they may prove their fitness and stick on to the posts permanently and rise to still higher posts. By making selection on the principles laid down in the Government Order of 15th August, I hope Government will also give a lead to the High Court in the matter of the selection which it may make in respect of the five appointments which have been sanctioned to-day and also in respect of various other appointments which may be made from time to time. With these words, I would appeal to my friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, to withdraw the resolution trusting that the hon. the Law Member will look into the matter carefully, that he will not leave the matter in the stage

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in which Sir Lionel Davidson did, of merely forwarding the proceedings to the High Court and also trusting that time will see that everything is alright and that the new Law Member will see that the assurances given are really carried out by those upon whom it will devolve to carry them out."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, as I also have tabled a similar motion, I wish to make a few observations on this motion. First of all I think that the office of the Registrar of the High Court need not always be held by an Indian Civil Service officer."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That is a listed appointment."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Yes; it is a matter which the Government may well consider and see if they cannot bring about a change. I do not know if the post of the Registrar of the High Court should be permitted to be held by one who is not a judicial officer or who has no previous judicial training. Again, I am told that this appointment was hitherto held by an officer of the grade of a Sub-Collector; now, it is held by an officer of a superior grade. Also, the Deputy Registrars and the Assistant Registrars are appointed directly. I do not know why they should not be recruited from the Provincial Service. Direct recruitment of these appointments causes a great deal of heart-burning among the officers of the Provincial Civil Service. That is one aspect which I want the hon. the Law Member to consider.

" Then, there is the appointment of the Sub-Assistant Registrar of the administrative department. That seems to me to be a superfluous appointment, and I do not know why this appointment should continue. If you want anybody to look after that work, the Head Clerk may do so and he may be called the Superintendent and entrusted with the work which the Sub-Assistant Registrar does.

" Coming to the question of Bench clerks, I cannot help thinking that their number is very large. There are as many as 26 of them. I do not know how the sitting of the courts are arranged. Even allowing 2 Bench clerks for each court, I think 12 Bench clerks should be sufficient, taking the courts to be 6. If there are a few more courts, we may have a few more Bench clerks. But the number, 26, seems to be too much for the number of courts sitting from day to day. The difficulty seems to me to be this. These clerks are recruited from people who know different vernaculars and there seems to be a confusion about the constitution and arrangement of these courts. The Judges will proceed first to take a case from the Telugu area and as soon as that is finished, they take up a case from the Tamil area."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" When this is done, the Bench clerk changes."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" They do not know who may be called upon at a particular time, so that these clerks have to be in attendance always not knowing when their turn comes up. If, on the other hand, there is a previous arrangement of cases according to the language areas, I think the number of clerks may be considerably reduced."

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" Sir, I wish to point out that the subordinate courts are also proceeding in the same way as the High Court is

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doing in the matter of appointments. The subordinate courts are giving the appointments to a particular class of persons and they are making them citadels of one section of people. For instance, I may bring to the notice of the House a matter which concerns only an amin. I put a question in this Council on 29th January 1923, namely :

Whether in spite of the Government Orders referred to above and G.O. No. 319, dated 8th April 1922, regarding the employment of military men in Government service, the District Judge has appointed an unpassed Brahman copyist of his court as permanent amin, exempting him from age bar and another Brahman outsider as a sub. *pro tem*. amin, overlooking the claims of several qualified non-Brahmans and military men serving in the department; and whether the above Brahman copyist was once reverted from the post of amin for serious misconduct and an order passed that he was not fit for Government service?

"The answer to this is the characteristic :

The Government have no information.

When such is the case, I think we must express our opinion that the High Court should do communal justice for all people."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya:—"Sir, I fear that this drama is being cited and recited year after year in this stage. The judiciary, the executive and the legislature—three important factors—constitute the component parts of a state; and it is in the interest of this very state itself that each of these three factors should be independent of the other. Well, the High Court is a body corporate which is independent and responsible to the people and to this Council for the proper administration of justice. We shall be doing, Sir, an injustice if we pass a vote of censure on the High Court in regard to the appointments when they are themselves responsible to this Council for the proper administration of justice. To my knowledge, the appointment of officers to the various posts is now under the direct control of the hon. Sir Justice Ayling. He is not a Brahman, and he is not an Indian; as such, he has nothing to do with communal bias or any such thing. There is no reason to complain against anybody when Sir William Ayling is in charge of the portfolio and when no other Judge has anything to do with the appointments. Personally, I have a grievance. I may state that the Oriyas who form a very important factor in this Presidency, who numerically form a fourth of the population of this Presidency, are not properly represented in this department. But that is no reason why we should pass a vote of censure on the High Court. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. mover of this motion to reconsider his position and take the advice offered to him by our hon. friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, and withdraw his motion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I thank the hon. the Law Member for the sympathetic assurance he has given. As to the grievance of Sriman Biswanath Das, if Oriyas are not represented in the department, it is but right that they should be represented. The hon. the Law Member was telling us that the Letters Patent were amended or repealed. May I know, Sir, whether this particular chapter relating to appointments has been repealed? If so, it is the duty of this Council and this Government to see that the original chapter is inserted once more. Till now, Sir, the resolutions of this Council have been treated with scant courtesy by the High Court. But I hope that now at least, under the regime of our democratic Executive Councillor, the new Law Member, things will be set right and he will set the example in respect of the vacancies existing just now."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I do not propose to deal at length with the subject which has already excited considerable amount of comment. Now, in making my appeal to my hon. friend to withdraw his resolution, I would place before the House a few additional facts. It cannot be forgotten that the position of the High Court to-day is such that there can be some reliance placed upon the possibility of due attention being given to the claims of all communities.

"I shall first address myself to the remark which fell from my hon. friend, Mr. Palmer. It can be asserted, and asserted with considerable justice, that our distinguished countryman, who is one of the Judges of the High Court, Mr. Justice Devadoss will see that no glaring injustice or communal mistake of the kind depicted or imagined by my hon. friend occur in appointments or promotions. Similarly, may I also appeal to the Members of the House that there are more than one Judge who represent the great community on whose behalf and in justification of whose claim so much has been said to-day? I am only saying this for the purpose of assuring the Members of this House that the High Court, as at present constituted, is such that due advancement and recognition of the claims of all the communities may be expected from that Court. Therefore, this motion need not be pressed to a division.

"I go further. My hon. friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, wanted to know whether the Government and the Member in charge of the particular portfolio to which this motion appertains will take note of the recent Government Order. As to that, my answer is simple and definite, namely, that no person has the right to take office who is not prepared loyally to abide by the resolutions of the Cabinet and the Government and this Council (hear, hear), and in so far as any resolution of the Government indicates certain definite principles on which I have to act I shall certainly act on them; and if any assurance is wanted, that assurance is now given.

"I shall now deal with the few remarks which fell from my hon. friend, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. He referred to the appointment of the Registrar. I may tell him that it is a listed appointment and therefore it may be left out of discussion to-day. As to the Bench clerks if he will pardon me, he is under a grievous error. If he only knows the strain the Bench clerks are put to, and the various duties that engage their attention and the amount of the detailed study of cases they have to go through in order to assist the Judges, he will wonder at the smallness of their number instead of at its excessiveness. With regard to the recruitment of Deputy and Assistant Registrars, his observations will have all possible attention.

"Now, turning to Mr. Usman Sahib, as regards the claims of his community to be represented on the High Court Bench, the Government in advising His Majesty will undoubtedly have advancement to the claim of every community for elevation. I do not wish to dilate on this matter, and I trust having regard to what I have said, my hon. friend will not press his motion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"After hearing the very sympathetic speech of my hon. friend the Law Member, I shall withdraw my motion with great pleasure."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 112.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,33,000 for Law Officers by Rs. 100.

Sir, if I move this resolution, it is not with any object of cutting down the allotment or passing a vote of censure on, or want of confidence in, the Government. I only wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member again what I said during the general discussion of the Budget. If you will look into the Budget, you will find that generally all the Law officers, except one or two, have got a permanent pay attached to their office and I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Law Member to the question whether he cannot move to fix a permanent pay for the officers who get paid by commission and according to the number of cases attended to by them. When, on the last occasion, I referred to the case of the Official Assignee, he was good enough to point out to me the Town Insolvency Act, and he stated that it was a thing for the High Court to interfere. But acting on the same principle which has been laid down by the hon. the Law Member I will draw his attention to that very same Act and point out to him that the salary or the remuneration of the Official Assignee has to be determined by the rules of the High Court, which have to be finally sanctioned by the Government. I now ask him whether he will not advise the High Court to revise the scale of remuneration for the Official Assignee. On the last occasion, I pointed out that the Official Assignee drew a commission of Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 a month. An Attorney by the name of Wilson, now occupying the position of Official Assignee, stated in public print that the amount cited was wrong and that my statements were vexatious or something of that sort and that the Government did not care to attract my attention to the mis-statement. I will put it to the Law Member that the commission drawn by the Official Assignee for the year 1920-21 was Rs. 54,000, and for every year about Rs. 52,000 on an average, leaving out the commission which was drawn by the auctioneers; and putting the two things together, it comes to Rs. 6,000 per year. I ask the hon. the Law Member to bear this in mind and see whether he cannot induce the High Court to move for a revision of the rules and fix a permanent salary for the Official Assignee. Let not the Government, with its well-known pertinacity, come forward and say 'Apply to the High Court for such a thing'.

"As for the Public Prosecutor, I think it entirely lies in the hands of the hon. the Law Member. It was only to raise this point that I brought this motion and not for any want of confidence or vote of censure."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have only one point to advert to in this connexion, and that is to ask the hon. the Law Member whether he cannot see his way to fix the pay of the Public Prosecutor. At present he gets Rs. 500 per mensem. His remuneration is Rs. 30 for each case he attends to. I am told he attends to as many as 15 or 20 cases in a day and his total emoluments go up to Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000. I think this sort of system which permits an enormous amount of money to be drawn as remuneration has to be looked into. If the work is too much for one Public Prosecutor, he may be assisted by another. In that way there may be chance for an Indian also being appointed. In any case by a judicious allocation of work it is possible for one Public Prosecutor to

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attend to all such cases and at the same time for Government to save a good amount of money."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I must say that I was prepared for some criticism upon this allotment for Law officers on the argument as to why such a large amount was required long after the close of the Malabar rebellion. But I see that both the hon. gentlemen who have spoken have addressed themselves to the question of Official Assignee and Public Prosecutor.

"Now, as to the Official Assignee, there is something to be said on both sides. So far as his work is concerned, it is very varied and extensive. He is not only an Official Receiver but he is also to a certain extent a judicial officer. It may be that in particular years he gets a large commission where large bankruptcies have happened; but in other years it is quite possible that he gets a comparatively smaller amount. I am myself aware that years previous Official Assignees were getting a very much smaller amount. The slump in trade and various causes, such as the insolvency of Arbuthnot, have led to this large income. But the matter cannot be disposed of offhand like that, and all I can do is to forward this debate to the High Court and ask them to consider the whole question.

"As to the Public Prosecutor, the matter stands thus: he has to attend to a tremendous number of cases, and practically, it would be correct to say, he has to abandon other private practice. The very figure suggested by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 a month, furnishes its own answer. I do not think he will get such a large sum. Besides, it has to be remembered that in these matters you cannot get first-rate men to give up their practice and be content with the appointment for anything under Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 3,000. It is for your earnest consideration whether the alternative is worth pursuing. But I shall take note of what has fallen from my hon. friend and, if I can, I shall move in the matter; but I do not propose to make any promise now."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"I wish that this matter may be looked at from another point of view as well. In the Budget it is given that the pay of the Government Pleader is Rs. 350 a month while that of the Public Prosecutor is Rs. 500."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"That matter is already engaging the attention of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"I do not propose to pursue the matter."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"I do not press my motion, Sir, after the assurance of the hon. the Law Member."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 113.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for temporary Additional Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.

Sir, the Court has been abolished with effect from the 1st of this month. So, I think the provision made in the Budget may go."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I would ask my hon. friend not to press the motion because it is quite true that that court has been abolished ; but, as has been pointed out, during the last sixteen years, the District Judge has continuously had the help of an Assistant or Additional Sessions Judge. Recently, no doubt, the District Judge reported that there was decrease in the work and recommended the closure of the court and the Government have accepted the recommendation. It will take effect now. The Sessions Judge says there is no necessity for it at present, but it may at any time, having regard to the amount of criminal work, have to be created again. But my hon. friend may rest assured that that court will not be restored unless there is urgent and imperative necessity for it."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" My difficulty is this. The permanent Sub-Judge of Coimbatore is also Assistant Sessions Judge. He is always Assistant Sessions Judge, and ordinarily the work can be carried on by the District Judge. If this provision is retained in the Budget, the only result will be that the District Judge will be asking for the Additional Judge always. We think he is quite unnecessary, and he the Additional Judge is necessitated not by the accumulation of work but by other considerations. This has been the feeling in the district. If you retain this provision, I am certain, Sir, that the District Judge will, seeking to have leisure, recommend the establishment of the court, and therefore I request the hon. the Law Member to reconsider the matter and agree to the abolition of this item in the Budget. I will request him to reconsider the matter and agree to the deletion of this item from the Budget. As a matter of fact there will be no necessity for it for at least six months for the court will be closed and after the reopening we cannot now foresee what the position will be. If there is any necessity for it, the necessity may arise six months hence. Then the hon. the Law Member may come to the House and ask for a supplementary grant. I do not see any difficulty in such a course."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I was going to mention exactly the same reasons urged by my hon. friend, 4-15 p.m. Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar. I would submit for the consideration of my hon. friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, that the best course would be to omit it in the Budget and come with a supplementary demand when the necessity actually arises. That will give us the opportunity of examining the necessity for such a court. If the allotment is allowed to stand it would be competent for my hon. friend to open a court at any time when it appears to him that a necessity has been made out. We are aware that when there is such a provision the District Judge who wishes to have relief or thinks that he has much work will ask for a court, will make out a case for it and the matter would not be open for examination by this House. I therefore think the better course will be to omit the allotment now and move for a supplementary grant when the necessity arises."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" After hearing two hon. Members who have spoken, I shall have very few words to say in reply. I want my hon. friends to realize that it will be necessary for me to have these courts if the state of work demands it. I realize in the first place that the Sub-Judge of Coimbatore exercises the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. I also realize that for some months the court will be closed. But the district of Coimbatore is such that criminal work might increase at any

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moment. If I now agree to the deletion of this item, I may possibly have to come to the House with a supplementary demand in regard to this matter."

The motion was put and carried.

MOTION No. 114.

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Sir, the motion that stands in my name reads—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 70,200 for temporary sub-judges by Rs. 64,350.

Sir, I should like to know whether this provision is for temporary sub-judges already appointed or for those who are to be appointed in future."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" For both."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" If so, I wish to know how many have been appointed, how many of them are non-Brahmans and how many Brahmans."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I prefer to make a statement at the end, Sir, after my hon. friend has finished."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I have finished, Sir. I wish to have the answer from the hon. Member."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The provision is entered in the Budget for the appointment of nine temporary sub-courts in order to relieve the congestion in pursuance of the recommendations of a very weighty committee that sat upon the whole matter. The arrears are such that there is no gainsaying the fact that an addition to the number of sub-courts is absolutely necessary. I have got the figures before me showing the amount of arrears in several courts. In Ramnad there are over 512 original suits pending, 334 suits over one year old and 1,538 appeals. In Kistna the figures are 580, 213 and 915, respectively, while in Tanjore West there are 262, 82 and 439, respectively. Again in Tanjore East there are 289 original suits pending, 128 more than one year old suits and 348 appeals. In Tinnevely the figures show 301, 142 and 2,430, respectively. These figures speak for themselves. It is not possible for me to say anything more definite as to recruitment or who are the temporary sub-judges appointed or likely to be appointed. But hon. Members will take it from me that the Government scrutinizes carefully and will continue to scrutinise all applications for appointment of temporary sub-courts in particular places and those will be appointed only for the period necessary to relieve the congestion and to bring down the arrears. It is realized by Government that the sub-judges cannot possibly do their current work efficiently if they have this load of arrears hanging over their heads. It is only keeping that point steadily in view that I propose to bring about this recruitment."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 115.

Rao Bahadur T. KALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,44,520 for district munsifs by Rs. 2,66,520.

It is not because that I am against the munsifs or the way in which the High Court are distributing the appointments that I move for this reduction. I proposed a similar reduction in the case of deputy collectors. My object

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is to see whether there is any chance of the time-scale of pay of the provincial officers being done away with. I want to know what the view of the Government is with regard to the newly introduced time-scale of these munsifs and the deputy collectors which costs us enormously each year. The pay as it now is ranges from Rs. 300 to 600. I wish that the scale is done away with in the case of all provincial officers and that we resort to the old system of grades keeping the minimum at Rs. 300 and decreasing the maximum salary a bit if possible."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, this allotment represents the provision for the pay of 153 permanent munsifs. The existing number has been found entirely inadequate to cope with the amount of work. My hon. friend on this motion raised the question of time-scale. It is a question to a certain extent complicated by what may be called a *fait accompli*. Though the Government will carefully note what has fallen from the hon. Member and investigate the matter it will yet be remembered that the question is extremely complicated in its character by reason of the vested rights which have accrued by the adoption of the time-scale. All that I can say at this juncture when incidentally this matter has been raised is that I take it that the Retrenchment Committee will consider that matter, and I think the Government will have to consider the matter having regard to the interests and rights of the parties involved."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 116.

Mr. M. NARAYANASWAMI REDDI :—"Sir I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 39,600 for temporary district munsifs.

The number of munsifs has risen from 144 to 153. We have therefore got nine more munsifs. I therefore think that temporary additional munsifs may be done away with and the provision may be omitted."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, I think there is a slight misapprehension. At this time last year there were 144 permanent and 24 temporary courts. Of the temporary courts nine were abolished and the same number we made permanent. In order to relieve congestion five more temporary courts came in. The budget provision has to be made for 153 permanent and 11 temporary munsifs. It seems to me that if hon. Members will pay advertence to the fact that practically at the rate at which the munsifs are going on, they have a minimum of 200 or 250 suits to be disposed of, they will see what the amount of work is. I have taken trouble to compile long statistics which I shall make public as to the exact state of business in the various courts. That discloses there is an appalling amount of arrears of suits over one year old and it seems to be impossible to get through the work unless we resolve to increase the number of courts keeping at the same time efficiency in view and insisting that disposals are speedy and expeditious. I trust my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 117.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,600 for temporary district munsifs by Rs. 100.

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Sir, I move for this reduction with a different object from that of my hon. friend who just withdrew his motion. We all see that so far as civil work is concerned it is going by leaps and bounds and if we want to avoid arrears, we must have enough munsifs and sub-judges. The question is whether there is no other way of dealing with the matter than by increasing the munsifs and sub-judges. Now that we have a new Law Member, I raise the question whether immediate steps could not be taken to invest bench courts with civil jurisdiction, whether the bench courts cannot be given powers to dispose of small causes suits up to Rs. 100 or Rs. 200. We know a large portion of the suits pending in the various courts are money suits of a comparatively small value. If these bench courts, at least first-class bench courts are given power to try suits of a small cause nature, a large number of the arrears can be disposed of and there will be no injustice done to anybody. The number of district munsifs can also be reduced. I had the curiosity to go to some munsifs' courts recently and I found that many of the so-called contested cases are bond suits where for some reason or other some plea is raised and the suits are classified under contested cases. I am sorry that among the one-year pending suits no distinction is made between money and land suits. A munsif is more anxious to show quantity rather than quality; he takes care to dispose a large number of arrears of only money suits leaving the arrears of land suits to accumulate. I am sorry, Sir, that all suits pending for three, four and five years come under one year old suits and the classification should be more complete. The munsifs are anxious to dispose of easy cases while they are not inclined to take up five-year old cases. For, the delay extending over five years is taken to his debit. This is the reason why short-pending disputes are disposed of earlier than the long-pending ones. For when a five-year old suit is disposed of its whole life is taken into account, and he will have to answer the delay over five years. Thus new suits are easily disposed of and long-pending suits are left in arrears. These are points which may be taken into consideration in reducing the number of courts. If only my suggestion to give more powers to bench courts and panchayat courts be accepted, it will be a satisfactory way of dealing with the arrears and will lead to economy as well."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, one of the numerous valuable suggestions that have fallen from the lips of the hon. mover is the complete readjustment of judicial machinery so far as petty suits are concerned. I do not think I would be doing justice to my hon. friend if I give an answer offhand on that matter which is undoubtedly a complicated and important one.

"But so far as other matters are concerned, I am afraid he forgets that one of the functions of the district judges and the High Court is to look into all these matters about which he has complained. I take it that it is not quite so easy for a district munsif to dispose of a number of promissory-note suits and then lay credit for expeditious disposal, keeping on hand land suits pending for long time. These things are within the competence and powers of the High Court who will look into them and I do not think it is necessary for us to go any more into them. I may say, however, that the supervising officers will bear the remarks that fell from my hon. friend in mind and see that the arrears are reduced as far as possible."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I was speaking from the point of view of the supervising officers as well as of the public. We know what the supervision done by the district judges is, but what I want is that definite rules may be framed giving effect to the principle urged by me, and I hope that such rules will be made."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 118.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to move the motion standing against my name, which is as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 63,312 for sarishtadars by Rs. 100.

Sir, I thought that this motion would be unnecessary, and I expected the hon. the Law Member would say something on this matter when speaking on the other motion. Sir, in the pre-Reform days a resolution was moved by the hon. Mr. Venkatapathiraju that the sarishtadars and other head ministerial officers should be transferred once in three years. That resolution was accepted by the Government, but it was not given effect to with regard to the sarishtadars of the district courts. I tabled a resolution on the subject, but unfortunately it was not reached. At the time of the last Budget, I moved a motion similar to this, that the salary allotment of the sarishtadars should be reduced by Rs. 100. Here is what the then hon. the Law Member Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar said on that motion :

I may mention for the information of my hon. friend the mover and also for the information of other hon. Members that we have, if I remember right, more than once drawn the attention of the High Court to the desire expressed in this Council that the district court sarishtadars should be transferred once in three years. I may say at once that I shall be glad indeed to send this discussion also to the High Court and also take other steps that may be necessary. The House knows that we have no direct control over the sarishtadars and that we have no right to transfer them. We can only address the High Court and I shall do so again in regard to this matter.

" I then said, Sir, that I certainly sympathized with the hon. the then Law Member when he said that he had no control over district court sarishtadars. Now, I want to know, Sir, what the High Court have done in the matter whether they acted up to the expressed desire of this Council or whether, as they were doing before, they are simply setting at naught and ignoring whatever opinion might be expressed by this Council. This is the point on which I expect the hon. the Law Member to enlighten me.

" The next point I would urge is with regard to a case where a District Judge appointed a sarishtadar giving effect to the principle of the Government Order regarding communal representation and on appeal the High Court said that that Government Order was not binding on the High Court and Subordinate Courts under it. I referred to this matter in my speech on the motion for reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment for the High Court, but the hon. the Law Member has not referred to it at all in his reply to that motion. I hope he will state now what he proposes to do with respect to this matter regarding this appointment. Then I will say whether I press this motion or withdraw it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, it would be as well by way of a preliminary to further discussion to keep in mind the provisions of the Civil Courts Act under which the ministerial officers of the district

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courts are appointed, suspended or removed by the judges of such courts whose orders shall subject to the control of the High Court be final. Section 23 of the same Act says that the ministerial officers of courts of subordinate judges and district munsifs shall be appointed by such subordinate judges and district munsifs respectively subject to the approval or confirmation by the district judge within whose jurisdiction such courts are situate, and may subject to the control of the High Court be suspended or removed from office either by the said district judge or (subject to his approval or confirmation) by such subordinate judges and district munsifs respectively. Having regard to these provisions it will be seen what exactly was the significance of the answer given by my predecessor in office with whom I was glad to hear that my hon. friend the mover said he sympathised."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I said I sympathised, not with answer given, but with the helplessness of the then Law Member" (laughter.)

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I think both are practically synonymous. I may, however, for the information of the hon. Member refer to what has been done on this matter. The High Court was addressed with regard to the periodical transfer of sarishtadars, and they have replied to the effect that they were effecting such transfers in all necessary cases. I may also mention that quite recently demi-official communications have gone to the High Court on matters akin to this. Now with regard to the general question, I have only a few observations to make. There are certain practical matters to be kept in view. Every one recognises, and I for one certainly recognise, and shall as far as I can, act upon that principle, that sarishtadars against whom complaints arise with regard to the discharge of their duties should be transferred and I recognise the inadvisability of their being permanent fixtures. They should be periodically transferred to other places. But such transfers involve this difficulty, that very often you cannot find a substitute who is efficient or with regard to whose qualification the district judge is satisfied. All these adjustments and readjustments take some time and the result is that these adjustments and readjustments have not taken place in such a manner as would command popular approval. I submit that the best results could be achieved by sending the result of this discussion to the High Court and suggesting to them as far as possible to act up to the principle which we have in view."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I am really in a difficult position with regard to this motion. I said already that resolutions and motions have been passed in this Council and communicated to the High Court. The hon. the Law Member said that he was unable to go any further on the question. I thought, Sir, that a better reply would come from the present Law Member, but he has given the same reply stating that the view of the Council would be communicated to the High Court. He has also referred to section 23 of the Civil Courts Act. That is exactly our complaint, namely, that these authorities are not amenable to the local opinion, that they say ' We do not care what the Council says or does. Neither the Council nor the Law Member can press their decisions upon our discretion.' What we do say is that the sooner the law is amended the better, and I do hope that the hon. the Law Member would take steps to see that the power is vested in him or the Government or whatever it may be and that the matter worked out in a way satisfactory to the people, in the matter of transfers, etc.

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"As I said on a previous motion, the power of the High Court with regard to these appointments should also be considered, and I do hope that the hon. the Law Member would take up that matter seriously in hand. We feel that the sooner this power is taken out of the High Court the better it would be for the people. The principle of communal representation enunciated in the Government Order should be given effect to by the High Court, and I hope that the hon. the Law Member would give an assurance on that matter, and unless such assurance is forthcoming I am afraid I must press my motion as a last resort. The hon. the Law Member says he is unable to do anything more. We pass resolutions, and every time the proceedings are communicated to the High Court, but with no effect.

"So far as my district is concerned, I may point out that continuing the present sarishtadar, who has been there for over 12 years, is anything but desirable. I may also state for the information of the hon. the Law Member that one of our previous sarishtadars was murdered in broad daylight because he was unpopular, and one of our nazirs was openly attacked in the public street by some amins. That is the state of the feeling existing between the head ministerial officers and others, and their subordinates. My only complaint is that we can only express our opinions or wishes in this House, but the High Court does not care to carry them out.

"I already said that as to the Government Order regarding communal representation, the High Court said that they did not care anything about it, with regard to the appointment of a sarishtadar of a sub-court. The High Court has to come before this House for grants of money for its expenditure, and it is this House that passes the grants, and the High Court Judges should know that they should act up to the policy that is laid down by this House which passes their demands for grants. In these circumstances, I do hope that the hon. the Law Member would give an encouraging reply with reference to the above points."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Sir, I would say only one word. I sympathise with my hon. friend the mover in his grievance, but I am really surprised at his stating and re-stating that the High Court should be deprived of its powers over appointments, etc. We have been always contending that the High Court should be empowered to appoint magistrates also just as they appoint district munsifs. That has been our contention, the contention of the Congress. We have been urging time after time the separation of executive and judicial functions (*A voice* 'This is the twentieth century!'). I hope it will be upheld in the twentieth century, namely, the principle that in the judicial appointments the judicial authorities should have the power. I simply say that this deprivation of the High Court of the powers of appointment, etc., does not commend itself to me, a nineteenth century man. Of course the executive should have some powers, but I am not for depriving the High Court of powers altogether. It would be rather casting reflections on the High Court."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the circumstance that was brought to light in the discussions of to-day that a certain sarishtadar continued to be in office for twelve years and his continuance in office was not acceptable to the locality is a circumstance which will undoubtedly be brought to the direct notice of the High Court as a result of this discussion, and I take it that the High

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court realizes as much as the hon. Member does that it is asking for grants from this House, and I think that the High Court also realizes that it has certain powers, and responsibilities and duties which it has to discharge. Will not the hon. Member after having said these particular matters give me both to me and to the High Court to see what are the actual matters which he has complained and to see if any redress is possible, if there is any real grievance? I submit that we cannot by forcing the issue or by rejudging the question come to a decision on a matter on which something may be said on both sides. I however undertake that these specific matters which have been brought to the notice of the Council will be carefully investigated.

"Then, there is the larger question which he raised, namely, the assumption by Government of certain powers and functions now vested in the High Court. That I hope my hon. friend will realise is a very large question involving points of very great importance. It is a matter on which I can give no undertaking, or no promise, save this that I will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member with that care which any suggestion emanating from any hon. Member of this House always will have."

The motion was put and lost.

Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 8. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 2. Rao Bahadur P. C. Etirajulu Nayudu. | 9. Mr. V. P. Pakkiriwami Pillai. |
| 3. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. | 10. " P. T. Rajan. |
| 4. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 11. " W. P. A. Saundara Pandia Nadar. |
| 5. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 12. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. |
| 6. " A. T. Mattukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 13. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 7. " M. Nerayanaewami Reddi. | 14. " A. T. Paluer. |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 18. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimharaaju. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib. | 19. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 3. The Raja of Panagal. | 20. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| 4. The hon. Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 21. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimbachariu. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 22. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 6. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 23. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 24. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 25. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 9. " R. D. Richmond. | 26. " S. Arpudawami Udayar. |
| 10. " E. F. Thomas. | 27. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 1. " E. Periyannayagam. | 28. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| 2. Rao Bahadur T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 29. " C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 3. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 30. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib. |
| 4. " M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 31. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 32. " G. Vandanam. |
| 6. " M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 33. " A. M. MacDougall. |
| 7. " L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. | 34. Rao Bahadur T. Namburmal Chettiyar. |

Neutral.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 6. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. |
| 2. " K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 7. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar. | 8. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 9. " P. Subbarayan. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 10. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |

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Neutral—cont.

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| 11. Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. | 16. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 12. Rao Bahadar C. Venkataranga Reddi. | 17. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 13. " A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. Khan Bahadar Muhammed Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 14. Diwan Bahadar R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. | 19. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 15. Mr. S. Muttumanikkaachari. | |

Fourteen hon. Members voted *for* and 34 *against* the motion, 19 remaining *neutral*.

The motion was lost.

MOTION No. 119.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,679 (300 plus 60 plus 17,319) for village munsifs' courts establishment by Rs. 100.

I do so with a view to elicit information from the hon. the Law Member with regard to a number of village courts established under the Village Courts (Amendment) Act in the various districts. These courts have been asked to dispose of civil litigation and litigation of criminal nature. But they have not been provided with any establishment at all, nor are any stationery charges or contingent charges allowed to them, and yet they are asked to dispose of suits. They cannot even levy a small fee of one anna from the parties in each case, and it is not possible for the presidents of these village courts to attend to both civil and criminal suits in any satisfactory manner at all. We non-official members have always been clamouring that these village courts should be enabled to dispose of petty suits. But in the absence of these facilities they are not able to carry on any work. I hope the hon. the Law Member will provide some amount for the purpose of helping these village courts to get on with the work.

"Secondly, if that is not possible, legislation may be made or rules may be framed authorizing the levy of a small fee on the plaints and complaints presented before them with which they can meet the expenses incidental to their work."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, I quite realize the importance of the remarks that fell from the hon. Member, and I may say that Government will try to see what can be done to remedy the situation."

Mr. Muniswami Nayudu did not press his motion, and it was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 120.

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,93,727 for Civil and Sessions Courts by Rs. 1,00,000.

My object in moving this reduction is to put a check to the tendency there is of opening too many temporary sub-courts and temporary munsifs'

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courts. This year provision is made for the institution of nine temporary sub-courts and five temporary munsifs' courts, and the hon. the Law Member has told us that the real reason for setting up these courts is congestion of work. On that point I am sceptical. I do not think there is real congestion of work. I had occasion to go through certain figures which show that there has been a steady decrease of suits. There was a decrease in 1920-21 and I find the same for 1921-22. The total number of suits instituted in the year 1921 was 496,244 against 496,433 in 1920 and 511,029 in 1919. Again, Sir, the number of appeals preferred in 1921 was 15,806 or 771 less than the previous year. In the district munsifs' courts except those in the Agency tracts 113,416 suits were instituted in 1921 against 119,550 suits in 1920 and 123,164 in 1919. The figure for 1919 was the highest on record and the figure for the current year is 1,131 less than the figure for 1912. Attempts are also made in the Administration Report to account for this decrease. Thus we read 'owing to the rebellion in South Malabar there was a fall of 3,000 original suits in that district alone' while Gōdāvari shows a decrease of over 1,400 and Guntūr a fall of over 2,200. Otherwise, the decrease, it is said, is on the whole evenly distributed over the districts. The fall in the institution of suits in Gōdāvari and Guntūr is largely due, we are told, to the influence of non-co-operators. The adjoining district of Kistna also shows a fall of 700 suits. It is true, Sir, as regards the numbers of suits instituted in the year in sub-courts we have a slight increase, viz., 3,500 against 2,940 in 1920 and 2,754 in 1919. That there has been a steady decrease of suits is however very clear. At the same time, we are told that arrears have to be disposed of. And even as regards these arrears it would seem that with a better and fuller utilization of the office hours and with a better inspection of work and with greater application, it is possible to dispose of those arrears much more quickly than at present. Mention is made in the report of some judicial officers who show greater despatch in the clearance of cases; others are slow. Therefore what is required is proper distribution of work and a uniform method of clearance. It is said 'the pendency of the suits has decreased from 13,400 in 1920 to 10,378 in 1921, the decrease being chiefly in Gōdāvari and Nellore'. And again, Ganjam shows the highest figure for uncontested suits. At the other end of the scale, you have Anantapur which shows a very great disposal of contested suits with an average of 19 days for the disposal of 30 suits, North Arcot 23 days for 34 suits and Guntūr 34 days for 35 suits. Moreover, the decrease in the number of suits instituted affords some slight relief—allows some time for the disposal of arrears.

"Now, Sir, as the hon. Member, Mr. Krishna Rao, pointed out in connexion with another resolution, if we have a temporary court constituted, there is always the tendency for that court to be more or less a permanent court and secondly somehow work will be found for it as it is inhuman for things to go on as they are. I am only a layman and I cannot pretend to things to go on as they are. I am only a layman and I cannot pretend to much special knowledge of the matter. It is open to the hon. the Law Member to make an investigation. I can only say here what has been told to me by my constituents, that even of the two courts in Tanjore there is hardly work for the Negapatnam court. That this is a matter for investigation I have no manner of doubt whatever. It is quite possible to dispose of the suits more quickly if you have judges like the judges and sub-judges

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and munsifs who are spoken of as having very quickly disposed of cases and if we have some better inspection and if some sort of co-ordination, some sort of uniformity is adopted with regard to the disposal of suits. I cannot understand the idea behind the policy of setting up temporary sub-courts and temporary munsifs' courts. I think the time has come for us, especially in the present financial stringency, to cry halt and to carry out an investigation to see whether a real case has been made out and whether there is actual necessity for setting up all these temporary courts. It is with this object, Sir, that I move this motion for reduction."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, since the hon.

5 p.m.

mover of this motion has referred to the speech made by me on the last occasion, I think it my duty to place before the hon. the Law Member certain facts which arise for consideration at the present moment. At present there is a tendency to increase the number of courts in the presidency, though they are called temporary courts. This state of things ought not to be countenanced except under special circumstances. We have been told that for the purpose of removing the congestion of work in the various courts it is proposed to establish temporary courts with the hope that the congestion of work would be removed and later on the work will be made lighter. I am led to think that there is a great illusion about the pendency and about the method of disposal of suits. Though in the beginning the state of work is normal, there is always the tendency later on to increase the number of courts so as to lighten the work of the judges for the time being. At the time when temporary courts were opened there was a feeling in the minds of the public and the bar that after all there would not be enough work for a temporary court. I shall refer to the temporary sub-court at Nellore. At the time when the temporary sub-court was started there was keen difference of opinion between the members of the bar and the Bench as to the necessity for the establishment of a temporary sub-court. However a temporary court was established and it has justified its existence, for, the state of arrears continued as before. The arrears have again accumulated with the result that last year not only a temporary court, but an additional temporary court was established. I raised this question even last year when this matter came up for consideration. I pointed out that there may be work enough for a single temporary court but not for an additional temporary court. If the hon. the Law Member sanctions these courts by merely taking the figures in the hope that the congestion would be removed soon, then I may inform him that he will be disappointed later on. The state of arrears will always remain the same even after the establishment of temporary courts. The Judges would then make applications with the recommendations of the High Court for the establishment of more temporary courts. I think the hon. the Law Member will do well to re-examine the whole question and see whether there is any real necessity for the addition of the temporary courts and whether they would really carry out the purpose for which they are intended, namely, the clearing of the congestion. I do not believe in the theory that arrears could be cleared only by the establishment of temporary courts. There is also the danger of all these courts continuing indefinitely for a long period without any appreciable fall in the arrears. I am surprised that a provision is made in the budget for the continuance of the sub-court at Nellore for a long period. The late Law Member visited Nellore shortly before he resigned his office

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and he had a discussion with the local officials and non-officials and I had the opportunity of being present at the discussion. Some statistics were shown to the hon. Member and on scrutinizing the same he came to the conclusion that there was necessity for the continuance of the temporary sub-court though not for a long period. But I may inform the present Law Member that myself personally and the litigant public are against the continuance of the second temporary sub-court. I hope that the hon. the Law Member will not sanction the continuance of the second temporary sub-court for an indefinitely long period. I am not making any definite statement, but from what transpired we had reason to believe that the second court would not be continued long. But in the budget we find that there is a great chance of its continuance for one year longer. I wish the hon. the Law Member goes carefully into all the figures before he sanctions these courts."

The House then adjourned at 5-10 p.m. to meet at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 16th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

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

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

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

Communal representation in the Registration department.

891 Q.—MR. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state the number of Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Muhammadans and Christians appointed as sub-registrars and probationary sub-registrars by the present Inspector-General after he assumed charge of the office?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to paragraph 6 of G.O. No. 658, Public, dated the 15th August 1922, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Amendment of the Estates Land Act of 1908.

892 Q.—SRIMAN BIRWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the action taken by Government regarding the amendment of the Estates Land Act of 1908; and

(b) when they hope to publish the amending Bill?

A.—(a) A Bill has been prepared and is under the consideration of Government.

(b) The Government are unable to say at present.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"May I know if the Bill was prepared before the resolution of this Council?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am afraid not."

Reduction of the constabulary in Madras and the mufassal.

893 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) the number of Police constables reduced in 1922-23—

(a) in the city of Madras;

(b) in the mufassal offices in the Presidency arranged according to caste; and

(2) the means adopted by Government for providing these constables with livelihood?

[16th March 1923]

A.—The reduction was made, not by dismissing members of the force but by leaving unfilled vacancies as they occurred and so far as is known no constables were deprived of their livelihood in consequence.

There was no reduction in Madras city. That in the mufassal amounted to 2,287 men in 1922. Figures for 1923 are not available.

Candidates for secondary grade training.

894 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the candidates selected for secondary grade training are of low standard; and

(b) whether it will not be possible in the interests of education to raise their standard?

A.—No. Ordinarily principals and inspecting officers select such candidates as possess secondary school-leaving certificates showing a satisfactory school record and marks at the public examination or the public examination after moderation not below the Presidency average.

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"May I know if the answer given is with reference to (a) or (b) or both, Sir?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"It seems to me an answer to the whole question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"I take it that it is an answer to (b) also. Am I also to understand, Sir, that the names of these candidates need not appear on the eligibility list?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I must have notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"I say this because the alteration is not effected for boys whose names do not appear."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"It will be kept in view, Sir, and answered in the next question that my friend may give notice of."

Indian Christian voters' list.

895 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the last elections many Indian Christians were included in the non-Christian voters' lists, sometimes against their protests?

A.—The Government have no information. They are further not aware of any protests having been made.

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"I request Government to get information, because I know there are many cases where the Christians requested the people who were responsible for making this list to enter their names there. They were refused."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am afraid I must only answer this question by putting another. May I ask whether the hon. Member can guide us in the way of obtaining this information? It seems to be very difficult to get it."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Yes, Sir."

Pay of non-gazetted officers.

896 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921, fixing the initial pay of non-gazetted subordinate officers in their time-scale re-organization scheme; and

(b) to state whether, in view of the fact that the benefit of counting past service for advance increment in the case of these subordinates was negatived by a vote of this Council in 1921, it is the intention of Government to exempt those poor public servants who have put in more than ten years' service and who were drawing a salary of less than Rs. 100 per mensem for a period of more than three months prior to 1st March 1921 from the restrictive and negative operation of rules 4, 5 and 8 therein and extend to them with retrospective effect from 1st March 1921 the absolute benefit arising from rules 1 and 3 alone of G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921?

A.—(a) A copy of the Government Order is laid on the table.*

(b) The Government do not propose to grant any general exemption. Individual cases of hardship, if brought to notice, will be considered on their merits.

Forest Panchayats in the Presidency.

897 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(i) to state—

(a) how many forest panchayats are at present in working order in each of the districts of this Presidency; and

(b) in how many of them members of depressed classes are nominated; and

(ii) to call for and lay on the table a monthly digest indicating the activities of the special staff recently sanctioned by Government for the organization of forest panchayats in this Presidency?

A.—(i) (a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to column 6 of Appendix I to Mr. Bles's report on page 21 of G.O. No. 774, Development, dated 7th June 1922, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(b) The Government have no information. The members of each panchayat are selected by the villagers themselves.

(ii) The Government have decided to obtain quarterly reports on the subject.

* Vide Appendix A on page 2438 infra.

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Inspectors in the Criminal Investigation Department at Madras.

898 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAHYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of inspectors in the Criminal Investigation Department at Madras;

(b) what their respective salaries are;

(c) the personal allowances, if any, drawn by each inspector;

(d) the travelling allowances paid to each inspector for the year ending 31st March 1923 out of Rs. 55,000; and

(e) the special rewards paid to each inspector out of Rs. 4,500?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the Civil Budget Estimate.

(d) & (e) The Government have no information and think that no useful purpose will be served by calling for it.

APPENDIX A.

[Vide answer to question No. 896 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th March 1923, page 2437 supra.]

G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921.

The Government direct that the rules shown in the annexure to these proceedings be observed in fixing the initial pay in the time-scales that are to be introduced with effect from the 1st March 1921 under the scheme for the revision of pay of subordinate establishments in the Government offices in the Madras Presidency. All heads of departments are authorized to fix the initial pay of the subordinates under their control in accordance with these rules and after due consideration of seniority of the several individuals in the general establishment list.

2. Heads of departments are requested to report for the orders of Government the cases, if any, which are not fully covered by the rules now issued.

3. The initial pay of individuals already fixed, should, if necessary, be revised in accordance with the rules herein laid down.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

P. L. MOORE,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant-General.

„ other heads of departments under the Finance Department.

Copy to all departments of the Secretariat.
„ the Publicity Officer.

16th March 1923]

Annexure

Rules to be observed in fixing the initial pay of present incumbents in the time-scales in the general reorganization scheme.

1. Existing incumbents will ordinarily enter the time-scales at the stage next above the lowest rate of salary per mensem drawn by them on any date within a period of three months prior to 1st March 1921 or their temporary pay on 28th February 1921 if that is greater, provided that if such salary or temporary pay represents any definite stage in the new scale, they should start at that stage. The term 'salary' includes substantive pay, temporary increase thereon under G.O. No. 700, Financial, dated 2nd August 1920 and G.O. No. 780, Financial, dated 28th August 1920, acting allowance and personal allowance, if any.

2. Confidential allowances drawn by typists in certain offices will be treated as pay for purposes of rule 1 and will merge in pay when the revised scales are introduced. The allowances will cease to exist from the same date.

3. If the salary or temporary pay calculated as above exceeds in any case the maximum pay of the time-scale concerned, the difference will be treated as a personal allowance to be absorbed under article 61, Civil Service Regulations.

4. If an individual holding a substantive post included in one time-scale has been, during the whole or a portion of the period of three months before 1st March 1921, acting in a post which after that date (1st March 1921) is 1st March 1921, acting in a post which after that date (1st March 1921) is provided for in a higher time-scale or on fixed pay and if under G.O. No. 1060, Finance, dated 17th December 1920 acting allowance will still be admissible after 1st March 1921 for officiating in such higher posts, he should during the period be considered to have acted in a lower grade vacant post, if any, in which acting allowance would not accrue according to the new rules.

5. The salary of subordinates on long leave or special duty should be taken at the amount which they would have drawn had they not been on long leave or on special duty.

6. If an individual failed to draw acting allowance during a portion of the period of three months before 1st March 1921 on the ground of transfer, the period of three months before 1st March 1921 on the ground of transfer, he may, at the discretion of the head of the department, be considered to have drawn during joining time the acting allowance which he would have got but for his transfer. But in such case, the acting allowance drawn by another man in the vacancy so caused should be ignored if he would not have received it had the former not been on transfer.

7. The salary of subordinates who may have been temporarily reduced for a definite period during the three months 1st December 1920 to 1st March 1921, may, at the discretion of heads of departments, be taken at the normal amount, the increased emoluments consequent on the introduction of the revision accruing only from a date to be fixed by the head of the department. In such cases, the increased emoluments drawn by others owing to the temporary reduction of the senior man should not be taken into account.

8. In the case of promotions made during the period of three months in question for the sake of convenience and without taking into consideration seniority, etc., the salary of the individuals affected may be taken at the amount which they would have drawn had the promotions been made in the ordinary course.

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9. The provisions of article 158, Civil Service Regulations, may be applied to those subordinates who may so desire.

10. When initial pay has been fixed according to the foregoing rules, the individual concerned will be considered to have entered the appropriate stage of the time-scale on 1st March 1921 and will be eligible for the next increment, if any, in the time-scale only after the expiry of the full period of stay provided for in the stage concerned.

II

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table the proceedings of the 29th meeting for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on Saturday, the 10th March 1923.*

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XI—CIVIL JUSTICE.

MOTION No. 120—cont.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I propose to take this opportunity, in view of the tabling of three or four motions having the same objects in view, to place before this Council what exactly has been done in the matter referred to in the debate and what is proposed to be done. For the information of hon. Members of this House, I may give an analysis—I trust they will bear with me if I take some more time than usual—of the courts which have been proposed to be abolished by the Government, or as to whose abolition there have been proposals from other sources. I shall next give a table of the localities where new temporary courts are considered necessary or desirable; and thirdly, I shall indicate to the Council what is the programme that may have to be followed in order to follow out the ideas of the hon. Members of this Council.

"I may mention *in limine* that, as is perhaps known to most of the Members of this Council, there was a very weighty committee appointed for the purpose of discussing the question of civil arrears. That committee was composed of my predecessor in office, Sir Francis Oldfield and Mr. Krishna-swami Rao, and later on Mr. Viswanatha Sastri. They examined the whole question with regard to the pendency of cases in all the localities of this presidency. They made the following recommendation—the papers will shortly be placed on the Editors' table, viz., that there should be an immediate increase in the number of Sub-Judges and District Munsifs temporarily for one year. I would ask hon. Members to mark those words, that this expedient of having temporary Subordinate Judges and District Munsifs is only to be for the space of one year and deliberately and avowedly with the object of reducing the present pendency; and efforts will be made, whether by way of redistribution of jurisdictions or of transfers of cases to see that these places are served by as many officials as will best serve the objects that hon. Members have all in view. The other recommendation that they made was that an immediate examination should be undertaken, court by court, of the normal file and the

* Vide Appendix B at page 2507 infra.

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normal disposal so as to arrive at an average, and an immediate examination of the file for the purpose of redistribution so as to give equal quantity of work to all judicial officers. And I may add, a further investigation will also be necessary in order to see that some courts have not got work of too heavy a character for one man to bear, while other courts have comparatively light work.

"With these preliminary observations, I may invite the attention of this House to those tables to which I have already adverted. There have been proposals—I do not mean to say that these proposals have matured or that any definite determination has been come to in respect of them by the Government—for the abolition of the East Tanjore District Court. I may mention in this connexion that as soon as a proposal is made for the abolition of a district court, or a sub-court, the Government are in receipt of a number of communications from weighty and responsible people who say that that particular abolition is what is least to be desired whatever other methods might be pursued in order to achieve the object that everybody has in view; and I may mention that these remarks apply practically to every court which I shall mention in the course of this particular debate. Abolition has been suggested of one of the courts of Anantapur and Bellary. I already see heads are shaking vigorously in derogation of that idea. East Tanjore Court, the same; Vellore Court, the same, and the abolition of the Chingleput Court has been proposed by the District Judge himself. So far as sub-courts are concerned, Berhampur court is to be abolished by the summer recess of 1923; Vizagapatam court has already been abolished with effect from 1st March 1923; Bellary, to be abolished from 1st April 1923. As regards the Nellore Additional Court, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao has been for some time pertinacious on that matter. He made his statement last year in the debates of this Council, and he has repeated it with vigour this time also, that that court has no reason to exist. Then, Panruti or one court in Chittoor and North Arcot, and one temporary court in the Kistna district. These are the proposals for abolition.

"On the other hand, the following are the proposals for addition. In their letter, dated October 1922, the High Court recommended the establishment of nine Sub-Courts for the districts of Ramnad (2), Kistna (2), Tanjore West (2), Trichinopoly (1), and Tinnevely (2), and Munsifs' Courts at Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Trichinopoly, North Malabar and Coimbatore. In addition to these, the Anantapur Bar and the people of Anantapur want immediately a District Munsif's Court at the headquarters of that district and expression has been given to that idea in the debates during the general discussion on the Budget. Similar requests have emanated from Tinnevely, Salem, South Malabar and Godavari.

"The reason why I am mentioning these circumstances is for the purpose of showing that there is a considerable scope for investigation about the abolition of the various courts and about the strengthening of the judiciary in certain districts so as to reduce pendency of cases. There is a tremendous amount of pendency, and there is a great accumulation of cases over one year old and of arrears in regard to appeals. I do not want to try the patience of this House by taking hon. Members through the various figures which I have already referred to. But the Government are satisfied that in certain localities the pendency ought to be diminished in order to enable the Sub-Judges and the District Munsifs to get into touch with their current work and not be overweighted or have criticisms passed upon them in view to their dilatoriness.

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so far as the current work is concerned because of the tremendous burden of pending cases. Those are the directions in which proposals have to be made. I think it will be necessary to effect a thorough examination of all these courts to effect the necessary re-distribution of jurisdiction, in consultation with the High Court whose voice in this matter is entitled to great respect, and finally to come to a conclusion so that the arrears may be reduced.

"Now, we were treated yesterday to a very instructive statement from my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, who quoted statistics from a report of 1921 for the purpose of showing that the file is going down. It may be so. But if I may presume—and I do presume it because I have been trained in the Bar and my hon. friend has not been—the question of the institution of suits is a very different thing from the question of pendency. Institution may dwindle into small dimensions, but suits over one year old will be there and they have to be wiped off. Therefore, the somewhat superficial process adopted by my hon. friend of referring to the figures of 1921 showing that these arrears are going down because institutions are going down, is a fallacious trend of reasoning.

"Having said that, I would come back to the subject of the motion. If hon. Members have seen exactly what I was referring to, they will see that there is absolutely no call for the reduction of the grant by a lakh of rupees as proposed by my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar. It is possible perhaps to effect retrenchment, but it is impossible to say how and when it should be. An attempt will be made not to overweight the Courts. Sincere attempts will be made not to introduce a Court where it is unnecessary; but, on the other hand, the fact will be kept in mind that wherever arrears have to be reduced—and they are considerable—courts will be introduced."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Probably, Mr. Kesava Pillai would like to speak on the Anantapur court?"

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Yes, Sir, we want a court very badly not only for the sake of not allowing arrears to accumulate, but for the convenience of suitors who are poor. If the court is to be removed from there, Sir, it will cause enormous loss and inconvenience to the people of Anantapur. A large number of *mahazars* have been sent to the hon. Member requesting that the Court might be restored in that district."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I think the hon. Member's statement must be regarded as satisfactory so far as it goes. But I should like to bring to his notice some circumstances why people should clamour for the continuance of courts once established. My hon. friend is aware that once a temporary court is established at some station, other than stations at which courts are already in existence, interests grow up round that place and they begin to clamour that those courts which are once established should not be taken away from those localities. It is, therefore, necessary, Sir, that in the location of these temporary courts, Government should not really encourage people to demand those courts which at one time or other were found to be necessary. I am particularly anxious to bring this to the notice of the hon. Member with reference to the proposals for the establishment of additional courts which have been already approved by this Council—the nine temporary sub-courts and a number of munsif's courts. I should think, Sir, that these proposals might as well have been published earlier for the information of this Council.

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"My hon. friend has referred to the report of a very influential and representative committee, and if that report had been placed in our hands much earlier—my hon. friend now proposes to publish it after the debate is over—it would have been certainly a much more satisfactory way of discussing this very vexed question of doing current work and clearing the arrears. It is certainly very desirable that we must have that report as early as possible.

"Another question that I should like to bring to his notice is that while it is easy to establish additional courts, because there are judicial officers who will desire to get a footing as temporary munsifs or sub-judges, there is not the same facility for expanding the Bar in order to attend to these additional courts. My hon. friend will take for example the Kistna district. We have now four sub-courts: one at Masulipatam, one at Bezvada, one at Ellore, and one at Narasaraopet, and the hon. the Law Member now proposes to have two other courts. I would like to ask him whether the Government considers that it would not be the same number of pleaders who would deal with the same amount of litigation. I think the result of this will be that much time will be lost, and the judges will have to wait for the clients and for the pleaders. So, in the interests of the clients, the establishment of temporary courts should be viewed from another standpoint. This has to be viewed not necessarily from the point of view of arrears but of serving the public efficiently and seeing that facilities are afforded for securing a good Bar. I contend that it is not so easy to expand the Bar as it is to expand the services."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"The Bar is expanding itself." (laughter).

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"My hon. friend is aware that even to the expansion of the Bar there are limitations. They cannot be manufactured in a day. They will have first to study for Law and pass their examinations. Then they will have to get enrolled as pleaders, etc. These are processes which take time. My hon. friend, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, might establish a court to-morrow, but I do not think my hon. friend will suggest that the Bar should be immediately created and the High Court should immediately enrol a number of men."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"There are a number of briefless pleaders suffering who will be very glad to flock to all places for practice." (loud laughter).

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I am very glad my hon. friend is advocating the cause of the briefless pleaders. But unfortunately the briefless pleaders stick to the places where they have not got the confidence of the clients. They simply go and sit in the court. These are matters to which I need not refer now. Therefore what I submit is whatever may be the result of the Re-organization Committee's proposals, so far as the Kistna district is concerned, we should see whether something cannot be done towards the re-adjustment of the jurisdiction of these courts and the transference of the cases from the courts which are already congested to the courts which are not so congested. I am particularly anxious to bring this to the notice of the hon. the Law Member, viz., that, it seems to me, from the information that I have, that nobody has asked for any temporary court in my district, and that it is the High Court, in its anxiety to get rid of the arrears, that has suggested it. But there are considerations outside.

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However, while I am at one entirely in seeing that these judicial officers reach their current work as early as possible, it seems to me that this policy of establishing temporary courts, and more especially their location, will have to be very carefully considered. The one question of location of a court has been the cause of some amount of controversy for the last one year, and the result is that one of the courts in Ellore was taken to another place much to the inconvenience, I will not say of the Bar, but certainly of everybody concerned, and I do not think that by the removal of that court to Narasaraopet, any further reduction in litigation has been effected. As a matter of fact it is quite the other way. I do not wish to say anything further. I should think that although my hon. friend is anxious for the establishment of these nine sub-courts and temporary munsifs' courts, he would take care not to establish them before subjecting the matter to further scrutiny. I think he would do very well to publish these proposals and obtain local opinion as far as he can."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, my only justification to speak on this motion is the fact of my having received a telegram from my station, Cuddalore, about the proposal that one of the munsifs' courts should be abolished. It was put in my hands only a few minutes before. Hon. Members may probably be aware that the hon. the Law Member told us that there was a proposal, so far as the South Arcot district was concerned, to do away with either the Panruti or the Gingee Court."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I thought we are dealing with Civil and Sessions Courts at present. The motion is to reduce the allotment for Civil and Sessions Courts. Does it include the munsifs' courts?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"It includes the whole of the allotment for all courts. I know it as a fact that most of the judicial officers in my district are overworked, and there are one or two courts whose files may be said to be far less than the files of other courts; but having regard to the nature of the work and the time taken up by tough suits, it would not be a sound statesmanship to do away with any court. The hon. the Law Member referred to Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar's tour in the southern districts. I may mention that in an interview he (Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar) asked me whether it was not feasible to do away with one court. I was inclined to fall in with his suggestion if he persisted in it and agreed that one of the courts might be abolished, namely, the Gingee Court which was established two years ago, towards the end of November 1920 and not the Munsif's court of Panruti located in Cuddalore which was constituted in 1899. I was all along under the impression that whenever the idea of reduction was taken up for consideration, the proper course was not to touch the courts that had been existing for a much longer time but to seriously think of doing away with courts that came to be established recently. The hon. Members of this House may be aware that having regard to the nature of the work in Cuddalore some District Judges from time to time, recommended the creation of a court at Panruti with the result that that court came into being in 1899 and was located in Cuddalore, the Bar of which received in course of time reinforcements and recruitments; and now to seriously think of doing away with the Panruti court and to allow its work to fall on other courts is neither politic nor wise. Later on, the Bar sent a lengthy protest to the High Court and the hon. the Law Member quite recently, and I have just received a

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telegram from my constituency to raise my voice of protest in this connexion against any attempt to do away with the Panruti court which is located in the headquarters which has been in existence for a quarter of a century. I appeal to the hon. the Law Member in the fervent hope that he will safeguard the interests of the Bar which is nearly 75 strong and not inflict on it unmerited hardship."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I am in entire agreement with the hon. the Law Member with reference to his anxiety to clear up the arrears. But it seems to me that arrangements are made in such a haphazard way that there is a lot of grievance and also inconvenience felt. Sir, as soon as some court has got a few suits in arrears, the establishment of an additional court is proposed by the District Judge without any consideration as to whether the same work may be disposed of by means of redistribution of work among the several courts already existing and without considering what would be the best method of giving relief if relief, even temporary, is necessary. For instance, in my own district, we have several munsifs' courts, some of them have light work; whereas there are one or two courts which have got very heavy work and are not able to cope with it. Probably a redistribution of the jurisdiction of the several courts will make it unnecessary for an additional court to work in that district. At present, there is an additional court in Coimbatore for the disposal of arrears. This court can be abolished by a redistribution of the jurisdiction of the courts."

"Sir, there is another thing to be considered. Yesterday, there was a proposal to retain the provision made for an Additional Sessions Court at Coimbatore. Sir, what happens is this. The moment there are in a month a few cases more than what the District Judge can dispose of in that month he makes a reference to the High Court; the High Court recommends to the Government and the Government sanctions an additional court. We have had an additional court for half the time during the last several years. Here, also, probably, if a sub-judge is given more sessions power than what he has got now, and if the District Judge himself is asked to do more of the criminal work and less of the so-called civil work of which statistics are furnished from time to time to the High Court and to the Government, and if a little bit of touring is curtailed, there will be no necessity for additional sessions court. I should not be understood to mean that the touring does us no good. As a matter of fact we want some sort of inspection of the courts and the inspection should be carried in an efficient way in order to better the administration of justice. But what is probably in evidence in some districts is that almost once or twice in a month the District Judge finds time to go and inspect a court. He spends two or three days outside his headquarters and comes back. The net result of the inspection is not very much in evidence. That is a point also which has to be considered. It will also lead to some economy."

"Then there is another thing which has to be considered. It may be that in a certain district a munsif or a judge requires help. What is done is, they sanction one additional sessions Court, one sub-court and one munsif's court to clear off the arrears. It seems to be a very wasteful arrangement. If, for instance, an additional sub-judge appointed in one place is given small-cause jurisdiction or assistant sessions power he will probably be able to give relief to all the three courts. Instead of doing that they straightway

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sanction three courts with the result that we are saddled with the expenditure of these three courts. The natural tendency is, when an additional court is sanctioned, to ask for its permanence. So, instead of one court being made permanent, ultimately three will be made permanent which will add to the permanent expenditure.

"Then there is another thing which I would suggest for giving relief where necessary to these judicial officers. When it is found necessary to give relief to a Subordinate Judge in Trichinopoly and a Subordinate Judge in Coimbatore, the best course would be to appoint one more judge, and locate him at Erode and give him jurisdiction over four or five taluks, two or three in Trichinopoly and two or three in Coimbatore. If this is done, he will be in a position to give relief to both the districts and this will avoid the necessity for two sub-judges, one at Coimbatore and another at Trichinopoly. This arrangement will save the cost of one court.

"These are the several ways by which the cost of the administration of civil justice might be reduced, and they are matters which I think require very careful consideration. Probably, if the hon. the Law Member, with a small committee of people who know the various localities, can sit here for a few days and consider the whole matter, a more satisfactory arrangement of the working of these courts can be brought about than that which is obtaining at present. I would therefore request the hon. the Law Member to consider all these matters and see that charges under this head are considerably reduced."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Sir, though I am not a lawyer, I am one of the biggest litigants (laughter), and that, again is not of my seeking—I desire to say a few words so that the point I wish to place before the House may be considered by the hon. the Law Member. In my experience, I find that the accumulation of work is the result of not posting a suitable officer to a certain court according to the nature and amount of work that is involved in that court. There may be some courts where the work is very heavy, while in others the work may be light. A senior judge is posted to a small court, while a probationer is posted to one of the biggest courts. This, I think, results in accumulation of work. If only the posting is done keeping in view the amount of work involved in the courts concerned I think a lot of accumulation will be cleared.

"There is one other matter which I wish to refer to and that is the work in the District Courts. The District Judge is trying sessions cases almost throughout the year, and all rent appeals that come before him remain in arrears. As law stands at present, he cannot transfer rent appeals to the subordinate judge, but must himself dispose of them; and because he is not given additional sessions judges or assistant sessions judges, he has to attend to the sessions work throughout the year, and all the rent appeals fall in considerable arrears. The House will realize what the effect of these arrears would be on the zamindars, and I need not dilate on them now. I would therefore suggest to the hon. the Law Member that the law be amended in such a way as to give powers to subordinate judges to hear and decide rent appeals and I think this will be one of the ways of relieving congestion in district courts."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I only wish to bring to the notice of

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were till recently combined in one judicial division. For the last two years, we have one District Court in Chittoor and another in Vellore. I understood the hon. the Law Member to say that there is a proposal to abolish one of the District Courts. I may state that neither the Bar Association of Chittoor nor of Vellore is in favour of amalgamation of these two courts into one. If there is any such proposal, I submit, the question of language difficulty will have to be considered. Vellore is purely a Tamil district, and Chittoor a Telugu district. Having regard to this difference in language, when the hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar last visited Chittoor and Vellore, and when the proposal of amalgamation was discussed, there was practically a consensus of opinion put forward before him that one of the sub-courts might be done away with and that the two district courts should be retained. There was also a proposal put forward of excluding from the jurisdiction of the District Court of Vellore certain portions of that district and of tacking them on to Chittoor so that the work might be equalized. I may mention here that there are certain portions of Vellore district which are purely Telugu speaking parts like Kangundi zamindari and Gudiyattam taluk. These should be tacked on to Chittoor. It is very difficult for Telugu litigants to make themselves understood to the Tamil vakils of Vellore district. It is also much more difficult to get all the documents translated so that these vakils may argue their cases satisfactorily; and even if the documents are translated, the vakils do not enter into the spirit of these documents, as they would do if they were Telugu-knowing gentlemen. Therefore, it is highly necessary—both from the point of view that a re-arrangement of the districts would accelerate the pace of dividing the province on a linguistic basis, and also from the point of view that the bulk of the clients are put to serious difficulties owing to the fact that the vakils do not know the language which the clients know—that there should be a redistribution of jurisdictions in these courts. I may also point out that there are similar taluks in the Chingleput district which speak purely Telugu. For instance a portion of Kalahasti zamindari speaks purely Telugu, and I tabled a motion some time ago to the effect that that portion might be tacked on to Chittoor, so that there might be no difficulty on the ground of language.

"Before I close, may I request the hon. the Law Member that the views of the members of the Chittoor Bar may be heard before final orders are passed by the Government, although no doubt the High Court is entitled to the final voice in the matter?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Mr. President, Sir, with reference to this question of arrears, it seems to me that there is one particular point which has struck several people but which has not been noticed by the Government, and that is, of late, the Bar has been considerably gaining in strength, not only in quantity, but also in quality, and that litigation is getting more and more intricate on account of the knowledge which the people have been gaining even in point of law. Compared to this, the strength of the Bench in quality is very weak. There was a time when district munsifs' appointments were offered to efficient persons, not only of the High Court, but also of the mufassal. Somehow or other, the gentlemen that were appointed in the past were able to grasp the real point of the cases and to dispose of them quickly. Subsequently, however, that policy was changed; and on account of the great competition among the barristers

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lawyers, and the influence that they are able to command, at the present time the munsifs are being selected from a list prepared by the High Court with the result that these gentlemen, though they are anxious to become munsifs, are generally, with notable exceptions, unable to cope with their work with the Bar and with the litigant public. The result is that whenever they take up cases if they find difficulties in them, they simply lay them aside and they accumulate as arrears. They take up particular cases which are less intricate such as ex-parte cases, and cases where there is a show of contest, and dispose of them. I think, Sir, this point must be carefully considered by the Government, namely that of reverting to the old policy of offering appointments to men who have sufficient experience and who have established their reputation in the Bar. Especially in these days, we can have plenty of men with such qualifications because the prospects of munsifs are now very good. In olden days, munsifs were started on a salary of Rs. 100 and subsequently they were given Rs. 200. Now they are started with an initial salary of Rs. 300 and their prospects are very good, because they can hope to rise up to the position of a High Court Judge. Therefore, I submit that the policy of appointing influential men to the Bench should be abandoned and that the policy of recruiting good, honest and efficient men from the Bar should be resorted to. If this is done, we can get rid of the arrears in no time. If the Munsif is an efficient man, when he looks into the case he will find out what is the real point in the case. Now, the munsif is bewildered when issues after issues are being suggested by the Bar. They do not know whether the issues raised by the Bar arise in a particular case or not. So, even issues are delayed without being settled promptly. I hope this suggestion will be kindly considered by the Government and that efficient and qualified men will be selected for munsifs' posts.

"Another thing which is more or less of a personal nature I wish to say is this: Mr. Muniswami Nayudu said that the jurisdiction of Chittoor was not large. I say that, in order to accommodate Chittoor, let nothing be taken away from Cuddapah. Cuddapah has already suffered. Madanapalle, Vayalpad and Kadirir have been taken away. They were healthy resorts for the Malaria stricken Cuddapah. Therefore, let there be no dismemberment of the district either as regards territorial limits or jurisdiction of courts."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—"Much has been said in regard to the administration of Civil Justice. Several suggestions have been made for the purpose of coping with the arrears. I would submit for the consideration of the hon. the Law Member a few suggestions. Some time ago it was decided that the village munsif courts and the panchayat courts, which were in the jurisdiction of munsifs' courts, could hear and decide cases of a value of Rs. 50 and, with the consent of parties, cases of a maximum value of Rs. 100. All the same we know, as a matter of fact, that there are a large number of cases, whose value is Rs. 50, still disposed of in district munsifs' courts. I want to know why it cannot be laid down that all suits below Rs. 50 shall be filed in panchayat courts and that wherever such courts are not in existence, they should be filed in munsifs' courts. I am suggesting this method in order to tackle the question of arrears. May I also suggest that the Government should consider whether the pecuniary jurisdiction of the munsifs' courts cannot be raised from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000.

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[Mr. M. Suryanarayana]

"Another suggestion is that the district munsifs who are at present vested with powers of trying small causes up to Rs. 100 must also be given powers to try small causes up to Rs. 300. "For we know that the 11-45 a.m. next year and the year after next when he becomes a Subordinate Judge a district munsif would be able to try small-cause suits of the value of Rs. 500. There is no reason why he should not be vested with small cause jurisdiction to the extent of Rs. 300 and allowed to try suits of that nature and posted to a place where there is heavy work. The hon. the Law Member will remember that so far as the appeal work is concerned, about 70 per cent of the appeals are being confirmed. I believe also that a large number of appeals are appeals against money suits. As a matter of fact the majority of the decisions of the district munsifs' courts are on questions of fact and at least 50 per cent of them are confirmed in the subordinate courts. I should think that the real manner in which you can tackle with the arrears is by investing the courts with higher jurisdiction. I do not think it is a good policy to reduce the number of courts where there is a real necessity for them and if there are arrears outstanding in munsifs' courts or in the appellate courts my hon. friends who belong to the legal profession will excuse me if I say that we contribute for part of those arrears. There is no reason why you should find fault with the munsifs or the subordinate judges for the large arrears that are outstanding now. I submit, Sir, that the real manner in which these arrears ought to be tackled is not to refuse sub-courts and munsifs' courts where they are necessary. One matter to which I should like to earnestly draw the attention of the hon. the Law Member is that these additional courts are situated in the same area with the result that half a dozen vakils who have the largest practice naturally monopolise the practice and appear in the munsifs' courts, the sub-courts and the district court. If the subordinate judge's court is located in another place it is quite possible that a number of vakils will go to such places and stick up there instead of being able to be absent in each court in the event of all the courts stationed at a particular place."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"Sir, though I have not got to say much either in favour of the abolition or the appointment of temporary courts, I want to mention a few facts. There seems to be an impression in the minds of laymen, who are not vakils, that the average munsif or the subordinate judge is not doing his work as the officers of olden times. My practical experience is that the old officers were devoting their time in the out-of-office hours both in the nights and the mornings in writing judgments. Now the subordinate judges are not doing much work at home. There are some who do not do any work in the mornings. They may be cleverer people no doubt. But I do not think they are devoting as much time as the older people were doing. In regard to other points which were given out by Mr. Suryanarayana about collecting courts in one place and so on, I quite agree with him and I do not wish to traverse on the same ground again. Instead of having additional courts to clear off arrears why not the Government think of appointing additional sub-judges and district munsifs without establishments and regular courts, keep them at the disposal of the district judge, who can send them over to courts where there are arrears to dispose of those arrears. By that means there will be no establishment charges and no new courts. If there is any district in which there is a lot of arrears Government can appoint two additional munsifs. Let the new officers take up suits of one year's standing

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and let the existing officers attend to the new and routine works. This arrangement I suppose would reduce the arrears quicker than by having additional courts which are likely to be made permanent in course of time."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I doubt if within the time allotted to me I shall be able to deal with all or even a considerable portion of the valuable suggestions that have emanated from the hon. Members who have spoken on this question. But I shall endeavour to do so to the best of my ability.

"I shall first deal with what my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, referred to. He stated that there was a tendency for these temporary courts to become permanent, because vested interests begin to grow up. While not denying the possibility of such a contingency, when a court is established for a specific purpose and only for a definite period such as a year, as is contemplated now, I submit that the mischief that is sought to be averted will not really take place. Then, Sir, Mr. Ramachandra Rao referred to certain courts and their files. I shall very carefully consider the suggestions as to the absence of any necessity for additional establishments in the Kistna district. He seemed to suggest that any additional courts in the places in which they are sought to be situated are unnecessary. Figures before me do not quite justify the statement; but certainly the matter will be investigated.

"I now turn to Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar. I quite sympathise with him. I have myself got a telegram placed in my hands just now, practically simultaneously with Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. I have figures with me and I shall be glad to supply them to him so as to come to a decision and advice the Government as to what is to be done."

Mr. B. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I know the figures myself."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That lightens my task.

"Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar spoke of a possible redistribution. That matter will undoubtedly be seriously considered by the Government. As a matter of fact they feel that at the present moment there are a certain number of courts which are not doing very much work while other courts are overworked. At the same time, I think that Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu, in common with Mr. Somasundaram Pillai whom I do not see to-day, seems to labour under a misapprehension as to the actual work turned out by these hard-worked subordinate judicial officers. At all events, the Government are not aware of the individuals who go without work in the morning, come to the court to go back at 1 o'clock and loaf about in the clubs during evenings. It must be a state of things comparatively rare. As to the suggestion about Erode, Sir, of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, I may mention that that specific matter has been engaging the attention of Government. It seems *prima facie* correct to say that if there are five courts in the western corner of the district the eastern corner will not be served adequately.

"The Raja of Ramnad insisted upon suitable officers being posted in suitable places. That is a matter undoubtedly beyond dispute. But there is the difficulty of laying down a hard and fast rule. Of course the High Court will bear this in mind and wherever it is possible for the Government to do anything in the matter they will endeavour to do so.

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"Mr. Muniswami Nayudu spoke of there being no necessity for the amalgamation, and he further suggested that possibly the elimination of one sub-court may be sufficient. That is a matter which also is under the consideration of the Government. There is one remark which is really unnecessary for me to answer. But it seems to me that Mr. Muniswami Nayudu laid too much stress on the linguistic difficulties. I may mention that the speaker who addresses the House now had to conduct a case where there were three thousand documents in Malayalam and he went on quite without any difficulty."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"The hon. Member is a master of many languages."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Not of Malayalam. The suggestion as to the place being selected in these matters is a valuable one. It may be that there is a great deal of force in this contention that the local public and members of the Bar ought to have a voice, at all events ought to be heard before final arrangements are made either for the abolition or introduction of courts. The attention of Government will be paid to it and efforts will be made to give to the Bar the right to be heard.

"Then, Sir, Mr. Narasimbacharlu raised a very large question about inferior recruitments in recent times. I think he forgot that the recruitment of the district munsifs is in the hands of the High Court. He asked that the very eminent individuals peculiarly fitted to make this recruitment should consider this matter and I am sure that the remarks which fell from Mr. Narasimbacharlu will be considered by them.

"Mr. Suryanarayana made certain remarks which I am not prepared to answer off-hand. There are two sides to that question and it seems to me that I cannot possibly give an answer off-hand to the various suggestions.

"That is all that I desire to say, Mr. President, and I suppose that this matter will not be pressed."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XI. Civil Justice—for 47.19 lakhs minus the reduction already made was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XII—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move Demand No. XII. Criminal Justice for a grant not exceeding 8.13 lakhs."

MOTION No. 121.

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,400 for the special pay to the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

This is one of those items relating to allowances. Some motions were brought in in this Council last year that officers doing duty in Madras should not have anything extra. Ordinarily speaking the work of the Presidency Magistrate of Madras is lighter than that of the magistrates in the mufassal. That being so, the policy adopted in this House is that such an allowance should be abolished. Therefore I have brought in this motion."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the payment of duty allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem to the Chief Presidency Magistrate has been discontinued. I may mention that by an unfortunate mistake, the order making the reduction was not communicated to the present incumbent and therefore the amount has been inserted in the budget. The present incumbent will have to get this allowance up to the end of March and from the 1st of April he will not get any allowance. I, therefore, accept this motion."

12 noon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Sir, I believe the facts are not fully stated by the hon. the Law Member. Some important facts came to our knowledge as members of the Public Accounts Committee to whom reappropriation statements were circulated. I do not know if, at this stage, I am entitled to refer to those facts. If it is not against etiquette, I will refer to one particular matter. It seems that the question of this duty allowance was referred to the Secretary of State and that he disallowed it long ago. But the papers were simply recorded by the Government. They did not communicate the order to the Chief Presidency Magistrate. Therefore, the question arises as to the allowance that has already been drawn by him. Anyhow, I do not think there is any justification, when the Secretary of State himself has ordered it, to continue the allowance for even one or two months."

The motion was put and carried. The omission was made.

MOTION No. 122.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,689 for Presidency Magistrates' courts by Rs. 100.

Sir, I just move this for eliciting some information about the policy with regard to Honorary Magistrates which may have some bearing on this question of allotment for Presidency Magistrates. I suppose it is admitted by all people including the hon. the Law Member that the Honorary Presidency Magistrates have been doing very good work. If that is so, there is no reason why their power should not be extended beyond what it is at present. They are at present disposing of only minor cases such as the nuisance cases, etc., probably with slight exceptions. Most of these Honorary Presidency Magistrates are experienced people having a good deal of knowledge of the work and certainly, therefore, more responsible work can be safely entrusted to them. If that is done, there will be certainly some reduction in the number of paid Presidency Magistrates. It is with a view to elicit information about this point from the hon. the Law Member, to know what his own view on the matter is, that I gave notice of this motion. No doubt, he will say that he will carefully and sympathetically consider this matter as he generally says in all such matters. I request him to see whether the number of the paid magistrates cannot be reduced. The sooner this is done, the better."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, in speaking on this motion I would bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member that at present there are three Presidency Magistrates, including the Chief Presidency Magistrate. As at present constituted, all these three are Provincially request the hon. the Law Member to

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consider whether, as is done in the case of other courts in this Presidency town, at least a portion of the magistracy cannot be recruited from the Bar. I may say that so far as the Small Cause Court is concerned, a certain proportion goes to the Bar and I hope that a similar principle will be introduced in the case of the Presidency Magistrates also. It is only to bring this matter to the notice of the hon. the Law Member that I rose to speak on this motion."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, Sir, I strongly protest against the suggestion of my hon. friend, Mr. Arumainatha Pillai, that the posts of Presidency Magistrates should be thrown open to the Bar. The posts of Public Prosecutor, Government Pleader, Advocate-General, etc., are all open to members of the Bar, and I think that these Presidency Magistrates should not be taken from the Bar. These appointments should rightly go to the Deputy Collectors as at present."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid I cannot depart from that practice which has been adverted to by my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. I can only say on that matter that as a measure of economy it has already been decided that one of the posts of the Presidency Magistrates should be kept vacant. The expansion gradually of the powers of Honorary Magistrates is a matter which has been for some time engaging the attention of the Government."

"So far as the recruitment of the Presidency Magistrates from the Bar is concerned, the divergence of opinion here has shown that it would be inexpedient that I should give any answer."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XII. Criminal Justice for 8.13 lakhs minus the sum of Rs. 2,400 was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—JAILS.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 35.81 lakhs of rupees under Demand XIII. Jails."

MOTION No. 123.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,36,520 for jails by Rs. 2,00,000.

It is clear that all of us have been under the impression that the expenditure on Jails has been increasing year after year. There has been, no doubt, some exceptional reasons during the last two years on account of Mappilla rebellion and other causes for additional jails and consequently additional expenditure. It was also stated, Sir, at that time that Non-co-operation had also a certain share of this additional expenditure, although many of us did not believe that it had any considerable share. That was put forth as an excuse for the increased expenditure. But now that peace has been restored in Malabar, as a consequence of which grants, both original and supplementary, are being moved in this Council towards remedying the evil effects of the rebellion, it is necessary that some reduction should be made in the expenditure under Jails. I think it will not at all be difficult for the Government, if only they carefully consider the matter, to effect some reasonable reduction.

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"Sir, taking the Malabar question into consideration, we all know that it was an exceptional case when whole communities became mad as it were. Therefore, when normal conditions are restored, we should see that unnecessary prosecutions and retention of prisoners in jails should be put an end to as much as possible. I am not unaware of the fact that the Government themselves have gone far in this matter by giving amnesty, as it were, to many of the people who have not been tried but who might have been liable for trial and by letting them off without any regular trial and without making them undergo any sentence, after taking some undertaking from them. It is necessary, Sir, that a further move in this direction should be made, so that we might not have further trials and further additions to the number of the prisoners. The Government should carefully go into the question whether a large number of the prisoners who have already been sent to jail during the Mappilla rebellion might not be given the amnesty on condition that they should give some undertaking that they would behave properly in future, so that they may go home and live peacefully, so that their people at home, especially those who suffer for want of proper protection and help from the heads of the families and who are actually starving, might not further undergo any difficulties. I want this to be done not by issuing a Government Order that A in a certain jail or B in another jail should be let off. All the people concerned must be released and probably this will be an effective way of remedying the evils of the Malabar rebellion and pacifying the bitter feelings existing between the various communities there. So long as the heads of the families are in jail, so long as their dependents are feeling the pinch of poverty and starvation, so long it is possible to suppose that this feeling of bitterness left by the rebellion will last. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to see that this feeling is effaced as early as possible. I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that the Government should go into this matter carefully and speedily. This is more important than any other thing. Batches after batches from jail after jail may be sent away after taking proper undertakings from them. It may be urged, Sir, that if this is done, the safety of Malabar will again be in danger. Personally, I do not think so, and my own honest conviction is, as I said before, that the Malabar rebellion was only a temporary aberration and if the original status and position is restored as much as possible, the possibilities of a repetition of such things will be reduced. So much as to the particular subject of Mappilla prisoners. This will be an item under which considerable portion of the additional expenditure under jails may be reduced.

"Another point of great importance I wish to refer to. It concerns the social reform of all ages. I see, Sir, that the Jail report year after year repeats that a very large number of people are being sent to jail for various reasons for periods not more than one month. I appeal to the Government to see whether it is desirable that such things should continue, that is, in the case of offences which have nothing to do with the morality of the persons. A very large number of people who have the misfortune of being charged for minor offences—say abkari, salt and other cases—are sent to jail for periods of less than a month simply for the purpose of pleasing a particular official who takes it into his head to charge these persons. I believe that the number of such cases will be on the average about six or seven thousands every year. Sir, we must consider what great harm is likely to be done to the people who are sent to jails for such offences.

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"People who are respectable members of society are sent to jail for petty offences and sentenced to small terms of imprisonment. There they mix with the habitual offenders, and by their contact they become demoralised, and when they come out of the jail, not only have they suffered in character but they also infect the society at large. It is therefore absolutely necessary that the Government should consider this question of short term imprisonment of one month and under from the point of view I have mentioned. I think it is desirable that the Government should issue a notice that as far as possible magistrates should discontinue the practice of sending people to jail for very short terms. I know there will be the difficulty as to, so far as magistrates are concerned, whether they could be dictated to in this way. Even otherwise, Government have got ample powers to say that people who are clapped in jail for small terms of imprisonment not exceeding one month may save under exceptional circumstances be released as soon as they enter the jail, if necessary, after signing some bond or giving some undertaking. When I go through the reports of the several years, I find that a large number of people are sent to jail for a few days of imprisonment only. I feel that in the interests of the criminals themselves, in the interests of society and in the interests of Government such a thing should be put an end to. It would also reduce expenditure under jails to a considerable extent. These are the points that I would respectfully urge on the attention of the Government. So far as the Jail Department is concerned, the 2 lakhs would count nothing, if some of the suggestions that have been made by me are accepted, and a large number of prisoners may be released without any danger to public safety in any part of the Presidency."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I had no intention whatever to intervene in this debate, but certain remarks which fell from my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, regarding the Malabar prisoners have induced me to say a few words. The Government have already released some Mappilla prisoners under certain conditions. Whether it was wise or unwise it is not for us to say now. The act has been done, so that I do not wish to say anything now about the order of the Government. I believe that at the time of the budget discussion last year I raised my voice against that policy, and even before the budget discussion commenced, the order had been passed and given effect to in part. What my hon. friend suggests is to release these Mappilla prisoners 'speedily' and 'in batches after batches' (I am using his expression) from the many jails where they are confined. (I am using his expression) from the many jails where they are confined. I wish my friend had taken his abode in Ernad or Walluvanad, for, then, he would not certainly have made those remarks. Even now, when these Mappillas who had done terrible wrong to the people of those localities are actually shut up in jail, the people, when they think of the consequences which may ensue after their release, are unable to sleep during nights. There will be terrible consequences if even before their terms are over these people are released speedily and in batches after batches. So, I raise my very strong protest against the remarks that have fallen from my friend. And I am sure from the expressions that fell from my hon. friend Mr. Knapp that Government will not in any way accept the mischievous suggestion of my friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar."

SAFYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I have not been able to see the justification which my hon. friend, the last speaker, had in

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protesting against the wholesome advice given by my friend, the mover of this motion. Hon. members of this House are aware that a batch of Mappilla prisoners was released on giving some undertaking or without it for the purpose of relieving the congestion in jails or for similar reasons. When these prisoners were released 3 or 4 months back. . . ."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I ask whether the hon. Member suggests that the reason for releasing the Mappilla prisoners was to relieve the congestion in jails ? "

SAIYID MUHAMMAD PADSHA SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have qualified my statement by saying 'or for some reason or other.' There may have been some other reasons which the Government have not considered it expedient to divulge to the public. This is all I can conjecture from the fact that these prisoners who had long terms of imprisonment still to undergo had been released all at once. It may be on account of congestion or some other reason which is not disclosed to us. But it is an admitted fact that several months ago they were released. My hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, had opposed the release of further prisoners from jails and said that the Government would not be well advised in accepting the advice given by the hon. the mover of this motion. If the hon. Mr. Krishnan Nayar had only taken the trouble to give us any instance in which the prisoners who had been released had misbehaved or in any way proved themselves as dangerous to society, I can understand his position. All he said was that the very idea was so alarming and so frightening that some of the people in his district were deprived of their sleep. I ask whether their fears have proved true in any case and whether after these mischievous prisoners had been released from jail they had again done anything which could give us any justification to say that there should be no more of such release and that these people should be kept in jail to rot there till the whole term of their imprisonment expired. People who are acquainted with the penal law that is in vogue in this country know that all the punishments that are prescribed under that law are not with a view to wreak vengeance on the people who have done wrong but only with a view to deter them from committing crimes in future. So that the idea at the back of the legislature was that by making these criminals undergo some sort of penal servitude they would be giving them an opportunity to rue for their misconduct and correct themselves so that they may turn a new leaf when they go out of the house of correction; it was not out of any grudge for what these people might have done in a moment of weakness, but with a view to see that these crimes do not recur that they are kept in jail. I am a non-official visitor to the jails in Bellary where most of these Mappilla prisoners are kept. I have made enquiries there whether any steps were being taken to educate these people and disabuse their minds of the misconception, that the Government of this country is anything but a tolerant sort of Government. I wanted to know whether there was any such agency as can try to give them a correct idea of the things about them and remove misapprehensions. If any mischievous people succeeded in rousing these men against the Government, they were only successful on account of this fact, that the people are illiterate, they are fanatic and they are apt to be misled by anybody who tells them that their religion is not safe and that their liberty may be curtailed at any moment. If only the people in Malabar were taken out of the ignorance in which they are now steeped, if only they were made to know what is happening in

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the world about them, if only they were made to realise that the Government they are living under is striving its best to try and see that everybody is allowed to have his own way in observing his religion, if only all these misconceptions entertained on account of ignorance were removed from the minds of these unhappy and illiterate lot of people living in God-forsaken places such as Malabar and the Agency much of the present troubles would be removed and all these rebellions would not have happened.

"Just one word, Sir, and I shall sit down. I should like to submit to the House that if the Government were considerate enough to try and give effect to the sound advice given by the hon. the mover, they would be doing nothing new. This is a thing which has been done in by the Government in many parts of India. The United Provinces has recently released a number of its political prisoners. The Legislative Council of Behar and Orissa has also passed a resolution to the same effect. Even the Under Secretary, Earl Winterton, when he was questioned about the order passed by the United Provinces Government said in so many words that the policy of amnesty, which was referred to here by my friend Mr. Venkata-ramana Ayyangar, was a policy which was long existing in the country and that the order of release which was given by the United Provinces Government was not anything very new, but it was merely a continuation of the policy which was already established in the provinces. Therefore, if the Government act upon the advice of my hon. friend the mover, they will be only following the very noble precedent set by the United and other Provinces in India."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, the question raised in this motion deserves serious consideration at the 12-30 p. m. hands of the Council. There is one fact prominently brought to us, namely, that the expenditure on jails has been on the increase. The budget estimate for 1922-23 under this head is 26.21 lakhs while the revised estimate of the same year is 32.76 lakhs. The budget grant for 1923-24 is 29.36 lakhs. From this it is clear that the expenditure for the current year has gone up by nearly nine lakhs when compared with the actuals for 1921-22 which have come to 22.41 lakhs. It may be said that the increase in the expenditure was due to the Malabar prisoners. If I remember right, in answer to one of my questions it was said that the number of those prisoners was about 5,000 in October last. It has already been stated that the idea of setting some of these prisoners free on certain conditions such as payment of fine was adopted by the Government. My hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, manifested a great anxiety on his part and on behalf of the Hindu community of Malabar. His anxiety seems to be that the Mappillas shall not be allowed to go and live in peace in the neighbourhood of the Hindu community. That is how I understood him."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I wish to offer a word of personal explanation, Sir. My hon. friend is unconsciously attributing to me a statement that I never made."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I never said, Sir, that it was his statement. That was how I understood him and I am glad that now corrects me and removes my misapprehension. At least my hon. friend insists that these Mappilla prisoners shall not be let at liberty very soon. We, Members of this Council, are at liberty to draw our own

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inferences from a broad statement like that. The inference which I drew from such a statement was the one I previously expressed. I wish I were wrong in that inference and that my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, always wants to live in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mappilla in peace. Sir, my impression is that as long as the representatives of Malabar manifest any anxiety on their part that these prisoners should not be liberated very soon, I think that peace for Malabar is at a distant date. They should live in harmony, try their best to educate their Mappilla brethren of the district and raise them to the level to which the other sections of the district have risen and it is only then that peace is possible. As long as we cultivate this dislike between particular communities, whatever the communities may be, we cannot have peace in this country which is divided by race, by communities, by religions and so many other things. The moment that we begin to realize that every Indian is an Indian and nothing else, the ideal of Swaraj is near at hand. Sir, it has been said by my hon. friend that a batch was released a year ago and he, as one acquainted with the conditions of the district, ought to have mentioned to this Council what his experiences were regarding the released persons. If he has got an impression that they did give trouble and if he gave his experiences to this House, the vote of this House would be influenced thereby. As long as he did not make any statement, we, the Members of the Council, who have no experience of Malabar and who have not been furnished with any information either by the Government or by the representatives of Malabar are justified in presuming that things are going calmly even after the release of these prisoners. When that state of things has come into the existence regarding those that have already been released, I believe the Government will be well-advised to pursue a policy of conciliation and try to set at liberty a large section of the Mappilla prisoners and remove this unnecessary expenditure on the general tax-payer and also restore peace between the Hindu and the Mappilla communities of Malabar."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"It will be seen, Sir, from page 95 of the budget that our budget estimate is more than seven lakhs over the expenditure in 1921-22, and more than three lakhs over the budget estimate of the current year, though no doubt it is less than the revised estimate. My reasons for moving this reduction are shortly these. It will be found from page 96 onwards of the budget estimate that a number of new appointments which are not noted in the column relating to the year 1922-23 are noted in the column for the next year; for example, some temporary clerks, some additional deputy jailors and a jailor, five additional sub-assistant surgeons, two assistant surgeons and so on. I also join my feeble voice to plead for the release of the Mappilla prisoners and also of the non-co-operator prisoners. The Government, I hope, are not bent upon vengeance. The parties are always trying to give vent to their vengeance but the Government always act in the interests of justice and in trying to do justice they must always temper it with mercy. Now, Sir, do the Government really think that the non-co-operators are a set of people who ought always to rot in jails simply because they hold opinions which are not favoured by Government? It is only a difference in views. They never resorted to violence. The punishment that they have suffered is quite ample for the mistake which they have committed in expressing their views against constituted authority. Beyond that to keep them any longer

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in jail would be showing a spirit of vengeance and not a spirit of justice. Moreover, I submit, Sir, that if they are now released, we will not be setting a new example. We will be simply following the example of some other provinces in India who have done so. At least by so releasing a number of these prisoners we will be effecting a considerable saving in the matter of jails. Again, Sir, with reference to the Mappilla prisoners, the Government have very generously acted for which the gratitude of the country is due to them, for they have not persecuted several of these persons. They have commuted their imprisonment to fines. I know that all that is entirely due not because there is no room in the jails but to the fact that the Government are actuated by a feeling of mercy towards these deluded people. As Mr. Padsha Sahib observed, they were more misled than anything else. In the case of such people, as Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar said, conciliation will go a great way towards bringing them to their good sense rather than a spirit of vengeance. I do not at all approve of the remark of my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, that it is a mischievous idea. He is a party to it and therefore he is actuated by a party feeling. We, Sir, are able to take a somewhat detached view of the situation and we are, as impartial advisers, entitled to advise the Government to be merciful to them and to release them from jail or at least to commute their imprisonment into fines in which case we will have more money to be utilized for the purpose for which the hon. Member asked for a grant the other day. Therefore I submit that it is high time that these persons are released in which case we will save a considerable amount of expenditure.

"There is another point which I would respectfully submit for the consideration of the Government. People are no doubt sent to jail and that means depriving them of their liberty. Over and above that, people are compelled to wear a particular kind of dress which the jail discipline enforces upon them and they are asked to eat a particular kind of food whether it is agreeable to their health or not. I think the deprivation of liberty is intended to prevent these people from doing mischief once again as also being a punishment for having committed a crime. Over and above that is it not cruel to inflict upon them this degradation of wearing a particular kind of clothes in a particular way, eating a particular kind of food and that too in a limited quantity with more salt or less, more chillies or less. My suggestion is this, that persons in jails may have their own kind of dress and their own food. If only the Government allow them these they will effect a marvellous reduction in the expenditure—much of what now goes to the contractor and to bad accounts. If some prisoners are allowed to have their own dress, their own diet, a large saving can be effected. Then, Sir, very recently, the Government of India have altered the provision with reference to bail. Hereafter under the new provision many men who are now allowed to rot in jail on account of the cruel provision of law will be saved and there will be very much less under-trial prisoners and consequently there will be very much less expenditure under this head. The Government may also encourage the releasing of prisoners who are first offenders to a larger extent than at present."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, the effect of a similar motion standing against my name is radically different from the one moved by my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. While he seeks to have a cut

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of 2 lakhs, I have tabled a motion for the reduction by a hundred rupees just to focus the attention of the House upon certain important points. It seems to me it may be possible for the Government to accept the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, because he wants in fact to have the allotment cut down but by 2 lakhs out of a total grant of 30 lakhs. He laid much stress upon the evil resulting from the present system of short-term imprisonments. They do not serve any useful purpose at all. They do not go to improve or better the condition of the criminal—far from it—but they have a most deleterious and demoralising effect upon the persons who are sent to jail. Again, the system goes to swell the item of expenditure on jails, for the man who is sent to jail is maintained at the expense of the State. There is no reason why the magistracy instead of sending these people to jails for short periods should not let them off in a considerably large number of cases with admonitions or with fines.

“Another point that I wish to lay stress upon for the consideration of the House is this. There is one provision in the Code, 12-45 p.m. I think it is to be found in section 562 in the chapter entitled ‘First offenders’. Though that section was brought into the statute book nearly 25 years ago, I do not think any serious attempt has been made to give full play to it and allow the magistrates a discretion with reference to the application of that section. Second-class magistrates are to be specially empowered to exercise the powers mentioned under that section. No doubt first-class magistrates come under the category of persons so empowered. But if we look into the statistics, they disclose a miserable tale. We seldom find second-class magistrates exercising the discretion vested in them under the provisions of section 562. There is always a tendency on the part of the magistrates to clap a man into prison, and there is always considerable hesitation on the part of the Magistrate to avail himself of the privilege vested in him by this section lest the Subdivisional Magistrate or the District Magistrate should come down upon him and entertain his own suspicions. I think that it is high time that executive orders should be issued to the magistrates to be somewhat free in the exercise of these powers so far as this section is concerned and give that section a wide, liberal and humane scope. For, if that is done, in addition to releasing the prisoner or prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for certain offences, there would be a considerable cutting down of the expenditure under this head.

‘As has been remarked by my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhachari, just now, the provisions relating to bail have undergone a change at the hands of the Legislative Assembly. But as it is, once a prisoner is brought before a magistrate accused of a non-bailable offence, once the occurrence report is put up and the charge sheet is laid before him by a police officer, no matter as to the worthlessness of the materials that may be placed before him for acceptance, there is always a tendency and a disposition on the part of the magistracy to refuse bail. The result is that prisoners rot in jails for days and weeks together, until the High Court is moved at considerable expense with a view to have them let out. Those provisions of the Code—I think sections 494, 495 and 497, but I do not exactly remember and I speak subject to correction—have been recently considerably remodelled and brought into line with the spirit of the times. The effect of the change is that all prisoners should be entitled to bail, except those accused of offences punishable with

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death or transportation for life. Therefore, hereafter when that Act comes into force there will be less under-trial prisoners, which would necessarily mean considerable reduction in the expenditure of maintaining such a class of prisoners. Therefore, I think, all things considered, that it will be possible for the Government to effect economy by issuing necessary instructions to magistrates to abandon the practice of short-term imprisonments, to make a liberal use of the provisions relating to first offenders and thus give practical effect to the feeling that prevails in the House, and I would make an earnest appeal to the hon. the Home Member to give his assent to the proposed reduction.”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—“Sir, last year about the month of June or July I had to bring to the notice of the Government two instances where the non-co-operation prisoners were subjected to extraordinary discipline. Both of them were highly educated men of excellent character except that they identified themselves with the non-co-operation movement. They had to choose to enter the jails voluntarily on account of conscientious scruples. They were not found guilty of any offence connected with violence. The complaint was that one of them was asked to grind something like a hundred seers of ragi every day. The complaint with regard to the second was that he was asked to work an oil mill, which beasts of burden are deputed to do elsewhere. When I wrote to the Government bringing the above facts to their notice, I no doubt received a reply from them, but it was not very convincing. The reply did not deny the truth of the complaint conveyed in my letter. But since then, I am thankful that there seems to have been some change in the angle of vision with regard to the treatment of these non-co-operation prisoners. They are being conveyed or transported from place to place in their ordinary clothes, but the complaint remains that they are not allowed the usual facilities with regard to bathing, etc. Some time ago, the Government ordered the supply of regulation towels for these prisoners, but I am told on reliable authority that many of these prisoners are not being given the towels. All the same, I am thankful for small mercies . . .”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“May I ask, Sir, whether my hon. friend is referring to any particular jail or to jails in general?”

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—“I am referring to the Cuddalore jail where one Mr. Vasudevayya, B.A., B.L., High Court Vakil, and the other Mr. Ramanathan, M.A., were imprisoned. It was with regard to the said prisoners I addressed the letter to the Government. With regard to the supply of towels, I am told that it is only in some of the jails that they are not supplied. But, however, I should like to know whether there is any definite policy announced by the Government with regard to the treatment of these non-co-operation prisoners, or if it is left to the predilections of individual superintendents of those jails. If it is the former, I should like the House to know about it, and if it is the latter, I should like to know under what circumstances these jail superintendents exercise their discretion in such matters.”

At this stage the hon. the Deputy President called upon the hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp to reply.

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ There may be other speakers, Sir, who may desire to speak on the motion, and I should like to hear them also.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ I thank my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, for giving me this opportunity of speaking on the motion. I would give my support to the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, chiefly for financial reasons. The way in which the expenditure on jails has been increasing ought to be noticed by this House, and this House should take every possible step to show to the Government that it is not going to sanction such large expenditure. If hon. Members look at page 95 of the Civil Budget Estimate, they would notice that for the year 1921-22 the total voted expenditure under the Jail Department was about 28½ lakhs, but for the budget this year, in spite of the fact that the non-co-operation movement has practically gone down and is quiescent and there is very little prospect of an agitation on a large scale taking place in the country and various other features, the expenditure is proposed to be increased to nearly Rs. 36 lakhs, that is, an increase of nearly 7½ lakhs. Last year, this House, after going into the matter very carefully, resolved to cut down the estimates by Rs. 2 lakhs. But, far from effecting any retrenchment during the year, the Government spent far more than the original amount. In fact, a series of supplementary demands for grants were made, and the House was not in a position to refuse them. I think, if certain economies were practised, it would have been possible for Government to cut down their expenditure under this head by Rs. 2 lakhs, without in the slightest degree impairing the jail administration. I have already shown that the general situation of the country not only does not warrant this large expenditure now budgeted for, but should make reduction possible in the current year. Now, with reference to the other method of economy proposed, namely, extending the policy now pursued of releasing the Mappilla prisoners, the House has been told that there are apprehensions entertained by the nervous Hindus of Malabar. Now, a new system was adopted, I think, at the instance of my hon. friend Mr. Knapp by which some Mappilla prisoners had their sentences cancelled or reduced in exchange for fines the recovery of which was to be spread over a period of time. I do not think any disturbances have been caused as a result thereof. Recently much has been said about the extraordinary social conditions which are beginning to spread owing to the existence of a very large number of male prisoners, and the position of the maleless Mappilla population has been exploited as a defence for the policy of sending their women to the Andamans. I will have to make my remarks on this subject at a later stage if possible, namely, the question not only of effecting economies but also solving the social problem among the Mappillas. But, unfortunately, it is not possible for me to go fully into this matter to-day. I do hope, in view of the public meeting recently held at Calicut, the Government will, in accordance with the resolution passed at that meeting, pursue not only a policy of clemency but of justice and order a careful revision of the sentences by a competent judicial tribunal.

“ With these few words, I support the motion.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Sir, I also rise to support this motion. The only discordant note struck in the course of this discussion has been that of Mr. Krishnan Nayar, and all others have supported this motion for reduction. I shall now place a few facts before

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this House as to what took place in this House last year, which will induce it to take no other course than to accept this motion. Whether those who have supported the motion have succeeded in inducing the hon. Mr. Knapp to accept it or not, I am quite clear that this House cannot take any other course than accepting this motion. It will be remembered that a motion was made last year for reduction of the allotment under Jails by Rs. 2 lakhs. After a considerable discussion and after an elaborate reply from the then Law Member who was also in charge of jails, the motion was carried by 36 voting *for* and 21 *against*. I am referring to this to show how strong the feeling was in connexion with this matter. A reference to that division list would show that among the 21 who voted *against* that motion there were 14 officials, including the Council Secretaries, and the other 7 were non-officials. It will be seen from a further examination that in the whole of the first block only three non-officials voted *against* the reduction, and that all Members in block 2 voted for the reduction. So far as block 3 was concerned, only one Member voted *against* reduction, and in block 4 only three. This shows that the whole House almost unanimously voted for the reduction. What has been the result? The House would also remember that the reduction was passed notwithstanding the information about the Mappilla prisoners, which question was also debated at considerable length. The hon. the Law Member then referred to the fact that there was a proposal to release the Mappilla prisoners and referred to the nervousness of Mr. Krishnan Nayar on that matter. There was also a reference to the fact that there would be a large number of prisoners who would be released. Notwithstanding the discussion of all these questions, the House deliberately voted for a reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs. I would ask this House to consider whether it was not possible for the Government to give effect

1 p.m.

to that vote. And what has the Government done? It will be found that the original total provision under this head was Rs. 33-86 lakhs for last year and in the Budget Estimate now in our hands the figure shown is Rs. 35-87 lakhs, which means practically Rs. 33-86 lakhs plus 2 lakhs reduced last year. It shows that no effect has been given to the decision we came to last year, in giving us the Budget figures for this year. In the revised estimate they have enhanced the provision by Rs. 5 lakhs and they have also increased the Budget Estimate for this year by over Rs. 2 lakhs. It will be remembered that the vote of this House that the provision under this head should be reduced by Rs. 2 lakhs was passed almost unanimously, so far as the non-official portion of this House was concerned. Though the House gave a clear vote for the reduction of the provision, not only no effect was given to the vote of this House but also the Government have chosen to go back on the decision and provide for this additional Rs. 2 lakhs. I therefore suggest that this House should vote again and adopt their original decision by accepting this motion for reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs.

“ When this question was discussed last year, the late Law Member then stated expressly : ‘ We shall do everything that we can for the purpose of keeping down the jail population.’ He said—I am quoting him—‘ The question is if you must have a certain number of prisoners, that does not depend upon the Government ; so far as the Government are concerned, they will be extremely pleased if there is to be a fall in the number of prisoners,’ and later on he says ‘ we shall do everything that we can for the purpose of keeping down the jail population.’ I may draw the attention of the House to this

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positive statement then made that everything will be done to keep down the jail population. I only wish the House to consider whether measures have been taken so far to achieve that result. There have been cases of release of prisoners, but it has not been sufficient to reduce the expenditure on jails to a substantial extent. If the hon. the Home Member thinks it is his duty to act up to the vote of this House during the last occasion and to put down the expenditure at that figure of 33 lakhs, he must have devised ways and means, if necessary in consultation with the hon. the Law Member, as unfortunately owing to the splitting up of these two branches, he is not now in charge of jails. He must have therefore devised ways and means whereby the jail population would have been kept down and the expenditure would have been much less than it has been at present. I do not wish to enter into details as to the modes by which the jail population could be kept down. Some hon. Members suggested that many can be released in the case of the political prisoners and also in the case of some of the Mappilla prisoners, and I think the Government are bound to show better consideration to this suggestion. If the statement made by the hon. the Law Member when he was in charge of jails was steadily kept in view, I am inclined to think that there would not have been any room for misapprehension as to whether the Government are really carrying out the opinions expressed in this House on that occasion. Again, we find cases published in the papers of reports coming from the district of Gōdāvari, where the District Magistrate has already given notice to certain persons under the security sections for doing something in connexion with the ensuing Congress. The Congress was invited to the Andhra country and it was resolved to be held somewhere in the Gōdāvari district, at Cocanada, and when preparations have been going on for the Congress we find notices issued to certain persons on the ground that they are doing something for the Congress, something for the non-co-operation which seems objectionable to the Government and so forth. If this is the policy to be pursued, I do not think, Sir, that effect will have been given to this declaration of the hon. the Law Member who said he would do everything to keep down the jail population. I am inclined to refer to this statement at this stage because unless there is a change in the methods adopted you cannot attain your object of successfully keeping down the jail population. I, therefore, think that this House will do well to be reminded about its own vote on the last occasion which was passed almost unanimously so far as the non-official Members were concerned. I, therefore, support this motion for reduction."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, in answer to a certain motion with regard to Forests, we have been told that we must not look at Forests as a business proposition. I hope, Sir, that all other departments of Government are not also to be run on the same principle."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I correct that, Sir. What I said was that the Forests are not to be regarded *simply* as a business proposition."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Whatever the explanation is, I hope the other departments of Government are not also expected to be run on the same principle of not treating the Forest department as a business proposition."

"Sir, turning to the comparative statement attached to the budget speech containing revenue and expenditure for the last three years with reference

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to Jails and Convict Settlements, I find that the amount of revenue derived from jail administration is in inverse ratio to the amount of expenditure on the jail administration. For, while in the year 1921-22 we spent on jails Rs. 29.56 lakhs, we made Rs. 9.29 lakhs, so that even though we as a necessary evil have to keep these offenders of the law or the breakers of law in jail we had administered our jail institutions in such a manner that we were able to make something out of those unfortunate people when they were in jail, that is, though we spent Rs. 29.56 lakhs we made Rs. 9.29 lakhs. Last year, 1922-23, we were asked for a budget grant of Rs. 35½ lakhs, which we readily gave them but the expenditure ran up to Rs. 39.95 lakhs, or nearly Rs. 40 lakhs. We expected last year that this increased expenditure of Rs. 35½ lakhs would bring in Rs. 8.50 by way of income or revenue. But our expectation of revenue always fall short in their realization and we got only Rs. 7.70 lakhs. Sir, this year we are asked to give Rs. 35.81 lakhs. One would have expected that Rs. 35 lakhs, which is more than Rs. 29.56 lakhs for the year 1921-22, would have brought a proportionate increase in our jail revenue. But we only expect to make Rs. 8.68 lakhs this year, so that it is in the inverse ratio that we seem to progress. I hope it is not a misfortune that a Member who is in charge of several departments is able to get more and more from us for all his departments though we are getting less and less from all those various departments. So far as I am concerned, it cannot be said that I have been demurring to proper grants being made. For I was one of those who heartily supported the proposition of the Government when they came in for a supplementary grant of Rs. 4.32 lakhs, when it was said that an error was committed in the calculation of the dietary charges in the case of the prisoners in jails."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I ask, Sir, for the reference."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" I remember, Sir, there was a supplementary grant for Rs. 4.32 lakhs and in the course of the explanation that was given for moving the grant it was said that a very large sum of about Rs. 3 lakhs for dietary expenses was not calculated by a mistake. I as a private Member cannot be expected to have references to the page and to the volume where these proceedings are recorded. But it is a broad statement which the Member in charge ought to be fully aware of without a reference from me. So, Sir, while I cannot be indifferent to the interest of the jail administration, I had at the same time expected that the administration should be conducted on business principles. For even Government institutions have to be run on business principles making a profit and not spending money without a due return in the management of their institutions."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, like the profits which my hon. friend expects to get from the jail department, I propose to deal with the speeches in inverse ratio, and I will first deal with my hon. friend who has just now spoken. He claimed credit for himself for having supported the motion for a supplementary grant for four lakhs under Jails this year and particularly, I understand, for having overlooked a so-called mistake on the part of the Government in drawing up its budget. I have no recollection of any such mistake. But the fact remains that last year this Council cut off Rs. 2 lakhs, and on a demand made later in the year they had to admit their mistake and had also to grant not only that two lakhs but another two lakhs."

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Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"May I point out that outtings of two lakhs would not necessitate a re-voting of a sum of Rs. 4.32 lakhs?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"My hon. friend took credit for having recognized the need for that supplementary grant of four lakhs, and that, Sir, I think, is an admission of the mistake that was made in the beginning in cutting off two lakhs."

"On the general question, Sir, my hon. friend's complaint is that the jails are not run as a business proposition. He went, I suppose, on the basis of a comparison between the receipts from jail manufactures and the whole expenditure on the Jail department. So far as the expenditure on jail manufactures is concerned, the only fair comparison is obviously a comparison with the receipts from jail manufactures and there we exhibit a considerable profit. But I am not going to restrict myself to that point. It is not the intention of the Government to run the jails as a business proposition. We have no intention of following Mr. Ramalinga Reddi's advice and economising at the expense of the men in jail."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I did not suggest, Sir, that economy should be effected under the head of diet, etc."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Mr. Ramalinga Reddi suggested that we should practice economies. If economies are practised, it must be at the expense of the inhabitants of the jails. On the general point my answer is that we are not going to attempt to do what Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar would like us to do, namely, to run the jails as a business proposition. His suggestion, if carried to its logical conclusion, would mean, I suppose, that we should extend the prisoners' working hours and cut down the cost of their diet and the money spent on medical attention, etc. I very much doubt whether this Council would wish us to adopt that line of cutting expenses. Our position, so far as the Jail department is concerned, is that we have little or no control over the numbers of prisoners we receive, but we do claim that it is the duty of this Council to make such a provision for the prisoners who unfortunately come within our clutches as to enable us to keep them in health and that degree of comfort which even prisoners are entitled to expect."

"Now, Sir, I have somewhat of a grievance in respect of the procedure that we have been adopting in connexion with this matter. My hon. friend opposite proposed a reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs and is, I believe, under the impression that this reduction is feasible. Other hon. Members, including my hon. friend, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, admitted that they only wanted to elicit information on certain points."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I was not allowed to speak on that, Sir, because my motion comes later on."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar's motion only wished to make a reduction of Rs. 100 for the purpose of calling attention to certain points. From what I have heard from the other Members, I was under the impression that they were similarly not anxious to support this large reduction. But if all the hon. Members of the House are concentrating on the same point, namely, a total reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs, then I have nothing more to say on that. Mr. Krishna Rao reminded me that a similar reduction was made last year after a very careful examination of the question."

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So far as I can see the careful examination of the question consisted in the fact of one speech by Mr. Krishna Rao, the reply by the hon. Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar, and a further reply from Mr. Krishna Rao in which he justified the reduction of two lakhs by releasing all political prisoners. I do not know exactly what the number of the political prisoners is, but I think it is not more than 400; I am told somewhere about 250. To save two lakhs by releasing 250 prisoners is impossible. Speaking very roughly, you will have to release 2,000 prisoners in order to make that saving."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I referred to the discussion on motion No. 459 where there was a full-dress debate, a number of hon. Members having taken part in the same. Then came the motion No. 463 where myself and the hon. the Law Member alone took part, and it was subsequently voted upon."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"The first motion referred to by my hon. friend Mr. Krishna Rao (Motion No. 459) was by leave withdrawn after a full discussion. All I wish to say is that I do not see any evidence of that very close consideration which my hon. friend claimed for the discussion which took place on the previous budget. In fact if hon. Members had given careful consideration, they would have realised that the release of 250 so-called political prisoners could not possibly have justified a cut of two lakhs in the jail expenditure. What was the result, Sir? Later on in the year we had to come back to the House and say that unless we opened the jail doors and let prisoners out there was no means of avoiding the expenditure not only of these two lakhs but also of a further two lakhs."

"The hon. mover of this motion referred to the short-term imprisonment. I do not propose to reply to him in detail. In the Jail department we are only dealing with prisoners who come to us; and it is for the hon. the Law Member to decide who they shall be, and I must leave the responsibility for that on him."

"In the course of this morning's discussion, there were some suggestions as to the methods of economy. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu, made the suggestion that we might effect a good deal of saving if we allowed the prisoners to introduce their own food and clothing into the jail. Well, Sir, it may be interesting to the House to know that there was a very serious outbreak of cholera in the Coimbatore Jail this year; it was fortunately stopped before it claimed a large death-roll among the inmates of the jail. The cause of the outbreak was traced to food introduced into the jail by the under-trial prisoners. As a result of this the Inspector-General of Prisons has had to rule that in future he cannot allow food to be brought in from outside at all. Obviously it is not fair to the prisoners who are confined in jail and who have no choice in regard to their food to expose them to the dangers of epidemics of that kind owing to the carelessness of others whose food is brought from outside into the jail."

Rao Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I do not suggest that food should be brought from outside. I suggested that the prisoners should be allowed to cook their own food from the materials supplied to them in jails."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"We have just now instituted a special class of prisoners who are allowed to cook their own food. I know in most of the jails the Brahmans are allowed to cook their own food; they have

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separate kitchens. The prisoners in the Cuddalore jail to whom my hon. friend Mr. Sivasankaram referred were allowed to cook their own food. I hope that after the illustration I have given, it will be agreed that it would not be satisfactory to follow that line of retrenchment, namely, of allowing food to be brought from outside.

"The greater part of to-day's debate has developed into a discussion of the affairs in Malabar of which I am afraid the House will be getting rather tired. I am not in the least surprised that my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, got up and protested against the suggestion of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, that we should effect the wholesale release of the Mappilla prisoners. Well, Sir, I want to approach this matter in all seriousness and I would like the House to remember that a very heavy responsibility lies on me in trying to find a *via media* between the two extremes—the one extreme of amnesty and general release of offenders, a great many of them very serious offenders indeed, and the other extreme of regarding the Mappillas as offenders who have to be banished from their homes for ever. I entirely agree that we shall never get peace in Malabar until the Hindu makes up his mind to live in amity with his Mappilla neighbour. Hon. Members of this House who recommend the release of these prisoners have to remember that the persons who are now in jail are only those who have been guilty of murder, of grievous hurt and various other serious offences. All those who are guilty of less serious offences have already been treated under another scheme. Some 15,000 of them who have only participated in looting and crimes of that kind have not gone to jail. We have in jail some 8,000 or 9,000 persons who have been convicted of very serious offences. At the same time we have also some 15,000 persons who have never had to go to jail and whose conviction so far has not contributed to the deterioration in social conditions which my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, referred to. We have actually released some 1,200. These men were selected to be released because we had the assurance of the local authorities that they were men who were unlikely to give any trouble on their return home. That, Sir, is the answer to the question which my hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, asked. None of these men has done any harm after their release and it would be most surprising if they had done any because they are selected men. It would be a different matter to make a sweeping release such as that suggested by my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. I am sure my hon. friend would not advocate the wholesale release of persons who have been found guilty of horrible crimes. At any rate, I have no intention of carrying out any wholesale release; but I am quite prepared, gradually and cautiously to extend release to other prisoners. A certain number has already been released in the ordinary course and I will ask the House to remember that it is just 20 months since the Malabar rebellion commenced and it would be altogether premature to extend amnesty to all prisoners, irrespective of the nature of offences committed by them. Whatever view may be taken on this question, I trust that the House is not going to cut a single pie out of the jail budget. Suggestions have been made for retrenchment in the jail budget and my reply to that would be to refer to what occurred a month back. Last month, I asked the House to grant money for the relief of the sufferers in Malabar and I was told that I should not come for a grant until I had realised all the fines and had money to meet the grant. If I am now asked to cut off the jail budget, surely my answer may be that the allotment

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should not be curtailed until the number of prisoners has actually fallen. Until then I am entitled at the hands of the House to have money enough to keep all the prisoners."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"May I know, Sir, how much do the Mappilla rebels cost approximately?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"The Mappilla prisoners roughly cost about 8 lakhs per annum."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Seeing that so many Mappillas have been convicted under extraordinary circumstances, may I ask, Sir, whether it is not advisable to appoint a special tribunal to revise those sentences?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, there is no proposal to appoint a special tribunal for that purpose. We have already organized a revising board which is going round all the jails and which has power to revise sentences and to recommend the release in suitable cases."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I know, Sir, the personnel of the Board and whether there are any persons with judicial experience on that Board?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"There are two points concerning the departments in my charge raised in the debate and I wish to confine my remarks to them alone. My hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, referred to the expediency or the utility of not passing short-term sentences. I think it would be gratifying to the House to learn that the recommendations of Government of India are entirely of that opinion. The recommendations of the Jail Committee, and their specific suggestions in regard to this matter are under consideration by the Government. So far as the Madras Government are concerned, they are also not against this system. But the question is how the result that is sought to be achieved by my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar could be arrived at. Is it by executive instructions in certain instances, or by a change of legislation or is it by a resort partially to the section 572 to which my hon. friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar adverted or is it by concurrently resorting to the Reformatory Act? All these things will be very shortly decided and the result will be published for the information of this House."

"There was another point about prisoners confined in jails for political offences. I may mention for the information of the House that on the 24th August 1922, there were 245 prisoners in jails for offences which may be said to have been connected with the non-co-operation movement. Very recently a further account was taken and it was found that there were only 89 persons who might be said to fall in that category. Speaking for myself I may say that it is not the intention of the Government to keep in jail any one connected with such offences, especially those who have gone there in regard to security proceedings who can be released without any hazard to public safety. I may mention that out of this 89, a large number has been released and we have at present a very small number of such class of prisoners in the jails."

The House then adjourned at 1-30 p.m. for lunch.

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The House re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m. with the hon. the Deputy President in the chair.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Mr. President, I think the discussion on this motion of my friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, has shown that we have no uniformity of practice in this Council as yet in raising questions of policy and in discussing actual cuts in regard to demands. My hon. friend, I should think, is certainly entitled to complain that under a demand for reduction of an amount of 2 lakhs, we have discussed questions of jail administration and questions of broad general policy. I will submit for the consideration of hon. Members that it will be more convenient if all these broad questions of policy are raised under motions for a reduction of grants by a hundred rupees or some smaller amount. For, it will then be understood that the motions are intended really to raise questions of policy. As it is now, many questions of policy, such as those which have been mentioned by various hon. Members, have been brought up and we really do not know whether we should be voting in regard to those questions of general policy, or with reference to this actual reduction of 2 lakhs of rupees under this head. That is really a difficulty and I join with my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, that we may hereafter divide these two sets of motions in the manner in which we have been doing also in other matters.

"Now, Sir, having said this, I think I should say one or two words in regard to the various matters that have been raised. One is the remark made by the hon. Mr. Knapp that if peace is to be restored in Malabar, both the communities, the Hindu and the Muhammadan, should hereafter consent to live in amity and that reconciliation should be the broad policy hereafter. I think my friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, speaks from personal knowledge and we appreciate all that he has said in regard to the feeling in that part of the country. I do not wish to say one word which would add to any existing irritation between the two communities, and I trust that any statement made in this Council will not contribute to the continuance of any existing strained relations between the Hindus and the Muhammadans. If my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, will also use his influence in this direction, I should think we can reach some solution of this very vexed problem of the Mappillas in Malabar. I think, therefore, there is no necessity at all either to examine all the things which my hon. friend has urged, or to endorse everything that has been said in any other policy in regard to this question. But my complaint is this: that although this Malabar rebellion has ended now nearly a year and a half ago and although things have been quieting down there, I think the expenditure under this head has not substantially decreased. The hon. Mr. Knapp said that the expenditure under this head in regard to the Mappilla prisoners was about 8 lakhs of rupees. If hon. Members will turn to page 95 of the Budget Estimates, the accounts for 1921-22 show that the expenditure was Rs. 22,41,657 as against Rs. 29,36,520 under Budget Estimate for 1923-1924, so that we have this difference of 8 lakhs still in our Budget Estimate. Every attempt ought to be made to go back to the conditions that prevailed till 1921-22. The bulk of this expenditure, as hon. Members will notice, comes under Establishment and Superintendence."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I repeat, Sir, that the expenditure of Rs. 15,07,000 comes under Dietary charges? The figures are—

	rs.
Superintendence	59,771
Establishment	7,43,512
Dietary charges	15,07,000

I think that is how it stands."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The corresponding second item in the first column is Rs. 15,07,000 and that is for Establishment. For Dietary charges the figure is Rs. 1,26,000 and that is the third item."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" I must protest against my hon. friend's interpretation of it, Sir, that Rs. 1,26,000 represents dietary charges for 8,000 people."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I can only construe the figures as printed here, Sir. I take it that 'Superintendence' is the first item, and for that the figure is Rs. 7,43,512; 'Establishment' is the second item and the corresponding figure is Rs. 15,07,000; 'Dietary charges' is the third item and the figure given here is Rs. 1,26,000. May I know from the hon. Member whether these figures are correct, or whether there is anything inconsistent or wrong about them?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" If my hon. friend will only continue the line, he will find the figure Rs. 59,771; and that is for Superintendence; then for Establishment the figure is Rs. 7,43,512, and for Dietary charges Rs. 15,07,000. The mistake is due rather to a misleading arrangement of the type."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Well, Sir, the figures are misleading. I do not blame the hon. Member for it, but whoever may be responsible for it, I think it is somewhat puzzling to be told at the last moment that the comment that I have made is based on a bad arrangement of figures. However, whatever may be the way in which these are printed, I trust that this figure of 22 lakhs and odd would be reached as early as possible. I think therefore that there is room for economy on these lines. Certainly it is not our intention, as has been suggested by the hon. Mr. Knapp, to starve our jail population. Therefore, I would urge that if he is not prepared to accept a cut of 2 lakhs, he might himself suggest another figure which might be adopted by the Council. Last time we had a cut of 2 lakhs. But then the hon. Member came forward with supplementary estimates and quite reasonably. The Council should have no objection, if a sufficient case is made out, against granting any supplementary demand which he might bring forward. But in view of all these circumstances, I would suggest to him that if he would accept a cut of 1 lakh and try and see how far economies could be further practised, I think that would be the best way of solving this question."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, my hon. friend has just appealed to the hon. the Home Member to accept a smaller figure. May I suggest to him the figure which he himself has suggested in the motion which he has put down, viz., motion No. 388—Rs. 100? That would be entirely in accordance with the procedure which he has been suggesting that we should discuss large questions of policy on motions dealing with nominal amounts and that when attention is deliberately attracted to a particular

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item, then we should have a motion for cutting that particular item. I may say, Sir, that I was a sufferer under this same method yesterday. We had a motion on the Director of Office Systems. At first, we began with a motion for a small cut. That was argued at length, the whole policy was discussed and it was withdrawn. We had then motions for the omission of the whole establishment and a further motion for a small cut again. On the motion for the omission of the whole establishment a number of hon. Members discussed various minor items. They did not in the least wish to omit the whole establishment, but when it came to a vote, the whole establishment was cut out. I think the House will realize that it is really a most unfortunate thing to occur that they should have voted out the whole staff when really they wanted only to reduce certain items of the establishment. In the same way in this case I am afraid the motion is really leading to the creation of a deadlock, and I do submit to the House that the proper thing is to carry a motion in terms of that which my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao has himself tabled, viz., for a reduction of Rs. 100."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"The whole object of discussing broad questions of policy on a motion for the reduction of an item by Rs. 100 is, Sir, not to dislocate the budget, but really to discuss questions of policy, so that the Government may adopt them, even assuming that all the figures do stand. But here my hon. friend, the mover, has a definite object of securing a specific reduction of two lakhs, which the House might decide. So I should still consider that if the hon. Member would consent to have a smaller cut, we would be satisfied."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I would venture to ask, Sir, that if this is a motion for a definite cut of definite amounts, then those amounts should be specified. Hon. Members should take upon themselves as far as possible the responsibility of saying whether this or that expenditure is excessive and that they object to it, and not impose upon the Government the duty of making deductions in which the House has no voice. I venture to think that the results of such deductions will be satisfactory neither to the Government, nor to the House. We had a deduction of that sort last year in the case of the Police. The Government could find no item which they could cut out except the plague police. In this House there are a large number of representatives of local bodies and they know that these local bodies have unanimously been objecting to that reduction, which was a reduction made in accordance with the orders of this House."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I submit, Sir, that I am rather surprised that the hon. Member should refuse to take the opportunity which we are giving him of adjusting his expenses in the light of the experience of himself and other officials who are connected with the department? When we say that one lakh of rupees should be reduced, the hon. Member has certainly the opportunity of distributing that one lakh amongst all the items which go to make up that head and I am surprised to find that he will not take the opportunity when we want to give it to him. This has been the practice last year and this has been the practice also in the Legislative Assembly. In order not to embarrass the department far too much, it is much better to have a percentage reduction and allow the department concerned to adjust their expenditure, because they have certainly much better experience of the actual way in which it might be

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distributed without dislocating the work in any way, and I am really surprised to see that my hon. friend has declined to have the freedom which I have given in this matter."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I be permitted to reply, Sir? So far from my hon. friend giving us more freedom, I am afraid that the effect of the practice which he advocates is to fetter us most unduly. It means that the House give us orders, the effect of which is likely to be to drive the people who prepare the budget to the practices of which we have been accused in the general budget debate, namely of dishonest budgeting, or more exactly, comparatively dishonest budgeting."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"I said comparatively less honest, Sir."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I do put it to the House that, if they are going to make the practice of cutting out lump sums from the budget of departments, they are inviting the heads of departments to make provision against such cuts. We are now doing everything we can to prevent budgeting in excess. The budgets of departments are scrutinized first in the administrative departments of the Secretariat, next by the Finance Department and the Finance Committee, which is an elected body of this Council, and finally by the Cabinet. If, after all this scrutiny has been made, the Council cut out lump sums without any regard to the details over which such care has been taken, the effect cannot but be to put those concerned with the preparation of the budget under a great temptation to make some provision against a similar cut in future years. This is a procedure which I want to resist and which, I hope, the Council will help me to resist. Mr. Lloyd and I have made every endeavour to assist the House to a clear understanding of every detail in the budget, and a number of Members have been good enough to acknowledge that it has been done in a very lucid way. We have further invited hon. Members who wished to have specific information to apply for it. In return I ask hon. Members for the comparative honesty which Mr. Ratnaswami asks of us. I ask them, having all this detailed information before them, when they wish to make a cut of a specific amount to name the items which they wish to cut out and to take responsibility for depriving the department concerned of a specific portion of its expenditure. I am not speaking of raising questions of general policy on motions for nominal amounts; what I do ask is that motions to reduce by amounts that are not nominal should be made with reference to specific heads in the budget."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Now I call upon Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar to move the amendment he has given notice of. I think the House will have no objection to allow it."

Mr. O. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar's motion cannot be an amendment to my motion. It can only be another motion. It cannot be an amendment to a motion for reduction already proposed. It may be another proposal for reduction. When there are several motions for reduction one for eight lakhs, another for two lakhs and again another for 10,000, it means that whether the first motion for reduction is made and carried or not, the other motions will be allowed to be made one by one."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I have allowed Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar to move his amendment."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the motion of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar to reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,36,500 for Jails by Rs. 2,00,000, and that is, to change the figure Rs. 2,00,000 to Rs. 50,000. My object in moving this amendment is to meet the arguments on both sides of the House. The hon. the Finance Member has said that he has some difficulty in adjusting the expenditure. It is a pity that it has not been possible to go into the details of the expenditure of this department with the help of an expert committee as it has been possible to do in the other departments, viz., Agriculture, Veterinary and Medical. In those departments some expert committees were appointed and they have already recommended reductions. In this department no such committee has been appointed so far. The experience of the other committees has been that considerable reduction is possible. So, in this department also, I take it that some reduction will be possible. There was some doubt about the figure two lakhs, as to whether it would be possible to reach that figure or not. We are not pinning ourselves to any particular figure; we are only showing what sort of policy has to be followed in the matter of jail administration. Taking that policy and also going through the administrative expenses, I consider that a considerable reduction ought to be made in the administration of this department; but I do not want to put the department in a difficult position as has been stated by the hon. the Finance Member. What I want to do is to reduce the provision by Rs. 50,000. This is intended both for the purpose of reducing the expenditure in the department and also for pressing on the Government the policy we want to be pursued in this department. It is for these two purposes I want that this reduction should be carried. I think that it will also meet the wishes of the Treasury Bench by not putting them in the very difficult situation of not being able to find the means of accepting the motion. So, with this view I beg to move this amendment, viz., the reduction of Rs. 50,000, in the budget expenditure of this department. As I said, I am doing so in view of the policy enunciated so far."

Mr. S. T. SHANMUKHAM PILLAI :—" Sir, I second the amendment. So far as we can see from the budget figures, we cannot say that we can make any reduction. This year's budget is short of the revised estimate for last year by three lakhs. If in addition to this reduction of three lakhs we propose a further reduction of two lakhs, we shall be landing the Government in difficulties as regards meeting the expenditure of this department. Under the circumstances, the amendment moved by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar seems to me to be a good one. There is also the contingency that if we cut short the provision now, the Member in charge of Jails will come in again with a supplementary demand."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I propose moving an amendment, because, if this amendment is carried, the motion which I have tabled, might go out automatically. I therefore wish to move my motion as an amendment to this motion, viz., the total demand might be reduced by one lakh."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether an amendment to an amendment is permissible."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I do not move it as an amendment to an amendment. I move it as an amendment to the motion now before the House."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I think the leave of the House is also necessary for the introduction of this amendment. If we go on introducing amendment after amendment in this fashion, there will be no end to the discussion."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I do not allow the amendment of Mr. Narasimhacharlu. If the amendment of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar is carried, Mr. Narasimhacharlu's motion dies."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" On a point of order, Sir, I wish to know whether a second amendment does not lie."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Well, it does not seem to be expedient, at any rate."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—" I beg to move an amendment, viz., that the figure should be 1 lakh and odd. Mr. Narasimhacharlu was not allowed to move his amendment for the reason that he has a motion standing against his name. Since I have not got a similar motion standing against my name I may be permitted to move my amendment."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I cannot permit the hon. Member to move an amendment."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—" May I know why, Sir?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will see that this amendment is for a reduction to Rs. 50,000 and if it is rejected by the House then the motion for reducing by 2 lakhs will be put before the Council for decision. If the motion for 2 lakhs is rejected then the motion of Mr. Narasimhacharlu for a reduction of 1 lakh will be taken for discussion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, to deal first with the reply made by the Leader of the House as to the desirability or otherwise of bringing large cuts and then questions of policy as well, the proper place for referring to the latter is not here but somewhere else; he should apply to the Secretary of State and the Joint Committee. I think that there is no rule to the effect that those items which the Finance Committee of this House has approved shall not be discussed in this House. If there is such a rule, motions like mine will die. Till then, we can be bringing in such motions."

"As for my object in bringing this motion, I must say that it is with a view to reduce the allotment as well as to discuss questions of policy. We have done so only yesterday. We wanted two officers, the Deputy Commissioners of the Salt Department, to go, and we wanted also to make a cut. This motion also is like that, a combined motion for the reduction of the allotment and also for the discussion of a policy. This proposition acts first and foremost as a retrenchment motion and then it makes various suggestions as regards the policy. I appeal to the House, Sir, that even if it carries this motion for the reduction of 2 lakhs, it does not mean that the Government should make reductions in the directions suggested by us. I have heard an old proverb which says: 'a husband will always find fault with a wife whom he does not like.' If it is a motion to omit or reduce a particular item the hon. the Finance Member or somebody in charge of the department comes and says it is indispensable and yet when we make some suggestions by way of total cuts with a view to meet the deficit somehow or other we are told 'you are not suggesting anything at all. You are

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going out of the way and you are not taking the responsibility for your suggestions. Now, so far as this question is concerned we have put forward various suggestions. Several Members have suggested several courses as to how this out of 2 lakhs can be effected. So far as I myself am concerned, I gave a few instances, viz., the reduction of Mappilla prisoners. My hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, who is also interested in such questions also got up—I do not think he is nervous as stated by Mr. Ramalinga Reddiyar."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"There was no reference in my speech to Mr. Krishnan Nayar."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"He said 'some nervous gentlemen from Malabar might be afraid of releasing these Mappilla prisoners.' I think Mr. Krishnan Nayar is not one of those nervous people; but anyhow, he has been consistently opposing such motions from the beginning. I am not unaware of the fact that soon after this rebellion there was a strong feeling among the Hindu minds of Malabar to pass an Act by which all the Mappillas of Malabar should be murdered."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I never made any statement to the effect that all the Mappillas in Malabar should be murdered. I believe, I am not a lunatic to say that."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I am certainly aware that my hon. friend is not a lunatic. I only said that there was a strong impression like that. (laughter). I was only making a statement that there was a strong feeling in the minds of the Hindus of Malabar that in the interests of the peace of Malabar the best thing would be to murder a large number of these ferocious Mappillas. I did not say that Mr. Krishnan Nayar was of that opinion. I think I will be in order when I say that I received a number of communications from my Hindu friends saying that I was to be hanged for having presided over a meeting convened in connection with the Train Tragedy. I do not blame them for their feeling at that time. At that time such feelings could be excused. They did not know what to do. Even the Government and the Police did not know what to do. To quote a Tamil proverb 'எதைத்தின்னாலு மித்தம் தெரியும்' they were in the position of a sick man who did not know which medicine to take and took every medicine prescribed for him trusting in the efficacy of each and all. Therefore I can understand their feeling at that time, and also Mr. Krishnan Nayar's feeling last year when there was a proposal to release some of these Mappilla prisoners. We were then assured on behalf of the Government, I do not quote the very words but it was suggested that they were releasing some of the prisoners and were carefully watching the result of that policy. As my time is up I want a few minutes more to finish, Sir."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Yes, but without referring to the alleged tendency to murder the Mappillas."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, specific reference was made to the effect that if Rs. 2 lakhs were reduced, 2,000 people should be released. I do not know on what basis that reference was made. Even according to the Budget, Establishment charges cost Rs. 7 lakhs out of the provision of Rs. 30 lakhs."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"The net cost of a prisoner is about Rs. 100 a year and that was how I calculated Rs. 2 lakhs for 2,000 prisoners."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Taking the establishment into consideration, for which seven lakhs of rupees are spent we may have a fairly large cut. I think there will also be a reduction in the number of short-term prisoners after hearing what the hon. the Law Member said, namely, that this matter would receive his careful consideration, and that researches would be made in regard to the question of reducing the number of prisoners, and so on."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I said Sir, that the matter was under the consideration of the Government of India."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I submit, Sir, that as there are about 6,000 people who are undergoing short-term imprisonment there will be a reduction of about 500 prisoners if we take the average for the year. Then, Sir, taking into consideration the fact that the Criminal Procedure Code has recently been amended by the Government of India and that the Government are now imprisoning persons even for small offences, like thefts, etc., and are also treating such offences as non-bailable thereby making several poor people to suffer very much—I think there will be a large reduction hereafter in the number of undertrial prisoners. There is also another cause for the number being reduced, because as the hon. the Law Member has suggested several boys who have been imprisoned for very petty offences will be sent to the Reformatory School at Chingleput. Therefore, I am very modest in saying that there will be a cut of 2,000 persons in the total number of prisoners now in jail. Taking all these things into consideration and also the fact that there might be some reduction in the establishment, I think that a reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd is not at all an uncompromising amendment. It is not as if the Government have agreed to the amended reduction of Rs. 50,000 when I am asking for the reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs, and as my hon. friend Mr. Shanmukham Pillai suggested the Government can come forward with supplementary grants at any time, and they know how to do it. Even if we cut the provision asked for by a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs, they can come forward with a supplementary grant. Under these circumstances, I appeal to the hon. Members of this House that, as a matter of policy and as a matter of retrenchment, there should be a reduction made in the allotment. I do not in the least want to effect this reduction by lessening the convenience of prisoners. Better space and better convenience of prisoners is a thing which we all look to, and we may claim to have a share of the humanity of the hon. the Home Member who stated that he must look to the convenience of prisoners. There is no difference on that point. In conclusion, I think we can have reduction of two lakhs of rupees and I therefore trust that hon. Members of this House will agree with me."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am not quite sure how far hon. Members have made up their minds as to what they want to do. Not having accepted the amendment that the allotment should be reduced by Rs. 50,000, I take it that they are discussing the motion for a reduction of Rs. 2,00,000. We have put down the very minimum we consider necessary for the maintenance of 17,000 prisoners. My hon. friend says that if the number is reduced, we can work with less money. That is perfectly true, but until the prisoners are reduced, it is of no use to ask us to reduce expenditure. Every year this House has been asking us to cut down the provision at the expense of the prisoners. I say you cannot cut down the

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provision for the dietary of prisoners without affecting their health. I strongly advise the House to realize this position, namely, that this budget has been based on the number of prisoners that we have at present and that no purpose will be served by cutting the provision asked for. As my hon. friend, the leader of the House has said, if the House thinks that a reduction can be made, they should give me an indication as to where they propose to cut off the amount. My hon. friend said that 7 lakhs of rupees were sufficiently large for the charges of superintendence."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I never said that it was sufficiently large."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am certain he said that."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I never said that the provision of 7 lakhs of rupees was large. I said that so far as this provision was concerned, a portion of it might be reduced owing to the reduction of the number of Mappilla prisoners, and so on."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"We must have a superintendent for each jail and we must have warders to take care of the prisoners. If we propose to cut down the number of guards of the prisoners at Coimbatore to, say, one per hundred prisoners, I am perfectly certain that my hon. friend opposite would be the first to object to such a course. I suppose he does not want the prisoners to escape and roam about in Coimbatore."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I simply meant that if the number were reduced by one or two, there was no fear of prisoners bolting away."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Well, Sir, that is all I can say with regard to the reduction of the total amount asked for, namely, that it would be foolish if the House were to cut the grant now. Unless the number of prisoners is reduced, the reduction cannot be effected in the course of the year."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I wish to put the amendment to vote first."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I ask, Sir, how we stand exactly in reference to this question? The motion that is now under discussion is a motion to substitute for the figure Rs. 2,00,000 the figure Rs. 50,000. If that amendment is lost, I take it that the original motion for a reduction by Rs. 2,00,000 will be put. If it is carried, I take it that we shall be asked to vote upon the original motion as amended, in other words, on a motion for a reduction by Rs. 50,000."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The original motion will be put."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"May I take it that, whatever the fate of the amendment, the original motion will be put after the amendment has been put?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I do not think there is any necessity for it. If the House were to reduce the provision by Rs. 50,000, the original motion would drop."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I submit, Sir, that if the amendment is carried, then we are entitled to vote on the original motion as amended by the substitution of the figure Rs. 50,000 for Rs. 2,00,000."

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The amendment was put to vote and carried.

A poll was demanded which was taken with the following result:—

- | Ayes. | |
|---|--|
| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chetti-
tiyar. | 15. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam
Nayudu. |
| 2. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 16. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari. |
| 3. " M. Appalarasayya Nayudu. | 17. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 4. " P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 18. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 5. " W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 19. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 6. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chet-
tiyar. | 20. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| 7. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 21. Sayid Muhammad Fadsa Sahib
Bahadur. |
| 8. " K. A. Kandaswami Kandar. | 22. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib. |
| 9. " J. Kuppuswami. | 23. Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahiman
Sahib. |
| 10. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 24. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla
Badsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 11. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 25. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Uman
Sahib Bahadur. |
| 12. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 26. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 13. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. | |
| 14. " B. Sitarama Reddi. | |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 9. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 2. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao. | 10. Sriman Sasi Bhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 3. " M. Krishnan Nayar. | 11. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha
Raju. | 12. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 5. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 13. Rao Bahadur T. Namberumal Chetti-
tiyar. |
| 6. " M. Suryanarayana. | 14. Mr. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar. |
| 7. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 15. Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur. |
| 8. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. | |

Twenty-six voted for and 15 against.

The motion was carried.

The motion of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar as amended by Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chetti-
tiyar was put and declared carried.

3-15 p.m. A poll was demanded which was taken with the following result:—

- | Ayes. | |
|--|--|
| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chetti-
tiyar. | 23. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 2. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 24. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam
Nayudu. |
| 3. " M. Appalarasayya Nayudu. | 25. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 4. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudali-
tiyar. | 26. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 27. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari. |
| 6. " O. Tanikachala Chetti-
tiyar. | 28. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 7. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 29. Rao Bahadur C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 8. " K. Kandaswami Kandar. | 30. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 9. " J. Kuppuswami. | 31. Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 10. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 32. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 11. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chetti-
tiyar. | 33. Rao Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 12. " K. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 34. Mr. M. Ratnaswami. |
| 13. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 35. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 14. Mr. V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 36. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| 15. " K. Sarabha Reddi. | 37. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 16. " K. Sitarama Reddi. | 38. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. | 39. Ahmad Miran Sahib. |
| 18. Diwan Bahadur Pethaachi Chetti-
tiyar. | 40. Saiyid Muhammad Fadsa Sahib. |
| 19. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra
Rao Pantulu. | 41. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan
Sahib. |
| 20. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 42. Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman
Khan Sahib. |
| 21. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao
Pantulu. | 43. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla
Badsha Sahib. |
| 22. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 44. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Uman
Sahib. |

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Noes.

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|--|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 17. Mr. W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-Jah Sahib Bahadur the Raja of Panagal. | 18. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. |
| 3. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatareddi Nayudu. | 19. " T. Somaesundara Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 20. " P. Subbarayan. |
| 5. " Mr. A. B. Knapp. | 21. Sriman Sasi Bhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 6. " C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 22. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 23. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 8. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 24. " T. Arumainatha Pillai. |
| 9. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 25. " K. Prabhakaran Tampian. |
| 10. " R. D. Richmond. | 26. " C. R. T. Congreva. |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur T. V. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 27. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 12. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 28. Mr. G. Vandanam. |
| 13. " E. Periyannayagam. | 29. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 14. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 30. Mr. J. Leech. |
| 15. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 31. " A. M. MacDougall. |
| | 32. Rao Bahadur T. Naumberamal Chettiyar. |
| | 33. Mr. W. Partridge. |
| | 34. " R. C. Wood. |

Forty-four voted for and 34 against as amended.

•The motion as amended was carried.

MOTION No. 124.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,36,520 for Jails by Rs. 1 lakh."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Will the hon. Member kindly see the advisability of not moving it?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I wish to know as a point of order, Sir, whether I shall be in order in moving it."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid, it is not. At any rate the House has already passed its verdict."

The motion was accordingly not taken up.

MOTION No. 125.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,36,520 for Jails by Rs. 100.

I wish to say just a few words with your permission and the permission of the House. I beg leave to make this motion more with the view to raise a general discussion on the question of jail administration and place before the House a clear and if possible a vivid picture of the happenings in the Cuddalore District Jail, and also to emphasise, if possible, the necessity of removing some of the rigours and limitations that one comes across under the prison rules of the Local Government. It is in that spirit and to focus the attention of the hon. Members of this House on these important points that I make this motion. I may begin by saying, Sir, that it has been my good fortune to have had long interviews with some of the non-co-operation prisoners and also other classes of prisoners concentrated for some years past in the District Jail of Cuddalore of which I have the honour to be one of the non-official visitors. I do not think it necessary to place before this House a long catalogue of their grievances some of which appear to me to be at any rate really important. As a non-official visitor I tried hard to bring to the notice of the Government their grievances as often as I thought it necessary to draw the attention of the Government to remedy them. I was met with a cold and calculated reply to the effect that the rules had not been amended

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and that unless the rules were amended it would be impossible to carry out the wishes of the Member concerned. I may at once say that most of these rules were framed by the Local Government years ago when the condition of things was essentially different. Now the conditions have changed. We are now having different classes of men, men of culture, men of education and men fired with a certain amount of patriotism—misguided or otherwise it is unnecessary to go into at present. In the light of that I mean pressing upon the Government to appoint a committee to devise ways and means for bringing these rules to suit existing conditions. So far as the rules are concerned they require radical changes in the matter of granting interviews, in the matter of supplying newspapers, vernacular, Anglo-vernacular or Aanglo-Indian, in the matter of dietary and clothing, in the matter of wearing caste marks and in the matter of taking buttermilk or ghee as the case may be. Some of the prisoners expressed to me their desire to wear their caste marks. I sent in my vigorous protest to the Inspector-General of Prisons and he said 'there are rules and therefore I shall not allow them to wear caste marks'. If we only take into consideration the status of the people who are put into the jails one will be astonished at the woollen clothing given to them. I had the honour to demonstrate and draw the attention of the Collector, Mr. Datt, to that state of things. They are given woollen blankets."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that the discussion comes to a close at 3-30?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"But under the rules once the subject is taken up we are to continue it until it is disposed of."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"You are losing two minutes now."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"If you simply hold up these rugs in the air you will find the wools flying away like anything."

"We drew the attention of the Inspector-General to this state of things. He promised to look into the matter and I was told that orders were passed quite recently (thanks to the constant pressure he brought to bear upon the Government) to allow a change. Some of these prisoners, Sir, were not given buttermilk. We know, Sir, that most of us take buttermilk. The Superintendent of the Jails said that except under medical advice no buttermilk would be given. As regards the correspondence sent to these prisoners, considerable restraint is placed. The relations are not allowed to have interviews with the prisoners. They are not also allowed to put themselves in correspondence with these unfortunate prisoners with respect to domestic affairs. The angle of vision must undergo a radical and fundamental change and the whole thing has to be lifted up to a higher plane and considered from a broad and humane point of view."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Home Member only to two aspects of the question and I shall not take up much time in doing so. One is with regard to the diet. I think this matter should be looked into very carefully. If we turn to page 98 of the Budget estimate, we shall find, Sir, that for 1,115 prisoners in the Presidency jails, Rs. 62,000 are provided for dietary charges. This works out about Rs. 55 per head. Similarly, the proportion under Central Jails and Camp Jail works up to Rs. 65 per head; that under District and Special Jails to Rs. 60 and that under Subsidiary Jails to Rs. 75. I think, Sir, this

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is a matter which requires the attention of the hon. the Home Member, i.e., why in one particular jail the amount should be as low as Rs. 55 per head and in another it should be Rs. 75. The rate varies from Rs. 55 to Rs. 75 per head. I do not for a moment suggest that the diet of these people should be cut short; but I do think that there may be certain leakages which, if rectified, will result in a reduction of expenditure.

"The second point which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Home Member is the high proportion of the supervising officers to the number of prisoners. Taking the whole of the expenditure under this department, I think that nearly half of it is incurred on account of the supervising staff. I think the proportion is very high and should be looked into and reductions made wherever possible."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I gather that there is only one minute more left for speaking on this demand. With reference to the proposal for increased expenditure for providing better dietary, better clothing, butter-milk, etc., to certain classes of prisoners, I am not able to reconcile it with the vote of the House on the previous motion which proposes to cut down our expenditure."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XIII. Jails for 35.81 lakhs minus Rs. 50,000 was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND XIV--POLICE.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I propose to depart from the usual practice in regard to moving for grants and to make a few remarks as a preliminary to my moving Demand XIV for 153.63 lakhs under the head of Police. The reason for my doing so is that, while I am averse to standing between the House and those hon. Members who desire to propose reductions under particular heads under this Demand, what I say may enable them to make up their minds as to what course they have to pursue. I am anxious to repeat what I have already stated, that I do not desire, in the slightest degree, to curtail the liberty of discussion in regard to the various motions; and indeed the Government will be obliged for all the suggestions that are made on the floor of the House in regard to this matter of Police Grant. I may, as a preliminary, mention this: that the Government have recognized the need for pursuing a policy of retrenchment in the matter of expenditure in general and expenditure on Police in particular. In view to this consummation, my predecessor in office, who bestowed, I may be permitted to mention, a tremendous amount of attention and careful scrutiny to the whole subject and who applied himself with very great elaboration to the details of this matter, convened a committee of experts in this particular line, composing of gentlemen who have special knowledge of the subject, and added to that committee two members of the Finance Committee of this House. That committee was charged with very important duties. The labours of that committee will be before this House, I take it, and before the Government. The Retrenchment Committee will also doubtless sit upon the matter after the proposals of that committee come up for consideration. I may mention that the following are amongst the proposals to be discussed by or before that committee. So far as the higher officers are concerned, the following proposals will emerge for discussion: the abolition of one or more

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of the Deputy Inspectors-General; the abolition of two Superintendents of Police in district charges; the abolition of some officers of the rank of District Superintendents of Police. So far as the subordinate staff is concerned, the scope of that committee's labour is even wider and more extensive. I may mention that the proposals which will have to be considered and reported upon by that committee involve the reversion—the possibility or the impossibility, the feasibility or otherwise of a reversion—to the old system of head constable station-house officer and the abolition of 300 or 400 sub-inspectors, the abolition of 100 or 200 inspectors, the abolition of head constables and the creation, as a reserve, of specialized detective staff in each district. So far as the City Police is concerned, the matters that will come up for discussion before that committee will involve amongst others the following questions: the abolition of one officer of the rank of Deputy Commissioner, the abolition of one officer of the rank of District Superintendent of Police, the abolition of some inspectors, the possibility of the abolition of a number of European sub-inspectors and a reduction in the number of police constables.

"Now that is a resumé and merely a resumé of the general scope and the task which that committee has set before itself. The only reason why I have permitted myself at this stage to make a few remarks by way of introduction is this: that the Government will have the report of that committee before them; they will carefully consider it; the Retrenchment Committee will bestow its labours upon its recommendations; and then this House will naturally have to consider them. But now if particular departures are made, if particular posts are taken away, the result will be that when the department is to be reorganized, the retention of a certain thing would be found necessary, which this Council might now resolve upon to dispense with. It is only in that view and with that object that I have mentioned that this committee has been constituted and is asked to report on this matter; and it is for the Members of this House, taking this suggestion, to embark upon such line of action as to them may seem feasible and expedient. Far be it from me to dictate or have the appearance of dictating that they should not pursue a particular policy. I am only mentioning this for the information and guidance of hon. Members. With these words, I move—

For a grant not exceeding 153.63 lakhs of rupees under Demand XIV—Police."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I suggest, Sir, for your consideration, if it is within your discretion to change the order of motions, that it will be convenient if motion No. 446 is taken at this stage. It will enable the House to express its opinion on the general lines of policy. That will clear the ground to some extent and then we may go into specific cases if necessary. If you think, Sir, that that procedure may be adopted, it can be done, because, as the hon. the Law Member has suggested, broad questions of policy in the Police Department may then be discussed."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President Sir, may I speak for a moment? If I may say so, I consider that the suggestion that has fallen from my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, is an extremely useful one. The decision is entirely in your hands, Sir. But may I be permitted to say that not only the committee to which I have adverted but

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the public at large will be indebted to the remarks of the various hon. Members of this House as to the direction in which they want economies to be made and as to the line of action in which they desire these various committees and bodies to proceed? Suggestions of that kind and character emanating from hon. Members of this House would be of much greater assistance than perhaps specific discussions on particular allotments which will have to be discussed on their merits, the result of which, as I have already stated, may be that we might make a curtailment which might not fit in with the final stage of things as might be evolved. But I am afraid there is the difficulty of our rules."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT (in the Chair):—"Rule 30 (4) of the Legislative Council Rules states—

No motion shall be made for the reduction of a grant as a whole until all motions for the omission or reduction of definite items within that grant have been discussed."

MOTION No. 126.

3-45 p.m. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,480 for Inspectors by Rs. 100.

Sir, my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, moved a resolution during the last budget regarding the appointment of more Indians as Inspectors of Police, and the hon. Member then in charge accepted the principle underlying that resolution. Now I understand that there are two Indians appointed, one Brahman and another non-Brahman, but I do not think that any Muhammadan Inspectors are appointed. My hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, afterwards brought in another resolution asking that four of the Inspectors should be Indians. I then moved an amendment that out of the four one should be a Muhammadan Inspector. My object in making this motion for reduction is to ask the hon. the Law Member to see that at least one Muhammadan is appointed as Inspector."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"As it is a matter of general principle I take this opportunity of expressing my view. I am not talking of City Police Inspectors, whether Muhammadan or Hindu."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The motion refers, Mr. President, to the City Police. My hon. friend will have ample opportunity, when we go to Mufassal Police, to deal with it."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"My suggestion is that in case we have the Deputy Superintendent's grade, there is no necessity for the Inspector's grade. One of these two grades may very well be abolished."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I shall first deal with my hon. friend Mr. Sadulla Badsha's remarks. He is, as I said yesterday, a sturdy champion of his community and its interests, and he will not forget that so far as Assistant Commissioners are concerned, at present both the Assistant Commissioners are Muhammadans. That shows that Government are giving due attention to the claims of his community. I am only mentioning this for the purpose of showing that, whenever possible, the claims of all communities will be considered in the matter of these appointments."

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"My hon. friend, Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu, referred to the question of Deputy Superintendents. Of course, there are no Deputy Superintendents in the city. The other question that he raises is one of those questions which will come within the scope of that committee referred to by me."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD SADULLA BADSHA SAHIB:—"My question is with reference to the appointment of Muhammadan Inspectors and not Assistant Commissioners."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am only mentioning that by way of answering my hon. friend that inasmuch as in the grade of Assistant Commissioners the Government have felt no difficulty in having both of them Muhammadans, they will similarly treat every analogous problem in the spirit which has been evinced already."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI:—"Those Muhammadan gentlemen rose from the Inspector's post to the Assistant Commissioner's post."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Probably, my friend, Sadulla Badsha Sahib, thinks that the Inspector is more important than the Assistant Commissioner" (laughter).

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 127.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for rewards.

Mr. President, Sir, I do not wish to cause any reflection on the Madras Police. But I do not see why these rewards in the shape of money should be given to policemen who do their duty, though sometimes under trying circumstances. The system of reward has a bad effect in weakening the sense of duty. If a man fails to get a reward he had expected it is likely that he thinks that there is no use exerting himself hereafter beyond what he thinks is his bare duty. Even if any special recognition is necessary, it should take the form of promotion, of testimonials and of tokens like medals which would not cost much. I notice also that the allotment has been increased from Rs. 4,000 last year to Rs. 5,000 this year."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, under the Police Orders, rewards are sanctioned to police subordinates for services of special merit. But these rewards are not rewards solely granted to police subordinates. The Commissioner is also allowed to give rewards to private persons whenever there is any detection of crime in the Presidency town which in magnitude and complexity is larger than elsewhere in the Presidency."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 128.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,77,400 for total town and suburban police by Rs. 1 lakh.

Sir, I must first of all thank the hon. the Law Member for the conciliatory words with which he began the question of grants; and it is but fair and reasonable that he should expect a similar attitude from the members of this

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House. It is better that we take up one or two motions and say all we have to say on this question and then we can see whether he can accept something and whether we should withdraw or whether some cut can be made by a vote of this House. The hon. Member was pleased to say that a committee had been appointed which was expected to go into the question thoroughly. The only difficulty is this. If a committee is appointed, and no reduction of grant is made, and then the committee considers that no reduction would be necessary at all, for one year we will not be in a position to consider that question at all, whereas if our suggestion is accepted by the hon. the Law Member, if some reduction is made, say a lakh of rupees out of 14 lakhs for the Town Police and one or two lakhs out of the several lakhs asked for the Mufassal Police, and if the hon. the Law Member at any stage finds that the money is not sufficient, then he can come and ask for a supplementary grant."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am going to move for a supplementary grant."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"If the committee finds that more will be necessary than what is granted, there will be some more supplementary grants. Anyhow, the hon. the Law Member is going to move for some supplementary grants and it would not be difficult for him to add some more to them. As I said, it is only a question whether we should spend the whole sum for this item."

"Even last year, under Police, we had some deductions and no doubt we had a large number of supplementary demands also. So far as the Town Police expenses were concerned, the Budget estimate was 10 lakhs in 1921-1922; it was 12 lakhs at the time of the Budget of 1922-23; in the revised estimate it was 12½ lakhs, and now it has gone to more than 13 lakhs. It has only to be seen whether the hon. the Law Member cannot accept a reduction of 1 lakh. As I said, it is very important that we should go into various questions of policy, etc. There was a large reduction of police constables—not of higher officers—in the mufassal, about 2,000 or so. There was no reduction whatever in the city. I ask the Government why there should be this partiality towards the constables in Madras. In times of trouble, police officers can move from the city to the mufassal and from the mufassal to the city. Railway communications have become easy and it is not difficult to send a large force from one place to another. We are all aware of the fact that there was some disturbance when His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited this place, but that was at a time when the question of non-co-operation was troubling the minds of Government. Anyhow, all those troubles are gone and peace has come, so there should be no reason for the very large increase in the police force. At the time of the Mappilla rebellion we spent large sums on the police in Malabar. That is no reason why we should be spending the same amount still. In the town itself, there is a large increase in the number of constables and an increase in the pay of these people. It is better that some reduction is made now, and, if necessary, supplementary demands may be brought in later on. I do not think the hon. the Law Member means that even if these two crores and odd are given, he is going to come for a supplementary grant. I do not expect such a thing. Certainly he is for retrenchment. All I can say is that there must be some reduction at least for the purpose of discussing the question as to

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the report of the Police Committee; otherwise it would be impossible for us to do anything except by means of resolutions, and we know what the fate of such resolutions will be. It is therefore that I suggest that there should be a retrenchment of 1 lakh, probably followed by one or two more."

Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, as my hon. friend, the Member for Coimbatore, has spoken at large about the Town Police in connexion with his motion as one representing the town I feel bound to say a word or two in the matter. I am afraid that things are not yet all right as they appear to be. I cannot say that things will continue as at present for a long time or even for one year. I think it would be better that we do not touch anything in connexion with the town and leave the whole matter to the hon. the Law Member to see what he can do with the committee that has been appointed to look into the question. Until that committee goes through the whole question and comes to a conclusion in these difficult times, especially in police, I hope hon. Members will agree with me in saying that it will not be a wise thing to curtail the grant. In my opinion, this is not the right time for moving a reduction of the provision."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"What has fallen from Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar has considerably lessened my task. There are just one or two points that I desire to mention. There might be an impression in the minds of hon. Members, having regard to the increase in the budget provision, that the strength of the police force has been increased in the town. It is not so. The increase in the amount is entirely due to the revision of salaries. My hon. friend, the mover, may therefore take it that there is no increase in the strength of the police in the town."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"But as against 1,131 constables last year, we find 1,443 this year."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"There was a difference between the last financial year and the present financial year. There are some recruitments. I am only referring to the year under reference. My hon. friend also referred to some partiality to Madras and the possibility of easily dealing with situations in Madras on account of the facilities in railway communication. If, as a matter of fact, my hon. friend had been here during the time when the disturbances in Madras took place, he would have seen how futile all the railway communications and all the facilities of which he spoke were in regard to these disturbances."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"So far as the number of constables is concerned the figures show an increase from 1,131 to 1,443. The number must be expected to rise only in 1923-24. Then, Sir, if railway communications and special facilities are found to be useless where rioting is expected to take place, in every village, in every place big and small there must be a number of people because at any time a riot may take place when it will be found impossible to bring police from a distant place or even one mile. Therefore in every place the number of the police must be larger than the number of inhabitants put together. That seems to be the position. Anyhow, in view of what has fallen from Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar and what the hon. the Law Member said, if it is to lead to harmony, I do not press my motion."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"With regard to the number I wish to say, Sir, that a reference to page 104 of the Budget will make it clear that the additional 312, have been brought into the regular number."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 129.

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, the motion which stands in my name reads—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,58,264 for Presidency Police by Rs. 100.

I am thankful to the hon. the Law Member for the statement he has made regarding the purposes for which the Police Committee has been appointed which until now remained a confidential matter. But after listening carefully to the ambit of that committee's work, the matters in respect of which I propose in this resolution to draw his attention do not relate to retrenchment but relate to matters which affect the contentment of the police as it now exists. So with that view I will begin my remarks by referring to certain facts on which I have animadverted on the last occasion when we had a preliminary discussion on the Budget. I then pointed out that we are now asked for a grant of Rs. 13,31,200 including non-voted items, while in the year 1907-08 we spent on the City Police only a sum of Rs. 3,81,300. So that our expenditure, it may be said, is three and a half times what it was 15 or 16 years ago. That time, 15 or 16 years ago, was the period after the reorganization of the Police had been introduced as a result of the labours and recommendations of the Police Commission. That Commission recommended a cadre of sub-inspectors of police by direct recruitment of men of some social status and education. I am quoting their words: educational qualifications are essential and in no case ought the standard to be lower than the University Matriculation or the School Final Examination. Not more than 15 per cent shall be given to head constables. That is at page 43 of the report. Then as regards inspectors they said: 'as to the class of men required for inspectors the Commission think they would usually be best secured by selecting good men from amongst sub-inspectors, Government reserving power to recruit directly a certain number not exceeding 20 per cent.' And again at page 69 of that report they say:

Inspectors should, as a rule, be recruited by promotion from the ranks of sub-inspectors and the latter should be recruited direct in the same manner as sub-inspectors of the district police with such modifications as may be necessary to secure a reasonable proportion of Europeans.

"Again in the same paragraph they say:

For the preservation of order and for dealing with the cases in which Europeans are concerned a considerable infusion of the European element will always be required. But this necessity must not be allowed to operate as a complete bar to the employment of natives to the higher posts.

"That is what they say. Sir, as I pointed out, we have increased our expenditure by three and a half times what it was 15 years ago. But has it brought about contentment in the services? I say 'no'. Sir, much dissatisfaction is felt by the sub-inspectors and inspectors, particularly the sub-inspectors of the City Police. Till 1918 sub-inspectors whether Indian or Anglo-Indian were all in one cadre promotion depending upon seniority unless any

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one of them is superseded on account of incompetency. In the year 1918 there was a division into two cadres, the Indian and the Anglo-Indian. The Anglo-Indian cadre had a strength of 30 (7 in the first grade, 12 in the second and the rest in the third grade, eight appointments being in the selection grade). The Indian cadre consisted of 48 and I may point out that there were three grades here also. The strength, as it now consists, of the Indian cadre is 48 all of whom except one are either graduates or under-graduates or intermediates. Probably that one is a head constable who out of the 15 per cent which was reserved for head constables was promoted into the sub-inspector's cadre. But in regard to the Anglo-Indian cadre, which was for the first time brought into existence as a distinct cadre, I am told there are only seven with any educational qualifications; twenty-three do not possess educational qualifications. The result of this division has been to promote persons without educational qualifications, at least a large number of them, to supersede Indians with educational qualifications and with longer service. From the information which I have collected the average service of the Indian sub-inspector is now 13.6 years and of the Anglo-Indian seven years only. So much so that while there is a large number of appointments in the Anglo-Indian cadre, people who though they were not sufficiently qualified were posted for vacancies existing in the different grades and were promoted rapidly while those who have been much longer in the Indian cadre remained in the same grades for a long time and still continue to be there. Ten Indian sub-inspectors at the present day are still drawing Rs. 96 while their juniors in point of service, but in the other cadre are drawing Rs. 140 or Rs. 156 while a few have been made inspectors. So that what I do point out is by this division of cadre which was not contemplated by the Police Commission, various people who with educational qualifications entered the police service and expected and rightly expected bright prospects from the recommendation of the Commission for the selection of good men for filling the office of inspectors from amongst the sub-inspectors found that the recommendations, hopes and the promises held out to them had not been carried out. Sir, Sir Murray Hammick who was for a number of years the Inspector-General of Police and who subsequently became the Acting Governor of Madras for a period of nearly six months and who may properly be called the Father of the Provincial Police Service, on the occasion of an address presented to him at Vellore while his own portrait was being unveiled expressed himself as to the capacity of Indian inspectors of police in this fashion: That was in 1912. 'At all events there is one subject on which you, Indians of the country, ought to be far superior to any Englishman who comes here and that of course is in your talent for investigating and detecting crime.' Sir, the complaint now made by the Indian sub-inspectors is that although for over 17 years most of them have been in service very few of them have been promoted to the rank of inspector which by the recommendation of the Police Commission they were expecting and which they were told they could naturally look forward to as a fruit to which they were entitled. The policy has been somehow or other not to give a fair division of the office of inspectors in the city to competent and deserving Indian sub-inspectors. Sir, while there are eight executive divisions in the city, out of the eight inspectors, the reserve inspector and the recently created traffic inspector, out of these ten there are only two posts held by Indians, all the others being held by members of the

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other community and the statistics show that the occupants of these offices do not possess the requisite educational qualifications prescribed by the Police Commission. Sir, contentment in this service is a very valuable asset. We have seen instances of the want of contentment prevailing in the service leading to very undesirable results. We have seen the supineness which characterized the police in the preservation of order at the time of the arrival of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. I have no hesitation in attributing that want of energy, that want of enthusiasm to want of heart or absence of heart in their work on the part of the sub-inspectors. The policemen who were about 1,132 in number remained passive without doing anything to put down disorder. The only matter to be thankful for was that they did not join in the disorder themselves. Apparently realizing that the police strength was not sufficient the large number of which my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, complained has been added. The new addition was of 312 constables and 4 sergeants who already remained in the city in connexion with the Puliyantope troubles. The additional police, the punitive police which were in the city for emergency, have been incorporated into the ordinary service in the city so as to bring the number to 1,444. It is imagined that by adding to the strength of the constabulary they would be able to secure that protection, peace and order which was wanting previous to the addition to their strength. But I do not think that the addition has gone to the root cause. The root cause is discontent which a large number of sub-inspectors felt that their due has not been given to them.

"Sir, on this question a discussion was raised by my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, last year when the hon. Sir Lionel 4-15 p.m. Davidson after hearing all the grievances gave an assurance and an undertaking which—two after two and a half years' work in this Council have come to realize—means nothing and that it commits the Government to nothing, but that it is only an expedient to prevent a division being taken on that resolution. The hon. Member in charge of peace and order assured my friend that he would forward the discussion in the Council to the Commissioner of Police. That was all he did, and nothing happened. Subsequent to that discussion five vacancies have arisen, some by retirement of old officers, some by confirmation of persons promoted to higher posts and some by deaths, but in no case has any appointment been given to Indians, so that each of these offices continues to be held by Anglo-Indians. I do not complain about them; they have loyally served and got promotions. But where a division has been effected into two cadres, Indian and Anglo-Indian, in regard to sub-inspectors, the same thing should have been done in fairness to all concerned with reference to the cadre of inspectors. If that has been done in the proportion of 30 to 40 as in the case of sub-inspectors, out of the ten appointments, six or seven would have gone to Indians. That not having been given to them, the feeling that they have in their minds is one of a strong grievance. They feel that there has arisen a generation which knew not Joseph and that they have reversed a policy so well enunciated by the Police Commission and approved of by a person of the standing of Sir Murray Hammiok who had been himself Inspector-General of Police and subsequently rose to the very highest position open to anybody in this province. So, I do ask my hon. friend who is now in charge of law and order that he will remembering

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what he was himself claiming to be when he went before the people of Madras seeking their suffrages, 'the people's friend', now that an opportunity has been given to him by the grace of God and by the good will of His Excellency Lord Willingdon, justify the appellation by which he was going forth in the city of Madras, by removing this sore discontent which exists among the sub-inspectors of this city, and the continuance of which is bound to affect not only their contentment, but good order in the city. Under these circumstances, I hope that my appeal to my hon. friend will not go in vain and that he would not be satisfied with the consideration of the question by the Police Committee, but that he himself would consider and see that these grievances are set right."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, Mr. President, I support this motion. It was a year ago when I moved a resolution that the city sub-inspectors, both European and Indian, should be brought under one cadre, though the European sub-inspectors might be paid overseas or any other allowance. I also proposed to increase the number of Indian inspectors while recognizing the necessity for a European element in the police force. Assurances were given then, but nothing has since been accomplished. Sir, the Brahman inspector referred to by Mr. Sadulla Badshah Sahib was already existing, and the Government did not move in the matter at all. As to the increase in the number of police constables, the police constables were insufficient. It is only now that we are seeing a police constable here and there in Madras whenever we require them. As to their doing nothing at the time of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, referred to by my hon. friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, may I say this? What can a police constable do with a *lathi* in his hand when there is concerted action by thousands of people? Even the throwing of stones by these people is sure to make a constable helpless. I know what took place in Tondiarpet. The constables that attempted any resistance were beaten like anything. When I went to them the next day, I found them all full of wounds on their bodies. Sir, that was in the division of my leader, Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar" (laughter).

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, let my friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, take it that the answer that I would give him is not an expedient to avoid a division. Now, with that thoroughness of preparation and that emphasis of expression which are the characteristics of my friend, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar, he has put forward what any hearer would think to be a strong case in regard to this matter. But I think the House do not expect me to say that I agree with him and at once to proceed to go over the business in the direction he wants me to take. I undertake to go into the matter—I am speaking for myself—and if there is such an inequality of treatment as he complains of, such an inequality, if I can help it, will not exist or continue.

"Now, there are two or three points which he adverted to. He adverted to the increase in the expenditure that has taken place not only in the case of the City Police, but also elsewhere. It was because of such increase in the expenditure on the department that the Government was moved to inaugurate the Police Committee which I have already referred to. It is to consider whether the Police is adequate and whether the expenditure under it is normal or not and other similar things, that the committee is

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sitting now. Let us hope that the labours of the committee will enable the Government to adopt a clear line of policy in regard to this department, and in that policy the matter now under discussion will be included. I may say for the information of my hon. friend that first of all I shall put this matter before that committee. Secondly wherever possible, whatever action is considered necessary by them, I shall take."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I am glad that instead of the answer of the kind that was given when my hon. friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, moved the resolution referred to by me, instead of such a non-committal answer to the effect that the discussion on the resolution would be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, I have had now an assurance from my hon. friend so early in his career as the Member in charge, and a promise to look into the matter, assisted as he would be, by the committee. I hope that the needful will be done in the matter by him and the committee. After that assurance, I have no wish to press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 130.

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Mr. President, I beg to move the following motion :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,360 for superintendents by Rs. 3,000.

Sir, at page 106 of the Budget, I read provision was made last year under this head for Rs. 5,760, and the number of superintendents was then only three. Normal development may account for an increase by one or two, but the increase of double the number of superintendents seems to be unusual and abnormal. An explanation, I believe, will be forthcoming, namely, that four clerks in the upper division have been abolished, and that four new superintendents have been appointed. I can understand one or two additional superintendents being appointed, but more than doubling their number is, I think, unnecessary. A superintendent for about 9 or 10 clerks should quite suffice, and the figure Rs. 12,360 is certainly too much. I hope the hon. the Law Member would accept this small reduction."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I am afraid there has been a slight misapprehension about this matter. Last year there were twenty-six upper division clerks and three superintendents. It was felt that the number of superintendents had to be increased in order to adequately supervise the work of that office which is concerned with stores, and also to check the details. Further, what has happened now is that the total strength is twenty-six clerks and seven superintendents as against thirty upper division clerks and three superintendents last year. That is what has happened."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 131.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I move—

Omit the allotment of Rs. 12,046 for the establishments of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.

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"I may state at the outset that the object of this motion is not that the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police should be retained without their establishments. As was shown on the last occasion, the only constitutional way in which this House can express its opinion that the posts of Deputy Inspectors-General of Police ought not to be retained is by suggesting the omission of provision for their establishments. I am quite aware from the previous replies which the hon. the Law Member has given that the Police Committee is expected to go into this question, and this is one of the questions which are likely to come up before that body. But notwithstanding that fact, if I feel it necessary to place this motion before this House, it is because I feel that sufficient justice has not been done to the discussion which took place on this subject at the time of the Budget last year, when this question was raised and discussed from various standpoints, and the hon. Sir Lionel Davidson with his usual enthusiasm to support every item under Police vigorously supported the retention. He referred to the remarks of the Police Commission and said that Deputy Inspector-General formed a very important officer in the link and was necessary. But though one year has elapsed, I find nothing definite has been done in connexion with this matter. We have got the assurance that the Police Committee is to go into and examine this question. If this House is satisfied that as in the case of various other intermediary officers, the Inspector-General of Police is not quite necessary, I think it can only express its opinion by suggesting the reduction in the provision made in the Budget for his establishment. May I ask the hon. the Law Member to consider if, in the same spirit in which he has suggested that the Police Committee would go into this question, he will not agree to the reduction of this provision. If he holds that this intermediary officer is unnecessary and that some retrenchment may be made in this direction, it is quite necessary to make a reduction in the next year's Budget, the details being worked out later on. Suppose another course is adopted, and suppose we accept the hon. the Law Member's assurance and suggestion that the matter would be considered by the committee, then no good at all may come out of it; and there is the danger of the matter lying over probably for another year without any tangible results being achieved. It is for these reasons that I think it necessary to place this motion before the House."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I am sorry I cannot accept the invitation proffered by my hon. friend. Let us first see what the duties at present discharged by these officers are. According to the Police Orders, they are to keep the Inspector-General informed as to the manner in which crime was dealt with in the districts and to control and advise the superintendents. Let me again reiterate what I have already said, namely, that if you are going to effect a reduction in this item, may it not be in the way of a more comprehensive reduction somewhere else? The committee may think that this particular departmental supervision is necessary and that the supervising staff just below it ought to be reduced or altered, and it is from that point of view that I would ask the House to consider this question and not to prejudge it. I may at once assure this House that this committee is not merely a dilatory committee. It is not devised to postpone a discussion of this question. It is hard at work collecting materials, and it is meeting on the 4th April and I take it that in the course of a month or two its researches will be available to Government. With that assurance let me

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again ask my hon. friend not to press the matter in such a way as to tie the hands of the committee in making possible larger economies in some other directions."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 132.

Mr. A. T. MUTTUKUMARASWAMI CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,29,900 for Police—Superintendence by Rs. 1 lakh.

I have already in my speech on the Budget urged that there are too many intermediary officers in the Police Department and there is no need for four Deputy Inspectors-General. Since the pay of these officers is a non-votable item, I wish to call attention to these and other unnecessary officers who could easily be dispensed with, by proposing the reduction under votable items of the allotment of Rs. 1,29,000 for Police—Superintendence by one lakh. These Deputy Inspectors-General are quite unnecessary. The work they do of hearing appeals, levying fines, etc., can easily be done either by the Superintendents or by the Inspector-General. These Deputy Inspectors-General keep travelling most of the year. What amount of money is being spent on their travelling allowances, I need not say. What I am most concerned with is the interruption to the regular course of work in the stations which they visit. All the year round there is a regular procession of superior officials visiting the stations. One after another they come, and still they come. Each visit has to be prepared for, for nearly a month before the event. As for any office work these Deputy Inspectors-General do, most papers passing through these Deputy Inspectors-General accumulate in their offices and thus their disposal is prolonged. They form a sort of medium or post office responsible for the slow despatch of business. For these reasons, I propose the reduction of the allotment under Police—Superintendence by one lakh."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to support this motion, with a view to bring to the notice of this House as also the Government the fact how criticisms in this House are not given proper heed to, and how the voice of the people is not heard in connexion with administrative matters relating to the Police Department. Last year, Sir, during the Budget discussion I brought to the notice of this House and to the notice of the Government through this House a definite case. That case was this: thirty villagers in an out of the way place in my district complained that the local sub-inspector of police was tyrannizing over them. Of course, I am not asking for any justice to be done in this House. What I say is that the system itself is so bad that it does not admit of the popular voice being respected which is the real element in the present scheme of Reforms. Now, I will just repeat what I stated last year, Sir; from that you will be able to understand what I mean. Not many months ago, I received information from a number of villagers that the local sub-inspector was tyrannizing over them and levying blackmail from those innocent village people among whom I met many during the election and to whom I had stated that the coming change in the Government was going to give more and more weight to the people's voice. I stayed with them for a couple of days making inquiries to investigate into

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the complaint when so many as 30 or 40 people complained to me of this common grievance. I felt that there was a ring of truth in it. I wrote to the District Magistrate apprising him of the situation and suggesting to him an inquiry independent of the police agency. A Deputy Superintendent of Police was sent, who went there and examined so many as 22 witnesses who were sufferers in the case. The Deputy Superintendent went away from the village and sent an endorsement that their complaint was frivolous. Not only that, the sub-inspector is still allowed to continue there, giving rise to a fresh crop of grievances. Then I approached the District Superintendent of Police, who said that the Deputy Superintendent had already examined the matter and therefore he would not go into the details and that that was not his job. In this connexion, it will be remembered that if an ordinary police constable is punished or dismissed, the Superintendent of Police is bound to give his reasons which led to his decision. Not only that, the constable has got a right of appeal—one to the Deputy Inspector-General and one to the Inspector-General of Police. But when a body of people complain of a grievance against a police sub-inspector, the department thinks that no reasons need be assigned for their finding and there is no right of appeal. This is the complaint that I brought forward and put before the Council last year, as this is the place where the people's voice is heard through their representatives. Now, what has been done with regard to this matter? Did anybody care to read these remarks, did the departmental heads really take note of these things to see what could be done in the matter? A year has passed since this statement was made before this very House. What has been done? Has the Inspector-General taken note of this matter? When a body of people go and complain against a sub-inspector, is he not to find out whether the case is true or false? The reason why I rose to support this motion is to bring this prominently before this House. He has evidently not read it. No police officer has read it and nobody has taken any notice of it. If that is the way things are allowed to go on, how are we to work the Reforms and what success have we to show in them?"

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"Sir, as a man who served in the Police Department as an inspector for six years and as a Magistrate of about 23 years' standing, I profess to know something about the working of the police. I am not going to enter into any particulars, but I may say that I consider that these intermediary appointments of the Deputy Inspectors-General are absolutely not required and they may be dispensed with. I request the Government to consider the matter."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I wish first to deal with the remarks that fell from my hon. friend, Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai. I own with considerable reluctance that I have no knowledge of these particular proceedings in this House. But I have just seen what appears in page 3309 of the Proceedings. The floor of this House is a place where grievances such as those ventilated by my hon. friend have got a claim to be heard. There is no doubt about that. I may now tell the hon. Member that there is a case in which the prosecution of a sub-inspector has been sanctioned. But there has been an appeal from one court to another and the disposal is being delayed. Whether the sub-inspector in this case is the same man, I cannot say."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, here it is not a case of a sub-inspector being punished or not. Whether the complaint is true or not is not

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the question. When about thirty people complain, they are simply being told that their case is without foundation and the police do not assign any reasons. It may be that the sub-inspector is going to be prosecuted or not. It may be it is a different case altogether. It may be the same individual complained against by the aggrieved parties. All that does not affect the present question. My only grievance is whether when there is a complaint of corruption against an official, the head of the department should not also enquire into the matter. If the head of the department makes an inquiry, is he not to write a minute of his proceedings assigning his reasons and communicate a copy of it to the aggrieved parties, so that they may be able to appeal to a higher authority. If this matter is not at all noticed by the head of the department or the Government, what value is there to our complaints here in this House?

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am very greatly relieved by what has just now been said. It was a very eminent chancellor who once advised a colonial judge before his appointment, who was of very ordinary legal attainments. He said 'by all means come to your conclusions, but don't give your reasons.' Because he was apprehensive that if this man went on to give reasons every one of these reasons might be faulty. That was said of a judicial officer. Does my hon. friend really expect these police officials to pass judgments on these cases? It seems to me that neither their equipment nor their leisure, provided they kept themselves to the duties of their offices."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"The thing is this, Sir. When a police constable who is only a servant of the people is punished for any fault he may have committed, the Superintendent is bound to draw up a minute of the proceedings, pass his judgment and to observe all those formalities and then to give that man a right of appeal. But the poor tax-payer who is the mainstay of the Government, when he is aggrieved at the hands of a Government subordinate, is he not to be assigned reasons for any decision going against him? That is my point, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is not a matter of personal explanation though of course it is a point that the hon. Member wants to be answered."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I see exactly what is passing through my hon. friend's mind when he raised a very large question as to whether the tax-payer when he complains of these things is entitled to some reasons for the conduct of those superior officials. I do not think I am in a position to answer that question offhand, but I may say that if any individual grievances of this kind are brought forward by gentlemen of the position and status of my hon. friend, the Government will attend to these matters."

"I shall now turn to what fell from Mr. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. He pointed out that these intermediary supervising agencies were entirely superfluous. That is just a point that was being discussed in connexion with the last motion. There is no use, if I may say so most respectfully, in tinkering with this problem by touching it up here and there, as we are likely to have a comprehensive investigation by a committee. Let us await it, and when I say that that investigation will not be unduly delayed, I hope the hon. Member will take that assurance."

Mr. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar did not press his motion, and it was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 133.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR moved—

4-45 p.m. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,29,900 for Police—
Superintendence by Rs. 50,000.

In doing so, he said:—"I simply want to say one or two words on this matter. I see on page 108 of the Budget as regards assistant superintendents there were 26 last year, i.e., 1922-23, and you have 35 for 1923-24. I want to know whether the number has been increased already or whether it is intended only to be increased hereafter. I will now make the same request to the hon. the Law Member as I made to the hon. the Minister in charge of Excise that pending the investigation and the possible recommendations of reductions by the Police Committee, it is desirable that as many vacancies as possible that may occur in the near future may not be filled up. The hon. the Law Member was pleased to say that it may be possible that one or more appointments of Deputy Inspectors-General might be dispensed with and there might be some readjustment as regards the deputy superintendents. I do not think that the hon. the Law Member will have any objection to adopt my suggestion and issue an order that till the Police Committee makes its recommendations to the Government, no persons should be appointed permanently to existing vacancies. If these men are made permanent, then the Government might perhaps feel it difficult to give effect to the recommendations of the committee in regard to the permanent men. I wish to make this suggestion and I hope the hon. the Law Member would accept it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The suggestion will be borne in mind."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 134.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,29,900 for Police—Superintendence by Rs. 100.

Sir, there seems to be a general feeling that the office of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police might be abolished. The hon. the Law Member has just now told us that the Police Committee will go into the question and the recommendations made by them will be placed before the House. My only request is that if it is finally resolved upon to retain this office of the Deputy Inspectors-General, then the claims of deserving Indians may be considered. At present there is not a single Indian in this cadre."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I shall note what has fallen from the hon. Member."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 135.

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

To omit the allotment of Rs. 36,900 for superintendents.

Sir, my object in making this motion is to suggest to the Government the necessity and the advisability of making the police superintendence in this Presidency less cumbersome and to gradually take steps to effect considerable

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reductions in the number of officers above the rank of inspectors. The work that the police are now expected to do is not so heavy or so responsible as it was some years ago. Formerly the police officers were compelled to detect cases and now that responsibility has been taken away. With the taking away of this responsible and more exacting and taxing part of the work, the police have now got very light work. They are now called upon to attend to prevention work. Prevention is such a vague term that it is not possible to bring any specific charge against any particular individual. The responsibility is now so much divided that no individual feels his burden with the result great inconvenience is caused to the public. Though the work is lightened, the police staff remains the same. I therefore wish to suggest that there should be one Inspector in charge of a division and one Superintendent in charge of the whole district and one Inspector-General of Police for the whole Presidency. The four Deputy Inspectors-General of Police that now assist the Inspector-General may be put in charge each of a fourth part of the Presidency. If my scheme is accepted, it would be possible for the Government to run the police machinery without any hazard for the public safety.

"Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the great injustice which is supposed to be done to the Sub-Inspectors of Police. Their grievance is that the pay of the constables and the head constables have all been doubled and the pay of the officers higher in rank than the sub-inspectors are also proposed to be increased and they feel that their claims have not been duly considered. It is with a view to elicit information on these points that I wish to make this motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If the motion is intended to effect retrenchment, I may mention for the information of the House that the question of reducing the number of District Superintendents of Police is specifically before the Police Committee. At the same time I wish to point out to the hon. Member that out of the three listed posts of superintendents, one is intended for a European and the two others are intended for Indians. If these listed posts are cut out, then it will not help the task of indianisation. It is a very difficult problem to find out what ought to be the size of a police district and whether it is possible to reduce it as suggested by the hon. Member. As I said, all these questions are under the consideration of the committee and that is all the information that I am at present able to give."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 136.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,85,280 for deputy superintendents by Rs. 1,20,000.

It is somewhat reassuring that the hon. the Law Member has intimated to the House that the Government have appointed a committee to consider the reorganization of the whole force in the Presidency, with of course special reference to the several grades of officers now existing including the Deputy Superintendents of Police. At the same time, I wish to lay before the House some facts connected with my own district and which have come under my observation. I have seen four or five Deputy Superintendents of Police in succession who have been of no use to our district. With an

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inspector and a sub-inspector below, they feel no responsibility at all. They are only required to do touring work and even in this tour they do not closely examine the work of their subordinate officers. They do not offer advice to sub-inspectors in intricate cases. They are not supposed to show any constructive work in the direction of prevention of crimes. If they go on circuit, the sub-inspectors are put to a lot of difficulty in attending to their supplies. The sub-inspectors, in turn, fall on the poor ryots and the whole burden is cast upon the poor ryots. These are the several points to which I like to draw the attention of the hon. the Law Member."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"All these suggestions will be carefully borne in mind."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 137.

Rao Bahadur C. V. RANGA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 19,680 for temporary Deputy Superintendents.

Sir, I should like to know why provision is made for five temporary Deputy Superintendents when there is already a sanctioned permanent strength of 39 Deputy Superintendents."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, the Inspector-General of Police, for reasons which he had detailed at great length in his communication, dated the 23rd December 1922, wanted these appointments. He wanted to create two additional appointments for assisting the Superintendent in Kistna and the other appointments for assisting the Criminal Intelligence Department. Those were the specific recommendations made by the Inspector-General of Police. In view of the fact that the whole question of the reorganization of the Police is under the consideration of the Police Committee, these posts have been kept temporary. I think that my hon. friend would consider it advantageous to have these posts as temporary so that, if necessity arises, these posts may be abolished if the Police Committee decides in that way."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 138.

Mr. M. NARAYANASWAMI REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,84,100 for Inspectors.

Sir, the work of the inspectors is only to supervise the work of the sub-inspectors. The sub-inspectors are trained men, they investigate cases and detect crimes and they are more responsible than the head constables. The work of these sub-inspectors are supervised by three agencies. First, the circle inspector supervises them, then the Deputy Superintendents and finally the District Superintendent of Police. I consider it superfluous that the work of one set of officers should be supervised by three different officers. The hon. the Law Member has told us that there is a committee investigating all these questions and I should like that the committee should consider this question of abolishing the circle inspectors. I am certain that the hon. the Law Member by accepting this motion will only be facilitating the work of the committee."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I wish it were possible to adopt the simple expedient suggested by the hon. Member. This particular matter of abolishing the circle inspectors was tried in certain selected localities and it was reported that these experiments did not prove a success. I am quite alive to the fact that there are two distinct trends of opinion in this matter. Some persons consider that the inspectors are absolutely superfluous and that they should go. As I said in my preliminary remarks, this is one of the major questions which have to be considered along with the reorganization question."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 139.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,84,100 for Inspectors by Rs. 50,000.

Now, it is clear that either the inspectors or the sub-inspectors should go. The hon. the Law Member was kind enough to say that the existing vacancies would not be filled up permanently and the hon. Member was assuring the House that all the suggestions made therein would be borne in mind. I do not know of what use it would be if the hon. Member should merely bear them in mind. He must issue orders to the district authorities to carry out the suggestions of the House. He should issue strict orders that in future no vacancy of Inspector or Sub-Inspector should be filled up permanently. Without issuing such orders, I do not think that it would be of any use if the hon. Member should merely bear all these suggestions in mind."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I do not like to give an undertaking to the House which I may not be able to carry out literally. What I meant by saying that the suggestions would be borne in mind was that they would be carefully considered and where possible they would be acted upon. I wanted to give only such undertakings as I would be able to carry out in letter as well as in spirit."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 140.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I beg to move, Sir, the following :—

6 p.m.

To omit the allotment of Rs. 19,866 for the Armed Reserve (Salem and North Arcot).

It will be noticed from page 110 of the budget that one Sergeant, five head constables and 71 constables are sought to be established in regard to Salem and North Arcot during the next year. I think that this provision is absolutely unnecessary. I am always opposed to the increasing of the police force unless there is absolute necessity for it. Government ought not to simply rely on the reports made by the department itself, but should investigate into the matter thoroughly whether the place is so bad as to require an additional force, and that an armed force, to preserve peace or order. I know, Sir, that on account of the scare of non-co-operation, the police force everywhere has been in a panic and they wish to secure as much additional police as possible on the mere plea that their presence will be necessary in order to preserve peace and order. But that is only a matter of imagination

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and exaggeration. I submit, Sir, that in these two districts, as my inquiry goes, there is absolutely no necessity for any such additional armed police force. I therefore, submit, that this is an unnecessary provision. The hon. the Law Member has not shown whether this also is a matter that is going up before the Committee."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"No, it is not. The hon. Member now says that this is not one of the matters to be enquired by the Committee. Consequently I press this motion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I also want to support this motion, Sir, by saying a few words. I understand that this demand for a reserved police in Salem and North Arcot arose as subsequent result of some disturbance in that locality when a portion of the police there was brought away to Madras at the time of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. First of all, Sir, the reason for that disturbance might have been due to the taking away of that police force from there. Secondly, are we to have armed police everywhere simply because there was some disturbance in some place at a particular time on account of some abnormal or peculiar reason? We are told that because there was some disturbance in Madura about the Sivakasi affair, therefore there should be a police there for ever. In the Salem district some disturbance took place some time during the non-co-operation virulency, and therefore, we should arm the police there with arms. Because there is a likelihood of disturbance in Malabar, therefore a number of sergeants, all armed, must be placed there. In fact, some disturbance of some sort is taking place everywhere and is that a reason why we should strengthen the police as regards their number and also give them arms and ammunitions and call them armed reserve wherever any disturbance to the police force and calling them armed reserve where there will be no place without takes place is to be continued, then, as I said, there will be no place without the police and there will be no police without arms. As a matter of principle, this allotment should be omitted, and if at any time any disturbance takes place because of the omission of this grant, then we should be prepared to consider the matter. Therefore, I think it is better that this grant is taken away."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, I think the hon. Member has himself supplied the answer when he says that we may wait until the disturbance takes place, and then find out a device to meet it. I think put in that way the proposition carries its own answer. But I do not wish to rest the matter there. This matter was investigated and was placed before the Finance Committee with a unanimous report of the district officers concerned and the Inspector-General who had been investigating the matter."

"I might give a resumé of the reasons which led to the increase of this armed reserve. Now the proposal is that the strength of the Salem district armed reserve should be increased by 1 sergeant, 4 head constables and 48 constables, and of the North Arcot reserve by 1 head constable and 23 constables. The present strength is 1 inspector, 2 sergeants, 1 jamadar and 113 constables. The reasons given are that in both these districts the reserves as at present constituted are not sufficient to deal with trouble and he bases his argument upon his experience in the past. He pointed out that in the disturbance in Salem in 1922 the reserves were not adequate to meet the

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demands of the situation and this is what we find here. The authorities consider that there are elements now present in the North Arcot district and in the Salem district which call for this emergency provision.

"No one is more anxious than myself that such ebullitions should not take place, but there is no use in keeping quiet and then, if anything occurs, rushing the armed military. It is in order to avoid that contingency that the district officers and the Inspector-General placed the matter before the Finance Committee, and this proposal has received the sanction of that committee."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Sir, whenever the police are unable to quell a rioting or disturbance, they do not generally admit that it is due to their weakness, but say that their strength is not enough and the people have overpowered them, although the people are unarmed and the police themselves are armed. The hon. the Law Member told us that it is better to arm ourselves beforehand before any actual rioting or disturbance takes place. If that is so, Sir, then I think we will require such an armed police in every village, because we do not know at what moment any rioting or disturbance will take place, and therefore it is always better to be fore-armed. On that principle, Sir, we might require a million police forces to be stationed in every village in this Presidency. But the point is whether there is at present any necessity and whether the people are so excited as to require the immediate stationing of this armed police. It may be that some months before or years before there was a reason for that."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am afraid I have not made myself understood. I thought I made it clear to the House that because these elements are reported to be present, these reserves are kept."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Then, Sir, when the report was made I am not able to understand."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am in a position to say that on the information before me, I consider that I must press the demand."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Then all I can say, Sir, is that it is a one-sided report. I am not at all satisfied from the inquiries I made upon this point from persons who know much better than the police themselves, from the people in North Arcot itself, that there is any necessity for it, and I may say that this will be an infliction and an indignity upon them."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"Sir, the hon. Member had been very cautious in the phraseology that he has used for the purpose of defending the position that he has taken. He is not able to give us any particulars from which we are in a position to arrive at any inference. All that he says is that the information at his disposal will justify him in the belief that this demand is properly made. There are also some of us who, I believe, although we have not got the special source of information such as may be open to the hon. Member, are still in a position to form some judgment for ourselves. So far as the North Arcot district is concerned, it appears to me, Sir, that this provision is absolutely uncalled for and unnecessary. I can well understand how fears are entertained by persons in the position of the hon. Member, or those whom he is at present controlling. But I may say that most of those fears are unfounded and I may also mention this: Very often we hear it said—I am not here to vouch for the

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accuracy of those matters—very often it is said that it is the mere provision that is made for avoiding the trouble that causes the trouble. I may say also that in the case of the North Arcot district that is one of the reasons that might have contributed to such ebullitions as the hon. Member has referred to. But the position is that you must take it as things stand at present. It is perfectly possible that it is not beyond the logical possibility of having such emergencies when not merely North Arcot but every other district in the Presidency might require a special reserve police. But is that going to be a basis on which my hon. friend is going to ask for any grant for the purpose of keeping this reserve ready. As matters stand at present, I do think that it is perfectly competent and perfectly desirable and perfectly possible for my hon. friend to take the risk of not having this additional police force in North Arcot, and if there are any developments unlooked for that take place, I am sure that arrangements can be easily made for the purpose of meeting a contingency that does unexpectedly arise."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, the hon. Member in charge of the Police Department has asked for a permanent addition to the armed reserve in both these districts. The present demand is for an addition for the armed reserves in these two districts at an expenditure of Rs. 19,866, and I take it that it is a permanent addition to what we have already got in those two places, or is it an addition intended to meet any temporary emergency in these places? So far as I understand it, I believe that it is a permanent addition to the cadre of armed reserves in those two districts. Therefore, I would ask him to consider whether, whatever may be the information that he has at his disposal which has not been furnished to us, the circumstances justify any such permanent addition to the police expenditure in this province. Of course we have hon. Members who represent both these districts of Salem and North Arcot in this Council. I believe Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib belongs to the same district, and I believe also that the hon. Member in charge of the Police comes from the same district. In these circumstances, I should like to know what ebullition or temporary emergency there is to justify this addition in those two places, and if there is any such necessity, I venture to think that the reserves from the neighbouring districts may be moved into these districts for the purpose of meeting any temporary emergency."

"Sir, the Police expenditure has mounted up in this Presidency to an enormous figure during the last fifteen years and yet we are still giving in to these proposals for additions to the permanent cadre for what they call ebullitions or temporary emergencies."

"What case has been made out? I ask him what case had been made out to incur an expenditure of Rs. 19,000 for the Police in these districts. Nothing has been said except my hon. friend vaguely referring that he has been satisfied of the necessity for it from the information at his disposal. I do not recollect to have heard of any riots or dacoities or signs of disorder in these two districts of so serious a character as to call for the introduction of additional armed reserves. So I think whatever may be the inquiry that is going to be made, we should not, by a vote in this Council, add to the already enormous expenditure of the 'Police'. I venture to think that this particular motion ought to be passed."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"It is necessary that the House should understand the provision for these armed reserves. It is not a

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matter that stands by itself. It is part of a scheme and I think that it is absolutely necessary that some investigations ought to be made in regard to the necessity for this new departure of policy. You will see from the notices given that this relates to the armed reserve in Salem and North Arcot, and the next item to the East Coast special force. Then we have got the Rajahmundry special force and there will be another in the Nilgiris, while the proposal for the forces that are necessary for Malabar are not yet come. The idea seems to be that we ought to have forces of reserves at particular centres in the Presidency to meet emergencies. That was the idea that was put forward and for the East Coast reserve as much as 600 constables were proposed. The Finance Committee to which more than one reference was made by the hon. the Law Member is not responsible for this policy. They were told that under the present condition of the country this force of 600 and odd for the East Coast should be sanctioned and some force also for other places. They did not go into the question of policy whether this system of reserves is necessary and should be centred at particular places in the Presidency. That general question has not been gone into by the Finance Committee at all and that Committee should not be made the authors of the policy."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I do not make the Finance Committee the authors of the policy. I only said that this particular provision was before the Finance Committee and was approved of."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, so far as the policy is concerned I may say that the Finance Committee did not consider it in detail and did not approve of it. The Committee approved of this particular provision for the next year on the ground that at the present moment it was said there was trouble on account of the non-co-operators and some armed forces would be necessary. It was on that ground that this particular provision was approved. But the general question whether we want all these reserves, whether they ought to be separate from the ordinary district reserves which we have got, what the strength of these reserves ought to be, and what the status of the officers ought to be, whether they ought to be on the military basis or they ought to be on the civil basis, all these will have to be gone into by some committee in detail. So I will earnestly request the hon. the Law Member to allow the committee which he said he has appointed for going into the question of the police policy, to investigate this question also. As I said, the responsibility of the Finance Committee is confined to the provision for the coming year. It does not go further. I would add that the matter of policy should be gone into in detail by some committee or other. Probably the Police Committee will be the best committee to go into that question and consider whether this additional force is necessary or not. I would earnestly request the hon. the Law Member to allow this matter to go before some committee."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"Sir, at the time of the general discussion on the Budget, I said that this House should be made the public quorum for the discussion of all questions of policy. Questions of policy are now relegated to the various committees and we see the sorry spectacle here of members moving resolutions and withdrawing them on the strength or on the promise of the hon. Member in charge of the portfolio that the matter will be looked into by the committee."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I did not mean to suggest nor do I suggest now that it would be finally looked into by the committee."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"I will be failing in my duty to my constituency if I do not raise my voice here that this is just the time when we can reduce the expenditure and discuss policies. We are now being deprived of that privilege because of the committee that sits and of the promise that is being made by hon. Members. We are here for discussing the policy and reducing the expenditure and if we are not allowed to do so there is no meaning in Budget discussion. In the present case, the matter has not been referred to the committee and yet, this has been added as a new item. This is a new expenditure that is sought to be added on to the provincial expenditure and therefore I ask the House not to follow the policy that we have been following now, viz., to relegate everything to the committee, but to give our vote specifically on this question."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I think we feel thankful to Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar for the information he has given us in regard to this question. The hon. the Law Member asked us to vote upon this motion on the strength of some information which was at his disposal but which he would not place before the House."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I did not say that I would not place that information before the House. I am going to do it."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I am glad that he is going to place it before the House, and I think we will then have a better opportunity of discussing it. It is quite clear that this question was placed before the Finance Committee as the result of a general policy which has been or which is proposed to be inaugurated. In a question affecting general policy it is but desirable that before we are called upon to give our assent to this particular demand, we must be in a position to know whether the policy proposed to be inaugurated is an advisable one. In the absence of any information I think it is not fair or just that we should be called upon to give our vote. As has been pointed out already, we have got only vague information that there is a possibility of some trouble brewing in some part of this district and that therefore to be on the safeguard it is necessary to provide for this additional force. I think, Sir, that past experience shows that so far as this district is concerned there has been no specially justifying circumstances to necessitate this particular provision and that this provision ought to go out of the budget."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I am not going into the question of policy of the Government or anything of that sort. I wish to say a word in the matter having heard the statement made by my friend the hon. the Law Member. He said that the authorities made provision for this on account of the fact that for certain reasons they are convinced of the necessity for such a force in Salem and North Arcot. We in Madras read a good deal in the newspapers about Salem and North Arcot. We are sure that everything is not as it ought to be in those districts. Further, the information that is placed before us by the Government from their responsible officers show that things are not all right. Therefore, it is not fair on our part to cut down this item. We can trust the Government to examine their policy thoroughly. This is a provision for the whole year which, in the opinion of the Government, is necessary and since they have shown the

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necessity for it if we attempt to cut it down we will be taking upon ourselves the responsibility for anything that might happen afterwards. We might ask the Government to tell us clearly what their policy in this matter is, but we must not cut down this provision."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, there are two things of a preliminary nature which I should like to say at once. In the first place, I have not the slightest objection to have the policy on this matter examined by the committee which was referred to by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar and it is not the intention of the Government that they should proceed in a hole and corner fashion. At the same time, I would also say this: that I have been in politics myself and if I did not satisfy myself that in order to meet a contingency which might arise at any moment such a provision is necessary. I would not have stood on the floor of the House and made the demand I am making now. Now, let me take the Members of this House through certain matters. As a matter of fact, the disturbances of 1922 showed that the reserve was not strong enough to meet the situation. The District Magistrate of Salem has placed on record his opinion that, having regard to the conditions of the district in 1922—and in 1923 the conditions have not changed very much according to him—the reserve should be raised. Similarly, so far as the district of North Arcot is concerned, I am not going to place what may be called confidential matters before the House nor will it be just to the parties concerned that I should do so. There are particular circumstances connected with this district which must be within the recollection of all and which must be within the knowledge of many Members of this House. There are particular elements in that district which make for trouble and there are conditions now prevalent in world politics which might conduce to that trouble. It is in order to guard against such troubles this provision for a year has been made. That policy can be examined by the House and the voice of the House will be predominant."

The motion was put to the House and declared lost.

5-30 p.m. Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU demanded a poll, which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mr. M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 10. Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. |
| 2. " V. P. Pakkiriawami Pillai. | 11. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. |
| 3. " P. T. Rajan. | 12. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raja. |
| 4. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 13. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 5. " W. P. A. Saundarapandia Nadar. | 14. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| 6. " R. K. Shanmugam Chettiyar. | 15. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 7. " V. O. Vellingiri Goundar. | 16. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 8. " Pethachi Chettiyar. | 17. Mr. B. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 9. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 18. " M. K. Seturatnam Ayyar. |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 10. Mr. R. D. Richmond. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 11. " E. Periyasayagam. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 12. " T. O. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 13. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 14. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. |
| 6. " Mr. A. B. Knapp. | 15. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 16. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 17. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. |
| 9. " A. I. G. Campbell. | 18. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| | 19. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. |

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Noes—cont.

20. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.
21. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
22. " A. Ramayya Punja.
23. Dr. P. Subbarayan.
24. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaq Sahib.

25. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
26. Mr. G. Vandanam.
27. " A. M. MacDougall.

Eighteen voted for and 27 against.

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX B.

[Vide page 2440 supra.]

Proceedings of the twenty-ninth meeting for 1922-1923 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council, held at Fort St. George on Saturday, the 10th March 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 T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR Avargal.
(4) " A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
(5) Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB.
(6) Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN.
(7) Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL.
(8) " C. E. WOOD.
(Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR did not attend.)

Read proposals relating to the extra provision of Rs. 7,500 required in the budget estimate for 1923-24 for raising the pay of Sarishtadars of temporary sub-courts from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125-5-150.

The Committee are unable to recommend the increase except in the case of courts with territorial jurisdiction.

2. Read proposals for increase in the estimated cost of quarters for five European Sub-Inspectors and three Sergeants, Wallajah Road, Madras.

The buildings to be constructed in three storeys, the ground floor to provide accommodation for four shops to be let to private individuals and the upper floors to accommodate eight officers. The original estimate of 1.55 lakhs has risen to 2.16 lakhs. A provision of Rs. 83,250 has been made in the budget for 1923-24 for this work.

The Committee would recommend the preparation of a fresh estimate for a two-storeyed building with quarters on the ground floor. It does not appear to them likely that shops would be easy to let in the locality in question.

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3. Read proposals for the construction of quarters for the taluk establishment, Gudalur, The Nilgiris.

At the meeting held on 20th January 1923, the Finance Committee recommended that provision be made for the work in the budget for 1923-24, but suggested that the total cost, which was estimated at Rs. 53,400, should be kept within Rs. 30,000. The plans and estimates have been scrutinized further by the Public Works Department with the result that it was found possible to make a reduction of only Rs. 9,727. The revised estimate for the work is thus Rs. 43,673.

Resolved to recommend that the revised estimate of Rs. 43,673 be accepted.

4. Read proposals for the constitution of a small armed reserve at Rajahmundry in the Gōdāvari district.

At the meeting held on the 16th December 1922, the Finance Committee recommended to acceptance of a proposal to form a Striking Force of Military Police on the East Coast at Rajahmundry in place of the Rajahmundry Special Force. It was subsequently decided to locate the new force at Vizianagram. In view, however, of the existence of a large central jail at Rajahmundry, the Inspector-General of Police considers that a small force of armed police must be kept there. Further, the Rajahmundry Special Force supplied men for the performance of certain fixed and fluctuating duties such as Armoury guard, Sessions Court guard, escorts to courts and the Agency. The Inspector-General, therefore, proposes to add 5 head constables and 42 constables to the District Armed Reserve at Cocanada from which a detachment, to be relieved periodically, will be detailed to Rajahmundry. The cost of the staff amounts to Rs. 12,000 per annum.

The committee would like to know whether the duties in question could not be done by men deputed from the district reserve or the striking force.

5. Read proposals for the acquisition of site for a medical school at Guntur (cost Rs. 24,200).

The committee request that they may be given an opportunity of examining as a whole the scheme for a medical college at Vizagapatam and a medical school at Guntur of which this proposal forms an instalment.

6. Read note relating to the question of travelling allowance for journeys made by the Members of the Legislative Council during short adjournments.

The committee by a majority recommended no change.

7. Read proposals relating to the construction of a Dissecting block, Coimbatore medical school.

The estimate of Rs. 61,720 which was prepared in 1918 has now risen to Rs. 71,800.

Resolved to recommend that the revised estimate be accepted.

8. Supplementary demand for 1923-1924 of Rs. 4,200 for a leave reserve officer in the Survey department.

A provision of Rs. 4,200 was wrongly entered in the budget for 1923-1924 as for 'leave allowances' instead of for a 'leave reserve officer'.

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The committee recommended acceptance of the proposal.

9. The committee recommended the acceptance of the proposal for the following supplementary demands based on the revised estimate for 1922-1923 :—

	Amount of demand.
	RS.
(1) Grant I—"Land Revenue Department", mainly for exchange and to meet excess charges under Talaiyaris.	4,53,000
(2) Grant III—"Stamps"—mainly for refunds and increased cost of stamp papers.	1,02,000
(3) Grant VII—"22. General Administration" on account of the construction of a combined cooking and dining saloon for His Excellency the Governor.	15,613
(4) Grant VII—Staff and Household of His Excellency the Governor, mainly travelling allowance and furniture.	19,600
(5) Grant IX—General Administration mainly exchange and refunds of lapsed deposits.	90,000
(6) Grant XI—Criminal Courts—on account of extra expenditure of Special Magistrates, for trying cases arising out of the Mappilla Rebellion.	36,000
(7) Grant XI—Criminal Courts—exclusive of the allotment in item (6) for officers and establishment of the Malabar Rebellion Courts.	41,650
(8) Grant XIII—Police, mainly additional travelling allowance and railway warrants.	4,37,417
(9) Grant XVII—Medical, mainly increase in voted salaries and payment to reserve officers.	44,310
(10) Grant XXIX—Pensions due to abnormal number of retirements and the proportionate pensions scheme.	2,55,485
(11) Grant XXVIII—Transferred—41. Civil Works—In charge of Public Works officers, on account of the purchase of the Port Officer's quarters as a hostel for the Brennen College, Tellicherry.	13,306
(12) Grant XXXI—Stationery and Printing—Transferred, due to stationery for the Excise Department having been charged by mistake to central.	16,700
(13) Grant XXXIII—32. Medical—Agency—Contribution to the Agency District Board—towards the cost of medical institutions.	18,442
(14) Grant XXXIII—"26. Police" on account of the Rampa disturbances.	16,112

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10. The following papers were placed on the table:—

- (1) Note on the proposed extension of the temporary post of Deputy Secretary to Government in the Finance Department up to 31st July 1923, for the purpose of writing the new accounts manuals required by the Devolution rules.
- (2) Note furnishing information regarding dietary charges in jails and the number of prisoners in the Agency sub-jail (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 2nd February 1923).
- (3) Note regarding the division of the allotment for commuted value of pensions between gazetted and non-gazetted officers—preference to be given to non-gazetted officers wherever possible (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 19th January 1923).
- (4) Detailed budget for Anti-hookworm Campaign (total provision of Rs. 12,000 in 1923-24).
- (5) Note furnishing* details of the actuals of Rs. 2,36,925 for 1921-1922 under "34. Agriculture—Agricultural Stations and District work—District work" (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 9th January 1923).

	LAKHS.	
(a) Improvement of cotton cultivation	1.38	} * 2.37
(b) Green manure	.22	
(c) District experimental cultivation	.77	
- (6) Note explaining the reduced figure of 2.30 lakhs in the revised estimate for 1922-1923 as against the budget estimate of 5 lakhs for 1922-1923 on account of the contribution to local bodies towards the cost of medical institutions (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 31st January 1923).
[The reduction is *nominal*, as the Government contribution of 2.70 lakhs was taken as a set-off against the recoveries due from local bodies.]
- (7) Note furnishing details of the lump figure of Rs. 1,10,214 in the actuals for 1921-1922 on account of 'Remuneration to Examiners' (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 9th January 1923).
- (8) Note regarding the exhibition of details of establishments in the Excise Department in the revised estimate for 1922-1923 and actuals for 1921-1922 (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 9th January 1923).
[Details are not available in the books of the Accountant-General's office.]
- (9) Note furnishing information regarding the provision of Rs. 990 in the Civil Budget Estimate for 1923-1924 on account of the old College Park (with reference to the Finance Committee's proceedings of 9th January 1923).

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- (10) Note regarding the provision in the budget for 1923-1924 for local fund audit establishments.

[The Public Accounts Committee at its meeting held on 23rd January 1923 emphasized the importance of strengthening the local fund audit establishments and considered that the re-organisation should be brought into full effect immediately and that such further funds as are necessary to finance it should be provided in the budget for 1923-1924. The immediate extra cost of bringing the whole scheme into effect in 1923-1924, taking note of the fact that it was presumably proposed to introduce it in five districts in 1922-1923, is Rs. 22,000.]

- (11) Note prepared at the instance of Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar showing the Provincial Revenues for the period 1915-1916 to 1920-1921 as they were under the then existing system of divided heads and the grants to local bodies during the same period which were met out of (a) Imperial grants, and (b) Provincial revenues proper.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
11th March 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

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- A.—(1) to (3) Up to the 22nd January 1923—the date fixed by the Select Committee for the receipt of representations about the Bill—249 representations were received. It is not possible to classify these according as they are in favour or against the Bill as in many cases the same representation is in favour of some provisions of the Bill and against others. It is difficult to say whether representations are on behalf of mutts or not, but the number of representations which are clearly headed as from or on behalf of a mutt or a matadhipati is 27.
- (4) Twenty-six sets of witnesses offered themselves for examination.
- (5) Twelve were selected for examination but one of these did not appear to give evidence.

Murder cases committed and detected in the Presidency.

902 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state for the year 1921–22 the number of murder cases, the number detected and punished in the Madras Presidency?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to statement A in Appendix A, and paragraph 15 of the Police Administration Report for the year 1921 and paragraph 14 of the High Court's Review of the Criminal Statistics for 1921. Figures for 1922 are not yet available.

Improvement of religious and charitable endowments.

903 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table all the Bills considered by the Government from 1850 till now regarding the improvement of the religious and charitable endowments and trusts?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Bills published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* at the following pages:—

- (1) Pages 1–3 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* Supplement, dated 31st March 1896.
- (2) Pages 1–3 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* Supplement, dated 13th April 1897.
- (3) Pages 101–103 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part III, dated 30th September 1919.

Mamul wet survey operations.

904 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) when the mamul wet survey operations were started in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts;
- (b) when they were closed and why;
- (c) the net recurring gain that accrued to the Government from the mamul wet survey operations in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts by levying fasaljasti and water-rates in respect of non-mamul wet areas in the whole inam and zamindari villages of these districts?

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A.—(a) & (b) The mamul wet survey operations in the Trichinopoly district were begun in April 1914 and completed in July 1916, while those in the Tanjore district which were begun in May 1915 were postponed pending the sanction of the Cauvery-Mettur Reservoir project.

(c) The Government have no information.

Number of posts in Imperial services open to Provincial services.

905 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of superior posts in the Indian Civil Service and other Imperial services and the number of such posts listed as open to the Provincial services on the 1st of January 1923?

A.—The Imperial Services in which superior posts are definitely listed as open to members of the Provincial Services are—

	Number of superior posts.	Number listed.
Indian Civil Service	96	11
Indian Police	40	4
Indian Forest Service	61	7

In the other services the methods of recruitment are such that no question of listing arises.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—“May I know the distinction or distinctions between superior and inferior posts in this All-India service?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“Distinction in what respect, may I know?”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—“In respect of pay or any other distinction which I do not know.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“So far as my memory at least, goes there is a difference in pay of at least Rs. 1,000.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—“If there is any proportion between the superior and inferior services, I should like to know.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“I do not remember the proportion exactly at the present moment.”

Appointments and dismissals in the Registration department.

906 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of travelling allowances drawn by the present Inspector-General of Registration in 1922 and 1923 as compared with that of the previous Inspector-General in the years 1920 and 1921;
- (b) the number of sub-registrars, clerks and peons dismissed by the present Inspector-General in the years 1922 and 1923 by way of retrenchment or otherwise;

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Saturday the 17th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

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

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

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

Abolition of the Sub-Magistrate's Court at Virudupatti.

899 Q.—MR. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received any memorial from the inhabitants of Virudupatti, Ramnad district, praying that the office of the Sub-Magistrate at Virudupatti should not be abolished but should be retained; and if the answer is in the affirmative what action has been taken thereon?

A.—Yes. No action was taken. The office was abolished as a measure of economy.

Dismissal and reinstatement of sub-registrars and clerks.

900 Q.—MR. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

(a) the number of sub-registrars, clerks and peons dismissed by the present Inspector-General in 1922 and 1923;

(b) in how many cases appeals were preferred to (a) the Minister for Education and (b) to His Excellency the Governor of Madras; and

(c) in how many cases the appealing sub-registrars and clerks were reinstated?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 906.

The Religious Endowments Bill.

901 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR GOVINDAS CHATHURBHUJADAS: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the number of protests received in his department against the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill up to date;

(2) the number of representations in favour of the Bill;

(3) the number of protests from or on behalf of mutts or matadhi pathis in the Presidency;

(4) the number of applications received for appearance before the Select Committee in charge of the Bill and for examination by the Committee; and

(5) the number of applicants selected for examination by the Select Committee?

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(c) in how many cases appeals were preferred to (1) the hon. the Minister for Education and (2) to His Excellency the Governor of Madras;

(d) the number of sub-registrars and clerks reinstated as a result of appeal;

(e) the number of Brahmans, non-Brahmans, Muhammadans and Christians appointed by the Inspector-General as sub-registrars, probationary sub-registrars, clerks and peons after he assumed charge of the office; and

(f) the powers delegated by the Government to the district registrars regarding the appointment of clerks and menials withheld by the Inspector-General?

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

(c) Three sub-registrars, one probationary sub-registrar and three clerks appealed against the order of the Inspector-General. Of these the memorial submitted by one of the clerks was addressed to His Excellency the Governor in Council.

(d) The order of dismissal passed in the case of one of the clerks was commuted into one of suspension for a year.

(e) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 891.

(f) The hon. Member is referred to orders Nos. 85, 86 and 107 (b) in Part II of the Registration Manual.

Separate establishment for C.I.D. Inspectors at Madras.

907 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the C.I.D. Inspectors does work in the City for which a separate establishment is sanctioned; and

(b) whether the duplication of the work can be avoided and savings effected in this direction?

A.—(a) C.I.D. Inspectors only work on City cases on very rare occasions at the request of the Commissioner of Police.

(b) There is no duplication of work.

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XIV—POLICE—cont.

MOTION No. 141.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 76,884 for the East Coast Special Force.

Sir, the details of this provision appear on page 110 of the Budget. It will be found that provision has been made in the Budget for 1923-24 for two Subadars, five Jamadars, two Havildars Majors, eight Havildars, one Havildar Major Armourer, ten Naiks, and 200 Constables—in all for 228 officers. It appears to be a permanent addition to the police force which will be brought into effect in the next year. In the course of the discussion on the last motion regarding the Armed Reserve for Salem and North Arcot, it was pointed out by the hon. the Law Member, as also by Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar, that they might be allowed to stand for one year

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under the existing circumstances. But so far as this provision is concerned there are other factors which show that it is intended to be more of a permanent character. If we look at the Budget estimate of the Public Works Department, we shall find that for the East Coast Special Force provision is made for buildings for the next year at a cost of one lakh of rupees. A detailed consideration will further show that this one lakh does not represent the value of the buildings at all. It is only a provision made for the construction of buildings next year. In the column 'amount of estimates' you will find a blank showing thereby that these estimates are not yet ready or are not yet sanctioned, and these buildings are likely to cost much more than one lakh provided for in the Budget. Therefore, if we bear in mind the fact that the buildings are proposed to be constructed for the East Coast Special Force at a cost of several lakhs of rupees, I think this House ought to hesitate before it can give its assent to a provision of this description. It is to be ascertained whether notwithstanding the cry for retrenchment, notwithstanding the pressure we are trying to bring to bear on the Executive to reduce its expenditure, it is necessary, in the year to come, to make a provision for a recurring expenditure of something like 80,000 rupees and a non-recurring expenditure of over several lakhs of rupees. If we have followed the trend of events in the country, I believe that tranquillity has been restored in the East Coast districts, and there is no justification for thinking of any extraordinary measures at this moment. I would ask the hon. the Law Member to consider whether the proposed special force will serve the purpose he has in view, and whether by precipitating action on the lines proposed it would not provoke resentment, if nothing else. It will not only do that, but it will also add substantially to the expenditure under this head. I am not in a position to say more because no further details have been given regarding the necessity for this provision. If the hon. the Law Member lays before us all his proposals with the reasons therefor, perhaps it will be time for me and the hon. Members to consider the proposals. With these observations, I move the motion regarding this provision."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I welcome this opportunity to place before this House the reasons which led to the adoption of this particular device or expedient. In so doing, I shall first begin by referring hon. Members to the fact that in December 1921, the Finance Committee approved of the formation of a special armed Police Reserve for the East Coast. The present total strength is one inspector, four sergeants, fourteen head constables and one hundred and sixty seven constables. These were organized on the lines of ordinary district reserves. Recently, the Agency outbreak, about which I need not say very much, took place, and it proved that this particular force, organized as it was, was unsuitable both in its personnel and in its organization and was inadequate in number. What was the result? The result was that, in respect of what was called the Agency *fituri*, over two lakhs of rupees were spent and a special police had to be transported from Malabar for that purpose. As I said, the special troops had to be replaced in Malabar for that purpose. As I said, the special police trained to grapple with situations of this kind had to be brought in all the way from Malabar to the Agency because of the inadequacy and impossibility of dealing with a situation by means of that armed reserve police to which I have already referred. The first point that I desire to place before the House is that it is not only the right but the duty of the

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [17th March 1923]

State never to call for the aid of the military in matters of civil outbreaks. That is really one of the fundamentals of constitutional practice and I think it will be accepted on all hands in this House that, as far as possible recourse or resort to the military ought not to be had in cases of civil outbreaks, civil insurrection or civil tumult of any form or shape. If there is no properly organized police force, the military authorities have to be called in: and in fact, in the course of the last few years they have often been called in.

"What are the arguments? In the first place owing to the unavailability of the military at the shortest notice, it is not generally possible to call it in aid. The second and the more important argument, which will appeal to the hon. Members of this House and the public is the political inexpediency from every point of view of having any resort whatsoever to the military until a crisis of the first magnitude arises. Thirdly, it is the primary responsibility of a Civil Government to deal with situations that arises from its acts; and, last but not least, is the tremendous financial burden and responsibility laid upon the civil powers by calling into aid the military authorities. As I said, the Agency *fituri* has till now cost us about two lakhs. Moreover, I may mention that the Government of India has had the whole of this matter under consideration. They have advised Local Governments that it is not the function of troops to perform police duties, and, I think, with that dictum or statement everybody will concur. Every one who has studied the history of constitutional development in countries which have attained constitutional freedom will find the remedy proposed universally acceptable. Further, in order to prevent riots, troops might be employed, but in that case the entire cost entailed by their employment is also recovered from the Local Governments. From that point of view I think the policy of keeping ourselves free from any resort to military help will find favour in this House. The Government of India have also urged the expediency of forming and equipping strong battalions of armed police, firstly on the ground that such battalions are cheaper to maintain and secondly they are themselves a deterrent to disorder. Moreover, it will be noticed that the military have to be concentrated in camps and that is a circumstance which should be borne in mind. This principle was followed in the enrolment and the organization of the Malabar special force, which has proved its mettle and its extreme usefulness in dealing with the Mappilla outbreak. The strength that is for the present proposed in regard to the East Coast is something between 200 and 300. This is to be done by the retention of 150 of the Bellary special force, 50 of the Rajahmundry special force, and they are to be armed with Magazine rifles and made available for all the districts. This particular proposal was placed before the Finance Committee, and they approved the proposal to form a striking military force in the East Coast in the place of the Rajahmundry special force, and its exact location has not yet been finally settled. This is the origin of the special force.

"Now, as I said yesterday—I repeat it to-day—there is no one on this side or any other side of this House who is inclined to be unduly pessimistic about the situation. It is recognized that to a certain extent the general political situation is clearing up. But one must be fore-warned and fore-armed in this matter. There are two alternatives to the suggestion that I have now brought forward. The first is to keep the present costly equipment of the police force which has been recognized to be unfit for and unequal to the task of meeting

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such contingencies and that in such contingencies resort must be had to the military. When this fact is borne in mind and when it is recognized that the civil power ought to control these matters and that the police under the sanction of the civil power is the sole body to function on occasions of this kind, a small force such as this, designed only for the purpose of contingencies, will not be regarded as extravagant. The alternative is half a dozen times more costly, namely, that of referring to the military authorities which would lead to unhappy contingencies. Nobody wants to pretend that these contingencies will happen; nobody wants to say that the situation is more gloomy than it is; but no one can gainsay that fore-warned is to be fore-armed and that the control of the civil authorities is more desirable than the rigours of the military force. This is the one cardinal question of policy that involves and underlies this motion."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I should like to deal with two subjects, Sir, in this motion. The first is the extraordinary nature of the statement made by the hon. the Law Member about this momentous Government policy, and secondly, and more especially, the Malabar affairs.

"I confess I was quite taken aback by the pronouncement of the hon. the Law Member. For it was but yesterday that we provided for the special police under the impression that it was only a temporary thing for one year. To-day we are informed that this is part of a general policy, and that it is a striking force which has come to stay with its place between the ordinary police and the military police. My first observation on this is that if the Government want to introduce this new policy, they ought by a resolution to obtain the sanction of this House instead of bringing it in the Budget in this off-hand manner. Secondly, this statement has already been condemned on other occasions. I do not subscribe to the doctrine that in no circumstances should the aid of the military be called in to terminate civil warfare. I will go further and say that they will rather form spy sentinels than real guards. It has already been proved that the civil authorities should be in charge of the situation. Yet the military are being called in. I am not here to criticise the policy but merely to suggest a policy. I am perfectly sure that the striking force which is going to be organized is not going to prevent the advent of the military on occasions like those on which they have been called out till now. How this force is going to prevent a Rampa fituri or happenings of that kind is not clear. All that we know is that a sort of intermediary between the military and the police is sought to be newly organized. It means in a way, in a very insidious way, we ought either to permanently increase the police force or permanently increase the military force.

"Another thing, Sir, that I would like to say is this: I do not think that this is going to prevent the introduction of the military in dealing with matters of this kind, and we are here confronted with a large policy which might mean an enormous amount of expenditure. Sir, reference was made to another point, about which, with your permission, I should like to say a few words. I must apologise to my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, that I was not here during his reply. Even if I had been here I would not have been given the opportunity of dealing with the matters raised by him. Something has been said of the Mappilla rebellion in the hon. Member's reply, and he has told us that the special police force has been of immense service. I am not dealing with the special police force; but I may say this, that it was of

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some service, because the military had done most of the work, and they came in at some late stage of the rebellion. They certainly were not there at the initial stage. Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, appealed to non-official opinion against what he called 'strictures.' Well, Sir, non-official opinion in Malabar has been expressed more than once. In the first time in a letter published last year by Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar the action of the police was characterised as the Police Raj. It says:

Some of them try to make up for the fleetness of their calf muscles in running away from their posts of duty by the 'Hextra' telescopic power of their million magnified vision, in claiming to have witnessed crimes committed while, if the truth must be told, they were running hours and miles ahead with their backs to the scene at a speed which would put to shame the champions of an Olympian race.

Then, Sir, as regards the manner in which crime was detected, brought to light and convictions obtained, he says:

A little imagination will supply you with the rest of the process of detection and proof, and men are afraid, even in cases where a particular accused is innocent, to give evidence for the defence for fear of the dock inviting them soon after.

Those were the extraordinary conditions under which literally tens of thousands of people were arrested, charged and convicted. In that very letter Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar throws out a suggestion which I wish to place before this House. The suggestion is this:

It is already high time to have a revising tribunal to deal with the sentences inflicted in the heat and strife of the early martial law days.

This proposal, Sir, is a suggestion which I wanted to commend to the Members of this House. Yesterday, my hon. friend Mr. Knapp, during the course of conversation on one of the demands on Jails, told us that some revision was being undertaken. When I pressed him to tell us about the personnel of the Committee, whether any persons of judicial experience were to be called in, and whether the records were gone into, I did not get an answer. Now, Sir, I am here to represent public feeling, and, when I do so, my hon. friend will get up and say, 'Can you prove these things?' I tell him plainly that we have not got the assistance of the Criminal Investigation Department or the Secretariat or of a whole host of officers. We try to get information to the best of our ability, and in all that we have got are not facts, official versions are not necessarily facts either. When there is the widespread feeling abroad that the police did not behave in a commendable manner both in the initial stages of the rebellion and during what is now called the post-martial period, it is our duty to represent that feeling so that in the interests of the police themselves, whose good name it is our duty to maintain, an impartial inquiry such as would command the confidence of the country might be instituted. I have been told that at Manjeri, Perintalmanna and other places the police did not fire a shot, but fled away leaving their arms behind them. With reference to Tirur, one of the learned Judges in the course of his judgment referred to the action of the police as abject surrender. I quote this from the report of a judicial proceeding. Their subsequent conduct does not seem to have made up for this policy at the critical moment. If reports are true, something like a dozen police constables and head constables have either been dismissed or dealt with in other ways for objectionable conduct in connexion with this matter. I wish to mention one particular instance which has received much notoriety. A certain gentleman, by the name of Achukutti Menon, was charged with waging war and was transported. Then, his sentence was reduced, and,

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finally, on a representation made by the District Collector himself, he was released. In this connexion and for other charges of a like nature, the Police Inspector is now under suspension. Sir, no less than two Sub-Inspectors seem to have been dealt with by the department, and there are some more officers against whom charges are framed and investigations are being made. This large number is a proof that things have not gone on well. I would like to read, with your permission, Sir, some of the remarks of the learned Judges. In a case,—if the hon. Member wants further details I will supply him—No. 129 of 1922, the learned Judge said:

This casts a lurid light on the character of the police investigation into this transaction. In another case, a notorious rebel is alleged to have been put forward as a witness."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I inquire by whom the allegation is made?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"It is from the statement made. I will give the reference if he wants it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I understood that the hon. Member was quoting from the Judge's judgment."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"It was with reference to a case where the accused was discharged, and now I understand the witness is being tried. Sir, in another case, the information that has reached me is to this effect: that some people who were already prisoners in Coimbatore or Cannanore jail were accused of committing dacoity in broad day light. At the time they were accused of committing this offence they were not yet released from the prison. This matter was discovered, and if my hon. friend is going to institute an inquiry into the conduct of the police, he will have to indent on the services of a scientific research society to explain how this multiple personality arose. I have very little doubt, though I would not go so far as done to the police by public opinion, it will be really set right. People, Sir, are interested in having an efficient and honourable police. If for any reason confidence in them has been shattered or weakened, a pronouncement from a reliable and competent authority that there is no foundation for all these suspicions will go a long way in restoring the confidence which ought to subsist between the people and the police. I do not want to level charges of a wholesale character. I believe that the instances are large enough to demand an inquiry. I assure my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, that we are not the natural enemies of the police. I do not belong to such a group of people, and I do not suppose I shall ever belong to it. I am interested as much as anybody else in the good name and efficiency of the police."

"Now, Sir, one word more. In a recent meeting held at Calicut, people like Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar, Mr. Gopala Menon and others protested strongly against the pæans which were sung in honour of the police in Malabar by my hon. friends, Mr. Knapp and Mr. Thomas. They have undertaken to furnish all the evidence, and have framed a series of charges to be presented if an inquiry were to be held. There were several offences like the offences committed against Mappilla women and a few innocent men. It seems to me that Government are confronted with a serious dilemma. Till now, they were saying that the charges were not from responsible people. You cannot dismiss Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar who was a member

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of the Committee constituted to inquire into the matter relating to the Mappilla Train Tragedy, and he certainly holds a position of much respect. When these people are coming forward with this demand, the Government owe it to themselves and the police force whom they defend to institute a Committee of the kind suggested. I can quote other instances also. Mrs. Sarojini Nayudu made certain allegations regarding the Malabar affair. When that lady made those allegations the Madras Government issued a communiqué to the press to say that if she did not withdraw those charges she would be prosecuted. She did not withdraw those charges and it was not possible for them to proceed further. I think it is an example of the regular custom of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I wish to say one or two words in this connexion. With reference to the specific motion now under discussion, what has been stated by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, is certainly a new departure, i.e., to have a special force for the East Coast to serve in emergency cases in place of the military. This is a policy of first rate importance and it is exceedingly difficult, subject to the limitations of a discussion on the voting for grants, to deal exhaustively with a principle such as that. I should therefore, think, that my hon. friend would have been well advised if he had tabled a motion himself—I am sure that hon. Members of Government have also their right of moving resolutions in this House. They should have taken the sense of the House on this matter, and it would have been very much easier for us either to fall in with the proposal or take a different course. Another reason why I object to this provision is that my hon. friend himself announced yesterday that a Committee had been appointed to inquire into various questions of Police administration, and for every motion that has been brought forward in this House for reduction or omission, he has been referring us to that Committee and appealing to us not to press their motions."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I referred to that Committee as having been constituted for the purpose, if possible, of effecting drastic economies and retrenchment in the matter of Police organization. The question now before the House, as my hon. friend himself has pointed out, is a matter of policy."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Yes, Sir. If my hon. friend had waited a minute longer, he would have seen the relevancy of the reference to that Committee."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Are we to understand, Sir, that this Committee which has been appointed has nothing to do with matters of policy?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Except in those cases where the question affects large and present economies."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My friend has made the matter much worse now."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"May I know, Sir, whether if this grant is made, this question will also come under the purview of that Committee for the purpose of finding out whether any retrenchment can be effected in this matter?"

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"That was exactly what I was going to ask my hon. friend Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar. As I said he was pointing to that Committee in regard to many matters. But having appointed that Committee, my hon. friend wants also to decide for himself and ask this Council to commit itself to an annual expenditure of Rs. 76,000 and odd instead of that Committee going into this matter of the formation of a special force for the East Coast."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The Retrenchment Committee will of course go into this matter."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Then it is all the more the reason why it should not be pressed now in this House. If the Retrenchment Committee will go into this matter, it is all the more the reason why my hon. friend should withdraw this provision for the Special Police."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"The Finance Committee have examined the question."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I do not know where I am between two hon. Members. One hon. Member says it will be examined and my hon. friend, the Finance Member, says that it has already been examined by a Committee."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. the Finance Member has stated that it was examined by the Finance Committee. The hon. the Law Member has stated that it is going to be examined by another Committee."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"It is a very interesting information that it has been examined by the Finance Committee. As a matter of fact, every new proposal is examined by the Finance Committee."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I had already stated yesterday what the position of the Finance Committee in regard to this matter was. I said that they had not examined the policy as such; they only recommended to allow this provision to go into the Budget of next year on the strength of certain matters placed before them, for instance, the question of Non-co-operation. We were told that this force was necessary for the next year. We have not accepted any policy; and all we said was that this small force might be kept for next year as a temporary measure as we were told that there were Non-co-operation and other difficulties. The question of policy has to be considered and settled hereafter."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, here again we have another difficulty. The hon. the Finance Member tells us that the Finance Committee's examination is a justification for this expenditure, and one of the Members of the Finance Committee explains that the policy has not been accepted but only the figures for the next year have been accepted. Whatever the Finance Committee has done or has not done, and whatever the other Committee is going to do or is not going to do, the fact remains that this Presidency will be committed to an expenditure of Rs. 76,000 every year on this Special Force. I need hardly say that this question of police expenditure has been under discussion for several years. It started with the Police Commission when the expenditure on the police was 63 lakhs of rupees and the police force was fixed at 26,000; and if my hon. friend who has

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enunciated the usefulness of examining the figures for a decennium would also work out the figures under expenditure, he will find that from 63 lakhs the figure has reached 202 lakhs. Also, if he traces the growth of the police force during these 20 years, I am certain he will find that the present state of things is no better than the state of things which prevailed in 1902. I think, Sir, that it is certainly not a compliment to the police administration in this Presidency that since 1902 the expenditure under police has gone up very high; and so far as the people of this Presidency are concerned, I do not think they are in a better or worse condition than they were in 1902 either politically or socially or in the matter of giving trouble to the Government. Apart from this, on the broad question of policy, I venture to bring to the notice of the hon. Member one or two observations made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in connexion with the Indianization of the Army and the reduction in the strength of the Army. He said something to the effect that a specific portion of the Army—one-sixth or one-eighth—was required for the maintenance of the internal peace of the country and that so long as that responsibility was there upon the Army, he could not reduce its strength. In view of this statement I do not know if this policy of developing an armed reserve is one which ought to be adopted at the present time. The whole question how far the military should go to the aid of the civil authorities seems to be under the consideration of the Government of India. Therefore, it will be time enough for us to consider whether the Local Government here should embark on a policy for keeping an armed police for the maintenance of peace and order. Speaking of special conditions, my hon. friend, the Law Member, mentioned the *fituri*. *Fituris* do not occur every day. I think the last *fituri* took place in 1879. *Fituris* are more known only in that part of the country—the Agency tract—and to saddle the whole Presidency, for a *fituri* which occurs once in 20 years, with an annual expenditure of Rs. 76,000 does not seem to me to be the path of wisdom. After all, my hon. friend said that this *fituri* cost him two lakhs of rupees. I think that that is better than spending Rs. 76,000 every year.”

The hon. Mr. A. B. KNAPP :—“That is the cost up to date.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“Then have another ten lakhs of rupees for ferretting a few persons out of their rat-holes, for, after all, that is what is being done. I would gladly give the Government another lakh and that means three lakhs of rupees for the *fituri*. Instead of that, you are going to saddle the Presidency with an annual expenditure of Rs. 76,000; and what is the justification for it? Therefore, I venture to think that my hon. friend, the Law Member, should withdraw this provision. It will give him an opportunity of placing the whole matter before the Committee he mentioned. Meanwhile, this question will be discussed also by the Government of India, and it will then be time to see how far the local Government should strengthen the police force for the purposes mentioned by my hon. friend.

“I wish to say a word about the Police expenditure. At present the Budget figure is 202 lakhs, and when the Police Commission sat, it was 63 lakhs. I think my hon. friend the Finance Member who is interested in securing all possible economies should ask this particular Committee or any other Committee which he might think of, to go into the question of economy

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and retrenchment in the Police Department. I do not know whether the Committee which my hon. friend has mentioned will be able to go into the question thoroughly. I have seen the composition of that Committee and I do not know whether administrative Police officials will at all be anxious for economies. The Committee consists of very distinguished Police officials—I am only speaking from memory. They are experts and always try to maintain their department at high water mark. Therefore, from the point of view of finance, I think my hon. friend will be well advised in having the whole question very carefully looked into.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“May I ask for an information, Sir, whether 11-45 a.m. it was not this East Coast Special Force that was refused to be sanctioned by the Finance Committee of last year? I

think that the Superintendent of Police Mr. George strongly advocated this owing to Non-co-operation activities which were said to be at their zenith and other troubles. The Finance Committee unanimously refused to grant it. I want to know, Sir, whether it is the same force that is now sought to be appointed next year or whether it is a different one.”

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—“Sir, putting together all the information given on this subject by the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Finance Member and my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, of the Finance Committee, I am inclined to think that the demand that is now before us is a thin end of the wedge. We are told just now, Sir, that this Rs. 76,000 we are asked to vote upon, is for the maintenance of the armed reserve for the coming year, and that the question whether this ought to be a permanent establishment and what is to be the policy of Government in maintaining such reserves is to be determined by the Police Committee. I am afraid that there are certain things in the machinery of Government which once they come refuse to go; they come to stay for ever (*hear, hear*). Taxation, for example, is one of such things. When a certain tax is levied as a temporary measure to relieve certain temporary emergencies, it is almost certain that it will be a permanent tax. Similarly, in regard to the strength of the armed police, when once it is increased on the pretext that it is required for temporary purposes, the natural tendency of these unwelcome guests is to stay for ever. The other day, speaking in the Legislative Assembly, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in giving it as his considered opinion that it would not be possible to accept the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee in restricting the maximum amount to be spent upon the army in India, stated as one of the main reasons which impelled him to oppose the proposal of the Inchcape Committee the fact that the function of the army in India is not only to protect it from external enemies but also to protect the inhabitants from internal enemies. That is the policy enunciated by the Commander-in-Chief. And here, in this Council, the hon. the Law Member wants us to swallow another policy, viz., that it is the armed police that ought to be maintained to prevent rebellion. Well, Sir, I am afraid, if the candle of the tax-payer is burnt at one end by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and at the other end by the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar it will come to a very speedy termination. No doubt Sir, the condition in the past year might have been such as to justify Government taking certain extraordinary precautions for preserving the internal order of the country. But when those troubles have passed over—and I am one of those who are convinced that we have passed over the

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danger of any internal commotion—we see, Sir, Government preparing themselves for these troubles. So far as the Government is concerned, both in the East Coast and in the West Coast, they are ready for the next rebellion, and overtures are only to come from other quarters. It is on this plea that we are asked to vote for Rs. 76,000, which I repeat, is introducing the thin end of the wedge. Therefore, I strongly support this amendment.

The hon. the Law Member not being in his place, the hon. the President called upon the hon. Mr. Knapp to reply?

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I am not the Member in charge. Am I entitled to reply?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“That is a matter for the Government to decide for themselves. When the Government are being attacked it is but fair to the House that an hon. Member of Government acquainted with the facts should have the right of reply and full reply too.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“Sir, the argument on the general question of the institution of the East Coast Reserve is to be dealt with by my hon. friend the Law Member; but I may be permitted to refer to one or two points. Mr. Ramalinga Reddi expressed the opinion that the employment of this force would not prevent the use of the military. He has evidently forgotten to take note of our experience in the Agency where because we were able to employ the armed police from Malabar, we found it possible to dispense altogether with the employ of the military in spite of the fact that the local officers had strongly recommended us to bring in a military force. The hon. Member below the gangway remarked that as far as he could see, the Government was now ready for the next rebellion both on the West Coast and on the East. That, Sir, is perfectly true (*laughter*), and I think the House will probably agree with me that it would be the height of unwisdom if Government did not prepare themselves for any contingency that might occur. We have known, deeply to our cost, what has been the loss in life and money owing to our not having been prepared on previous occasions.

“Then, Sir, I come to the points raised by Mr. Ramalinga Reddi with regard to Malabar. The House will not be surprised if I do not find myself quite prepared to answer him. The discussion in this Council on this Budget provision has covered a large range but it has reached an extraordinary limit if, while discussing the subject of East Coast Reserve, I am expected to talk about the West Coast Police. I gather the principal object of my hon. friend is to throw out the suggestion, which has been in the air for several months past, that we should have a general inquiry into the conduct of the police in Malabar. A resolution on the subject was tabled and an amendment specially dealing with police . . .”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“That resolution was wider in scope than the suggestion now thrown.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I gather from my hon. friend's remarks that the inquiry is to be pretty wide, but in any case the greater includes the less. If that resolution had been brought forward, an opportunity would have arisen for discussing the question of appointing a committee to inquire into the alleged misconduct of the police. Its turn came, and my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi was, I believe, present in the House, and could very

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well have moved the resolution if he thought fit. But he has preferred to bring the same matter up at this late hour, when unfortunately our time is restricted.”

“Any weight that might have attached to the agitation on the subject of police misconduct in Malabar is largely discounted by the very leisurely fashion in which it has been treated. My hon. friend, I believe, visited Malabar somewhere about last May; if he then obtained information of all kinds of malpractices, why did he wait till September or October without taking any action, and why, when the opportunity came in January, did he fail to take it?”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“Mr. President, may I say one word in explanation? The resolution of my hon. friend, Dr. Subbarayan, was sent up before the re-opening of the session of the Legislative Council and it did not come up for discussion for a long time.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I did not refer to Dr. Subbarayan's, but I referred to Mr. Ramalinga Reddi's resolution. My point is that he did not make any move to bring to the notice of the authorities the serious scandals which he has just now mentioned.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“I have not meant to interrupt the hon. Member, but I would like to refer him to the representations that I made to the authorities. I did bring them to the notice of the District Magistrate.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“He did not make any representation to me. He knew I was in charge of that portfolio. I am not aware that he made any representation to the District Magistrate. My point is that if this scandal was so great as he wishes this House to believe, it was his obvious civic duty, as a Member of this House, to go at once to the responsible officer and tell him what he knew and give him a chance of investigation, and not to rake up the matter a year later when it would be impossible to investigate it in any satisfactory manner. My hon. friend says that he is now in a position to put forward the names of responsible persons in support of the accusations of misconduct. He mentions to us three names. I do not want to introduce personalities into this debate, and I say nothing of two of them. But with regard to one, Mr. Manjeri Ramier, who has been mainly quoted and whose letter has been read, I am afraid I must say something. The hon. Member referred to a meeting at Calicut at which the commendations which Mr. Thomas and I passed on the general conduct of the police were contradicted. Mr. Ramier is reported to have spoken vehemently and humorously—I am afraid I cannot see much humour in it—and made various statements, but there was one in particular which I cannot pass over. What he stated last week at the meeting was that he knew that the police had 40 rifles and four or five thousand rounds of ammunition as well as trench mortars. He was perfectly well aware that the implication contained in this statement was untrue; he knew perfectly well that the ammunition was of no use for the greater part of the firearms. Then as regards trench mortars there were none at Tirur. Mr. Ramier must have known of this: at least he could have found it out during the three or four days that he was held up at Tirur trying to avoid the attention of his Mappilla friends. When he put forward before the public the suggestion that this small force of police was so fully armed and equipped, he knew his statement would not stand examination. That, Sir, is an illustration of the gentleman on whose word we are asked to undertake a general inquiry

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into the conduct of the police in Malabar. I am afraid I cannot undertake to do anything of the kind. It is said that the Malabar public are willing, if we institute an inquiry, to come forward and adduce evidence. They could have done that twelve months ago and it would have had very much greater effect.

"Mr. Ramalinga Reddi referred to a few specific cases of the misbehaviour of the police. He told us that 12 head constables and constables had been dealt with by the authorities. The number of ordinary police who were in the rebellious area was 994 and I cannot see how the misbehaviour of 12 out of 994 gives my hon. friend the right to accuse the force as a whole as being guilty of misconduct. As a matter of fact, he has himself proved that the authorities were doing exactly what he wants them to do and have been doing so for months. They have been taking up cases and inquiring into them, and as he said, they have already dealt with 12 such cases and meted out, I take it, suitable punishments. He quoted also the remarks of a judge—I am not quite sure what the case was—who said:

This casts a lurid light on the character of the police investigation.

Every member present in this House has seen statements of a similar nature in the judgments of judges all over the Presidency. It is not peculiar to Malabar. Then, he referred to another case where he alleged that one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution was himself a rebel. I have not yet got any confirmation of that. In any case, I cannot agree with my hon. friend that the mere fact that a man was a rebel indicated that he was not to be relied upon as a witness. I do not think I need say anything more. I am myself perfectly convinced that this agitation for an inquiry into the police matters in Malabar is prompted almost entirely by political considerations, and I appeal to hon. Members of this House to leave Malabar alone to heal its own sores and not to bring it constantly into the arena of politics."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I should like just to say a word to clear up the position of the Finance Committee in this matter. On the 24th December 1921, the meeting of the Finance Committee took place to which the Raja of Ramnad referred and at which he was also present, and the following is the record of the proceedings in regard to this matter:

The Committee approve the proposal to form a special armed police reserve for the East Coast with the remark that the question of the provision of funds for buildings should be held over for consideration in connexion with the Public Works Department Budget for 1922-23."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Sir, by the courtesy of the Law Member, I saw the particular proceedings of the Finance Committee, but there is no mention made about the presence of Mr. George and Mr. Wilson on the occasion and Mr. Abbas Ali Khan who was present on the occasion is noted as absent. I therefore think that it must be some other day's proceedings that the hon. the Finance Member is reading from. If the hon. Member will find out and verify the minutes of the meeting of the day which I referred to, it will be helpful. After all, I spoke from memory and I am not sure about the date."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, if time permitted, I would turn to the proceedings to which the hon. gentleman is referring. But the meeting in question had nothing whatever to do with the East Coast reserve. It had, I believe, to do with the police force in the Agency, for that is the

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only meeting at which Mr. George was present. So far as the East Coast reserve goes, the Committee approved of the proposal and the force called the Rajahmundry special force, which was the beginning of the East Coast reserve, was provided for in the Budget of last year. The present proposal is simply a development of that scheme which has been in force for over a year. On the 16th of December 1922, a revised scheme for the formation of a body of military police on the East Coast was placed before the Committee—I would like to remind the House that the first was a special armed police reserve for the East Coast and that this is the revised scheme for the formation of a military police estimated at a cost of Rs. 56,500 and a lakh of rupees for buildings—and the Committee recommended the acceptance of the proposal as one for which funds should be provided in the budget for 1923-24 as a class I scheme, subject to the remark that they did not commit themselves to the acceptance of the proposals for further increase. That was placed before the House within a week of the sitting of the Committee. I simply allude to that to show that the House were in full possession of the proposal and of the views of the Committee thereon."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The two and a half hours prescribed by His Excellency the Governor having expired, it is now my duty under rule 29 (2) of the Legislative Council Rules to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the demand under discussion. I take it that it means I should first put this motion to omit the allotment for the East Coast Special Force to the vote. After that is disposed of, unless that is withdrawn by the hon. Member, . . ."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"No, I do not propose to withdraw, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I must put the motion and then the demand to the vote. I have nothing to do with the merits of any question discussed in this House. But it is my duty to see that hon. Members understand what it is they are voting upon. Several statements have been made by hon. Members on both sides of the House about the Malabar police and I am entitled to state clearly what the position is. A great deal has been said about the conduct of the Police in regard to the Mopla outbreak. I do not say anything on the merits of that question nor do I find fault with the hon. Member, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, for having brought it up. No decision, no vote upon the motion now before the House can really affect the merits of that question. At present, the House will have to vote not upon the question of the Malabar police, whether they did or did not behave well at that particular time, but upon the question whether a sum of Rs. 76,884 is necessary for the East Coast Special Force. I am bound to point out that by no process of reasoning can a vote upon this motion be construed to be either a condemnation of the conduct of the police in Malabar in that particular period or an approval of it. At the same time I do not blame Mr. Ramalinga Reddi for having said what he has said, nor do I blame the hon. Mr. Knapp for his reply. Both are right because that affair was cited by the hon. the Law Member as one of the reasons for his action in this respect."

"Secondly, let me also say something about the question of policies which has been raised. As a matter of fact on budget motions the House is committed to only one year and by no process of reasoning can it be said

[The President]

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that the vote upon this motion concludes the matter for all time to come. The House is only concerned with the figures for 1923-24 and in voting upon this they will only have to say whether in the year the sum of Rs. 76,884 is or is not necessary for the East Coast Reserve force. I mention these things so that hon. Members may fully understand what it is they are called upon to vote."

The motion was put and lost; a poll was taken and the House divided thus:

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 17. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. |
| 2. " J. Kuppuswami. | 18. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 3. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 19. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 4. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 20. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam |
| 5. " V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | Nayudu. |
| 6. " P. T. Rajan. | 21. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 7. " K. Sarabha Reddi. | 22. Sriman Biewanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 8. " W. P. A. Saundara Pandiya Nadar. | 23. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha Charlu. |
| 9. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. | 24. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 10. " A. Subbarayudu. | 25. Sriman Sasibhushana Rath Mahasayo. |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti | 26. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| Nayudu. | 27. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| 12. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 28. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 13. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. | 29. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 14. Rao Bahadur C. Venkata Ranga Reddi. | 30. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib Bahadur. |
| 15. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao | 31. A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar. |
| Pantulu. | 32. Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur. |
| 16. " " L. A. Govindaraghava | 33. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib. |
| Ayyar. | 34. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaq Sahib. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon Sir Charles Todhunter. | 18. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-Jah | 19. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| Sahib. | 20. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 21. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatareddi | 22. Rev. W. Meston. |
| Nayudu. | 23. Rai Sahib E. C. Mascarenhas. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 24. Mr. A. T. Palmer. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 25. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 26. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | Bahadur. |
| 9. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell. | 27. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 10. " E. D. Richmond. | 28. Mr. R. T. Kesavulu. |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 29. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 12. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 30. Mr. A. J. Leech. |
| 13. " E. Periyannayagam. | 31. " A. M. MacDougall. |
| 14. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 32. Rao Bahadur T. Nambaramal Chettiyar. |
| 15. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 33. Mr. A. E. Bencontre. |
| 16. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 34. Mr. C. E. Wood. |
| 17. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | |

Ayes : 34; *Noes* : 34.

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

Demand XIV was then put and carried and the grant made.

DEMAND XV—SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS (OTHER THAN
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SURVEYS)

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 81 lakhs to be given to Scientific departments other than Hydro-electric surveys."

12-15 p.m.

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MOTION No. 142.

Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARIYAR :—" Mr. President, I move the following motion which stands in my name :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,750, the proposed honorarium to the Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College.

Sir, I am aware that, for some years past, the local Government through its Archæological department has been taking pains to collect and preserve the bronze images which have won the admiration and envy of even Western savants for their artistic excellence and symmetrical beauty. It is presumably with the same idea in view that the Government have provided for the payment of the honorarium to an expert, i.e., the Professor of Chemistry and for the purchase of glass cases for the preservation of these images, at a cost of Rs. 17,000. While readily admitting that steps such as these for their preservation are necessary, I must point out that it is the duty of the Government to encourage native talent in these matters with less expenditure and better results. There is a class of artists called *sthapathis* whose hereditary avocation is the casting of these images and their preservation for years. For want of encouragement this hereditary profession is fast dying out; but the work the Government proposes can well be entrusted to one of these *sthapathis* and thereby the Government may emulate the example of the previous kings and give encouragement to these *sthapathis*. Mr. O. C. Gongoly in his valuable and instructive book on *South Indian Bronzes* speaks of these *sthapathis* as follows :

It is apparent that under conditions such as these when princes and peasants continued to load the temples with such numerous gifts, the demand for images should be great. The demand had its supply and had kept alive with unstinted patronage a school of sculpture and bronze workers who are commonly known as *sthapathis*. No doubt, these existed long before the Chola ascendancy but the work which the religious patronage of this period thrust upon them gave an impetus to their art which undoubtedly attained the highest water mark between the 10th and 13th centuries.

Most of these artists were experts in casting images in all sorts of materials but a majority of them specialize in the art of casting images in metal as most of the gifts to the temple consist of images cast in silver, copper or bronze.

" While, therefore, supporting, the provision for glass cases, I would earnestly request the Government to employ a trained *sthapathi*, and save Rs. 10,000. Members of this Council are accused of not proposing steps for the utilization of these men's services, and I would therefore suggest the employment of *silpis* to look after these bronzes with less wages than the proposed honorarium to the Professor of Chemistry."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Mr. President, Sir, if there is any one Member in this Council who has steadily preserved his seat in this gallery, it is myself with Mr. Muttumanikkachari on one side and Mr. Ramachari on the other. I have all along been associated with my hon. friend, the mover, and have received certain instructions and inspirations from him upon this matter, and it behoves me to support him, although very often he has not stood up to support me (*laughter*), and always tried to support the Government. However, as he was bold enough to table one motion, Sir, I must, as his friendly neighbour, support him. I entirely agree with the reasons given by him. He says that there are *sthapathis* who can do this work very well with less cost and perhaps more efficiency, and it is the duty of the Government to encourage such native talent.

[Mr. T. M. Narasimhacharlu] [17th March 1923]

I have known *sthapathis* who are still existing who can do very good work in the matter of casting idols and in the matter of preserving them for centuries. That being so, why should we thrust this business upon an already overworked European Professor in the Presidency College and provide for payment of an honorarium to him to supervise this work? Let him attend to his work in the Presidency College, and that is enough for him. Or, if these *sthapathis* are not found to be talented enough, why not encourage an Assistant Professor of Chemistry with less cost? I submit that this object can more economically be accomplished through the agency suggested by my friend on my right. I therefore very strongly support this motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I yield to none in my admiration and appreciation of the capacity of the *silpis* whom my hon. friend, the mover, has referred to. The work of art, such as the ornamentations to temples, has drawn the admiration and appreciation of many a savant, and we find that in books of art very high appreciation and great tribute are paid to the *silpis*. But my hon. friend is under a great misapprehension with regard to the particular work that is required of this Professor. If this work requires the services of a *silpi* I shall be the first man to advocate and press the claims of the *silpis* to be employed. But the bronze images in the Museum are deteriorating on account of the salt in the atmosphere in Madras. Therefore they require special treatment by means of chemicals to prevent them from further deterioration. A process of chemical treatment of these bronze images is necessary to keep them from further deterioration. If, on the other hand, we find that in the recasting of the bronze images or in the repairs that are necessary to them the services of a *silpi* will be required, I shall be glad to employ a *silpi*. But the services that we do require here are different from those that a *silpi* can render in the matter of preservation or repair of these images. The bronzes found in the museum are considered to be by far the finest and the most valuable of the kind in the world. Time has accumulated a good deal of salt on the surfaces of these bronze images; and they are deteriorating in such a way that only a special chemical treatment can preserve them. Therefore we have to call into requisition the services of a specialist in chemical matters. But if there is any other way in which the preservation can be done more economically, I shall be very glad to undertake that investigation. At present, I may say that it is for this special purpose that the services of this chemist, Mr. Erlam Smith, who is the best qualified chemist in the Presidency College have been indented upon, and the amount that is put in the budget is only a lump sum grant. The amount to be paid as honorarium will depend upon the work that is turned out. The services of Mr. Erlam Smith are absolutely necessary because he has a special knowledge of chemical treatment of bronze images. But if there is any *silpi* work to be done, I shall not ask Mr. Erlam Smith to attend to it, but will employ a capable Indian *silpi* to do it."

Mr. S. MUTTUMANIKKACHARIYAR:—"Sir I think these *sthapathis* or *silpis* know also how to preserve these images. In their *Silpasastra* I think they have got chapters dealing with preservation and repair of images also. I also think that it would be desirable before entrusting this work to the

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Professor to advertise and see if the Government cannot secure Indian *silpis* who can do such work. If the hon. the Education Minister bears my suggestion in view, I do not wish to press the motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Yes, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 143.

'To omit the allotment of Rs. 15,450 for glass cases and chemicals by Rs. 7,725.'

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Is the hon. Member Mr. Narasimhacharlu withdrawing his motion?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I do not know what to do, Sir" (laughter).

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member see the wisdom of withdrawing his motion, as the previous one has already been withdrawn?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I now see the wisdom of not following him. He has withdrawn the previous resolution, and there is no use in my moving the motion No. 448."

The motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

MOTION No. 144.

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move the motion which stands in my name:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 61,564 for Provincial Museums by Rupees 4,000

Sir, my object in making this motion is to draw attention to the fact that the figures under this head have been steadily increasing. Last year, the provision was about Rs. 46,000, whereas this year the provision is more than Rs. 61,000. I do not object to money being spent on Provincial Museums, and I do not yield to any one in my appreciation of the educative value of these museums. Surely the greater the appreciation on the part of the general public the greater will be the justification for money being spent upon these museums, as also the educative influence exercised through these museums on the general public. But my object is to press for a reduction, and at the same time to suggest some ways and means of meeting the increasing cost. I believe the persons who make use of these museums are generally required to pay a trifle. By increasing these trifles, I think some more money may be found for keeping up these museums and their establishments without adding to the burden on the taxpayer."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, a comparison of the detailed figures for 1922-23 and 1923-24 will convince the hon. mover that there is not at all any unnecessary increase. The pay of officers in 1922-23 was Rs. 9,450 and in the budget year we have got Rs. 5,750. The pay of the establishment was Rs. 23,423 in 1922-23 but for the next year it is Rs. 24,374, because increments have to be paid to the various officers. The allowances remain the same as those in 1922-23, and the only item of increase occurs under the head just now passed by the House,

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

[17th March 1923]

namely, with regard to the repairs to the bronzes and the provision for glass cases, etc., for the preservation of the bronzes. So that, if you omit this provision regarding bronzes, namely, Rs. 17,000, you would find the increase to be not at all abnormal, and also that there have been reductions in other items of expenditure. This item of Rs. 17,000 is a new item. If that is omitted the increases will be found to have been very small."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XV for the grant of an amount not exceeding Rs. 81 lakh under Scientific Departments (other than Hydro-Electric Surveys) was then put and carried and the grant was made accordingly.

DEMAND XVI—EUROPEAN EDUCATION.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 9.23 lakhs under Demand XVI—European Education."

12-30 p.m.

MOTION No. 145.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 98,700 for Education—Reserved by Rs. 100.

The point I wish to refer to is, Sir, whether there is any special necessity for the appointment of an Inspector for European schools only. I take it that these schools which are intended for the benefit of the Europeans and Anglo Indians are scattered all over the province. We have at our disposal Inspectors of Schools all over the Presidency with the necessary qualifications, in my opinion, to inspect these European schools as well as other schools that are in their charge. I do not see the need for perpetuating a racial distinction of this sort, as if the European schools require an agency which should have nothing to do with the Indian schools.

"The other point I wish to refer to is as to what the Government have done with reference to a resolution passed at one of the conferences in regard to European education. The conference on the education of the domiciled community in India held at Simla in July 1912 resolved that concentration of schools was desirable wherever possible."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask when it was?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"It was in July 1912.

"Last year, I complained, Sir, that so far as this department was concerned no steps had been taken so far to give effect to that resolution. In the course of his reply to my speech, the then Director of Public Instruction said that he had summoned to his aid the representatives and managers of the three schools in Madras and that all of them discussed the possibilities of amalgamation. He pleaded at the time that because of the pressure of budget work he was not able to advise the Government, but he promised to do so in the very near future. In fact, he said that in the course of the next fortnight he would be able to submit definite recommendations to the Government with regard to the position of the European schools in relation to the Indian schools."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask the page of the proceedings referred to?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Proceedings of March 1922, page 3339, the speech of Mr. Littlehales.

"So, Sir, I should like to know whether the Government are in a position, now at least, to tell us what steps have been taken in regard to the resolution of the conference passed so long ago as 1912."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am sorry that my hon. friend opposite did not give me notice of the particular subject which he intended to refer to in the debate on this motion, as I should have then been in a better position to answer him. It hardly occurred to me that in my search for knowledge, I should go so far back as 1912."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"He need not have gone so far, Sir, if he had only referred to the last year's proceedings on this question . . ."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I have referred to the debate to which my hon. friend referred me. All I can say is that I am afraid I do not know what the actual outcome of the conference held last year was. I do know that I tried myself to have a conference in the beginning of January, but I was obliged to postpone it because some of the gentlemen whom I asked to attend were unable to come. Meanwhile, other authorities interested in European education have been arranging for a conference which is to take place on the 21st of this month. After that has taken place and after we have the views of the gentlemen present, I have no doubt we will be able to take up the particular question to which my hon. friend referred.

"On the other point, namely, the necessity for a European Inspector, that matter, if I remember right, was also referred to in the last year's debate; and the hon. Sir Lionel Davidson explained the advantages of employing a special Inspector for this purpose. From the point of view of economy, I doubt if there is much in it. We probably want just the same number of Inspectors whether we distribute them geographically or whether we specialise as we do at present. My own impression is that the curriculum in European schools being in some respects somewhat different from the other schools, the advantage lies in having a separate Inspector. I do not think it can fairly be said that the maintenance of a special Inspector for European schools indicates any intention to emphasize a racial distinction. In any case the European schools remain for the present separate whether the Inspector is a European or an Indian."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I quite agree with the hon. the Home Member in thinking and believing that by allowing European schools to remain as they are, and by making provision for a special set of Inspectors no racial differences are sought to be created. I quite admit that. But there were two points raised by the hon. Member which require consideration, first, that the European schools had a different curriculum of studies which necessitated a special set of Inspectors being appointed. I think, Sir, that the Inspectors we have for inspecting the non-European schools and colleges are quite competent to carry on the inspection of European schools and that a slight change in the curriculum will not impose any heavy strain upon the capacity of the Inspectors of non-European schools; and among the Inspectors actually employed for inspecting non-European

[Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar] [17th March 1923]

schools we have a fairly good number of European officers, and also a fairly good number of European lady Inspectors. Therefore, the only point that is worth noting is the point raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, namely, the questions of economy and concentration.

"As regards the other point raised by the hon. the Home Member, namely, that, whether one followed a geographical distribution or any other distribution, it would be found necessary to have the same number of Inspectors, I think it is possible for us to effect real economy if the work of the special class of Inspectors of European schools is distributed among the existing cadre of Inspectors and one or two gentlemen who may have to be relieved or released from their duty are employed in schools or colleges or in other ways. So on this one point of economy, I think—from the little knowledge and experience I have gained as to the ways and means of encouraging European education and as to what is done in a European school—that the House by supporting the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar will actually make a move towards economy."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I have only one word to say, Sir. So far as the question of economy is concerned, that is a matter which the Retrenchment Committee will take up in due course. If on their investigation they should suggest this as a definite line of retrenchment, I am quite prepared to consider it. I have already said that I had not had any warning that this particular point was going to be raised to enable me to come prepared beforehand with detailed arguments as regards the substitution of ordinary Inspectors for European Inspectors."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Well, Sir, I am prepared to accept the Hon'ble the Home Member's view with regard to the first part of my speech and let it alone. But I do object very strongly to the scant attention that is paid by responsible Members of Government to the debates that take place in this House. Last year this question was definitely debated upon and the Director of Public Instruction pledged himself to take this matter to Government for passing orders in the course of a fortnight; and now we meet again for the next budget, and are told by the hon. the Home Member that there will be a conference. Really, Sir, this is hardly fair to members—and I want to enter my protest against this sort of treatment that is accorded to the speeches of Members of this House ('hear, hear' from Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai). I would therefore rather like that this House passes this motion for reduction by Rs. 100."

The motion was put and declared carried. Mr. T. Richmond demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. M. Appalarasayya Nayudu. | 8. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam |
| 2. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | Nayudu. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao | 9. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya. |
| Pantulu. | 10. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 4. Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava | 11. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| Ayyar. | 12. Mr. M. B. Seturathnam Ayyar. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao | 13. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| Pantulu. | 14. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 6. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha | 15. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| Raja. | 16. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |
| 7. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | |

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Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 21. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah | 22. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. |
| Sahib Bahadur. | 23. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 24. Mr. V. Pakkiriwami Pillai. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkata | 25. " W. P. A. Saundara Pandiya Nadar |
| Beddi Nayudu. | 26. " A. Subbarayudu. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 27. Diwan Bahadur K. Surayanarayana- |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | murthi Nayudu. |
| 7. " C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar | 28. Rev. W. Meston. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 29. Mr. A. T. Palmer. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 30. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 10. " R. D. Richmond. | 31. " C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam | 32. " T. Richmond. |
| Pillai. | 33. Khan Sahib A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim |
| 12. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | Ravattar. |
| 13. Mr. E. Periyarayagam. | 34. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 14. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 35. Mr. R. T. Kesavulu. |
| 15. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 36. " G. Vandanam. |
| 16. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 37. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 17. " C. Kamalinga Reddi. | 38. Mr. A. M. MacDougall. |
| 18. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiayar. | 39. Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chetti- |
| 19. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | yar. |
| 20. " J. Kuppaswami. | 40. Mr. P. W. Partridge. |

The motion was lost, 16 voting for and 40 against it.

MOTION No. 146.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,900 for inspection by Rs. 11,300.

Sir, as pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, the questions that are raised in this House are not properly attended to by the Government. The question of concentration of schools recommended by the Conference at Simla has not been attended to by this Government. It is only to elicit information on this matter that I make this motion."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I understand that the hon. the mover of this motion is merely supporting the theory brought forward by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, the theory that there should be some kind of concentration in European schools. I had not the opportunity to read beforehand the remarks made by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, last year. I now find that the Conference on Education of the Domiciled Community in India held at Simla in July 1912 resolved that concentration of schools was desirable wherever possible. I entirely concur in that view. If the hon. Member had only given me previous intimation that he was going to take that particular point, I would have come prepared to lay before the House full information as regards the conference which Mr. Littlehales said last year was going to take place. Mr. Littlehales is not here. As I have already said I am now enquiring not only into this particular point of concentration of schools but also into the wider issues referred to by Mr. Littlehales last year. All these were put down for consideration at the Conference which ought to have been held in January and which for reasons beyond my control had to be postponed until now."

The Rev. W. MESTON:—"Sir, I wish to say one word with regard to this point. I think the House ought to know that various attempts were made to carry out this concentration adverted to by my hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. If these attempts had failed, it was simply because, in the

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present circumstances, it was found extremely difficult to succeed. I know persons connected with committees of these schools who have been doing everything in their power for concentration, and I also know that conferences such as were referred to by Mr. Littlehailes were held. Sir, it is easy to ask that concentration *should take place*, but it is much more difficult for it to take place actually. That, Sir, is the situation in regard to these schools. Secondly, with regard to inspection, I think it will be admitted that if our already over-worked inspectors of schools in the different districts—the District Educational Officers as they are now called—had additional work put upon them by inspecting European schools as well, then it would amount to a far too heavy burden being imposed upon them. I also think that from the educational point of view, there is a distinct advantage in having one Inspector who can attend to these schools which are so widely scattered. I therefore think, Sir, that if these things are borne in mind, they would influence our opinion with regard to the motion that is now before the House.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The question that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 9.23 lakhs under ‘Demand XVI—Education (European)’ was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION (NON-EUROPEAN).

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 136.20 lakhs for Education—Non-European.”

MOTION No. 147.

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“Sir, I beg to move—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,00,500 for grants to University by Rs. 2,15,000.

Sir, hon. Members of the House will notice that at page 126 of the Budget Estimate a sum of Rs. 3,00,500 is provided for grants to University. Unlike other heads of expenditure under ‘Education’ we do not find in the estimate any statement of details in respect of which this sum of Rs. 3,00,500 is sought to be expended. Sir, I do not find even in the general remarks that my hon. friend, the Minister for Education, has made in reply to the general discussion on the Budget, any light is thrown as to the exact purpose for which this sum of Rs. 3,00,500, particularly the sum of Rs. 2,15,000, to which my motion is confined is going to be utilized. The Statement of the Finance Secretary which accompanied the Budget Estimate says that this sum of Rs. 2,15,000 is made up of two items: of Rs. 65,000 which is expected to go towards the salaries of professors and lecturers, and the balance of Rs. 1,50,000 is earmarked for laboratories, for workshops, etc., and that this sum of Rs. 1,50,000 will come out of the loan funds. I think, Sir, that the House as a whole is at present aware of what information is contained in this explanatory memorandum. I take it that this additional amount that has been asked for is for the purpose of carrying out the policy that underlay the passing of the Act for the reorganization of the Madras University. As hon. Members will recognize, to give full effect to the policy that underlies that Act, namely of making the Madras University a residential and a teaching one, much more amount will be required than this sum of Rs. 1,50,000 which is to be brought out of the loans, and the other sum of

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Rs. 65,000 which comes out of the current revenues. Sir, there is also the fact which has been brought out by the speech of the hon. the Minister for Education delivered when the Bill for the reorganization of the Madras University was being discussed, that there is a sum of 11 lakhs and odd now remaining with the University unexpended, a portion of which is earmarked for particular purposes and a portion not so earmarked. Now, the chief reason for my making this motion is that before we know what exactly is the purpose of this grant, how exactly it is going to fit in with any scheme that the hon. the Minister has in view for the purpose of reorganizing the Madras University and what exactly the scheme is, it is not desirable that the House should be asked to make this grant. There is a tendency to which I am sorry to say there has been evidence even this morning that the latest recruit to the Government ranks has fallen a prey to commit the House to particular courses without giving them full opportunities of knowing what exactly the commitment would mean. We are not taken into the confidence of the Government before the policy is settled, but we are asked to make grants which will go to further the policy which the Government may have in view. I have not the slightest doubt that on this question of education every one in this House, whatever might be the party to which he may belong, is most anxious that all should be done that could be done for the purpose of making the University a fully residential and teaching one. But before this is accomplished one has a right to know what exactly the scheme is that the hon. Member has in view. If we know what the scheme is then it will be very easy for us to criticize it, to understand its merits and appreciate it and to allow it to be brought into operation, in which case the making of the grant will follow as a matter of ordinary course. As it is, we know nothing of the kind. There is the grant which has been applied for and you will also recognise that 1.50 lakhs out of this is to come out of loans. According to the rules governing loans the House has to know what exactly the arrangement is that has been made for the purpose of discharging those loans. We have not also been told what it is. I think that the sum of Rs. 65,000 which it is said is wanted for the purpose of paying salaries of Professors or the sum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs which it is said is required for workshops and laboratories is quite inadequate. At any rate, we are not in a position to say anything definite on this until we know the scheme. If I may respectfully say so, it is putting the cart before the horse to ask us to sanction the amount without knowing what exactly the purpose is for which the amount is required. I can well understand the anxiety of my hon. friend to have some money for the purpose of giving effect to the scheme when it has been settled upon. The proper course, if I may venture to say so, in that case will be not to ask for a grant now with the very little information that the House possesses, but to have this amount reduced, and, if the hon. Member is ready with a scheme, then to come up to the House explaining to the House what the scheme is, and asking for such supplementary grants as the carrying into effect of that scheme for this year might involve. I do not blame my hon. friend for not having the scheme ready. The Act has been only recently passed. It must of necessity take some time to bring into existence all the machineries that the Act contemplates, and it is only after those machineries have been brought into existence that the hon. Member can have a definite, clear and easily understandable scheme which he is going to give effect to. If that is

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the case, it also involves the necessary implication that no grant should now be asked for, for the purpose of bringing into effect a scheme that he may think of. It is not, Sir, that I have no sympathy with the scheme of a residential or teaching University, or that I yield to any one in this House in his interest to see that the policy underlying this Act should become an accomplished fact as quickly as possible. The only point on which I have ventured to differ from my hon. friend and those who support him is this, that when the scheme they have in view is very ambitious, the preparation they have given for that scheme being put into operation is not at all adequate, and it is as an instance of that inadequacy that I referred to the grant that has been asked for. We are not given the details, and if the details are given, I for one, have no doubt that the sum that will be required will be very much larger than what has now been asked for."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Mr. President, I am thankful to the hon. Member for having brought into prominence this question of the grant to the University. I am also thankful to him for having brought forward the necessity for a larger grant to the University. But there is one thing which I would appeal to the hon. Member to consider. The Act indicates the lines on which progress has to be made and there are various other bodies who have to prepare schemes and they have to be brought into existence before an actual working scheme is placed before the public. The Academic Council is the real body which is to prepare the scheme for the University expansion. I would appeal to my hon. friend with his long experience as a Member of the Legislative Council, to consider the fact that, if the financial year is allowed to pass without getting a provision made in the budget, there is such a great difficulty to get supplementary grants. Therefore, if we do not take advantage of it and place a tentative scheme, the result of it will be that afterwards under the present financial conditions we may not have any money available. That is one thing which I would submit to the consideration of this House.

" We have however prepared, in consultation with those concerned with the University, a scheme of work with regard to the University consistently with the various provisions of the Act. Proposals for the development of the University should first begin with the finding of a Chair for experimental Psychology which was pressed for by the Senate and the Syndicate from time to time as one of the urgent needs for the expansion of the University. Then a Chair for Anthropology also was considered in 1922 by the Senate and the Syndicate as being necessary to investigate that subject more fully and that was therefore one of the steps to be taken up immediately. A Chair for Geography will be started for organizing a school of Geography and of geographical research and institution of diplomas. Not only this, Sir, but as hon. Members will remember, there is also a Chair now for Indian History and Archaeology, but certain periods of Indian History have to be specialized. So, while work is going on in the constituent colleges with regard to Indian History, work has to be supplemented by finding a Chair in certain periods of that subject which must be specialized in order to focus all information we have with regard to the original investigations in Archaeology, History, etc. Then, as regards Chairs for the Dravidian languages, hon. Members will remember that that was one of the recommendations made by the Senate at the time when the Government of India made a grant

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for the purpose of developing the Madras University. The Senate unanimously resolved and submitted a scheme to the Government of India, but it could not be taken up then. The recommendation was to have a Chair for the Dravidian languages and the compilation of histories of literature in those languages. Then there are four research studentships in Physical and Natural Science tenable in Europe. The Syndicate made a proposal last year that it was desirable that some of our advanced students carrying on research works here should be sent for training to Oxford and Cambridge under eminent Professors, so that the research work might be completed and they might be fully equipped to come back and take up work here; that is, four research studentships in Physical and Natural Science tenable in Europe, and two studentships in Philology and the study of language and literature according to modern methods. Then, another thing which is proposed is the establishment of a laboratory in experimental Psychology and another for higher research work in Physical and Natural Science.

" These are some of the directions in which work has to begin and it is only a tentative scheme. As soon as the Academic Council is formed, that body will have to go into the matter in more details and a tentative scheme has therefore been prepared now in consultation with the present Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and some of the Members of the Syndicate and this is the result that we have arrived at in forming a scheme. This is by no means a final scheme. It has to be revised again by the Academic Council. But we have placed a scheme before the Finance Department in order to satisfy the conditions which are necessarily demanded of every department to see what proposals there are on hand in order that the allotment may be sanctioned by them.

" Then, as regards the allotment of Rs. 1,50,000 from out of loans, that is also a matter which is now under correspondence with the Finance Department, and I have submitted to the Government certain proposals by which this non-recurring grant from loans may be converted into a recurring one. This matter is, as I say, before the Government and no result has yet been arrived at in regard to it. In course of time the Government may decide as to converting this grant from loans to one from the ordinary provincial revenue. As I submitted, a tentative scheme has been prepared to show the directions in which development will proceed immediately after the new Act comes into force, and the Academic Council will have the fullest opportunity, it has got the right, to revise and re-adjust the proposals that have so far been made. But, I may inform the House that these proposals are in accordance with the resolutions of the Senate and the Syndicate made from time to time for the purpose of expansion of the University on modern lines.

" This, Sir, is the information that I have to submit to the House. I do not claim that the information is by any means complete, but I do hope that it is sufficient for the purpose of allowing this grant to go into the budget."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I have hopes that my hon. friend Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar will ultimately withdraw this motion. If my memory does not fail me, I believe my friend Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar was one of those who moved a resolution when the University Bill was under discussion that the operation of that Bill be postponed for a period of about four years—I do not remember the exact number of years."

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Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"Three years."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Yes, Sir, three years. My hon. friend will pardon me if I am uncharitable in thinking that this motion of is in accordance with the spirit of that motion."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"The hon. Member is indeed uncharitable."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am very glad to find, Sir, that my impression of his motion is wrong. However, though his intentions may be good, I am afraid, the effect of his present motion is the same as that of his previous one. That resolution which my hon. friend moved when the University Bill was under discussion was rejected, and now that the Act has been passed, it is obviously impossible to work that Act without funds. That my hon. friend wants is the deletion of a sum of Rs. 2,15,000, out of total grant of Rs. 3,00,500, so that if this large sum of Rs. 2,15,000 is taken away from Rs. 3,00,500, practically what is left will be nil, and unless funds are placed immediately at the disposal of the University authorities to bring about the operation of that Act as soon as possible, the Act will practically be a dead letter."

"With reference to the objection raised by my hon. friend that the details of the schemes have not been placed before the Council, the hon. the Minister for Education has placed such details as are in his possession. To my mind the hon. the Minister's statement, that if the year 1923-24 be allowed to pass without the provision of funds, it will practically be impossible for the Academic Council and other authorities that will be brought into existence for working out this Act, seems to be quite sound, and unless this House now votes this grant of Rs. 3,00,500, which after all is not a very large amount, the effect will be to postpone the operation of this Act at least for another year. Seeing that a very large majority of the Members of this Council voted for the Act to be brought into operation as soon as possible, I hope the Members of this Council will see the wisdom and the desirability of voting against my hon. friend's motion if he presses it to a division."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Sir, I think the object of my hon. friend, Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar, in tabling this motion for reduction was to have information with regard to any definite scheme which the hon. the Minister for Education may have before him. I do not suppose he will press the motion to a division. I am very thankful for the information given by the hon. the Minister with regard to the various proposals for promoting university education now before him and with regard to the various ways in which the funds placed at the disposal of the University will be spent, each arrangement being in accordance with the resolutions already passed by the Senate. Here, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister for Education and the Members of this House to one important difference which exists, and which must be borne in mind. The resolutions which were adopted by the old Senate were resolutions adopted by a body which was charged with the duty of promoting the interests of higher education throughout the presidency, the interests not only of metropolitan institutions, but also of mufassal colleges. Therefore, when effect is given by the new senate to that resolution adopted by the old body, attention must be paid to the fact that there is a necessity, a just demand, for all progress being in the direction of a parallel line of development. I do understand

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the desirability and the necessity of having special laboratories, of having Chairs founded for the progress of experiments and studies in experimental psychology, anthropology, geography and other subjects, and I do realize the importance of having scholarships awarded to students who will proceed to Europe and qualify themselves for handling some of these subjects with very great profit and benefit for the student population.

"While these improvements are being made in the metropolitan institutions for the benefit of the students of constituent colleges 1-15 p.m. who would be admitted to, and benefit by, these lectures, some arrangement should be made either by sending out these professors to the mufassal or by starting also Chairs in the mufassal centres to encourage these studies in those centres. That is a point the necessity and importance of which all the members of this Council and the hon. the Minister for Education must recognize. I can only speak from my experience. There are certain centres which possess advantages which are even denied to metropolitan institutions. Speaking for Trichinopoly, I may say that all the three colleges and their buildings are situated round the four parapet walls of the Teppakulam. On the grounds between the western wall of the Teppakulam and the St. Joseph's College you can have a university library and lecture halls. The co-ordination and co-operation of studies on which emphasis has been rightly laid by my hon. friend the Minister for Education can be more readily given effect to in that mufassal centre than in Madras. There are certain advantages which the local university can claim and which are at present denied to the mufassal centres. I would therefore appeal to all earnest advocates of university reform, to all really interested in the spread of higher education and the promotion of culture and higher research work not only in one place but throughout the length and breadth of this Province, I would raise my humble voice in unison with the voice of other ardent educationists in the mufassal that, in furthering educational progress, attention should be paid to this fact, viz., that this progress should be in the direction of a general line of development so that not only the students attending constituent colleges but also students in the mufassal centres might avail themselves of all the latest research and of all the latest experiments made by specialists, experts or university professors."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, I can very well understand the great anxiety on the part of the hon. the Minister for Education to put some money in this budget as the father of the new University Act. But I want to know how the hon. the Finance Member allowed him to thrust his hands deep into his pocket and take so much money. As the hon. the Minister for Education says, he has got some tentative schemes to be approved by the Academic Council to come into existence in future. I do not know whether it is a very sound principle of budgeting that any Minister shall be allowed to put his hands into the pocket of the hon. the Finance Member and reserve money for future expenditure on future schemes yet to be developed, yet to be examined, yet to be sanctioned by a committee that is to come into existence."

"My other wonder is how a portion of this amount, viz., Rs. 1,50,000, is to be taken from the loan funds. We know the principles of loan funds. I do not think the Local Government has yet made any alteration in the rules regarding amortization. We know that this is an expenditure which is not

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at all productive. Under the circumstances I do not know what explanation the hon. the Finance Member will give to the taxpayer through this Council for this way of dealing with loan money.

"Every one of us does agree that university education requires great expansion, but the several ill-conceived provisions of the new Act have set the mufassal interests against the metropolitan interests. This will always be a peculiar feature of the budget year after year for a long number of years to come. Until the metropolitan institutions are severed from the mufassal institutions there will be trouble in this Council regarding university grants.

"We know that the hon. the Finance Member regretted very much last year that he was not able to devote any money for the Andhra University. What has become of that? Why should not the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Minister for Education put their heads together, have a tentative scheme for the Andhra University prepared and provide some money for the purpose in this budget if they are right in the principles of their budgeting?"

MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Mr. President, I should like to say a few words, if possible to prevail on my friend Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar to withdraw his motion. In this connection I would like to sound a note of warning to the members of this House about the tendency on the part of some hon. Members to question the very principle of university autonomy. Whenever such questions are raised I find that my hon. friends on the front bench opposite are very eager to champion the cause of the university and stand out for the full right of university autonomy. But to-day the position seems to have been reversed. The present university is going to be re-organized and my hon. friends opposite have tabled motions amounting to some 5 lakhs to be reduced from the funds to be placed at the disposal of the university. Now, my hon. friends want to know how any Minister can be given, in the absence of definite schemes, funds for the carrying out of such schemes. I fear such objections would tell seriously on the autonomy of the university which will come into existence under the present University Act. It is not possible for the hon. the Minister for Education at this stage to wait on indefinitely to see when the lines of future expansion will be possible. Until the new university comes into being there will not be any possibility of obtaining clear indications about it. All of us desire that that day should come as early as possible. Under these circumstances what else was left to the hon. the Minister than to provide money for the coming year for the expansion of the university?"

"My hon. friend, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, is of opinion that this sum of 3 lakhs would not be enough and therefore I cannot understand how he can get up and say that it should be reduced. Sir, he suggested that the hon. the Minister should come in with supplementary demands whenever necessary. We understand that this House will be dissolved in the month of July and that new elections will take place. If that is so, by the time the new Council comes into working order much valuable time will be lost and till then University reform will have to remain in abeyance.

"My hon. friend the Minister for Education pointed out that he was not responsible for the schemes he read out. He said that the scheme for experimental psychology approved by the Senate in the year 1912 has not

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yet been carried into effect. Then, again, there is the scheme for a school of geography. These can only be described as arrears which will have to be worked out as early as possible. I do not think that the new University will altogether disregard the advice of its critics. I am sure the new bodies will pay due regard to all the criticisms offered and try to give effect to them.

"Sir, there is no use being confronted at every stage with the alleged grievances of the mufassal colleges. We must draw a line somewhere. We have discussed this for a good length of time and if every time these alleged grievances of the mufassal colleges are to be brought to the surface, we might as well wind up our university. Even if we make Trichinopoly or Vizagapatam a university centre, the rest of the mufassal colleges will have to remain as affiliated colleges of the metropolitan university.

"Under the circumstances, I trust my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, while I must plead guilty to one of the charges levelled against me—that of yielding to the seductive persuasions of my hon. colleague,—I must say that I did so for reasons which I think will appeal to the Council, viz., that if the Finance Department had refused under the Devolution Rules to examine this scheme, it would practically have amounted to holding up the operation of the Act for the best part of the year. For, it would be impossible to get the scheme ready until the various bodies provided for by the Act had been appointed and if we stood on the very letter of the rule and said that we would not examine the scheme until the various bodies had been appointed, nothing would be possible during the year. That is the sole reason why we allowed this to go into the budget.

"As regards the question of allowing a loan to be provided for for which there is no amortization fund, I plead not guilty. If my hon. friends would turn to page 226 of the Budget they will see that we have temporary loans from the Central Government to an amount of over 3 crores of rupees. These loans are being paid by instalments spreading over fifteen years. So long as we have that amount on short-term loan, I do not think we need make any provision for the amortization of this small item of 1½ lakhs."

At this stage, the House adjourned for lunch and re-assembled at 2-30.

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"I have listened with great interest to the speeches that have been made by hon. Members. Some objected to the motion that I tabled and others advised me to withdraw it. If there has been any change in the opinion that is to be formed on the matter, I must say that the speeches that have been delivered have gone very far to confirm me in the correctness of the view that I took when I asked that the motion might be tabled. The hon. the Minister for Education, with the inside knowledge he possesses of the points to which my motion related, has been able to supply further particulars as to why it is that this application for grant is not altogether premature. He has told us that the schemes which he is likely to bring into operation are tentative. He has told us that there is no definite certainty of his being able to get loans; at any rate, the extent and the terms on which loans should be got are matters that are still in the air, altogether undecided. Therefore, it appears to me that

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it is perfectly clear that even the hon. the Minister for Education, or whoever is responsible for that unhappy state of affairs, is altogether vague and wanting in clearness in the ideas that he possesses as to the schemes which this grant that is now asked for is to further. Then, Sir, we were told that it would be interfering with the autonomy of the University if we now asked for the details of the scheme of a residential university.

"I found it somewhat difficult to quite follow the argument of my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddiyar, on that particular point. If my hon. friend will turn to the sections of the Universities Act he will find that it provides that the Local Government may impose terms whenever it makes a grant of money to the University to enable it to carry on its work; and I presume that the Local Government will be unable to make any grant without coming to the Council for the purpose of getting it passed. This Council is entitled to know what exactly is going to be done, and that is exactly what I wanted to inquire by this motion. Then, Sir, we were told that, even admitting that the amount which might be required would be much larger than what this grant provided for, this grant would all the same be necessary and that it should therefore be passed now. I am afraid I have not been quite understood. My position is this: since the grant cannot be where it stands, and since a large amount will be required—and for that purpose at least a supplementary grant will be required—why should we not have an opportunity of discussing the whole thing and then give the whole grant that might be applied for? For, in that case the House will be in a better position to appreciate the schemes that the hon. Member or his advisors may have in view. As a matter of fact, I may mention that with the information that the hon. the Minister for Education has given us, we may recognize that the position of the University is not quite so helpless as some hon. Members may think. It will be found that the grant that has been asked for is Rs. 3,00,500 and my motion is for a reduction only to the extent of Rs. 2,15,000, so that there is a sum of Rs. 90,000 still available. As a matter of fact, the history of this motion is this. In the pre-Residential University days, we had a sum of Rs. 65,000 which was given by the Government of India. Now I think it is the Local Government that gives it and another sum of Rs. 20,000 is intended to be the travelling allowance for the members of the Senate. So the amount of Rs. 65,000 was there. What the University did in the past was not to utilize this sum of Rs. 65,000; but a good deal of that amount went to make up the funded capital. That is the history of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd which go to make up the 11 lakhs which are at the disposal of the University. Now the amount of Rs. 65,000 is at the disposal of the University and the various Chairs to which the hon. the Education Minister has drawn our attention. There does not seem to have been a definitely settled scheme yet resolved upon in respect of them and also in respect of the formation of the Academic Council, so that the carrying on of these Chairs is perfectly possible to the extent that may be admitted until we know what exactly the whole scheme will be. It will therefore be found that the very position that has been taken by the Minister for Education, far from weakening the justice of the motion that I have made, only goes to confirm its propriety.

"My hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, drew the attention of the House to the fact that there is a need for parallel development which has not been fully kept in mind in the schemes the hon. the Minister has so far

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17th March 1923] had in view, or at any rate in respect of which the House would like to get more information. That again goes to confirm the propriety of the motion which I have ventured to place before this House. I therefore submit that the grounds that have been given as to why it is that my motion should not be accepted, far from showing that my view is incorrect, can only support it.

"I have reserved to the last one argument that has been raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar. He is somehow or other obsessed with the idea that my interest is to thwart, to the extent that it is possible, the good effect that is expected of the new University Act. As I ventured to state during the course of my speech, nothing would be more unpalatable to me than that, and, Sir, I may assure him, if any assurance is wanted, that my methods are much cleaner. If I do want to effect a purpose, I shall state it perfectly clearly and make my position absolutely undoubted. If I wanted that this matter should be put off I would have told the House what exactly my object was. I am as anxious as he can ever be that this University Act should become an accomplished fact, and that it must be made capable of yielding the good results that are expected of it. But it is because I am not satisfied that the procedure that has been adopted is one that is likely to bring to fruition our cherished objects in the matter, I have tabled this motion. At the same time, I recognize that there is a large volume of opinion in the House that perhaps I would be better advised if I withdraw the motion rather than press it to a division, and that it is just possible that I may be wrong; and this large volume of opinion to some extent makes me distrust the correctness of my view, namely, that we cannot be satisfied with the reasons so far accorded, and therefore I do not press this motion to a division."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 148.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,00,500 for grants to university by Rs. 100.

The discussion that has taken place just now will have convinced every one in this House that the amount allotted for the new university is quite necessary to enable it to extend itself. If, still, I have ventured to make this motion, it is because I feel that in bringing this new university into existence and in making increased provision to the extent of Rs. 2,50,000 there are various questions which have been agitating the public mind and which have been discussed in this Council but to which justice has not been done. May I remind this House that the question of the Andhra University was raised in this House about six years ago before the present Minister of Education took up his task of bringing this Bill before this House? Even before this Bill was taken up, in pursuance of the decision of the Senate regarding this very question some time later, a motion was made in this Council regarding the Andhra University and the hon. the Minister was good enough to accept it, and a committee was appointed for the purpose of investigating the possibility of establishing this Andhra University. The Committee under the presidency of my hon. friend, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, set to work immediately and lost no time. Far from delaying the matter, lest

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such delay should lead to the thwarting of the proposals for the establishment of the Andhra University, it made immediate inquiries in the matter of establishing an Andhra University. I am glad to be able to state that the hon. the Minister for Education took up the question in the same spirit and organized a conference of the leading representatives of the Andhra districts at the end of November last. He took advantage of the visit of His Excellency and got a conference opened by him with the full hope that it would be possible to bring into existence the Andhra University during the course of the year 1923-24. It was for the purpose of settling some questions of detail which were not settled by the Committee that the conference was arranged. The Conference examined the various questions and settled the type of university to be established. Then, Sir, there was some difference of opinion as to the location of the university, and the Conference thought, in deference to the wishes of some of the members, that it was not desirable to decide that question in the absence of representatives of the Ceded districts; and, with the full consent of the hon. the Minister for Education, it was decided that the Conference should again be held on some day in December. If the hon. the Minister for Education had stated that any delay would lead to the postponement of the further consideration of this proposal, the House was prepared to give its decision at once. He himself agreed that we might meet at an early date later on and we accordingly adopted that course. But, Sir, what do we find? Nothing further has been done and the whole work which was done for the purpose of bringing the university into existence has ended in a failure. His Excellency Lord Willingdon in

2-45 p.m. opening the Conference distinctly brought to the forefront the demand for the Andhra University and gave hopes in his preliminary remarks that it would be brought into existence at an early date. Again, the words of the hon. the Minister for Education were also encouraging.

"But now, Sir, no provision is made for any work to be done in connexion with the Andhra University. It is certainly unfair, I would suggest, that the scheme for a university which has all along been placed before this House as one leading to the expansion of education and the principle of which has been accepted by this House, should go without any provision being made. We have been in a position to make headway for reorganizing the Madras University and provide for increased expenditure. I quite realize that the expenditure provided is quite necessary for doing useful work. But is it fair to ask that the other scheme should not have been thrown out for the time being? It is most unfair and unreasonable to ask for a grant of 2 lakhs and odd only for the university to be reorganized. It is for the purpose of raising the question of the necessity for taking immediate steps towards the formation of Andhra University that I brought this motion for the reduction of the grant by Rs. 100. If the hon. the Minister is in a position to give us the assurance that this scheme is still likely to be brought forward, if not now at least in the near future, it is certainly a matter for consideration. If he can give no hopes, I think, Sir, it will be the duty of this House to press the motion and pass it, seeing that it is a matter in which it has already expressed its opinion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"As far as the hon. Member has stated the facts relating to the Andhra University, the Conference held at Vizagapatam and the resolutions that were passed at that Conference, I am in

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full agreement with him. The further steps that were taken are perhaps not known to him. After I returned from Vizagapatam, a tentative scheme was prepared as the Finance Department required it. Unless a definite scheme in the form of a Bill stating the full financial responsibility was placed at the disposal of the Finance Department, they would not examine the matter at all. Therefore, taking a rough survey of the requirements, it was suggested to the Finance Department what the liability would be. But the matter would not be accepted by the Finance Department, even with the outline that was prepared out of the resolutions of the Conference. Unlike the Madras University, the Andhra University is a new scheme and the full amount of financial responsibility must be ascertained. The Finance Department insisted not only on the full financial responsibility but on full details in the form of a Bill that would be placed before the House, and said that until a Bill was prepared for the purpose of the Andhra University it would not be possible to expect anything like a provision from the Finance Committee. But all that I could do in the matter was done: viz., the information that could be gathered from the report and the resolutions of the Conference were placed before them. The matter was placed before the Finance Committee, which discussed the matter at length.

"The final resolution is:

Read proposals for including provision in the Budget for 1923-24 for the Andhra University estimated to cost about 80 lakhs non-recurring and 6 lakhs recurring: proposed Budget provision for 1923-24—6 lakhs.

It does not appear to the Committee that the finances of the Presidency are in a condition to bear the expense of another university pending remission of part of the contribution to the Government of India. Meanwhile, the present scheme has not advanced to a stage at which any examination of its financial aspects is possible.

The resolution is dated 20th January 1923. Matters were so far pressed and have advanced from the stage where we left at Vizagapatam as to place the idea of the scheme before the Finance Department, and on the scheme that was placed this was the resolution passed. The resolution says that if there is a reduction in the Provincial contribution to the Government of India the scheme will be considered. Not only that; they further say that the present scheme has not advanced to a stage at which any examination of its financial aspects is possible. That question will have to be taken up and the scheme will be advanced further in order to make it more and more definite."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, I think we Andhras feel grateful to the hon. the Minister for Education to the extent to which he has taken steps to send a scheme to the Finance Member and get it placed before the Finance Committee. The main objections which the Finance Committee entertained about this seem to be two. Firstly, the development of the Andhra University scheme must be deferred till the iniquitous impost is reduced. If I understand further the view of the Finance Committee, it means that even in the meantime they are prepared to examine the question if details are furnished. Then, Sir, my question to the hon. Member is: what is it he has done since the 20th January, if he has had any idea of pushing forward this scheme? Of course we are hearing of supplementary grants. There is time for any scheme which the Finance Committee may wish to examine. But has the machinery been set in force and working order to furnish the further details which the Finance Committee requires? If I understand the Finance Committee's spirit it means: 'give

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us the details regarding the 30 lakhs of non-recurring expenditure; and give us details regarding the 6 lakhs of recurring expenditure.' How far these details have already been furnished, and how far they are yet to be furnished are the questions that have to be answered. The Government is really in favour of pushing through this scheme and the Finance Member has shed his crocodile tears on it. I believe that steps ought to have been taken since 20th January to push through this scheme."

Mr. G. VANDANAM:—"From the time the new Legislative Council was formed, the Andhra members of this House committed themselves to the proposition that if it was possible they must secure a university for the Andhra country. Those of us who supported the reorganization scheme of the Madras University did so on the distinct understanding that the Madras University reorganization would help us to get the Andhra University at no distant date. Last year, when the Finance Member introduced his Budget he shed some tears for not being able to make any provision for the Andhra University. But when we look at the recent Budget speech there is no word about the Andhra University. It may be that the scheme will be thrown into oblivion very soon. In the speech of the Minister, it is said that the scheme has not advanced so far as to justify a provision in the Budget. If it has not advanced so far now, after so much work, how will it advance and when will it advance? Unless some steps are taken, it may never happen that the Andhra people will have a university of their own."

"Secondly, Sir, while so much is done for the spread of university education, while such light salaries are allotted for those who are working in the university, those who are working in the lower departments are poorly paid. The disparity is so very great that I think it is high time for the House to recognize that something must be done to raise the salaries of those in the subordinate services. That is one of the reasons why I brought this motion. There is one reason why the members of the teaching profession are so very thankful to the Minister for the scheme of provident fund. We are now able to say this much that we are thankful to him for we can die in peace. But we want also to live in comfort. The teachers in the teaching profession have not been given sufficient encouragement by increments in salaries. If it is possible, I request the hon. the Minister to do his best to reorganize the secondary and primary education and to reorganize the scales of salaries of those who are working in private institutions. This cannot be done unless the private institutions are encouraged by liberal grants. The grants that are now made to primary institutions are meagre; in very many cases they are very discouraging. The efforts the private institutions have been making in the country are very great. Therefore it is the duty of the Government to encourage private institutions by liberal grants with a view to increase the salaries of those teachers who have been working in private institutions. With a view to bring these things to the notice of the hon. the Minister and thanking him for all that he has done for the education of this Presidency, I beg to withdraw the motion."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATRAM NAYUDU:—"I wish to deal, in a couple of observations, with the special reference to the Andhra University scheme. Sir, if I may make a confession of my own personal feeling in the matter, I may say that, after the mental awakening I had during the

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discussion on the Madras University Reorganization Bill, I am inclined to think in the words of a poet:

That dream in my sleeping ear melted away.

"Notwithstanding, Sir, the information furnished by the hon. the Minister for Education, I am led to believe that the Andhra

3 p.m. University scheme is more a pious hope than a problem of practical politics. If, however, Sir, I am required to bestow a few words upon the possible chance of that scheme being visualised within a short time, I shall venture to make just a few suggestions.

"Firstly, a very close and careful consideration, in my humble opinion, will have to be given to this point—whether the resolutions adopted by the Conference at Vizagapatam have indications tending materially to reduce the original financial forecast as regards the requirements of the Andhra University. The original forecast was that something like 30 lakhs of non-recurring and 6 lakhs of annually recurring expenditure would be necessary. This was produced on the basis of a strict, uncompromising unitary university at a particular locality. I believe this idea was, without being radically affected, to a considerable extent modified by the resolutions of the Conference at Vizagapatam. If that impression of mine is correct, it may be worth trying to settle the issue whether or not the financial requirements of the proposed university might as well be reconsidered. If, as I believe, such a reconsideration would lead to the conclusion that the requirements need not be pitched at such a high sum as that, it may be possible to propitiate the Finance Committee much more successfully.

"The second suggestion that I wish to submit for the consideration of this House is this: somehow, rightly or wrongly, the impression has been produced that while the Madras University to be reorganized need not be helped to any material extent by private benefactions, the success of the Andhra University will, to a considerable extent, depend upon auxiliary help from private sources. Whether this is a logical proposition to hold or not, whether it is permissible to ask why in the one case the university should be wholly a State concern and why in the other case it should be partly at least an object of private benefactions, I cannot say. I believe it is an imperative duty devolving upon all those who sincerely and earnestly desire that an Andhra University should be shortly inaugurated, to lay their heads together and see how far this—I would not say condition precedent—suggestion on the part of the Government could be met. I do believe that if a small but representative influential party is got up and if that party takes upon itself to approach, in the proper manner,—shall I say with the necessary influence, which influence it will not be improper on the part of my hon. friend to impart, if he were so inclined?—certain quarters, I am not without hope that there will be some substantial response to such an appeal. Let these two considerations, I submit, be given such attention as they deserve."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Sir, I find from the statement made by the hon. the Minister for Education that on two grounds the scheme for an Andhra University has been postponed indefinitely, or perhaps shelved. One is the present financial stringency of the Madras Government, and it is said that it will not be relieved unless the 'impost' is reduced. The other ground is that the scheme, as submitted, is not sufficiently definite for immediate action to be taken.

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"Now, Sir, as regards the first point, I have not much to say. It may be or it may not be that unless the impost is reduced, the Madras Government will not be in a position to finance the Andhra University. But, truly, the present Budget of the Madras Government is not so hopeless as the previous ones. We have nearly balanced the Budget, and if the various proposals are carried into effect and strict retrenchment and economies are pursued in the coming year, as has been the case during the present one, we might even have a surplus.

"The second argument seems to me to require a little analysis especially by those who have had the honour and privilege of serving on the Committee of which my hon. friend, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, was the president.

"Sir, in that body there were not merely non-officials but responsible men of the position and status of the Director of Public Instruction; and I do say that the scheme is practically definite. It contemplates two primary considerations: one for immediate acceptance and the other a kind of ideal to be kept in view and gradually worked up to. The Committee was therefore obliged to submit this scheme trying to forecast the expenditure that will be required if the whole scheme materialized. They did not say, neither are there indications, that some beginning should not be made. I, therefore, feel that any criticism of the scheme is somewhat of the nature of an after-thought, and that the real difficulty is that there is no money. If the scheme was so imperfect, I cannot understand how it was that the hon. the Minister for Education gave so many assurances on so many occasions, and even went the length of holding a big Conference at Vizagapatam in order to settle primarily the question of location and secondarily the question of private benefactions. If Government are too poor to undertake the task, let them say so candidly, and not try to throw the blame on the people who did their best to submit a definite scheme. I, therefore, think that the unitary ideal was not the sole cause of the financial stringency of the Government. I mean to say that it was not because of the high estimates that were put forward that the scheme was held in abeyance. Even under an affiliated scheme, even if we did no more than follow the kind of reorganization which my hon. friend, the Minister for Education, has succeeded in imposing on the Madras University, we shall have to provide at a central place scope for all those developments that the Committee recommended. The Committee also tried to avoid overlapping. It emphasised the need of developing those branches which were not already sufficiently provided for in the existing scheme of higher education in the Madras Presidency. For these reasons, I feel inclined to say that the Government must take up this matter more seriously. They are always willing to spend money for so many purposes; but for this one purpose they say 'we cannot find money'. There is a provision for the reorganization of the Madras University—I say this not because I am not in favour of it,—but when it comes to the Andhra University they turn it down and say 'we want a scheme so definite that even the microscope will not be able to reveal further details'. I do hope, therefore, that my hon. friend will propose a supplementary grant in this matter. Many of us who have supported the Madras University have committed ourselves to our constituencies in this matter. This is not a question of Andhras *versus* Tamilians or any such thing. The Senate has tabled a resolution to this effect; and the Legislative Council has also passed a resolution to the same effect. I therefore think that this question must be regarded as one of those with which, as it were, the honour and prestige of

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the Legislative Council itself is involved, and we must therefore force the Government to take the necessary steps. But I do not know how by reducing the grant in question the purpose will be served. I hope the hon. the Minister will assure us that he will put more energy into the matter."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, at first I had no intention of intervening in this debate, but the statement of my hon. friend, the Minister for Education, that the Finance Committee threw this scheme out, has compelled me to speak. The fact was, merely a grant of five lakhs of rupees was asked for the Andhra University. There were no other facts before us to decide whether this amount was necessary. We had no other alternative than throwing it out. We did not know for what purpose that money was to be utilized. I heard my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, say that the Committee which investigated the question of establishing the Andhra University had submitted a report. I have had the privilege of going through that report. With all due deference to the Members of the Committee, I think I must say that there is nothing definite in the proposals, except that the new university should be a unitary one. Mr. Ramalinga Reddi said that the hon. the Minister went up to Vizagapatam to settle about the question of location. The whole trouble, Sir, is one of location. That meeting actually dispersed without having any idea as to where the university was to be located. My friends from the Ceded districts said that the university ought to be located in some place in the Ceded districts, because the Ceded districts would be the most central portion of the Andhra country."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"They are backward."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I dispute the statement, Sir."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I too dispute it, Sir, they are not backward in education."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"My friends from Vizagapatam, on the other hand, said that there was a first-grade college in Vizianagram and that when such was the case, the Andhra University should be located there. When there was such a difference of opinion among the learned people in the Andhra country, we the Members of the Finance Committee had no other alternative than to tell the Government that we did not recommend the scheme."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, so many references have been made to the Finance Committee and its decisions that I feel tempted to claim the attention of the House for a minute or two. I am rather inclined to think that the decisions of the Finance Committee cannot be accepted implicitly, but should be taken with a pinch of salt. What I mean to say is this: Oftentimes we get the connected papers very late, sometimes at 8 or 9, or even later in the night on the day previous to the meeting, and it may not always be possible for us to grasp all the things placed before us and to be ready for discussion the next day. If the Government really want to claim that authority for the decisions of the Finance Committee as they do in this case, I say the proper course for them will be to give the Finance Committee ample time, at least one week's time, to ponder over the papers that are sent to them to enable them to arrive at right and sound conclusions. That is all I want to say, Sir."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“I should like to make one or two observations in regard to the remarks 3-15 p.m. made by several hon. Members on this very vexed question of the starting of a new university. I cannot help giving expression to the feeling that in pushing forward a Bill for the reorganization of the Madras University, my hon. friend, the Minister for Education, has indefinitely put off the fulfilment of our hopes for the establishment of another university for the Andhra districts. My hon. friend, while that scheme was in his hands for several months, took up this question of the reorganization of the Madras University, and he now finds various obstacles in his way. There are no finances for that scheme, while there are funds allotted to the Madras University. I do not at present wish to say anything in regard to the motion for the allotment of funds for the Madras University; but undoubtedly, there is the feeling that in pushing the reorganization of the Madras University the chance of finding funds for the new university scheme has been lessened; and, as my hon. friend Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu put it, it is the vanishing of the dream which all of us had quite a number of years. Sir, apart from these questions, my hon. friend, the Minister, claims that since the meeting at Vizagapatam, various steps have been taken to further the progress of the Andhra University scheme, and the steps, he points out, consist in the single resolution of the Finance Committee, explanation in reference to which has been made to-day by two of the members of that Committee. Now, as has been pointed out by Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu, whatever may be the original schemes, certainly a decision was come to as regards the type of the university at Vizagapatam and that as bearing on the finance question was also examined. I may ask my hon. friend, the Minister, whether any consideration has been given to this decision.

“Then my hon. friend, Dr. Subbarayan, stated that the Finance Committee was not given any information as to what the exact scheme was that was to be financed, and for that reason more than any other they were not able to find the funds. The hon. Mr. Patro said that there was a scheme before the Finance Committee; Dr. Subbarayan said that he had absolutely no information on which to allot funds for this scheme. Dr. Subbarayan referred to the question of the location of the university. It is undoubtedly true that there was a divergence of opinion as to the place. When we met at Vizagapatam, it was stated that the Minister would take steps to summon some more representatives of the country to another conference as early as possible, and it was requested that the conference might be held sometime in December. The date was also suggested as the 16th December. Though he could not commit himself to the date, he said he would do his best to summon that conference as early as possible, so that the Finance Committee and the Government might be informed that this question of location had also been settled in a way satisfactory to both parties. Nothing definite has been done towards the summoning of this conference. I do not wish to multiply facts. But I do think that, if the hon. the Minister was inclined to support this scheme, he should have been far more energetic in pushing it forward, much more energetic in making the scheme more practical than it was; and from the financial point of view, if it was placed in the position in which it should have been before the Finance Committee, I am certain that it would have been possible to finance this scheme as well as the Madras University scheme. No efforts have been made, and we have a right to

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complain that the result of the Madras University scheme is the indefinite postponement of the establishment of another university. No definite statement has been made to-day to induce in us the belief or hope that in the near future anything more than what has been done will be done to give effect to this scheme. Two hon. Members who have served on the Committee have already explained that there was nothing definite arrived at with regard to the scheme. It is true that the ultimate cost of the scheme was estimated at 30 lakhs or so. But a portion of the scheme can be given effect to now, and the rest of the expenditure foreshadowed can be allotted in the course of a number of years. Therefore, Sir, we cannot resist the feeling that for some reason or other, this scheme for the establishment of a new university has not been pushed through. And unless my hon. friend gives a more definite statement of his intentions, we shall have to draw the inference that the chances of that scheme taking shape will not be any more furthered than they have been in the past. There is no doubt that this question of the Andhra University will be coming up year after year. With all respect to my friend, Mr. Reddi, who said that this question of mufassal colleges *versus* Madras University was constantly coming up, I do think that this question of the establishment of another university would be mentioned every time there is a further allotment made to the Madras University.”

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“Sir, after hearing the explanation that has been given by the hon. the Minister for Education on Mr. Krishna Rao's motion, two observations suggest themselves to me. One of them is that there is never an indication so far which will falsify the well-founded belief in the Andhra mind that the Government or those who are responsible are not at all serious about bringing this Andhra University into existence. The second observation is that, if the facts were otherwise, it was time enough that some step had been taken in the direction of showing how the Andhra view was wrong. Now, Sir, I quite grant that the expenses—the final and the recurring expenses—connected with the starting of an Andhra University, will be much greater than what the Government will be confronted with respecting the Madras University. But, I believe, that so far as the university and the general public were concerned, they had committed themselves very much earlier than this House had to the starting of an Andhra University. And when you see the rate of progress that has been made with the idea of converting the Madras University into a residential university and the starting of an Andhra University, you will find that the disparity is striking, and that some explanation other than want of money must be forthcoming. So far as I am concerned, though I am not myself an Andhra, I am perfectly in sympathy with the starting of an Andhra University. One explanation that suggests itself to me as the possible reason for the disparity is that in the case of the Andhra University, the results for a long time to come may not be quite so strikingly obvious, and that might perhaps have stood in the way of the Andhra University being given a reality which it all along deserves. Now, Sir, seeing that there has already been a pledge, as it were, given that the university should be started, I think, that some further explanation is due to this House, than what the hon. the Minister for Education has given, as to why it is there has been so much delay. He told us that the Finance Committee wanted details; but when you compare the insistence of the Finance Committee for details in regard to this with the want of such insistence when the demand

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is made on behalf of the Madras University, it is somewhat difficult to understand the exact position of the Finance Committee in the matter.

"Dr. Subbarayan pointed out to us that the reason why the Finance Committee was not able to do anything in the matter was partly, if not wholly, on account of this, viz., that the report of the Committee—the Andhra University Committee—had nothing definite about it. Now, therefore, Sir, I beg to join issue with him and those who have thought like him. The fact is that this Andhra University Committee was asked to state what in its opinion must be the general lines of a university for the Andhra country. We have stated there what exactly according to us ought to be the lines. We have also indicated how exactly the university is to progress, what exactly the faculties are that must be given the first consideration, what the staff required should be, what the nature of the staff ought to be, and what, in our opinion, may be the ultimate cost of giving effect to the whole of this scheme. Further than that, the Committee could not have gone for this reason that it did not know what exactly the funds were that were available for the purpose of giving effect to this idea; moreover, it did not know where exactly the university was to be located, and therefore in the absence of fuller materials they could not have made a better report than what they did. But whatever may be necessary for the purpose of starting a university you will find in the report. As a matter of fact that report was sent over a year ago, and surely some explanation is due to this House as to what has been done on that report, what were the materials that have been gathered in the light of that report so as to hazard the starting of the Andhra University. The question of funds is very important no doubt, and my hon. friend, Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu, pointed out, that perhaps with application and energy it might be possible for large funds to be collected from private sources which may go to supplement whatever grants the Government may be called upon to give. On the whole, Sir, the position is very unsatisfactory and I do not think that the House can be satisfied with the explanation that has been given by the hon. the Minister for Education."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, the Finance Committee has come in for a lot of criticism in this matter, and it is necessary that as Member of that Committee I should state what our position was. Well, Sir, it was bad enough to allot a lump sum grant for the University reorganization for which an Act was passed. Here is a university the organization of which has not been settled, no Act has been passed, even the locality of the university has not yet been fixed, and we are asked seriously why we, sitting in the Finance Committee, did not sanction a lump sum grant for that. Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar took objection to the lump sum grant for reorganizing the Madras University for which an Act has been passed; at the same time, he takes us to task for not allotting funds for the Andhra University."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"I am afraid I have not been properly understood. What I meant was this, that if the Finance Committee was satisfied that such details as were supplied to them with reference to the Madras University, could have been given with respect to the Andhra University, and if those details were not given, it was the fault of the hon. the Minister for Education. That was my position."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, the difference between the reorganization scheme of the Madras University and the creation of the Andhra University is this. In the one case, an Act has been passed and the lines on which the university ought to work has been settled, while in the case of the other nothing is settled. So, Sir, it was thought too early to provide an allotment for the Andhra University. Not only that: we were already in the beginning of the year, and we knew that the Council would be dissolved in September as it was then believed. There was no chance for a Bill being introduced and passed into law before the new Council would come into existence. Granting that position, we thought, Sir, it would not be proper for allotting a lump sum for a scheme which was not at all mature and for which nothing had been done definitely by way of even a draft Bill. That was the first consideration that led us to disallow that lump sum. Secondly, the sum asked for was a very large amount. It was 30 lakhs recurring and 6 lakhs non-recurring."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I ask my hon. friend whether that was the sum asked and where?"

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"It was so mentioned in the note for the Committee. Sir, already when the Bill for the reorganization of the Madras University was under discussion, my hon. friend, Mr. Raja, raised the question whether we could find money for university education and whether the interests of primary and secondary education would not suffer. We were budgeting for a deficit of 35 lakhs. That was the position in which we had to consider the question. Is it right, Sir, that in such circumstances the Committee should commit themselves to a new policy which will involve a recurring expenditure of 6 lakhs? We thought that we were not in a position to undertake large schemes. I am sorry that the position has not been understood by my hon. friend, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, who thought there should be some other reasons than those given. I do not think, Sir, that any other conclusion is possible when we take into consideration the real state of facts putting aside, of course, the desire of the people generally to have things that they want. I do not think, Sir, that any other conclusion was possible on the facts before the Committee."

Rev. W. MESTON :—"Sir, I trust it will not be thought strange that one who strongly supported the Madras University Reorganization Bill should intervene just for one moment in this discussion. I beg leave to say how heartily I support the effort that is now being made for the establishment of this northern university. Even at the time when the University Bill for Madras came before us, it was thought by me, and by many of us, that as soon as the reorganization of the Madras University was granted and the Bill was passed by this Council, the demand for other universities would be immensely strengthened, and strengthened by those who were the representatives of the localities in this House. I am delighted that the first movement in this direction has been made to-day. Those of us who were strong supporters of the Madras University Reorganization Bill foresaw this, and having seen that day not far off, have rejoiced in it. I can understand the desire on the part of some to have a lump grant in the Budget for this purpose. But, Sir, there is one point which I think the Government quite well appreciate, viz., that in Madras we had the benefit of a local habitation."

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As soon as that local habitation for the north is disclosed, discovered, and decided upon, I have no doubt that the movement towards this will be tremendously advanced. I know, for instance, one college which is waiting to settle itself down in a place which will form part of that university as soon as the location is decided upon. When that is settled, we shall have no difficulty with regard to the funds that are necessary for it, and it is because of the feeling that has been evinced to-day in favour of the movement that, much as I dislike supplementary demands, yet in this particular instance I gladly welcome the suggestion for the bringing forward of a supplementary grant."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I do not take such a pessimistic view of the proposal for the Andhra University as some of my hon. friends who have supported the motion have taken. In the light of this discussion, I feel that there is every possibility of the Andhra University becoming an accomplished fact even in the course of the next year. The hon. the Minister for Education has stated that, so far as he is concerned, he agreed with the views put forward by me and that shortly after he returned from Vizagapatam, he placed the proposal before the Finance Department and later on before the Finance Committee. He pointed out that the Finance Committee were, on account of a few objections, not in a position to provide funds. Sir, the only point for consideration is the attitude of the Finance Committee. Three of my hon. friends serving in that Committee have given expression to their views, and it is only this aspect of the case that I request my hon. friends to give some consideration to. Dr. Subbarayan stated that in his opinion the proposals were not quite definite and that the scheme suggested even in the Andhra University Committee's report was not so clear as to enable the Committee to come to a decision in the matter. Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar stated that very often in the course of the proceedings of the Finance Committee the papers were circulated to the members shortly before the date of the meeting, so much so that they had not sufficient time to come to a conclusion. I was somewhat struck by the way in which some of these questions were considered by the Finance Committee. We were told this morning in connexion with a motion regarding the provision for the East Coast special force that the policy underlying it was not discussed and considered in the Finance Committee. I remember it was my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettyiar, who stated it. They were only concerned about the adjustment of figures and they found that they had no objection to provide for that item."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, what I said this morning was that we were satisfied with the necessity for the force in the next year and so we sanctioned it. We did not consider the policy of having it as a permanent force. I did not say that we merely went into the figures and were satisfied."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Does my hon. friend say that even the lakh of rupees sanctioned for buildings was approved, because the force was not to be permanent?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, that is a distinction without a difference. It was pointed out by me and not denied by the hon. the Law Member, when that question was taken up, that provision was made for buildings a lakh of rupees in the next year and a number of other

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lakhs for the other years. It cannot be said, therefore, that it is not permanent. If the Finance Committee, in considering certain aspects of the problems placed before them, thought it their duty not to apply themselves to the policy underlying the motion but only to consider themselves about the desirability, of making a provision next year, I really fail to understand how they could not accept the proposals of the hon. the Minister for Education and take his statement about the necessities of the Andhra University and sanction the amount. So far as the policy is concerned, the hon. the Minister, after obtaining the information of the Committee, formulated his proposals, and sent them to the Finance Department, so that they might be placed before the Finance Committee. The policy is clear; it is one to which the Government have committed themselves. I cannot really imagine how the Committee that would not consider the policy in the case of the Special Police Force for the East Coast applied their pruning knife to this scheme for the creation of the Andhra University and said that they would not sanction the amount. I think the whole obstruction has come not from the hon. the Minister, but from the deliberations of the Finance Committee. In the light of the discussion we have had to-day, may I hope that the question will come up for consideration before the Committee once again? So far as the hon. Members of the Committee who have spoken on the subject are concerned, they have not expressed one word against the scheme for the Andhra University and simply stated that they were not satisfied there was a proper scheme. I am quite certain that the hon. the Minister with this information before him can make facts clearer still and satisfy them that the scheme is one within the range of practical politics and that it should be taken up immediately. It is very easy to convince the House and come up for a supplementary grant and make provision for the purpose, if the hon. the Minister accepts my suggestion and makes up his mind to move forward from the place in which he left the matter. If he is not in a position to take such a step, I have no other alternative but to press the motion."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Govindaraghava Ayyar, repeatedly said that this matter required explanation from me. In discussing the question of the Andhra University, the hon. Member forgot the fundamental difference between the reorganization of the Madras University and the creation of an Andhra University. While in the case of Madras, we had a university in working order and fully equipped, and that all that had to be done was only a reorganization; in the case of the Andhra University, the whole thing has to be created, the place has to be decided upon and the scope and the type of the university have to be considered. Thus the difference between the two is quite clear."

Mr. G. VANDANAM:—"If in the case of the Andhra University it is found necessary to provide 30 lakhs of rupees, is it not prudent to make some provision even from now?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"The difficulty, as I pointed out to the House, is that the condition of things has to be judged. While in the case of one, a new edifice has to be constructed and equipped, in the other only reorganization had to be taken up. The difficulties before the Finance Committee were two-fold. First, the Andhra University Committee did not decide on the location of the university, and, secondly, it did not decide

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how the funds could be provided. It said that there would be a lot of private benefactions and it was the duty of the Government to go round and find funds from private benefactors."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Sir, I find that the question of location was excluded from the terms of reference to the Committee and all that the Committee was asked to do was to suggest places which in their opinion were suitable, the Government reserving to themselves the right to fix the location."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I submit to the House that the difficulty of locating the university was felt and the Conference at Vizagapatam was called to ascertain the public feeling. The Conference was very helpful to me in the matter of further modifying the report of the Andhra University Committee. Its report ran in the direction of a unitary university; but the recommendation made to me by the Conference was in a very modified form. The creation of the Andhra University, as rightly pointed out by Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu, as suggested by the Conference, will not cost as much as it will according to the proposals of the Committee."

"Then again, Sir, we had to consider in what form the whole thing had to be put and the details were being worked out when the time came for sending the proposals for the Finance Committee. According to the rules, intimation must be given to the Finance Committee before a certain date; for, otherwise, the Committee will not consider any new scheme. So far as we could give effect to the resolutions of the Conference at Vizagapatam, the information was placed in an outline form before the Finance Committee, and I cannot blame the Committee. For, according to the rules of finance, a lump sum grant could not be given under the circumstances. I have already pointed out the fundamental fact ignored by my hon. friends that while in the case of the Madras University, there was a university already, which had only to be remodelled, the Andhra University scheme was only in an outline."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Am I to understand that whereas in the case of an established university the rule can be ignored and a lump sum grant can be made, in the case of another university which has yet to be established such a lump sum grant cannot be made?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, in the course of the discussion, two very useful suggestions were made by my hon. friend, Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu: first, in the light of the recommendations made by the Conference at Vizagapatam only a modified form of the unitary university is to be inaugurated; and, secondly, will not the cost be reduced? That is a very helpful suggestion which I took up at that time, but could not continue to consider owing to other work before me. The consideration of the suggestion will be continued by me now, and I shall find out whether in the light of the recommendation of the Conference, the cost cannot be reduced and greater economies found out in other directions."

"As for my going about and obtaining funds from the various people who are likely to give grants or donations, I shall do what I can to obtain help in that direction. If a committee is formed for the purpose it may do some good work, and I suggested to my friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, that if

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such a committee was formed and if they go round to the various zamindars and other landholders, and big vakils and others who are able to contribute money to the university, I would give all the help I can in the matter. That suggestion was made by me already, and if I can do anything in that matter, I shall very gladly do so."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask a small piece of information from the hon. the Minister, Sir, namely, whether my friend would consider what the Rev. W. Meston has . . ."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"You have already spoken and the debate cannot be prolonged."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU rose to speak.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member cannot make a speech again."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, unless I explain the matter, it will not be clear to the House."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Are you going to withdraw your motion or press it?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"All that I want to suggest is that if the hon. the Minister will say clearly that he will take further steps in the direction indicated by me, I will not press this motion. I want to make my position clear and assure myself that he will take further steps in the matter of bringing the Andhra University into existence. The hon. the Minister was not clear about it in his reply."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I think he has given that assurance in emphatic terms, and he was loud enough in giving that assurance."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Accepting your interpretation, Sir, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 149

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for medical inspection by Re. 1.

Sir, I tabled this motion with the intention of eliciting from the hon. the Minister in charge of this portfolio information as to how far he has progressed, how many schools are under medical inspection in this Presidency, how many boys are under medical examination, how many medical inspectors there are, and how they are trained, and if there is a separate cadre for them. From the provisions entered in the Budget we find that medical inspection is not advancing at all. For the last two years the same amount is being budgeted for and spent. For the matter of that, we find, from page 135, that for the year 1922-23 the Minister allotted Rs. 25,000 whereas in the revised budget we find that he was able to spend only Rs. 500. For 1923-24 he has only budgeted for Rs. 15,000. That means that instead of going ahead, he has not been making any progress in regard to medical inspection of schools. Further, at page 127 we find a provision of Rs. 1,000 for Arts Colleges. We do not want any medical inspection in Arts Colleges. What

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we want is medical inspection of young boys in the secondary and primary schools, and for that branch the Minister has not provided more than Rs. 2,000, and even that amount was not spent last year. Sir, I want information on that point. I may say that there is no use of spending lakhs and lakhs for university education if a boy has got some defect, and when he comes up to the B.A. course, his health will be bad."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, this amount of grant includes the grants made to aided institutions for medical help. It is in the case of the Government institutions that the sole responsibility is borne by the Government. In the case of private institutions that are examined, reports have been received. These reports have not been very unanimous nor very helpful regarding the actual condition of the health of the boys. These reports were sorted and further re-examined by the Health Officer, who found that there were many defects in the case of all these reports, and that a uniform standard should be fixed. So he made proposals that assistant surgeons, duly qualified for the purpose, might be appointed for medical inspection of schools. That scheme was considered very expensive and it was afterwards proposed to the Government that the Health Officer might take charge of the inspection of schools with the assistance of his assistants and the various local medical officers. That scheme is under consideration."

"What we have been able to do up to the close of the last quinquennium is this: since the system of grants in aid to the institutions for medical inspection was introduced, more than 200 schools have been inspected under the scheme. It was also proposed to appoint three sub-assistant surgeons to co-relate and direct the work of medical inspection. But this proposal has been kept in abeyance in view of the proposal of the Health Officer who suggested that it would be better if the medical inspection could be carried on by him. The matter was discussed by a committee consisting of the Surgeon-General, the Director of Public Instruction and the Health Officer, and only further investigation will show how far effect can be given to the proposals. But up to this time 200 schools were inspected."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 150.

MR. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Sir, I beg to move the motion which stands against my name, and it runs thus:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,32,698 for contingencies by Rs. 25,000.

Sir, it is with considerable reluctance that I come forward with a motion of this sort, because I always think that the allotments that we have been making for improving the efficiency of educational institutions are meagre and quite inadequate for the purposes for which they are intended. Hon. Members will see that the reduction that I propose is from the extra Rs. 40,000 allotted over and above what was provided last year for this purpose, and not from any recurring expenditure at all. They will also bear in mind the fact that my proposal is not to reduce it altogether but to spend it for the same purpose but in a different quarter. What I mean to propose is that the Government College at Palghat should be converted into a first-grade college.

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"Sir, this is not a new question. As long ago as 1898, when Mr. Cecil M. Barrow was Principal of the Victoria College, Palghat, the Municipal Council of that town applied to the Government to raise the college to a first-grade college. After an exhaustive enquiry the Government disapproved of the scheme. The chief reasons for their arriving at that decision were that the proposal, if carried out, would affect the fee income of the first-grade colleges then existing, and that Palghat did not afford any facility for mental culture. But, Sir, much water has flown under the bridge since then. The present idea is to have educational institutions in isolated places remote from the bustle of the towns, and the number of students seeking admission into first-grade colleges in Madras and other places has very much increased and the authorities of those colleges will really welcome a college of that kind at Palghat. As regards the facilities for mental culture at Palghat, I am sure hon. Members will agree with me that all those facilities which Rajahmundry, Anantapur, Kumbakonam, Trichinopoly and other places where there are first-grade colleges have got, Palghat can also lay claim to have. Since then, whenever Governors of Madras visited Malabar we used to press this point in our addresses of welcome and used to get assuring and sympathetic replies. The present Governor, His Excellency Lord Willingdon, when he came to Malabar, for the first time, promised that he would see his way to give us a first-grade college at Palghat. In the pre-Reform councils one of our representatives moved a resolution on this subject and His Excellency the Governor, who was the President of the Council at that time, accepted the resolution and promised to do the needful immediately. That is with regard to the previous history."

"When I entered this Council, I myself applied to the Director of Public Instruction to take the initiative in the matter, as the Government had not taken any steps in the direction desired; but he refused to apply for affiliation. After that I tabled a resolution to the effect that the Victoria College at Palghat should be raised to the status of a first-grade college. That resolution has been hanging fire for the last so many months. Sir, hon. Members of this House will agree with me that ours is educationally a very much advanced district. In respect of primary education we have as many as 1,974 elementary schools. In regard to secondary education, we have more than 50 secondary schools. As for collegiate education, we have four second-grade colleges. In these circumstances, I think every one will agree that there is great scope for a first-grade college in Malabar. Recently, I had occasion to write to the principals of the various first-grade colleges and they were good enough to supply me with the figures as to the number of students who were admitted into their colleges in the B.A. classes from Malabar. These figures show that there are more than 430 such students from Malabar. Out of these 430 students studying in the B.A. classes elsewhere, can we not hope to get for admission at least 120 students if we open a first-grade college in Palghat immediately? The hon. the Minister for Education need not be afraid that my proposal would entail heavy expenditure. My proposal is that we could start a first-grade college at Palghat without any expenditure of money to begin with. We have excellent accommodation there. The Palghat College has several blocks of substantial buildings, and if we only abolish the high school classes, the problem of accommodation will be solved. I am sure that secondary education would not suffer on this account, because in the municipality itself

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there are already three well conducted high schools, and the taluk has 12 secondary schools outside the municipal limits. I was also told that the municipality would be only very glad to open another high school if there is a demand for it. At present, at Palghat, 4 p.m. we have facilities for teaching all groups of subjects for the Intermediate course, and we shall only want some additional tutors, to begin with, to teach English, history, logic and mathematics for the B.A. course. I am sure the fee income would be amply sufficient to meet the cost of this extra staff. Only some provision has to be made for the purpose of library, laboratory and other equipments. I may also mention in this connexion that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, when he paid a visit to Malabar, visited this college and was perfectly satisfied that there was great scope for a first-grade college for Malabar. Sir, with your permission I will read what he wrote in the Visitors' book:

Visited this College and shown round by the Principal. The College seems to be very popular. The College classes are full to the brim. I hope and trust my hon. colleague, the Minister in charge of Education, will consider the proposal to raise this College to the status of a first-grade college. Judging from the strength of the College and the number of applications for admission rejected, I should think there is material in the district for a first-grade college.

After he left Palghat, he had occasion again to express his sympathy with the proposal for a first-grade college for Malabar at the prize distribution ceremony at Cherplacherry, and said that he was perfectly satisfied that Palghat was the place for a first-grade college.

"Sir, a few minutes ago, we had a good deal said in favour of the Andhra University. They have three or four first-grade colleges in the Andhra province. I was myself one of the members of the Committee appointed for the Andhra University, and I entirely sympathize with their aspirations. But I may say that the Malayalees also have a similar claim. Let us at least have a first-grade college to begin with before we aspire to have a university for ourselves. That is only a legitimate desire and as the proposal does not involve any additional expenditure, I trust the hon. the Minister will kindly help us in the matter."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo:—"Sir, it is hardly my intention to reduce this amount of expenditure for contingencies by Rs. 25,000. But I should like to have some information on certain points. I want to know why a smaller amount has been budgeted for books and maps when we are going to make our colleges more efficient. Again there has been more expenditure budgeted for under the heads of rents and other contingencies. I think the hon. the Minister for Education will give us an explanation for these.

"Secondly, I think our idea of putting our colleges on a more efficient basis would be useless when the Government itself, by its own dilatory action, is creating a situation which may, in course of time, reduce the number of students, and may perhaps even vacate the classes and schools. In so saying, I refer the hon. the Minister for Education to a resolution of this House regarding half-fee concession to students of backward communities. It was on the 18th February 1921 that the then Minister for Education, the late lamented Mr. Subbarayalu Reddiyar, accepted a resolution of our hon. friend, Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib, as amended by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and myself, that he would allow such of the poor students

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of the backward communities the concession of half-fees. Well, Sir, the then Government was kind enough to issue instructions allowing this concession of half-fee on the production of a poverty certificate. This certificate, the Government insisted, should be produced from a revenue officer of not less than the grade of a Deputy Tahsildar. It was found in practical operation that it was very hard on the students, especially students from rural areas to have the certificates from revenue officers. Then, my hon. friend, Dr. Rama Rao, tabled a resolution to the effect that Government might be pleased to accept certificates from village headmen instead of from revenue officers. My amendment on that very resolution to accept at least a certificate from the presidents of local boards so far as the rural areas were concerned and the amendment of Mr. M. C. Raja to the effect that certificates from members of the municipal councils and honorary magistrates so far as students from towns were concerned should be enough and these were accepted by the hon. the Minister for Education. All this can be seen from the proceedings of this Council on the 19th January 1922. The Minister from his very place gave us the assurance that he would carry out the intention of this House, and on that assurance Mr. Rama Rao withdrew his resolution. I am sorry, Sir, that more than a year has passed and nothing has been done in the matter. I would request the hon. the Minister for Education to see whether it is justifiable on the part of the Government to put the poor students to inconvenience and trouble, while he is making provision for more efficient education and for the university. With these words, Sir, I think that unless I get a convincing reply to this part of my speech I should ask this House to vote for this motion for reduction."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I associate myself with all that was said by my friend and colleague from Malabar, Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, on this motion. Educationally, Sir, Malabar is one of the most advanced and foremost districts in the Presidency, and I believe I shall not be wrong if I say that probably it is the most advanced and the foremost district in the Presidency from the point of view of education. My hon. friend Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar looks at me when I make this statement."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It is a privilege, Sir, that every Member has to look at another". (laughter)

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am very glad, Sir, that there was no special meaning in his looking at me when I stated that Malabar was the most advanced district in the Presidency from the point of view of education. There are four second-grade colleges in the district and fifty secondary schools. I do not know whether there is any other district in the Presidency which can boast of having four second-grade colleges and fifty secondary schools. In addition to this, many of the students who are reading in the B.A. classes in all the colleges in the Presidency come from the district of Malabar. Having regard to these circumstances, Sir, we, the people of Malabar, are fairly entitled to request this House to consider our request to raise the existing second-grade college at Palghat to the status of a first-grade college with sympathy. In addition to this sympathy I also call to my aid the experience of my hon. and respected friend, the First Minister, who came to Palghat and saw things for himself. My hon. friend, Mr. Patro, has not yet seen Palghat or Malabar, and the hon. the Raja of Panagal with that keen observation which he always has when he

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sees things has noted in the Visitors' book in the Victoria College that the college deserves to be raised to a first-grade college.

"In addition to these things, our request for raising the second-grade college at Palghat to a first-grade college rests, Sir, on a much higher ground than those that have already been mentioned. In the University Act that has been passed by this Council, provision has been made for converting certain centres, certain towns or certain localities in the Presidency into university centres, and we have been hearing a great deal this afternoon about the Andhra University. Of course I quite sympathize with the desires and wishes of my friends from the Andhra country for a university in their locality, and if I can do anything to assist them in their endeavour either by my voice or by my vote I shall certainly do so. Now, Sir, Palghat deserves from its situation to be a university centre. In addition to the facilities that have already been mentioned, Palghat is situated very near Coimbatore. In addition to the railway facilities connecting these two places, there are tolerably very good roads connecting them, and in Coimbatore, as we are aware, there are a number of educational institutions: there is the Agricultural College, there is the Forest College and there is also a second-grade college. Palghat possesses an excellent climate and it is bounded on two sides north and south by two rivers which flow all round the year more or less, and it has plenty of open grounds. All these facilities are just the things which are requisite for a university centre. So that, having regard to all these facilities which the place possesses, if the second-grade college which is now in existence be raised to a first-grade college, Palghat in course of time will become a university centre. Keeping this higher end in view, I think it is very desirable and necessary that the modest request contained in this resolution should be granted. It has been said that Government will be practically no losers by raising the Victoria College to a first-grade college. With these observations, I commend this motion heartily to the acceptance of this hon. House and for the acceptance of the hon. the Minister for Education."

The Rev. W. MESTON:—"Mr. President, there is only one remark that I wish to make with regard to my hon. friend Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan's advocacy of this particular matter. He has thrown his power and influence into it, and has enlarged on the facilities possessed by the district with which he is more immediately connected. There is only one point which I wish to say on. I followed him with sympathy up to almost the end when I came across with what I may call my inveterate Scottish prejudice for logic. At the very close of his remarks, having mentioned how the advocacy of the Andhra University has been pressed, he said that he thought that the reasoning would lead naturally to the institution of a first-grade college. Now, Sir, I would suggest that in fairness to the analogy it should properly be a Kerala University and not a first-grade college."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I said raising this second-grade college to a first-grade college would make it a university centre. I did not mention Kerala University. I do not know whether it was understood like that."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, the motion before the House is: to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,82,698 for contingencies by Rs. 25,000. The contingencies referred to are

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given to the Arts colleges. As regards this I may at once submit to the House that the amount of contingencies is fully justified in the way in which we ask this demand. The increase in the amount is due to the fact that we have included under this head the laboratory charges including European stores. We have made additional provision in the budget for the purchase of European stores by the Presidency College direct from Europe instead of through the High Commissioner. That item in the ordinary course should have appeared under the head of stores purchased in Europe. Now it appears under the head of contingencies, because we have resolved to get stores direct from Europe instead of through the High Commissioner as heretofore."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, may I know the reason for that departure?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"It is cheaper to get stores direct from Europe than through the High Commissioner. The second item under which a large amount is shown is 'Other contingencies'. That is due to the provision of Rs. 5,000 for the construction of additional rooms in the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur. The hon. Members will see that it is only under these two heads there is some apparent increase. But it will be noticed that the increase in the one case is not increase in reality and in the other case the increase of Rs. 5,000 is a real necessity. As far as this motion for reduction of contingencies is concerned, the hon. Member, Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, has not said anything, but I have submitted the explanation for the consideration of this House."

"Then as regards the question of raising the second-grade college at Palghat to a first-grade college, I am afraid the case that he made out is very much against him. Even without a first-grade college, Malabar district is so well educated and is so much in advance of the other districts that the necessity for a further improvement does not seem to be at all urgent. Then as regards the raising of the Palghat College, there is a rival claim put forward by the more centrally situated Calicut. Calicut and Palghat are quarrelling with each other in the matter of establishment of a first-grade college. The matter whether a first-grade college is at all necessary is under investigation and if it is found to be necessary the question will be whether it should be located at Palghat or Calicut. At present I am not able to give any more information; but I certainly sympathise with my hon. friend in his desire to raise the Victoria College to a first-grade college."

"Then, Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Das wanted to know whether the resolution passed by this House has been given effect to. I may tell him that a notification has already been issued giving effect to the resolution."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"I may at once emphatically deny, Sir, that any such notification has been issued. There is serious trouble in the mufassal on account of the fact that the resolution has not been given effect to."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I hope my hon. friend will be more informed before he makes an emphatic denial on any matter. I may refer him to the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 14th March where the notification is published."

"I therefore submit that no case has been made out for reduction of any amount under contingencies."

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Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Sir, I wish to say a few words by way of reply."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I really do not see what the raising of the Victoria College at Palghat to a first-grade college has got to do with the allotment under contingencies. Really the whole thing is hardly relevant but as the discussion has continued on those lines, I do not wish to deny the hon. Member the right of reply."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Sir, I find that the hon. the Minister for Education is really in sympathy with my proposal, the only difficulty being the selection of the place for the location of the first-grade college. The question is whether the first-grade college is to be located in Calicut or in Palghat. Like the Andhra people we do not want to wrangle over the location of the college. I do not mind if one of the second-grade colleges at Calicut is raised to a first-grade college. All that I want is that there should be a first-grade college for the whole district of Malabar. But I may assure the hon. the Minister that the two colleges at Calicut, either the Zamorin College or the Christian College, are not likely to be raised to a first-grade college by the authorities concerned. The Zamorin tried his best to raise the college by the authorities concerned. He is at present contributing money for that purpose and failed to collect it. He is at present contributing a fairly large amount for the upkeep of the present college and as a private gentleman nothing more can be expected of him. The Christian College authorities at Madras control the Christian College at Calicut and I am credibly informed that they too have no idea of raising it to a first-grade college. The Palghat College is a Government College and as I said already it has extensive grounds and substantial accommodation and these may be utilized to begin with. The place also affords excellent facilities for subsequently enlarging the college to the position of a university centre."

" As the hon. the Minister has assured me of his sympathy in the matter, I do not at present propose to press the motion and I beg leave to withdraw it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 151.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,90,200 for Arts Colleges by Rs. 1,000.

Sir, we have heard in the course of the debates to-day complaints ranging from the establishment of new universities to the raising of a second-grade college into a first-grade college. I have also a small grievance to bring to the notice of this House, and that is why I have tabled this motion. In the Coimbatore College, there has been a Malayalam teacher from a long time past who has been teaching Malayalam to the students. It is now proposed to abolish the post of the Malayalam munshi in that college. It is nowadays the fashion of retrenchment to have at the top all expensive items and to cut off small items at the bottom. There is a large number of Government servants from Malabar in Coimbatore and a large number of their children are studying Malayalam in the College. It would seriously affect these Government officers if the Malayalam munshi is taken away from the College. I understand that a mahazar also has been sent to the Director of Public Instruction. I would request the hon. the Minister not to put his knife of retrenchment into this matter but to allow the Malayalam munshi to continue in the college as usual. I know that this teacher has been in existence for several years and

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17th March 1923] if this teacher is now removed it would be felt as a great grievance by the inhabitants of the locality. There are a number of Malayalam students in the various classes and I believe their number is very large. It will be really hard to ask the poor Government servants to send their children to Malabar simply for the absence of Malayalam teaching facilities in Coimbatore. I therefore hope that the hon. the Minister will not only consider this matter but that he will consider it favourably."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If the facts stated by my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, are correct, I strongly support his suggestions and earnestly appeal to the hon. the Minister not to take away this Malayalam munshi."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" My hon. friend need not at all doubt the correctness of my statement. It is absolutely correct."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I am very glad to hear that the facts stated by my hon. friend are correct."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I have not received any mahazar referred to by my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. If really there is such a strong case for the retention of this Malayalam munshi, I do not think the Government will interfere. If the number of students that study Malayalam is so large as to warrant the Malayalam munshi to be retained, there will be no difficulty in the matter. I will inquire into the matter and deal with it suitably."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Even if the hon. the Minister has not received any mahazar, it is not necessary to abolish the post of Malayalam munshi."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has already spoken once before."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I had not finished what I had to say. I thought that the hon. the Minister was rising to correct some matters referred to by me, and so I sat down."

" However, I have not much to add. I only wish to say that a large number of Malayalees live in Coimbatore. It would be a real hardship to the Malayalee residents of Coimbatore if they are driven to the necessity of sending their boys to Malabar for want of a Malayalam munshi in Coimbatore. I therefore request the hon. the Minister to see that this teacher is retained in the Coimbatore College."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I received a copy of the mahazar just now referred to by my hon. friend. Probably it is on its way to the hon. the Minister through the office of the Director of Public Instruction. The college was for some time under my management as secretary until it passed to the control of the Government and I may say that, under the old management, we were satisfied that there was real necessity for a Malayalam munshi. I do not know in what stage this proposal to abolish the post is. At present the difficulty is this. Several gentlemen in Coimbatore have sent their boys already to Malabar and other places and if a census is now taken of the boys who are studying Malayalam, probably their number would be small. I know as a matter of fact that there used to be a large number of boys studying Malayalam. There are a good many Malayalee officials in Coimbatore; probably under the impression that the Malayalee munshi would be

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taken away, many of the officials have sent away their boys to other places. I therefore think that if the roll is taken at present, it may lead to the impression that there is no necessity for a Malayalam munshi at present. I therefore request the hon. the Minister not to be guided by the present number of students studying Malayalam, but to take as the standard the number of boys that were studying when the college was under the old management. I hope the hon. Minister will take our word and continue the Malayalam munshi."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I am glad that my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, is satisfied as to the correctness of my statement. As pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, it is not a matter to be disposed of merely on the question of the number of boys studying Malayalam at present in the colleges. He has referred to some experience which he had while he was in the management of the college. But I know that for the last 40 years there has been a Malayalam munshi in the college and from the time I was reading in the lower classes I have been seeing this munshi. So we have got the prescriptive right to claim that this teacher should be retained. I hope that the hon. Minister will kindly take our word and, instead of waiting for the mahazar or a formal report from the authorities of the college, he will order the retention of this Malayalam munshi."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 152.

4-30 p.m. Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I move,

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,75,181 for Government Arts Colleges (men and women) by Rs. 15,000.

It is the rules of business that necessitate my giving a motion in this particular form. Shortly after we came here for the discussion of the budget, telegrams were sent from representatives of the Kallikotta College at Berhampur stating that they had a grievance in so far as their funds were not sufficient and that Government did not give a liberal grant and that other contributions also were not forthcoming and that for the college to run they would require about Rs. 15,000 and wanted to inquire whether it would be possible to make any such provision. Financial rules do not enable Members of this Council to make motions as was being made in the previous Council asking for definite items of expenditure. It is only by asking for omissions of some grants that we can bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister and of the Government the necessity for making provisions in respect of particular colleges. In moving this reduction, my object is to induce the Government to make proper allotments to this college which, from the reports received by me and from the copies of telegrams sent to various Members of this Council, stands sadly in need of funds for its being allowed to continue in a proper condition. I therefore think, Sir, that the hon. the Minister will be in a position to see that that college is placed in a sound financial condition."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I am afraid the motion is of a very extraordinary nature. My hon. friend's motion is to cut down this amount out of the grant, but his suggestion to me is that I should place some money at the disposal of the Kallikotta College. I am afraid it is not possible for me to agree to this motion. The policy which I have been pursuing is that in the case of aided institutions where the authorities are not

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able to manage such institutions either efficiently or economically, it is not at all sound educational policy that Government should either take over those institutions, or aid them.

"The point is this. All these institutions are raised from the position of high schools into second grade colleges."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"I should like to know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister for Education has found any extravagance in the management of the Kallikotta College."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I do not refer to the Kallikotta College; I am referring to the policy. The fact is from the high school it is raised to a second grade college. The teachers of the high school are put into the second grade college also and then it is run in a very inefficient manner. Where institutions are run properly and where duly qualified principals are put in to teach, the attendance in such colleges is very good and the condition of such colleges is financially sound also. But in colleges where only high school teachers are put into the college classes as principals and lecturers, the students do not attend at all and the financial condition of such colleges is also very unsatisfactory. Therefore, it is not at all sound policy to ask Government to subsidise such colleges. The best way, as was suggested by Dr. Miller in his note, is that where such colleges are struggling, it is better that they become efficient high schools instead of becoming weak and struggling second-grade colleges. In the case of the Berhampur colleges there is no obligation on the part of the Government to give them any aid. For many years the strength of the Kallikotta College had been falling and for all these years it was not self-supporting also. Therefore it is for the management to see whether they would continue to maintain the College in an inefficient manner, or whether they would strengthen the high school and have a proper well-equipped high school instead. However, when the matter was fully discussed and they management of the Kallikotta College, the matter was fully discussed and they promised that in the course of two years they would be able to set their house in order and the financial equilibrium would be restored. During the first year therefore a grant of Rs. 5,000 was made; in the year 1922-23 also another grant of Rs. 5,000 was made; but Government cannot keep up an institution entirely from Government subsidies where the institution does not make any effort to improve itself and appoint qualified teachers to attract students and to make itself self-supporting. Therefore, this year according to the terms of agreement between that deputation and the Government a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 was given and it was distinctly understood that the management would not have any subsidies in future from the Government."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 153.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, my motion is:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,70,000 for grants to non-Government Arts Colleges by Rs. 100.

I shall be very brief, Sir, in my remarks on this motion. I would ask the hon. the Minister to assure this House that it is his policy to encourage private efforts at education as far as it lies in his power. It seems to be the fashion now, Sir, to impose very strict conditions before any private effort can even make a beginning. I wonder whether it is possible in Madras for such

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institutions as the Fergusson College of Bombay to come into being or having come to flourish. I want, if possible, to elicit from the hon. the Minister an assurance that as far as it lies in his power, he will promote private endeavour to establish aided colleges, and I think, Sir, that the Government will stand to gain considerably by this attitude. For instance, take the Madras Christian College, of which I am an old student, and the Presidency College. If we compare the two institutions, I do not think the Madras Christian College suffers in any way and yet the cost incurred on a private college, like the Madras Christian College is certainly far, far less than what the Government are spending on the Presidency College. So it is for that assurance Sir, that I have tabled this resolution."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, it has been the policy of Government to encourage the starting of aided institutions and I may say, in Madras a large amount of the educational work is being carried on by aided institutions and the country and the Government appreciate the very great service which the aided institutions render to the cause of education in this province."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Just now I happen to know of a case, Sir, in which the Government or rather the Syndicate wanted a lakh of rupees before they would sanction the establishment of a college. I think, Sir, that that was a very very severe condition to impose on private endeavour. That was why I placed this motion for the consideration of the House. But after the assurance of the hon. the Minister, I have no objection to withdraw it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 154.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,52,302 for Education—Secondary by Rs. 100.

I want again, Sir, the Government to pursue a more generous policy in regard to aiding municipal and local fund secondary schools. In some cases, Sir, the Government have undertaken to pay the net cost of some of the schools maintained by certain municipalities and local bodies, but they sanctioned this arrangement long long ago when it was possible for the management to secure the services of capable teachers at a comparatively low pay. But things have changed now. Government institutions are paying very much more than what has been sanctioned for these municipal or local institutions and the local bodies find it very difficult indeed to secure the services of capable teachers to teach in their high schools. The result is they are obliged to pay heavily if they want to get efficient teachers, but the Government are very strict in adhering to their old orders and refuse to pay to these local bodies anything more to meet the deficit which is necessarily involved by such an arrangement. I shall give one instance. There is a high school at Adoni. The Government have promised to pay the net cost thereof and I think the headmaster's pay was originally fixed at Rs. 150. But the municipality is not able to get the services of a satisfactory teacher for that amount and is obliged to get the services of a capable teacher by paying him a larger sum than Rs. 150 originally fixed. Yet the Government are reluctant to sanction the additional expenditure which the municipality has to incur under the changed conditions. The school needs efficient assistants to teach

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mathematics, and other subjects and the municipality is obliged to pay such assistants a larger pay than of old and it is rather hard if the Government are not prepared to render help in meeting the deficit. The same remark applies to the Hospet municipal high school also with certain modifications. In these cases a more liberal treatment should be given by the Government especially as it is not possible for the local bodies to meet the situation out of their own resources."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"The policy of the Government will be clear from the figures put into the budget in the case of secondary education. The direct grant to secondary schools has been raised from Rs. 7,37,800 to Rs. 9,25,000. Again, the grant to local bodies for secondary education was raised from Rs. 5,29,300 to Rs. 6,97,000. I do not of course read the details. Hon. Members will see that the total has been raised from Rs. 16,16,800 to Rs. 19,61,800. That, I believe, is a liberal policy pursued in connexion with grant-in-aid for aided and public schools. With regard to particular institutions, like Adoni, the education rules are that the net cost should be calculated according to the original scheme at which expenditure was allowed, but if there is any particular difficulty—I have not heard of any such—then full discretion is given to local bodies themselves to appoint their own teachers and Government do not interfere with such discretion. But in this particular case a Government servant was lent to the institution, and the salary of the Government servant will come under the class of revenue and charges, and if the cost is too much, it is a matter for enquiry and consideration."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I have not had a very satisfactory assurance from the hon. the Minister. It is not one teacher, but other teachers also are in the same footing. No doubt the municipality can employ a teacher in any way, but it cannot get a teacher on the pay originally sanctioned by Government under present conditions. So I plead for sympathy particularly in regard to such cases. Anyhow as the remarks made by the hon. the Minister are favourable to me, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 155.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,68,700 for grants to local bodies for primary education by Rs. 100.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"It is not the intention of this House nor mine to reduce anything from the allotment under 4-45 p.m. this head, but we are sorry to note that the grant under this head has not shown any increase nor has it kept pace with the increased revenues of the province and also with the increased needs of the people of this presidency for more educational facilities. Sir, ever since the inauguration of the reforms it has become the first and foremost duty of this Government to educate the people and specially to spread primary education. It has to be noted here that this idea has not at all been realised. Quoting from the reports of the Director of Public Instruction—page 3—it may be seen for 1919-20 we had facilities for 1,730,000 students, for 1920-21 we had facilities for 1,799,000 students and in the first year of the reforms, i.e., 1921-22, we had facilities for 1,837,000 students. While in a pre-reform year we had facilities for 69 thousand students; in a post-reform year we have facilities for only 38 thousand students. This shows a proportionate

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decrease when we ourselves here and the people at large in the country wanted more primary education and when the party in power made it known as its policy that more facilities must be given for spreading primary education. We see that very little progress has been made in education and is much less than those in the days of bureaucracy.

"Then coming to the allotment under this head of expenditure we see that less money is budgeted for contribution to local bodies for the construction of school buildings. I may, in this connexion, bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Education that the greatest difficulty is felt by the local bodies for accommodation. The hon. the Minister is pleased to frame the rules fixing $9\frac{1}{2}$ square feet as the accommodation for a student in the primary schools, and the inspecting officers have, in season and out of season, made it a point to enforce these rules with all their rigour. Under such conditions I think it would hardly be wise for the Government to budget for a less amount this year than in previous years.

"Then, Sir, much activity was shown in the direction of vocational training and education and the people of the presidency expected very much from the ceaseless attempts of the hon. the Minister towards vocational training. What have we got after two years? We have got nothing just approaching the position of a mountain in labour that brought forth a mouse. We budgeted in the year 1922-23 for Rs. 72,000 and this year we have nothing for vocational education.

"We see that the building grants to aided institutions have been increased. I, as a member of the District Educational Council, have seen how difficult it is for managers of aided institutions to utilize the grant as the rules on this are very hard. Managers of aided institutions find it very difficult to utilize the money and budgeting for more money under this head would, I am sure, be budgeting for an item for which very little has to be spent. Under these circumstances I would appeal that the hon. the Minister to make more provision for education and specially for primary education. With these words, I beg to move my motion."

MR. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, our Minister is very sympathetic towards primary education. We want to introduce free and compulsory education all over the presidency, but there is some difficulty, Sir, in introducing this because, first of all, the Government insist that every municipality and local board should raise a separate tax so that the local bodies may be given an equivalent amount by the Government and if they do not do so, the Government refuse to pay.

"Besides, there are other presidencies which are more liberal in this matter, such as Bombay which pays two-thirds of the amount raised by the local bodies. Our Madras Government pays only half of the amount. I think the Act that is in force here does not seem to be very liberal in this matter. If we want that free and compulsory education should be introduced in this presidency, I think the rules ought to be altered so that Government may be able to pay two-thirds of the amount raised by the local bodies. The duty of levying a tax is not a pleasant duty. The municipalities, the local boards and the landlords think that they are very heavily taxed. The Government would give an inducement to the local bodies to raise a tax if the Government would undertake to pay two-thirds.

"The pay of the elementary teachers, as it is, is not sufficient at all. It is not sufficient even to maintain one soul. The teachers have large families to

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support. They ought to be paid liberally. Some time ago, they were getting war allowance and other allowances and these allowances have been stopped now. The Government promise to pay only a certain amount to each local body if they raise an equal amount. The municipalities and local boards are reluctant to raise an amount equal to what the Government pay. So the poor teachers do not get anything at all. We hear much about the introduction of vocational teaching in the primary schools. We do not know what vocational training is. Vocational training has not been introduced in any school. I hope that this training will be introduced and the Government would take an interest and see that every school gives this training."

MR. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—"Sir, I fully sympathise with my friend Mr. Das in his anxiety and alarm at the slow progress of elementary education and his eagerness that larger sums should be spent on elementary education. The hon. Member Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai seems to suggest that, while the Minister professes great sincerity and earnestness in practice, there is little work done and not much enthusiasm. I should think, Sir, that having been an eyewitness myself to the earnest efforts made by the hon. the Minister for Education for spreading elementary education even free and compulsory elementary education in several districts in the south, I must in all fairness admit that there is no lack of enthusiasm, sincerity and earnestness on his part, but that the slow progress so far made is due to certain limitations. If many things have not been done it is not because the hon. the Minister has not made practice square with profession, but because of limitations arising from the operation of certain Acts and rules already in force. As the hon. Member Mr. Das suggested, there is a feeling in the country that in the days of the bureaucracy, elementary education was advancing by leaps and bounds. As I have already pointed out with the introduction of the Elementary Education Act and the application of the rule requiring the rupee for rupee contribution, progress in this direction is rather slow. I remember to have heard the hon. the Minister for Education when he appealed to large audiences consisting not only of educated men but also of persons directly responsible for, and directly interested in, the spread of elementary education, that is members of the local bodies, making a promise to reduce the cost of buildings. I remember his very words that it was better to have education imparted under the shade of a tree than to have no education at all. He was not in favour of the old type-designed buildings. He said he would even allow a school to be conducted in thatched sheds. I believe it is because of his earnestness in this matter that a new and cheaper type-designed plan has been introduced.

"As regards vocational training spoken of by the hon. Member, Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai, earnest endeavours have been made in this direction and a special expert has been appointed; but on account of the unsettled nature of the kind of course to be introduced, etc., not much has been done, nor much is capable of being done at present. Therefore, Sir, while I sympathise with the objects of my hon. friend Mr. Das, at the same time in all fairness I must admit that the work is really an uphill work and that the local bodies have to be constantly appealed to. Considering the fact that we have nearly 100 municipalities and local bodies that must take up this work of spreading elementary education this is indeed a difficult work. This is a work which must appeal to every patriotic Indian, and the right way of doing it is to employ the right sort of men for it. I should like to take this opportunity

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of drawing the attention of the House to the various limitations—limitations arising from the operation of the Elementary Education Act—which perhaps account for a great deal of the slow progress made in elementary education.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“Reference has been made to the fact that there is a decrease in the school-going population.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—“No reference was made to the decrease in the number of students, but certainly reference was made to the fact that the progress of education proportionately has not kept pace as it had done before. My figures indicate that.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“Sir, the facts are otherwise. The figures that I have before me in the Administration Report show that the figures quoted by my hon. friend are not quite accurate. Year after year we are going on adding to the number of our elementary schools already existing. If that be any criterion of judging the expansion of elementary education, I think the figures in the Administration Report will show that elementary education has been expanding more than before.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—“I am speaking from the report of the Director of Public Instruction, page 3, for the year 1921-22.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The hon. Member had better hear the Minister for Education through.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“The Government of India in the pre-Reform days were subsidising the local bodies with their large profits derived from the opium revenue. They did not know how to spend their money and they were therefore giving funds to the local bodies for the expansion of elementary education. After the Reforms the income from the Government of India to the local Governments for the purpose of expanding elementary education has gone, and the provincial revenues have to bear the whole burden.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—“Has not the income also increased?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“After the agitation set by my hon. friends the salaries of officials were raised. If there was increase of revenue, there was also increase of salaries to teachers. Before the Reforms were inaugurated, Government of India were giving to the Provincial Governments subsidies for starting elementary schools. Some of the elementary schools were even unable to build their schools, and the Government of India were giving enough of subsidies to the local Government which were in turn given to local bodies to meet their requirements. This subsidy has been taken away now. What is the result? The provincial Government is driven to the necessity of bearing the whole burden. The idea of expanding elementary education is well kept in mind, and the budget allotments for the year 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24 so far show that there has been an increase of 9 lakhs of rupees under the head of ‘Elementary Education’. This, I hope, will convince hon. Members that we are keeping in view the expansion of elementary education. But we cannot always go as fast as we wish. As to the demands made by my hon. friend that there should be more rapid progress, I wish it were possible to realise that ideal. But we are unable to go in the same pace as he wishes us to do. As my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar said, there are limitations, and we should have to

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to proceed only under certain conditions. I am equally anxious that the progress of elementary education should be more rapid than it is to-day. But how is that to be achieved? The Elementary Education Act has vested the responsibility in the local bodies. The local bodies have to raise education cess. If local bodies raise local rates the Provincial Government will give them an equal amount of grant. In connexion with private and aided institutions grants were given for the purpose of starting new educational centres and also for the purpose of expanding elementary education. Now in the grant made to District Educational Councils there is an increased provision. This year in connexion with the expansion of elementary education we have made more provision, and this year nearly 84 local bodies have raised education cess. We have provided them with funds to meet their requirements under that head. The expansion of elementary education should form the first charge on provincial revenues, and I would also ask the local bodies to consider it in the same manner. If they do this, then there will be no need to complain that elementary education is not progressing. As I said already, the local bodies and the district educational councils have to realise that they are responsible for the expansion of elementary education, but instead of doing that, to place the whole burden upon the Government is, I think, not at all fair. We may be able to obtain more money for the education budget and correspondingly allot more provision for the purpose of expanding elementary education.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—“The hon. the Education Minister has just now told us that the Government of Madras were getting very large sums from the opium revenue which they did not know how to spend. I think the hon. the Finance Member will be the proper person to answer such a query. As for the responsibility that is cast upon the local bodies for the advancement of elementary education, I think the hon. the Minister for Education has done an injustice to the local bodies in throwing the whole burden of primary education upon them, while primary education in every other country in the world is considered as a charge on the whole nation. After enacting a certain Act if the Government think that they can throw off the whole responsibility and themselves keep quiet, I shall have nothing to say on the matter. The party in power has from the very beginning been proclaiming that primary education will be their main aim, and the hon. the Minister for Education while introducing his University Bill assured us that sufficient money would be found for primary education. But we see nothing in the budget for the opening of new schools this year. Several hon. Members have admitted that Government’s contribution to local bodies is insufficient. As regards vocational training about which there was so much uproar, it finds no place. For all these we find practically no convincing reply from the hon. the Minister for Education. We hope that he will give this subject due consideration and will make it his policy to expand primary education for which he is solely responsible both to this House and also to the people whom he represents. With these observations I wish to withdraw my motion.”

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Council then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 19th day of March.

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

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 19th 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 question to which they relate.]

Powers of district registrars.

908 Q.—MR. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that district registrars, though they are classed as gazetted officers, have been deprived of the power of appointing or transferring peons and night watchmen; if so when; and why?

A.—In view of the need for enforcing economy district registrars have been required as a temporary measure to obtain the sanction of the Inspector-General of Registration to cases of transfers involving expenditure under travelling allowance.

Mr. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB:—"May I know how long the temporary measure will continue?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I cannot say that definitely at present, Sir."

Acquisition of sites for labourers, Tanjore district.

909 Q.—RAO BAHADUR V. APPASWAMI VANDAYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how long the acquisition of sites for labourers has been proceeding in the Tanjore district and what is the extent and cost of the acquisition up to date; and

(b) what is the annual cost of the establishment for the same?

A.—(a) Acquisition of sites for labourers in the Tanjore district has been proceeding since March 1918. Up to 31st March 1922, 290.48 acres of land have been acquired for sites for houses, schools, wells, pathways, etc., at a cost of Rs. 2,50,569, of which Rs. 1,14,000 has already been repaid to Government by those for whom the house sites have been acquired. Figures for the period subsequent to the above date are not yet available.

(b) There is no separate staff for work connected with the acquisition of sites. The District Labour Officer, Tanjore, and his staff attend to this work as well as to other items of work relating to the amelioration of the condition of depressed classes in the district.

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Overseers in deltaic areas.

910 Q.—MR. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the deltaic areas overseers receive from the farmers yearly 'mamools' which sometimes amount to many thousands; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken to put an end to the mamools?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 194 W., dated 7th February 1921, which has been placed on Editors' table.

Assignment of land to ex-war service men.

911 Q.—RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJA: With reference to Government's reply to question No. 619 at the meeting of this Council on 12th October 1921 regarding recruitment for military service, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the 29,000 combatants and 25,000 non-combatants have been provided with an assignment of 5 acres of wet or 10 acres of dry lands according to G.O. No. 870, Revenue, dated 14th April 1922;

(b) how many of these have since relinquished or alienated the lands, with reasons for the same; and

(c) if the Government have no information at present regarding these particulars, whether they will be pleased to call for a districtwar statement from the Board of Revenue and lay it on the table before the end of this official year?

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

(c) The Government do not consider that it will be practicable to obtain the information and lay it on the table before 31st March 1923.

Food-crop cultivation scheme.

912 Q.—RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to call for and lay on the table a districtwar statement showing the total acreage of food-crop cultivation under G.O. No. 191, Revenue, dated 24th January 1921;

(ii) to state how far the members of the depressed classes are benefited by the above free food-crop cultivation scheme; and

(iii) to state whether it is the intention of Government to extend the benefit of this experimental scheme for five more years from fasli 1333?

A.—(i) A statement is laid on the table.*

(ii) The Government have no information.

(iii) It is too soon to consider the question of further extension of the concession.

* Vide Appendix on page 2581 infra.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to question No. 912 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1923, page 2580 supra.]

Figures for fasli 1331.

District.	Extent cultivated. ACS.	District.	Extent cultivated. ACS.
1. Anantapur ...	2,484.99	14. Kurnool ...	10,034.67
2. Arcot, North ...	2,844.38	15. Madura ...	1,540.54
3. Arcot, South ...	2,367.34	16. Malabar ...	1,994.55
4. Bellary ...	3,748.87	17. Nellore ...	12,566.71
5. South Kanara ...	596.88	18. The Nilgiris ...	982.74
6. Chingleput ...	144.97	19. Salem ...	4,083.67
7. Chittoor ...	2,241.77	20. Tanjore ...	96.78
8. Coimbatore ...	246.89	21. Tinnevely ...	204.48
9. Cuddapah ...	5,693.97	22. Trichinopoly ...	1,690.66
10. Ganjam ...	1,628.29	23. Vizagapatam ...	67.45
11. Godavari ...	441.22		
12. Guntur ...	2,154.68	Total ...	62,430.25
13. Kistna ...	4,573.75		

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION—NON-EUROPEAN.

MOTION No. 156.

Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing against my name which runs as follows:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for direct grants to non-Government primary schools by rupee 1.

In doing so, Sir, I know that a sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided for grants for Indian orphans. This amount is very small. Is it because only a few orphanages have applied or is it because a few have been selected out of the many that applied for it? Secondly, Sir, I should like to know the rate at which this grant will be disbursed."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I considered that this allotment for Indian orphanages was very low and I strongly urged on the Finance Department to provide for a larger sum. But owing to difficulties of finance a larger amount could not be put in. The second reason for this lump allotment is that in the case of the European schools the rate per head has been fixed; but in the case of the Indian schools the rate per head has not been fixed and enquiry is being made as to the cost of a pupil in an Indian orphanage. If more money is found to be necessary, a supplementary grant will be moved in this Council."

Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS:—"I thank the hon. the Minister, and I do not press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 157.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—" I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,06,954 for primary education by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion on the present condition of elementary education in the rural parts. Before I offer a few remarks, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members the distinction between the past and present state of mass education. No doubt, at present more money is spent and more elementary schools are opened. Statistics no doubt will be forthcoming to prove the rapid advance made by elementary education. But what I wish to lay special emphasis upon is the method adopted in these schools. The spending of more money and the production of statistics do not necessarily mean substantial improvement. So far as the District Educational Councils which have been created for the advancement of elementary education are concerned they seem to do more controlling work than anything else. The existing methods of instruction cannot be said to be satisfactory at all. A mere glance at the working of the elementary schools, their method of teaching, their text-books, their large number of holidays will convince any man of the elaborate uselessness of the system. It is a well-known fact that even with those abovementioned impediments the schools would get on very well if the teaching staff were well-selected and sufficiently paid. There is no use in increasing the number of schools with an ill-paid staff. The inspecting staff also seems to be inefficient, and much more in number than the case actually requires. No doubt there is a responsibility on the part of the local boards to rectify these defects. But everything is measured by a policy of maximum statistics with a minimum of funds available. Well, we have the usual excuse of 'financial stringency'. Should we not at least see that the money available from the Government and the local bodies is better utilized for the attainment of real benefits? What I wish to say is that immediate attention should be paid by responsible officers to better the present condition of things. I venture to suggest, Sir, that the old system, not of the palmy days but of some thirty years ago, may be examined again with a view to make the necessary changes so as to make elementary education more efficient, real and suitable to the needs of the country. I am of opinion that the old system of results grants is far better for the general advancement of elementary education than the present system. That old system, while improving the earning capacity of the teachers, greatly enhanced the interest taken by the teachers in the boys' education and its restoration will ultimately bring general improvement."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I am glad my hon. friend has raised this question of policy with regard to the District Educational Councils and their work. I may inform my hon. friend that power is now delegated to the District Educational Council with regard to the methods that they should adopt for the expansion of elementary education. With regard to the selection of text-books, power is given to the District Educational Councils. They have also power in the matter of fixing the number of days the school should work. The hours of work also are left to their discretion. With regard to the holidays which should be fixed with regard to the schools and the approved number of holidays required for the local area they are left to the expedience of District Educational Councils. Again, Sir, power is given to the District Educational Councils to adopt a particular method of teaching also. Thus the rules framed under the Elementary Education Act have

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given large powers to the District Educational Councils so that in the method of instruction that is to be given in the elementary schools constituted in a particular local area they may adopt any method and all that they have to do is to consult the inspecting officer. The rigour of the inspection that was urged before is now relaxed in a way so as to make it co-ordinate with the work of the secondary education, so that the rigour of the inspection is taken away, the influence of the District Educational Council is increased, and the popular element is brought to play with regard to the expansion of elementary education.

" My hon. friend has complained that sufficient funds are not allotted for the expansion of elementary education. No one is more regretful than I am in the matter of insufficient funds that have been allotted for elementary education. I hope, Sir, that in course of time it will be possible to allot larger sums for the purpose of elementary education. If our one idea is that knowledge is to be disseminated in the rural areas and that national education should be expanded, it is through the proper and efficient working of these elementary schools. I yield to none in the matter of making endeavours to get as much money as possible for the expansion of elementary education. I hope that in course of time it will be possible that we have large sums of money for this purpose. I therefore hope that my hon. friend will not press his motion."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, in supporting this motion for the reduction of the allotment for primary education by Rs. 100, I wish to place before this House certain questions of principle regarding which certain doubts have been raised. If these doubts are not solved in a satisfactory manner, there will be some difficulty in making rapid progress in the matter of elementary education. I quite realize that in the Budget for 1923-24 some increased provision has been made for primary education. But I wish to point out that with the scheme of expansion of elementary education which we all have set before us the provision made is hardly adequate to keep pace with the ever-increasing demands on elementary education. I may point out some of the changes which have been effected in the matter of expansion of elementary education. These changes deserve very careful consideration. We find even in the Budget presented to us that for the purpose of opening new elementary schools, a provision of 3 lakhs was made in the Budget for 1922-23, but it was omitted in the Revised Estimate. Nor do we find anything in the Budget for 1923-24 for that purpose. I understand from the hon. the Minister that it is a mistake. May I know what the mistake is?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" The money is distributed under various heads."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Now what I wish to say is that so far as this particular item is concerned, there has been such a provision made for several years. There was a provision even during the pre-Reform budget; but that item has been now eliminated from the Budget. I quite realize that in doing so, consideration might have been shown to the grants made to local authorities for the purpose of opening new schools. Whether the elimination of this item from the Budget indicates any change of policy is a matter which requires some consideration. I may also point out that in the provision made for teaching grants to District Educational Councils, the

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addition of Rs. 95,000 is not at all adequate for securing any expansion of elementary education. The slight addition made will not cover any scheme for the expansion of elementary education. Sir, the remarks made by the hon. the Minister for Education yesterday and some of the remarks made by the hon. the Finance Member in introducing the Budget, about the responsibility of local bodies in the matter of elementary education have given rise to misunderstandings and misapprehensions. It has all along been recognized that so far as elementary education is concerned, it is the essential duty of the State to provide adequate funds for that purpose, no doubt, utilizing the local bodies as auxiliaries for the purpose of achieving that object. Yesterday, the hon. the Minister for Education made a statement quite different from the one made by him last year. He said yesterday that it was the primary duty of local bodies to provide for elementary education. It is this question of policy which gives rise to some misapprehension. It will be remembered that this question of the duty of the State to provide all that is necessary for elementary education has never been questioned. Sir, may I remind the House of the fact that even at the time of the Coronation of His Majesty, that question was made conspicuous by the grant of 50 lakhs for the purpose of elementary education? It will be remembered that in the grants made by the Government of India, it was not, as has been pointed out by the hon. the Minister, that there was surplus from opium and that the Government of India not knowing what to do with it were giving doles for primary education. That view, I submit, is not correct. It was in pursuance of a definite policy that the Government of India were giving grant for purposes of elementary education, and not because there were heavy surpluses, and they did not know what to do with them. The statement of the hon. the Minister made yesterday, if accepted, will lead to several difficulties in carrying out our programme for the expansion of elementary education. It will be found that the grants made by the Government of India for the period from 1911-12 to 1920-21—a period of ten years—amount to about 160 lakhs of rupees. This comes to an average of 16 lakhs per year. It will be found that it is a substantial portion of the cost of elementary education incurred in this province and the Local Government was also making increased provision from 1911-12 onwards for the purpose of elementary education. The figures for 1911-12 to 1920-21 illustrate this statement. What is to be remembered in this connexion is that both the Government of India and the Local Government realized that the State must find funds necessary for the purpose of expansion of elementary education. Therefore, my hon. friend, the Minister for Education, should realize that it is more the duty of the State than of the local bodies to find funds for the expansion of elementary education. May I remind him of what he stated in his Ministerial speech delivered last year on the subject of education, at the time of the discussion of the budget? This is what he stated:

Sir, we have been urging times without number that the expansion of elementary education is an absolute necessity, that we ought to educate the people and the electorate who return us, so that they might understand the social, economic and political conditions of the country. We must carry on a programme of national education of the masses. In order to improve the conditions of the people and to develop elementary education, it is the primary duty of this Council and the country and the Ministers who represent the people, that they should devote all their energies towards the expansion of elementary education.

I do not know if the hon. the Minister has been carried away this year by the speech of the hon. the Finance Member. I think he must go back to

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the position which he himself enunciated last year and realize that it is the primary duty of the State to find sufficient funds for the expansion of elementary education."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Vellingiri Goundar. I just wish to make a few remarks in regard to that motion. First, on a reference to page 138 of the Budget, we find that the amount under non-votable charges is Rs. 17,80,746 for 1923-24, whereas in the previous year, it was Rs. 464. I take it, Sir, that this represents the sum which the Government have promised to pay to the local boards which levy education cess,—a sum equal to that which the local boards levy, and that that sum comes to 17 lakhs and odd. Even so, I think the provision for primary education is very very small indeed. We know that the Government has agreed to pay an amount equivalent to education cess wherever levied. But that should be given in my opinion in addition to the usual contribution they were already making. Instead of that, what the Government have done appears to be to divert some of the amount which they were hitherto giving and to use it for the fulfilment of their pledge to pay a sum equal to the education cess.

"The second point to which I wish to refer is that the Government should revise their policy as regards the grant of Rs. 2 to the teachers. At present this amount is not proposed to be paid to any local body which is not prepared to find an equal amount out of their resources. This involves a considerable hardship in the case of the poorer boards. The Government, no doubt, say that they will give Rs. 2 if the board is able to find the other Rs. 2. But, do they think it possible for poorer district boards to find this amount? Therefore, the result in the poorer boards is that the teachers get nothing absolutely. If, on the other hand, Government make an exception in the case of poorer boards and give them Rs. 2 free of present restrictions, the teachers will have the satisfaction of getting at least Rs. 2.

"I would like to remind the hon. the Minister for Education in regard to 11-30 a.m. these points of what he stated at the time of the last Budget. He is perfectly aware that there are some boards whose general resources do not permit them to find these two rupees for their teachers. Knowing that, to disregard the request of the teachers and of the boards concerned for the unconditional grant of these Rs. 2 seems to me, Sir, to be somewhat unfair. And again, I would plead with the hon. the Minister for Education that he should not be content with giving an amount equivalent to the education cess in the case of the poorer boards. It was promised on behalf of the Government, I take it, by the late Director of Public Instruction that for every rupee the boards levied by educational cess the Government would give not one rupee only but at least two rupees. That promise remains yet to be fulfilled. These are the few points which I wanted to bring to the consideration of the hon. the Minister for Education."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I shall be very brief in my remarks. It is shown in paragraph 108 of the statement that there has been an increase of 40 per cent in the number of schools and 50 per cent in the number of scholars, and yet it has cost the Government only 15 per cent more than the previous year's expenses. So it is most unfortunate that only two lakhs are to be provided for in addition in the Budget. I hope the Government will reconsider the matter and give a larger sum for this.

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"As regards the Educational Council, enormous powers have no doubt been conferred on it, but the Members are allowed very small amounts by way of travelling allowances. Besides, as the Members of the District Board are on the Council, the meeting of the Educational Council is so arranged as to coincide with the district board meeting, so that Members attending these meetings, which are held once in a few months, also have to attend the Educational Council the same day and they have absolutely no time to allot to the discussion of educational matters. Therefore what we want is more money by way of travelling allowances to these people. In the first year, there was only an expenditure of Rs. 500, that is, 40 rupees a month. The Council has got 30 Members and the forty rupees have to be distributed, with the result that these Councils meet only once in two or three months. When they meet, there are a number of questions to be disposed of. Therefore, the first thing required is financial assistance. It is very difficult at this late hour to say what can be done to get this finance. I can only make the suggestion to the hon. Members of this House and the new House that is to come into being that they will pay their best attention to this matter; and I ask the hon. the Minister for Excise, the Finance Member and other Members of the Cabinet whether they cannot see their way to allot a portion of the excise revenue for the cause of primary education. I know the excise revenue is tainted with a black sin, because it comes from the pockets of the poor and miserable, and I have heard it stated that people interested in elementary education will not at all be willing to reduce the drink evil if they are to get a portion of the excise revenue. The excise money comes from the lowest class of people who are illiterate and ignorant and I think to spend this money in enlightening the ignorant people from whom it is raised will be in the fittest of things. Therefore we shall be very glad to have an announcement as to whether the hon. the Minister for Excise has already moved on the lines indicated by me or whether there is any prospect of his doing so."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I want to say a word just in respect of the allowance of Rs. 2 that is being made by the Government towards the elementary school teachers. For about four or five years during the war Government have been enabling the local boards to pay at the rate of Rs. 4 for every teacher. Last year it was, that the Government issued a definite order, stating that they were not able to contribute more than Rs. 2 and that the local boards must make good the remaining two rupees out of their general resources, with the express condition that they should not draw upon the proceeds of the education cess which they might levy for recouping these two rupees. That is a clear hardship. If the hon. the Minister for Education cannot see his way to grant this 'two rupees' allowance unconditionally, the local boards will feel obliged at least to be absolved of this condition of having to find the remaining two rupees from the general resources. This is a point which I ask the hon. the Minister for Education to consider."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, after this somewhat detailed statement of enlightened public opinion on this question, I do not know what particular place there is in this discussion for the views of a mere teacher. Nevertheless, Sir, I may submit my humble views on this question for what they are worth. To me, Sir, as to the heart of every teacher, the demand for free and compulsory education, which is so insistently and so enthusiastically made everywhere, is a most welcome sign

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of the times. If I may say so, it is as though from the heart of the nation there is going up once again the ancient prayer of the land, *Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya*, i.e., lead us out of darkness into light. It is really most refreshing; but, at the same time, it is just possible that we may, at times, in our enthusiasm, fail to be quite alive to some of the essential concomitants of this grand demand. So far as my knowledge goes, in almost all other countries that have accepted a programme of free and compulsory elementary education, that end has been reached after a series of successive stages of development, so that the final stage was a comparatively short step. But here, in this land, with our amazing amount of illiteracy, as we seek this ideal, we appear to be trying to make up, in one generation and at one step, the arrears of many generations. Consequently, it appears to me that this object, if realised in its fulness and in its ardour, will entail necessarily an amazingly large increase in the number of pupils receiving education. That will necessarily mean an enormous investment of funds. As the *London Times* said sometime ago, the educational scheme of this country should be planned on a gargantuan scale; the funds required will rise to a degree undreamt of hitherto. Therefore, the problem of funds will baffle all alike, the Minister and the public in general. That problem must be faced, if this question is to receive a satisfactory solution.

"The second point to which I would invite close attention is this: we all desire free and compulsory elementary education; but what are the finances, what is the nature, and what is the scope, of that elementary education which we all so eagerly ask for? It is just possible that in our enthusiasm we lose sight of that vital question—what is the kind of elementary education that the country needs? I am reminded, Sir, of a little incident in the life of the late Right Hon. Professor Huxley. He was very anxious to be present in time at a meeting; he thought it was rather late; so, as he jumped into his coach, he told the cabman to drive fast. But after a while he did not know whither he was going. He then said to his coachman, 'where are you driving to?' 'I say, Your Honour, I am driving fast,' said the cabman. Just so, Sir, it is possible we may be driving fast without noting whither we are driving. It appears to me that the general idea of elementary education comprises what is known as the three R's. Sometime ago, I was reading a book on Japanese Education; I found in Japan, which had adopted the system of compulsory and free education, it was noted that in after-life a vast majority of the persons who had passed through the elementary education, had almost clean forgotten what little education they had received, so that what survived time was only a few of the songs learnt in schools. If that is going to be the net result of our scheme of free and compulsory education it ought to make us pause. We may devise methods such as are calculated to make the fruits of elementary education that we wish to impart more lasting and more directly beneficial to the country. Again, it will not do if the elementary education we are aiming at lies all within the ambit of the three R's. That will not take us far. Elementary education to be useful and successful, as the *London Times* suggested, should be instrumental towards guarding India from the gravest peril of a modern state, namely, an unformed democracy. If elementary education is to achieve that object, we should have a comprehensive scheme and curriculum of education. It should be brought into a close and vital touch with the practical and every-day life of the pupil. It should have a direct bearing on the economic, social

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and political conditions and environment of those who receive such education. That will call for a radical revision of the scheme of elementary education, which again will mean also a radical change in the type and class of the teachers whom we are to employ for imparting elementary education. Hitherto, Sir, the average kind of elementary school teacher might be best described in the words of that young and enthusiastic aspirant for a place in a high school, who went up to the head-master and asked for a post in the high school department and, when questioned as to what class he thought he would be able to teach, said that he had studied in VI Form, but had not been selected for the Matriculation examination, and he thought he could handle IV Form, as he was two years ahead of it! Hitherto, the majority of teachers employed in the elementary schools have been of the type of which I have seen some very interesting specimens. When I was chairman of the Primary Examination Board, in a certain district, for the same primary examination the teacher and the pupil appeared simultaneously! There should, therefore, be a radical change in our ideas of the requirements of the average elementary education teacher. All these considerations land us in this one perplexing situation. Where are the funds to come from? We require quite a mint of money to be able to work out this scheme. Who is to provide it? It is easy to cry like Kipling's beggar, 'pay, pay' to the Government. The Government has to pay so many; and the Government can pay, in any one direction, a very limited amount. It is quite easy to shift this burden also upon the already overburdened back of the local bodies. If I may draw an analogy from instances that are familiar to me, these bodies are like the intermediate student who has to study five different subjects, each of them under the control of a specialist or expert, who demands a certain irreducible minimum in his subject. If these subjects are to be properly studied at all and if the student is to score these five irreducible minima, even the maximum energy of the average student cannot cope with the task. I do not know if my memory is

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right when I say that there are similarly five grants for these local bodies to make and these grants themselves are so large that these bodies cannot cope with the total demand. The solution has to be found somewhere. And while on this motion, Sir, not as a clever advocate but as a humble petitioning brother, may I invite attention, very serious and devout attention, to that subject which will immediately follow this debate, namely, the Religious Endowments Bill? And shall we not, Sir, in a real spirit of devotion, say that, as we tender these offerings to Him whom we believe to be the Giver of good, may we not annex a petition that by His Grace our offerings might be used towards what we, of this nation, believe to be the noblest of all charities, namely, *Vidyadana*?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, on this motion I should like to say a few words, more with a view to draw the attention of Government to one or two points and also to get information from the hon. the Minister than anything else. So far as the masses are concerned, I do not think they worry themselves much about the success or otherwise of the Reforms, but they are very keen about education being taken to their very door. Every village longs for some knowledge, and every village wants some elementary school so that their knowledge may progress, and the nation may proceed along right lines, step after step. Immediate steps must be taken to bring about this consummation. And on turning to this item of allowance of two rupees to teachers in schools managed by local authorities

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at page 140 of the Budget Estimate, I notice with regret a retrograde tendency so far as the allotment is concerned. For in 1922-23, a sum of Rs. 5,30,000 was budgeted for and a substantial portion of the sum was spent that year, the actual amount being Rs. 4,46,000 which was Rs. 84,000 less than the budget provision. What do we find in the Budget Estimate that we are now discussing? We find not the figures of the original Budget Estimate nor the revised estimate but far less, only an allotment of 4 lakhs of rupees which practically comes to 75 or 76 per cent of the original allotment. That is a matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

"Then again, there is one other aspect to which I would like to solicit the kind attention of the hon. Minister. Notwithstanding the serious attempt made by the Inspector-General of Panchayats to persuade some of the mufassal municipalities to tackle the question of the introduction of free and compulsory elementary education, some of them have proved somewhat obstinate and declined to take up the question on account of financial stringency. I think it necessary that the Government should try to bring to bear upon these municipalities a certain amount of moral pressure and make it incumbent upon them to take up the question.

"Passing on to another item, Sir, namely the contribution to local authorities for the construction of primary school buildings, as against the allotment of Rs. 74,891 in 1922-23, I find a very very small allotment of Rs. 5,000 in the current year.

"There is only one other matter, Sir. As regards the contribution to the District Educational Councils towards establishment, the budget allotment for 1922-23 was one lakh, the sum actually spent was Rs. 63,000, while in the coming year a smaller amount of Rs. 60,000 is provided. I should like to have a clear statement as to whether the reduction is due to any idea or proposal to reduce the establishment or its salary.

"I expect the hon. the Minister to throw light on these three specific points."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, whenever any question crops up as to extra expenditure in the case of any nation-building services, the Ministers are in the habit of saying that the Finance Member does not give them any money. We, Members of this Council, have nothing to do with the relations between the Members of the Cabinet, for the Cabinet stands as one and it is the business of the Ministers to find money either by retrenchment or by re-appropriation from the money of one department or another. We and the nation depend upon the Ministers for the building up of the nation, and how far they have succeeded in the matter is the question before us. We have nothing to do with the question whether the Finance Member has allowed them more or less money. Sir, it was said yesterday that elementary education is the first charge on local rates. This is a most astounding proposition. It is admitted in all countries that elementary education is a national service, and is a charge upon the nation's revenues and not upon the local rates. If the Elementary Education Act provides for some taxation, it is very very small; it is only to give an impetus to local bodies and not to make the local bodies depend upon the local rates for the expansion of elementary education in the area. If my hon. friend the Minister for Education would sit down and patiently examine the financial resources of the local bodies and the funds necessary

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for the expansion of elementary education, he will find that the local bodies if left to themselves are not at all in a position to make any advance in this direction. Educational Councils have been created, but they are treated as mere post offices. For each item of expenditure the Minister prescribes the limits and says: 'You spend so much for grants-in-aid, so much for travelling allowances and so much for establishment.' This is not trusting the local authorities with sufficiently autonomous powers. We know that the financial resources of local bodies are limited; then why should not limits for each local body be prescribed for recurring and non-recurring expenditure and absolute freedom be given to it and to the District Educational Council to deal with the details as they choose? Take, for instance, the question of establishment. The Government fix the scale of establishment, the salary and everything else. Travelling allowances, of which my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar complained, are also fixed. What I suggest is this: take the average of the recurring expenditure, give the whole amount and leave the Educational Council to deal with it so as not to exceed the general limit. It would really give some real power to local authorities, and it is only thus that they can be made responsible for the expansion of elementary education, and not by asking them to do the work of mere post offices. Sir, in this connexion, I wish to question the policy of the Government in the matter of giving provincial grants to the local bodies in aid of the education cess they levy. If we read the Act, we find that the Local Government is by statute bound to pay to the local bodies at least an amount equal to that raised by them by means of the education cess. The interpretation that the Local Government is pleased to put upon this portion of the section is: 'You had better raise the local rate this year and utilize it; next year we shall give that amount to you.' I am not able to find how that is spelled out from the provisions of the Act. Why should the Government give this extraordinary interpretation? Sir, again, in the matter of additional grants for teachers another extraordinary step in financial control has been taken by the Local Government. The Local Government say: 'All the amounts which you raise by means of education cess shall be devoted to expansion of elementary education but out of this amount you should not spend anything for enhancing the salaries of teachers; if you do that, we shall not give you our promised half from the provincial revenues.' This, I say, is putting an extraordinary financial restraint on the liberty of local bodies. What does it matter to the Local Government whether they pay it from the general resources or from the imposition of the elementary education cess? I am not able to understand the various reasons that led the Government to adopt a policy of putting this sort of embargo upon the work of the local bodies and upon their freedom."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the motion under discussion raises the whole question of the present policy of the Government in regard to elementary education. I should like to make one or two observations in the light of the remarks made by my hon. friends who have preceded me. Sir, from the speech the hon. Minister made yesterday it was not quite clear whether he expressed his own views in regard to the financing of elementary education or whether he was embarrassed for want of funds and driven perhaps to change the convictions of a lifetime in the matter of elementary education. Sir, my hon. friend at a time when he did not occupy the responsible position which he now does was very vociferous in this Council, very vociferous indeed for improving the pay and prospects of elementary

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school teachers. Speaking from my own recollection, I remember, on more than one occasion, how very anxious and persistent my hon. friend was that the pay of these teachers should be substantially increased. But, Sir, the taking up of his present office seems to have somewhat moderated my friend's enthusiasm for the cause."

The hon. Mr. A. P. PATRO:—"No."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"My hon. friend says: 'No.' But we judge him, Sir, by what he proposes to do in the budget for furthering the cause of elementary education. We are not here to examine his mere desires, independent of his performances. And, judging from that broad standpoint, I regret to say my hon. friend has not taken effective steps to give effect to his long-cherished desire for the furtherance of elementary education. I am not now going into the figures. The whole point is what the duty of the State is in regard to elementary education. On that question, I trust my hon. friend will recognize that the Elementary Education Act which was passed in 1920 did impose on the State definitely and once for all the duty of furthering elementary education. It has created a special agency in the districts known as the District Educational Councils on which all the local bodies are to be represented. It has recognized the responsibility of the State to make a contribution of not less than half the expenditure on elementary education to local bodies who are to levy a local rate for that purpose. Sir, the whole question of the responsibility of the State for elementary education was gone into by the committee, known as the Financial Relations Committee, and it has been once for all recognized that elementary education is as it is in other countries a national or semi-national service and the local bodies are merely the agency to carry out the policy of the State in regard to it. Sir, so far as financial responsibility is concerned, it is true that local bodies have to make a contribution from local cess but the ultimate financial responsibility for supporting elementary education is on the State. That was the view of Mr. Gokhale and that was the view which was adumbrated so long in the Indian Legislative Assembly where this matter has been under discussion since 1912."

12 noon. "So far as the local bodies are concerned, the elementary education cess is certainly one of the means of advancing elementary education. My hon. friend now turns round and says that the function of carrying on elementary education is a function to be performed by the local bodies. That is really inverting the whole process which has been so well recognized by the Elementary Education Act. Therefore, that is the question to which we have to address ourselves. My hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, referred to the statement of the hon. the Minister made sometime last year which approximated to the ideal which has been so well recognized. Therefore, Sir, whatever, as pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, may be his dealings with the Finance Department, and whatever the amount of difficulties he has to meet with from the financial side of his work, so far as we are concerned, he is responsible to us for furthering this cause of elementary education, and it is certainly no answer to say that the Finance Department would not make the contribution that he desired. So, Sir, I think that this principle should be clearly recognized and that in any future policy in regard to elementary education this side of the question should be kept in view and the necessary funds found accordingly."

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"Sir, in regard to the District Educational Councils, I have only one or two words to say. It seems to me that these bodies have not fulfilled the expectations which had been formed of them. They were intended mainly as the chief administrative bodies in regard to elementary education. They have been starved and their functions for framing schemes of expansion of elementary education have been practically curtailed by the policy referred to by my hon. friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, of laying down restrictions on them and of not finding necessary funds for their expansion.

"There were one or two other remarks made about which I shall say a word. It is the desire of my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar to earmark a portion of the excise revenue for elementary education. I must say I am not at all in agreement with him on this matter. I may perhaps inform this House that when I came to this Council, ten years ago, I brought forward a motion that a portion of the excise revenue should be handed over to the local bodies for elementary education. That position was hotly contended. I may perhaps say this: one of the temperance papers, the *Abkari* of London noticed my resolution and it had very strong objection to my motion that such an apportionment would only mean an encouragement of the drink traffic, with a view to derive revenue from it. In the same way, however much I desire to see elementary education expanded, I think that the question of earmarking funds from excise revenue would probably induce the local authorities rather to neglect the social aspect of the question and wink at the inflation of this revenue in order to find funds for elementary education, and if my hon. friend thinks that by so earmarking excise he would have more elementary education, I may perhaps tell him that he would also be improving the extent of liquor consumption.

"I have one word to say about the remark of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. I have great respect for his opinion, but I venture to cross swords with him on the question he has raised, namely, the utilization of the surplus funds of temples for the purpose of elementary education. That is a very vexed question and I may say it will be fully debated upon in the course of the discussion on the Bill which is coming on in a few days. At the same time, I feel very great hesitation to subscribe myself to that view, and I will take the opportunity when this matter comes up for discussion to make one or two remarks on that question.

"I have only one other word to say, and that is about the pay of the elementary teachers. Sir, my sympathies are entirely with these teachers who are now struggling on very inadequate pay. I think it was my hon. friend the Minister himself, who, the other day, when he was not sitting on the Treasury Bench, very strongly pleaded on their behalf. I am only speaking from memory. It may be that he took part in the debate or that he himself moved in that direction. But to insist that the local bodies should find two rupees from their already depleted sources of revenue before the Government makes up its mind to give another two rupees is only tantamount to refusing that amount altogether. For, if the local body is to find the two rupees, it must cut down its existing establishment. I therefore think that it is certainly not at all fair to these unfortunate men who have not received any increase in their salaries."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, Sir, the name of the hon. the Minister will be remembered long for the great interest he has evinced in the matter of compulsory elementary education, and I trust, Sir, he will use his

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influence to give to this object a greater interest and a greater impetus by removing the rupee for rupee contribution rule. I am afraid, Sir, it is rather hard on local bodies to get that education cess. It is not because many people are not quite alive to the necessities of primary education. As the country develops, I am sure the local bodies will be able to get that money. But as things are, the Government has to be more liberal in the matter of contributing money towards elementary education, and unless it is done, the great desire that we have for introducing compulsory education will not be accelerated.

"Sir, I have listened with great interest to the eloquent address by my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. There are two points which he brought out and which I wish to endorse. One of them is in regard to the qualifications of the primary teacher, the teacher that is in charge of the lowest classes. In Germany the best men are employed for teaching the young minds. But what we do in this country is that people who absolutely have had very little education are placed in charge of these young minds, and very often the teacher is not more anxious than the boy himself to learn anything. The teacher is anxious about his grants, but the boy is anxious about nothing; and it is no wonder that the education that he gives in the three R's evaporates very quickly. There was a committee appointed by some people in the West who came out to India to investigate into the condition of primary education and they have reported that boys and girls in India that go through primary schools very soon forget what they have learnt. The chief reason is, I suppose, that the majority of their people are ignorant and illiterate, and when they come back to their homes the little they have learnt is forgotten. The other reason is that the education that is imparted in these primary schools is not worth the name. Of course, it means money. It means also more supervision.

"Sir, I have tabled a resolution for a reduction of Rs. 100 in the total grant. So, I suppose I may be permitted to go into the question widely and say just a few words on high school education."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member cannot speak on high school education just now, but he can speak on primary education in all its aspects."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"All right, Sir. I think, in order to improve primary education the Government should pay greater attention to the quality of teachers employed and they should come forth with greater aid."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAIDU:—"Speaking on this motion, I beg to say a few words with regard to the District Educational Councils. The hon. the Minister said that the business of expanding elementary education was practically in the hands of the District Educational Councils and that therefore he was asking the Educational Councils to do it. I join with my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, in saying that they are hardly capable of fulfilling that expectation. The District Educational Councils as at present constituted, are to distribute grants to schools under private management, and only to schools that are already existing can they distribute these grants. They have no power to start new schools where there are no schools, unless it be that some private agency comes forward to start up a new school. I believe that, under the rules, the Educational Council cannot be expected to give grants to a school unless it is satisfied with the stability of the school, and unless it is satisfied that the school is run by a trained teacher. I think the

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rules lay down that unless an application for grant is made to the Educational Council before a particular date no grant should be made unless it be that it is started by a trained teacher in whose case exception may be made. In these circumstances, unless a private agency actually comes forward to take up the work of starting new schools or a private trained teacher sets up a new school, there is no chance of the Educational Council doing anything of that sort. Again, speaking from my own experience of the Educational Council at Chittoor and of the educational agencies there, I find that the mission authorities have not been able to continue their schools though some of them were very good schools. They gave notice that they could not continue the schools because they had no funds. My efforts to induce the taluk boards and municipalities to take up these schools have been unavailing for two reasons. One is that the Educational Council could not help the taluk board with any grant, and the other is that the Government itself take a very long time before they aid a local board to start a new school. We were asked to frame new schemes as to how to expand elementary education and where to start new schools. But before figures could be gathered, the Director of Public Instruction wrote to us that there was no chance of any new school being started last year and that we need not therefore take any trouble. Fortunately, no such trouble seems to be given to us this year also, because I do not find in the budget any provision at all for starting new primary schools. That is the state of the educational activity there. I should like to press on the attention of the hon. Minister that some of the taluk boards and municipalities have been levying the cess; but, even adding that with the Government grant, they are unable to make both ends meet with regard to the schools that they are now running. It is hardly possible to expect any of them to start new schools. Unless, therefore, the Government come forward hereafter by liberal aid and grants both to see new private schools being started and also to see the local bodies starting new schools, there must be and will be a stand-still. So far as elementary education is concerned, there is no use, Sir, in saying that it is the primary duty of local bodies to start new schools and that it cannot be made a provincial charge. I may tell the hon. the Minister to impress on him with respect to his particular statement, that the local bodies should do everything in that direction, that they have gone to the maximum extent of their taxable powers and that they have so exhausted their resources that there is nothing left to them so far as this object is concerned. Unless the Government come forward with a liberal grant, there is absolutely no chance of any new school being started. With regard to private schools, I have already said that the Mission authorities are not able to run their schools any longer and no other private agency is able to take up the schools.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the working itself of the Educational Councils, the establishment provided for them has been anything but satisfactory, and repeated requests to make the prospect of clerks serving in the Council better did not meet with any favourable consideration at the hands of the Government.

"My hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar put it that some more liberty may be given to the Educational Councils. Power may be given to them within the allotment to make changes and to transfer money from one head to another head, so that if Government could not provide under the head of establishment more money, at least the Educational Council might

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have power to transfer some amount from savings. I may draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that recently there was a resolution passed by the Chittoor Educational Council to raise the pay of the head clerk by Rs. 10 to be met by savings from another head, and this has been negatived, and the Council was told that it can meet it only from within the allotment for establishment which it was hardly possible to do in the circumstances.

"Then, Sir, from my own experience of these schools, I can say that they are badly suffering from want of proper accommodation. Most of them are housed in dark and ill-ventilated rooms which are quite unfit for schools, and yet we want education to be imparted to our boys. Unless school buildings are improved and better provision is made for school accommodation, there is absolutely no possibility of even the education that is now imparted in these schools being really productive of any desirable results. I therefore request the hon. the Minister to see if he cannot provide some more grants for school buildings and also if he cannot help the local bodies to take steps towards that end. I appeal to the Government to see that out of the 5 lakhs that are said to be the increased income from excise, a major portion, say, 3 lakhs, is set apart to help local bodies for the purpose of providing better accommodation to schools.

"With regard to the objection raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, namely, that he would object to any portion of the excise revenue being given to local bodies for the purpose of improving education, I may invite the attention of the House to the following recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee on which my hon. friend served. The Committee say:

We also recommend that until legislation is passed empowering local bodies to levy a surcharge on excise revenue at a rate not exceeding one anna in the rupee, the Government should make over, to such local boards and municipalities as may need such help, a sum not exceeding one anna in the rupee of abkari revenue raised in their respective jurisdictions. We would however add the rider that in areas where the surcharge is levied or the grant of a share of the excise revenue is made, the local bodies concerned should take steps, in the interests of temperance, to provide suitable and sanitary accommodation for liquor shops.

This was in 1920. So this year when we have a better excise revenue, I do not see any objection to a portion of excise revenue being utilised for education. I appeal to the hon. Minister to set apart a portion of the excise revenue for granting aids to local bodies for the expansion of primary education."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, on the speech of the hon. the Finance Member relating to the Budget, an interesting discussion was raised as to the relationship between the Provincial Government and the local bodies with regard to the national services. I should think, Sir, that this question of primary education is one of such interesting points with regard to which the exact responsibility of the Provincial Government and the local bodies should be settled finally. At the outset, I may unhesitatingly say, Sir, that I am strongly convinced that this task of spreading primary education is one of those which must primarily, if not solely, devolve upon the Provincial Government and form an important charge on the national revenues of the country. When I consider the position of elementary school teachers in Government schools, in privately managed schools, and in schools managed by local bodies, I am especially led to think that the task of spreading elementary education should primarily rest on the Provincial

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DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION—NON-EUROPEAN

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Government. Sir, it appears that there is very often great disparity in the status and pay of the elementary school teachers in the institutions managed by these three agencies. The Government no doubt have come to the rescue of local bodies in having undertaken the task of spreading elementary education. During the year 1922-23, the Government have offered a grant of 5-30 lakhs to local bodies for paying an allowance at the rate of Rs. 2 to teachers employed in primary schools under their management. But, Sir, as may be seen from the revised estimate, the whole of this amount has not been utilized by the local bodies, and only a sum of Rs. 4-46 lakhs has been spent for that purpose. Perhaps as a result of the experience gained in distributing the grants to local bodies during the current year, the Government have reduced the amount to four lakhs during the ensuing year, namely, 1923-24. To my mind, the proper solution for this seems to be to provincialize the service of the elementary school teachers. Unless this is done, I think it will be difficult to remove the disparity that now exists in the pay drawn by elementary school teachers in the various schools managed by the various institutions. Sir, it has been brought to the notice of this House very often by hon. Members and also by the hon. the Minister for Education, when he was not a Minister, that this grievance was a real one and one which ought to be attended to by this House. Unfortunately for us, and unfortunately for the country, I must say, the financial position for the last three years has been such that this House could not give that amount of aid which the elementary school teachers are by sheer justice entitled to. Sir, it is a truism to say—and I think, like all truisms, the truth of this is very seldom fully realized—that it is very essential that the efficiency of the elementary school teachers must be maintained if national efficiency is not to be impaired. Not merely from the position of the elementary school teacher himself, but also purely from the point of view of national efficiency, from a selfish motive that the children of the country must get that amount of culture and training which will fit them to be proper citizens of the country, it is essential that the class of elementary school teachers must be a well-paid and contented class, because if the children in their tender age are to acquire a cheerful outlook upon life, it is not possible for the half-starved school-master to infuse that outlook to the children under his charge. Therefore, Sir, I hope that the hon. the Minister for Education, who I must say has done very great service in inducing the local bodies to take this question of free and compulsory primary education into their hands, will also give the teachers some little aid, now that the finances of our province are, I think, steadily improving; and I also hope that he will see his way to redress at an early date the long-standing grievance of which he himself was conscious before he became a Minister. I think the local bodies ought to be utilized as one of the primary agencies for spreading elementary education, and if at all they can be expected to attend to this satisfactorily, the entire burden and the responsibility for the maintenance of these schools must form a charge upon the national exchequer of the Province."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Sir, the discussion that we have had on this motion has brought out most prominently one or two points on which I beg to say a few words. Sir, this Council whose term of office is rapidly coming to a close, having been the first of its kind after the Reform Act, has, I think, certain responsibilities of which it should be aware and of whose due discharge it should be reminded of on the present

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occasion. Sir, we on this side of this House have always been anxious to influence the party in power on certain questions of principle and policy in which it has been our misfortune to differ from them. We are free to recognize that the efforts that we have made in this direction have not met with any success. But, Sir, on this question of the fundamental basis on which primary education should rest, every one in this House must be agreed. I venture to submit, Sir, that it is time that this House accepted that view clearly, definitely and indubitably that the responsibility for education, I will say, and certainly for primary education, rests on the Government as a whole and not on any particular department of it. I would even go further and say that it is the responsibility of the Government of India; but we are not now concerned with that question. As between the Madras Government and the local bodies, my submission is that the responsibility is entirely that of the Provincial Government and not merely of the local bodies. As two hon. Members have already pointed out in words of eloquence, these local bodies are merely channels through which the activities of the Provincial Government are being directed for the purpose of achieving the object which it is their first responsibility to attend to. Sir, in any difficulty that we might experience in finding the funds for the purpose of carrying out this duty that lies on the Provincial Government, let not the House shut the issue and be oblivious of the responsibility that lies upon it of recognizing that the responsibility for primary education rests on the Provincial Government and not on the local bodies. Sir, all along it has been my view that, given education and co-operation, given the spread of them to the extent they are capable of, there is no power on earth which would stand between India and the achievement of her own among the nations of the world. If there is one thing upon which this House and those who have any influence in shaping the destinies of the nation should keep their minds steady, it is this: they should do all that lies in their power to advance education in the country. Let us not yield to the temptation of making bad law to meet hard cases, let not the hon. the Minister for Education try to shove the responsibility upon the local bodies, because he finds it difficult to get funds.

"There is one other observation that I would like to make for the consideration of the Cabinet as a whole, inclusive of the hon. the Finance Member. It is perfectly clear that even with an increase in our finances, there will be difficulties in meeting the expenditure involved in the various departments under the administration of the Government. It must necessarily be the case that some departments will have to be crippled in their activities and some others will have to be starved. But let all the members of the Cabinet agree that whatever may be the responsibilities that they are called upon to discharge with regard to the portfolios in their charge, the one department to which the shears should not be applied and to which the finances should be contributed as liberally as possible is education (hear, hear). I have no doubt that if only they have this in view, they will be doing what higher wisdom, the best interests of the country and the best principles of justice all alike dictate and they will find in the long run that any other policy could only be characterized as a penny wise and pound foolish policy."

Rev. W. MESTON:—"Sir, I have just one point that I wish to refer to in connexion with the discussion which has been going on for some time in regard to elementary schools.

12-30 p.m.

[Rev. W. Meston]

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"First of all, I am glad that so many have remarked upon what we owe to and what has been done by the hon. the Minister for Education in respect of elementary education, during the short time of his office. The part that he has played and the emphasis that he has laid upon it certainly give promise of a greater development in the days to come and in a very much shorter time than one would have thought possible five years ago. About that time, I remember the Secretary of State confessing that the work that had been done on behalf of elementary education was something which left the Government far from satisfied. We have witnessed an immense advance in the work that has been done and also in the controlling agency; and not only that, but a great advance in the relaxation of the rigidity which has characterized the way in which this part of education has been controlled and directed in the past. But, Sir, what has been so striking to me during this debate—and it is one that has struck me as a great advance upon the conduct of the debate of last year in this respect—is that there has been a recognition from all parts of the House of the part the State has to play in this all-important matter of elementary education, placing the responsibility upon the State and regarding the various agencies that are at work only as agencies by means of which that power is to be carried out. Now, Sir, there are those of us who are interested in aided education and there are others who are interested in local bodies, while there are others connected with the official part of it. Last year, what struck me most was that we were rather inclined to put one in opposition to the other in pleading for special cases and forgetting the unity. To-day I think we have risen above that. There has been such a recognition of the part that the State has to play, of the national responsibility that is laid upon us in regard to that great national asset of elementary education, that there has been a feeling that it is by means of a generous treatment by the Government of all the agencies that are at work that this problem can be solved and only by that means. I may say with regard to the remark of Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiar that I do not agree with him that the matter of teachers so poorly paid in elementary schools is to be set right by provincialization. That is not the way in which we can look forward for a long time to come to any solution of this great and perplexing problem. It must be by the Government, in elementary as in other parts of education, making it plain that it welcomes and encourages every partner, local or private, into this great unity of national education. Then there can be no doubt that every one will put forward every effort that he can in order that the whole may be advanced. It strikes me to-day that this point of view of unity of the whole is going more and more to be pressed upon the Government, and the more that that is pressed upon the Government and the more that a generous regard for the whole is one of the demands of such a Council as this, the more chance have we of seeing the advance in the country as a whole. That will never take place until our education work of the elementary grade is tackled as one great stage in which the various agencies which at present may not see eye-to-eye yet by means of a unification of the whole may be so made to co-operate that the advance will be striking in the extreme."

Mr. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, if there is one item of money that is well-spent, it is that spent on primary education. Primary education is as much necessary as food is necessary to life. Perhaps university and higher education may be a luxury. Everybody's work is no-body's work, and when

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we look to our Education Minister, he looks to the Finance Member, who is bewildered when he looks into the budget and sees that he has to put into it money for so many departments. We must feel the necessity of imparting primary education to our country, and unless and until we impart this education, our country will never come forward and will always be in the dark. The chief defect in our country is that the people do not feel the want of education. The majority of them are in darkness; they have been accustomed to darkness for a long time and whenever any man takes light to them, they begin to close their eyes. That is our chief defect. Those that are enlightened and feel the necessity for education must bring light to these people and make them feel the necessity for primary education.

"As regards teachers, it is a fact that those who are little educated and who have no other means of livelihood apply to the managers of schools to appoint them as teachers. I am myself a manager of some schools. I very often receive applications for teachers' posts, and when I make inquiries regarding the educational attainments of the applicants, I find that they have studied only up to the fourth standard. How can such candidates expect to be appointed as teachers for the second and third standards? The teacher should be a well-educated and well-trained man and unless we are prepared to pay him well, it is not possible to get such teachers.

"As regards District Educational Councils, I am a member of the Madras District Educational Council and as such I know the difficulties that lie in the way of spreading primary education by opening more schools. I am also a manager of some societies which impart education free. I open here and there some schools, but generally we have to wait for some six months before we can ask for recognition from the Council. As for funds, I have to depend upon the public and whenever I go and knock at the door of respectable people, very often I am turned out; so much so, before the period of six months referred to expires, there will be no funds on hand. It is very difficult for individual societies, unless they have funds, to open new schools and go to the educational council for support. The district educational councils are not at liberty to open schools of their own accord, but if anybody opens a school and applies to them, they are willing to help. After all there is no use of blaming this and that body. There are so many things in the world and if a man feels that somehow or other some particular thing should be done, he will certainly do it by some means; and if he feels that there is necessity for the spread of elementary education, somehow or other he will manage to get funds for the purpose. So long as we really do not feel the necessity for imparting education, we shall always have some excuse or other to offer by saying that funds are not available, etc. We must find some funds by curtailing expenditure in other departments. We must see that we provide the hon. the Minister for Education with ample funds so that he may be able to take on hand the work connected with the spread of free and compulsory elementary education. We are now throwing out some inducements to the boys by offering them one meal a day. Even then they are unwilling to attend school. It is very difficult to induce parents to send their boys to school and if only we can make them understand the value of education, there will not be much difficulty on that score. For some time we shall have to struggle and shall have to be offering some inducement or other.

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“With these few words I support the previous speakers.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“Mr. President, while it is an undoubted fact that the Government, the hon. Members of this Council and also the educated community as a whole recognize primary education as a national duty, I beg to offer one or two remarks with a view to induce the people also to look upon the education of their children as a paramount duty cast upon them. I do not find, Sir, in the mufassal that same thirst for knowledge that we wish to see. When we look into the statistics of most of these elementary schools, we find that to some considerable number there are boys and girls in the first and second classes, but when we go up higher to the 3rd, 4th and 5th standards, we find the number going down and down increasingly. The result is that in very many village schools there are only first and second standards. This is a point which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister so that he may, through the district educational officers under him, try to see that higher standards in elementary education are appreciated by the people at large. It is a well-known fact that in the mufassal people are not so desirous of having education. They do go to school because an aided school teacher comes and requests them, or because the missionary bodies, in their desire to propagate education, come and request them to study. But there is not that innate desire in them for education. Some steps should be taken by the Government through their educational officers and the local bodies which would really create a desire in them for education and that I think is a very good point which should be adopted as early as possible. These little boys are sent more after domestic purposes and toils than to schools. They care more for the collection of the cow-dung, to go after their cattle and to attend to the cultivation business, and the people say: ‘Why do we want education? We have got all these things to look after and therefore we do not want it.’ Therefore the real point is to devise some means whereby to create a real thirst for education.

“Then again, Sir, on account of this comparative apathy on the part of the people, we have many bogus schools. There are schools found in registers, but if we go and make a surprise visit, or inspection, we shall find no boys at all there. After the transfer of the supervision from the purely inspecting agency to the non-official agency, it is within the experience of several taluk board presidents when they go and make a surprise visit, that the schools do not exist at all or that the same boys under different names are brought up for inspection year after year for the sake of obtaining grants.

“This is a defect which is being removed by the district educational agency. I do not subscribe to the opinion that the district educational council is a mere post office. It has been my experience, as a member of the district educational council, after the council has been started that the educational councils take a real interest, they go to the villages and discover these frauds and bring them to the notice of the authorities at the time when the grants are being distributed or applied for. If the educational councils have served any purpose at all they have discovered these frauds. Several schools which were really bogus schools have been abolished and schools which were necessary for certain places have been established. I therefore think that these educational councils have been doing some real work.”

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Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“What is the number of the members of these councils who are able to go about and find out these frauds?”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“In my own district there are not less than twelve members who are doing this work.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“There are twelve members for the whole district.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“The educational council consists of several officials and non-officials and you cannot expect all the non-officials to do this work.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“What is the total number of the members of the council?”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“The number is 24. Therefore, with my short experience I submit, Sir, that the Council has been doing some good work; at least it has been saving our good money instead of being wasted upon bogus schools. Therefore the real point is to create a thirst in the people for education. The Government are not wanting in their eagerness to propagate education nor are we wanting, but the people have not taken it eagerly. We should devise some means whereby we can create a thirst in the mufassal. Then we would have solved this problem. We can very easily have free education or even compulsory education. That I think is very essential and I hope that the Government will kindly devise some means to create a thirst for primary education in the mufassal.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“Sir, I am grateful to hon. Members for emphasising the necessity for the expansion of elementary education. Various Members have stated their opinions and I do not differ very much in the spirit in which the remarks were offered. As I said, from the beginning of my public life it has been one of my dreams of introducing free and compulsory education in this Presidency. I quoted repeatedly the remarks of the Emperor of Japan that there should not be any village without having a school or any village with an illiterate person. Such was the ideal that was placed before the country by the Emperor of Japan and I have always insisted in my speeches that that ideal should be realized in this country and in my book on Elementary Education I have emphasized this aspect of education. I do consider that this is a national problem and that it is the duty of the Government and the people to realize this ideal. When I stated that this was primarily the first charge on the local rates I was only emphasizing the primary duty and responsibility of the local boards and not that the local boards should bear the entire or sole burden of carrying on elementary education.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“If I remember right it was said that the first charge on the local bodies was to raise local rates.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“If my hon. friend has not followed me it is not my fault. What I said was that the expansion of primary education should be the first charge on the local rates because the various local acts themselves prescribe that it is one of the duties of the municipalities and local boards, and as I said it is the duty of the Government to assist the expansion of elementary education. Sir, in this matter the policy of the Government is most unmistakable. Last year the

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Government placed in the budget a larger sum than in the previous years for the purpose of the expansion of elementary education. Hon. Members have admitted that this year for the progress of elementary education a still larger sum has been allotted in the budget. The policy of the Government is therefore clear that they should carry on the elementary education on progressive lines so that gradually the ideal may be reached.

"But there is one obstacle which I must place before the House for the consideration of those who have criticized the policy of the Government. There is the Elementary Education Act and I have to carry out its provisions. I must administer the Act and I cannot set aside the provisions of the Act and go on starting a new policy. The Act was passed two years ago and it came into force within these two years. The provisions have to be worked and experience has to be gained. The rules were framed only very recently in consultation with responsible persons of the Local bodies and the rules, which have been framed, are more liberal than the provisions of the Act itself."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAYA AYYAR :—"Is there anything in the Madras Elementary Education Act which prohibits the Government from making grants to the local bodies for the spread of elementary education?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I may point out that section 32 of the Elementary Education Act relates to the elementary education fund. There are various constituents for this fund and one of such is the contribution to local bodies. The amount of contribution is also limited under sections 36 and 37. They impose an obligation of a rupee contribution for a rupee."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"May I inform the hon. the Minister that it is not less than a rupee? So the Government are at liberty to contribute more."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"A rupee for a rupee contribution is an obligation; not less than a rupee is only optional. Hon. Members will understand that the provisions of the Act have to be administered and funds obtained from the Finance Department in concurrence with the provisions which nobody is at liberty to override. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimharaju, suggested very humorously that it is the duty of the Minister to get the necessary funds. I may point out to him that the provisions of the Act prescribe only a certain amount of obligation."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"A word of personal explanation, Sir. I am one of those who voted against the passing of the Act."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"This is a defect in the Act and I hope he will help the Minister in trying to get rid of such defects."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister when he would bring the amending Bill?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I should have been very glad to bring it but for the short term which this Council is going to have. Information has been collected from various sources in consultation with responsible persons who are competent to advise, and the Bill would have been introduced in the Council but for the unfortunate or fortunate cutting of the term of this Council. Again, I may invite the attention of the hon. Members to

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the Financial Relations Committee's report. The hon. Mr. Ramachandra Rao referred to the fact that that Committee had improved the provisions of the Elementary Education Act. I am very sorry that they have not improved upon them."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I never said 'seriously improved'. I said that we must consider the expansion of elementary education as a national or semi-national duty."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"So that there may not be a mistake as to what the Elementary Education Act says, I shall read the portion of that Act which is relevant for our purpose here. Section 37 of the Act imposes an obligation on the Government to contribute to the fund a sum not less than the proceeds of the education tax and that is to be in addition to and not in lieu of a recurring grant to the local rate in the year preceding the introduction of the Act. This recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee does not take away what is already provided in section 37, namely, rupee for rupee grant. Therefore to the elementary education fund Government is obliged to contribute only under certain conditions. I have to carry out the provisions of the Act and therefore I am handicapped in its working, because I cannot get more funds to carry out the policy as much as I would wish. As suggested by the hon. Members, I undertook the task of amending this Act, so that all the principles that we are now advocating might be introduced. With this preliminary explanation, I would answer the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao to the effect that some provision which was originally found under this head has been omitted. We have to carry out the work of expanding the elementary education through private and aided institutions and also through local bodies, and not by Government taking the management themselves. About 200 schools which were in the hands of Government and whose expenses were heavy were all handed over to private bodies for the purpose of management, the Government subsidising them with a full grant of all the working expenses. As we are working for the expansion of elementary education we have given also subsidies to local bodies for the establishment of new schools where there are no schools. Again, a certain sum has also been put in the labour budget in order that the work in connexion with the depressed classes might be carried out. Therefore, the whole amount that was originally standing under this head has now been distributed under various heads for the expansion of elementary education. Neither any omission nor deduction has been made in the original grant. In this connexion I must gratefully acknowledge the remarks of my hon. friend, Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu. When I toured about the districts and discussed the question of elementary teachers, as well as of managers of elementary schools, I was faced with this difficulty, namely, what is to be the nature of education that has to be given. Are we to adopt the old system of giving three R's education, or what is the nature of education that would appeal to the people and would draw more pupils to schools and how are we to proceed with this work? I discussed this problem with many responsible persons, and in the instructions I have issued to the various educational officers and managers of institutions, I have clearly pointed out that in the matter of curriculum and course of studies full freedom is to be given to those institutions, so that the course of studies may be in consonance with social, moral and economic well-being of the

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"As for the question of training teachers, I entirely agree that in the past both the teachers and the taught, in some cases, appeared for the same examination, and I have felt that one of the greatest desiderata of elementary education is that we should not have untrained teachers. Therefore the system of having untrained lower teachers has completely been abolished. This difficulty was felt by the inspecting officers, and they complained that the untrained teachers knew very little, and they read only up to the second or third standard. When sessional schools were started, there was paucity of trained teachers, and the old teachers were somehow or other utilized for the purpose for which trained teachers would be required. With regard to the salaries of elementary teachers, to which many hon. Members referred to, I may say that their salaries have of late been very much enhanced. I have always been advocating the cause of the poorly paid schoolmasters, and I do not withdraw a word of what I have said before, and I do say that the teachers should receive all the consideration that they deserve. Thus you will find from a press communiqué which was issued in February 1922 after a considerable amount of discussion in the Finance Commission, I am quoting only to show that the condition of teachers was not considered by the Government, and after a full discussion a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs was sanctioned for the purpose of increasing the amount they were receiving."

rupee." considered by the Government, and the Minister that your permission, Sir, I shall read out a paragraph from that to contribute:

The hon. Member has received repeated representations that rates of teaching grant paid by Government to elementary schools are inadequate and should be enhanced. Government is an obligation simultaneously with the demands to improve the condition of teachers under local management of those in aided schools should also receive consideration. But this must be kept in abeyance for a time chiefly for want of funds, and though the financial position is much worse than was anticipated at the commencement of the year, Government has a serious discontent has to be avoided and that grants to aided teachers should be continued without further delay. So the Government are pleased to sanction an additional grant of Rs. 10 lakhs for the current year for the purpose of enhancing the teaching grants of the year 1931-32.

For elementary teachers were paid Rs. 48 because that class of teachers is intended to be discouraged. The higher elementary teachers receiving Rs. 48 get Rs. 72. The untrained secondary teachers who were getting Rs. 48 now get Rs. 96. In the case of the trained teachers they were getting Rs. 76, 92, and 168, whereas they are now getting Rs. 84, 96, and 180, respectively.

Rs. 84, 96, and 180, respectively.

"This certainly was fixed in consultation with the managers of institutions and presidents of district boards. Therefore the condition of elementary teachers and their salaries were taken into consideration and great improvements have been effected. I have not myself been satisfied with that. All that could be done has been done. It is capable of improvement, but according to financial conditions we have been able to place before the country satisfactory means of improving the conditions of secondary school teachers. Sir, there is one other point I have not referred to, viz., the district educational

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councils. It has become the fashion of some people to be dissatisfied with them whether they recognize or do not recognize the responsibilities of these bodies. I am glad that there is at least one president, I mean Mr. Narasimhacharlu. . . ."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I am not a president of the District Educational Council. I am only a member."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"At least there is one member here who gives his experience. They have begun recently and within the short time and experience they have been able to reorganize and overhaul the existing state of things and introduce new life. It is really a very great advance. Again, Sir, the district educational councils have got full opportunities of inviting the local bodies and private individuals to give to them schemes for expansion of elementary education. Under section 24 of this Act there is an obligation on the part of these bodies to extend elementary education by inviting schemes from the local bodies as well as private individuals. They have got to examine these institutions wherever it is necessary, and they can rectify any shortcomings that are in existence and bring into existence new schools in places where there are no schools. So it is a remarkable responsibility which the councils should realize and, if they are not able to realize now, they will be able to realize it in course of time. Nothing would be revolutionized in a day. Having had the reform scheme a few years back, if we expect abundant results at so early a date, we shall be impatient idealists. Advance could be secured only by working on practical lines. I have personally seen the work in four or five councils and I must congratulate their members and presidents for the excellent work that they have been doing in the matter of elementary education, and I am sure that other institutions which are not up to the mark, if they only realize their duties unto themselves and to the nation at large, if they are sincere and patriotic more and more, they will have the satisfaction of satisfying the needs of the local area and reaching the ideal the country expects of them. I am not disappointed nor is there any room for criticism. But I join with the hon. Members when I say that greater efforts and greater energy is needed on the part of the people in order to realize that there are difficulties in the expansion of elementary education, and it is we who should shoulder them. Mr. Narasimhaiah has referred to the real difficulties. For instance, in the matter of pressing for free, elementary and compulsory education, if only hon. Members will discuss with the ratepayers as well as with the members of a particular municipality or local board area, we know what practical difficulties these people put forward. We have to convince and persuade them in order to accept the system of free and compulsory education. The people must be convinced that the system is necessary for them; they must be convinced that they will be useful to them and in this way practical work must be carried on. It cannot be done simply because the Act is passed. It must be worked carefully and systematically with sincerity and patriotism. If honest work is done the result will not be disappointing. If every member were to shoulder these responsibilities they will come to the next session with greater hopes and patriotism about the expansion of elementary education in this province."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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The demand that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 136.20 lakhs for Education (Non-European) was put and carried; the grant was made.

DEMAND XVIII—MEDICAL.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I beg to move Demand XVIII—Medical for a grant not exceeding 48.64 lakhs.”

MOTION No. 158.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,22,180 for District Medical and Sanitary Officers by Rs. 1,000

My intention, Sir, in tabling this motion is chiefly with a view to get information about this all-important medical department. We want to know, Sir, whether so far as this department is concerned, the number of acting appointments that has been made till now is to be increased or decreased. Secondly, so far as the 30 appointments recently made by the Secretary of State are concerned, how many of them are to be allotted to this Presidency? —if it is no State secret to mention it the appointment was made either with the consent of the Government or the hon. Minister in charge. Secondly, Sir, we have to take into consideration whether the Government in making appointments have done anything substantial with a view to the provincial officers coming to the top. In other departments we have been told that attempts have been made, and somewhat successfully, to get the provincial services people better positions. This is a department about which the public do not know much. Therefore, it is very difficult to get accurate information. Therefore, if there is any mistake in what I say, I hope the hon. Member will correct me and give the correct information. The fact that mistakes are made is due to the reason that information is not forthcoming in this department as in other departments. I want to know as to what has been done as to the exact number of provincial people who are to get the district medical officer's position. It has been said that a few years ago when the number of assistant surgeons was 20 they were having five district medical officers from among them. The number of the assistant surgeons has now come to 200, but the number of those who can become District Medical and Sanitary Officers is only six. I never complain of the other departments getting more appointments. We want to know what is to be the fate of the Assistant Surgeons or the Civil Surgeons who have no further prospects. We know, Sir, that during the war the Assistant Surgeons have been doing excellent work and many of them have been placed in charge of the district. The question now is whether any one has been found wanting in work? If it is not so, what is to be their fate? After being in charge of a district for a period of five or six years are they to be told that they must go, that there will be people to be recruited or returning from war who will take their places and that they ought to be satisfied with a subordinate position? There is a rumour that a long correspondence has been going on between this Government and the India Government and probably the Secretary of State also. It is better that nothing is kept confidential or secret till the correspondence comes to an end. We in this Council are in an unfortunate position. The Council is not taken into confidence nor is the public taken into confidence when correspondence is going on in respect of any important facts.

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When the matter is under discussion or when the correspondence is going on, we are told that correspondence is going on and therefore it is too early to do anything. If the question is raised at the end we are told that the decision has been arrived at after mature consideration and therefore it is too late. At the beginning it is too early and at the end it is too late and we are given no share in the discussion. It is practically the case in all cases where we want information as to the correspondence that is going on between this Government and any other Government. I appeal to the head of this department not to say, ‘Please wait and see after the matter is decided’; because it is absolutely useless to say anything after the file is disposed of and the reply will be, ‘After mature consideration the matter has been duly decided.’ Now it is in this view that I say that though this matter is being considered, it is very important for the officers concerned to have the information. I also want to raise the question of nationality. It appears that a large number of European officers want that they and their families should be attended to by Europeans. It is a matter of sentiment. European schools ought to have European Inspectors. Let them have European inspectors and European doctors. I am not at all standing in the way of these European ladies and gentlemen having European doctors to attend on them. It is a legitimate aspiration. But what I say is, on the ground that there may be a few European officers and their families in a few headquarters of some districts, it should not be said that the officer in charge of that district or the headquarters hospital should necessarily be an European officer. Let there be few European officers in important centres who may be travelling about the various European residences in various places. If, on the one hand, there is a sentiment and inclination that there must be European officers there must be a widespread feeling also among the Indians on the other that there should be Indians having higher knowledge, so far as medical knowledge is concerned, so that they might also be treated by the people of their own nationality. Therefore it is a legitimate aspiration and sentiment, Sir, which should be respected. One other point that I should like to appeal to the hon. the Minister for Education is to see if ladies, Indian ladies, cannot be made Indian Medical and Sanitary Officers; because we know, Sir, the great difficulty we feel so far as maternity and other things are concerned that the Indian women refuse to have anything to do with European officers. Therefore it is necessary that district medical officers should be ladies in some cases at least. If necessary, they may be

1-15 p. m. sent to England and other countries for the necessary training and experience so that they may be put in charge of district hospitals. It is, Sir, with a view to have some information on these points that I tabled this motion. I hope the hon. the Minister in charge of this department will be free in taking us into his confidence and in telling us how far the correspondence, if any, has gone on and what he and his department are going to do in the matter.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, Sir, the hon. mover urges the need for the posting of more provincial men as District Medical and Sanitary Officers. At present, Sir, there are 14 Indian Medical Service Officers and 19 provincial officers holding the posts of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. Of these 19 non-Indian Medical Service Officers, two are military assistant surgeons and the rest are all provincial officers. The

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hon. Member has to remember that under rule 12 of Devolution rules, this Government have to appoint such number of Indian Medical Service Officers as the Secretary of State may fix. As a matter of fact, Sir, this subject has been under correspondence between this Government and the Secretary of State and he has not yet fixed any number. That is why at present there are 19 non-Indian Medical Service Officers holding the posts of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. The hon. Member has further asked whether the Minister in charge of the Department was consulted when the 30 officers were recently appointed by the Secretary of State. My reply is that I was not consulted."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"May I know, Sir, whether the hon. the Minister in charge has protested?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, it is not known as to how many of these 30 officers are to be allotted to this province. Probably I do not think that any of them will at all events be allotted at present for this province, because before these Indian Medical Service officers are appointed to several posts, they will have to put in some service as military officers, and as they are at liberty to retire after five years of service, I do not expect that they would be posted to civil posts. The hon. Member has further asked me whether there is any chance of a lady assistant surgeon being posted as district medical and sanitary officer. At present we have not sufficient number of women medical officers in the province to do duty in hospitals, and it is premature to expect any lady assistant surgeon to be posted to the district charge."

"The hon. mover has taken me to task for not taking the Council into my confidence in the matter of correspondence which is now going on."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I did not take him to task for not having already taken us into his confidence. What I said was that he might take us into confidence hereafter and let us know if any correspondence was going on and what that correspondence was."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am very glad that the hon. Member has not taken me to task. My own opinion is that these are all more or less administrative matters, and they have to be going on promptly. It will sometimes be rather inconvenient to consult hon. Members of this House in all details of administration. As for the general policy, we have the Legislative Council, and they will surely tell us what they want. Their views are certainly welcome. In any case, this particular matter is still under correspondence between this Government and the Secretary of State, and it is premature to make any statement about it at this stage."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am in favour of making the Medical Service more and more Indian, not because of any racial interest but because I believe in the western treatment of disease, and, as long as it is in the hands of the westerners, the Indian people will not be quite willing to use that medicine. I think it is a great sin to deny India of the great advantage accruing from western medicine. Sir, the Indian women especially do not wish to be treated by Europeans, and I think the Government should see that the tax-payers of India by whom the medical men are paid should be first consulted in this matter."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I am very sorry that the hon. the Minister in charge of this Department has also followed the example of others, of keeping silent till the matter is disposed of. This is a matter of policy and therefore we appeal to the hon. Members of the Government not to say that it is too early now and too late later on. Whatever their recommendations may be, it is better, when they have got a democratic Council here and when there is an educated public outside, that their recommendations are placed before the Council and the public, as well as the correspondence so far between this Government and the Secretary of State. It may be that the recommendations made by the Members of the Cabinet are in consonance with the public opinion or not. In any case it is better that they should be before the public. I think these are matters of first rate importance to the public at large, and they should be discussed by the public before final decisions are arrived at. There is no use of placing the decisions before us after final decisions are arrived at. In the House of Commons, they can go into the question at any time and the Ministers in charge of the various departments generally respond to public opinion. Whether the Members of this Government are responsible or not, we have got the Government of India absolutely not responsible so far as this Council is concerned, and we have an absolutely irresponsible Secretary of State. There is no use of informing us after the matter has been disposed of, because it will be a settled fact at least for some years. I, therefore, appeal to all Members of the Cabinet—especially to the transferred portion of it—that so far as such matters are concerned, when any correspondence is going on between this Government and the Secretary of State, to take the public into their confidence and place the facts before them, so that the public will also be able to express their opinion before the matter is finally disposed of. I hope the matter will be considered very favourably and very sympathetically by all members of the Government. With these words, I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 159.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 5,000.

Sir, there is no necessity to transfer medical officers from place to place. It has been brought to my notice that medical subordinate officers are being unnecessarily transferred from one corner to another—from Ganjam to Tinnevely, from the West Coast to the East Coast and so on. There is a rule that a medical officer should be in a particular place for not more than three years. I think that period should be extended to five years. This will result in less expenditure. There is no object in transferring an officer from one place to another. When a man remains in a particular place for some time, the people may begin to have confidence in him. Unless there is a complaint against a particular man, I think he should not be transferred too often. It may be suggested, Sir, that one particular station may be a very good place for private practice. In such a case, the officer may be asked to look after the hospital work as an honorary man. In that way the State also may save some amount and the number of honorary assistant surgeons may be increased."

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, Sir, the sum of Rs. 35,000 which my hon. friend, Mr. Rama Rao, wants to reduce by Rs. 5,000 is intended to cover the travelling expenses of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers. They are touring officers, and, in fact, this item of expenditure has been gradually cut down."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Am I to understand, Sir, that this amount of Rs. 35,000 does not include the travelling allowance of the subordinate medical officers ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" This sum represents the travelling allowance of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers and their assistants. In 1921-22 the provision under this head was Rs. 47,900; in 1922-23, according to the revised estimate, it was Rs. 38,000 and this year it is cut down to Rs. 35,000. Further reduction does not seem to be reasonable. The District Medical and Sanitary Officers are expected to visit all the medical institutions in the district. Sir, the hon. mover has raised the question of frequent transfers of District Medical and Sanitary Officers from place to place. These are due to administrative exigencies."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" I never referred to District Medical and Sanitary Officers. I spoke about subordinate medical officers."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Well, Sir, these transfers are necessary to meet administrative exigencies. Again, if a particular officer happens to be a good and an able officer, I cannot understand why only a particular locality should have the benefit of the services of such an officer; and if he is a bad officer, I cannot understand why only a particular locality should have the misfortune of having him. So, under these circumstances, these transfers cannot be considered to be an unmixed evil. As to the extension of the period of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers in a particular locality, I am afraid it is difficult to keep an officer in one place for more than three years, because a number of people will be going on leave and changes become necessary."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m., with the hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

MOTION No. 160.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" I beg to move—

2-30 p.m. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for one Radiologist, General Hospital, by Re. 1.*

Sir, the duty of this Radiologist is to work in the X-Rays Department. He is paid Rs. 1,000 a month, and he is not a medical man. I think this is a very large amount. His duties are performed at the Government hospital at Vizagapatam by an Assistant Surgeon, in addition to his duties in the hospital as well as in the medical school, and he is given a small allowance these duties in the city may be much more than in the mufassal. But a Civil Assistant Surgeon or a Sub-Assistant Surgeon may be appointed solely to do this work. I wish to know, in this connexion, how many Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been trained by this man in X-Rays. I think a Sub-Assistant Surgeon can be appointed to look after this work."

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Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, last year, I had brought a similar motion in this House. This Radiologist is not a medical man, but only an electrician. He was brought to Madras on a short term of agreement for the purpose of training medical graduates and under-graduates for one or two years. After coming over here he was given a permanent berth. Just like my friend Mr. Appalanarasayya, I asked last year how many Assistant Surgeons were trained ever since he arrived here. I am yet waiting for the reply."

" Then Sir, the amount of pay that he is drawing is Rs. 1,000. Even a doctor on the Indian Medical Service cadre does not get that amount to start with. An ordinary electrician, with no medical training, to get such a large pay, is really something extraordinary. This work is managed in other parts of the world by doctors. This man is not a medical man. As he is, he would not be able to diagnose diseases. He simply takes the photo and hands it over to doctors for examination. Such being the case, this can be done by anybody. The best thing for the hon. the Minister is to give notice to this man and send him away. Meanwhile, let us send a medical man to undergo training either in England or Dehra Dun or wherever electricity is taught as a special subject. Further, I am told, I am speaking subject to correction, that if this gentleman does any private work for any private men, the private men are charged a certain amount of fee and out of that fee a certain proportion goes to the pockets of this man. This is very unfair. He is already paid very high. In addition to that, he is allowed a certain proportion of the fees which he collects from private people. The whole of that amount ought to go to the Government coffers. With these few words, I press this motion."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, it has been observed that the work of the Radiologist can be conducted by any Assistant Surgeon. It is a matter for experts to pronounce any opinion upon. It has been found that the appointment of an expert officer as a Radiologist was a long-felt want. As a matter of fact, in Captain Bernard we have a very competent Radiologist, who has to his credit expert services of great value, and during the last one year he has done a good deal of work in the General Hospital. The Radiologist is in charge of an X-Ray institute where not only the most up-to-date development of Radiography but also all sorts of electrical treatment are indispensable. Questions have been asked as to whether the Radiologist has trained any of the Assistant Surgeons. He was appointed in 1920; he has already trained two men; and he is now training a third officer. The idea is that when these officers are trained, even the mufassal institutions will have the benefit of an X-Ray institute. In modern surgery, the services of a Radiologist are absolutely necessary, and I am sure my hon. friend Mr. Rama Rao, as a medical officer, will not deny that fact. This officer was entertained on a short term of contract; but in 1921 it was decided that he should be appointed permanently, and that is the reason he is now holding the permanent appointment on a pay of Rs. 1,000 to 1,500, and it is not possible to get the services of another man on the same pay. Therefore, I find it difficult to comply with the request of my friend, Mr. Appalanarasayya."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" Did he train only three officers? Why should he not train more ? "

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" He has trained two and he is to train one more."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" He is training only one a year f "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" That is due to the fact that people are not coming forward to undergo training in Radiology."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I feel thankful for the information placed before us by two of the medical members of our Council. We have been told by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that the Radiologist was first appointed on a short-term contract and that subsequently he was made permanent. I wish to know the circumstances under which it was originally thought that a temporary appointment on a short-term period was enough. I wish to know if it was not thought that after he had trained some Assistant Surgeons locally, it would be possible to have the further work carried on by local Assistant Surgeons. I wish to know again if that was the original understanding, why the system was changed, why his office was made permanent and why the Assistant Surgeons have not been found competent to continue the work. If the original object with which he was appointed was to give training to the existing local officers, and if the object also was that officers trained locally would be in a position to carry on that work, why has that principle been changed and why has he been made permanent? I think it is useful to have more detailed information on these points. It was also pointed out that it was not possible to have another officer on the same pay. I should like to know whether any special steps were taken to secure the services of such officers by advertisement or other known processes, and whether all these attempts have failed and it was found necessary to make him permanent. I think before we can accept this demand, it is better we have more detailed information on these points."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, this gentleman, the Radiologist, gets for every private case 96 per cent of the fee that he charges. I want to ask the hon. the Minister in charge whether if it is a proper proportion, seeing that he is using the Government installation kept at a very great expense and that he is also drawing a high salary. He is a Government servant and he is expected to devote his whole time and knowledge for the benefit of the public, for whose interest the installation was established. I should think that 4 per cent is a very poor return to the Government. I doubt whether any remuneration beyond his pay of Rs. 1,000 is admissible to him. Even if there should be any remuneration, it should be only nominal and not 96 per cent as it is reported to be."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the Radiologist has been doing excellent work during these two years, and his work in the General Hospital has shown that the services of a permanent man are necessary. It has been suggested that this Radiologist is accepting fees from private patients. For the matter of that, every Professor of the Medical College and every officer in charge of a medical institution is allowed to have private practice. This 4 per cent referred to by my hon. friend, Dr. Rama Rao, is charged for his use of the implements which belong to Government. As to the question of there being any other Radiologist available here, it is known that in India, there is not much of radiology in evidence. We have no Indians available, and if we advertise for one from England the chances

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are that he would demand more than Rs. 1,000 a month. Under these circumstances, it has been found necessary to continue the appointment of Captain Bernard."

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao (*rising to speak*).

2-45 p.m. The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has already spoken."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Yes; but I have the right of reply as having moved the motion."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member only supported the motion moved by Mr. Appalanarasayya Nayudu who has now got the right of reply."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" I wish only to say, Sir, that the fees so charged should be credited to the Government since he is a Government servant and the work is done in the hospital."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I have already explained to the Council how the fees are adjusted between the Radiologist and the Government. I have no objection to have the question examined by the Retrenchment Committee when the Committee consider the questions relating to medical institutions."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 161.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" Sir, the motion which stands in my name reads--

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,280 for the training of a Military Assistant Surgeon in X-Rays by Re. 1.

Sir, if the Military Assistant Surgeon is paid Rs. 380 a month for being trained in X-Rays, I wish to know whether he has not got other duties to attend to in the General Hospital; if so, why not debit this amount under that head? Granting that it is necessary to have an Assistant Surgeon trained in X-Rays, I ask why should a Military Assistant Surgeon be chosen for the purpose. He may be called away at any time for military duty and then we shall lose the benefits of the amount that we spend on him. Therefore, I ask why a Civil Assistant Surgeon cannot be given the training, so that he may be always available to us. We do not see any such item in the last Budget, and therefore I ask what is the necessity for it this year."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" I support the motion, Sir."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I have already explained, Sir, that two officers have already been trained and a third is to be under training this year. No Civil Assistant Surgeon would be coming forward to undergo training in Radiology. Hence it was necessary to have a Military Assistant Surgeon trained. The hon. mover has asked me why it is that these people are given their pay during the time of their training. As a matter of fact, when they undergo training they are not given any other work. Hence it is that this amount is treated for this particular course of training."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the fact that there will be a course of training in Radiology was intimated to all Assistant Surgeons and whether no Civil Assistant Surgeon was willing to undergo the training ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes. The fact was intimated and no Civil Assistant Surgeon was willing to take up the offer. "

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I am surprised to hear this, Sir. "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I cannot help it, Sir ; it is a fact. "

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" I beg leave to withdraw the motion. "

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 162.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,23,354 for matrons and nurses by Re. 1.

I move this motion with the object of elucidating from the hon. the Minister what has been done in fulfilment of the promise which he made to this House last year when he said that the Government had taken steps to train Indian nurses both in the women's hospital and in the Gosha Hospital in all branches. The hon. the Minister then said that, when they came out of the training, they would be treated in the same manner as the European nurses. I submit, Sir, that from what I hear, nothing has been done to justify that hope. On the other hand, the reports I get from the Indian nurses in the General Hospital are very discouraging. They are put into sheds which cannot be called houses. They have no common room. They are not treated like ladies, and they are not paid enough. If the nursing institution is ever to succeed in this country, and if we are to have respectable Indian nurses, this is not the way to proceed. You must recognize the fact that if you want a good article you must pay for it liberally. Even so with the nurses ; if you want good nurses, treat them generously and respectfully. Indian ladies are by nature too shy to enter new fields and therefore additional care is necessary in this matter. I spoke about it during the Budget discussion last year and the year before last, and I do not see that anything has been done to improve the state of affairs. It is true that because a small private hospital had begun the work, the Government also took it up. If they are to look to it, they can do it on a decently grand scale with all their coffers at their disposal. But I am sorry to see that it is not done properly. I beg to suggest that if we want to have properly trained respectable Indian nurses to cater to the wants of patients and not to be ever depending on the small community of Anglo-Indians, something generous, something liberal, something radical should be undertaken. I propose that instead of indenting for matrons on Rs. 300 and Rs. 500 from England, the local assistant matrons may be promoted to head matrons, and respectable Indian ladies be trained in nursing. Give them a scholarship of Rs. 50 a month, and, when they pass out, put them in a grade ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150. That will work out at only 50 per cent of the expenditure that is now being incurred on European and Anglo-Indian nurses. The

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European and Anglo-Indian community is a very small one and the bulk of the people are Indians, so that it is only natural that we should go on improving in medicine and nursing as we have been hoping to in other walks of life. This step must be considered urgent and necessary and adopted at once. If the hon. Minister will kindly assure the House that something will be done this year at least in this direction, I shall be satisfied and withdraw my motion."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, the difference between the Indian and the Anglo-Indian nurses is shown not only in the pay but also in the tuition given. When the Military Surgeon instructs the nurses he is paid Rs. 50 ; when the Civil Assistant Surgeon teaches the nurses he is paid only Rs. 25. The Civil Assistant Surgeon is far superior to the Military being better qualified but he is paid less for giving instruction to the Indian nurses."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I am in full sympathy with the object of the motion. But at the same time, Sir, the real difficulty is that it is almost impossible to get well-trained Indian nurses. Two schemes have been tried, one to train nurses in the Gosha Hospital and the other in the General Hospital. Both of them have not been so far successful. In the General Hospital the nurses are reported to have refused to work in men's wards. However, Sir, the Government have sanctioned recently a reorganization of nurses according to which both Indian and European or Eurasian nurses will get the same pay provided they have the same qualifications, and it is also arranged to have nursing institutes started in six mufassal hospitals. It is expected that in course of time there will be more Indian nurses coming forward to take their place in the hospitals of the Presidency."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" I am thankful to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for the assurance that the Indian nurses will in future be paid at the same rate as the Eurasian nurses provided the qualifications are the same. It is very easy for him to see that the qualifications are the same for he will get the proper persons if he will only apply to the Principal of the Queen Mary's College and the various high schools and boarding institutions of the Presidency. Of course, at first, the response will not be quite satisfactory and we will get only a small number and that, with hesitation. A good deal of persuasion and kind treatment will be necessary to break the ice. But when the first batch of people pass out and are installed as nurses on Rs. 75 on the same status as the Eurasian nurses, an impetus will be given to the movement and I am sure more women will flock to the nursing profession as there are ever so many who are wanting a profession but are afraid to tread new fields. As I said, it requires a little caution and generous treatment at the outset. With these words, I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 163.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,11,300 for Presidency Hospitals by Re. 1.

" My object in proposing this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the need for treating the local bodies substantially in the matter of

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medical aid. Sir, I would only point out that the expenditure incurred in previous years on the Presidency hospital when compared with the expenditure proposed to be incurred in the next year is more than double. For, while in 1917-18 it was 7.05 lakhs, in 1923-24 it has gone up to 16.63 lakhs. In the course of these five years while the expenditure on Presidency hospitals has shown this increase, the treatment accorded to the mufassal hospitals who are the agency to carry medical relief in the mufassal is not so liberal. Far from it, the expenditure on them is in inverse proportion. Sir, the burden cast upon the local bodies by way of contributing to the services of the medical subordinates lent by Government which stood at 4.25 lakhs in 1920-21 has increased to 6.44 lakhs in 1921-22, to 6.55 lakhs in 1922-23 and in the coming year it is estimated at 11.65 lakhs. So the amount now to be borne by the local bodies is three times as high as it was in 1920-21. At the same time, the grants to the local bodies afford them no relief actually. It will be found that the grants to medical establishment and for buildings were 1.43 and 1.50 lakhs respectively in 1918-19 and in 1921-22, 1.07 lakhs for establishment and .47 lakh for buildings. In 1922-23 the figures show 2.30 for medical institutions and in 1923-24 the Budget provision is 5 lakhs. The grant that is at present proposed to be given to relieve the local bodies will really absorb the whole excess amount that they are to pay to the services of medical subordinates. How far the grant of 5 lakhs to the local bodies is going to relieve them of the current expenditure they have to incur by reason of taking charge of medical institutions it is quite easy to see. It is nothing more than a makeshift arrangement by which five lakhs are taken at one place and added at another and the grant can in no way be considered to afford them any relief. On page 157 of the budget, the total expenditure on mufassal hospitals and dispensaries is shown. Deducting recoveries from local bodies to the extent of Rs. 11.31 lakhs, the net cost is Rs. 8.44 lakhs. Last year the net cost for mufassal hospitals and dispensaries was Rs. 12.94 lakhs and the year before it was Rs. 12.24 lakhs. While the net cost incurred by Government on mufassal hospitals and dispensaries charged to provincial revenues is reduced by Rs. 4 lakhs in 1923-24, the amount paid by local bodies to the Local Government is increased by 5 lakhs: it was 6.25 lakhs in 1922-23 and in 1923-24 it is Rs. 11.31 lakhs, so that the cost to provincial revenues is thus reduced by 5 lakhs this year in connexion with these mufassal hospitals and dispensaries. Lower down, we find in the budget under the head 'Grants to hospitals and dispensaries' a contribution to local bodies towards the cost of medical institutions of Rs. 5 lakhs and lump grants for medical buildings, etc. I submit therefore that there has been absolutely no help at all given to the local bodies and that this item of grants to local bodies for medical institutions is not a real contribution, because what local bodies are asked to pay by way of 11 lakhs or an excess of 5 lakhs is simply being reproduced in the other head by way of grants.

"In these circumstances I submit, Sir, that the Government are adopting a policy which is highly prejudicial to the local bodies. Sir, this morning, if there was any one thing on which we were all agreed, it was this: that elementary education was to be considered a national charge and that Government ought to take it up as such, treating the local bodies as agencies for the spread of elementary education. I urge, Sir, that the same view must be taken of medical aid also. It is one of the national duties of

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the State, and the local bodies should be treated as mere agencies through whom the medical aid is given. I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member, practically anticipating this thing, has evidently stated that, if it comes to this, either you will have to give liberal grants to local bodies or the Government should take over the control of the medical institutions and run them themselves. That is a suggestion which in the speech introducing his Budget he has given . . .

Mr. E. S. LLOYD:—"On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. gentleman in order in criticizing, on a motion relating to Presidency hospitals, the policy regarding mufassal hospitals? His argument is directed to the contributions to mufassal hospitals."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I have moved a resolution to reduce the allotment for Presidency hospitals with a view to show the disparity in the treatment between the presidency hospitals and mufassal hospitals, and one of the ways in which this House can effectively deal with such a thing is by comparing the treatment accorded to Presidency hospitals with that accorded to the mufassal hospitals. So far as mufassal hospitals are concerned, the policy of the Government should be as liberal as it has been with regard to Presidency hospitals. That is my point in moving for a reduction in the grant to Presidency hospitals. While Presidency hospitals command greater attention from the Government, we from the mufassal are entitled to say that it is the duty of the Government to give greater relief to the local bodies in this respect, in addition to the usual grants given to the local bodies. Sir, it will be found clearly stated in the report of the Financial Relations Committee appointed in 1920 and presided over by no less a person than the hon. the Member for Revenue, that medical relief should be treated as an item that must form part of the provincial revenues and that liberal grants should be given to local bodies on that account. They recommended that one half of the total cost of the medical institutions should be paid by the Government, and in their financial forecast they estimated that the share which may fall to the provincial revenue would be 9.11 lakhs to meet this extra cost, and the Government paid only 1.47 lakhs in 1919-20 in aid of the medical institutions under local bodies. They proposed that all minor sanitary grants might be dispensed with and that an average of the minor sanitary grants for previous years which might come very nearly to the amount of excess expenditure which the Government were called upon to undertake might be given. Now, Sir, the Government have accepted that portion of the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee which was favourable and acceptable to them, namely, that the minor sanitary grants should be done away with. What about the other part of the recommendation, namely, that an average of the minor sanitary grants be given in the form of a grant in aid of medical institutions? The Government is considering and considering it and has passed no orders at all. . . ."

Mr. E. S. LLOYD:—"On a point of order, may I say it has nothing to do with the subject of Presidency hospitals?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"That is the way in which by proposing a nominal reduction in a particular item they choose to traverse other subjects."

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Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“Thank you, Sir, for the ruling. It will be seen, therefore, that while this portion of the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee, which immediately relieved the responsibility of the Government to contribute to local bodies, has been accepted, the other portion as regards the suggestion to regularise the system of helping local bodies in place of the minor sanitary grants, has not been accepted. Sir, from the very beginning of this Council we have been asking whether the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee will be given effect to or not; and it was said that they were under consideration. At last, in this Budget, the Government say that they cannot accept the recommendations of the Committee but that they are going to have a better report by appointing a new committee. We all know that committees are appointed for the purpose of doing some good, and though our experience of committees is that their reports are all shelved, in this case, we find only that portion of the report which favours the local bodies is shelved while that which concerns the Government has not been shelved.

“I submit, therefore, that having regard to the step-motherly treatment accorded by Government to local bodies in respect of mufassal medical institutions, and having regard to the way in which medical institutions in Madras are treated, we, the representatives from the mufassal, must raise our voice of protest against the way in which the Government treats the local bodies and request the Government to see its way to accept that portion of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee which goes to the relief of local bodies. I therefore request the hon. the Minister and the Government that their first effort should be, in so far as any saving that may be effected by reason of the betterment of the excise revenue mentioned by the hon. the Finance Member in his Budget statement circulated to us is concerned, to utilise that income for the purpose of relieving the local bodies by giving effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. Sir, having been here for three years, and having had the report of the Financial Relations Committee for three years, it will be sad to be told that the report of the Financial Relations Committee will not be given effect to, but that some other report will be called for. For what purpose, we know not. If it be for the purpose of lightening the liabilities of the Government we oppose it; but if it be for bettering the condition of local bodies we welcome it. I hope this House will strongly support the request to Government to accept the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in so far as this particular point is concerned and to give effect to them immediately, if necessary by bringing in supplementary grants for this purpose.

“For these reasons, I move my proposition.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Lloyd, objected to the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, on the ground that what he was saying did not relate to Presidency hospitals. I hope, Sir, he will have no reason to lodge a similar complaint in regard to what I am going to say. I shall confine myself to hospitals in Madras and refer to some irregularities which, one is constantly told, are taking place.

“First of all, there is a difference in regard to the treatment of Indian patients and Anglo-Indian and European patients. It is often said. . .”

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“How is that question relevant to the discussion, Sir?”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“I suppose there is something like dietary and medicine charges, etc., included in this allotment for Presidency hospitals, and I think I am within my right in referring to this question of diet and medicine.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“I think the hon. Member is right in referring to that question.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Very well, Sir. As I was saying Indian patients are not treated in the way they ought to be. They fare worse than the Anglo-Indian and European patients. For example, I would refer to one of the orders: that refined country arrack should be prescribed to Indian patients instead of brandy. This I think, Sir, is a very invidious distinction to make between one class of patients and another.

“Again, Sir, taking the question of diet in general, I find the cost varies very much between one hospital and another. In fact, last year, I ventured to bring this to the notice of the hon. the Minister. I said at that time:

Taking, Sir, one item, cost under diet, I find Rs. 1,45,790 were spent at the Government General Hospital, Rs. 56,960 at the Royapuram Hospital and Rs. 17,363 at the Royapettah Hospital. Of course, we have to take into consideration also the number of in-patients treated in these different hospitals, so that we may arrive at the relative cost per head. In the General Hospital the number of in-patients was 8,610, in the Royapuram Hospital 5,250 and in the Royapettah Hospital 2,717. The average, if it is worked out, will be found to be about Rs. 16 per head in the General Hospital, Rs. 10 in the Royapuram Hospital and Rs. 3 in the Royapettah Hospital.

“I think this may be partly due to the preferential treatment accorded to the European and Anglo-Indian patients. Even so, this difference cannot be fully accounted for in my opinion. I asked last time whether the Minister would look into the question and try to obtain some satisfactory explanation in regard to that.

“In the matter of purchase of medicines, I said:

As regards the medicines in the General Hospital Rs. 60,000 were spent; in Royapuram hospital Rs. 46,000; and in the Royapettah hospital Rs. 8,996. I wanted to see, Sir, whether the number of patients treated in these different hospitals varied in the same proportion but there is nothing of that sort, so far as the Royapuram and Royapettah hospitals are concerned.

Well, Sir, the difference has been really due to the purchase of more bazaar medicines in one hospital and less in the other hospital. That again was one of the points I submitted for consideration to the hon. the Minister, and I should like to know what has been done in regard to that matter, whether he has taken any steps to bring about economies in the direction pointed out last year.

“As regards the General Hospital, there are one or two things which, if true, should be looked into without any loss of time. We are told that the physicians there really use the hospital wards for their own private patients. These patients need only to have private consultation with the doctor and pay the usual fee of Rs. 15, and immediately arrangements are made for receiving them in the hospital. . .”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Can the hon. Member substantiate his observation?”

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"That is an open secret and I do not think that either the hon. the Minister or anybody else is ignorant of these things. It is generally talked about that the surgeons and physicians have been putting in private patients in the hospital. I do not say that every surgeon does it. But my belief is that there are some surgeons and physicians who do use the hospital for the convenience of the patients who consult them privately. This is one thing. . ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I am afraid, Sir, that the statement is quite unwarranted."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I think that it was given currency in the public dailies of this town. I want to know if the hon. the Minister has taken any trouble to contradict the definite statements made in the papers. Well, Sir, he does not answer. I take it then that there is no satisfactory answer to be given for these things."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM :—"I want to know whether the hon. Member has brought in any specific instances to the notice of the authorities."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I am not going to be cross-examined by the Minister as well as the Council secretaries."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Is the statement based on any anonymous communication in the papers, or was the article subscribed to by any man of position?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Many charges made in the public press, though anonymous are immediately denied by the Government in communiques and Publicity pamphlets wherever it is convenient for them to do so; and I do not see why in this particular matter, my hon. friends are anxious to distinguish between anonymous and responsible articles."

"Well, Sir, I am told that in the General Hospital there is no covered corridor between different blocks of buildings and that patients who have to be carried on stretchers have to be taken in the sun and they are put to very great inconvenience. That is a thing which may be looked into. I have other things to say which probably I may say in connection with another motion."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, has been jealous of the treatment accorded to the Presidency hospitals. I am afraid he forgets the fact that God has created only one heaven for many worlds. So far as Madras is concerned, it is the Presidency town, and the institutions here should be ideal institutions and serve as examples to the mufassal institutions. It is therefore necessary that they must be kept in the best order possible. As to the treatment accorded to the mufassal hospitals, I have no doubt that if only our financial position could enable us, the Government would have gladly given greater financial relief to the local bodies in the matter of administering medical relief to the people. But, unfortunately, during these two or three years, on account of financial depression, it was found impossible to extend our generosity any further. My hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, referred to the figures of 1922-23 and 1923-24. The charges recoverable from other Governments, departments, etc., are Rs. 8,44,600 in 1923-24 and

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Rs. 12,92,100 in 1922-23. My hon. friend forgets the fact that while contribution to the local bodies towards the cost of medical institutions in 1923-24 is 5 lakhs, it is 2.30 lakhs in 1922-23."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"Sir, may I point out that according to the budget estimate for 1922-23, a sum of 5 lakhs was budgeted for while a sum of only 2.30 lakhs appears to have been spent according to the revised estimate."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"A portion of it was given credit to towards recoveries from local bodies."

"It was pointed out that there was some variation between the cost of the diet and the charges in the General Hospital and other hospitals in Madras as compared with mufassal hospitals. Probably, the General Hospital is more costly because it has got a very costly establishment; while the other hospitals have got a less costly establishment. Anyhow, Sir, I will look into the several Presidency hospitals and see whether they can be brought more in unison with one another."

"My hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has referred to certain practices which he says are prevalent in the General Hospital. I emphatically repudiate that there is anything of that sort. If the newspapers indulge in such reckless allegations, it is not for the Government, unless they are subscribed articles, to enter into an examination of these facts. As a matter of fact it has not come to my notice that any such practice is prevalent either in the General Hospital or in any other Presidency hospital. As to the general question that medical relief should be a national charge, it cannot be denied that it is a semi-national charge, if not a national one. It is the duty of the Government to help local bodies as far as their financial position permits them to do so. As I have already stated, on account of the financial stringency, we have not been able to do better than what we are doing now, but I am sure, that as soon as our financial position improves, the local bodies can hope to get a greater share of help from the Government."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"Sir, the hon. the Minister stated that I viewed with some jealousy the treatment meted out to the Presidency hospitals. May I make it plain, Sir, to the hon. Members of this House and through them to the outside public that I have absolutely no jealousy at all against the Presidency hospitals? My only request is that the same liberal treatment should be accorded to the mufassal hospitals as is done to the Presidency hospitals. I do want that more money should be spent on the Presidency hospitals as well as the mufassal hospitals. I do not want to say that money saved from the Presidency hospitals should be spent on the mufassal hospitals. That is not at all my point. My only point is that while ample provision is made for the Presidency hospitals, similar provision may be made for the mufassal hospitals also, and that their interests should not be ignored or forgotten."

"With regard to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee it is stated that owing to the stringency of the financial position, it has not been possible for the Government to give effect to their recommendations. May I enquire, Sir, whether the same financial stringency would not have operated in the case of the Presidency hospitals? The only reason that I can

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assign is that these headquarter hospitals get the ears of the Government much sooner and they get at the hands of the Government a treatment much better than they actually deserve.

"With regard to the contribution to the local bodies, I am glad that the hon. Minister promised to examine the matter carefully. I hope that before the end of the year, the Government will willingly and cheerfully decide to bear one half of the charges of the medical institutions in the mufassal. I hope that relief will soon be given to the local bodies.

"Before I close, I wish to say once again that the question cannot be better examined by any other committee of greater status than the Committee which examined it in 1920. I beg to remind the House that that Committee was presided over by no less a veteran of local bodies than the hon. the Revenue Member. Many other experts, like Mr. Lloyd and Surgeon-General, Giffard, served on the Committee and they all submitted a unanimous report. I hope that the Government will give effect to their recommendations very soon."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 164.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 to lady doctor by Re. 1.

My object in making this motion is to get information as to what work this lady doctor is doing and as to why any overseas allowance should be paid to her."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I have also tabled a similar motion simply for the purpose of ascertaining why a provision of Rs. 150 for overseas allowance is made in addition to the pay of Rs. 450 rising up to Rs. 850. I also want to know whether the lady has to be got from England or whether she is to be an Indian lady?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, she is an Indian lady belonging to the Indian Medical Service for Women. She is entitled to overseas allowance because she belongs to that service."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 165.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for chemico-legal purposes by Re. 1.

Sir, I want to know why a sum of Rs. 4,000 is allotted under this head. Though a sum of Rs. 4,000 was provided in the Budget estimate for 1922-23, only a sum of Rs. 1,000 was spent as noted in the revised estimate for that year. The accounts for 1921-22 show that only a sum of Rs. 104 was spent during that year."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"That is for the upkeep and the repair of the instruments that will be required for the post-mortem examination."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 166.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,44,600 for mufassal hospitals and dispensaries by Rs. 1,000.

Sir, at the outset, I may say that I have absolutely no objection to any place being declared a heaven, and as I have occasionally to come to this heaven, I will be glad if its pleasures are increased. I want to know what is the opposite of heaven. Is it that all the mufassal places which are not entitled to be heavens are to be the other thing? This motion is intended to make them at least ordinary human worlds. So far as these hospitals are concerned, I think my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, has fairly stated that while the one place which is already heaven is receiving more pleasures to increase its happiness, the other worlds are still where they were; not a pie is given to them to increase their pleasures and make them more enjoyable. In spite of the fact that we are all supposed to be progressive, we may say that, so far as the grants to the mufassal hospitals are concerned, the increase is practically nil. In view of the fact that we have had several windfalls in the course of the last few days, we want to know whether the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries can expect any help from the Government.

"In this connexion, I want to bring to the notice of the Government another matter. Until more money is available for the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, I want to know whether the Government have any idea of utilizing the services of private practitioners for these hospitals and dispensaries. We know that private medical practitioners have all along been crowding in the headquarters and they have not been going to the mufassal for private practice, because they are afraid that they cannot expect sufficient encouragement there. I therefore think that it is necessary both in the interests of the Government as well as in the interests of the private practitioners themselves that their help should be utilized by the Government in the mufassal. The private practitioners might be put in charge of some of these dispensaries and some allowance might be given to them. In several places, whenever this question of the opening of additional dispensaries arises, we know that the Government have invariably been answering that there will not be sufficient work in that place for a full-timed medical officer. I am sure that if sufficient encouragement is given, the private practitioners will be prepared to go and settle in mufassal taking charge of dispensaries.

"As regards the question of using hospital medicines for practice, I wish to point out, without wounding the susceptibilities of the medical practitioners or the hon. Minister in charge of the department, that there will be no harm in the mufassal if the medicines are given to patients. In the mufassal the hospitals being the only places where medicines can be had, there can be no objection to allow this practice to continue. In fact, in many places, a small charge of two annas is taken for the medicines."

[At this stage Rev. W. Weston took the Chair amidst applause.]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Therefore, Sir, that question need not startle us; because, as a matter of fact, even now

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the officers in charge of these dispensaries are utilizing the medicines in these dispensaries for the benefit of their own patients. The point has already been raised in connexion with the hospital at Coonoor,

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which is a big hospital, viz., whether a private practitioner may or may not be one of the officers connected with that hospital. But the case becomes more acute in places where there is no hospital or dispensary and where dispensaries can be started in large numbers if only the suggestion of appointing private practitioners, not as full-time officers, but only as half-time officers, comes to be adopted. Even though Government cannot make a heaven of such hospitals in the mufassal, they can at least make them like the ordinary world where people can go for treatment with safety. This can be done if only some petty sums are spent and some private practitioners are asked to take charge of them. Local bodies which are for increasing the number of dispensaries will thus be in a position to get the services of these people. This is a very important matter and I suppose it is at present engaging the attention of Government. If there is no objection, we shall be much obliged to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government if he says that he has this point under consideration, or that there is a chance of its being considered by the Government.

"One other point which I wanted to discuss in detail, and about which so many hon. Members also are anxious to know, is about the Committee on indigenous medicines presided over by Dr. Usman Sahib. We were told a few days ago that their report would be submitted to the Government shortly. I suppose that it has been submitted since and that the Government are considering the matter. Before the Government come to any definite conclusion regarding this and before they publish their orders, I would request the hon. the Minister to publish the report and invite the opinions of the public on it. We do not, of course, want the official correspondence to be published, but at least the report may be placed on the Editors' Table so that people may be in a position to express their views before the Government come to any definite conclusions on it. With these few words, I beg to make my motion."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to say a few words on this motion to bring up the question that was raised by my friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, on an earlier motion. The provision that is now under consideration is not the contribution that is paid by the Government for the running of the mufassal hospitals by the local bodies. It is expenditure incurred by Government for the maintenance of institutions under their own charge. These institutions were taken over by Government from the local bodies only a few years back. It was part of the policy, I suppose, that is now sought to be pursued by the hon. the Finance Member with reference to the relief that is to be given to the local and municipal bodies. When these institutions were under the control of local bodies, they cost them about a quarter of what they cost Government at the present moment. So, the net result of taking over these institutions from the local bodies is the raising of the cost. Not only is this the case in regard to these institutions, but in almost every institution, whenever it is maintained by a local body, the cost is always very much less than what has to be incurred by Government whenever they take it into their head to have it under their own control. That has been the result in every case, whether it be an educational institution, a medical institution or any other institution. In this case also as I said the cost of running these hospitals and dispensaries has mounted to about four times the figure at the time when they were being run by the local bodies.

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I am putting the question straight to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whether he is going to adopt the same policy with reference to the other hospitals and dispensaries also which are still under the control of the local bodies, and whether, if that is the advice which the hon. the Finance Member is prepared to give him, he is prepared to accept it. There is also the question of proper maintenance of these institutions and the expansion of medical relief in the local areas. If the other institutions under the local bodies are also going to be taken over by the Government, what is to become of all this expansion? That is a question which has to be seriously tackled. Are the Government going to say that they are going to take over, say, some 50 more institutions and run them themselves supplying the medicines, etc., or are they going to say that any further relief which has to be given should be undertaken by the local bodies themselves? That is a very serious question which will have to be considered before the proposal made by the hon. the Finance Member is accepted. There is the other question also, viz., the question of Local Self-Government. In all these cases, the idea is that those matters which very nearly concern the people ought to be managed by the local bodies locally and that it is only then that the best out of those institutions can be obtained. But we are going back upon that idea and we are going to centralise them. This is the effect of the advice given. I would request the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to consider this question seriously before he commits himself to any view. This, I may repeat, is a very serious question and affects the whole future policy.

"Then, there is the second question, viz., the relief that is going to be given to the local bodies. As I have said, if these institutions are going to be taken over by Government, they will cost a good deal more than what they will cost the local bodies themselves. At present, Government give a very small proportion of the expenditure on these institutions to local bodies. The total cost of medical institutions under the charge of local bodies which is borne at present by Government is, I think, about one-twelfth. Out of a total cost of about 26 lakhs, Rs. 2 lakhs and odd is all that is being given by the Government to meet this expenditure of the local bodies. As I said, if these institutions are going to be taken over by the Government, they will cost the Government not 26 lakhs, but very much more than that. So, for doing this work, what is the contribution that the local bodies should be given? This is a matter which the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will have to clearly define. The Financial Relations Committee, about which Mr. Muniswami Nayudu spoke so much this morning, has stated that half the cost should be borne by the Government. Calculating on this basis the share to be paid by Government it will come to 12 lakhs; whereas Government have provided only 5 lakhs for contribution to be paid to local bodies; and I would request the hon. the Minister to consider whether he cannot raise it and put it on a satisfactory basis. Last year, the relief that was given was not based on any proper basis. What was given was a certain percentage of the additional pay which the medical officers were getting. The pay of these officers was raised by the Government without consulting the persons who had to pay it. Then, Sir, a proportion of that additional pay was all that the Government said they would undertake to pay to the local bodies. This is a very unsatisfactory state of things. The contribution from Government ought to be based on a proportion of the total

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expenditure that is incurred on the medical institutions. The Financial Relations Committee recommended 50 per cent, and I would earnestly request the hon. the Minister to accept that recommendation. But in case the hon. the Minister is not in a position to accept and give effect to it in the coming year, I would at least request him to distribute the money at his disposal on a percentage basis that we might know on what basis it would be advanced and could ask for a further grant on the same basis, if necessary. This ought to be the method on which the distribution of grants should be made and it should not be done in a sort of haphazard fashion.

"I would also request the hon. the Minister to tell us what he is going to do with the 12 lakhs which are proposed to be given this year in addition to the usual contribution. I am sure the House will pass without any difficulty this additional 12 lakhs provided in the Budget. I should like to know what the proposals are for the distribution of this sum among the local bodies. A substantial portion of it should, I think, be included in the grant for medical relief. If 7 lakhs are taken out of it, this sum, together with the 5 lakhs that is provided now for contribution, will come to 12 lakhs, which will be 50 per cent of the expenditure that is incurred by the institutions. This will give a substantial relief to most of the taluk boards and municipalities that are now working at a deficit. So I would earnestly appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to consider this suggestion which will also help him in finding a solution to the chronic state of poverty and bankruptcy of many of these local bodies about which so much was said by the hon. the Finance Member. I should very strongly take exception to many of the remarks made by the hon. the Finance Member the other day, and I shall no doubt take an early opportunity on some other motion of replying to those remarks. At the same time, at present, I would earnestly request the hon. the Minister to consider these suggestions and try to put the taluk boards and municipalities on a sound financial basis. With these few words, I support the motion."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the question which I wish to raise on this motion is the adequacy of the arrangements made for medical relief in the rural areas. The hon. the Minister just now informed us that there was an increased provision under this head for grants to local bodies and he wished us to understand that it was not possible for him to secure increased provision for the purpose of medical relief in the rural areas. There is no doubt that the present facilities for medical relief in the rural areas are quite inadequate, and if we consider the institutions for medical relief distributed among the various districts, there are varieties of circumstances and it will be found that in several districts the medical relief provided is very inadequate, coming to very little. The problem for consideration is whether anything has been done within these two or three years for the purpose of providing additional medical institutions in any district in the Presidency. It is true that last year a provision of 5 lakhs was made in the Budget estimate, though only Rs. 2,30,000 were spent out of it. In the year to come, another provision of 5 lakhs has been entered in the Budget. Can the hon. the Minister tell us whether the amount which had been provided for last year went to any substantial extent for the purpose of opening additional hospitals or dispensaries in the various rural areas in the Presidency? So far as I am aware, Sir, almost the whole of the amount which the Government were in a position to place at the disposal of local

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bodies was utilized for the purpose of paying the increased salaries and allowances of officers. Let it be remembered in this connexion that the local bodies had no free voice in the matter. If the local bodies had the freedom of making their own arrangements regarding the pay and allowances, that would be one thing. They were called upon to pay all these officers who were lent to them by the Government at the rate prescribed by the Government; and as the increase was about Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, all the increased provision made by the Government was practically taken up for the purpose of giving them the increased salaries and allowances. I am not jealous, Sir, of the treatment accorded to the Presidency hospitals. It is quite true that we are not in a position to have our hospitals on up-to-date lines as hospitals in the Presidency town. But what I complain is that, when the Government were in a position to provide additional funds for introducing reforms and having modifications carried out in the Presidency hospitals, it has not been possible for them to provide additional facilities for hospitals in the rural areas.

"I find from the memorandum of the Budget, page 54, that the provision made for the year 1922-23 for the expenditure under the head of 'Medical Establishment' is Rs. 8.07 lakhs. In the revised estimate for that year the expenditure is Rs. 10.04 lakhs. In explaining the increase of expenditure this is what is stated:

The increase in the Revised estimate is mainly under reserve medical subordinates and under medical establishments in the mufassal. The Surgeon-General explains the increase under reserve medical subordinates as being due to the necessity for keeping medical officers on reserve duty owing to the inability of local bodies to open new hospitals and to the debit to this head of the travelling allowances of officers in local fund and municipal institutions transferred by the Surgeon-General on his own initiative.

"I wish to confine my attention to this question of provision for reserve medical officers on account of local bodies. It shows the consciousness on the part of the Government that the local bodies may open new hospitals, and that Government should provide for reserve medical officers. Under these circumstances I wish to ask if Government ascertained the capacity of these local bodies to open additional hospitals and made provision for that purpose. It is true that in the case of institutions opened after the year 1915, the Government agreed to pay half their cost. Even in giving effect to that intention, there have been several difficulties in getting sanction from the Government. Government have made no definite provision for opening new hospitals in the case of the local bodies. The provision that is made in the budget for opening new hospitals is highly unsatisfactory, whatever may be the increased provision made for appointments, under this item or that item. It is on this aspect that I wish to lay emphasis. I wish that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government makes it a point not merely to satisfy himself for having provided two and a half lakhs or five lakhs for some items which are not of use to us, but that he should make a definite and distinct provision for the purpose of enabling the local bodies to open new hospitals in the year to come. If this is not done, I believe the expenditure provided will be highly unsatisfactory.

"I shall have to speak about the want of provision for hospitals of Ayurvedic and Indigenous systems of medicine. I do not speak on this point now. I have tabled a motion for the reduction of the total grant by

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Rs. 100. When I speak on that motion, I intend to speak about the Ayurvedic and Indigenous systems of medicine and about hospitals giving such treatment."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I realize, Sir, that there has been a great deal of disappointment felt by the members of this House in regard to the provision made for the financial aid of the mufassal medical institutions, particularly those managed by local bodies. I have already stated to the Council that this is mostly due to the fact that the financial position of the province has not been what it ought to be. I hope, Sir, as soon as the financial position improves there will be greater relief given in one shape or another."

"My hon. friend from Coimbatore has raised a very interesting point in the course of his debate. He has asked me whether I have considered the question of allowing private practitioners to attend hospitals as honorary surgeons and physicians. I am glad to tell him that this very question is now engaging the attention of the Government. Some time back, when I visited Palghat, I saw a private hospital maintained by private practitioners. The hospital showed me an encouraging illustration of what private enterprise could do if only it was encouraged by the State. This question is engaging the attention of the Government just now."

"He has also asked me what the policy of the Government is in regard to the suggestions and recommendations made by the hon. Mr. Usman's Committee. Well, Sir, the report has been submitted, but we have had no time to investigate into the several questions raised in that report, and I shall certainly accept the proposal of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, to have the report published in the papers so that the public may have a chance of informing the Government how the proposals of the Committee should be improved or whether they should be accepted as they are."

"My hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiar, also raised several important questions. He referred to a remark made by my hon. colleague, the Finance Member, in regard to the policy towards the institutions now managed by local bodies and asked whether they ought not to be given greater financial aid from the State. That is not yet settled, and, I believe, most of my hon. friend's remarks were really not called for, because so far as the administrative side of the policy is concerned, it is for the Minister and not for the Finance Member to decide."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIAR:—"I only said, Sir, that an advice had been given by the hon. the Finance Member, and that I hoped and earnestly requested the hon. the Minister not to accept it."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Then he also raised the question as to how the 17 lakhs would be distributed among the local bodies. He wanted that a particular proportion, viz., 7 lakhs, should be earmarked for grants to medical institutions. This is a matter we have to decide after consultation with a committee which the Government propose to appoint ere long."

"Then, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, asked if the Government were going to have new medical institutions brought into existence. As a matter of fact, this matter is engaging the attention of the Government. A committee has been recently appointed to decide how these medical institutions ought to be maintained hereafter. According to the proposals

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tentatively submitted by that Committee each taluk should have a medical institution, and, as for the rest, it is left to the option of the taluk board or local board concerned whether it should maintain it or not. But that is only a tentative proposal and the matter is still under investigation. With these assurances I trust my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I believe it will not be disputed that the medical aid available particularly in the mufassal is quite inadequate. It is, I think, necessary that medical aid ought to be given on a more extensive scale than is at present done to the people particularly in the mufassal. Whatever may be the efforts that may be made by the Government to increase the number of hospitals and dispensaries in the mufassal, I think that it will not be possible for them to increase them to so large an extent as to render medical relief available to all people. The western system of medicine is certainly a very useful one; but, as I submitted, though the Government may be prepared to spend a lot of money, it will ultimately touch only a very small section of the people. The only way, it seems to me, of remedying this defect is to establish hospitals and dispensaries based on the indigenous systems of medicine in different parts of the Presidency, on Ayurvedic and Unani systems. Some schools for these systems of medicine may be established in different parts of the Presidency and competent teachers may be appointed in them. Lecturers on Anatomy and Physiology may be appointed and they may be recruited from the graduates of either the Madras Medical College or any other medical College in India. Then a scheme of examinations for these students studying the indigenous systems of medicine may be adopted and those who have passed such examinations may be brought under the discipline and control of an officer to be appointed for the purpose. If such a system as this is adopted the people in the Presidency will be considerably helped. I may say, Sir, that such a system exists in the neighbouring State of Travancore, where it is found to work very well. There is an officer who is at the head of this department, called the Ayurvedic department, in that State, who is a graduate of the Madras University, and he is one who is well-skilled both in the theory and practice of the Ayurvedic system. Ayurvedic dispensaries have been established all over the State and they are under the control of the head of the department. I am sure my hon. friend, the Minister for Local Self-Government, has himself seen and, I am told, appreciated this system very much during his recent visit to Travancore. On a recent occasion, when I had the privilege of presiding over the Local and Municipal Conference in Tinnevely, I referred to this subject at some length and the Conference unanimously passed a resolution recommending to the Government the establishment of such schools, hospitals and dispensaries, and I believe the Government will find their way to accept the recommendation of that Conference. As regards the expenditure that will be incurred for the establishment of such hospitals, I may boldly say that the cost will be immensely less than what would be required to establish hospitals and dispensaries on the western system. I hope that the hon. the Raja of Panagal will bear this in mind and be able to find some funds out of the 30 lakhs so that he may divert them for the adoption of this suggestion."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I also should like to support the motion before the House. In doing so, I should like to associate myself with my

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hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, in the remarks that he made. In the course of his reply, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government referred to the question of financial stringency. May I be permitted to say that this question of financial stringency was not allowed to stand in the way of reductions being effected under certain heads of departments in order to allow increases under other heads beyond their legitimate claim? In this state of things, it is rather difficult for me to follow the arguments of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government with reference to the question of financial stringency. I submit it has no real meaning.

"In the course of the debate, a great deal of discussion centred round the provision that has been made to the Madras City Hospital. We have absolutely no quarrel for any amount being allotted to the Madras City Hospital for its being equipped on up-to-date and modern lines.

"But all that we submit is that the world is too big and that there may be big heavens and small heavens. We do not therefore want that mufassal stations should be relegated to the back-Hospital ground or should be treated as hells or worse than hells.

"Now, coming to one item, viz., the diet of the patients in mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, an allotment is made for two lakhs. Compared with this, is an allotment of 3,80,000 for the Presidency hospitals which I dare say are few in number. All that I submit is that there is a great disparity so far as the allotment is concerned. A large number of hospitals spread all over the Presidency are grouped under the category of mufassal hospitals and dispensaries. My friend, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, bitterly complained in the course of his speech of the difference of treatment that exists, or is supposed to exist, between two classes of individuals. I have absolutely no desire to raise a racial issue or racial question. The figures are there and they speak for themselves. I beg the Chief Minister to apply his attention to this question and see if he cannot make up his mind to raise the amount allotted to the mufassal hospitals."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I must say, Sir, that I am perfectly satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Member in charge of the department and I am very glad to withdraw."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 167.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,760 for Lawrence Memorial School, Lovedale, by rupee 1.

That school, Sir, is intended for a particular community. Such being the case, why should we grant an amount of Rs. 8,760 for a particular purpose? They do not allow other Indians to get into the schools. I therefore object to it."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, the Lawrence Memorial School is a sort of charitable institution maintained by endowments and other fees. If the Government are helping this institution it is by means of a grant. Instead of giving a money grant they are placing at the disposal of this

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institution the services of a medical officer. In fact, Sir, it is nothing more than a mere grant given to a charitable institution for whomsoever it is intended."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"If a grant is not to be given to this school simply because others are not allowed into it, I do not know how Government is giving a grant to various sectarian institutions such as the Pachaiyappa's College and others."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 168.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,98,600 for hospitals and dispensaries by Rs. 100.

As I indicated already I wish to raise on this motion the question of the desirability of the Government offering definite encouragement to Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries and hospitals in the various rural tracts of this Presidency. I may inform the Government and the House that one of the main remedies which may be adopted to solve the problems connected with medical relief is the establishment of indigenous hospitals and dispensaries in large numbers in mufassal centres. The Government were good enough to encourage the establishment of these hospitals and dispensaries not by grants of money, not by any allotments from provincial funds, but by allowing local bodies within their own resources to maintain, help or establish them in the districts. In reply to a question, the Government merely stated :—

We have no objection to local bodies taking steps in that direction.

It will be remembered that this question has been before this Council as also before the public at least during the last nine years and steps have been taken from time to time to induce the State to afford direct encouragement to such institutions, the chief reason being that people have still faith in indigenous medicines. Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has already drawn the attention of the Government and the House to the fact that a committee appointed in pursuance of the almost unanimous decision of this House set to work immediately and made its recommendations. The report is now before the Government. It will be noticed that that Committee lost no time in acquainting itself with the condition of similar institutions in various parts of India. Under the presidency of the hon. Mr. Usman it travelled to the various important cities in India where such institutions exist, collected information from eminent doctors and satisfied itself that the indigenous system of medicine is based upon scientific principles and that it deserves encouragement at the hands of the State. If I find it necessary to press this question at this stage, it is because the Committee,—I can assure the hon. the Minister—worked under great pressure, and lost no time in finishing the examination of various witnesses and in drawing up its report with the sole object that the Government would be able to make a budget provision for Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries in 1923-24. If the Committee took considerable trouble to even select the witnesses to be examined, it is because they thought that valuable time would be lost in deciding this question, and because they thought that the Government should be pressed to come to an early decision with the hope that they would be able to provide funds for institutions to be started in 1923-24.

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"The hon. Member said that Government have not yet come to a decision, and that they will publish the report and ascertain further views. May I inform him that they may publish the report, but they should not allow the publication of the report to be an excuse for further prolonging the decision? So long, Sir, my sad experience is, that when the Government are not ready to come to an early decision, they again publish reports for discussion and for opinions. This will take months together and no result will be arrived on it. Though I agree that the report which certainly furnishes sufficient materials for the Government may be published, I would particularly request the hon. the Minister to see that its publication will not form a ground for putting off the decision on this question which has been awaiting solution at least for the last nine or ten years.

"It is an acknowledged fact that the maintenance of these indigenous institutions will cost much less than those institutions where we have allopathic systems. We may inform the House that these are problems which are awaiting solution at present. Several taluk boards in my district passed resolutions suggesting the closure of the existing institutions and suggesting the establishment of institutions with Ayurvedic systems of medicine. Those resolutions were passed; but because the Government have not come to a decision on the matter, it was with very great difficulty that I could induce them to have patience and wait before they would launch at once upon a scheme of converting one institution into another. The reason which induced them to take this course is this. To maintain the present institutions at a high cost is a thing which is beyond their means. If on the other hand, they are encouraged to establish other institutions with doctors trained in well-known Unani and Ayurvedic colleges and institutions, it is certain that the cost of maintenance will be much less and within their means. I am therefore mentioning to the hon. the Minister that at present there are local boards which think that the time has come to introduce the indigenous systems, in the interest of economy. If the Government wait long to come to a decision they will be placed in a very unfortunate position, unless they are in a position to say 'We will find funds for such institution'.

"Sir, I am aware that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is himself interested in the solution of this question. This question was considered at a meeting of this Council two years ago and there was no difference of opinion expressed here. Should we, even after the publication of the report wherein we find opinions of medical men who were examined and cross-examined, wait long before introducing steps in that direction? I would particularly request the hon. the Minister, even before he makes a financial provision for these hospitals, to note that the time has come for a declaration of policy so far as these institutions are concerned. We have waited too long. Time was when, in 1913-14, this department of medical relief was in the hands of the Indian Member of the Executive Council, and when a resolution was brought by me the reply was, 'This has to be decided by those who have a knowledge of the Western system of medicine. We have no means of deciding this question and therefore we cannot do anything at present'. I hope that will not be the reply of the Minister chosen by the people. That was the reply eight years ago. Now at least we are entitled to ask for a clear declaration of policy so far as these medical institutions are concerned. As for the funds, let the Minister come with supplementary grants as early as possible for an early solution of this

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question. These three years we have been pressing the Minister. Now at least we hope that he will not ask us to wait for any further time. With these words I move this motion."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"This is a motion for the reduction of a total grant. I take this opportunity to know one thing from the Chief Minister. The Government were pleased to issue an order in 1920 to establish a Medical College at Vizagapatam and also a Medical School at Guntur. But both these are deferred hopes. We know, as a matter of fact, that applications for admission to the Medical College at Madras are about 400 to 500 every year, and only 100 students can be taken into it. We know what useful work was turned out by the Medical School at Vizagapatam; and how medical education has spread among the Telugu districts is within the knowledge of most of the members of this House. In these circumstances, I request the hon. the Minister to come with a supplementary demand very soon to fulfil the promise of the Government and the orders that have been already issued by the Government. We know that it is not an order issued by this Government. But I think in the ordinary continuity of policy the present Minister will keep the promises that have been already made by the Government in the past."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, hon. Members of this House may be aware that in the course of the general discussion on 4-15 p.m. the Budget, I referred to this question of encouragement of the system of indigenous medicines and complained that no provision had been made in the Budget for this purpose. My hon. friend Mr. Krishna Rao dwelt at great length on the need for the encouragement of this system. To my mind, we have gone far beyond the stage of argument and persuasion in regard to this matter and have come to the stage of action. I wish to know, Sir, from the hon. the Minister what provision he is going to make for the furtherance of the object which has been long ago recommended by the committee and what steps he is going to take to further that object. That committee was a very representative one, composed of Hindus and non-Hindus, Brahmans and non-Brahmans, Christians and Muhammadans and the conclusions arrived at are unanimous. I think that at least a majority of this House are quite enthusiastic about the promotion of the indigenous systems of medicine and I wish only to know whether the hon. the Minister is going to fulfil the hopes he has held out to us."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I quite sympathise with the hon. Members who have spoken in favour of the rapid expansion of the indigenous systems of medicine in this Province. There are to my knowledge three systems of medicine. The first is the *Siddha* system. The difficulty here is that even Tamil Scholars cannot understand correctly what a certain term really means, whether it stands for a particular drug or for certain other drugs. If many mistakes are made by quacks, it is because of the lack of knowledge of the particular technical terms which are used in a very ambiguous sense in all the old treatises of medicine. The second is the Ayurvedic system. Here we have men quite conversant with western science and western methods of preparing medicines and also deeply versed in Sanskrit literature, combining, therefore, the advantages of what has been handed to them from olden times with the latest researches of medical science in the West and preparing medicines which are really very efficacious remedies. I know in very many villages these Ayurvedic medicines are very freely used.

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"Thirdly, we have the Unani system, and many people, especially those who happen to live in the midst of Muhammadan brethren, have the knowledge and experience of the beneficial effects of Unani treatment.

"When we come to the question of cost, I think there is hardly any difference between any of these indigenous systems and the western system of medicine. I suppose we have to pay very often much less both for the medicines sold in pharmacies and for medical treatment at the hands of an L.M.P., than we have to pay for medicines prepared according to Unani or Siddha systems and for medical treatment at the hands of experienced Indian doctors. Again, considering the general apathy and ignorance of the people, I do not know whether the hon. the Minister or the Government or even the Members of this House who are responsible for the welfare of the many millions of people whom they represent here, will undertake the responsibility offhand of encouraging all these systems or enabling those who profess proficiency in these systems but hold no certificates to open pharmacies or medical shops anywhere and everywhere. My hon. friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar suggested the appointment of a medical superintendent. I doubt whether those who are well-versed in all these Indian systems will submit readily to the conditions laid down by a medical superintendent. There ought to be somebody, a duly certified doctor—Ayurvedic or Unani—or someone else who is looked up to as an authority in those systems, for issuing certificates to the effect that a person practising medicine has undergone a regular course of system, has undergone a regular apprenticeship and may therefore be safely trusted to prescribe or to diagnose. In the matter of hospitals, I do not think it will be more costly to have a hospital such as the local fund hospital with a responsible officer and one or two compounders than to have an Ayurvedic or Unani hospital in rural areas. There is a philanthropic gentleman in Trichinopoly, Prasanna Venkateswara Rao, who has opened a beautiful hospital at Srirangam which is very popular. But all the same the municipal hospital is equally and even more popular. This shows that naturally people have greater confidence in hospitals conducted and run by, and staffed with, men who have undergone a regular system of training in medical schools and who can diagnose diseases properly and are known to devote themselves whole-heartedly for the welfare of the people. These are things which will have to be very carefully considered before we embark on a policy offhand of allowing a number of these Indian doctors who have a knowledge, perhaps a smattering knowledge, of medicine, to begin to practise."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the course of his speech, the hon. mover has referred to the Minister himself being interested in the solution of the question. That remark of his is significant. At all events, he saves the Government from the charge of being not sympathetic with this question of giving encouragement to the indigenous systems of medicine. As hon. Members are aware, a committee was appointed with Muhammad Usman Sahib as president. The committee toured through the important stations in the presidency and have submitted a report quite recently. In this connexion, I must say that the thanks of the Government are due to the distinguished president and members of the committee. They have spared no pains in making the report as complete as possible. Sir, the report was received by the Government only a few days back and as my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has suggested, it is necessary that the report should be published, so that the public may have a chance of criticizing

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the proposals of the committee. Sir, my hon. friend, the mover, thought that by taking time, there may not be an opportunity to make provision in this respect in the coming year's budget. Sir, the report was received by the Government practically after the budget was presented to this Council. So no provision could have been made in the budget. But at the same time I assure hon. Members that no opportunity will be missed to make a provision as early as possible, even by re-appropriation, as soon as a decision is arrived at upon the proposals submitted by the committee. In any case, Sir, it is necessary that the report should be published. It is only then that we will know how far those proposals will stand the test of criticism. The hon. mover also advised me that I should, as soon as possible, make a declaration regarding the policy. I give him the assurance that, as soon as possible, I will make a declaration of policy in regard to this important question.

"Sir, my hon. friend from Vizagapatam has introduced his hobby in this connexion. He has asked me what became of the proposals to open a medical college at Vizagapatam and a medical school at Guntur. These are proposals which have been for a time in the air and I am sorry that effect could not have been given earlier. But however attempts will be made to open these institutions in July next year. (*Cries of hear, hear.*) I hope there will not be much difficulty in finding funds, because the Medical Department have been able to effect a great deal of retrenchment. If my hon. colleague, the Finance Member, were here, I would have appealed to him to expedite the consideration of the financial position to enable me to open these institutions in July next. I hope that with this assurance my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 169.

Rao Rahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 24,500 for investigation of hookworm disease.

This is a subject which has come before this House year after year, and I do not want to weary the House by repeating what I have said already, namely, that it is almost an universal disease, that 95 per cent of the population are reported to be suffering from it, that the medicines used for the treatment of this disease are very few and that they are being very carefully investigated by scientists after scientists. India is not the only country where this disease prevails. The richer and more advanced countries in the west suffer from this disease and have liberally allotted funds and encouraged their medical graduates to undertake research work in this field. It is, therefore, in my humble opinion, superfluous at this stage of financial stringency, to embark on a separate investigation of our own. The United States' Government have sent down a doctor who seems to have been doing some work recently. Dr. Marcara has been doing some work in the southern districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, etc., for years and he has sent very valuable reports to journals and has contributed considerably to the literature on the subject. If anything more is to be done, we have the King's Institute of Preventive Medicine at Guindy whose staff is being paid on a very liberal scale and they can very well undertake the work, if, for nothing else, at least to justify the Institute's name. I therefore consider that it is inadvisable and unnecessary to incur this expenditure. If anything

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has to be done and the Surgeon-General has any special scheme, it can be entrusted to one of the Members of the Provincial Medical Service who can work in one of wards of the General Hospital with the help of the small laboratory attached to it."

4-30 p.m. Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to support the motion made by Dr. C. B. Rama Rao."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is already settled that 99 per cent of the people of this presidency have got hookworm, and so instead of wasting money . . .

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Am I to understand, Sir, that the doctor opposite disputes that proposition ?"

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" It is almost settled by the members of this profession that 99 per cent of the people of this presidency do harbour hookworm, and the only thing left is to give them treatment. So instead of wasting this money on further investigation, I strongly urge that this money may be utilized for the treatment. With these remarks, I support this motion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, Mr. President, it is because 95 per cent of the people are affected by this disease, we should spend much more money to make our people efficient. One of the most characteristic features of this disease is lethargy. Not to speak of the serious consequences of this disease on the health of our people, we have to consider this most important fact, namely, that our clerks and labourers are not doing the proper amount of work which they are expected to do if they are not affected by this disease, only because they are suffering from this disease. So in order to make our clerks, our labourers, and even our statesmen (*Laughter and cries of 'Hear, hear'*) more efficient, it is our duty to see that we have got a special establishment to attack this disease. The Rockefeller Institute very long ago sent an expert officer, and our assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons are being trained under him. This establishment is only temporary for one year or so, and as soon as most of these people are trained, the department will be transferred to the district medical authorities."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Here again, Sir, I am placed in a very unfortunate position. There is divergence of opinion among the doctors themselves."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHARAJU :—" Doctors do differ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes, doctors do differ and so in this case the Government are placed in a difficult position. Are we to follow the doctors opposite, or the doctors on this (right) side of the House ?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" It would be safer to follow the doctors on this (left) side."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" Even if doctors differ, we have 3 for, and 1 against."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" But there is the Surgeon-General sitting there (*pointing to the Secretaries' bench*) and I have had the benefit of his opinion, and I cannot ignore it altogether."

"Well, Sir, whatever it is, the hookworm campaign is not merely a campaign by investigation and treatment, but it is also a campaign of education by way of propaganda work, and that has been done most economically

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by this Government as the pay and allowances of the specialist are met by the International Institute of New York. Sir, as Dr. Rama Rao himself admitted, this has been more or less a general disease in this presidency. As such, the havoc that it is doing among the people of this presidency is very considerable, and it is necessary therefore that the Government should take special care in this connexion. As a matter of fact, the work that Dr. Keneric has been doing has been fruitful in relieving thousands of people from this most fell disease. As a matter of fact, he has recently begun an intensive campaign not only of giving treatment but also placing before the people the fact that if they are treated for this disease, their general health would improve. In these circumstances, it would be not only bad economy but cruelty on the part of the Government to put a stop to this treatment."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, if the hon. the Minister can assure us that he will put a stop to it, I am sure the House would be willing to vote not only this amount but ten times more than that. But I know, and the public also know, the impossibility of doing it. What is required is to improve the general health of the people and teach them how not to infect the soil, and this requires health propaganda all over the presidency not merely in the towns where Dr. Keneric may cater to a few thousands. There are millions to be catered for, whom he cannot possibly reach. I think this expenditure would be a sheer waste of money. I do not say that it does not do any good, nor do I say that investigation is not necessary. What I say is that it is being done by more competent, richer and better provided persons, who have got laboratories, and we need not waste money, from the poor man's point of view."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I cannot quite follow the argument of my hon. friend. He says that investigation is being done elsewhere. Does it mean that we should not do it? He says that the benefit does not reach all people. Are we to desist on that account from pursuing it? If at least we can reach some people, it would be a great thing. Under these circumstances, I am afraid I cannot accept the motion."

The motion was put and declared lost.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao demanded a poll. When it was about to be taken he said : " May I withdraw my request for a poll ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" No, that cannot be done."

The poll was then taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 6. Mr. M. Suryanarayana Pantulu. |
| 2. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 7. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghaya Ayyar. | 8. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 9. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 5. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 10. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| | 11. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 4. The hon. Rai Bahadur K. Venkataraddi Nayudu. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. |

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Noes—cont.

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| 7. The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 25. Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 26. „ P. T. Rajan. |
| 9. „ A. Y. G. Campbell. | 27. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti |
| 10. „ C. Madhavan Nayar. | Nayudu. |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 28. Rao Bahadur C. Venkata Ranga Reddi. |
| 12. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 29. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam |
| 13. „ E. Periyannayagam. | Nayudu. |
| 14. „ A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 30. Mr. S. Muttumanikkaohariyar. |
| 15. „ S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 31. Rev. W. Meston. |
| 16. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 32. Mr. A. T. Palmer. |
| 17. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti. | 33. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 18. Rao Bahadur T. Ealaji Rao Nayudu. | 34. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampam. |
| 19. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 35. „ C. R. T. Congreave. |
| 20. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 36. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul-Razaq |
| 21. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikaohala Chettiayar. | Sahib. |
| 22. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 37. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 23. „ B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 38. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 24. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 39. Mr. A. M. MacDougall. |

The motion was lost, 11 voting *for* and 39 *against* it.

The time allotted for the Demand No. XVIII, Medical, having expired, the demand was put to the House and carried. The grant was accordingly made.

DEMAND XIX—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, I beg to move Demand No. XIX for a grant not exceeding Rs. 21-90 lakhs for Public Health and Vital Statistics.”

MOTION No. 170.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, I beg to move that—

The allotment of Rs. 42,200 for Assistant Directors of Public Health be reduced by Rs. 16,500.

Sir, the allotment that is made in the budget is for five assistant directors, and my object in making this motion is to reduce the number of Assistant Directors from 5 to 3. Last year I raised the question of the policy of having these Assistant Directors and posting them in the mufassal and giving them jurisdiction over a number of districts. Then I pressed the view that there was no necessity for a number of officers like this to go and do inspection work simply multiplying the work of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers and Presidents of Local Boards. Then the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government was pleased to say that as soon as district health officers were appointed, he would consider the question of reduction. The Government have passed an order that district health officers are to be appointed in each district from the 1st April next. So, the time for the consideration of that matter has come and I press before him the necessity for reducing the number and taking away the present work from these officers. The work I would suggest to be done by the men to be retained is somewhat like this. I do not want that there should be any territorial redistribution of work among these Assistant Directors. I do not want them to be brought in as a sort of intermediaries between the district health officers and the Director of Public Health. It has been our complaint in regard to all departments that without any necessity such middlemen and middle officers have been created in large numbers, and I do not want that in this Public Health Department another link should be forged which we would have to get rid of later on.

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“ Also there is no necessity for these officers. There will be the district health officers who will be looking after the health conditions of the districts. I am very doubtful of the necessity even for the district health staff. There is another motion tabled with reference to that. So, I do not want to take up any time of this Council on that matter. There is absolutely no necessity for these intermediary officers. I am prepared to allow three people to continue and for these reasons. One will be in charge of the statistics in the office as at present; one will be for general assistance, and he will go and inspect where necessary; and the third person will be in charge of epidemics and pilgrim centres as at present. So, Sir, these three men will be quite ample for the needs of the Presidency and the two additional officers are quite unnecessary. With these words, I move the motion standing in my name.”

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—“ Sir, I beg to support the motion. I do not think the intermediary officers are of any use. The Surgeon-General can manage the department with the help of the local officers. These assistant directors cannot supervise the health conditions as efficiently as the local officers. I am not talking now of the district health officers. There is a separate motion on the subject. With these words, I support the suggestion made by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiayar.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, Sir, the provision of Rs. 42,200 is intended to cover the pay of the five assistant directors of public health. In fact, there were six appointments of assistant directors sanctioned but on account of the financial stringency the Government decided to keep the sixth place vacant last year, and this year too they have adhered to the same decision. That is the reason why we have made provision only for five assistant directors.

“ This cadre began long ago with one Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. In 1913, two more appointments were sanctioned, and the last of the three appointments was made only in 1918 for want of proper candidates. In 1920, the Surgeon-General proposed to have the strength increased to six and the Secretary of State sanctioned it. In spite of it, the Government thought that it was not necessary to appoint the sixth officer. My hon. friend from Coimbatore reminds me of the assurance I gave him when this question was discussed in this Council at the time of the last Budget. It is true that I did tell him that the Government would consider the question of reduction when the health officers are given to the districts. Now that the district officers are likely to be given to the districts it is time for consideration and I assure my hon. friend that the matter is already engaging the serious attention of the Government, and in fact proposals have been made for reduction although no decision has been come to as yet. I can assure the hon. Member that there is every possibility of reduction, and with this assurance I expect my hon. friend to withdraw his motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 171.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“ Sir, I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 80,845 for District Health Officers and special pay.

Sir, I do not deny the importance of public health. On the contrary, I am one of those who think that enough money has not been spent on the improvement of health in the districts. But I wish to know the special

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reason for the creation of a new department throughout the Presidency. So far as my experience goes, I am unable to find any immediate cause which can justify the formation of this department. But in my quest for information on this matter, I came across a Government Order—G.O. No. 1096, L. & M., dated 21st June 1922—from which I found out how the whole scheme was based upon the Government of India's sanitary policy. The organization proposed therein seems suited to the purposes which the Government have in view, but in actual practice it will absorb a very large sum of money. There is also reference in the Government Order to the strong support the scheme received at the hands of local and municipal conferences. This was considered a sufficient justification for introducing the scheme. But I am afraid the scheme has been launched without a thorough examination. Beyond serving the mere object of getting a larger concentration of authority and the credit of controlling an army of officers whose work is chiefly advisory, I do not think that the country is going to get any substantial benefit in proportion to the expenditure involved. Generally speaking, all that these new officers are asked to do is to attend to such kinds of work as can easily and more efficiently be attended to by non-technical local officials and men of common sense. This work is not of a nature which requires the skill of a highly trained staff. The funds we can command for such purposes are very limited, and so, going into the question a little more in detail, let us find out the nature of work that is expected to be turned out by this costly establishment. The works proposed to be done by this highly trained staff are well-digging, converting step wells into draw wells, cleaning wells and village drainage and removing congestion, etc. Among contagious diseases, cholera, plague and smallpox are said to be included in the scope of their work. Vaccination is said to be included in this new department. I ask: what is the defect noticed in the existing arrangements?

"Then, again, there is difficulty in supervising this work. The new staff cannot do this work as efficiently as the local board presidents and members of local boards and municipalities. On account of the transference of the local fund work from the hands of the district revenue officials, they have lost all interest in that line of work. I admit to a certain extent the difficulty of the presidents of local boards and chairmen of municipalities who are honorary gentlemen and also mostly very busy people to devote sufficient time to supervise their works.

"It is said that the present sanitary staff is inexperienced, but no reasons have been given as to how they were found inexperienced and how the existing system was a failure. The failure is certainly not due to the low grade of the sanitary staff, but it is due more to want of funds and supervision. Apart from being merely advisory, what this superior staff is going to do I cannot for a moment understand. From the experience I have had of my district where outbreaks of contagious diseases are frequent, these sanitary staffs, which are called special plague staffs or cholera parties, have not done or suggested anything more than what the village munsifs, unions or panchayats, and people of common sense, are by experience capable of doing. What they actually do is to put some potassium permanganate into the wells or do some advisory work. So, no case can be made out for the creation of this costly staff.

"Sir, in examining the provision made for the health officers, we shall find that a sum of Rs. 1,74,000 has been taken from grants to local boards from the allotment usually provided for the improvement of second-class roads.

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And this new district health department is said to be a rapidly growing one. I think, Sir, the whole scheme inaugurates a very dangerous policy. The importance of road improvement is subordinated to this newly created health department, while everywhere the cry is for more and more money for improving communications in rural areas, viz., the second-class roads. We are told that the appointment of health officers was made in five districts as an experimental measure only so recently as last year. We have not been favoured with an account of this experiment. It is too soon to decide the success or failure of this experiment. I think it is better to wait some time more and decide when we have known the result of the work of these health officers in the five districts. We cannot afford to lose one pie out of the allotment for the improvement of roads in rural areas. We know the hon. the Finance Member has understood well the importance of road improvement; for, I remember, he hinted in his last Budget speech that our country, when compared with advanced western countries, was the least taxed in point of improving the resources of local boards. It is a well-known fact that the conditions of our country, as things stand at present, will not permit of any further taxation. So, any new undertaking to which we commit ourselves will land us in future difficulties in that line. Unless we, as experienced men, are able to turn to better account the resources that we now command to the satisfaction of our own conscience and of our electorate, we have no right to subscribe ourselves to schemes which will ultimately lead us to consent to further taxation.

"We are now increasing the number of panchayat courts, unions, co-operative societies and such other bodies in rural areas. Why cannot these institutions, which possess better knowledge of local conditions and requirements, be induced to undertake these works? We have also heard that certain co-operative societies in rural parts have voluntarily discharged similar public duties to satisfaction in their respective areas. Why cannot inducements, by way of grants of money, be given to increase their interest and to make them feel a sense of responsibility? If such and similar lines are adopted instead of spending money on the creation of establishments, much useful work will be turned out and the money allotted for it now will go directly to serve the object. And when its usefulness is appreciated by the masses, then only will be found a feeling of satisfaction among the rural population. What these panchayat courts, unions and societies might feel here and there, apart from the want of money grants, is their incapacity to carry out effectively their duties for which certain powers might be given to them wherever necessary. Medical relief was said to be very insufficient in the rural areas as expressed by hon. Members on the previous resolution. These funds may well be utilized in opening dispensaries in suitable centres in the mufassal. The officers in charge of these institutions may be made to do some supervising work also under the local boards. Unani and Ayurvedic systems, which are much cheaper, may with greater advantage be introduced as we hear much of their popularity and success in several localities in the Madras city.

"With these words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House."

The House adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 20th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

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

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

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

Second vernacular test for deputy collectors.

913 Q.—Mr. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

(a) the standard of second vernacular required to be passed by (1) deputy collectors, (2) district munsifs and (3) probationary sub-registrars ;

(b) what is the total amount of travelling allowance paid to probationary sub-registrars in the year 1921-22 for attending the second vernacular test ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that great hardship is experienced by the low-paid probationary sub-registrars in passing the second vernacular test just like deputy collectors and district munsifs and whether they propose to abolish the system in future ?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to answer given to clauses (1) and (3) of question No. 916.

(c) The answer is in the negative to both parts of the clause.

Distinction among certain Government officers regarding peons allowed to them.

914 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any distinction drawn between the following officers, or whether they are all ranked as gazetted officers :—

- (1) Deputy Collectors,
- (2) District Registrars,
- (3) Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies,
- (4) Deputy Directors of Agriculture,
- (5) Assistant Directors of Agriculture ;

(b) the number of peons allowed to each of the abovesaid officers ; and

(c) why a distinction is drawn between these officers in the matter of allowing peons ?

A.—(a) All the officers referred to are Gazetted officers.

(b) Deputy Collectors, Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies and Assistant Directors of Agriculture are ordinarily allowed two peons each, District Registrars three peons each and Deputy Directors of Agriculture four peons each.

(c) The number of peons is fixed with reference to the work to be done.

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Reduction of menial establishment by the Director of Office Systems.

915 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(1) to lay on the table a statement showing the number of peons, attenders, muchis reduced by the Director of Office Systems in 1922 and 1923—

- (a) in the Madras Secretariat offices,
(b) in all other departments of the Presidency arranged according to caste; and

(2) to state how the Government intend providing these menial servants with livelihood?

A.—The recommendations of the Director of Office Systems have resulted in the abolition of 23 posts of attenders and peons in the Secretariat and 6 such posts in other offices. Seven of these posts were filled by acting men and seven by men who had earned their pensions and who have accordingly been admitted to them. Eleven of the remainder have been provided for in other offices. Of the four who have not been provided for two are non-Brahman Hindus, one a Muhammadan and one an Adi-Dravida. Endeavours are being made to find places for these men in other offices in which vacancies exist. Should these fail, they will be given the gratuities to which they are entitled under the rules.

Second vernacular test for deputy collectors, district munsifs and probationary sub-registrars.

916 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the standard of second vernacular required to be passed by (1) deputy collectors, (2) district munsifs and (3) probationary sub-registrars;
(b) whether it is a fact that probationary sub-registrars and probationary lower subordinates in revenue are exempted from passing the second vernacular test; and

(c) the amount of travelling allowance paid to probationary sub-registrars in the years 1921 and 1922 for attending the second vernacular test?

A.—(a) The information is given in the following statement:—

Indian deputy collectors and district munsifs.	European deputy collectors.	Probationary sub-registrars.
I. Conversing with accuracy and fluency in the vernacular.	I. Conversing with the examiner or with natives of India on subjects likely to occur in the performance of professional duty, in the transaction of ordinary business or in the course of every day life.	I. Conversing on subjects calculated to test the candidate's colloquial knowledge of the vernacular. Hand-writing in the vernacular shall also form a distinct item of the examination.

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Indian deputy collectors and district munsifs.	European deputy collectors.	Probationary sub-registrars.
II. Reading with fluency or translating correctly two or three arzis or other official manuscripts written in a plain running official hand.	II. Reading fairly and translating with accuracy an original vernacular letter or report of moderate length and difficulty in the language of the district.	II. Reading printed matter fluently.
III. Taking down in English evidence given in the vernacular and asking questions thereon in the vernacular.	III. Rendering into English a vernacular report read out.	III. Reading fluently two manuscripts, one written in a plain running hand and the other a petition or similar paper.
IV. Dictating an order on a given subject in the vernacular.	IV. Dictating an order on a given subject in the vernacular.	IV. Translating printed matter into English.
V. Translating in writing with fair accuracy of idiom and grammar an easy passage of English prose relating to Indian subjects and containing no words that have not familiar vernacular equivalents; such passage shall, as far as possible, bear upon questions connected with the department to which the candidate belongs.		V. Translating into the vernacular an easy piece of English relating to subjects connected with the department.

- (b) Probationary lower subordinates in the Revenue Department are not required to pass a vernacular test. It is exceptional for probationary sub-registrars to be exempted.
(c) The Government are unable to collect the information within the time allotted for replies to questions.

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XIX—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS—*cont.*MOTION No. 171—*cont.*

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now resume discussion on the Budget for the year 1923-24."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, the object of the allotment, which my hon. friend from Coimbatore proposes to omit, is to provide for District Health Officers in all the districts. These officers, Sir, are required to collaborate with and control the District Health Staffs, which is the intention of the Government to constitute for all districts in accordance with the scheme which they have announced in their order No. 1096, dated the 26th June 1922. This scheme itself, Sir, is the result of more than a year's long and anxious deliberation of the Public Health Department in regard to the very vital question of the public health of this province. Sir,

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hon. Members are aware that the civilized world has at last come to realize that disease prevented is better than disease treated, that well-managed sanitation is more welcome than even medical relief, and that, in fact, if the former is properly cared for the need for the latter will be practically nil. And yet, Sir, what have been our endeavours hitherto in connexion with the sanitary arrangements of this province? It is true, Sir, that the Government have been spending a considerable amount of money upon cholera parties, Deputy Sanitary Inspectors and so forth, and some of the District Boards have had Sanitary Assistants. But of what good were these parties and these individuals to secure sanitary benefit to the Presidency? The cholera parties had their headquarters in Madras and were to go to the affected areas when occasion arose; but, unfortunately, as a rule, before these parties arrived at the affected area the disease used to have done its worst. As to the Sanitary Assistants, they were, if I may say so, a set of ill-trained and ill-equipped officers who were never known to have done anything substantial. The Government have now proposed to disband the Cholera Parties and other establishments and, in their place, to constitute a regular staff of Health Officers for all districts with the staff well trained in the theory and practice of sanitation. These establishments do not cost any extra expenditure to the Government, and, in fact, if anything, they cost less than the cholera parties and deputy sanitary inspectors. It is true that the district boards have to pay for the health officers of the districts, but they would be having regular establishments of Health Staffs by paying for the Health Officers alone, and even that out of a provincial grant given to the general resources of the local boards.

"Sir, under the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee grants have to be given to the local bodies only for services rendered. Now, what the Government have announced in their Order of the 26th June 1922 is that out of the grant of 17 lakhs and odd, one-tenth should be devoted for the appointment of these District Health Officers. Moreover, Sir, under the provisions of the Local Boards Act, the district boards have to appoint health officers whenever, in the opinion of the Government, the appointment of these officers is necessary. The Government of India have been repeatedly addressing this Government as to the urgent need of the appointment of health staffs in the districts. In these circumstances, Sir, where is the ground for complaint of the local bodies? They have been asked to devote a portion of the grant hitherto given for general resources for this particular purpose. Sir, the House may remember that in the coming year's Budget provision has been made for a grant of 17 lakhs for the wiping off of the deficits of the local bodies. And, when the financial position of the Government improves, it is likely that more liberal relief will be granted to the local bodies. In these circumstances, Sir, I fail to see the reason why my hon. friends are against the health scheme.

"The scheme has been approved by very great authorities on health questions such as Dr. Heizer, the head of the International Health Association of New York and Sir Claude Hill, the Director-General of the Red Cross Society. Further, we have tried this scheme as an experimental measure in some districts and thanks to the never-flagging zeal of our Director of Public Health, the experiment has proved very successful and thousands of lives have been saved in these districts. In spite of it, I am surprised to see that this scheme has been the subject of attack in this House. I hope, Sir, that with this explanation my friend will see his way to withdraw his motion."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I think the hon. the Minister who has defended this new expenditure has 11-15 a.m. spoken of the past services of the sanitary staff as compared with the present in somewhat disparaging terms. It has always been the chief function of Members of Government to stand up and defend public servants against any aspersions on their public work. But on the present occasion it has fallen to the lot of a non-official like myself to say some good words on behalf of the large body of Sanitary Inspectors."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"What I meant to say was that the sanitary staff had not the required training nor had they the opportunities to do anything good."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I am afraid this explanation makes the matter worse. If Sanitary Inspectors had not the opportunity to do anything good in the past, it was not at all their fault. The whole question of public health and sanitation hinges on finance, and if in the past the expectations formed of the sanitary staff have not been fulfilled, it is certainly not the fault of their training and much less of their opportunities. It is entirely a question of finance. My hon. friend seems to think that with the new training that is to be given to these Health Inspectors, a new era of sanitary progress is likely to be ushered in. I am as enthusiastic as my hon. friend and I fully realize the great public services which have already been rendered by the existing staff.

"I am also aware of the projected scheme. My first objection to it, Sir, is that the experiment which has been initiated has not been sufficiently long before the public. I think that to make provision for a District Health Officer in each district, after one year's experiment in five selected districts, amounts to introducing the experiment much sooner than is justified by the circumstances.

"My second objection is that the amount required for this large and comprehensive scheme of public health has not been found from the new resources placed at the disposal of the local bodies but have been provided by cutting down the existing grant to the local bodies. I do not suppose that my hon. friend will deny that fact. What it really amounts to is this: that the hon. the Minister thinks that a portion of the resources placed at the disposal of the local bodies should be devoted to this purpose. The objection to this expenditure comes also from the circumstance that funds have been found for this new scheme by appropriating from one head to another. It does not really amount to augmenting the resources of the local bodies for this purpose, and, therefore, if local bodies are apprehensive that this scheme is not to their taste, there can be no surprise at all.

"The third objection that I wish to raise is that, so far as I can see, the health staff in the districts is not in any way connected with the activities of the local bodies. It seems to be entirely a new department working in the districts from the Director downwards to the District Health Officers and the sanitary staff. I am entirely opposed to any scheme which does not co-ordinate the activities of the local bodies with the staffs which are proposed to be employed. If there is to be any advance in the public health of this Presidency, it can only be through the enlightened activities of the union boards, the taluk boards and the greater interest which the municipalities and the local bodies in the districts take in this matter. But to organize a District Health Staff independent of them and entirely without

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their co-operation and help is, I venture to think, not a sound measure for promoting public health. Probably the hon. Minister is aware that three or four years ago, there were special Sanitary Assistants in several districts who went round and pointed out all the sanitary defects in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Many schemes have been framed in pursuance of their recommendations, but none of them have been given effect to for want of funds. Unless the hon. Minister is prepared to assure us that funds will be forthcoming, the present scheme will share the same fate as the previous ones. The hon. Minister gave us no assurance to that effect. It is on this ground that I venture to submit that no allotment should be made for the coming year. We shall certainly watch with interest the progress of the work in the five selected districts; and if funds are forthcoming, and the experiments performed in these five districts are successful, we shall ask the municipalities and the local bodies to take more interest in the sanitary administration instead of creating another central department to work from the headquarters independent of them.

"Last year, when the grant was asked for introducing Health Officers in certain districts as an experimental measure, I did not raise any objection at all. But now when another four lakhs are asked for in connexion with the appointment of a staff to do such work as they may think fit, the question stands on a different footing. My hon. friend has referred to the recognition of preventive relief in all the civilized world. I may assure the hon. the Minister that India also is a part of the civilized world and that India is fully alive to the need for measures such as these. It is only a question of methods. Up to now, activities in connexion with public health have been one of the most important functions of local bodies, and it is now premature to create a Health Staff in all the districts independent of the local bodies."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. I believe, Sir, that Health Officers will be appointed in all the districts from April next. I think that this arrangement has not come a day too soon; on the contrary, there has been considerable delay in increasing the sanitary staff in the several districts. It is an admitted fact that rural sanitation is very unsatisfactory. This is mainly due to the want of a separate staff to go into the question and deal with the problems that arise in different areas. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer in each district is called the Health Officer, but we know full well that he has hardly the time to attend to the sanitary needs of the district. The only work that he attends to in connexion with sanitation is simply passing statistics that he gets from the Sanitary Inspectors and Vaccinators to other people. I therefore think that unless there is a special staff to deal with all these problems, the unsatisfactory condition of rural sanitation must really get worse year after year. I remember in the old Council a resolution was moved by an hon. Member recommending the appointment of an officer for the exclusive purpose of visiting village after village and suggesting remedies for improving the rural sanitation. You, Sir, then replied that this task would involve a touring for 500 years or so if that one officer was asked to tour throughout the Presidency. I therefore think that the District Health Staff is absolutely necessary and hon. Members must be really anxious to prevent the huge mortality in rural parts owing to unsatisfactory state of sanitation. As I already said, this scheme has not come a day too soon. With these few words, I beg to strongly oppose this motion for omission of the allotment for District Health Officers."

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I also beg to oppose this motion for omission of the allotment under District Health Officers. At the outset, I must confess that till now the work of the Government in the matter of granting medical relief has been somewhat niggardly, and all the measures that were adopted for the improvement of sanitation in all the districts have been belated. Every municipality pretends to have a sort of sanitary officer either as a sanitary maistri or a sanitary inspector and it is only very few municipalities that possess Health Officers. Almost all the taluk boards do not possess even a Sanitary Inspector. The reason is not that the taluk boards do not realize the importance of preventive relief but that they are unable to do so for want of funds. Half-hearted measures such as the Assistant Sanitary Officers that have been employed hitherto and the plague parties and the cholera parties that are employed in these boards, do not serve any useful purpose. The epidemic parties generally arrive on the scene after the epidemic has played its worst havoc. In these circumstances it was wisely thought that a special permanent staff should be organized for taking preventive measures as effectively as possible. The only drawback in connexion with this is that the local boards are made to pay out of their grants for the pay of these officers. The local bodies have always been getting a certain amount of grant every year from the Government. Now the Government propose to cut off a portion of that grant and give it to this particular branch of Health Staff. The Government also ask the local bodies to defray the travelling allowance, etc., of these officers. This is an additional burden on the slender finances of the local boards. I think the Government should have allotted a recurring grant for this purpose year after year without trenching upon the finances of the local boards. Now, that the Government realise the imperative necessity of adopting preventive measures, they should also make provision for necessary funds without stinting the grants given to local bodies. But for the action of the Government in cutting off the grant to local bodies, this measure should be welcomed by all local boards.

"One other point that I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to is this: the health officer and his staff must be made to understand that they should work under district boards for their benefit and that they should co-operate with them.

"After the non-official agency has assumed the superintendence and management of these local bodies, we find that a change has come over many of these officials, especially the District Medical Officers. They think that they are independent officers, perhaps to boss over the local boards. Let not these officers also begin with that idea of bossing over the local bodies and dictate to them that they should do such and such a thing. What I say is they must begin with the idea of co-operation instead of thinking that they are absolutely independent of the local bodies, and that the local bodies, being lay bodies, should *ipse dixit* obey their orders. Let not that idea prevail in the minds of these officers.

"Another thing is this: The District Medical Officer has hitherto been also a sanitary officer. He has been getting what we sometimes call special pay, sometimes local allowance, and sometimes special or duty allowance. Hereafter, as he has not to do any sanitary work, let a decent portion of his allowance be cut off and utilized for the travelling allowance, etc., of the sanitary officers.

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"So, I think, Sir, that if only the financial portion of this establishment is made lighter for the taluk boards and district boards, this is a measure which should be welcomed by every one, and in that view, Sir, I oppose the motion for this reduction."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, very often I do not agree with the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government in his policy with regard to the Medical Department, but in this affair I am in entire agreement with him (hear, hear). Sir, hitherto we have had in the headquarters a medical officer who has been in charge of both the medical administration and the sanitary administration. We have been making complaints that as the medical officer has too much work in the headquarters being in charge of the hospitals and jails, he has hardly time to go to the mufassal and look after the health of the people there. We have been agitating through the different medical associations that this combined work must be put an end to and that a separate officer must be appointed to look after the sanitary work. After much agitation, our good Director of Public Health, in whom we have so much of confidence and who has already done a great deal of good in matters of sanitation in this presidency, has strongly recommended that every district should be controlled by an Indian Health Officer who has undergone a special training for that purpose in a college. That such a good proposal should be thrown out by this House is anything but desirable.

"Sir, as it is, the Director of Public Health has only recommended 23 District Health Officers and 205 District Health Inspectors. In my view, for the gigantic work the Department has to carry on in the whole of the presidency consisting of 40 millions of people, the special staff recommended is too small. This staff has to look after the work connected with epidemics whenever they occur, and also the sanitary propaganda work. Our villagers are in perfect ignorance of the rules of sanitation, both western and eastern. So, elaborate propaganda work has to be carried on from one corner to the other, and these District Health Officers have to do this work also to a very great extent. As for Sanitary Inspectors, no doubt, our old Sanitary Inspectors had a certain amount of training, but not any up-to-date training. As science is progressing, most probably all these newly appointed men will be given a special training under special officers here and they will be made up-to-date so that their usefulness can very well be increased. Then again, Sir, there is vaccination. The death due to smallpox is appalling and this is due to the want of vaccination and also want of re-vaccination. All this has to be supervised by men who are trained to do such work. Sometimes the lymph is found fault with; at other times the men who vaccinate children are found fault with. But whichever is to be blamed, the matter has to be looked into and all vaccination work should be done by the sanitary authorities. Again, Sir, our statistics are anything but desirable. As it is, the death rate that is recorded is very inaccurate. All this has to be looked into, and it can only be done by qualified medical officers. For all this work the number of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors recommended is too little. So, Sir, I am against taking away a pie out of this grant which the hon. the Minister is asking for.

"As for co-ordination between the Health Officers and the local bodies, Sir, I am entirely at one with Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu that these local bodies must have a certain amount of control over these officers. Otherwise, the administration will not be what it ought to be.

"With these few words, Sir, I strongly oppose this motion, and approve every word of what the hon. the Minister has said."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"Mr. President, it seems to me that we are going to appoint a number of commanders and soldiers without having arms and ammunitions. Much has been said about the utility of District Health Officers. None of us deny either their utility or their usefulness. But the pity is we have very little to afford, and the local bodies have practically nothing to spare. It seems that there is a belief prevailing among the Treasury Bench and also among the hon. Members of this House that once we appoint a number of Health Officers and Health Inspectors, the people will be cured of all maladies and diseases. I beg to submit to the House that the sooner we get rid of such thoughts the better. We must make up our mind to render substantial help and keep substantial amounts of money at the disposal of these Health Officers and Health Inspectors, or at the disposal of the local bodies to be utilized for the well-being of the people, and then only these Health Officers and Inspectors will be of any use to us. I have absolutely nothing to say against the Director of Public Health personally. The pity is he has nothing to spare and the result is he is not able to do much.

"Connected with a local board myself, I have been receiving time after time reports from the Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and Medical Officers about the importance to be attached to rural sanitation, and one of the important matters that they have brought out is the water difficulty. In vain, Sir, did I look into the pages of the Budget Estimate to find any grant for this purpose. It is very rigid to say that it is the duty of the local boards to provide for it; but I would beg of the House not to speak of such duty when they themselves control all the resources of revenue and take from their exchequer all the money that the local boards should have received or which in other countries the local boards do receive. It is, therefore, useless, Sir, to appoint an army of officers without having any money at our disposal or without showing any source of revenue to the local bodies to spend from, on their recommendations.

"The second thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is that he has done an injury, or rather an injustice, to the local bodies in deducting the pay of the District Health Officers from the grant that was hitherto given to those bodies to augment their resources. This is a grant that was afterwards specifically given to them for the maintenance of second-class roads to which Government themselves were committed to contribute a half. Sir, I should think that the cutting off of this grant, without caring even to consult them, has affected even the autonomy which the district boards were given by the Act of 1920. Of course, if Government can give the local bodies money to have a District Health Officer, or find some source of revenue to the local bodies, or give them some contribution or provincial subsidy in order to better the most insanitary conditions prevailing in the villages, none of us will have any objection, and we shall be the first to help the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government in his noble work. I would, therefore, request him to find some money, as has been suggested by the hon. Member for Kistna, to be placed either at the disposal of the local bodies, or at the disposal of the Director of Public Health, or the Health Officers, to fight against disease and death. Otherwise, Sir, the mere appointment of officers will not help the villagers. Rather, I am afraid it will go the other way. These Health Officers will visit village after village and will worry the local bodies with their recommendations. Thus, it will be additional work for the

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local bodies and additional trouble to the villagers, because the local bodies will have to prosecute the people for insanitary conditions over which they themselves have no control.

"With these words, Sir, I believe that the hon. the Minister will give us a sympathetic reply, and I hope the hon. mover will be glad to withdraw his motion after such a reply."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Sir, I am glad to support the motion for eliminating this item. Sir, we have been begging the Government to make grants for providing the 'untouchables' with wells. The miseries of these untouchables in the Ceded Districts as a whole and in the villages in several tracts in the Anantapur district, and also of all classes of people in many villages due to the want of good drinking water, are very great. Government asked the boards to send up estimates, and they have been submitted time after time; yet Government have not been able to find money to provide pure drinking water to these miserable people. In the absence of good drinking water, the sanitary condition will necessarily be very bad. It is true they are going to appoint Health Officers. But is it, as my hon. friend Mr. Narasimhachari said, to boss over these boards, or is it perhaps to send estimates or orders to the local boards to carry out sanitary measures without any money and without having any credit in the treasury? Most of these boards have got a minus balance now. They are expected to pay travelling allowance to these officers . . ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, of late a check has been imposed on claims for unlimited travelling allowances."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I am talking, Sir, of the payment of travelling allowances to these Health Officers, and I should think that if the District Board Presidents, the Taluk Board Presidents and the Union Board Presidents are not to go about frequently in order to find out the health of the people, I am afraid much less can be done in this direction by the Health Officers. It is they that are expected to go round and find out defects in the health administration. If we are going to put a check, as the hon. the Minister has just now told us, on the travelling propensities of these people . . ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"We put a check only in regard to lavish claims for travelling allowance."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I do not know, Sir, what will be lavish travelling on the part of respectable gentlemen who have their own public duties to attend to and who go out only in the interest of the public. I am afraid that the hon. the Minister is rather unjust in saying that that is lavish expenditure and that the presidents of these local bodies are travelling without any consideration for the funds at the disposal of the boards. When the Government find it necessary to check the extravagant travelling and lavish claims as they call it, of these gentlemen, what check will there be upon the Health Officers?"

"The Government have deprived even the District Board Presidents of any power to control the Health Officers. I am sure, under the present Act, the

11-45 a.m.

District Boards will have another controlling officer over them. As a matter of fact, as my hon. friend Mr. Narasimhachari put it, since the transfer of these boards to the control of non-official gentlemen, these officials—the Revenue Officer, the Medical Officer, and, in future, the Health Officer and the Educational Officer too—think that they

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can dictate to these non-official gentlemen. They think that these non-official gentlemen are novices and that they should be dictated to. They also think that they are the agents of the Government. The position in many of the District Boards has become intolerable. Fortunately some of the District Boards have got the nerve to resist the official encroachments on their powers. Apart from that, when the Government are not able to provide funds to these bodies, which are their agents, to look after the sanitation and the health of the villages by sinking wells, what is the object of providing four lakhs of rupees for the pay of these Health Officers, who, as my hon. friend put it, will go about, make scientific investigations and send up costly estimates to the local bodies? The local bodies will not be able to execute the works suggested by the Health Officers and they will be held up to scorn: the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will say that they are extravagant and they should not have spent money for inspection in the shape of travelling allowances for the honorary gentlemen who are doing the work of the Government. Some of the Boards are in the very pitiable condition of having done work for the Government and not being paid in time. As Sir T. Desikachariyar put it very forcibly, the local bodies are doing State work and yet they are threatened every day that they should balance their budgets themselves. The Government tell them that they will not pay from the treasury and will dishonour their cheques. That is the threat held out by the Government and here is an instance of a thankless task done by the non-officials in the mufassal. They do not know what to do. Their contractors have to be paid for doing work on the trunk roads, but without examining the work the Government orders—I do not know if the hon. Member is aware of it—that payment should not be made. The District Boards say that, having suffered in all ways, they cannot pay the travelling allowances of Health Officers. They have no money to pay these people who have, in the absence of funds to undertake any useful or substantial work, simply to go about dictating to them and lording it over them. Under the circumstances I would cordially support the motion of Mr. Vellingiri Goundar."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, the Government accepted the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee and said that what they were hitherto giving us for an augmentation of the general resources of local bodies should be made use of by the local bodies for the maintenance of selected second-class roads costing not more than Rs. 200 a mile. They even went further and appointed a committee consisting of Presidents of District Boards, District Collectors, Executive or Superintending Engineers and one elected member from each District Board to scrutinize the roads that were selected as second-class roads."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM:—"Are we dealing with second-class roads, Sir?"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"If the Council Secretary waits a minute I shall show the pertinence of my remarks. This Committee decided the question of the length of the second-class roads in each district. Now, when the hon. the Minister got up and said that this grant was for the general resources of the board I was rather surprised to hear that statement from him. I contend that the Government in the year 1922-23 held that his grant was not towards the general resources of the local bodies but for the maintenance of second-class roads. After the year has gone through . . ."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I hope the hon. Member will finish the second-class road affair soon. The total time allowed him is only 5 minutes. I fear he is losing much time in coming to the point."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, the local bodies to which the Health Officers were appointed were asked to meet the cost of a portion of the salaries of these officers out of the grant for the second-class roads. Some of the boards on whom without previous intimation the Health Boards were thrust had to cut off their expenditure on second-class roads or otherwise balance their budgets. So, my contention is that the Government did a great wrong in asking for the curtailment of second-class roads and the utilization of a portion of its funds for the Health Staff. I do not for a moment deny the right of the Government for insisting upon the local bodies to maintain Health Officers. The provision is there. But is it sound policy that you should shift from one grant to another like this and not have any steady policy in regard to second-class roads? Regarding the Health Staff, Government again directed that a Health Committee should be formed in each district to control and direct the health staff lent by the Government to the District Boards. This, I believe, is centralising the control of the Sanitary administration. District Health Committees were formed under the orders of the Government, and my district is one which entertains a Health Committee to control the sanitary staff of the district. My first objection to the functions of this Health Committee is that it is centralising the sanitation of the district. According to the Act, sanitation was made the concern of the taluk boards. Centralisation has come in against this principle, and as we work these Health Committees we find a lot of inconvenience in the matter of control. The taluk boards have their own sanitary inspectors. The Health Committees also have sanitary inspectors lent by the Government. Therefore, in the matter of control a lot of inconvenience has already been experienced. It is necessary that the Government should examine this question of control, and vest it in the taluk boards and not in a centralised Health Committee."

"The main functions of this Health Staff is said to be the preparation of vital statistics, the study of the periodicity of epidemics and propaganda work. Really, if we just examine the vernacular of the persons posted to the various districts we shall know what seriousness is bestowed on the selection of these gentlemen. A Malayalee gentleman not knowing Telugu is posted as a Health Officer in a Telugu district. We expect in the usual course of things that these gentlemen should go to the villages and explain to the villagers the principles of sanitation. Is this the way in which you expect the work to be carried out? Again, in the case of Health Inspectors, in two cases at least, I know that men with a very meagre knowledge of Telugu are posted to a Telugu district and asked to go to the village and do work. If, really, the Government is serious in making the scheme a success, they must select a man knowing the vernacular of the district to which he is posted in the cases of both health inspectors and health officers."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"It will be useful to place before the House how the administration of public health was carried on before the creation of these offices. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer used to look after this kind of work. What he used to do was to go and inspect towns, villages, municipalities, taluk boards and union boards. As he went on inspecting, he used to send up extracts from his diaries, making remarks here and there and making suggestions of the kind of improvements in regard

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to sanitation in particular places. These documents used to be circulated among the local authorities who used to place them at the meeting of the respective boards, and then record them saying 'no funds'. When we have no funds to carry out any improvements in this direction, the mere appointment of Health Officers is like putting the cart before the horse. When the District Medical and Sanitary Officer made suggestions and these suggestions were not carried out for want of funds, I do not see any reason why this establishment of Health Officers should be inflicted upon the local bodies. Unless the hon. the Minister is pleased to place at the disposal of local boards large amounts to carry out the suggestions of these officers the mere appointment of these officers will, I fear, result in no practical good."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"If I rise to give my support to this motion, it is not because I am not satisfied that there is a necessity for the appointment of Health Officers but because I want to raise my protest against the principle which makes these officers to be paid out of the allotment or grants to local bodies. It must be the endeavour of all persons, who have the welfare of the people of this country at heart, to allot sufficient sums of money which might go to improve the public health and sanitation in general of this Presidency. No amount spent in the direction can be considered to have been spent in vain. We know for a fact that for want of funds very many useful and pressing sanitary schemes are held up. We are also aware of the miserable financial condition of most of these local bodies. For sometime now, the Provincial Government has been making what is known as subventions to these bodies. If the hon. the Minister will give us this assurance that he will give us a sufficient sum of money for carrying out the sanitary schemes which have been held up for want of funds and that he will try to give us not twenty-three District Health Officers but forty-six Health Officers without making these local bodies pay for them, I do not think we can take any exception to the appointment of these district health officers which, I feel sure, will go a great way in improving the general health of the masses of this country. But at the same time in view of the principle underlying those appointments and the amount of control or the absence of control which the district boards are permitted to exercise, one is tempted to raise a strong exception thereto. But I hope and trust the hon. the Minister will sympathize with these local bodies and influence the Government to bear this item of expenditure out of the general revenue instead of weakening the hands of these local bodies. It is necessary, at the same time, that these district boards should have powers of general supervision and control over these district health officers who must be viewed as the subordinates of the district board president. The hands of these presidents who are non-officials ought not to be fettered in the matter of supervision over the District Health Officers, if local self-government is to be really useful and popular."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"So far as this motion is concerned there does not seem to be much difference of opinion between those who have so far supported it and those who have opposed it. All of them have expressed that there is a considerable amount of difficulty in the way of working out the scheme on the lines suggested by the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government. There are no two opinions as to the fact that we ought to adopt preventive measures by appointing health officers in the districts for the purpose of carrying on the necessary health and sanitary work. If objection has been taken, it is only for the method in which the policy is proposed to be worked out."

12 noon.

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [20th March 1923]

"The first objection that I wish to place for the consideration of hon. Members of this House is that in respect of the appointment of District Health Officers, action should be taken by the district boards themselves, and that the Government should not compel them to appoint district health officers. If district boards were assured that funds would be forthcoming to them for carrying on the necessary sanitary measures, they would accept the advice of the Government so far as these appointments are concerned. But in this case the Government take advantage of the extraordinary powers vested in them and state that district boards shall appoint Health Officers. This is, I believe, going against the principle of local autonomy for which we are now fighting; and it is altogether objectionable.

"Secondly, that the grants made for second-class roads in view of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee should be utilized for the purpose of appointing Health Officers is not reasonable at all. Let it be remembered that Government some time ago called for proposals regarding the construction of second-class roads by district boards, and proposals were sent and classifications also were made. When it was found that Government had no sufficient funds they gave up the proposal and allowed the district boards to have their own second-class roads. So, Government realized the necessity for additional funds; but as they could not find them, they restricted the provision."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Does this in any way prevent Government from finding more funds for constructing second-class roads?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"That is what I am coming to. If my remarks have convinced the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government of the reasonableness of the suggestion, I think the provision made for second-class roads should not have been cut out. Anyhow I hope and trust that the hon. the Minister will see his way to supplement the grant hitherto made under this head. I do not want to say anything more on this point.

"So far as the appointment of District Health Officers is concerned, I think there is no use of having these officers unless this step is preceded and succeeded by a policy of making large grants for carrying on other sanitary measures in the districts. The provision made for the appointment of these officers will merely enable them to be trained in their work, and nothing useful to the people will follow, because the local bodies are not in a position to finance these schemes. They are not able even to provide wells and some other rudimentary necessities for the sanitation of the people.

"I take this opportunity of reminding the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that it would have been better if he had considered these proposals before making up his mind for making provision under this head or that head. It is true that the Financial Relations Committee made recommendations and that it was found difficult to give effect to them in their entirety. But I may say this: whenever the Government find it inconvenient to give effect to certain recommendations, they say that there are many difficulties on the way of giving effect to them. The system of giving minor sanitary grants is one that was disapproved by the Financial Relations Committee, and the Government and the Finance Committee took advantage of this suggestion and declined to provide for minor sanitary grants to local bodies. May I point out, Sir, that with these minor sanitary grants it was possible in the past for the local bodies to increase the water-supply in the

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rural areas by digging wells and opening up other sources. Under this head, one lakh of rupees was formerly sanctioned to the District Board of Anantapur and 40 to 50 lakhs or more to other districts, and with these grants wells were dug for the depressed and other classes. The moment these grants were taken away, all these works had to be stopped by the local boards. Government say 'we cannot provide for each and every item; we are not in a position to provide funds'. So I say that in any scheme of sanitary relief it is absolutely essential that Government should provide for funds for the purpose of increasing the water-supply in rural areas. If the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is not in a position to assure us whether he will be able to make a definite provision for this purpose, I would ask, what, after all, is the work that these 23 Health Officers are going to do in the districts? Therefore, while I realize that these officers will be in a position to do all the sanitary work that is needed for a district, I do not understand the necessity for them at present. If the hon. the Minister expects us to retain this grant, I hope that he will realize the uselessness of these officers when there are not sufficient funds even for carrying out the minor sanitary works in the districts, and that he will see his way to provide funds for this purpose."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU:—"I think the provision for the appointment of District Health Officers is quite necessary. Sanitation has been neglected by the local boards. Something may have been done by the municipalities. But in rural areas nothing has been done in the past. I have several objections against the appointment of the District Health Staff costing such a large sum of money. One is that the money that has been allotted for the purpose of second-class roads should be cut down. Though the Health Officers are quite necessary, the local boards cannot be expected to pay their salaries. If their salaries are paid by the Government, the local boards will have no objection to their appointments. But there is no use of cutting down the grant made to district boards for second-class roads. Therefore, in supporting the idea that there should be Health Officers for the districts, I suggest to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that no deduction should be made from the other grant given to local bodies, and that a definite allotment should be made to each district to expect the staff to carry out the health administration."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am really surprised at the attitude adopted by some hon. Members, in opposing this provision. Sir, it has been urged that one of the main objections for these Health Officers is that it would tend to centralise the activities of the local boards in respect of sanitation. It was said only the other day that there were difficulties in the way of giving effect to practically all the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. I am sorry to see that while on the part of the Government they find it difficult to accept some of the recommendations made by that Committee, some of us ourselves find it difficult to accept other recommendations made by that Committee. The Financial Relations Committee, Sir, definitely recommended the formation of Health Boards and also the appointment of Health Officers. In paragraph 133 they state:

We support the recommendation of the Local and Municipal Conference that the service of Health Officers should be provincialized. It is admitted on all hands that the career of a Health Officer under present conditions has failed to attract suitable men. Similar difficulties in recruitment are experienced in England. Every district board and every municipality should appoint a qualified Health Officer if sanitation is to make headway.

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu] [20th March 1923]

This was the recommendation of that Committee, of which my hon. friends, Mr. Ramachandra Rao and Mr. Narasimha Raju, were members; but the latter says that he has the strongest objection to District Health Committees being formed, one reason being the centralization of the local boards. In paragraph 135 the Committee state:

District boards require first class Health Officers, and, in this connexion, we would suggest the desirability of inviting all local bodies within each district to unite in co-ordinating not only sanitation but also medical relief by constituting under the provisions of the Act a joint committee to discharge the duties of a District Health Board. We consider that such committees are necessary in the interests both of efficiency and economy.

Such District Health Boards were constituted for several districts, and many district boards were in favour of constituting District Health Committees for helping the District Health Officer.

"Now, it is asked: what is the use of this Health Officer without providing the necessary funds? Let me remind hon. Members that in the Financial Relations Committee's report, with reference to the way in which the local boards were helped by Government in the matter of sanitation by means of what are called sanitary grants, hon. Members who formed that Committee unambiguously stated that that should not be the policy. On the other hand, the policy should be to meet such expenditure from large loans raised after having the proper schemes drawn up and sanctioned: I may be allowed in this connexion to refer to paragraph 138 of that report which says:

We see no justification for the continuance of minor sanitary grants except in so far as they relate to water-supply and town improvements which would be treated separately hereafter.

In paragraph 149 (ii) it says:

We consider that the provision of pure drinking water in rural areas should be regulated by more definite principles than have hitherto been observed. We recommend that each local body should be required to prepare a three years' programme of schemes for rural water-supply. These schemes should be classified in order of their urgency and this order should be based on the prevalence of water-borne diseases and on the population of the village which the schemes will serve.

"I may state that if there is any objection for providing funds, it must be on the ground that the Government have not got sufficient funds and that such provision cannot be made before any definite schemes are drawn up and approved. But may I ask, Sir, who is to draw all these schemes? The various wants of the local boards are different. One board may say that a latrine is necessary here, and another may say that a well is necessary there, and under these circumstances the Government cannot make minor grants for these purposes. The hon. the Minister in making this provision is only trying to give effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee by getting the District Health Officers to prepare schemes on the best lines possible, so that when grants are applied for for carrying out these schemes he may provide the local boards with funds by taking loans. I am, of course, aware that this provision has been made by cutting the 14 lakhs grant, which, I think, is probably due to the financial stringency; but, Sir, 17 lakhs have been provided for relief to the local boards. Sir, we should be grateful to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for having provided these 17 lakhs. I really think that this recommendation to appoint District Health Officers is one of the best recommendations of the Financial

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Relations Committee which deserves to be given effect to. For this reason, and also for the various other reasons I have referred to, I oppose the motion before the House."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The complaint hitherto has been that there is not enough money to attend satisfactorily to sanitation and other things though we may employ the necessary staff for them.

"For example, let me refer to the housing problem and the town-planning question. We raised this question last year, and yet we 12-15 p.m. really do not know where we are with regard to this matter. His Excellency, in the first speech he made before this House, referred to the Housing Bill which he said would soon come up before us. I do not know really when that Bill is going to come up before us. Again, Sir, in 1922, in the month of January, I brought the question of housing the poor before the House. Then the hon. the Minister said that the Madras City Town-Planning Trust would examine the general principles of the housing problem. We entertained high hopes that the Housing Committee would outline the general policy. But no general policy, I think, has yet been evolved. The Minister for Local Self-Government trusted that with the help of the Town-Planning Expert who had taken charge of the town-planning schemes a general plan of action would be laid down. Well, Sir, I should like to know what has become of all these expectations."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Is my hon. friend in order in speaking of Town-Planning Trust now?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I understand his point to be—I am open to correction—that the money will be more usefully spent upon Town-Planning than upon the Health officers. There was also a reference to roads. There also the point was this: if money were available, it would be more usefully spent upon the construction of roads than upon anything else. What weight is to be given to such arguments it is not for me to say. There is just some relevancy."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"That is exactly the line of my argument, Sir. When these people have no money for more important matters what is the fun of undertaking other things?"

"Then what about the special law for housing the industrial labourers? Have the Government, at least now, any clear and definite ideas about the housing problem except that the housing schemes should be financed from loans raised? Have they considered the question? And, if so, what are the conclusions of the Town-Planning Trust in this matter? The Minister told us that the Housing Committee might consider the question of the housing problem. My information is that no such committee is in existence. Was it ever appointed at all? If so, what are its conclusions? Then, Sir, I should like to know how the Government propose to carry out the schemes of the Town-Planning Trust. Is it the Corporation or the Trust that will be in charge of the supervision? How are their different activities to be co-ordinated and correlated? Again, Sir, the Government are spending money on the Chairman of the Town-Planning Trust. He gets Rs. 250 per month simply to be the Chairman. I really do not know what functions he has to discharge. If he is already a full-time officer of the Government

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I do not see the necessity of spending more money on him. The hon. Minister has to consider all these questions before he embarks on new schemes which may be satisfactory or not in the end."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Sir, I beg to support the motion now before the House largely for the reasons that have been assigned by those who have opposed the motion. Sir, the trend of the discussion that has so far taken place makes it, I think, perfectly clear that every one of us is agreed as to the object which the Government has in view in putting forward this scheme for which the sanction of this House has been required and to which the motion moved by my hon. friend relates. The only question is whether the scheme that has been put forward with the limitations or the latitude that are given is the one best calculated and best capable of achieving the purpose in view. The objections, Sir, to the creation of a Health Department on a wide scale can be summarised as follows.

"As a matter of fact, the funds with which this new set of officers who are to be brought into existence have to be paid are to come from the local boards in one way or another; so that practically it is the monies of the local boards that are going to be utilized for the purpose of paying these officers. But there is this question. While the monies come from the local boards, the local boards will have no controlling voice over them. That is one of the objections raised. Another objection that is raised is—it probably follows from the first—this: If these officers and the Departments which they are to control are to be of any use it should be necessary that there should be a certain amount of co-ordination between their activities and the work of the local boards, and unless you are sure of that there is no use of creating this staff and this Department. The third objection is this: It is all very well to have a staff, and a very competent staff also, to carry out certain purposes very estimable in themselves and endorsed by all the civilized world. But this again requires monies to be laid down in various schemes; and unless you have some provision or some means of making provision for these schemes, what is the good of bringing a staff into existence which can only be for harassing if it has no particular work on which to lay its hands upon? In reply to these objections, what has been urged is this: You have in the first place the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. Secondly, the tendency of late has fortunately been that our revenues show a certain amount of elasticity which was not expected when the hon. the Finance Member budgeted the estimates for this year. And it is asked, the object being such a good one, and the persons directing it being such excellent people, why we should lose even a day in bringing into existence and operation that scheme.

"Shortly stated, these seem to be the relative positions taken by those who are in favour of the motion and those who are opposed to it. And this House has, I think, in the circumstances a very easy task by way of distinguishing the merits of these relative positions. Now, Sir, it seems to me that there is a question of principle involved in the procedure that the Government has followed. I have already had occasion to complain more than once that oftentimes this House—probably, 'oftentimes' is a little exaggerated—that sometimes this House is committed to a policy which it has not had enough time to discuss. I am afraid, Sir, this is one of those cases. The House must be given a full idea of what exactly the functions

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are that this Health Department is going to perform, and even more how it shall be enabled to discharge them so that the exact position of the local boards towards this Health Department will come up directly for discussion and the Government might have either the benefit of the remarks and the views of this House in regard to this matter. As it is, we find that certain functions are given to this Department which are entirely within the jurisdiction of this Government, and all that this House is asked to do is to grant funds for carrying on these functions.

"When we find that there is this objection—and a very serious one it is—that the extent of control these local boards can have is nothing or very little, it is a very serious matter. I find that those who support and those who oppose the motion are agreed that at present the control of the local boards is not sufficient. Now, Sir, it has been pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, that the Financial Relations Committee have stated that this Department should be provincialized. Apparently his own remarks, or the recommendations that he read, carry with them their own antidote. It is stated in the Report that where the Department is to be provincialized the persons who are to be appointed as Health Officers must be appointed by the local boards. Now, in the scheme is that provision to be found? Are these Health Officers to be appointed by the local boards? What is the kind of control that these local boards have over them? I submit that unless this House is given adequate information and is able to satisfy itself that by sanctioning this grant it has not in any way impaired the usefulness, or hampered the discharge of the functions of the local boards or in any way impeded the carrying out of their responsibility for the general well-being of the district so far as these things which are out of the purview of the local boards, are concerned, this House would be very ill-advised in sanctioning this allotment, that is, in rejecting this motion. Then, Sir, we have pointed out that it has been possible for us to have more grants. When more grants are available, let the scheme come up for consideration, because we shall then know what exactly the work is that these Health Officers will apply themselves to. In connexion with this, it has been pointed out that we have not exactly known what the implication is of having drainage and water-supply schemes. Now, Sir, every one of us recognizes that the utility of this Department that is going to be now enlarged will largely depend upon the extent of funds available for the purpose of carrying out the various schemes."

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA:—"I am rather inclined to support this motion. Sir, if the sanitary staff is to be employed, the only purpose which they will have to serve will be to bring forward certain difficult proposals which cannot be put into effect for want of funds. It is our experience, Sir, that under the old scheme according to which the Sanitary Assistants were touring through the villages, they visited almost every village in the district and proposed certain health schemes which are still pending, for want of funds, in the pigeon holes of the district and taluk boards awaiting destruction. You will see, Sir, that these various schemes which are proposed by these Sanitary Assistants have not been given effect to for want of funds, and if the same purpose is to be served by the employment of a Health Staff, there is no good. We shall have to see that the schemes proposed by them are carried into effect. In some cases some ideal proposals were put forward by the sanitary officers with reference to the improvement of the sanitation

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and health of certain villages. They said that dirt in the village should be removed one mile away from the village. They also said that all the cattle should be removed two miles away from the village. These proposals are quite theoretical and idealistic, and they will cost a great deal. Probably the Health Officers may propose that all the streets in the villages may be cemented so that no dirt or mud may remain on them during rainy seasons. I do not know how these proposals will be carried out unless it be that under sanitation much money, which will serve some other useful purpose, is provided. Then, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu quoted the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. If I had been on that Committee I would have gone further and said that each village required a Public Health Officer (hear, hear!). But, Sir, where are the funds to carry out the proposals of these officers of the Health Department? I may say that there should be a Health Officer at every nook and corner provided we have funds. On the one hand, you take away all the sanitary grants; you don't want to put into effect the proposals of these Health Officers regarding the wells for supplying drinking water to the depressed classes, etc.; on the other hand, you take away the grants that are usually made to the local bodies. But you want a large staff of officers for public health and sanitation, who can serve no other purpose than put forward proposals merely to be recorded by the district and taluk boards and to be destroyed in course of time."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have given notice of a motion to reduce Rs. 100 out of the allotment and I wish to make a few remarks on this motion. I do admit that rural sanitation is very backward in our presidency and that a lot of improvement is needed in this direction. This is a fact which very few will deny. But the question is whether this state of affairs is due to the want of a health staff to guide us or to some other reason. As stated by my hon. friend, Mr. Gopalakrishnayya, we have got heaps of recommendations made by District Sanitary Officers and by other special staffs which might have worked in the districts from time to time. For instance, recently, in my district, the cholera party which had worked there for a few months had made a number of recommendations. The recommendations reached me and I was simply overwhelmed with their large number. We were not able to give effect to these recommendations made by a staff which worked in the district only for a few months. For instance, they wanted that a number of wells should be dug. They said that cholera was due to a great extent to the fact that step wells are used and so they wanted that all these wells should be converted into draw wells. With reference to villages which have water-supply from rivers, they made a number of recommendations. The cost of giving effect to all the recommendations of this cholera party would come to several lakhs of rupees. Thus, it seems to me, Sir, that it is not for want of advice that we have not been able to improve our rural sanitation."

"I may say a word about the District Medical and Sanitary Officers. They have been doing very good work. I am sorry for the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhachari. So far as I know, they are very helpful. They or their assistants have been inspecting unions and making very good recommendations. But, as I said, their recommendations also involve a lot of expenditure. It is because we could not find funds that we have not been able to carry out any forward policy of sanitation in urban as well as rural

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areas. So it seems to me that the defects which we all admit and which we all want to be remedied as early as possible are allowed to continue not because we have not got the advice of any special staff, not because we have not got any officers to look after these things, but because we have not got the wherewithal to carry out the recommendations that are made. That is the position. Now it is proposed that there should be a health staff for each district. I have no doubt that these will be in a position to advise the local bodies. They will be able to make recommendations with regard to rural and urban areas. But what will be the result of these recommendations? The same old story will be repeated: there will be no money to carry out the recommendations."

"It has been said, Sir, that the creation of this staff has been recommended by the Financial Relations Committee. I was a member of that committee and I take complete responsibility for the recommendation that was made. But our position then was this. We wanted that a portion of the expenditure on certain other things should be borne by the Government, thus relieving the boards of their burden to some extent. If that money is available to the boards they will be in a position to undertake a forward policy in the matter of sanitation. But the Government have not done that. They say that this particular thing is a recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee and so far as their responsibility in the matter is concerned, they do not take any action. They have stopped giving minor sanitary grants. At the time when the committee was sitting, the average grant for minor sanitary work was about eight lakhs of rupees."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There seems to be a mistaken impression that the minor sanitary grant was a recurring grant. Only whenever there were financial windfalls, the Government used to give the local bodies certain grants under this head. But, unfortunately, during the last few years, we are not having such windfalls. Therefore there is no use in saying that the Government are not giving any minor sanitary grants. Moreover, the abolition of minor sanitary grants is a recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I was careful to say that the average grant came to eight lakhs of rupees. I know that it was a non-recurring grant. The Financial Relations Committee suggested that this form of grant need not be continued, but at the same time they suggested that the local bodies should be relieved in some other way. If all the recommendations of that Committee had been given effect to, certainly the local bodies would have been in a position to spend something on sanitation. Instead of that, the Government have given effect only to a few of the recommendations, with the inevitable result that the local bodies are not in a position to find any funds whatever for sanitation and other purposes. The net result is that our funds have been taken away with both hands. In addition to that we are told this morning that a portion of the grant that Government had been giving has been earmarked for this purpose. Our own services for which we had been getting grants hitherto are not reduced in any way, and this additional service is being imposed on us. No doubt the imposition is legal, and the Act allows it. This additional service is imposed on us, and for this purpose a portion of the grant that is usually given to us is taken away or, as it is said, earmarked."

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Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I beg to support the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, and, in doing so, I wish to state my reasons. I am not very much interested in the question whether the district or taluk boards are able to find funds or any such thing. It seems to me that the position of the Health Department is anomalous; neither the local bodies nor the provincial Government is responsible for it. Sir, three days back I had to criticize the want of policy in regard to irrigation works. Now, I may say that the Government has no policy so far as the Health Department also is concerned. It seems to me that the Government is adopting the theory of the survival of the fittest. ‘Let epidemics and other diseases take away as many people as possible;—let the fittest and the strongest survive;’—that seems to be the policy of the Government. They do not seem to take any trouble in putting an end to the epidemics, such as cholera, plague, etc. By our voting for this motion, Government will be obliged to take some steps to adopt a policy whereby the Local Self-Government Department will be responsible for the welfare of the people. Personally, I am inclined to think that there should be a separate Minister for the Health Department as in other countries. Unless this is done, there is no use, when so many diseases are rampant, of speaking of nation-building departments. By nation-building departments they mean industries, schools, colleges, and so on. What is the use of having all these, if the health of the country is not looked after? In these circumstances, I have to vote in favour of the motion.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ At first I had not intended to speak on this motion. But the trend of the discussion has forced me to say a few words. Sir, I have heard with very great regret the criticism that has been levelled by hon. Members against the District Health Officers’ scheme. I should have thought that if there were any one scheme which appealed to the sense of the hon. Members as having been not a moment too late, it was this scheme of the District Health Officers. I will not enter into the question as to wherefrom the funds should be found just at present; but taking it as a general question, I should have thought that every one of the hon. Members would have agreed that this was a scheme which was not introduced a moment too late.

“ The criticism that I have heard this noon reminds me very forcibly of a meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Houses of Commons and Lords on the Government of India Bill at which I had the privilege, along with my hon. friend and colleague, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, to be present. I think my hon. friend will bear me out when I say that one of the most impressive witnesses before the Committee was Colonel Elliot, some time Superintendent of the Madras Ophthalmic Hospital. Colonel Elliot is one of the champions of the Medical Service in England, and since his retirement to England he has been constantly endeavouring to put himself in the forefront of the agitation regarding medical questions, whether in regard to the Service or in regard to the Administration of Medical Relief in this country. Colonel Elliot, speaking on behalf of the British Medical Association and as its accredited representative, gave evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee that Medicine and Sanitation ought not to be Transferred Subjects. He pleaded, and pleaded very strongly, that those subjects should be only Reserved Subjects and put under the control of the

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Reserved Half of the Government, and that popular Ministers should have nothing to do with either Medicine or Sanitation.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ Did he say that? ”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I am as far as possible repeating his words. I have no doubt my own ideas on the matter.

“ He said that the people of India had a very poor idea of sanitation and that they did not know what preventive medicine was. They did not believe in it and they did not believe in a staff organized to check evils such as cholera and other epidemics before they spread. He said that in England and other advanced countries, the spectacle of plague, cholera and other epidemics raging for months and months before any responsible authority came to know of it was a spectacle which had not been seen for 400 years, but asserted that in India that was a common spectacle. Colonel Elliot’s argument against the transfer was that the representatives of the people, however educated and however enlightened they might be, had a very poor idea of what sanitary relief meant and what preventive medicine was for. They wanted results on the spot and they would not wait. Those of us who fought for the transfer of these subjects gave a different version. I think my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, will agree with me when I say that I argued as far as possible against Col. Elliot’s view. Now, the vote on the subject would show whether his view was justified or not.

“ As regards the question of roads and communications, of course local bodies have a grievance in the matter, and second-class roads are a crying necessity. Coming from Chingleput, I must say that my district has the greatest grievance in the matter. Close as it is to Madras, requiring as it does a great many facilities which other districts do not require, we have suffered for the last two and a half years from the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. But that apart, the simple question is this: The money at the disposal of the Government is limited, and it should be spent either on the second-class roads or on public health work. Let us find money for both. Taking it for granted that we have money for the one or the other and not for both, I think every hon. Member will agree that that money should be spent on improving the health of the people; otherwise we shall not only get into the position depicted by Col. Elliot, but also justify it.”

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—“ Sir, I am sorry I was a little late in attendance and so could not hear what the hon. Minister had said in reply. However, I want to say a few words in reply. Much has been said as to the relative importance of road communications and public health and the want of funds for improving both. What I wish to say is that, after all, the work that these Health Officers are going to undertake—work like the prevention of cholera, plague, guineaworm and other water-borne diseases—is, as has been indicated by the several hon. Members who have spoken already, well known to the Taluk and District Board Presidents and the Revenue officials who tour through the villages. They have very well realized the requirements of each village for the prevention of these diseases, and they have the material, men, advice and understanding power necessary to meet them. The only difficulty felt is want of funds and not the want of a costly establishment and its expert advice. I do not think for a moment

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that this highly technical staff is necessary. So, I think the House will consider the matter dispassionately and see that the money allotted for the improvement of communications is not utilized for other purposes. I hope the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will accept my motion without any difficulty."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, I have listened with great care to the debate on this motion. The main arguments advanced against the scheme for giving District Boards Health Staffs are four in number. Firstly, hon. Members say that the experimental measure that was introduced was not sufficiently tested; secondly, that giving effect to the scheme will amount to a separate entity being brought into existence, an entity altogether independent of the local bodies; thirdly, that we are forming these health establishments without the necessary funds to carry out the work; and, fourthly, that the funds which are required for the appointment of these District Health Officers are to be met from the grants which hitherto the local boards were getting for general resources.

"Now, coming to the first of these points, even those who support the motion do not for a moment hesitate to admit that there is necessity for the appointment of Health Staffs in the districts, and a number of the District Board Presidents support the view that the Health Staffs already constituted are doing excellent work. My hon. friend, Dr. Rama Rao, too appreciated the scheme. That really is a valuable certificate, because he is always opposed to the Public Health policy, as he has himself admitted, of the Government.

"Now, coming to the second objection, it is said that the constitution of District Health Establishments amounts to the creation of an independent entity. I cannot for a moment understand how this establishment could be considered as the constitution of an independent body. The constitution of Health Staff is not different from the constitution of engineering staff. Even as the engineer is not appointed by the Board, so is the health officer not appointed by the Board."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"That is under the new Act and not before."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am referring only to the new Act. So far as the staff is concerned, it is to be controlled by the local bodies. So, practically it does not amount to the creation of any body independent of the local bodies.

"Now, coming to the third objection, viz., that these health staffs have not sufficient funds to carry on the health work, Sir, there seems to be a misapprehension. Most of the work is done by way of propaganda; that sort of work does not require any large investment of money. As a matter of fact, the incidence of many of the epidemics can be averted by timely warning to the people. Take the case of the outbreak of cholera. If cholera breaks out in a village situated at the source of a particular stream, if timely warning is given to the villagers living down the current of the stream, a number of deaths can be prevented. So, Sir, much depends on propaganda work which does not require much money. So far as the sanitary works are concerned, such as digging wells and other things, the taluk boards are still empowered to undertake those operations.

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"As regards the fourth objection, namely, that this establishment is to be maintained from the funds which have been hitherto granted for general resources, my hon. friends, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar and Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, have given an effective reply. The financial position of the Government is not what it should be. In these circumstances, if a choice is to be made whether the funds that are now given to the local bodies should be devoted either for public health work or for the maintenance of second-class roads, I think the choice should be in favour of public health work.

"Incidentally, my friend, the Member from Anantapur, has raised the question of wells for the depressed classes. I have every sympathy for it, but I only feel sorry that even an enlightened district like Anantapur—

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"A very poor district."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"It is strange that a district with a district board presided over by my hon. friend should still continue to prevent the Adi-Dravidas and others from drawing water from the ordinary wells. I hope, Sir, that the presidents will be the first to set an example to others to show that after all the Adi-Dravidas, the Arundateyas and other depressed classes are our own men."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"We are not social reformers, but where we do sanitary work we have to do that work with the money at our disposal."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I want to ask if the new Health Officer can solve this problem."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"In view of these observations, I trust, Sir, my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, on a matter of personal explanation: My hon. friend, Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu, seems to charge me with inconsistency in making certain recommendations in the Financial Relations Committee and in saying something to-day here which went against those recommendations."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"What I was saying was with reference to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee and I think Mr. Narasimha Raju will bear me out."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I may be permitted to say that I was not a Member of the Financial Relations Committee."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. Member, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, referred to Mr. Ramachandra Rao. There is no harm really in having an explanation." (Laughter.)

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I only referred to the recommendations made in the Financial Relations Committee of which Mr. Ramachandra Rao was a Member."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I only wish to point out to him, that, while the Committee recommended that minor sanitary grants should be abolished as they existed, they also made a recommendation that in rural areas, as will be seen from paragraph 149 of the Report of the Committee, a definite allotment should be made for the improvement of rural

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water-supply in place of the abolished grant. What the Government have done is to abolish the minor sanitary grant; they have done nothing to replace it by the method which the Committee suggested.

"There is only one other point by way of personal explanation. The hon. Member, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, also seemed to suggest that we were objecting to this provision of Health Officers. My objection to the present scheme is this: although it is a scheme which provincializes the District Health Officers and places them on a provincial cadre, we have heard nothing to-day as to what control the district boards are to have over them. Our recommendation was, as my hon. friend admitted, that every district board or municipality should appoint a qualified Health Officer. My hon. friend does not say what organic connexion there is between the Health Staff which he is creating and the Health Officers. Are they to pick out certain men out of the staff and employ them as Health Officers, or are these District Health Officers to be controlled entirely by the Provincial Head of that service? Nothing has been said on that score. I may assure my hon. friend that we are as keen as he himself for the promotion of public health."

The motion was put to the House and declared lost.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 10. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 2. S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad Bahadur. | 11. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 3. Mr. A. Thangavelu Nayagar. | 12. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 4. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. | 13. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. | 14. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 6. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 15. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. " M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 16. " R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 8. " L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. | 17. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 9. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Toddhunter. | 21. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 22. " K. P. Gopala Menon. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 23. " K. Kandaswami Kandar. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu. | 24. " J. Kuppuswami. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 25. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 26. " A. T. Muttakumaraswami Chetti-
yar. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 27. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 28. " A. Ramayya Panja. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 29. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 10. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 30. " W. P. A. Saundarapandiy
Nadar. |
| 11. " R. D. Richmond. | 31. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 12. Diwan Bahadur T. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 32. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayan
murti Nayudu. |
| 13. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 33. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Redd |
| 14. " E. Periyannayagam. | 34. Mr. S. Muttumanikkaobari. |
| 15. Rao Sahib T. C. Thangavelu Pillai. | 35. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 16. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 36. Sriman Sasi Bhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 17. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 37. Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 18. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 38. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Macarenhas. |
| 19. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 39. Mr. A. T. Palmer. |
| 20. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 40. The Raja of Ramnad. |

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Noes—cont.

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| 41. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 48. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman
Sahib Bahadur. |
| 42. " G. R. T. Congreve. | 49. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 43. " A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib. | 50. " R. T. Kesavalu Pillai. |
| 44. Khan Sahib A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim
Ravuttar. | 51. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 45. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib
Bahadur. | 52. Mr. A. G. Leech. |
| 46. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul
Razaak Sahib Bahadur. | 53. " A. M. MacDougall. |
| 47. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla
Badsha Sahib Bahadur. | 54. Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chetti-
yar. |

Neutral.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chetti-
yar. | 7. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam
Nayudu. |
| 2. Mr. V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 8. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 3. " P. T. Rajan. | 9. Mustapha Ravuttar Ahmad Miran
Sahib Bahadur. |
| 4. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiayar. | 10. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib
Bahadur. |
| 5. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. | |
| 6. " A. Subbarayudu. | |

Eighteen voted for, and 54 against the motion, 10 remaining neutral.

The motion was lost.

At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the chair.

MOTION No. 172.

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

To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,50,736 for Public Health Establishment.

"Sir, I am not unaware of the usefulness and many-sided virtues of the Health Department and the various boons it is capable of conferring upon the country and its people. The very name signifies that it is intended to improve public health, which, nobody can deny, is the most essential thing for the very existence of the world. But, the reason why I am forced to make this motion is that I sincerely think that there are no extraordinary conditions prevailing now to make it quite indispensable to have the Department in the face of the great financial stringency that is now rendering the running of the administration not quite easy. When funds permit, the scheme may be quite welcome. We can conveniently wait till then. I am not well aware of what purpose the Department is serving in Madras, the metropolis of the Presidency. But judging from what is being done by it in mufassal places, I am convinced that it can be abolished wholesale at once and be reopened when all the imminent necessities are satisfied and when funds become available. At present a District Health Officer is practically serving no useful purpose except perhaps that of being an addition to the village officers who attend to health work. He visits a village and the diary of his work contains invariably these words, 'Visited such and such a village. There are so many wells in it. So many step-wells need immediate conversion into draw-wells. The village is dirty having dung-hills close to inhabited places. The president, taluk board, is requested to convert the wells into draw-wells and to prosecute such and such persons.' He also writes in his diary 'addressed a meeting of 20, 30, or 40 villagers on the causes of the outbreak of cholera and impressed upon them the necessity for keeping houses clean.' This is all the work he is doing, and this I think any layman without any special knowledge of any special science can do. The village headman is required to read a small book on

[Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi]

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hygiene and to pass an examination. His knowledge, I think, is quite sufficient to do the work which the Health Officer is now doing. Touring revenue officers like the Revenue Inspectors may be asked to do this work. I am sure they will do this work without claiming any remuneration. I do not see any need for highly-paid special officers for this purpose."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM :—" Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. I think the time for this grant expires ten minutes after 1 o'clock. In the Assembly the practice is that at whatever stage the discussion is, on the expiry of the time, the axe falls down. Now it is about quarter to 1 o'clock. I request you to give your ruling on the point of order."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think the time expires at 1-30, exactly at the lunch hour, because we are calculating the time taken up yesterday. That is the calculation arrived at by our erudite Secretary."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM :—" I am sorry, Sir, my calculation is different."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think your calculation is a mistake."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Since the mover of this motion has voted against the previous motion for the omission of an allotment regarding this matter, can he now move for the omission of the total grant, Sir ?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" That is not exactly a point of order. But that can be seen later on."

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—" I am sorry, Sir, to hear that I cannot move this motion having voted against the previous motion. I do not think that a person is bound to vote for or against a motion according to his remarks upon it (laughter). Nevertheless, I think I can move my motion to bring out my own point.

"Then, Sir, whenever I have occasion to read the administration reports of the heads of this Department, the only thing that strikes me most is their intellectual capacity to make little things appear very large. Indeed these reports cover more pages than the administration reports of other officers. Sir, especially when the Government are not able to find funds to retain village establishments intact in spite of the fact that the village administration is the basis for all other administration and in spite of the fact that the safety of the Government and the country do demand improvement of the efficiency and numerical strength of the village staff, it is hardly justifiable for the Government to maintain the Health Department. While the Government by one stroke of the pen without even consulting the public could venture to loosen its main springs by reducing the number of village headmen and *talaiyaris*, who are as it were the life springs of the Government or like the bees that had the key to the life of Miravana and who had been holding their appointments even from before the advent of the British Government, they should not, I think, hesitate at all to abolish this Department by one stroke of the pen. But here, perhaps, the Government may be afraid of the resentment of wide-mouthed and long-tongued men unlike those in the case of village headmen and *talaiyaris* who are dumb and voiceless though very loyal and faithful in their defence of the village and the Government. Therefore, I wish that the Government should see that the village administration is made strong and efficient, finding funds by effecting

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the abolition of such departments as the Health Department for which there is no immediate need.

"For these reasons, I move that the allotment be omitted."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I think my hon. friend, Mr. Sarabha Reddi, in moving this resolution, wanted to raise a question of policy. As for the good work done by the health establishment, I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not place before the House the benefit of the experience I had of their work in one or two taluks of the Trichinopoly district and in the Tanjore taluk. Apart from general sanitary conditions, there was an epidemic called relapsing fever, and whole quarters of Adi-Dravidas were swept away practically. It was a very fortunate thing that the Director of Public Health, passing through Trichinopoly and Tanjore, held meetings and began some propaganda work which was afterwards continued by the Public Health establishment. I myself was very anxiously watching the progress of that alarming disease which nobody was able to diagnose and for which no adequate remedy was found even by the medical officers stationed in the neighbouring dispensaries. My own *panniai* died of that disease and many local mirasidars found that at that alarming rate of mortality it would be impossible for them to find farm hands to cultivate their fields. The result of the propaganda work carried on by the Public Health establishment is that this disease has been practically stamped out. It is very curious to remark that this disease was propagated or spread by a very ordinary and common insect which clings to man, namely, the louse. Now, in the villages I found, in the quarters occupied by the Adi-Dravidas, that both men and women removed their tufts of hair and the result was very beneficial to them. Apart from the question of health and other sanitary arrangements, here was an epidemic which broke out suddenly and which required the investigation of scientific experts. But for their labours nobody would have found the relationship existing between that very ordinary and innocent insect, as we thought, and this terrible disease. If the health establishment is not able to do greater work, I think here again there is the question of the limitations arising from paucity of funds. Many hon. Members spoke of the paucity of funds, and I think it is possible for the hon. the Minister for Local Self-funds, and I think it is possible for the hon. the Minister for Local Self-funds, to reconcile all these objections and difficulties raised by hon. Members who really were in earnest and sincere in raising them and in desiring to have certain questions of policy raised threshed out and solved satisfactorily, and the assurances given by other hon. Members that very good work was being done.

"There is one other point which I should like to dwell upon, namely, the remark that has been made that Indians do not understand sanitation. I think any careful observer of the rituals, ceremonials and the frequent ablutions, etc., practised by Indians will come to the conclusion that their religion is really a kind of sanitary regulation, and all these practices and ceremonials which are scrupulously performed by them are so many sanitary regulations prescribed by the ancients which in course of time acquired the sanction of religion and which certainly go a great way towards improving sanitation. As for the location of certain places where filth is apt to accumulate far away from the villages, it is a question that can be successfully tackled by the labours of the Public Health establishment, when good and proper recommendations are made and sufficient funds are forthcoming."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I support this motion whole-heartedly, but this should not be taken to mean that I am against the advent of that glorious day when the box of Pandora will be closed after all her followers are imprisoned inside that box. The only question is if that day can possibly come, and if the army consisting of 23 commanders and 205 soldiers to be directed by the Director of Public Health will be sufficient to keep down that army of Pandora. It has been very well said that the only question is not that there is any suggestion that we are against health. All of us want health, but the only question is whether that health can be got by having these Health Officers. There seems to be a desire on the part of every one at the head of every Department to have a paraphernalia of as many highly-paid officers as possible, ignoring the fact that the work is to be done by the people at the bottom and not by those on the top. We would certainly be glad if the hon. Member in charge of this Department can get some pagoda tree from which he can get a number of coins sufficient to have highly-paid officers as well as low-paid officers. We are not concerned with the fight between the hon. Member in charge of the Local Fund Department and the presidents of district boards whose complaint was that they had to overfeed the officers of this Department. The complaint of the ordinary man is that he is being starved so as to feed any number of highly-paid officers. We are not against health being improved, but as has been very well remarked by Mr. Gopalakrishnayya, what we want is District Health Officers, Taluk Health Officers and Village Health Officers. If money can be had for all these officers, we will be quite willing to get them all, but at the same time we would rather have the poor-paid Village Health Officers in the absence of District or Taluk Health Officers. There is plenty of filth in villages, and are the Taluk Health Officers going to remove it? It is the Village Health Officers glorying in the name of scavengers that should do it, and unless sufficient number of scavengers and sweepers are provided under the immediate charge of the Revenue Officers or Taluk Board Presidents to clean the various villages, we submit there is absolutely no necessity for having highly-paid officers to write their diaries, to visit the markets, etc., and, whenever it is possible, to prosecute the offenders. We have already had a number of additional Departments recently, and any addition to the existing Departments means an addition to the persecution and suffering of the villagers. The villagers tremble at the idea of having some more highly-paid officers. At present, I think it is better that all this money is spent in the real cleansing of dirt and if any supervision is found necessary, it is better that the supervision is made by the presidents of taluk boards, helped, if necessary, by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. Various certificates have been given to that high officer, but still I think that he has not got much work to do, and he has got both the capacity and leisure to do this additional work. Therefore, I submit that the appointment of a large number of highly-paid officers when there is no low-paid army will be a waste of money. We are therefore against this particular establishment, but not against the expenditure of this amount of money on sanitation. We think that if money is available, it can be utilized for useful purposes on the lines suggested by me."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Sir, I wish to oppose this motion. I think after the Council have accepted the scheme of having District Health Officers, it will be really negating this sanction if they disallow this establishment.

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I may claim some intimate knowledge of the work of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in my district, and I may say that he has absolutely no leisure to attend to any sanitary work. He has to attend to the headquarters hospital, he has to perform major operations and he is always there. He goes out to some places where there are dispensaries and inspects them, and that is all the work he can do for the rural parts of the district. Therefore, it is very necessary that we should have this establishment. If, as my hon. friend from Coimbatore says, this money is to be spent on sanitary works rather than on establishments, I do not know through which agency he can get this amount spent. If he thinks that the taluk board presidents or district board presidents will be able to spend the money, I may tell him from personal experience . . ."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I only said taluk board presidents."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I think I can claim greater and more intimate knowledge of the work of the taluk board presidents than my hon. friend. Therefore I say with my experience as President of a district board, that they cannot be expected to do this work, and it is only through this health staff that sanitary work could be done and should be done. Therefore, I strongly oppose this motion."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I find that there are only about five minutes more for the closing of this subject and I therefore crave your permission to digress a little, and say a few words touching this Department. I was to have spoken on the subject of the Public Analyst, but since that matter is not going to be discussed, I only want to say that whatever is going to be done with this grant, the hon. the Minister may look to these things beforehand and have locally trained men rather than outsiders and swell the number of those whose pay ought to be high because of their foreign importation. That is all that I have to say with regard to the Public Analyst, and I say it now as it comes within the grant under discussion. If I remained neutral and did not vote on the last motion, it was because I am one of those who believe in the sacredness of our trust in the matter of sanitation, and we cannot spend too much on sanitation. But one has to cut his coat according to his cloth and the reduction can only be made by having as far as possible local agency instead of foreign agency, in which former case the expenditure will be considerably reduced."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, has told us that we are very hygienical and sanitary in everything and that in all our ceremonials we observe sanitation. But what I want to tell him is that these ceremonials or practices are misdirected and misunderstood. Sir, the orthodox gentleman goes to a dirty pool and bathes himself therein."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I do not know if that is quite relevant to the subject under discussion. No doubt, Indians have known sanitary principles, but if you are disputing that proposition, you may quote instances."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, what I say is that there is no use of bathing in that way, because once Dr. Nair observed that for clearing off the dirt that accumulates on the body of the orthodox people, all the soaps in the world would not be sufficient."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Will the Health Officer give us some soaps?"

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"What I am saying is that the religious practices are misdirected."

Rao Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Does the hon. Member advise us not to bathe?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"One hon. Member should speak at a time."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"The Health Officers may tell the people not to bathe in dirty pools, they may tell them to have good water to bathe in. Another thing I want to say is this. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar was telling us that village scavengers were enough."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I simply said that village scavengers were necessary, but not that they were enough."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President am I to understand from the hon. Member that people here bathe in dirty water?"

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"The orthodox section generally does."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid Dr. Natesan is not quite in order. The hon. Member is stirring up dirty water." (Laughter.)

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"As Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar said, that is not the only duty of the Health Department. Preventive medicines, to prevent the outbreaks of epidemics like cholera and plague these people have to find out."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"As it is half-past one, the time allotted for this demand has expired. I will therefore put the motion to the vote before I put the demand."

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI:—"I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XIX was then put and carried and the grant made.

At this stage (1-35 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch.

2-30 p.m. The Council met at half-past two after lunch with the hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the chair.

DEMAND XX—AGRICULTURE.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President Sir, I beg to move Demand XX. Agriculture for a grant not exceeding Rs. 14.54 lakhs."

MOTION No. 173.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,70,213 for Deputy and Assistant Directors of Agriculture by Rs. 1,000.

I will just say a few words, Sir. The hon. the Minister in charge of this Department was pleased to say at the time of the general discussion of the Budget that he had made large reductions in his Department by

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filling up acting vacancies in some cases and in others by filling up the vacancies with the subordinates in the Department. My idea in bringing a motion of this sort is not to reduce even a pie out of the allotment, but only to know whether every pie that is spent is usefully spent in the Department. So far as the Ministers are concerned, I must say, with all respect to them, they do not seem to be as insistent in getting money as the members of Government are. They are no doubt very strong so far as their followers and their party are concerned. But they are not equally strong with their colleagues in the Cabinet. It is therefore necessary that any money that they have been able to get either by their persuasion or by the grace of other members of Government should not be curtailed. My object in this motion is to suggest some means by which the money available for useful items might be increased. Our complaint from the very beginning has been that there is quite a large number of unnecessary officers higher in the department. I would now respectfully ask the hon. the Minister to continue his present policy of not recruiting people from England to fill up any vacancy and to fill vacancies by people working in the department as subordinates to the gazetted officers. I know, Sir, of some departments like Entomology in which such people have been made to act, and I have been told that their work has been found satisfactory.

"Next, Sir, I would draw the attention of the hon. the Minister to those appointments like the Scientific Expert and the Lecturing Expert. There is, for instance, a lecturing chemist in addition to an expert chemist. Every one of these has got a number of gazetted or non-gazetted assistants. I would appeal to the hon. the Minister to see that whenever there is a chance the two appointments are held by one and the same person. I hope, Sir, that much money can be saved and utilized for other purposes, if this suggestion is adopted.

"Coming to the question of Deputy and Assistant Directors it so happens that there is one Assistant Director working under a Deputy Director in many divisions. It is better that these officers are given different jurisdictions so that the Assistant and the Deputy Directors may work in different places and their work may be co-ordinated by the one supervising over the other. In spite of what all is said about the supervising staff in the department, I have my own fears about their work. The subordinates spend more time in answering the questions of superior officers and in satisfying them than in meeting the public demands. I think that the work can better be done by dividing the jurisdictions and by making the Deputy Director and the Assistant Director work in different places.

"Then, Sir, the number of Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors is at present equal except where they are engaged in special work. It is better from the point of view of economy as from other considerations to reduce the number of Deputy Directors and increase that of the Assistant Directors. I may point out here, Sir, that the pay of an Assistant Director is less than that of a Deputy Director, and, probably, two Assistant Directors may be got for the pay of one Deputy Director. Therefore we can have more officers doing the same work as the Deputy Directors at a less cost.

"Sir, it has become the practice that in everything English experience is supposed to be superior to Indian and that is the case in regard to the Deputy Director of Live-stock. I do not know whether a European is necessarily superior to an Indian so far as live-stock is concerned. In fact, I may

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say, Sir, that many of the ryots in places like Kangayam in my own district and other places who cannot boast of any English education are much better than any of these master farmers of England in the art of breeding cattle. I would therefore suggest that so far as this officer is concerned—I have absolutely nothing personal against him—he can be sent away if that is possible. He seems to have been taken on three years' probation, and I do not know whether the probation period is over and whether he has been confirmed. If he has been appointed *pucca* I do not want the settled fact to be unsettled unless it is absolutely necessary. If the probation period is not yet over, I request the hon. the Minister to consider seriously the undesirability of confirming him in his appointment. I am saying this because I know there are a number of people in the estate of the Agricultural College itself who know much about live-stock and who have received special training in various works connected with it. It is not as in the Forest Department where we have elephants to manage. Thank God we have no elephants, black or white, in this department. As is pleaded by the hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp, so far as elephantry is concerned an inspector of live-stock may be necessary in the Forest Department. But I can see no need for a highly paid Deputy Director of Live-stock in the Agricultural Department.

"There is the other question of the Deputy Director in charge of the planting districts. I do not want to go into that question. It is very difficult to say whether there is any necessity for a Deputy Director of Planting districts having, so to say, a concurrent jurisdiction with the officer in charge of the division. I understand that some contribution is made by the planters towards the pay of this particular officer, and therefore it is a rather difficult question whether they will continue their contribution if the general officer in charge of the division is in charge of the planting interests also. In case the hon. Minister finds that the contribution will be continued, I would request him to consider the feasibility of abolishing that post.

"These are some of the suggestions that I wanted to make and if some attempt is made by the hon. Minister on these lines, I am sure that a large saving can be effected and a large amount can be utilized to make the village demonstrators easily available in each village to hold practical demonstrations rather than expect the ryots to go to the demonstrators themselves. The hon. the Minister has been sympathizing with us in our efforts in this direction, but he has not been able to act up to his sympathies, which I am tempted to think are really confined to his lips. If the hon. Minister cannot fill up his purse by contributions from other departments, he should at least try to fill it up from his own money spent in other directions. We want a larger number of demonstrators who can go from village to village and show the people the advantages of the advanced methods of agriculture. I will therefore appeal to the hon. Minister to consider the matter deeply and try to convert his sympathies into action. With these words, I beg to move the motion in my name."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President,

2.45 p.m.

I must at the outset thank the hon. mover of this motion for the conciliatory speech that he has delivered to-day. He was telling us that at one time we charged the hon. Members with ignorance of these matters. Let me here repudiate the statement that we ever charged any hon. Member, much less the hon. the mover, with ignorance."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I was referring to the establishment which charged the hon. Members with ignorance of these subjects."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I know, Sir, that my hon. friend is very well acquainted with the Research Institute and the work of the Department and so he cannot be charged with ignorance of the workings of the Department.

"The next question referred to by the hon. mover was that the Ministers were not very vigilant in getting as much money as possible. Well, Sir, I cannot plead guilty to that charge. We have been trying our best to get as much as possible; but we have not been able to get much, and, as the hon. Member says, our pockets are not full.

"As regards the Demonstrators, I may assure the hon. mover that the Director of Agriculture will be quite willing to appoint a large number of Demonstrators provided funds are forthcoming. If this House sanctions money next year, I shall try to put as many Demonstrators on work as the College is able to turn out.

"There are one or two matters to which criticism has been directed. First, as regards the Deputy Director and Assistant Director, it is not accurate to say that every Deputy Director is assisted by an Assistant Director. Out of the eight circles, in only three circles the Deputy Directors are assisted by Assistant Directors; in the other five circles there are no Assistant Directors to help them. Even among the Deputy Directors some of them at least are Assistant Directors promoted to do that work. Therefore, on this point there is not much to be said.

"On the question of Live-stock Deputy Director, it will be conceded that our live-stock is not the best of the kind and our milk supply is very poor. If we mean to have a good breed of cattle in this country, a good breed not merely of draught cattle but also of good cows that will give milk, something will have to be done in this direction. I wish to point out to the House that in countries where attention has been bestowed on the question of milk, there are cows which yield four or five times more milk than our best cows. This shows what scientific research and good breeding can do in the matter. It is only in order that we may be able to achieve some good in this direction of increasing the milk supply that this appointment of Live-stock Deputy Director has been made. This is an appointment made by the Secretary of State. I do not for a moment mean to say that I would not have made that appointment if I had been left alone. I strongly feel that much requires to be done in both these directions. That officer is now on leave and a provincial officer below him has been posted to act for him.

"Then, Sir, I come to the question of planting districts. My hon. friend stated that a contribution was paid by the planters. I may mention to the House that the planting district has separate work to be done there. Our coffee and tea industry are well known. The House is aware that so far as tea is concerned, India is one of the countries that come in the first rank of exporters. In these circumstances, I do not think that any money spent on improving our tea industry will be a waste. Further, when it is remembered that what is being spent in this direction is so small, I think hon. Members will agree that this appointment is well made.

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"As regards the question of not filling up the acting vacancies or filling them up only with officers who are below I may say that this problem is engaging my attention. Unfortunately, most of our agricultural experts are going away to other countries where they have better prospects. If hon. Members would look at the Civil List, they would find that six or seven officers have already left. The fact is that the salary that we are paying these officers is not sufficiently attractive according to their valuation. There are other countries which are willing to utilize their services on very lucrative salaries. Most of these officers take advantage of the option of premature retirement on proportionate pension and seek employment in other countries, where they can certainly get more than what they are getting in this country. I should be very sorry to lose the services of these officers. I should think that for some time to come we must have some experts who would put our men in the way. As pointed out by my hon. friend, some of those who have been trained under these experts do very well when they are put in the places of their superiors when these superiors go on leave or are transferred or leave this country. I think it is very essential that we should have the assistance of these experts in training our men. These experts are men trained in countries where science has made rapid advancements, and our men, if put under their training, will get the knowledge that these experts possess. I have always looked upon the appointment of experts in that view. Then, Sir, I wish to point out to the House that we have put in as many Indians into the department as possible. Let us always remember that we do require experts for some time to come so that they may impart to our men the expert knowledge gained by them in countries where science has advanced a good deal.

"Lastly, Sir, I wish to say that, as is the custom with me, I shall send down a copy of the discussions here to the officers concerned and proper enquiries will be made and action will be taken wherever possible."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. the Minister for making that last observation, namely, that he is generally in the habit of sending copies of the discussions that take place here to the officers concerned for necessary action. From my own personal experience, I must say that some points raised by me on a previous occasion were sent to the Director of Agriculture and he has deputed some officers to see what could be done to redress the grievances complained of.

"First, Sir, as regards the complaint that the hon. the Ministers are not vigilant in getting money from the Government for the development of their particular departments, we have been seeing that that is a fact. I do not bring in personalities at all. I was tempted to make that statement to-day because this morning when I entered the House a long list of supplementary grants to be moved to-day at 5 p.m. was given to me. The total amount of supplementary grants comes to 17 lakhs, and the whole amount exceeding 80 lakhs is to be appropriated by the Reserved Half of the Government. Practically very little is asked on behalf of the transferred subjects. That is why I have been tempted to make the statement that the Ministers are not very vigilant in pressing their claims on the attention of the Government. The House is perfectly willing to vote supplementary grants if asked for by the hon. the Ministers; but the thing is the door of the House must be knocked at. The hon. Members belonging to the Reserved Half come in with grants, supplementary grants and supplementary supplementary grants, but the hon. the

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Ministers never come before us even for a single supplementary grant. The House has no power to say that it will make over to the Ministers such and such an amount. The Ministers must come before it for supplementary grants. On behalf of all the Members of the House, I may take the liberty of assuring the hon. the Minister that no demand for supplementary grant brought by him will be refused. (Applause.)

"Then, Sir, as for the Live-stock Deputy Director, I wish to say a few words. He has been in office for the past three or four years. He is training a person who gets a sum of Rs. 60 or so. All I wish to say is that if his appointment falls vacant an Indian with the requisite qualifications might be put in the vacancy."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"My hon. friend is not quite accurate in saying that the person who is undergoing training under this officer is getting only Rs. 60. I am told that he is getting Rs. 150 and he is very well trained."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 174.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,400 for new works (immovable) by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in making this motion is to say a few words regarding the policy of opening paddy farms in the Presidency, especially with reference to Malabar. The district of Malabar, as the House is aware, is one of the paddy producing districts in the Presidency, and it is hardly necessary for me to say that it is the duty of the Government to increase the output of paddy by both extensive and intensive cultivation. Though Malabar is one of the paddy producing districts in the presidency, yet on account of the hills and forests in the district, it is not possible to produce enough of paddy for the consumption of its own population. The quantity of paddy produced is hardly sufficient for six months' consumption for the people living in the district and the paddy that is required for the remaining portion of the year has to be got from other districts in the presidency. The total acreage under paddy cultivation in Malabar is about 8.75 lakhs and the quantity of paddy produced per acre is 1,400 pounds: so that, the total quantity of paddy produced in the whole district comes to about 5½ lakhs of tons. Taking 2½ pounds as the minimum required for consumption per head, and taking the population of the district, which is nearly three millions, the total quantity produced is hardly sufficient for six months.

"The necessity for opening a paddy farm in Malabar was referred to more than once by the agricultural officers employed in the district. In their report for 1912-13, the agricultural officers referred to the need for opening a paddy farm in South Malabar, and this was again repeated in the report for 1917-18. Lord Pentland, when he visited Malabar and the Taliparamba farm, wrote in the visitors' book that it was absolutely necessary to open a paddy farm in the district. This was in 1914. But, soon after, the war broke out and it has not been possible for the Government to do anything in that direction. There is already one farm in North Malabar, but that is not in the paddy region. It is in the pepper region and it was primarily intended for the cultivation of pepper.

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

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"I may inform the House that South Malabar is the place best suited for the cultivation of paddy and there are several useful places where farms can be conveniently established. It is unnecessary for me at this stage to go into details; but I may mention that some places near the railway line in the Palghat taluk or in the Walavanad taluk may be chosen for the opening of paddy farms. From the facts which I have submitted to the House it will be seen that it is necessary to open a paddy farm in South Malabar and I hope the hon. Minister will bear all these facts in mind and try his best to open a paddy farm as early as possible.

"In this connexion, I may be permitted to refer to one other point. When the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter introduced the budget the other day, it was said that our deficit was about 31 lakhs. Subsequently, on account of some windfalls, we have been able to get about 30 lakhs. I am sure that these 30 lakhs will be distributed among the various departments. I hope that the hon. the Minister for Development will not be slow in pressing his claim for a portion of them. I may assure the hon. Minister that the House will fully support him in any demand for supplementary grants that he may bring forward. I once more appeal to the hon. Minister to open a paddy farm in South Malabar in the immediate future."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I am very glad to associate myself with all that has just now been said by my hon. friend, 3 p.m. Mr. Krishnan Nayar. I have already, on previous occasions, drawn the attention of the Government to the immediate necessity for the opening of paddy farms in South Malabar. I do not of course want to decry the utility of the Taliparamba farm, but it is very far away from the railway line and is being almost wholly devoted to pepper cultivation. What we want in South Malabar is a paddy farm. It may be located either in Palghat, or somewhere in the Walavanad taluk near the railway line. The best thing to do is to take up on lease some land from the private jenmies and show to the people how best to improve the cultivation there; and if the Government are satisfied that it has answered its purpose, the operations can be transferred to another place. Thus, in the course of about twelve years, a series of places can be taken up and experimented on, and the utility of improved methods demonstrated to the people."

Sriman BISWANATH Das Mahasayo:—"Sir, a great economist has said that taxation should be in proportion to the benefits received. We are getting enough of the benefits so far as the Reserved Departments are concerned. By this I mean we have enough of Divisional officers, District Magistrates, Superintendents, and so on. But so far as the Transferred Departments are concerned, we find very little, and that is especially the case with regard to the activities of the Agricultural Department. It was probably during the time of Lord Pentland that the Government were considering the question of opening a farm in the Gumsur division. I do not know the reason why it was given up. The hon. the Minister for Development has not yet thought it worth his while either to visit the district, or to think of any model farm either for paddy cultivation or for the sugar cultivation in the district of Ganjam. In this connexion, I may inform the House that zamindars like the Raja of Parlakimedi and others have done a great deal in the direction of demonstrating the single-seeding paddy cultivation and the introduction of the Barbados and Jamaica sugar and so on, while

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the Government have done nothing. I would therefore appeal to the hon. the Minister for Development not to forget the just claims of the Northern Circars in this direction, especially the Ganjam district."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I sympathize with the hon. the mover and the hon. the supporter of this motion in their demand for having a farm—I am using the word 'farm' cautiously—for Malabar. The hon. Members have themselves admitted that they have a farm in Taliparamba. I visited that place only quite recently, and I may say that the farm and the new school that is established in the farm itself, are worth a visit from any hon. Member of this House.

"On the question of the paddy supply of that district, Sir, of course my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, who is always accurate in his statements, must be correct when he quoted the figures and said that the district was capable of producing at present only half the quantity of paddy required for local consumption. How far this half production is due to the fact that the people of Malabar generally go in for gardens, and especially coconut gardens, and how far the coconut gardening system itself is a result of our land revenue system, it is not for me to say. But, Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that as soon as an opportunity affords itself, which means as soon as funds are available, it shall be my endeavour to open another farm in Malabar. But it will have to be remembered that there are other districts like Kistna and Godavari which have something like 12 lakhs of acres of land (including Guntur) actually cultivated with the river water without having any paddy demonstration, and my attempts to get money for them have so far failed. In these circumstances, I can only tell my hon. friends from Malabar that as soon as I succeed in getting a farm for these three delta districts, which at present pay the largest amount of irrigation revenue—just take Kistna, for instance,—I shall endeavour to get a farm for Malabar.

"As regards the Guntur division, the hon. Member from Ganjam has pressed the claims of another farm there. I am afraid, Sir, he will have to wait for a little more time; not indefinitely, but certainly until other earlier claims are satisfied. He can rest assured that the claims for Ganjam are not likely to be overlooked; for, to my right, he will find an hon. Member representing Ganjam (the hon. Mr. A. P. Patro), who will not allow any opportunity to be lost if there is any chance of getting money for it.

"I hope with this assurance my hon. friend will not press his motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Just a word, Sir. I am certainly thankful to my friend, the hon. the Development Minister, for the kind reply he has given me to the effect that he will as soon as possible open a paddy farm in Malabar. But I wish that he had made the statement that, instead of giving a farm first to the three districts of Guntur, Kistna and Godavari, he would first open a farm in South Malabar. It will be remembered, Sir, that the rivers which irrigate those three districts rise from the hills of the West Coast; and having regard to the irrigation facilities that exist there, I would have been glad if my hon. friend, the Minister, had preferred Malabar to those districts. However, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. the Minister for his kind words."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 175.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I shall move, Sir, the following motion standing against my name as briefly as possible :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,69,000 for improvement of cotton cultivation by Rs. 100.

It may at once be seen, Sir, that my object is not to have any reduction at all, but to elicit certain informations from the hon. the Minister. It will be found that for a long time past our country has been, and for a long time to come it must be, an agricultural country; and any amount spent in the direction of improvement of agriculture is not money wasted. This being the case, I am sorry to find that in this matter of agriculture, our Minister is not able to provide for more. During the current year he budgeted for 16.53 lakhs and spent, or proposes to spend before the end of the year, only Rs. 14.49 lakhs, that is, less than what was budgeted for; and in the coming year he proposes to spend only 16.31 lakhs—a very miserable figure considering the number of people who are employed in agriculture. I should have expected that he would have fought very hard with his colleagues and got more money in order to show to the people how to improve their agriculture. But he seems to be the quietest of all our Ministers and to have allowed things to go on according as the Reserved Departments liked. That is the charge, Sir, that I have to lay against the hon. the Minister for Development: he is the quietest of all and satisfies himself with what little he gets.

"Then, Sir, so far as this subject is concerned, if we can only find more work for the agriculturists by means of demonstrations, their hands will be fully employed on agricultural operations and they will not at all be tempted to break out into riots or commit any other offence. Then there will not be much necessity for the police or even for the courts, because their hands will be fully employed and Satau will not be able to find any work for these busy hands to do. Therefore, Sir, by our Minister trying to get as much funds from the Government as possible and utilizing the money for the purpose of giving increased benefits to the people, he will be not only doing good to the people, but will thereby be effecting a great retrenchment by reducing the police and the courts, because people will never have any occasion to commit any offence. They will be fully employed in agricultural operations for their own benefit and the benefit of their country.

"As regards the improvement of cotton cultivation, a lump sum of Rs. 1,69,000 has been provided in the budget. About the same amount seems to have been spent year after year, but no details are given as to what the improvements of this cotton cultivation are and where these improvements are effected. So far as I know, Sir, my district has recently got only one demonstrator who seems to be acquainted only with agricultural operations with reference to paddy and other grains and knows nothing about cotton at all. There are some taluks in my district which grow cotton, and in the Ceded districts, you know, Sir, as well as anybody else here, that there is a large amount of cotton cultivation going on. I wish to know what improvements have been effected with the object of getting more lands cultivated, and getting more cotton produced which may benefit the people at large. We have no details at all given in the budget and I wish to know what the details for these Rs. 1,69,000 are, where this amount will be spent and whether the Ceded districts will get any share in this amount."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I thank the hon. Member, Sir, for the kind words with which he in fact supported me in making this motion. He told the House that perhaps I was a very quiet Minister and that therefore I was not able to get more money for the departments under me. Well, Sir, if by 'quiet' is meant 'without going beyond order and peace,' I can assure my hon. friend that I have done my best, and struggled as hard as man can struggle, to get as much money as I can. But unfortunately we have to pass through too many seas. There are two Departments through which we have to pass. First there is the Finance Department which is a very hard task-master, and it is so very difficult to show and convince them that a particular work is urgent and that it is necessary to obtain funds for it.

"The new we have another task-master, viz., the Finance Committee.

There, they divide all the works into a number of classes: 3-15 p.m. the first class, the second class, the third class and the fourth class. The first class alone is deemed urgent and funds are provided for; the second class is considered important and is provided for if there are funds available; the third class includes works which are necessary, but for which funds cannot be provided; and the fourth class comprises schemes which are not considered at all. As far as my schemes in this as well as in the Industries Department are concerned there are enough in my hands which would simply double this amount that is given me; and if I am not able to get more money it is not because I have not been struggling to get it, but because, as my hon. friend put it, I have been quiet in the sense that I yielded to law and reason.

"As regards the demand for more Demonstrators, I am at one with my friend, the hon. mover, and I shall do my best to put in as many Demonstrators as possible. As I have already stated in another connexion, two things have to be considered here. One is the output from the colleges. The number of students turned out is very small, and we cannot bring in other people. They must be persons who have been trained in agriculture and I cannot take in a graduate or an undergraduate or an ordinary school-final man for this purpose. Our production in the college is naturally limited, but it will be a matter of consolation to know that not a single student who has gone out of the college is left without employment. The second difficulty is the financial difficulty.

"Coming now to the motion before the House, I may at once be permitted to mention to the hon. Member that this large sum of money, as he calls it, is intended for the purpose of improving cotton cultivation and cotton production in this Presidency. What is done is this. The Agricultural Department selects seeds or it produces seeds on its own farms, what are known as strain seeds. It may be by selection, it may be by importation or by whatever process, the best seeds are obtained. They are distributed to the ryots so that they may cultivate their lands with them only and without permitting them to get mixed up with other seeds. When the crop is ready for harvesting, our officers go and purchase from them all the cotton with the seed. The Department takes the seed out of the cotton and takes the precaution for the purpose of seeing that that particular seed does not get mixed up in the gunny factory with the other seeds. For, when once adulteration gets in the whole thing is useless. So, in order to preserve the purity of the seed, we

[Mr. K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu]

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purchase Caboo, get the seed out of it and then store it. With the seeds that we have thus collected, we go to the country again and distribute them over more fields; because, this time the seeds will have doubled, trebled and quadrupled themselves. They are again multiplied and the result is that we are expanding cultivation of cotton with the best variety. My hon. friend referred to his own district. I admit that not much has been done in Cuddapah. It is only in Kurnool and Bellary that cotton work is carried on at present. In Bellary, we distributed 131 pounds of what is known as H. 25 for sowing 131 acres. In Kurnool where the season was not favourable we distributed 89,000 pounds sufficient to sow 89,000 acres. I have got the figures to show the work done in other districts and there are details also for the figures given in the Budget. I am prepared to give details to my hon. friend to show what these are for. It is only for these transactions of purchasing Caboos and then obtaining seeds and redistributing them to the farmers that this grant is intended. It will therefore be seen that this is a very useful provision.

"In this connexion, I should like to draw the attention of the House to certain remarks made by Mr. Martin Liege, M.A., Director of Agriculture in the United Provinces, India, who was requisitioned by the Egyptian Government where as you all know excellent cotton is grown. Having investigated into the needs of that country in cotton production, he makes certain suggestions which exactly tally with the measures which we had taken in this country long before he went to Egypt. This report is dated 1920 and here is what he says:

As a result of such comparative trials under different environmental conditions, the number of races which survive eliminations will be comparatively small. For these, further trials on a field scale and an organization for multiplying up a seed supply under conditions which will ensure purity are required.

The degree of supervision here required is such that direct and complete control by the Ministry is essential. For, Sir, in our country this complete control is exercised by the Minister through the Director of Agriculture.

From the seed supply so produced distribution will be made to extra ministerial agencies, and here, for the first time, direct contact with the public will be reached. As I have stated above, the amount of seed that can be produced under such rigid control will be, under any organization, practicable, but an iota of that required to sow even one type tract. Control and the organization which accompanies cannot, therefore, cease here. That seed must be issued to a circle of selected and more reliable cultivators, with whom arrangements for the repurchase of the crop, for the purpose of increasing the seed supply, are possible. These cultivators will, in the following year, be supplied with a fresh stock from the directly controlled Government stock, while the seed recovered from them is issued to a further set of cultivators.

"These are the recommendations of an expert whose services were requisitioned by the Egyptian Government and I expect that these instructions must have been followed by that Government in a country where cotton is of the excellent quality produced. This is the very method that we are now following in our country much earlier than from 1920. It will be seen therefore that the method we are pursuing is scientific and is accepted by experienced men. I do not think that I have anything else to say except that I shall bear in mind the suggestions made by my hon. friend which, in fact, I am following as far as possible. I therefore hope that he will not press his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn

[20th March 1923]

MOTION No. 176.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I formally move the motion standing against my name—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,500 for travelling allowance by Rupees 1,500.

My object is to get this item reduced and brought down to the figure which was actually spent according to the Revised Estimate for 1922-23. There was budget allotment for Rs. 9,000 in the current year, but only Rs. 7,000 have been spent. I cannot understand why, instead of giving that figure, an increase of Rs. 1,500 has been shown against this item of travelling allowance.

"On page 176 of the Budget, there is one other matter to which I would like to invite the attention of the hon. the Minister for Development. Against the establishment charges an amount of only Rs. 17,100 is shown, while under travelling allowance we have this large sum of Rs. 8,500 which comes to nearly 50 per cent of the amount spent on the establishment, and I should like to have a clear statement from him as to whether he means real business and whether it will be prudent to spend Rs. 8,500 on travelling allowance, while the establishment itself comes only to Rs. 17,200. It works out to nearly 50 per cent. I think that this travelling allowance should be cut down by Rs. 1,500."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"As this item was a very small one I did not think that it would be cut down. If I explain what this work means, the hon. mover will at once see the point. This is intended for the establishment for the eradication of palmyra disease in the Kurnool and Guntur districts. Operations are now carried on in a portion of the Agency division in the Kistna and Godavari districts, and in Repalle in Guntur. The staff employed consists of a Deputy Collector, occasionally 2 Tahsildars, 12 Revenue Inspectors, 1 Clerk and 16 Peons. In other words 32 persons will have to do this work, and when it is known what their work consists in, it will be seen that we are giving this travelling allowance because the salary itself is not much. The fact is this. The salary is not much because the officers on this work are not permanent. They belong to the Revenue Department. The services of these officers are indented upon and taken for a definite period when the disease is prevailing, and their daily work is constantly to travel from tree to tree, place to place, village to village and taluk to taluk, and see that the heads of the affected trees are chopped off and that other instructions given are carried out. When it is remembered that something like 32 persons have to be constantly on their legs and when it is also remembered that in 1919-20 the travelling charge was Rs. 9,521, in 1920-21 Rs. 11,865 and in 1921-22 Rs. 8,895, this item will not be found fault with. It is no doubt true that only a sum of Rs. 7,000 was spent in the year 1922-23 under this item. But I am told that this was due to a temporary cause, because some officer could not take charge or for some other reason. The amount was very small and the work done was very good. As the hon. the Revenue Member says, he was not able to spare the services of the Deputy Collector because he had to go on leave. That is why the travelling allowance was not much in 1922-23."

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I accept the statement and I beg to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 177.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,97,141 for Agriculture by one lakh.

My object in tabling this motion was this. The report of the Retrenchment Committee is almost ready. I should like to know if the hon. the Minister will take it up and pass orders so that its recommendations may be given effect to from 1st April. I expected that retrenchment to the extent of one lakh can be effected in the Agricultural Department and Rs. 25,000 in the Veterinary Department. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee will lead to a saving of less than one lakh in the Agricultural Department and much more than Rs. 25,000 in the Veterinary Department. I only want to know if the hon. the Minister will take the report at once. I want also to request him to see his way to appoint a committee for the Industries Department."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"So far as the Industries Department is concerned, the paper was delayed as I was engaged in some other deliberations. Certainly, Sir, the head of the Department will be associated with a few members and they will go into the whole question just as in the Agricultural Department. As regards the Agricultural Department, I shall certainly set to work as soon as the report reaches me."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I shall be very brief in my remarks. I would suggest for the consideration of the hon. the Minister for Agriculture the amalgamation of the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments. In fact, something in that line is already being done. If I understand rightly, I find from the annual report of the Co-operative Societies that in the Tamil and West Coast districts the departmental heads meet in conference, and they find that this arrangement works very satisfactorily. As a result of this conference there has been in the last few months much closer and effective co-operation in the departments. That is one thing I submit for the hon. the Minister's consideration.

"Another thing that I would submit for his consideration is that the Agricultural Department is top-heavy. I would plead for a large number of hands at the bottom and a smaller number at the top.

"The third thing that I would submit for his consideration is that the services should be indianized. I know that the hon. the Minister has done something in this direction and I am grateful to him for that, but I submit more remains to be done. At present, the Department serves as a stepping stone for European officers, and after a few months, when they pick up some experience, they leave the Department once for all, perhaps with some pension also.

"The fourth point that I would submit for the consideration of the hon. the Minister is that the Principal of the Agricultural College should be a person having some knowledge and experience of the district work and not merely an officer who is doing research work without knowing any executive work. These are the points which I would submit for his consideration."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"On the first question, namely, the amalgamation of the two Departments, I am afraid that we should not attach much importance to the extract which my hon. friend has referred to. Of course, co-operation between the two Departments is essential. It is not merely that we want co-operation between the Agricultural Department and the Co-operative Department, but in fact it is something more. When addressing a conference of Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies some time back, I impressed on them the necessity of co-operating on the one hand with the Agricultural Department, and, on the other hand, with the Industries Department—with the Agricultural Department in so far as they might bring into existence societies for production, societies for common sale of produce, and societies for the purchase of manure; and with the Industries Department with a view to start societies which would develop industries that can convert agricultural produce into finished articles. So that, my idea is where—for instance, in a district like Bellary, which my hon. friend represents—cotton is grown, I should like to have a society of agriculturists who should collect all the cotton and sell it. On the other hand, I should like also to have a society of agriculturists who can buy it and convert it into yarn and cloth by having their own factories, so that we may be a self-contained country so far as at least cotton cloth is concerned. This has been my aim, but it will take some time before this Department—a National Department I may say; that word I have myself used so often—will be able to do all that I have enumerated above. Until this Department develops to a certain extent, we have stupendous work to do in all the departments, and when the final stage is reached I may say we shall have reached the state of manhood."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 178.

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,97,141 for Agriculture by Rs. 1,000.

The House might remember that I made certain observations on agriculture during the general discussion on the Budget and there were other members also who spoke on this question. From the reply the hon. the Minister for Development made, I thought I detected a personal note and that he seemed to have felt that we had not been sufficiently grateful to him for all that was being done by the Department."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I never meant anything of that sort, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"I think he said that we were not fully acquainted with the doings of the Agricultural Department, that again and again we made ill-informed references to the policy and action of the works of that Department, and that he wanted the Members of this House to get themselves more acquainted with the contents of the book dealing with agriculture once again. After the advice had been given, I went through the book patiently and studiously, and I found that it only confirmed me in the impression I originally had. My complaint was rather that the benefit of the knowledge of the various officers employed in the Department and of the results of their researches had not been extended as far as they ought to have been or as the ryot would have a right to expect.

[Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar] [20th March 1923]

This book only goes to confirm this belief. I shall not take up much of your time by going through the several portions of the book in order to show to you the propriety of my observations. I would draw your attention only to three passages in this book which, I submit, will show that the good which the Agricultural Department is capable of doing is not being done. On page 72, the authors of the book take care to repel the view that the ryots in India are very conservative, and that they will not take to new methods of agriculture and cultivation even if it is profitable. Fortunately that view is being repelled, and it is stated that the ryot, who is very often described as a conservative being, has not been found to be so from the experience of the Agricultural Department. Another point on which this book comes to a irrefutable conclusion is this. On page 77 it is stated :

It will be seen from the above account of this district that there still remains a large area of the Presidency untouched.

"One other page which I would like to refer to is page 780; and I would also draw attention to the succeeding pages forming Appendix A. There you will find, according to those who are responsible for the suggestion of new methods of agriculture, what possibly the estimated gains might be if these new methods are followed to the extent they are capable of, and it will be found that the end achieved and the possible estimated gain are altogether disproportionate. In fact, you may almost say that a very small percentage of gain is achieved. Putting this in another way, I think it means that when the full gain is reached, there is very much loss to the country. What appears to me is this: whatever information the Agricultural Department is capable of disseminating is not widely disseminated. Therefore, it ought to be the endeavour of the Department to disseminate information as widely as possible so that the information that is available to them, and the researches they may make, may be taken advantage of by the ryots. Of course if there is enough of money, research works may be undertaken to the extent that their result would be advantageous to the people. It is in the best interests of the country that the results of these researches should be made as widely known as possible; but this can only be done by having a large number of Demonstrators than at present. My hon. friend has pointed out that one of the difficulties in complying with this suggestion is that Government have not got enough of qualified Demonstrators. This appears to me to be a ground which is altogether untenable. It shows that there has been something wrong in the way in which these Demonstrators have been brought up, and that there is something wrong in the way in which they are asked to be qualified. Then, it must be remembered that this Department has been in existence for over thirty years and reorganization has taken place so early as 1905; but when we ask what is the outturn of work that this Department has effected for the benefit of the people, it is stated that it is premature to expect any good results in so short a time and so on. It is perfectly clear that this Department has not been doing its duty for some time past. I shall be glad to know what are exactly the duties that the head of this Department has to discharge. What I want is that much greater attention should be paid to the work of demonstration so that people may profit by all the information which this Department is capable of giving them."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I have no quarrel with the hon. the mover of this motion so far as the remarks made

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have a reference to the methods to be pursued by the Agricultural Department. I quite admit that it is essential that we should look to dissemination of knowledge, namely, of the results attained in the Agricultural College, on the farm and in the Research Institute. But, Sir, I must take exception to the inference which he was pleased to draw from this book. For instance he referred to page 72 where it is stated that

the ryot is very often being described as conservative, but this has not been the experience of the Agricultural Department.

This observation was made there only to show how it became possible within the short period at the disposal of the Agricultural officers to be able to achieve such good results in the face of the circumstances stated in the appendix to the book. Here, they have been able to show a net profit of 2½ crores of rupees within these years. For one reason or another I cannot accept the debiting processes suggested by the Department. Well, that should not have been possible if the ryot was really conservative and would not take to new methods of agriculture. What the authors of the book meant was that it was not everybody who was so conservative, but that the ryots were not so very forward as to take full advantage of the results of the Research Institute and the work of the Agricultural Department. If only the public were more eager to take to new methods, the results would have been doubled or trebled. Therefore, Sir, no inference should be drawn.

"My hon. friend quoted page 77 in which it is stated :

it will be seen from the above account of the district work that there still remains a very large area which is untouched by the Agricultural Department,

and drew the inference that his observation was correct, namely, that the work of the Department had not been giving results that were expected out of it. I may mention in this connexion that we have 39 million acres of arable lands and 29 million agriculturists, and is it possible to expect that within the last 15 or 17 years, with the limited staff at our disposal and with the shortness of funds that we are able to command, we should be able to do a far better work? The wonder for the hon. Members is that with all the research work we have not been able to do much. I admit that we are not much farther than what we were. But what I say is that the Department has done more than what can be expected of it commensurate with the funds that were available and the staff at its disposal. In this connexion I may say that this Department is not getting as much money from the Government as it wishes to obtain. Here I have a statement showing how large sums are being spent in other countries. It will be noticed from that statement that in British Isles they spend on agricultural knowledge 3½ d per head; in Canada they spend 2/10 d; in United States of America 2/7 d; in France 6½ d; in Italy 6/11 d; in Japan 4½ d; and in the Union of South Africa 3/1 d; whereas the Madras Presidency spend only ½ d per head."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"I wish the hon. the Minister gives the respective incomes also."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I have not been able to get those figures. But this is sufficiently wide. There are sufficient materials here to show that in this country we are only spending half a penny per head. When compared with the industrial countries, the agricultural population must be larger here

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than elsewhere. It will be noticed that what we have been doing here is very small. I hope the day will be reached when more money will be placed at the hands of the Department and when all that is expected of the Department can be done. Sir, if I may use a domestic phrase, if omelettes are to be made, eggs have to be supplied. Unfortunately, I am not supplied with eggs."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Honestly I should say, Sir, I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Member. It is, if you will allow me to say so, a sort of special pleading that he has now made. He has not given any assurance which I have a right to expect from one in his position. My point is that greater pains should be taken for the purpose of securing more information than the Agricultural Department now possesses. I find no words of assurance from him as to this. Then he read certain figures which he had compiled for the purpose of showing how little is being spent in this country and in this Presidency particularly. Now, Sir, it is an argument with which my hon. friend is familiar, and I have no doubt that my hon. friend has himself used it on platforms in his pre-official days that you must compare not merely the tax that you pay but also your capacity to pay the tax when you take into consideration the figures of other countries. If my hon. friend had applied for the agricultural income in the various countries and shown what proportion the tax they pay bears to their income, then whatever inference he draws will meet with better response than the arguments that he has now advanced. I find that my hon. friend is doing his very best in so far as it lies in his power to do. I find that no good will come even if I press the motion. In these circumstances I withdraw it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 179.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR:—"I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,97,141 for Agriculture by Rs. 100.

I wish to say a few words with regard to my motion. No doubt I have generally dealt in the last two Budget speeches with regard to the heavy expenditure involved in the maintenance of the Agricultural College, the professors, the experimental demonstration farms, and the construction of buildings and quarters for the costly establishments drafted from England. I have been of opinion, and still am of opinion, that the outlay under these heads of expenditure is out of all proportion to the measure of benefit which the ryots have received as a result of this heavy expenditure. I am told not only by the members of Government, but also by the hon. Members of this Council, that the benefits cannot be immediately realized, and that we shall have to wait till some later date for the proper carrying out of the scheme. I am not inclined to be quite so optimistic, because I cannot forget that we shall be casting a burden not only on the present but also on the future generation, if the extravagant schemes that we may support result in failure. We have had such experiments already in several schemes. It is admitted even by the ardent supporters of the various agricultural schemes that we are merely in the stage of experiment. My only contention is that the plan for the carrying out of these experiments, the usefulness of which can be postulated only after a considerable lapse of time, need not be laid out on the extravagant scale the Department is adopting at present.

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"I would like to say a few words about the experimental and demonstration farms. It is true that by means of these farms the experience and activities of the Agricultural Department are imparted to the ryots. But there is no definite policy in regard to these. Wherever there is an experimental farm, there is a cry from the Government for a demonstration farm. From what I learn about the working of these farms in other countries, the experimental farm must, after a certain stage, be converted into a demonstration farm. The demonstration farm must be worked not on the lines on which the farms are now working; they must be made to pay the cost of the establishment. If that aim is kept in the forefront, I do not object to any number of agricultural farms being formed. In fact, they are necessary in every district. The experimental farms should be limited to a smaller number. Even the experimental work could be carried on by officers in charge of the demonstration farms without paying heavily for experiment also. Instead of working in this line we are presented with reports detailing the works that are being done, and any amount of statistics is supplied to us in the reports of the Agricultural Department. Unless these demonstration farms are proved to be self-supporting and profitable by the demonstrators or officers in charge of them, how will you be able to convince the ryot that the methods you found out by costly experiment on the farms will be useful and profitable to him? Therefore, I would suggest that these experimental farms might be converted into demonstration farms so that after some years at least they may be made to pay their own way and even show profit. For, wherever you open an agricultural farm, there you are investing lakhs and lakhs of money for acquisition of lands, buildings and other costly things. They must be treated as private estates, and it must be demonstrated that the income derived therefrom is in a much larger proportion than from the land of a neighbouring ryot who is doing work in his own primitive lines. I am told that in my own district the Anamalais farm is not answering the purpose for which it was opened. With regard to the cotton cultivation at the Koilpatti farm, it will be remembered that that farm has been in existence for a very long time. I do not know whether that at least is self-supporting and pays its own way. If after a certain amount of time it is found that the ryot has been following the methods advocated by the farm authorities, then the necessity for continuing the farm ceases. With regard to the experiment regarding the advancement of Cambodia cotton, the Government has already taken a line of work which is found to be a very cheap and useful one. In selected places agreements are made to supply the ryots with pure seeds and make them observe certain conditions and sell the cotton through the Department, and the purity of the seed is well maintained thereby. In this way the Department can do a lot of cheap, useful and convincing propaganda work.

"I wish to say also a few words on an important section of the Agricultural Department, viz., Agricultural Engineering Department. This Department, I believe, has been existing for a very long time. But can we mention at least one small implement which has been found out newly by this Department? I do not mean to say that the staff is insufficient. But what I complain is—and it is a complaint recorded also in some of the reports of the previous years—that there is no proper workshop provided for this Engineering section, and so it is a said right to see that they are

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not able to carry out their work. In following the experiments carried on in advanced western countries it must be remembered that the condition of things is quite different in many important respects from that in our country. Therefore anything that is said to be good elsewhere should not be blindly imitated here. It must be so modified as to suit our conditions. Even in highly advanced countries like America the recent news I got—perhaps it may be un-official—goes to show that even there they are not able to stop the cotton diseases for the eradication of which we have been moving earth and heaven. While the American people who are masters in that art are getting on like this, how can we justify our position in making costly adventures? So, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister some points which struck me: the District Agricultural officers should be more Indianised; costly research, experiments and buildings should be avoided; better trained men and men of proved ability should be selected as demonstrators; more demonstration farms should be opened and worked at a profit.

"Sir, one word more and I close. The hon. Minister always takes pleasure in replying to criticisms by saying that by arithmetical calculations the total yield of the Presidency has been considerably increased on account of the activities of his Department. But he has never referred to what would have been done by the ryots themselves to improve their land and to increase their yield even without this Department. I must, in any way, say, Sir, that merely quoting such huge figures will not at all convince even an intelligent person."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the only question which I wish to raise on this motion is about the provision made for agricultural education, notwithstanding the prominence given to it for several years past. In all the public conferences held during the last ten years, I believe there has been no question which has been pressed so much upon the attention of the Government as this question of agricultural education. I also remember, Sir, that in the pre-reformed Council, various resolutions were moved requesting the Government to start agricultural schools in various districts of the Presidency. We were aiming at a state of things where instead of being satisfied with one agricultural college, each district would have an agricultural high school or at least a middle school suited to the local conditions, so that they might impart knowledge to the persons in that locality. That was the ideal we were aiming at, and I remember various resolutions were moved and passed; and the hon. the Revenue Member, who was in charge of the department then, was telling us that he had every sympathy with the object and that the matter was under consideration and so forth. I believe the last reply was from the hon. Sir Alexander Cardew. I wish to know, Sir, whether the Government have arrived at any definite conclusion as to the policy to be pursued in the matter of agricultural education, as to whether there are any proposals under consideration for the purpose of establishing agricultural high schools or middle schools in the various districts of the Presidency. If these proposals have been under consideration, I wish to know definitely whether in the course of a few years—and if so, how many years?—it is proposed to establish such schools in the various centres. I attach great importance to the establishment of these schools, because it will not be possible for those who wish to profit by such education to go long distances and take advantage of the existing

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facilities. It is for the purpose of raising this issue and knowing whether the hon. the Minister has been able to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the policy of extending educational facilities, that I have tabled this motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I gave notice of a similar motion more with a view to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister, as I did last year, to the necessity for improving the present supply of artificial manures in the delta districts. I said last year that in many of the villages in the Godavari and Kistna deltas, the village-site was being dug up for what is called *patimannu*; and if there is one case in which demonstration would be useful, it is this. While I peruse with interest the statistics given in this manual—'Popular Account of the Madras Agricultural Department'—I am not at all prepared under this motion to go into the statistics of the possible estimate of the annual gain per annum by the various Departments, etc. They are very interesting figures, and a good deal of credit is claimed under paddy for the introduction of various new methods. Well, Sir, there will be time enough to examine the correctness of these estimates. For the present I should like to impress upon the hon. the Minister the very urgent necessity that is felt for taking some steps to demonstrate actually in the districts concerned the methods by which this digging up of the *patimannu* can be prevented—by actual demonstration of whatever manures are available. It has been stated that some experiments have been made, and last year I brought to the notice of the hon. the Minister that the manure supplied by Messrs. Parry & Co. was not found satisfactory in the delta. I also complained to him that the railway rates were so prohibitive that they were adding to the cost of cultivation. I suggest that the best method of dealing with this question is for the Department to lease 300 or 400 acres of land—I do not say 'buy', for, if I say that, I am perfectly certain that my friend, the hon. the Finance Member, would say that I have put forward an extravagant and monstrous proposal,—on terms ordinarily existing at some convenient place close to the areas cultivated. Such of the manures which the Department have already investigated or in the efficacy of which they believe, may be put on the land and the advantages of adopting these new methods may be actually demonstrated to the ryots. Unless some such thing is done, I am afraid that the village sites already being cut up in a most deplorable manner will continue like that, very much to the disadvantage of the new Department of Public Health which is being constituted by the vote of this House. Co-ordination in such cases is absolutely necessary. Here is a Department of Public Health which complains of the pits made by the people five or six feet deep and sometimes even ten feet deep, for taking away the *patis* earth for use as manure; and you cannot prevent these agriculturists from taking it so long as that is the only manure available for their lands. I am certain the hon. Minister is perfectly aware of this matter, and various people who are trying to tackle the question of village sanitation have reported about the big pits that are being dug in the villages. In these circumstances, I say there is no more urgent problem than this problem of supply of manure to these villages. I may also say that some years ago some experiments were carried on at a cost of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000, and I suppose the results were successful. But the success can only be judged by the extent to which the recommendations of the Agricultural Department have been adopted in this respect. I once more say that there is no greater

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problem which is to be solved than this of finding a substitute for the *pattimannu* in these two districts. This is the third time that I mention this matter in this Council. Of course there is an interesting statement in the book I named above. In Appendix A there is an item which gives the benefits which have accrued to the ryots in consequence of the various Departments. We find the growing of green manure as one of the improvements. We find that under the 'growing of green manure crops', which is one of the improvements, the area under improvement is 46,300 acres under paddy. The total estimated gain per annum is Rs. 4,64,300. The possible estimated gain is said to be one crore and seventy lakhs of rupees. Under 'economic transplantation' the possible estimated gain is said to be about ninety-five lakhs. Under 'application of concentrated manures' the area under improvement is about 11,000 acres and the possible estimated gain is Rs. 62,50,000. Apart from what is stated here, the only way in which the book will appeal to the ryots is by enabling him to see actually what the Department can do. If the hon. Minister will adopt my suggestion of taking a land on lease, and place an officer there in charge of it giving him the necessary facilities to supply manure, he will be able to demonstrate actually the usefulness of the artificial manures, and the agriculturists will take advantage of it. This is the only way by which the digging up of the village-site will cease. I don't think that this will cost very much to the Department. I, therefore, press this matter very strongly, and I am sure that the hon. the Minister who is certainly aware of the facts will take the necessary steps."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have tabled a similar motion more for the purpose of drawing the attention of the hon. the Minister to the progress that has to be made in the matter of the preparation of malted foods from Indian cereals. About three years have elapsed since the Department showed conclusively that scientifically it was possible to manufacture malted foods from Indian cereals, more especially from cholam. The Department says that it is yet to be proved whether this can be commercially successful. As I have submitted, three years have elapsed, and no progress appears to have been made yet. I should certainly think that if the Department was eager to substitute Indian made foods for foreign made foods it would have been certainly possible for them to prove with the establishment under their command that it is also commercially profitable. I am thankful, of course, to the hon. the Minister for Development for the small mercies that have been shown, for allotting a sum of Rs. 26,000 for toy manufacture, for allotting a sum of Rs. 21,000 for a sugarcane station at Anakapalle and for other things. But these must be considered to occupy a minor position compared with the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of malted foods in this province. Last year this time I expressed the fear that probably the reticence of the Department in the matter of proving that this would be commercially a success might have been due to the interference from Whitehall; and seeing that this question had not been taken up by the Department till now I am tempted to believe that probably the Government are not very anxious to prove that this is commercially also a possibility. I hope and trust that the hon. the Minister for Development will be able to do his best to prove that this can be made commercially all profitable and to provide funds next year for the purchase of machinery for the manufacture of malted foods."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, it would perhaps be convenient if I approach the question from the last speaker. My hon. friend, Mr. Suryanarayana, has told us that three years have elapsed and no progress has been shown, and what is worse, that the Government have not been anxious to prove that the experiment is a success."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—" A commercial success."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Let me assure him that there is no interference from Whitehall in regard to this matter. It was only last year, if I am not mistaken, that my hon. friend moved this point and my reply was immediately communicated to the Industries Department. If he will just read the extract from the *Agricultural Journal* for the month of October 1922, he will see that we have not been idle. This is what it says :

At the present time, the malt used in brewing, or for the preparation of malted foods, consists almost exclusively of barley malt. As, however, the supply of barley in Southern India is exceedingly limited, it was obviously desirable, if such industries were to be encouraged, to ascertain whether some other commonly occurring grain might not be substituted for barley.

With this object in view, comparative tests were carried out by the Chemical Department using rice, cholam, ragi, tenai, cumbu and maize. The results of this investigation soon showed that of these grains cholam was by far the most suitable, being capable of yielding a malt of higher diastatic power. In view of the encouraging nature of these results, further work was at once instituted to ascertain the correct condition under which malting should be carried out with cholam, for it by no means followed that the same conditions which applied to barley would prove most suitable for cholam. These experiments have met with a very considerable amount of success and there is little doubt that a malt can readily be prepared from cholam suitable in every way for use in the preparation of malted foods. The utility of cholam malt for brewing purposes is, however, a more doubtful proposition, very definite properties being required in a malt designed for this purpose. Experiments are, however, continuing on this aspect of the question.

"So far as experiments in the laboratory are concerned, every effort is being made to arrive at definite results. But the hon. Member will realize that in order that the manufacture of malted food might be made a commercial concern any experiment in the laboratory on a small scale will not be of much use; and I must confess that our laboratories are not fitted for experiments on a large scale. However, attempts are being made in this direction with the help of the Institute of Science at Bangalore where these experiments can be carried out. These industrial experiments take some time, and my hon. friend should not be dissatisfied simply because during the last two years, or even three years, definite results have not been achieved. It requires patient research and laborious work for a number of years, and it is only after a number of failures that success will come. However, I can promise this, namely, that until we succeed or until we definitely come to any conclusions, these experiments will be carried on and every attempt made to put a large quantity on the market.

"Turning to my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao's criticisms: I am aware I come from the same district as he does, and that there is this *patti* nuisance in the districts of Gōdāvari and Kistna. House-sites are dug up and the earth is taken out and thrown into the fields. As far as my experience goes, it would be exceedingly difficult to convince the Kistna or the Gōdāvari ryot to take to chemical manures, and the only way of solving this problem is to see that there is no *patti* earth available in the villages. As regards the introduction of chemical manures, the remarks of my hon. friend last year

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were communicated to the Department of Agriculture; certain replies have been received, and certain action has been taken on the matter satisfying those criticisms.

"So far as the railway authorities are concerned, there was a Conference last year with the representatives of the South Indian and Southern Mahratta Railways and we came to certain terms. We could not arrive at a final agreement, and the matter was pursued further by the Directors of Agriculture and Industries. Again, during this year, and quite recently, at a Conference of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture, all the principal manuring firms were invited and a scheme of co-operation was worked out for opening depots in various districts where these chemical manures could be supplied. This is a step which, I am sure, my hon. friend will appreciate, and he will see that the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture have not been idle and his criticisms have not been thrown on deaf ears."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My point is that the officers should demonstrate the use of these manures before the people, so that they may see the results with their own eyes."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I am coming to it. I have just said what steps have been taken. As regards the suggestion that we must lease 200 or 300 acres of land in the deltaic districts and demonstrate by actually applying scientific manures and cultivating those fields, my only fear is that it will not be an easy matter to acquire 200 or 300 acres in one plot. My hon. friend knows with what attachment the ryot clings to his land. If my hon. friend and others will assist the Department in leasing out one block of 200 acres of typical land in a suitable area, certainly, Sir, we shall consider how we can manage the affair. It is not because we are not willing to do anything."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"May I say that if the Department is prepared to pay the actual rent prevailing and not bargain for a lower rent, I think the difficulty is not insurmountable?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"All that I can tell the hon. Member is this, that in the Samalkot farm we have 12 acres of land leased out by a certain person and I have not passed a single week within the last five months during which the man did not come and trouble me for the return of the land. As for the rent, it is not below what he gets from others for similar plots. As I said, my hon. friend should co-operate with us and see if we can get some land, though not 200 acres, at least half of that in a suitable area. There are so many difficulties. It is not enough if we can get only ordinary land. We require some typical land to get the expected results. The suggestion will, however, be communicated to the Director of Agriculture, and his opinion obtained and every attempt will be made to meet the wishes of the hon. Members."

"Now to my hon. friend Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao's remarks: I can say that the agricultural schools hitherto opened were experimental schools as the hon. Member himself knows. Now, Sir, the Palaparamba and the Anakapalle schools were opened only last year, but one or two years will not be sufficient to justify the results of experiments; it would take a little more time. However, I may mention another circumstance, namely, that the Director of Agriculture is just now engaged in considering the question

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of introducing vernacular as the medium of instruction in agricultural schools and by that process the number of schools will be increased, because it is found that those who go to the Agricultural College are persons who want to get some employment soon after leaving the college, and that those who come to our schools are not sufficiently educated even in their vernaculars. We want the type of pupils who will be educated in our schools and then go to the fields and utilize the knowledge thus gained on their own farms. In order to achieve this we thought that the experiment of introducing vernacular in the lower classes should be tried, and that question is just now engaging the attention of the Director of Agriculture. I hope something will come of it soon.

"As regards my hon. friend, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, I have not quite followed his argument. For one thing, he said that no definite policy was followed. I may bring to his notice the Government Order issued under the heading 'Demonstration of Improved Methods—Policy of Government'. In this G.O. No. 210, dated 11th September 1922, the policy of Government is enunciated. I can only place a copy at his disposal and I do not wish to trouble the House at this late hour with any extracts from it.

"As regards the extension of demonstration, every attempt is being made as far as funds permit. On page 175 of the Budget, the hon. Member will find Rs. 8,000 provided for demonstration work on fields. As regards the Agricultural Engineer, the work that is now done by this officer is certainly better than what it was before.

"There is one other charge, viz., that the Department is very extravagant. I can only confront this charge with the statement of my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu, who has felt with me that I cannot get sufficient money for this Department. I should like to leave the matter to be settled between the two hon. Members. All that I can say is that it will always be my endeavour to see that the best results are achieved for the money spent by this Department."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—"I have no objection to propaganda work. My only objection was to the present costly methods and that there was no definite policy laid down by Government regarding the same."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XX. Agriculture for a sum not exceeding 14.54 lakhs was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 5.52 lakhs under Demand XXI. Civil Veterinary Services."

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

DEMAND XXII—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted under Demand XXII. Co-operative Societies a sum not exceeding Rs. 6.18 lakhs."

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MOTION No. 180.

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,18,400 for Co-operative Credit by Rs. 100.

In moving this motion, I have to explain that I was not present when the hon. the Minister replied to my points on co-operation during the general discussion of the Budget, and I am very sorry that I was not here then. He mentioned in the course of his reply during the general debate that he did not want to see the condition of Ireland repeated in this province. He evidently mistook my intention. My intention was that this province being mainly agricultural a strong system of co-operative credit should be established to redeem the agriculturists from the three great curses that befall the agricultural classes in this country, namely (1) the money-lender, (2) the failure of rains and (3) the lawyers."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" The zamindar is the fourth curse."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I may say the zamindars are not, unless they follow the profession of lawyers.

"I want to impress upon the Government that if the agricultural labourer or the agriculturist be redeemed from the clutches of the moneylender it is very necessary that a system like the one followed in Ireland by Sir Horace Plunkett and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, should be followed here. Agricultural co-operative credit societies should be organised in each district by which the cultivating tenant may be able to get money at a cheap rate of interest for buying his manure, his seed and his cattle, and may not be indebted to the money-lender. Because what happens now is that whenever the agriculturist wants money he resorts to the money-lender who catches hold of him by advancing the money, and when the harvest is ready, he takes hold of all the crops for the interest due to him and the agriculturist goes on for ever indebted to the money-lender. What happens in the end is this: the money-lender buys up the land belonging to the cultivator, and the agricultural classes thus become poorer day by day. I therefore think that it is in the interest of Government and not only in the interests of the tenants, that a strong policy of co-operative credit should be followed on the basis of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society so that a strong and vigorous peasantry may arise."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, my hon. friend has unfortunately misunderstood me, and he alone is responsible for it. For, when I was thinking of the Irish conditions I was not thinking of what my hon. friend said with regard to the one circumstance of co-operative credit. I went on to say, besides that aspect, that the Irish conditions did not fit in with the other conditions obtaining in this country. So far as that one condition is concerned, the Department is now doing everything in its power in the matter of the development of co-operation in villages, and on that matter, there is really no difference of opinion between my hon. friend and myself."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XXII. Co-operative Societies for a sum not exceeding Rs. 6.18 lakhs was then put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XXIII—CINCHONA.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 4.01 lakhs under Demand XXIII. Cinchona."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—INDUSTRIES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to move Demand XXIV. Industries for a sum not exceeding Rs. 17.74 lakhs."

MOTION No. 181.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33,678 for Boring Maistris by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move it just to elicit information from the hon. the Minister for Development on one point and to make one suggestion. I wish to speak about the power drill. Sir, these power drills are instruments for the purpose of drilling holes in wells if rocks are met with at the bottom. They are particularly useful for well-digging and the advantages derived from the use of these instruments known as power drills are very great. There is a very great demand for them from cultivators. Unfortunately, the Department now possesses only two instruments of this kind. One of them is an old-fashioned one, and I believe it is now employed somewhere in the Trichy-nopoly district. The other one is an up-to-date instrument and is a very useful one. I have myself had occasion to use it and have found personally that it is very useful for well-digging. It is now used by the Government for their purpose in the Agricultural College at Coimbatore and is not new available for the use of the public, though it was available last year. It will, in addition to its great use in helping well irrigation, also bring considerable profit to Government. According to the rules of the Department persons to whom the instrument is lent for well-boring purposes have to supply labour, and the necessary materials for working the instrument such as oil and fuel; they have also to pay the transport charges of the instrument. In addition to all these, a sum of Rs. 5 per day is to be paid to the Government for the use of the instrument. The instrument itself is not after all a very costly one. A sum of Rs. 45,000 is to be found in the budget for 1923-24, as receipts of some other instruments. So that, if of this power drill and on account of the purchase of these power drills, it the Department invests some amount on the purchase of these power drills, it will be extremely useful to the cultivating tenants who take to well-irrigation, and it will also be a paying concern to the Government. I therefore hope that the hon. the Minister for Development will find it possible to invest some money in the purchase of some more of these instruments. As I said, it will be not only a great boon to the public, but it will also pay the Government."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, at present the Department owns six power drills and 47 hand drills, and I think that these are not sufficient. For the last two years, we have been trying our best to get some money from the Finance Department for purchasing more drills. This year, a demand was made by the Director who addressed the Government for sanction to purchase six power drills and 16

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hand drills. Owing to financial stringency the proposals were negatived. I shall however try—it may look as if I have tried too long—to get some money for this purpose, because Government realize the importance of this branch of work. If money becomes available, certainly more of these instruments will be purchased.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 182.

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL:—“ Mr. President, I beg to move the resolution in my name, namely:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,000 for purchase of materials by Rs. 10,000.

In doing so, Mr. President, I bear in mind what the hon. the Minister for Development said in his speech during the general discussion on the Budget when he replied to my remarks that a great part of the money was spent on the purchase of oil and coal for the purpose of producing power. I hope he will now be able to tell us what proportion of it is spent for oil and also how much is spent on materials for construction purposes. My principal reason in moving for this reduction is found in page 185 of the Budget under the headings, ‘Madras Trades School’ and ‘Madras Leather Trades Institute.’ There, I find Rs. 3,000 appear to be sufficient for expenditure on purchase of materials for the Trades School and Rs. 12,000 for the Leather Institute. It seems very strange to me at least that on an institute in the mufassal in a small district the Department can afford to spend Rs. 22 thousand and odd. It is an institute of which the success, I am told, is very doubtful; whereas in the Presidency city we have two institutes which, I am told,—quite recently in a report furnished by the hon. the Minister—are a huge success. I do not wish to say further on this particular subject.”

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—“ Mr. President, Sir, there seems to be some misapprehension on this point. The reduction proposed by the hon. Member will, I fear, seriously interfere with the efficiency of the Madura Industrial Institute, which is an educational institution, the only one of its kind in the South. The educational policy recommended by the Sadler Commission depends for its success on the happy results attending the efforts made both by the Education Department and the University of Madras to wean students from purely literary courses and to create in them a taste for vocational or technical courses, or industrial or commercial pursuits. Whether there should be two different institutions, one providing for literary courses and the other for technical or vocational courses, or, whether both these courses are to be combined, are questions which are engaging the attention of educationists in this Presidency. Whatever may be the decision with regard to the education of the future or the means for creating this bias for vocational courses, there can be no doubt on this one subject, namely, of strongly encouraging all those industrial or technical schools that already exist. This Madura Industrial Institute is not an unsuccessful institute, as my hon. friend remarked. It is a very flourishing institution, and there is hardly sufficient hostel accommodation for the apprentices; and certainly, Sir, there is a demand for more skilled workmen, demand for more trained mechanics, and demand for more skilled foremen in the southern

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districts, I should say, with their oil engines, with their rice mills, and with their ginning factories. Therefore, I fear that while there is a demand for more skilled workmen and for better and ampler hostel accommodation,

4-45 p.m. this reduction will produce the very opposite result to the one which is desired by everybody ardently wishing to see the expansion of technical education in this Presidency.

“ Again, Sir, I think the provision of materials here is not so much for finished articles, but for purposes of instruction: to teach the students attending the institution the different uses to which the parts of the machinery are to be put or the manner of handling the machinery with a view to enable them to make repairs to set their machines going. Again, Sir, I do not think that the institution is run at a loss; for, if the savings effected under the head of receipts could be mentioned by the hon. the Minister, I think it would be found that the institution is worked without any very great loss, or even should there be a loss of a few thousands of rupees, say, Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000, I do not think that these losses should be pronounced to be very serious, especially when it is remembered that this is an educational institution satisfying a real demand and promising to be the means of expanding industries in the southern districts. Therefore, I am sorry that the hon. mover has moved for this reduction at a time when there is a demand for more schools of this nature.”

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR:—“ Sir, I am really thankful to my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, who has testified to the usefulness of the institution. But I should like to know for my information, from my hon. friend, the Minister for Development, whether these Rs. 22,000 do not give any receipts which would go to balance expenditure. My hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, has mentioned that the institution is a very profitable one, but I believe from what I heard that the institution has got something like receipts which is not mentioned here. I ask for this information to make sure that we are not wasting the money under this head.”

Mr. E. F. THOMAS:—“ Mr. President, I want to say a few words before the hon. the Minister makes his remarks by way of reply. After the able defence which has proceeded from the hon. Member on the opposite side of the House (Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar), there is just one point which it may be worth while to elucidate for the information of the hon. the mover, and that is the conclusion which he drew from a comparison of the Madura Technical Institute with the Madras Trades School and the Leather Training Institute in respect of the purchase of materials. The Madras Trades School, as the hon. Mr. MacDougall is aware, is conducted as a night school, and the students there are apprentices actually employed in firms, who, after having finished their work with their employers, come to the Institute to supplement their theoretical training by attending lectures which necessarily have a certain practical bias. But the main part of the work of the Madras Trades School is theoretical, and the theoretical teaching is imparted by lectures. In the Technical Institute at Madura, on the other hand, the apprentices undergoing or desiring to undergo training, come in without any previous technical training whatever. They are raw hands, and they have to be taught and given practical training on machines, and it is our object at that Institute to turn out unskilled lads after a period of five years’ training as practical

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workmen accustomed to do a hard day's work and that in a skilled manner. Obviously, in using human material like that, it is necessary to provide more material to them to work upon.

"As regards the Leather Trades School, the material there is confined to leather which is being tanned. In that Institute and in the Madura Institute, I would like to mention, in reply to the question put by my hon. friend, Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar, as to whether the receipts balance the expenditure, that I cannot give the figures off-hand. The receipts have not balanced the expenditure during the past year, but I have some hope that next year they will do so. I should like to express my gratitude, as Director of the Department of Industries, to Mr. MacDougall for having given this institute of Madura so welcome a publicity by the motion which he has brought forward. No doubt it will make the institution better known among the people."

The hon. Rao Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, perhaps I may first answer the question put by Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar which will also partially answer some of the points raised by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. Sir, of the Rs. 47,000 which make up the total, Rs. 22,000 come under materials and Rs. 25,000 under wages of workmen. It will be seen that Rs. 4,000 are required for coal, Rs. 3,000 for oil, making up a total of Rs. 7,000, and this would leave an amount of Rs. 40,000. Out of this amount I would take . . ."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"I did not deal with the question of wages at all."

The hon. Rao Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I am trying to show whether there is a loss or not. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar wanted to know whether the institute was working at a loss, and if so, what that loss was; and so, I cannot take up one question only and omit the other. Out of these Rs. 40,000, I would take the wages including the wages paid to the apprentices. You certainly cannot get your money back, the object being to train these workmen in the institute, and unless we pay them, they will not work. The balance is Rs. 38,654. The receipts come to Rs. 36,000, so that the loss, if it can be called a loss, is Rs. 2,654. I admit that this is not accounting on a commercial basis, but taking these two items into account and excluding items that ought to be excluded, I find that the loss is about Rs. 2,600. As has been said by Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, it is admitted that the Madura Industrial Institute is an educational institution though no doubt it is on a commercial basis. We have got the machinery apprentices and workmen necessarily to be employed in order to train them; we have to teach them and show them practically how to work; but we have also some opportunity for doing some work. That is how the commercial portion comes in. Primarily the object of this institution is to train, as my hon. friend put it, an army of skilled labourers, mechanics and so forth.

"There is one other point which I must mention so far as the materials are concerned. If the materials are reduced, we will not be in a position to take up good orders. Good orders are useful in two ways. In the first place, they make the two ends meet, because if we take larger contracts, we can get a little more money, and it also gives better opportunities for the apprentices

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to learn more work, so that my hon. friends will see that by cutting off Rs. 10,000 no good will accrue. On the other hand, we can get some more money if we get better work."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, the hon. the Minister has said that though we spend nearly Rs. 47,000, after deducting every provision for coal, oil, etc., we get Rs. 36,000 by way of receipts. I think the figure is not correct, because we see at page 28 that we get from all industrial schools Rs. 36,000 by way of sale-proceeds of manufactured articles in the weaving department, etc. If Rs. 36,000 represent the total receipts from all schools, it cannot be said that the Madura institute gives us Rs. 36,000."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—"May I just explain, Sir? This is the only industrial school we have. The other industrial schools are supported by us by means of grants in aid, and the receipts from them are not shown in the Budget."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"My point is this. If Rs. 47,000 are spent on the purchase of materials and the wages of workmen, including apprentices, we should at least have Rs. 40,000 from the industrial institute itself. We are not able to get that much, and so the institute is a losing concern. Whether we should spend this money on the purchase of materials on this account is the question to be solved here. I ask the hon. the Minister to say whether at least most of this expenditure is not a waste."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—"Sir, I beg to oppose this motion brought forward by Mr. MacDougall. Mr. MacDougall makes out that the Madura institute is not worked on a commercial basis, and that it does not give any profit. But what I want to say is that it is a school intended to train young men on modern and practical lines in mechanical engineering and so on. As it is I find that sufficient money is not given to the institute. I go there very often and see the work there, and the complaint is that the Government are not giving them sufficient money. In this connexion, I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the desirability of appointing two or three persons as visitors to the institution, in order to stimulate the work there, and this may be productive of some good."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"Sir, my only reason in bringing forward this motion is this: that I want to take away the extremely wrong impression that the constituency I represent are up against technical education. We are not against it at all; on the other hand, we welcome it. But what I do object to in regard to this matter is a commercial institute being called a technical institute. If it is going to be a technical institute, say so; but do not have a commercial institution under the guise of a technical institute. With these words, I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 183.

5 p.m.

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"Mr. President, I beg leave to move the motion standing in my name :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for wages of workmen by Rs. 20,000.

In doing so, I still bear in mind what my hon. friend the Minister for Development said in his Budget speech that a great part of this allotment was for wages or stipends for apprentices."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I am sorry if I conveyed the idea of a great portion. I meant only a portion of the allotment."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—" Sir, I am inclined to remark that, according to the School of Arts standard, each apprentice is allowed from Re. 1 to Rs. 5 a month. Taking it at the maximum of Rs. 5, according to my hon. friend the Minister, we arrive at a figure of Rs. 4,800 for the year, leaving a surplus of Rs. 20,200 for workmen's wages. I understand from the other side that this allotment is required to teach the apprentices. In the School of Arts they propose to spend Rs. 2,700 on apprentices' wages next year, but there is not one single item in the School of Arts Budget for workmen's wages. I take it, therefore, that a commercial institute is being run in Madura in the guise of an industrial institute. I do not object to that. I do of course realize that such an institution is necessary. Unfortunately the statements made by my hon. friend, Mr. Udayar, are not fully borne out by facts. Prior to the Government taking the institution over in 1910 the institute was run by the District Board, and seemingly run successfully. So much so, the then Director of Industries cast his covetous eyes upon it and persuaded the Government to take it over. They did so in 1910. In 1922 a grand scheme was proposed and it was decided that this technical institute would be a great centre for weaving and dyeing, and, with the assistance of the Public Works Department, the Government spent over a large sum of 4 lakhs of rupees on the buildings for the institute. In 1919, the then Director of Industries looking over the institute writes a report to the Government: Mr. Innes writing in 1917, G.O. No. 1347, dated the 29th October 1917, states :

It is most necessary that we should now decide what the scope and object of the institution should be. For if we do not start the institute on the right lines, there is a danger that, instead of being a really useful institution, it will prove merely an expensive white elephant.

"These words, I am afraid, have come true. The institute in Madura, where so many workmen are required and so many apprentices are necessary, has become a white elephant. In the same Government Order the Chief Engineer writes :

The programme laid down in the syllabus, if carried through, would undoubtedly form a good basis for an all-round mechanic, but it would not of itself produce one. The training in the mechanical workshop of a technical institute cannot be anything but a grounding in such work, because such a workshop is only an artificial reproduction of the conditions of an actual commercial concern, as it is impossible to carry out in such an establishment merely as object-lessons the very varied jobs done in a manufacturing workshop, which are generally enormously expensive and often very bulky. A technical institute can teach the underlying principles of mechanical work, but at best only a smattering of the actual practical application of these principles as the cost in plant and especially materials for executing really large and heavy work would be absolutely prohibitive.

If sixty mechanical students are steadily and industriously producing castings in the foundry, forgings in the smithy, and then machining these in the machine shop, and they are diligently performing these operations at the rate which is expected under actual manufacturing conditions, they would use up an absolutely appalling value of materials in a year. If they do not perform these processes with due diligence and energy, then the students are not gaining the experience they ought to and are in fact merely being encouraged to learn how to 'slack' and the institute training would do more harm than good.

"That, Sir, is from the report of the Chief Engineer in the year 1917. He continues down below :

The actual results achieved by the industrial section may now be considered. I have examined the cases of all pupils over a series of years and find the following results :—

Those who 'left', abandoned their training after a few months and in no case had the course been completed. It is interesting also to ascertain to what end the training received has

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led our pupils and the cases dealt with below cover the known instances of subsequent employment in the period scrutinized :—

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Convicted of theft of materials. | (9) Cycle repairer on Rs. 10 per mensem. |
| (2) Cooly on Rs. 8 in a rice mill. | (10) Employed in the Institute on six annas a day. |
| (3) Clerk in Madura Municipal Office. | (11) Peon on Rs. 7 per mensem. |
| (4) Peon on Rs. 6 in the office of the District Traffic Superintendent. | (12) Private in the Army. |
| (5) Lace seller. | (13) Private in the Army. |
| (6) Clerk. | (14) Cleaner. |
| (7) Teacher in an elementary school. | (15) Cleaner. |
| (8) Firewood seller. | |

"Sir, the result of the inquiry is given thus in the report. Lower down the report continues :

We must therefore either close down the technical school altogether or alter its status and scope so as to accord with acknowledged policy and sound principles. A solution may be found by the conversion of the school into a commercial workshop, and by creating the conditions which are essential to the successful installation of a school. There is no commercial workshop south of Madras, save the foundry at Pondicherry and the establishment of one in Madura would provide the necessary field which does not now exist and owing to the absence of which our scheme has been a failure.

"That, Sir, is the successful Madura Institute. From what my hon. friend, the Minister for Development, said before the money is required for the purchase of materials, it is evident that he has accepted the advice contained in the report and turned the institute into a commercial factory, but that was done without informing this House. All these years it has been going on and it is still styled as a Technical Institute. If the hon. the Minister would agree to that fact that he has turned the institute into a workshop, I have no objection to his course, but I certainly do object to his moving for this allotment as if it were a technical institute."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—" Mr. President, I shall confine my remarks to answering the points raised by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. I have in my hands the very report and the Government Order from which the hon. Member has quoted. But my hon. friend has stopped his reference with the year 1919 and I would like to bring his information up to date. This is what Mr. Campbell reported something like a year later, shortly before the Government passed orders for the reorganization of this institute in which my hon. friend is unable to find anything good. Mr. Campbell writes in his letter dated 4th May 1920 :—

When I visited Madura, I was furnished with a list of pupils who had left the institution and were said to be now doing well in the trades learnt there. I have tried to obtain as complete information on this point as possible and, in accordance with my instruction, Mr. Dunhill has now furnished particulars of as many of the pupils as could be traced. I attach a copy of the list of students who have been accounted for. It will be seen from that list that of the 360 students who have been in the institute since Government took it over, 92 are known to be following the trades which they learnt in the institute at salaries ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 100 per mensem, whilst 13 are still in the institute being at present classed as paid workers. Of the remaining—

Seven died,
eight are employed as peons,
one was dismissed for theft,
seven joined the Sappers and Miners as artisans,
one left to join his father in business as a timber merchant,
one joined a rice mill as cooly and is now the engine driver,
eight joined and left almost at once because the proposed foreman's course had not been started,

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seven joined the railway as cleaners with a view to becoming engine drivers, and one hundred and sixty left or were dismissed for irregular attendance or because they were found unfit while still on probation, or for similar reason.

I do not think, Sir, that that is a discredit on the institution which dismissed the pupils once they were found unfit. That, I think, Sir, is a better record than the previous one quoted by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. He has with some apparent justice attacked the amount of wages budgeted for. As I tried to explain a little while ago, the object of this institute, call it what you like, is to turn out finished mechanics. The school was reorganized in 1920 and the course settled was a five year course. It is obvious that at present there is no pupil in the institute that has had more than two years' training. It is therefore somewhat premature to condemn the institute on the results so far achieved. Now, Sir, as I said, the aim of this—I shall not say institute for my hon. friend does not like it—place is to turn out finished mechanics. The only way in which to train them is to put them on to machinery and teach them how to use it. For that purpose there is a large workshop opened as part of this place, with a large number of machines of various kinds. In fact, the intention is to find a place for every kind of machine that can be required to give the pupil a complete mechanical training. I do not suppose my hon. friend expects us to train apprentices without machines. Having all the machinery, it follows that we must have workmen trained to work on the machines. The object of the training is to put the apprentice alongside of a trained workman to work the machines. My attention was directed to this Institute recently—I have not been long in my present office—and I visited the place. I am willing to admit that the criticism and the resolution is partly justified for when I had been there—I do not claim to be a critic myself, I am no Engineer—I found that the Superintendent had dispensed with some of the workmen who had been unfit. I am glad to inform the House and the hon. the Finance Member that thereby a retrenchment of Rs. 350 a month was made. Probably it may be found possible, I do not say it will be possible, that a further retrenchment under the head 'wages' may be made some time later on. What can be done will be done. I do not think I have anything more to say except just a word on the question whether it is an institute or a workshop. The suggestion is that it must be one or the other and that it cannot be both. My reply is that it is both. The main object of this institute is to turn out after a five-year course a complete mechanic. In order to do so we have a workshop attached to it. That, Sir, is the position of the Madura Technical Institute."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I wish to say a few words in reply to the more or less personal charge, 5-16 p.m. namely, that without bringing to the notice of the House I was responsible for bringing into existence a commercial institute under the name of an educational institute. The reply to that charge has been partly given already by my hon. friend, Mr. Thomas, when he said that it was not simply a workshop or a factory, nor simply a school, but a factory combined with a school. For the efficient working of the school, a factory was absolutely necessary. I may be permitted to state in this connexion that the Industrial Commission recommended the same system as we have been adopting for industrial education. The Commission say that where manual training is given sufficient mechanical work is not taught in order to enable the workmen or apprentices to become useful mechanics. They say that it is necessary that a school of this kind should be always

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attached to a workshop. Comparing the work that is now going on in this institute and the instructions given in the Industrial Commission Report, my hon. friend will notice that we are following exactly on the lines laid down by the Industrial Commission.

"As for the Government Order, I may say that it was passed some five or six months prior to my taking charge of the portfolio; but I am not going to give the go-by to my predecessors and I am willing to abide by those orders and say that they have proceeded on right lines."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"I have to say a few words in reply to the remarks made by the hon. the Minister and the Director of Industries. At the outset, I have to say that the proportion of workmen to apprentices in an institution of this kind is far too great. It is not necessary to have one workman for every apprentice. Surely, one skilled mechanic can be expected to teach two or three boys.

"Then as to the necessity of a workshop, if, as contended by the Director of Industries, it is necessary to have a workshop in order to teach the apprentices, why can we not run the concern on a profitable basis? The running charges come to about Rs. 1,700 a month and there are 80 apprentices in all. To run the workshop on a profitable basis, the customers may be charged with a sum sufficient to cover the working expenses and the cost of the material and leave a profit in addition. If that is not done, the institute is a failure. On this matter, I should like to take the sense of the House and I therefore press my motion."

The motion was put and lost.

III

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

Grant I.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 4.53 lakhs under Land Revenue Department.

Sir, the details in respect of this supplementary grant and the reasons justifying every one of the items which are included in this grant will be found at page 3 under the heading 'detailed memoranda.' If hon. Members wish to have any further information, I should be glad to supply them with such information."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the supplemental demand for Rs. 4.53 lakhs under Land Revenue Department by Rs. 100.

Sir, we in this House are very often accustomed to be asked to vote for supplementary grants. To-day we have got a long list of supplementary grants. I must really thank the hon. the Finance Member for supplying us with a memorandum explaining the various items that comprise the demands. The hon. the Finance Member has also explained the procedure that is followed in England and the procedure that we are following here. He is kind enough to note that we in this House pass in a debate of ten days the whole of our estimate the discussion of which in the House of Commons is spread over the months from March to August. We know how difficult it was for us to avoid discussion and in spite of repeated requests to you, Sir,

[Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo] [20th March 1923]
Grant I—cont.

and the hon. the Deputy President, demands were put to the House and voted upon without any further extension of time and the House was not given any opportunity of fully discussing certain important demands such as the police, etc.

"Secondly, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that in this long list of demands covering a sum of nearly 17 lakhs, we have for the Transferred Department only a sum of Rs. 80,000 and the rest is for the Reserved Department. This does not augur well for the Transferred Department inasmuch as all the saving shown in the explanatory memorandum appears to have been effected in the Transferred Department. An account of all the saving is given at page 8 of the memorandum.

"Then, Sir, the reason why I have tabled this motion is that I want to discuss the utter neglect of the claims of Oriyas in appointments made in the Land Revenue Department. I have also intimated to the hon. the Revenue Member that I was going to raise the question of representation of Oriyas in the Land Revenue Department."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I ask your ruling, Sir, as to whether the hon. Member is in order in raising the question of representation of Oriyas on a motion asking for a supplementary grant? The demand for a supplementary grant is purely an account matter, and I do not think it is relevant to raise the question of representation of Oriyas."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is in order because he raises the question of the representation of Oriyas in the Land Revenue Department for which a supplementary grant is asked for."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" It is a pity, Sir, that in this country importance is attached to appointments in public service. The orders recently passed by the Government have made matters worse because instead of accepting the principle of proportional representation, they have accepted the principle of communal representation. Had this not transgressed proper limits, I for one would not have cared to attach any importance whatsoever to these things. The appointment of Oriyas in the public services has given a great cause of complaint in the quarters of this Presidency where the Oriyas inhabit for the most part. The utter neglect of the claims of the Oriyas has led to serious administrative difficulties. The issue of summons, the recording of evidence in courts and various other things have brought up a crop of trouble to the Oriyas. The leading men of the community approached the Government as early as 1907 and the result was that the Government was pleased to issue an Order No. 2957, dated 29th October 1907, fixing the percentage of Oriyas or Oriya-knowing people. That order was not properly worked and a further representation on this matter made the Government pass another Order No. 437, dated 1st December 1918, wherein it was laid down that even in the absence of passed Oriyas, unpassed Oriya candidates might be taken up in the public services. After that another Government Order was passed, namely, G.O. No. 1935, dated 28th August 1919, in which it was laid down that no candidate should be selected or appointed unless he is able to read and write Oriya manuscripts with fair fluency and correctness. The reason for passing this Government Order is clear. The fact is that many people not knowing a word of Oriya were appointed to the serious inconvenience of the public that had to resort to courts and offices.

20th March 1923] [Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo]

Grant I—cont.

"Then came the communal Government Order of August 1922 laying down preferential treatment for the non-Brahmans."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I ask the hon. Member to quote correctly?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I have not got a copy of the Government Order here with me; but I know that order was passed with a view to give representation to the different non-Brahman communities in this province. It is a well-known fact that the Oriyas have a long-standing grievance and that has not been attended to till now. In order to show clearly the enormous grievance of the Oriyas, I wish to quote certain figures to the House. Out of six tahsildars and nine deputy tahsildars in the Ganjam district there is only one Oriya deputy tahsildar, and that on probation. Out of the appointments in the subordinate service in the Ganjam district on a salary above Rs. 100, not a single officer is an Oriya, and even in the subordinate service below Rs. 100, we have very few Oriyas; I do not think it will exceed 25 per cent.

"Taking the Presidency figures into consideration, out of 123 deputy collectors, we have got only two deputy collectors who were confirmed, and one is still a probationer. That does not even work up to 2½ per cent of the appointments. Out of twenty-five sarishtadars carrying a salary of over Rs. 200, we have none. Besides, there is an army of officials, both in the subordinate and in the higher services in the Secretariat and in the Board of Revenue, wherein no Oriya representation has been made. In these circumstances, Government should give preferential treatment to Oriyas in the matter of appointment. This subject was raised by the Oriya community when His Excellency the Governor visited Berhampur. The question was then discussed at length, and the deputationists represented to His Excellency that, while there were many available hands who could discharge their duties properly, the claims of the Oriyas did not receive proper treatment at the hands of the officials. In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Member for Revenue to take due note of these facts and direct the deputy collectors to see that the Government Orders are put into operation. With these few words, Sir, I beg to make my motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, the hon. Member began by expressing, if I understood him correctly, a disapproval of the methods pursued in the matter of reservation of places to meet communal interests. Nevertheless, inasmuch as he thinks that Government have been taking some interest with a view to meet the demands of communities which are not well represented in the public services, he draws the attention of the Government to the fact that the Oriyas, as a community, are not sufficiently represented in the public service. But he has at the same time been good enough to tell the House the various attempts made by the Government by the issue of orders to their officers to safeguard the interests of the Oriya community. He has given us certain figures which from his own standpoint are discouraging so far as his community is concerned. I am not in a position now, Sir, to judge why, if there are competent Oriyas available who can be appointed to certain posts in the Revenue Department, their claims have not been considered. I have always been under the impression that the local officers to whom orders

[Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib] [20th March 1923]

Grant I—cont.

of Government are issued loyally carry out those orders provided it is possible for them to do so, and I have not the least doubt, Sir, that if qualified Oriyas are available in those districts where their services can be utilized—and I take it that Ganjam district will be the one where their services can more profitably be utilized—the local officials would be only too glad to consider the claims of this community. Beyond assuring my hon. friend opposite that I have listened with interest to the facts which he has brought to my notice, and that I shall look into the matter and see if there is any further remedy which can be applied, I am not able to say anything more."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, we have no quarrel with the Government, but the difficulty is that the Government Orders are observed more in their breach than in their observance. As for my saying that I am against representation of communities in public services, I think the hon. the Revenue Member has misunderstood me. What I said was that I am against the principle of communal representation in service, but that I certainly like proportional representation of different communities—a policy which has been accepted by other provincial administrations. Therefore, I believe that the hon. the Revenue Member will give his due consideration to the claims of this community, and I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I say one word, Sir?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am first putting to the House that this grant of 4.53 lakhs be given to the Government and then the hon. Member can speak upon that by way of opposition to the grant if he has got any reasons to urge against it. That will be an opportune time for him to speak if he has got anything to say. The hon. Member can now speak."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Thank you, Sir. I shall say one word with reference to this grant, not by way of opposition, but for the purpose of eliciting a piece of information from my hon. friend the Revenue Member."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Revenue Member may not speak again."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Then I shall speak opposing this grant, Sir. The hon. Member has stated at page 3 of his memorandum that he has distributed this grant among various items. There are four figures given there. The first is a sum of Rs. 1,59,300. I do not object to that at all. The explanation given with reference to that is satisfactory. Then there are two other figures, one of Rs. 20,000 and another of Rs. 20,152. To those also I do not object. But as to the other item, which is the biggest of all the items, viz., Rs. 3,13,900, the explanation given is to my mind not satisfactory. It is under 26-D. Police—Village Police—Village talaiyaris. The explanation is this:

The Board has failed to make as large reductions in the number of talaiyaris during the year as were expected.

I cannot understand why the Board has failed to make this. It is a very large amount and certainly it must have been possible for the Board to make some substantial reductions therein. As proper explanation has not been given regarding it, I wish to oppose this grant at the present stage."

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Grant I—cont.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the only observation that I have to make is that this is the first of a series of demands that have been made by the Government, and the total of these comes to about 17 lakhs. That being the case, it is certainly open to the hon. Members to complain that these large demands for supplementary grants are brought up just at the end of the year. The hon. the Finance Member anticipating that some objection would be taken, has attempted to give some explanation in his explanatory note which is appended to this statement. But whatever the explanation may be, it seems to me, Sir, that some serious effort should be made to put an end to this state of affairs. If the hon. Member were to ask us to vote for this 17 lakhs of rupees, say, in half an hour at the end of the Budget discussion now extending over eight days, it is certainly calling too much upon our—may I say—patience and perseverance in the discharge of public duty. At the same time there is no further use in discussing these items in detail. Apparently the hon. Member is going to tell us that the whole of this amount has been already spent by the heads of Departments, and it will certainly serve no good purpose now to examine these grants in detail and to offer criticisms thereon. So, while complaining that these grants might have been brought up much earlier and subjected to the scrutiny of the House, I should advise hon. Members not to raise either questions of policy or of details on these various motions, because it seems to me that it will really be a futile discussion now at the end of a hard day's work. That does not mean that the hon. the Finance Member and his colleagues can come to us now and ask for a grant of 17 lakhs on a statement which my hon. friend the Finance Member has given. I certainly think that he has given some details of this expenditure and it is quite possible also to contend that some of these are necessary and unavoidable. Still my hon. friend knows very well that we can raise all kinds of questions on all these points, including the inevitable communal policy which always turns up from most unexpected quarters and in the most unexpected way. Therefore, I would ask my hon. friends not to attempt at any discussions. Of course if the hon. the Finance Member has any explanations to give, it would be very welcome. I have ventured to make these observations because I see on the faces of the hon. Members a clear evidence of fatigue and any further discussion on these motions may not be quite welcome."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, while I do not for a moment wish to burke any detailed discussion of questions of policy, may I say that it is the other side that has raised a long discussion of the question of Oriya representation in the Government service upon a grant that has nothing to do with the Oriyas? Then, as regards these supplementaries, may I say that what we are trying to get a vote of the House for is for the revised estimate? I recognise that the time allowed has been short, but that is due to the fact that we do not get the final revised estimate till the end of February. As regards the magnitude of the figure involved, as pointed out in paragraph 7 of my memorandum, the Government of India have ordered that the lump sum of Rs. 16.52 lakhs shown under exchange should be distributed over the items to which it relates, which means that we have to ask the Council to vote again nearly the whole of that money, which it has already voted, but in a number of small items under different heads. We have secured again an amount of 4 lakhs on account of unclaimed deposits, but with that goes a liability to the extent of Rs. 1,25,000 for refunding

[Sir Charles Todhunter]

[20th March 1923]

Grant I—cont.

those that are subsequently claimed. The amount of 17 lakhs is thus covered by two items which are purely items of account and do not involve one pie of new expenditure."

Mr. C. VENKATARAMANA REDDI :—" Sir, in some of the Ceded districts famine conditions are prevailing, and there have been a number of petitions for remissions and suspensions. I should like to know what the Government have done on those petitions. If a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming, I will not be willing to vote for this grant."

Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I should like to say a few words on this item of Rs. 3,13,900 under 26-D. Police—Village Police—Village talaiyaris. It is said in this memorandum that

the Board has failed to make as large reductions in the number of talaiyaris during the year as were expected.

I cannot understand, Sir, why reductions have not been possible. Government are trying to effect retrenchments in every possible direction, and if there is to be any cut anywhere at all, the biggest cut should be in regard to this item. In ancient days each village had a talaiyari and a vetti paid by the villagers. They were not doing any communal work, and they had to engage extra talaiyaris and vettis to look after their threshing floors, etc.

5-45 p.m. The villagers' properties are not in any way guarded in the night by these talaiyaris. They do not go round the villages in the night and prevent the occurrence of thefts, etc. Now, it is nobody's work to look after the villages.

" Another thing is that these talaiyaris are neither masters nor servants of anybody. People say that they belong to the Police Department. Some say that they will not obey the karnam or the headman of the village. In some places these talaiyaris obey the orders of the village headmen. They are not of course capable of giving any sort of relevant information to the police about the crimes that are committed in the villages. Whenever a crime is committed it is their duty to report to the village headmen. These people being illiterate are unable to send up such reports and the village headmen also do not want many crimes to be reported. Such being the case, I do not see any use of these talaiyaris at all either to the Government or to the people. For 24,486 villages we have now 32,914 talaiyaris and 82,784 vettis, that is to say roughly three men for each village. Almost all these three men are either the domestic servants of the village headmen or karnams, or are doing tilling work for some of the headmen and some of course doing household work for the karnams. So, their work is altogether very immaterial. I have only one word more to say, Sir. Before the last re-settlement there was only one man for each village. Now there are three people without any work though the villages have not correspondingly expanded. In my opinion the headman of a village should be held responsible for any trouble in his village and the village talaiyaris may be done away with."

The demand was put to the House and passed and the grant was made.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I request, Sir, that the remaining grants may be taken up another day? We are sitting here from 11 to 5-30 and there are a number yet to be moved."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I may state that so far as notice is concerned we got the memorandum, etc., only to-day."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I may say that I did everything I could by having the memorandum circulated on Sunday. Hon. Members had thus plenty of time to read the papers.

" As regards taking these grants later, the difficulty is that immediately after the 27th instant we begin the holidays and so far as there is fresh money to be paid out under these grants, it must be paid before the 31st March, and if we cannot get orders out in time to reach distant stations before the 28th, it is no use voting the grants at all. My hon. colleagues and I have another meeting at 5 o'clock to-morrow. So I do not know when we could find time if not now."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have no objection to adjourn this to another day if that is the wish of the House. But if we take this to-morrow, it will really be to the prejudice of Budget motions. I am giving the House the full nine days prescribed by His Excellency the Governor for the Budget motions. If we take this to-morrow morning, it will mean that the House will have to sit for an hour or two extra for this purpose."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Our suggestion is that this grant might be postponed till 5 p.m. to-morrow, so that after the Budget motions are over we can take this up."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I suggest, Sir, that this may be taken up on the 22nd as the first business for the day?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, this might be taken up as the first thing day after to-morrow in which case the objections of Sir Charles Todhunter would be met. His objections are natural and reasonable. He says that the Government must get this sanctioned in time to reach the distant stations before the 28th instant. To-morrow is the 21st and day after to-morrow is the 22nd, and if these grants are voted on that day I think there will be sufficient time for the Government to make the necessary arrangements and they will not be seriously inconvenienced if we have these on the 22nd."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, we do not want to inconvenience the House in any way. So far as the Government are concerned, we have sent copies of these demands to all the departments concerned and I have instructed the heads of departments to wire to-day the result of the discussion. Last year a number of these grants were voted, but the money could not be disbursed before the new year and we had to come forward with fresh supplementary grants in the course of this year and so a great deal of inconvenience was caused. This year we have got the Easter holidays beginning in March and we have no time to lose. I will however accept the opinion of the House."

The question for the adjournment of the further consideration of this grant to 11 a.m. on the 22nd March 1923 was then put to the House and carried.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

[21st March 1928]

pass through two districts into a third is less than half in the case of Madras than it is in the case of Ganjam or South Kanara. It need hardly be added that postings are made as vacancies arise and as the best interests of the public service dictate, and that advantage is taken of the return of officers from leave to fill the place of officers going on leave wherever that is practicable.

Formation of irrigation boards.

919 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : With reference to Government reply to question No. 139 at the meeting of the Council on 12th September 1922 regarding the irrigation boards in deltaic areas, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(a) to expedite the formation of such irrigation boards before the end of this official year; and

(b) to state whether it is the intention of the Government to have the depressed classes representatives of this Council nominated to these boards?

A.—(a) Proposals for the constitution of the boards are under consideration and orders will issue shortly.

(b) Efforts will be made in consultation with the local officials to secure adequate representation of all the interests involved.

Revision of irrigation projects.

920 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the result of the work done till now by the special officer regarding the revision of irrigation projects in this Presidency;

(b) which of the projects are likely to be taken up for execution next year; and

(c) whether it is the intention of Government to try an experiment of floating a self-supporting loan in the public market for this purpose and gauging its popularity among the interested ryots in the districts or regions likely to be benefited by the introduction of such irrigation projects?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 71 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 12th September 1922. The report of the special officer on the revision of projects will be published shortly.

(b) The only projects likely to be taken up for execution next year are the excavation of the Girisola channel in the Ganjam district and the construction of the Tippayyapalem Reservoir in the Kurnool district.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Is the hon. the Law Member aware that there are in the Kurnool and Bellary districts other projects which can be taken up for execution; for example, the Basafanna channel, at a cost of 2.50 lakhs of rupees?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“I cannot give a definite answer just now. The hon. Member had a talk with me on this matter.”

21st March 1923]

III

PRESENTATION OF PETITION.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“I have in my hands a petition prepared and signed by fifteen Dikshitaras of the famous Nataraja temple of Chidambaram. It is signed by them as representing the 300 Dikshitaras attached to the temple and it conforms to the conditions laid down in the Standing Order for the presentation of a petition. I therefore beg to present this petition.”

IV

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XXIV—INDUSTRIES—*cont.*

MOTION No. 184.

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—“The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 75,000 for the School of Arts by Rs. 100.

My intention in moving this motion is to raise a discussion on the report of the Committee that was appointed to investigate into the conditions of the School of Arts and to reorganize it. The report of that Committee which is in my hands has been published for the information of the public. All that I say is that the School of Arts is evidently another of those institutions in which technical education and industrial workshops are combined. The Director in the report which he laid before this Committee states that this school is not a workshop; but, evidently, he sells all the materials produced by the School of Arts, because in the revenue side of the Budget I find an item of Rs. 6,000 as income derived from this source. One other peculiarity about the School of Arts is that the Government have an item in the Budget which is not mentioned under any other head by the Department of Industries, namely, a bill-collector on a salary of Rs. 23 to Rs. 35. Perhaps that may be a printer's mistake, or may be an artistic name to another Government official. If the School of Arts is not a manufactory for selling goods and issuing bills on that account, I do not see the necessity to have the item of a bill-collector, and I do trust the hon. the Minister for Development will consent to a reduction of this entry and eliminate this particular official.

“From the report, which I have in my hands, I am sorry to learn—and I hope the House will also see that—that the Committee which was appointed to reorganize the School of Arts would not take the power to compel the Director of the School of Arts to appear before them to give his evidence orally, in addition to what he said in his written memorandum.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“Superintendent, Sir.”

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—“One would have thought that in any enquiry it was necessary for an official to appear before the Committee. I am also very pleased to learn from the report that my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, who is one of the shining lights of the Ministerial Party, says :

According to this report I do not consider the maintenance of so costly a craft school involving over Rs. 75,000 per annum is necessary under the present circumstances. Nor do I feel that an extra grant is necessary in consequence of any re-organization. We have a number of similar institutions in the Presidency; besides this, the crafts that are taught in the School of Arts are sufficiently advanced in the Presidency and can be picked up easily elsewhere.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 21st day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I
NEW MEMBER.

The following new Member was sworn in :—
Khan Bahadur HAJI ABDULLA SAHIB Bahadur.

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.]

Concession regarding increment remission.

917 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent reduction of the increment remission granted to caste ryots is given to Khonds and other backward Hill tribes ;

(b) whether such concession in increment remission is given to depressed classes ryots in the southern districts ; and

(c) if not, why not ?

A.—(a) & (b) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the concession granted to Khonds and other hill tribes in respect of the enhancement of assessment. If so, the answer to (a) is in the affirmative and the answer to (b) is in the negative.

(c) The Government do not consider that any useful comparison can be drawn between aboriginal hillmen and the inhabitants of the plains.

Transfer of Provincial Service Deputy Collectors and Indian Civil Service Revenue Divisional Officers and Collectors.

918 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state how many Provincial Service Deputy Collectors and Indian Civil Service Revenue Divisional Officers and Collectors have been transferred during the course of the last ten months ending with 31st January 1923 to places beyond two districts and to what distances and how much travelling allowances have been drawn in each case ?

A.—The Government regret that they do not see sufficient justification for directing the compilation of the statistics asked for. They presume that the criterion which the hon. Member sets before him is the distance travelled. If so, the distance travelled in order to

[Mr. A. M. MacDougall]

[21st March 1923]

"Another thing in the Superintendent's report is this. He states:

We might even occasionally supply to firms or individuals men who are doing good work in drawing and design.

I have often suggested to the hon. the Minister for Development that this scheme might be extended. I know, from the figures that have been supplied to me, that the School of Arts has been in existence for nearly 30 years.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"For nearly fifty years."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"I thank the hon. Minister, Sir. But I find there is still a great dearth of students qualified in drawing and design who are supposed to be turned out by this school. Recently, a firm in Madras wrote to the Superintendent of the School of Arts asking for his assistance in engaging a man qualified in minor designing and free-hand drawing. After a little interval, the Superintendent was reminded of the application sent by the firm. The reply from the School of Arts was that the letter had been put on the notice board and that no applications had been received. I think it would be advisable if the hon. the Minister for Development impresses upon the Superintendent of the School of Arts the necessity of assisting firms who are in need of such classes of labour. Another case is this: a firm asked the Superintendent of the School of Arts whether he could get for them a man who was trained in the system of making or procuring a certain design. That application was also turned down with the remark that it had been placed on the notice board and no response had been received. I trust that in the face of these facts the School of Arts will be thoroughly reorganized; but in the light of the remarks made by Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar in the report for the reorganization of the School of Arts, one would be inclined to think that there will be no necessity to keep it at all."

Khan Bahadur Muhammad USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I take some interest in the School of Arts. Recently, I was one of the Members of the School of Arts Reorganization Committee appointed by the Government under the presidency of the hon. Mr. Justice Oldfield. This Committee inspected the School of Arts and thoroughly examined the various questions connected with it and came to the conclusion that there was nothing wrong with the school. This Committee was appointed as a result of the resolution moved by my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar. After carefully investigating the whole matter, this Committee found it essential to state that there was nothing wrong with the school. The Committee say:

It is a satisfactory feature of the present administration that the number of students of the artisan class has considerably increased and it would be sorry if a change were to be made which would probably render the school less popular with such students by an unnecessary postponement of the stage at which specialized instruction would be given.

Again they say:

The existing engraving class at the school is appreciated and doing good work and the Committee recommend no change at present.

"As regards the number of students that were in attendance in the school, the figures are as follows and they show a steady increase:—

1913-14	...	256	1921-22	...	286
1919-20	...	222	1923	...	299
1920-21	...	241			

[21st March 1923]

[Muhammad Usman Sahib]

So the students are increasing year after year and I find that out of 11-15 a.m. the students turned out from this school 40 per cent are doing the work which they have learnt in the school. It should be remembered that in England out of the total number of students turned out by such schools only 27 per cent find employment."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Were the 40 per cent employed in the Government institutions or private institutions?"

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Both in Government and in private institutions. What I want to say is that about 40 per cent of the students turned out by this school are able to earn their livelihood in the trade they learned. As such there is not the least justification for the abolition of the institution as has been suggested."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"I said that I wished to reorganize the institution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I have some information about the remaining 60 per cent?"

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Reorganization is impossible if the school is abolished. What I wish to point out is that the school is doing work and that 40 per cent of the students turned out by the school are earning their livelihood by means of the crafts they have learnt in the school. Such a school ought to be maintained by the Government."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"He has not told us about the other 60 per cent as yet, Sir?"

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"There the students are taught goldsmithy, metal work, carpet weaving, engraving, basket weaving and other useful things. I do not see any reason why anybody should grudge this grant for an institution which has been equipping about 300 students a year to earn their livelihood by honest means. I strongly oppose the motion."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, whatever the result of the voting on this proposition may be, there can be no doubt that the arguments advanced for the retention of the school by Mr. Usman are very unconvincing. If any condemnation of the school was wanted, I think that has been abundantly furnished by my hon. friend Mr. Usman. Because what does he say? He says that in spite of all the exertions on the part of those who are interested in the maintenance of the school they have not been able to provide work for more than 40 per cent of the students."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I said that in England only 27 per cent of the pupils turned out by the institutions found employment. Still they maintained such schools."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Forty per cent are those about whom we have been able to get information. This does not mean that the others did not get work. Many had their own shops. For instance, goldsmiths have been working in their own houses."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Without going through the portals of this school, people have been able to find work for themselves as goldsmiths."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"The school gives instruction to all irrespective of their castes."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not quite follow the hon. Member."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I was saying that most of these professions were caste professions; so that, though no doubt in the villages some teaching is given, that teaching is limited to the caste to which the profession belongs. For example, the goldsmiths learn their profession from their elders. In this school, on the other hand, a man of any caste can learn it."

Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI :—" I am afraid that the statement that only goldsmiths learn goldsmithy is not quite correct. I would ask the hon. the Minister to make inquiries to see if he is correct."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The information furnished by the Minister would have been of great value if he had taken some trouble to find out who were the people that learned that work. I do not think that such a thing has been done. In the face of the remarks made by Mr. Arumainatha Pillai I do not think there is much to be said on either side. I myself had been to the school and I must express my disappointment with the school and the way in which it is managed. I do not know whether the students are taught to paint or to draw caricatures. The only thing they are taught there is furniture making. That furniture finds a sale at the hands of the officials; because when I asked for some furniture I was told that they were intended for so and so, and that I could not have it. If that is the purpose of the school I am for its closure rather than its continuance."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I thank the hon. Member, Mr. MacDougall, for making a kind reference to me. I may return the compliment and say that he is not less to the community that he represents than he described me to be to my community."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Who is the leading light ?"

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I am glad that he does not want the abolition of the school. He wants only its reorganization. I think this amendment comes too soon. It was only in September 1921 that I moved a resolution that the school should be reorganized and that the Government should appoint a Committee for the same purpose. The Government appointed a Committee with the hon. Mr. Justice Oldfield as the president, and among its Members the Committee had the Director of Industries and the Director of Public Instruction in addition to other experts. The majority found the school working satisfactorily, especially the engraving department which attracted some of the artisan children. And as my hon. friend Mr. Usman told us, 40 per cent of the students were getting employments in various places and firms. That does not mean that the others went without any work. They set up private practice and most of them got on very well. I wrote a dissenting note. By that I did not mean that I did not want the institution. I wrote it on the lines of the needs of my country and my own tendency. We do not want that goldsmith's work should be taught there. We are experts in that. I do not think that any expert from the West will excel our Acharis and Viswakarmas here. So, let me not be mistaken for having condemned the school. But I condemned the school as it was then existing. Now, the Government has issued a Government Order. It is not

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very satisfactory. I only wish that our Minister, who is a people's man, will take into consideration the wishes of the people and will not deny the effort to see that the school is raised to the level which the country expects it to be."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I wish to make one observation. I think the Council is thankful to the hon. Member, Mr. MacDougall, for his criticisms. The Council has to welcome criticism, and especially constructive criticism of the kind advanced by the hon. mover. My hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, and my hon. friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, have also passed rather severe criticisms with regard to the method of work followed in the School of Arts. At the same time, Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. MacDougall, spoke of the need for reorganizing the school. I think, Sir, the time has come not only for reorganizing the School of Arts, but for reorganizing education of the kind imparted in schools of that description. Recently, at the instance of the hon. the Minister for Development, a committee was appointed to investigate the question of industrial and technical education. I hope the report of the Committee will be available very soon to hon. Members, and there is scope for criticism—criticism which should be very helpful. While admitting, therefore Sir, the desirability of having criticism and the need for having valuable helps both in the shape of criticism and in the shape of expert advice, no case has been made out actually for closing that school. Sir, the words of the hon. mover were that if it was impossible to reorganize the school—absolutely impossible—only then was the other alternative course, viz., total abolition, to be taken up. But, I think, considering the general demand of the Indian public for more and more of this kind of education, expert advice will be forthcoming and the hon. the Minister, who has been hearing all the arguments advanced, will so reorganize the institution and not only that kind of education, but also technical and industrial education throughout the Presidency so as to make them all as perfect as it is possible for human institutions and educational methods to be."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President Sir, before proceeding to answer certain criticisms, I may be permitted to state that one sentence in my hon. friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar's dissenting minute has not been correctly interpreted. That sentence says that he did not agree with the majority report that if the school was to be remodelled on the lines on which the majority wanted it to be remodelled, which consisted of striking out items of work, then he thought it was unnecessary. Anyone who reads the report carefully will find that he supported the school from the beginning to the end. Therefore, Sir, any criticism or argument based on the remarks of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar does not hold good. My hon. friend said, Sir, that these trades could be picked up elsewhere. Now, Sir, it is not correct to say that the trades that are taught here can be picked up elsewhere unless it be in the caste circles. There are a number of trades which are taught here and to which my hon. friend, Mr. Usman, made reference. He did not separately mention such of those items as were taught only in the school. In the whole of this Presidency there is not a single school in which the following subjects are taught: goldsmithy, engraving, lac-work, cotton painting, modelling and design. They paint colours on cotton. Well, Sir, if there is no other institution which does this work, the existence of this school is justified. Moreover there is the other consideration that there are at present something like 299 pupils, which number is larger than it has hitherto been."

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The whole school came under the fire of criticism only recently. The report is already in the hands of hon. Members. Government have followed only the majority report. Of course, we could not follow the minority report of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar though in order to satisfy his criticism in some respects I particularly insisted that design and drawing should be taught. I am not quite aware of this item of bill-collector. Of course, Mr. Thomas will explain it. It is such a small item that my attention was not drawn to it hitherto. However, I will see that it is investigated.

"My hon. friend stated that applications were made on behalf of certain firms for supplying men trained in free-hand drawing. All that I can say is that it is difficult to say why men were not available for taking up service except it be that all those who had been trained had obtained service. However, Sir, I shall take interest in this matter and see that it is communicated to the Superintendent, so that he may endeavour his best to send the best possible persons whenever they are required; because it must be one of the endeavours of the institution to supply hands whenever they are wanted and in order to train more men for meeting the various demands, I hope the Council will allow me to increase this provision of Rs. 75,000 and not reduce it. As I have said, Sir, I will look into the whole matter to the best of my ability. I therefore hope that my hon. friend will not press his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 185.

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 50,000 for contingencies under Fruit-Preserving Institute by Rs. 25,000.

The Fruit-Preserving Institute is another one of those legacies which my friend, the hon. the Minister for Development, has received from his predecessors. As far as I know, fruit-preserving and preparation of jam are generally done only when there is a surplus of fresh fruits. The idea of preserving fruit is to make it useful when the season for fresh fruits has passed. I have yet to know that there is any fruit in the Nilgiri hills which is worth preserving. There is a certain kind of fruit there, but it is of such a poor quality that it is impossible to preserve it. It may be made up into jam, but only at the expense of three or four times the bulk of sugar that would be necessary for preserving ordinary fruits. Having tried to make this point clear, I think there is no necessity for this Institute. Unfortunately the Department of Industries thought there was a certain amount of fruit to be preserved, and they built a factory first. No, first they engaged a Superintendent to go round the country, who was certainly experienced in making household jam which had been known to hundreds of housewives in the Nilgiris for generations. This Superintendent was sent on deputation to learn the trade, so that after coming back he could properly supervise. Then, having got the Superintendent and built the Institute, they proceeded to discover where they were going to get the fruit to be preserved. Recent information given to me tells me that certain experiments are being carried on in the Nilgiris, possibly in a more intensive manner than has been done in the past, to try and get the fruit in order to supply it to the Institute, and a certain portion

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of the hills is under the course of demolition at present in order to make an orchard to supply the fruit to this Institute. Having got all that in Coonoor, they evidently never thought about the suitability of Coonoor as a centre for this industry. When one starts an industry he has to see if the locality where it is proposed to be started is a suitable one. No doubt, Coonoor has a beautiful climate. But the cost of carrying the produce by railway takes a good deal of money. I am at one with the hon. the Minister for Development in his great ideal of improving this presidency industrially. But I am not at one with him in frittering away the money on so-called industries that lead to nowhere. His great ideal is to have industries which will provide employment for people and whose products will be used by the people. I want to ask this House, how many people, excluding the Europeans of the country, are addicted to preserved fruit and jam? Is there a Hindu or a Muhammadan who is addicted to jam or to preserved fruit? Now, I ask, what is the use of spending Rs. 58,000 on this kind of industry which will possibly help one or two individuals. As I said, there is something wrong with Madras in private capital not being used on industries, and I rather wish that this sum of Rs. 58,000 is spent on a scheme of research which will show what exactly is wrong with Madras that nobody comes here to transform the presidency into a huge industrial one. I understand that the Superintendent of the Institute is under contract for three years. It is not very nice to take contracts; but contracts can be broken at a price. My own view in reducing the allotment by Rs. 25,000 is that the remaining Rs. 25,000 will enable the hon. the Minister for Development to sufficiently recompense the Superintendent if the contract is broken."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I oppose the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. He has asked the Members of this House one question. Of course he used the word 'addicted'. But I take it that he meant to ask whether the Muhammadans and the Hindus are in the habit of using jam. I may tell him on behalf of my Hindu friends and on behalf of my Muhammadan friends also that we are in the habit of taking this jam."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I deny that charge."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall exempt my Brahman friends. I will speak on behalf of all my non-Brahman friends, and I believe the statement holds good with reference generally to my Muhammadan friends also. After all, the object of my hon. friend Mr. MacDougall's proposition is to close down this factory. Now, certain facts have to be remembered in connexion with this proposition. In the first place, about Rs. 70,000 have been sunk in the construction of the necessary buildings and factories for the purpose of manufacturing the jam and the manufacture was actually commenced only in December 1922; so that hardly three months have expired since the commencement of this business. My hon. friend Mr. MacDougall is certainly a business man and I ask him whether as a business man he would recommend the closing down of a business that has been in existence only for three months."

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL:—"As a businessman I would not have started this Jam Factory, as has now been done."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Then I may tell him that this was started at the instance of another gentleman who, I believe, knew business very well and who was in Government service for about 35 years. It was on

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the strength of the recommendation made by Sir Frederick Nicholson that this Jam Factory was started. I believe there is no impropriety in my comparing the business capacity of Sir Frederick Nicholson and the business capacity of my esteemed friend, Mr. MacDougall. If my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, as a businessman, thought that he would not have started this factory, Sir Frederick Nicholson did want this factory to be started."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"Sir Frederick Nicholson was not spending his own money. He was spending the taxpayers' money."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I want to take exception to that Sir. If there is one that deserves being honoured in an assembly like this, it is that distinguished man, and if any aspersion is cast on him, I must protest against it."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"I have not cast aspersions on any one's character. I only stated the truth. The Jam Factory belongs to the Government and I said that he was using Government money. I take strong objection to the hon. Minister stating that I did anything to detract from the credit of Sir Frederick Nicholson's character."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"When he said that Sir Frederick Nicholson was not spending his own money, what is the inference?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"My hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, is against spending tax-payers' money on this business. Whether Sir Frederick Nicholson and my friend, the hon. the Minister for Development, are right in spending the tax-payers' money on this business, has to be determined hereafter by the vote of the House on this motion; and I venture to think that this House will, by a very large majority, throw out the motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. MacDougall. That is the test whether the Government are right or not in spending the tax-payers' money on this industry. My hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, stated—not to-day but at the time of the general discussion on the Budget—that he had tasted the jam and found it good. I believe he stated that it was very good. I do not know why he should be so very particular now in closing down this infant industry which produces very good jam. Then again, he had also stated that there was no market. He stated this as one of the objections, in his speech on the budget, for continuing this factory. With reference to that, as I stated once before, this industry has been in existence only for a very short time and it is hardly time for those who are in charge of this factory to find a market. With reference to another Government industry, namely, the manufacture

11-45 a.m. of soap, Government have appointed salesmen on commission for the sale of soaps. As a matter of fact, the Government soap factory at Calicut is not able to produce enough to meet the demand; so that if the same salesmen who are employed in finding market for the soap are charged with the duty of finding markets for jam also, there will be no extra cost involved and no difficulty will be felt for finding a suitable market for jam. My friend's motion is not for a token reduction, but out of Rs. 50,000 provided under Contingencies for this manufacture he wants as much as Rs. 25,000 to be taken away. The result must necessarily be to close down this factory. But the Government, I believe, have budgeted for a pretty large amount of receipt also under this head, and the result of accepting this resolution will be to cut down that receipt. I shall go further and say that even if this industry is to be worked at a loss, seeing that it is a

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Government industry intended as a sort of demonstration factory to others, it is desirable and very necessary that even at a loss it should be worked for the purpose of inducing others to undertake such business. For these reasons I oppose the proposition of my friend."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"Sir, without committing myself to any remarks on the fruit preserving factory in Coonoor, I wish to take strong objection to the insinuation conveyed by the remarks of my hon. friend Mr. MacDougall, that Sir Frederick Nicholson was only spending the tax-payers' money. He had been the Collector of our district for a long time, and my hon. friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai, and myself knew him intimately. He belonged to the old order of civilians of the time of Sir Thomas Munro. He is cherished in our memory. It is he that started the idea of co-operation which is spreading now. He was a man who had always the welfare of our country in his heart. I am not competent to say anything about the state of this industry, because I have no personal knowledge; but as a businessman Mr. MacDougall may be entitled to every consideration at our hands."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, very often, I do not agree with my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, in his views regarding the industrial developments of our country. But I must say, in this particular instance, I agree with a great deal of what he said. I myself know a bit of this business, and when I came to know that a jam factory was to be started, I had my own doubts as to whether there were on the Nilgiris enough of fresh fruits which may be converted into jam in this factory. I know, Sir, that this Jam Factory is one of the results of the various hobbies which Sir Frederick Nicholson was engaged in after his retirement from Government service; so that I would like to know from the hon. the Minister whether, before this factory was started, Government had received any report from him or any other person who was responsible for recommending the starting of this factory, as to the possibilities of getting fresh fruits to be preserved, the sources from which they had to be got, how much of them could be got from the Nilgiris and how much could be taken to the Nilgiris from other sources. I should like to know from the hon. the Minister whether any report was obtained giving any idea as to these facts. No doubt, Government must, even working at a loss, undertake the starting of certain industries, so that it might be an inducement to others to start concerns of this nature. But I have my own doubts whether the manufacture of jam can be classified in that category of pioneer industries which have to get the impetus from Government example. I should agree with my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, in spite of the authority given on behalf of the Hindu community by my friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar, that jam is not an article of food used by the Hindu community, whether Brahman or non-Brahman—in this affair I am sure there is no party government—so that the market for this product must be found in the European community. If we are to understand the psychology of the European community here, when there are two articles available in the market one produced in India and the other coming from England, they would rather demand the English article, even though a little costly. One of the examples of that attitude is the demand which our tinned fish from Malabar has in the European market here in India. It has been repeatedly said by those who are responsible for the manufacture of tinned salmon or other fish that it is cheaper than English tinned fish, if not better also; but at the same time we see very few people, at least among

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Europeans, going in for tinned fish prepared in Malabar. So that what I should like to ask the hon. the Minister is, that though this Jam Factory was a legacy, an unfortunate legacy, which he had to inherit from his predecessor, what justification Government had in venturing upon this new industry. It was with this idea of eliciting information that I also tabled a motion for reduction."

Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE:—"Mr. President, I rise to support my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall's resolution. My chief reason for doing so is that having some slight knowledge of the Nilgiri Hills, I feel sure that there is not sufficient fruit available to keep a Jam Factory working, and I must doubt whether it will be possible to manufacture one ton of jam a year. If the hon. The Minister could carry out researches as to the possibility of making the waste products of coffee into jam, there might be some opening for the factory."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I make spirit out of coffee pulps and not jam."

Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE:—"My hon. friend opposite Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar compared the Jam Factory with the Soap Factory, but I contend that whereas there is no lack of raw material for the latter, there is a lack of fruit to keep a Jam Factory going."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I rise to offer a personal explanation. What I said was that the same agents that were finding purchasers for soap might be utilized for finding purchasers for jam also; and that was in answer to my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, who said that there was no market for this article."

Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE:—"I regret I misunderstood my hon. friend. I still hold the view that it should be definitely ascertained whether there is sufficient fruit available in the Nilgiris, before heavy expenditure is entailed on a Jam Factory."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR:—"I beg to oppose the motion. As is sometimes the case, a businessman may not realize during the first few years all that he expects. When private capital is shy, Government must set an example by starting such new industries. If without allowing sufficient time for the institute to prove its utility we make motions to shut it down, it will be a pity and private individuals will not come forward to take up such undertakings. I therefore oppose the motion."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Sir, I think the country is indebted to Sir Frederick Nicholson for many of his hobbies. This hobby of making fruits into jam was meant, I think, to teach the people of this country the art of making jam not only of the fruits that may be got from the Nilgiris, but also of such fruits as mangoes growing on the plains. We are importing jam from England and it is used not only by the European community, but also by the Brahmans—excepting perhaps some orthodox Brahmans like my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu—and by non-Brahmans, though not the common people; and all these are making use of the jam that is imported. The object of the industry is to teach people the art of making jam, so that they may thrive on it. But I think the arguments advanced against it seem to suggest that jam is only consumed by the

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Europeans and that the jam that may be produced in this industrial centre at Nilgiris will not be bought by others. All these arguments are beside the mark, because the industry is meant to teach the people the art of making jam out of fruits. Therefore I strongly support the Government in this matter."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS:—"It was somewhat of a surprise to me to learn from the speech of my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, that the two great parties in the House are divided on the subject of jam. Mr. MacDougall levelled against the Government, not this Government, the charge of having inherited some unpalatable legacies. He said that we started the Jam Factory and then discovered that we had not got the fruits to turn into jam—a singularly unbusiness like thing to do. But the facts are different. It is perfectly true that this institute was initiated and built on the advice of Sir Frederick Nicholson. Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar wanted to know if the Government went into the business without preliminary reports. The answer to that is,

no. I have in my hand, G.O. No. 1677, Revenue (Special), dated 12 noon. the 3rd September 1919, in which the whole question of initiating fruit-preserving and jam-making in this particular institute on the Nilgiris is discussed at great length. In the course of the report (printed in this Government Order) Sir Frederick Nicholson has very clearly pointed out to Government that at that time there was not really a great supply of fruit on the Nilgiris. However, I think my hon. friend, Mr. Congreve, rather underestimates the fruit possibilities of the Nilgiris when he said that the fruits were not enough. This is what Sir Frederick Nicholson says:

As mentioned in my note of 1917 and demi-official of January 1919 there is a great variety of fruit, actual or potential, on the Nilgiris and in their vicinity, I am quite aware that the present supply is scattered and even scanty regarded as the supply of a large factory."

"He goes on to say—

It is to a considerable extent scanty just because of the absence of a large and regular demand. . . . Hence a steady local demand by the cash purchases of a factory will at once increase the existing supply, sufficiently for experimental work, and will gradually develop the supply, especially of the more quickly grown fruits (tree-tomatoes, tipari, etc.) to satisfy the increasing demand. No one ever expects to find everything ready to hand for the starting of a brand new industry; the industry develops the supply which feeds the industry; it is a continuously widening and reacting circle.

"Therefore, the object of starting this industry on the Nilgiris was to stimulate and to find out an outlet for the growth of fruit on the Nilgiris and elsewhere. If you want to improve the growth of your orchards, unless you offer an outlet for the fruits, you cannot do so. I suppose everybody in this House will agree that it is a good thing on the whole if some fruit trees could be made to grow where there were no trees before. I do not know whether my hon. friend opposite will accept that point.

"My hon. friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar it was who said that this was a very young industry and that it was rather too much to expect it to be developed into a full-grown industry at once. It is an infant enterprise my hon. friend Mr. MacDougall says in effect. 'It is a weak infant. Cut down its food. Give it half rations.' If you cut down the allotments for raw-materials by half, next year he will be in a position to tell the Council, 'I told you so'. I always said it was a weakling. Now give it a decent burial. That will be the effect of accepting this motion for reducing the allotment for the purchase of raw materials by half. If he wanted to close the factory, it would have been more logical to move to omit the allotment altogether.

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"There is another point I should like to place before the House, and that is if this motion is accepted it will be necessary to write off on the receipt side something very considerable. We have now got to spend a good deal more than Rs. 50,000 which the Finance Department has given. But if the provision is further reduced, it seems to me very probable that what is budgeted on the receipt side of this item will disappear altogether."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"May I ask what is likely to be expected on the receipt side or hoped to be expected?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Rupees 80,000 on the receipt side, Sir, against which the Director has asked for Rs. 70,500."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—"One more word, Sir. I think it will be a pity, as suggested by Mr. Namberumal Chettiyar, to stop the operations. I think it is perfectly fair to say that if this business does not appear to be profitable or does not attain a stage of prosperity within a reasonable time, then a motion of the kind we are discussing now would be much more proper than it probably is at this stage."

Mr. A. E. RENCONTRE :—"Mr. President, I have heard the extract read by the hon. Member, Mr. Thomas. I do not think he has read any extract to show that this factory satisfies a public need, or that there has been any popular demand for the establishment of such a factory. That, I think, is the test that should be applied when you are applying public money for an industry of this kind. Anybody who goes to the Nilgiris knows that the climatic conditions there are not suitable for the cultivation of fruits. We are sometimes having too much rain and sometimes too frequent rains, and the rains are not spread throughout the seasons of the year. Again, I have not heard anything in the report that was read to show that the climatic conditions of the Nilgiris are suitable for fruit-farming. As has been pointed out by Mr. MacDougall and the hon. the Member representing the planting community, all the fruit that we have got now is what is known as the 'shandy fruit.' Such fruit really costs a good deal to preserve; the sugar you have to purchase for preserving it is far more costly than the fruit itself, and the fruit is too poor for preserving. Of course, what the Government might have had in their mind might be that if the climatic conditions were suitable to go on with an extensive and intensive farming, in five or six years from starting the factory you could improve the position. It seems to me, therefore, that this factory will certainly not satisfy a public need and will certainly not be a profitable undertaking. If there is a need for fit, you may rest assured that private enterprise will take it up. This seems to be an undertaking for private enterprise. I do not think that this factory is anything in the shape of a nation-building industry. What we really want in laying out public money is that it should be for an industry which will satisfy a public need. Let us focus our energy, let us concentrate our forces in building up such industries. What is the use of frittering away money on an institution of this kind? I think some hon. Members will no doubt say that at first we may lose some amount of money. But why should we spend more and more money such as Rs. 20,000, or Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 50,000 and venture to make further commitments so as to lose more money in the future. I think the hon. the Minister for Development will be well advised to close down the industry now instead of entering into further difficulties, or, if possible, to hand it over to private enterprise."

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Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"Mr. President, I just like to make a few remarks on what has been said regarding my motion. In the first place, my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, said that I had admitted that the jam produced by the factory was good. I agree with that. I do not think why that should be adduced as a reason for the tax-payers' money being spent on this particular object. I do say that the jam is good. But that does not mean that I should not make this motion."

"Then, he also mentioned something about salesmanship, and he spoke about what I had said in the Council one or two months ago about the extent of profits. I am afraid he has somewhat misconceived what I said, and the hon. the Minister has also proceeded on a wrong impression. What I did say was that there was great difficulty for the Government to sell their manufactures after they had made them. At present, the Government consider that they can give a margin of 5 per cent to cover the selling cost. That would be sufficient in many cases. My point was that the selling cost was sometimes much more than the actual manufacturing cost."

"Another point regarding salesmanship noticed by Mr. Krishnan Nayar was the possibility of handing over the jam to soap-travellers. I would like to read with your permission a little passage to be found on page 33 of the report of the Director of Industries for 1921. It says:

The system of selling the products of the factory through the agency of three travellers, with headquarters at Calicut, Madras and Masulipatam respectively, was continued during the year. The west coast traveller was successful in introducing a considerable volume of business during the year in spite of the unfavourable conditions of the market; the volume of orders obtained by the Madras traveller was not so satisfactory, while the amount of business introduced by the traveller for the Telugu districts was very disappointing."

That is a very good argument which goes against handing over the jam to the soap travellers."

"I think my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar's idea of an institute was to teach the people of this country how to make jam. If that is so, why in all conscience have the Government established the institute at Coonoor? If they are going to teach the people how to make jam, is Coonoor the place for the institute?"

"The hon. Member, who is the Director of Industries, said that if this allotment was cut down, I would probably come next year and say 'I told you so; you can make no profit'. I did not say anything myself to mean that. What I said was that the idea in my mind in moving for this reduction was to allow the hon. the Minister for Development to get out of his contract with the Superintendent and to allow him to pay the man some solatium, and to enable him to close down the factory altogether."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, most of the points that I wanted to mention to the House were perhaps mentioned either by my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, or by my hon. friend Mr. Thomas, and there is not much to say for me. But I must point out one distinction which if it is mentioned would clear a good deal. If I am not mistaken, Mr. MacDougall's criticisms were based on the assumption that this is an industrial concern, pure and simple. It is no doubt true to some extent. But the object of this, as stated by Sir Frederick Nicholson (who, I may mention to the House is just now in England, who is still working on all these matters, and who has not given up his connexion with the industries

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of Madras but has still further committed himself on our behalf for considering more machinery, etc., required for us), was 'mainly experimental and demonstrational'. Well, Sir, it is to be remembered that this is merely experimental and demonstrational of the possibilities of making jam and of preserving fruit. If this is realized, I think much of the criticism made will lose its force. Let us see how the criticism is directed.

"In the first place, it is said that the Nilgiris is not the proper place and that fruit cannot be had there. If it is remembered that this is only an experiment and a demonstration, and if we succeed in getting this experiment through to a success, and if the expert there is able to show that the fruits can be preserved, then all the objection will lose its force. When it is remembered that this is a tropical country, it will be seen that we can claim to produce every kind of fruit in this country more than in any other country in the world. I do not know whether my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, is aware that there are districts in this province, like Vizagapatam, where thousands and millions of fruits like pine-apples can be had which are now made to rot and are being sold for one anna and one and half annas each."

12-15 p.m. Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL:—"May I ask, Sir, if there is any institute in that district?"

Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"If my hon. friend will wait for a few minutes, I shall come to that point."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA:—"What about mangoes?"

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I am coming to mangoes also presently."

"Hon. Members are aware that a tin of this pine-apple jam consisting of half of one fruit which is obtained in the Vizagapatam district, is sold at 12 annas or Rs. 1-4-0 each, whereas the cost of the fruit would be one anna or one and a half annas. Now, I want to ask: what is wrong in the Government undertaking this business trying to evolve a system, by experimenting and demonstrating that the fruit of this country can be preserved and sold not merely for use by the people of this country but also for export?"

"Take, again, the case of mangoes. How many millions of mangoes are going to rot, without being put to the proper use? The ordinary mango can be used even 10 or 15 days after of its being plucked from the tree, and the rest will have to go into waste or be dried up. If all these fruits can be preserved, it would be very useful and profitable to the people. This province produces the best fruits, though the *Alphonso* of Bombay is claimed to be the best. I remember when my friend and myself were sitting in the steamer sailing from Bombay, I was told that *Alphonso* was the best fruit in the world. We have fortunately in our province the variety of mango known as *Banganapalli*, and when I sent one such fruit to my friend, he at once withdrew his remark that *Alphonso* was the best fruit in the world. The mango is known from the place *Banganapalli*, which is, I think, in the Ceded districts. We have all these fruits, and we have our Batavia oranges in the Godavari and Kistna districts. How many thousands of them are going to other countries which are using them! The object of this institute is not merely to make jam, though after all the jam of this country is not so much despised by our people as my hon. friends seem to think. It is not despised by the people of this country, for I find that in one year at least a

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lakh or a lakh and a half of rupees worth of jams have been imported into this province through steamers alone. I do not know how much else came by rail or otherwise. I am not prepared to accept my hon. friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar's statement that Englishmen go in only for English jams. After all is said and done, the Englishman is a businessman, and if he finds that the jam of this country is as good as imported jam and that it is cheaper—and we are bound to supply it cheaper than the imported article because the latter has to come from a long distance paying freight—I am hopeful that they will purchase our jam. Apart from that, Sir Frederick Nicholson himself has mentioned that a taste is being cultivated for jams in this country, and I think he is one of those who know what they say. And when he says that a taste is cultivated among Indians for jams, and the time has come when an attempt should be made to supply jams from our own fruits, the force of this argument against the institute must necessarily lose its value.

"It has been pointed out already (and I do not wish to make any great reference to it) that this is an inherited concern. But I may say, it is like so many other legacies not burdened with any obligation, and that this legacy is not what they call in law *Damnosa hereditas*. I cheerfully accept this legacy and what I want is that time must be given to me to see that what is expected of this concern is realized. It is only three months since the actual work has been begun, and it will be too soon to think of giving up the contract we have entered into. As has been already pointed out, Rs. 7,000 have been invested on the enterprise and if we are to sell the concern now, everybody may expect to take it for a song. When people know that the institute is going to be abolished, we cannot get a fair price for the article. When it becomes a success we can remove the institute to other parts of the country where fruits are available in greater abundance. For instance, we can carry on experiments in the Vizagapatam district where we have good mangoes and pine apples available at a cheap price. Therefore, Sir, I cannot agree to this motion."

The motion was put and negatived.

MOTION No. 186.

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL:—"Sir, I move the following motion which stands in my name:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for other contingencies under Industrial Laboratory, Washermanpet, by Rs. 10,000.

Sir, I simply want some information. In the Budget, on page 188, we find this big item of Rs. 20,000 provided for 'other contingencies'; whereas we do not find such amounts in other parts of the Budget. I am afraid it is a rather large figure. I learn that the Industrial Chemist is working at Bangalore. When there is a laboratory here, what is the necessity for sending a special establishment to Bangalore?"

Mr. E. F. THOMAS:—"Sir, there is no laboratory at present. The name 'Industrial Laboratory' is the name given in anticipation of the building of a laboratory, for which we could not find money. The provision made is in connexion with some operations we are carrying on with regard to the manufacture of ink. I am not quite sure whether it was at the instance of Sir Frederick Nicholson, but one of his scholars was taught in the institute to help him in making very good ink, which is a pretty useful article. We

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have very large orders from the Government departments for ink, and we hope to popularise Swadeshi ink among the public. The grant under this head is very small, and most of this amount of Rs. 20,000 is required for raw material. Besides that, there is provision made under this head for experiments which I am asking the Government to sanction to be carried out in making another article of domestic consumption, namely, vinegar by a process which is being developed at Bangalore at the Tata Institute by a Madras scholar. The Industrial Chemist is working at Bangalore in the Tata Institute of Science by the courtesy of the authorities of that institute. We have not been able, for financial reasons, to supply him with a laboratory in Madras. The provision in the Budget relates to his pay, and the pay, I think, of a peon and possibly of a clerk. He is provided with facilities for work by the Tata Institute of Science and my department is under a very great debt of obligation to that institute for the facilities its authorities have provided. I hope the hon. mover will be satisfied with this information."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 187.

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL :—"Sir, I beg to move that—
the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for Pallapalayam sugar factory be omitted.

My reason for doing so is this. When I was sitting in the Finance Committee, at the time this scheme came up for review, I was told by one of the hon. Members that this sugar factory was kept open because they found no use for the machinery, and that Rs. 5,000 were required for addition to the machinery. But since then, I have received the report of the Director of Industries for the year 1921. In that report, in the paragraph relating to this sugar factory, it is said as follows :

It cannot be claimed up to the present the experiment has been a success. Indeed in most of the seasons, the factory appears to have worked at an actual loss.

At the end of the last paragraph, we find :

Proposals have therefore been submitted to the Government for the installation of a five-roller mill to improve the percentage of extraction. It is anticipated that the five-roller mill should give an extraction of about 75 per cent as compared with 66 per cent with the existing mill.

"I should like to know from the hon. the Minister in charge if this new five-roller has been obtained, and if his next report regarding the Pallapalayam sugar factory is likely to be more pleasant reading than the present one."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—"Mr. President, I do not know which report my hon. friend is referring to. But I have in my hand the report for the year 1922, for the year ending 31st March 1922."

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL :—"I quoted from the report for 1921."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—"The report for the succeeding year is really very satisfactory. In fact, after making all possible deductions for interest and so forth, a clear profit of a thousand rupees has been made. The five-roller mill has been used, and at present it is working on loan to an agricultural co-operative society—I am not quite certain about the name of the place—I am told it is Kalladaikurichi. We are running it for the people of the Kalladaikurichi co-operative society and they bear all expenses. Probably the society anticipates making a profit by their operations. They may want

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to buy this machine, but we have to take it to Pallapalayam and work it there during the season which begins about August, that is, after the Kalladaikurichi season ends. As a matter of fact, I asked the Government for a better engine so as to produce better results, but I was disappointed. But these operations have passed the experimental stage, since they have been transferred from the Department of Agriculture. I hope the hon. mover is satisfied with the information."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 188.

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Sir, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17.74 lakhs for Industries by Rs. 43,000.

My object in moving this reduction is to elicit some information from the hon. the Minister about the toy-making industry. This money is wanted for the importation of machinery in order to make toys by means of machinery. I think, Sir, that the toy-making industry may best be left as it is in the hands of poor people to enable them to eke out their livelihood. For a number of years we have been complaining against the carrying on of so many of our industries by the East India Company and the importation of machinery from the west. Here is a native industry, a cottage industry, which is a source of livelihood for a number of poor people who will otherwise not be able to earn their livelihood. Again, Sir, these toys of ours are much more artistic than the cheap and nasty goods imported from Germany for instance. Therefore, in the interests of art and in the interests of the native industry, I object to the allotment of the sum for the importation of machinery for the making of toys."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, my hon. friend need not be under any apprehension that the machinery are intended to replace the cottage industry. As a matter of fact, Mr. Birdwood who was responsible for the scheme has definitely stated that it is intended to assist the domestic industry. The machinery that is proposed to be imported is not going to be got down on a large scale. It is going to be got down on a small scale so that one or two houses may combine and get the machinery themselves and produce the toys in a scientific manner. It is certainly not the intention to start a big factory or anything of that kind. If my hon. friend likes me to read the passage from the report, certainly I shall do so. But he may take it that the object of the allotment is to develop the cottage industry."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 189.

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

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17.74 lakhs for Industries by Rs. 100.

I wish to elicit information in regard to certain points connected with the Fisheries Department. This department was originally in charge of the great man, Sir Frederick Nicholson, and he was doing yeoman work for a nominal allowance of Rs. 250 a month.

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I think the Department is sufficiently well-organized now and placed on a satisfactory footing; so much so, I would like to ask the hon. the Minister whether it is necessary to have a Director on a high pay.

"The second thing I want to know is whether the right of collecting fees at the Marine Aquarium cannot be leased out to some private agency as is done in the case of the Zoo by the Madras Corporation. If that is done, much of the establishment that is now stationed there may be done away with.

"The third point that I wish to raise relates to the Chank and Pearl Fisheries. I understand that in Travancore and Ceylon they are leased out and the lessees pay a royalty for the quantity they collect from the bed. I wish to know whether a similar practice cannot be introduced in regard to our pearl and chank fisheries.

"Lastly, Sir, there is said to be a pearl farm in the Kushadi islands. I understand it was sanctioned some years ago, but since no work was done there, it has been practically abandoned. I am told that the establishment there still continues. I want to know whether it is a fact."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, so far as the first suggestion of the hon. Member is concerned, I think it would be unnecessary to put forward any argument. My hon. friend does not want a Director of Industries."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I meant the Director of Fisheries, Sir. I am of opinion that the Senior Assistant Director may be asked to attend to the work now done by the Director."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Then, Sir, I may point out that the present Director continues in his post till September or November of this year. After that, what my hon. friend must have been thinking of, namely, the possibility of appointing in his place any of the subordinates, will be taken up.

"As regards the licensing out of the Marine Aquarium, I am afraid, Sir, that it is not possible for the reason that the fish there require careful handling and an establishment of persons who know something about their life history is quite necessary. The Aquarium has been showing very good profits as the hon. Member must be aware.

"Then about the Pearl and Chank Fisheries: My hon. friend would have them leased out. But if he examines the figures relating to the income from the Fisheries Department before the Government took charge of it and after, he will notice that the income has very much increased after the Department was taken over by Government. Leasing will certainly get us some money, but certainly not so much as we are able to make at present. The hon. Member is probably aware that, except in one or two years, the Fisheries Department has been self-supporting.

"Lastly, about the Kushadi islands: Unfortunately, my hon. friend did not bring it to my notice early. I shall certainly try to look into it and see what can be done."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has already expressed his intention not to have a Director of Fisheries. To me, it seems, Sir, that we have too many Directors

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under the hon. the Minister for Development. I believe the House will have no objection to have one Director to look after all the different branches of industries organized and administered by the Minister. We have now a Director of Fisheries, a Director of Agriculture and a Director of Industries. I believe, of these two are Indian Civil Service men."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Only one."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"I am glad of it. I do not know why the Government have not made up their minds to accept the recommendation of the Industrial Commission and put an Industrial expert at the head of the Department. I believe it was two years back that, while discussing the first Budget, this Council brought this question to the notice of the hon. the Minister who was good enough to say that he would give the subject due consideration.

"Secondly, Sir, it is high time for the hon. the Minister to think of giving opportunities to Indians in the Department. I believe the Department of Fisheries has got an Assistant Director and other officials who can be put in charge of the Department. I was further told that a gentleman was sent to England at the cost of this Government and was given very good training in the Department. In these circumstances, Sir, I believe the present gentleman, who has already completed his 55th year and is granted extension for three more years, can be replaced by his Assistant with some allowance. Again, Sir, the Department of Industries may be reorganized and placed under an Industrial expert instead of an Indian Civil Service gentleman. I believe, Sir, the Civil Service gentlemen are placed at the head of any Department as necessity arises."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I cannot accept the suggestion to dispense with my Directors. The suggestion is that all the three Directors might be moulded into one. That is a feat, Sir, which I cannot accomplish. The Agricultural Department is already over-worked, and we are finding it difficult to decentralize some work and release him of a certain portion of his responsibility. As for the Director of Industries, the appointment is quite recent. The Department itself is a new one and we have got so much to develop. We have to work the State Aid to Industries Act."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"Sir, I believe the Act has to be worked by the Committee appointed under it and not by the Director."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Yes. But there must be some one to guide the Committee. The President of the Committee is the Director of Industries. That appointment must be there. Regarding Fisheries, my hon. friend raised the objection that I had granted an extension to the present gentleman. The reason for my doing so is this. It was found recently that some pearls' fat was available in the sea and we are expecting to have a good deal of pearls. I take this opportunity to mention to the House that our fishery revenue has been considerably increased and there is no one else in the Presidency who knows pearl fishing. That was why the extension was given. As regards the appointment of an Indian, my hon. friend was referring to the gentleman who was sent to England. No doubt he is an able man, but he must come to us before we appoint him. He is expected only in September."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I have nothing much to say except that I know that the Marine Aquarium is giving us some money as profits. But that is no reason why we should be spending up to the limit we are getting from that institution. Now, there is a Sub-Assistant on Rs. 125-2-10, four keepers and three servants. I thought, Sir, that some reduction was possible."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Regarding that Sub-Assistant, Sir, I may say that he does other work also."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I dare say that the question will be considered by the Minister, and I do not want to take up the time of the House. I withdraw my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XXIV—Industries—for a sum not exceeding 17.74 lakhs was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXV—LABOUR INCLUDING FACTORIES.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 9.59 lakhs under Demand XXV. Labour, including factories."

MOTION No. 190.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 9,840 for Chief Inspector of Factories.

In view of the fact, Sir, that this question was fully discussed last year, and in view of the, may I say, deluge which will sweep away all important subjects we have to deal with this evening, I will be very brief in my remarks. Of course, Sir, some on the other side may be interested in our going on with this discussion so that important subjects may not be taken up (laughter). But it is with the view that such subjects should not be left undiscussed for want of time, that I propose to be brief. I would, if necessary, reserve many of my remarks for my reply at the end.

"So far as this motion is concerned, there will not be much difficulty in taking away this officer. There are two Departments, that of the Boilers and that of the Factories. The Industrial Commission recommended that these might be Transferred Subjects controlled by the Minister for Industries. That is found impossible to be followed by this Government. But I should like to know why these two allied subjects should be in the hands of two separate Members of the Executive Council. They can be placed in charge of one Member, and in my opinion both the departments may be placed directly in charge of the Labour Department.

"I think, Sir, the boilers are as much concerned with labour as the factory and it is therefore necessary and desirable that the Department of Boilers should be placed under the Labour Commissioner. If this is done, there will be no necessity for this Chief Inspector of Factories. I believe the Chief Inspector has also some original jurisdiction. There are only 800 or 900 factories, and probably their number may increase in the near future. We have already a sufficiently large number of Inspectors of

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Factories, and, therefore, this particular Chief Inspector is not necessary. The Chief Inspector has some original jurisdiction, and he has to inspect a much smaller number of factories than the ordinary inspectors. What is more, he has got an Assistant Inspector on Rs. 300 to assist him. Much has been said before about the qualifications of the Factory Inspectors, and I do not want to weary the House by going into the question again. Whatever may be the qualifications that are required on paper, so far as this particular Chief Inspector is concerned, we have not heard much about his qualifications excepting the fact that he was once a sanitary inspector. We also know that from what has been already published there are some others who are better qualified than this individual. If the post of Chief Inspector is abolished, all of them may be placed on an equal position, and all of them may correspond to the Commissioner of Labour who is above them. In this way, I submit there is absolutely no necessity for a Chief Inspector of Factories.

"There is another important point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House, and that is, the necessity for amalgamating these two departments. Much was said last year about this. There is absolutely no reason why we should not follow in this respect the industrially more advanced province of Bombay. In that province both the departments are amalgamated and nothing has been said either by the Government or the non-official agency in that province that this has worked considerable hardship among the public. Perhaps my hon. friend, the Home Member, might quote the opinion of the Collector of Bombay who said that it would be better if there were two Inspectors separately for each. But he did not say that there should be two separate Chief Inspectors. Anyhow, hon. Members of the House are convinced that these two departments should be coupled together. Both of them are practically doing the same work, and so far as the Inspectors of Factories are concerned, they can be easily amalgamated. There will be plenty of savings in the number of persons employed, as well as the travelling allowance drawn by these officers. I know it will be said that the Factory Inspector examines the factories when the boiler is hot, and the Boiler Inspector examines them when the boiler is cool. All I can say is that the Factory Inspector has as much to do with the boiler as the Boiler Inspector. In places where there are a number of factories, the Factory Inspector may first examine whether the factory is in order and then he may examine all the factories again when the boiler is cool. The Factory Inspector may take a long trip and examine the factories first on his way to the particular places, and then again on his return he can examine the boilers. In any case there can be no doubt that if these two departments are amalgamated, the work will be done much better. The factories themselves will welcome this proposal because they would be relieved of the necessity of attending to the convenience of two sets of officers. There will be one qualified person who will attend to all the difficulties. This proposal will save a good deal of establishment and correspondence charges and also travelling allowances. I submit, Sir, that our request is a very modest one. All I can say is that so far as the Chief Inspector is concerned, if his post is taken away, the heavens will not fall but the work will be attended to much better than it is done at present. I therefore request the House to vote for the abolition of the post of Chief Inspector."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, before I enter into the details of my hon. friend's arguments I should like to refer to one preliminary point. It will be observed that my hon. friend proposes the omission of the allotment of Rs. 9,840 for the Chief Inspector of Factories. This allotment covers the salary of the Chief Inspector for the whole year. That is to say, speaking on the 21st March, my hon. friend proposes that we should not only get rid of this officer from the 1st April, but that we should refuse him his pay for March which falls due on the 1st April. I wish to enter my emphatic protest against this proposal. When I took charge of my present portfolio last April, I found myself in connexion with this very Department in an absolutely impossible position. I found that by a vote taken at the end of March the organization of the Labour Department had been entirely upset and disorganized as a result of which we were not able to make any progress for nearly a month. My suggestion is that in similar cases if the House really make up their mind that a particular officer is not wanted, they may at least allow this amount of consideration to the Government, namely, that instead of suggesting that the department should be summarily disorganized within seven days of the vote, they may lay down that the reduction should take place later on. In other words, a more reasonable method of proposing reduction would be to omit the provision, say, for ten months out of twelve months. I submit, Sir, it is not fair to any executive Government to ask them at seven days' notice to face such an entire disorganization of their whole executive machinery as my hon. friend's proposal if taken literally would amount to.

"I gather that one of the points to which my hon. friend attaches importance is that the Boiler Inspector and the Factory Inspector should be under the same member of the Government. That, Sir, is a matter for His Excellency the Governor; it is hardly a matter which I can usefully discuss here.

"I come to the other point, namely, the suggestion that the Boiler Department and the Department of Inspector of Factories should be amalgamated. As pointed out by my hon. friend, this matter was discussed at very great length last year and ended in the suggestion that it deserved the careful attention of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has not yet come to any conclusion because the subject has not yet been before it. What actually happened was that several months in the year were taken up in the discussion of certain comments raised on the working of the Boiler Department by the Accountant-General. I have not full details, but I gather that the Accountant-General passed some strictures in regard to travelling allowance and other matters and that led to an acrimonious discussion. At any rate, by the time the matter came to us the Retrenchment Committee had been appointed and it was decided that the more satisfactory course would be to lay that matter before the Retrenchment Committee and not before the Finance Committee. That is where the matter stands now.

"I confess, Sir, I see a great deal of attraction in the suggestion that these two departments should be amalgamated. In that I am only following the example of the hon. the Finance Member who last year mentioned to the House that he at one time thought there might be some saving and had as a matter of fact, in a different capacity sent up proposals for this amalgamation.

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But I should like to call the attention of the House to the conclusion of his remarks on the occasion of last year's debate. He said :

Is the amalgamation a business proposition? That is really the only question. I quite realize that it looks as if there is some saving in it. At one time I thought there was a saving in it myself. I did my best to get that saving. I have satisfied myself that there was no means of effecting a saving unless we restrict our inspections which under the law we cannot do.

"It is not however merely a question of saving. I would like the House to understand that so far as the factory staff is concerned, its only object is to further the interests of the labourers employed in the factories. They are to be there to see that the labourers are treated with proper consideration, that they are screened from danger, that their health is properly attended to and that young children are not improperly employed and that the hours of working are not exceeded. I do not think it is the desire of the House that the Government should now withdraw from or relax that supervision which they have been exercising on behalf of the labourers, merely for the sake of the small economy which my hon. friend indicates. On the contrary, I think I shall have the House with me when I say that so far from relaxing supervision by abolishing these Factory Inspectors, we should do everything in our power to see that the rules laid down in the Act for the benefit of the labourers are more and more strictly enforced.

"My hon. friend referred to the example of Bombay, and suggested that we should follow that. I am quite prepared to do so because the latest information that we have is that the experiment in Bombay is a failure and that they propose to revert to the old system of having two separate departments. I am quite prepared to accept this challenge : if that satisfies my hon. friend I presume he will not press his motion.

"Then, Sir, on the question of the particular appointment of Chief Inspector, my hon. friend suggests that we can do away with him. The implication is that there is hardly enough work for him to do. Whatever might have been the case when we discussed this item last year, the position has considerably changed within the last six months. The Indian Factories Act has been amended and the number of factories has very largely increased. There were something like 500 factories before, and they have increased to 850; and within the course of the next few months we can expect them to increase to 1,200. The House will have to remember that all these factories have to be inspected by the Inspectors. The establishment found necessary for 500 factories can hardly be regarded as excessive when the number of factories to be inspected rises to 1,200. The Chief Inspector of Factories has his own area to inspect. He is stationed in Madras and the factories allotted to him for inspection are among the most important in the Presidency. He has at present to inspect 109 factories, but with the increase in the total number of factories, it is likely that his charge will be very largely added to. Apart from the suggestion that this particular officer has not got sufficient work, I take it that my hon. friend proposes to reduce the total number of Inspectors by one. With four Inspectors and with an area of 35,000 square miles to inspect, each Inspector is called upon to inspect nearly 300 factories and this is as much as he can attend to if he is going to do his work properly. I am not sure whether any economy would be effected by coupling the duties of the Factory Inspector and the Boiler Inspector. It was pointed out last year that the qualifications for the two kinds of Inspectors were quite different. For the Boiler Inspector, a man trained in marine boiler work is necessary

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while the Factory Inspector need not be a mechanic at all. It is possible of course that the Factory Inspector might be taught the work of a Mechanical Engineer and *vice versa*. But for immediate practical purposes, I should like to point out that if the two Departments are amalgamated at once we have to get rid of the whole staff except one person. There is at present only one person who is qualified to carry out both duties. I doubt very much whether my hon. friend wishes us to take such a step.

"It is quite true as pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall, this morning, that we can break over contracts 'at a price.' I personally think it unlikely that the House will be willing merely on the matter of sentiment to pay the price involved in discharging the whole of the two staffs in order that we might engage a new combined. The matter as I have already pointed out is under the consideration of the Retrenchment Committee. If they suggest an economical and at the same time a satisfactory method of amalgamation, I have not the slightest objection to adopt their proposals. Till they do that, I think I am entitled to claim that the House should provide me with enough money to carry on the department of factories in such a manner as will not only fulfil the requirements of the existing law but will save us from having to relax in any way the supervision which we are carrying on for the benefit of the labourers of the Presidency."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have a few words to say, Sir. The Government propose their Budget grants at the end of the year and they include this particular grant at the end of the Budget. Therefore, we are not to blame in the matter, whereas the Government are to blame for not having fulfilled their undertaking. There were a large number of speakers on this question of abolition last year and the motion was withdrawn then on the understanding that the matter will be put before the Finance Committee. That was not done owing to some sort of family quarrel between the Accountant-General and the Government. As regards the working of this Department in Bombay, I think it would be good to follow the present example of Bombay, and if Bombay changes her system afterwards, I think we will have time enough to think of it. Besides Bombay there are also other provinces which have amalgamated these Departments. My hon. friend while understanding me unintentionally misrepresents me. He asked what would be the fate of some of these officers if the departments were amalgamated. I never made any motion for deleting the whole charge on this establishment. My motion was simply for the omission of the allotment for this one officer. The hon. Member quoted the instance of the Land Records Department."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I referred to the Labour Department which the House was pleased to break up last March."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The hon. Member might remember, Sir, that the Land Records Department also was practically set at naught and yet we had something to provide by way of supplementary demands for one month's pay to the officer. The demand for this Department is so large that the hon. Member can certainly spare at least a few hundreds to give this gentleman pay for two months. All those are technicalities. But so far as qualifications are concerned, I suppose Indians are quite capable of acquiring factory as well as boiler qualifications. I do

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not want to go into the history of these officers, but it is a fact that many of these gentlemen had training only for four months in the Perambur factory. The same sort of training can easily be given to all the officers. The matter was fully gone into last year. There is a question of principle involved in this, and all that I say is that this gentleman has got an assistant who will be able to do the work of one Inspector if this officer goes away."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Am I to understand, Sir, that my hon. friend proposes to abolish these two officers, the Chief Inspector and his assistant?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I want only the Chief Inspector to go away so that the other gentleman can be put in charge of the Department. Even if there is an increase in the number of factories, there will be no difficulty at all even if this gentleman is asked to go away. From 500 the factories may go up to 1,000 and yet, I think, the work can be done by the assistant. So I certainly press for the abolition of this post."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"When I referred to the difficulty in making arrangements to meet a cut from the 1st of April, I was making a general remark and I meant it to apply, as it does apply, to all the cuts made in this Council. My suggestion is that the reduction suggested should perhaps be ten months' pay. I understand my hon. friend's proposal to be that we should abolish the Chief Inspector, raise the assistant inspector to the status of an inspector and leave four men to carry out the work. A re-organization of that kind, even if it were possible, will take some time to effect. I am not quite sure exactly what merits my hon. friend claims in support of his proposal. The only indication that I have had—and I am sorry to say it—was that there was a racial suggestion at the bottom of it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"There is absolutely nothing racial at all, Sir. We know that most of them are Anglo-Indians. I have always looked upon them as my brethren and I am sorry that when my speech was so full of arguments, the hon. Member should suspect that there is something racial in it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I am glad to hear my hon. friend say that. I thought I heard him say something about the personality of the Chief Inspector . . ."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Because he is inferior in qualifications."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"If it was not racial, I am glad to hear it. My hon. friend has given no reason, except the suggestion that this gentleman is not qualified, for proposing that we should do away with him. I protest that it is not possible to expect a Department to carry on if with a seven days' notice you are going to destroy its organization and leave it for some time at any rate, to run without supervision. As I have already said, the Retrenchment Committee has taken the matter in hand and I would suggest to the House that the wisest course would be to leave it to them sitting round a table to examine the matter in all its details, to advise us as to whether amalgamation is possible or not, and whether any reduction in the staff of this department is or is not advisable."

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The motion was put to the House and declared lost. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

1. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar
2. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
3. " T. Balaji Rao Nayudu.
4. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.
6. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya.
7. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon.
8. " K. A. Kandaswami Kandar.
9. " J. Kuppuswami.
10. " B. Muniswami Nayudu.
11. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar.
12. " V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai.
13. " P. T. Rajan.
14. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja.
15. Mr. W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar.
16. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar.
17. " K. Sitarama Reddi.
18. " Somasundara Mudaliyar.

19. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu.
20. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayar.
21. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar.
22. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.
23. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
24. " M. Suryanarayana.
25. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
26. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari.
27. Sriman Saibhushan Rath Mahasayo.
28. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
29. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
30. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
31. " K. Prabhakaran Tampar.
32. Khan Sahib Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar.
33. Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter.
2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
3. " the Raja of Panagal.
4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu.
5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro.
6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp.
7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd.
9. " A. Y. G. Campbell.
10. " R. D. Richmond.
11. Rao Bahadur T. M. Sivagnanam Pillai.
12. Mr. E. F. Thomas.
13. " E. Periyannayakam.
14. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai.
15. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
16. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai.

17. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari.
18. Rev. W. Meston.
19. The Raja of Ramnad.
20. Mr. C. R. T. Congreve.
21. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
22. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badshah Sahib Bahadur.
23. Haji Abdulla Sahib.
24. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
25. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja.
26. Mr. L. C. Guruswami.
27. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya.
28. Mr. A. J. Leech.
29. " A. M. MacDougall.
30. Rao Bahadur T. Namburumal Chettiyar.
31. A. E. Rencontre.

The motion was carried, 33 voting for and 31 against.

MOTION No. 191.

1-15 p.m. Khan Sahib SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR:—"Sir, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for the Assistant Inspector of Factories
My object in tabling this motion is only to elicit information as to what provision is made for a new post like this."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, seeing that the Chief Inspector of Factories has disappeared, I should have thought a discussion on this motion would not arise. Anyhow, my answer to the hon. mover is this: as explained in the discussion on the last motion, owing to the amendment of the Factories Act, the work to be done by these Factory Inspectors has more than doubled. This, I think, is a sufficient explanation for the very modest addition to the staff that is asked for. If it is the pleasure of the House that in future our labourers should not to be looked after, it is the responsibility and not mine. I must however express my surprise that at

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members of this House should desire to cut down the provision made for the purpose of ensuring the security and good treatment of the labourers in this Presidency."

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL:—"The reason why I stand up now is to express my disappointment at the attitude of the House on the last motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is it open to any member to find fault with the vote of the House either directly or indirectly and is not my hon. friend's expression of disappointment at the attitude of the Council, out of order?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Mr. MacDougall is only just prefacing his speech."

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL:—"I am giving reasons for speaking like that. I do not know whether this House is quite aware of the duties of the Factory Inspector. I take it that the impression left in the minds of hon. Members of this House is that they are friends of the labourers, friends of the poor and men who are standing up for the rights of the people. Now, factory inspection is admitted as a necessity in every civilized country. India from her place in the International Council of Labour at Washington demanded labour legislation and I am surprised that anyone in this House should stand against the opportunity of having labour inspection in Madras. As a factory owner myself, I know the need for a factory inspector. The recent legislation has widened the labours of the factory inspector by increasing the number of small factories very largely. Factories consisting of ten or more workmen have now come under this legislation and all these have to be inspected. It is not the big factories that need inspection, as much as the small factories consisting of 15 or 20 workmen. In my own experience, when I was going round the factories of Madras one day with my hon. friend the Minister, I saw a boy chained to his work. If such a thing had happened in a large factory, a cry would have been raised about that. In a small place practically no notice was taken of it. We have instances where boys are chained down to the bench to get work done. Now, when a boy is chained like this, we have the factory inspector to look to that. So, since the factory inspector's work has been so greatly increased, it is necessary that the staff also should be increased instead of cutting away the grant made for that purpose. I strongly oppose the motion that has been now placed before the House, and I express my regret that I have not spoken before."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 192.

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARAMAN NAYUDU:—"Sir, the motion standing in my name runs thus:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,95,080 for Commissioner of Labour and Industrial Settlements by Rs. 100.

Mr. President, I am aware of the eagerness of this House to get through the whole work as rapidly as possible so that whatever we might wish to save might be effectively achieved. Nevertheless, while sharing in this eagerness, I venture to ask the permission of the chair for a few minutes, while I seek to draw the attention of the House, their very earnest and sympathetic attention, to what I believe to be a question

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of prime importance in the evolution of a new and better India. Sir, I think it is necessary that I should state that in undertaking to move this motion it is far from my intention either to cast any aspersions on the Government or to suggest anything like a want of confidence in the hon. the Home Member. My sole object, as I have already stated, is to request the House, if I may, to pause for a few minutes and consider the momentousness of this question of the elevation of the depressed classes. Sir, a well-known journalist has said that the centre of gravity of social advancement in this country has shifted from the question of foreign voyages to the question of the elevation of the depressed classes. Therefore, Sir, I wish to request the House to ponder whether or not we ought to bestow, in view of the almost incalculable magnitude of the subjects, much closer attention and much larger sympathy and consequently much ampler funds than we are now doing, proportionate to this momentous question of national expansion. Sir, I shall here re-call what has recently been stated by one of the worthies, one of the most highly honoured and revered sons, of India at present, I mean Dr. Sir P. C. Ray. Just the other day he said that the treatment which for generations and centuries had been given to the depressed classes was nothing short of a national sin, and unless the nation as a whole strove to avert nemesis by early repentance and ample retribution, we were doomed to be the outcasts of the Empire. It is to this aspect of the question, Sir, that I wish to invite very serious and sympathetic consideration. I should like to utter a word of cordial appreciation and grateful recognition in one respect. The hon. Sir Narayan Ganesh Chandavarkar, at present the President of the Bombay Council, stated on a recent occasion that when he was on a visit to Bangalore an elderly Indian lady, an esteemed member of the family with whom he was put up, pointed out to him the gardener of the house, a member of a depressed class, who, with his daughter, was under caste ex-communication for the double caste offence, namely, of the man having first given some education to his daughter, his only child, with the consequential freedom and then the father and the daughter having declined a match which, according to the caste custom, they were bound to accept. None the less the two had held out, each leaning on the strength of the other and each depending on the confidence of the other. When this instance was mentioned by the old lady to Sir Narayan, the latter observed that truly the work of the Depressed Classes Mission had succeeded. 'Nay,' said the old lady, 'the British rule has told.' I wish to point out that in this one respect, if not in others, the British rule has told; and the conscience of the nation and the consciousness of the depressed classes have been awakened in a manner that challenges regard on all sides. For this service we cannot be sufficiently thankful to the British rule. One of the noblest sons of Great Britain that ever came to serve in this country—I mean Lord Metcalfe—said more than a century ago:

This world is governed by an Invisible Power which giveth and taketh away dominion. All that human rulers could do is to deserve the dominion by furthering the happiness of those who are placed under their care.

"Judging by that criterion and directing our attention particularly to what has been done by way of an honest and strenuous attempt to elevate the depressed classes, I say judging by that criterion it must be owned that at the hands of that Invisible Power the British nation has deserved dominion in India. Having said that, I desire, at the same time, to note, that

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if there has been on the one side strenuous effort for the elevation of the depressed classes on the part of the representatives of the British administration, there has been not wanting most cordial and grateful appreciation of that good work on the side of those who have been best benefited by it. Speaking at a public meeting of his community some time back, my hon. friend, Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja, said that members of his community had fought and shed their blood on behalf of the establishment of the British rule and that they would similarly fight and shed their blood to resist every ill-considered and misguided movement to disturb that position or to shake the foundations of that rule. This healthy and happy relation of mutual regard and mutual trust has been established between the rulers and those who have been benefited by that rule; and we all wish that grace may be granted for the uninterrupted continuation of that relation.

"Sir, as we appreciate this, let us, as we seek to remove the bureaucratic methods which we never miss an opportunity to condemn, 1-30 p.m. recognise that there has been this redeeming feature in the bureaucratic Government which it is our bounden duty to carry into the democratic system with which we wish to replace the old order of things; for if there is one thing which should be borne in mind more than another, it is sedulously to combat the forces that stand in the way of ameliorating the depressed classes. As I make this general observation, I have particularly in mind this special consideration, that in dealing with this question of the amelioration of the depressed classes, it will not do to cling to what we regard to be the general principles of administration. Rules should be modified and standards should be moderated, and a considerable amount of what we would call differential treatment should be accorded, if this work was to succeed. Therefore, it will be wrong to urge that methods which we in general have accepted with reference to the other branches of the administration shall apply here also. It will not do, for instance, to contend, if it be pleaded that the depressed classes are hopelessly poor, that there are also poor members in other communities. I venture to submit that there is a radical distinction between there being poor members in well-to-do communities and there being poor communities, who are hopeless in their economic condition. There is no community that does not contain some poor members. The mercantile community has surely some that are utterly bankrupt. That land holding community has certainly some paupers, and the does not argue, nobody therefore says, that the land-holding and the mercantile community are poor. Though there may be some members not in well-to-do circumstances, the community is not in such pitiable condition of abject poverty as the depressed classes. A poet has avowed—'Slow rises worth by poverty depressed' Shall I say in this country there is no poverty so depressing as the poverty of caste? It is this poverty of caste that has been condemning to the lowest depths of degradation the so-called depressed classes. How to lift them to that position which is their due? How shall we redeem the moral, the national debt that we owe to them? That is the supreme problem to-day. I venture to submit that it is not one Mr. Paddison, it is not one Mr. Knapp, it is not this one department or that other department, but every department and each one of us who has some power, some occasion for exercising patronage, ought to feel it a duty to do all that is possible to uplift these depressed classes. What is the magnitude of the task that has to be accomplished? If we remember that

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these depressed classes number over 65 lakhs, one-fifth of the total population of the Madras Presidency, and if we again realize that, unlike the department of sanitation, health and vital statistics—which we were told would test whether we are fit for Swaraj—this department is to ameliorate the whole life of the depressed classes, not merely their health and sanitation, but also their education, their social emancipation, their civic recognition and their religious elevation. If we recognize the extent to which this work is to be carried, certainly we shall see that we, as a nation, in whose hands any power has been placed, upon whose shoulders any responsibility has been reposed, we all owe a duty to these depressed classes. I therefore repeat that this must be treated as a national concern and not merely as a subject that concerns this one department or that."

At this stage (1-38 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch, and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m. with the hon. the Deputy President in the Chair.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the House that this is the last day for the discussion of the Budget? Many hon. Members have asked me to proceed so as to reach the more important subjects. All I wish to say is that it is entirely in the hands of the Members of this House."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU:—"I am sincerely grateful to you, Sir, for having allowed me to continue my remarks. The hon. the Revenue Member was pleased to refer to my speech a few minutes ago as a fine sermon. Yet, sir, I am as anxious as anybody else that we should proceed to the more important subjects. But I only venture to enter this caveat that there is no subject more important than this. Sir, as we broke up for lunch I was seeking to point out that it was the imperative duty of every head of department, nay, every officer of any position and power, to encourage the employment, in the largest number possible, of members of the depressed classes. If, Sir, inequalities are to be removed from our race, if the old spell is to be lifted from our hearts, if the ring fences of monopoly are to be broken, if the magic circle of superstition is to be effaced, the only remedy lies in placing the members of the depressed classes in posts of position and responsibility where, by their acts and by their example, they will be able to prove that they, too, have got in them the natural capacity to reach the acme of perfection in the long run. Therefore, it is of prime importance that they should be employed in as large numbers as possible. As I have already hinted, in view of the vast numbers concerned, and in view of the wide range of work that has to be done, in my humble opinion—if my humble opinion finds endorsement at the hands of the hon. Member in charge—this department for the elevation of the depressed classes should be a separate department by itself. If in the beginning the financial outlay is large, it will be so only for a limited period of time. For, as the work appeals further to the heart of the people, I am sure there will rise from all communities voluntary workers who will declare, if I may use the well-known language, 'my dhanam, my manam and my thanam all are dedicated to this work; and I have rendered myself unto this work'. Therefore, Sir, in the employment of workers for this department we should always bear in mind that it is the voluntary work that is going finally to succeed; and this good work will be best achieved if we also remember the proverb, viz., that blood is thicker than water, and employ, to the largest extent possible, workers from the depressed classes themselves.

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"Only one final appeal I wish to make; and I request that I might be permitted to do it. When the non-Brahman movement, after stirring under the surface for some time, came into view, a distinction was made very early between the pro-Brahman non-Brahman and the pure non-Brahman; and I wish to observe that in every progressive movement there will be these two types of persons, viz., the subdued souls and the ardent spirits. The subdued souls will be mealy-mouthed to the others, even as the ardent souls are to the former class the vixen-tongued. We should put up with these differences. Let it not be said of those of the so-called higher caste that they have fomented such difference between the members of the depressed classes, that they have employed some of these people to their own advantage, as it was said, I do not know with what justice, that when the distinction was made between the pro-Brahman non-Brahman and the non-Brahman proper, the Brahman used the pro-Brahman non-Brahman as his own instrument for pitting one section against another. I hope there will be no such unfortunate situation; but we shall pledge ourselves, despite all differences, to step forward and devote ourselves to this work of the elevation of the depressed classes. Sir, in this connexion I am reminded of a great saying of that world-renowned teacher of practical morals—Sadi, the author of *Gulistan*:—"Wouldst thou conceive the plight of an ant under thy feet, imagine thine own plight under the feet of an elephant." It is that imagination that we will have to exercise, that imagination which will beget in us the higher clarity of which it was said that it would not only give but also forgive. Let us proceed on this principle. Then alone shall we render justice to these depressed classes.

"One last word, Sir, and I have done. During the early period of that noble quest which led to the *Maha Nirvana*, the final emancipation, it is said that Prince Sidhartha, when returning, a certain evening, from a visit to an Asramam on a hill top, fell among a flock of sheep wherein he found this pathetic spectacle. There were two lambs, one strong and sound of limb capering ahead from boulder to boulder with the other lambs, and the other, weak and crippled and lagging behind, in momentary danger of being lost sight of altogether. The poor mother, divided between these two young ones, was now rushing forth to meet the healthy lamb and again hastening back to see whether it might enable the crippling one to keep pace. Sir, at this juncture, as Sidhartha noted this moving sight, he lifted the crippled lamb and said: "Mother, thy heart has been divided between the two young ones. I have taken the crippled one in my arms. I will enable it to keep pace with the rest of the flock. Let thy heart be at peace." The heart of mother India is now similarly divided between the progressive classes and the depressed classes; and I appeal to these and other persons of light and leading to play the part of Sidhartha, lift the depressed classes to their bosoms and address Bharatha Matha, 'let thy heart be at peace; we will take care of them'."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I am in general agreement with the views put forward by my hon. friend Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu so far as the question of the elevation of the depressed classes is concerned, that is, so far as the motion pertaining to the Department of Labour. If I rise, it is because I want to make a few remarks about the criminal and industrial settlements, which form part of this resolution. Though there was a motion of mine for the reduction of Rs. 20,000, I

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thought it better to raise that question generally at this stage. I may inform the House that the reclamation work which has been undertaken by Government for reclaiming the criminal tribes is a work which everyone will appreciate and will receive with great gratification. I must also express our gratitude to those mission and other agencies which have been at work for carrying out this reclamation of the criminal tribes. While expressing high appreciation of the object of Government and of the efforts made by the mission and other agencies in carrying out this object, I believe it is my duty, with the intimate knowledge I have of the working of at least one of the important industrial settlements at Kavali, to place before this House certain aspects for discussion. I may point out that when the settlement was started, people in the vicinity were naturally afraid of the presence of these persons because there was an increase of crime in the vicinity. Although there was a sort of relief in places at distances, it naturally gave alarm and produced considerable havoc in places adjoining the settlement. Especially during the last one or two years it must be admitted that there have been a large number of escapes from the criminal settlements and persons naturally and willingly went to jail rather than live in those criminal settlements. The problem which arose for consideration in this connexion was whether, as a matter of fact, there was anything wrong in the discipline maintained in the settlement or whether it was the economic problem relating to the wages they earned and to the sort of life they were leading. There was also the other question as to whether jail-life was better than life in the criminal settlements.

“There is not the slightest doubt, Sir, that at a certain stage persons did really feel that they would probably be in a much better position outside the criminal settlement than inside it. This was responsible for the large number of escapes from the criminal settlement. I am one of those non-official visitors of criminal settlements who have been trying to arrive at a solution of this problem. I must state that we have not succeeded so far. It will be found that some inquiries were made, and our ex-Law Member also visited the criminal settlement at Kavali and thought that one of the remedies for the better management of this settlement was to reduce the strength of the settlement. He thought that it was so unmanageable, and that the persons there could not be properly disciplined. It was fairly well known that these proposals were under consideration. I wish to know whether, as a matter of fact, any further steps have been taken by the Government for the purpose of remedying the state of affairs so far as that settlement at Kavali is concerned.

“Another problem which arises is that unless persons living in a settlement have some means of employment by which they can really have a permanent livelihood they will not be quiet. Temporary make-shifts will not solve the question. I know that several of the settlers in Kavali are employed on road works. A requisition is made by the Manager of the settlement to the presidents of local boards that certain roads should be given to them for work and almost always, some consideration is shown and the Manager is entrusted with road works. But this will not lead them to secure any permanent means of livelihood. This will not help them to get into better modes of living. The problem is to be solved, I submit, without further delay. Various people have been sending reports of a divergent character.

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All that I complain is that nothing has been done as yet either to make their condition better or to improve their character or to bring them under better discipline. I am also informed that even the officers of the Police Department had several difficulties in dealing with them; because some of them had not the same facility for controlling their actions as they had in other places. The Manager of the settlement used to say that without his consent and without his knowledge nothing could be done. His own agents, who were expected to watch the movements of these settlers, were, in his opinion, entitled to certain consideration and it was found difficult to control their actions. On this occasion, I take the opportunity of bringing to the notice of the hon. Member in charge that if these settlements are to do any useful work, if they are to achieve the objects we had in view when establishing these settlements, he must take up at once a reformation of these settlements. As matters stand at present, the public are not satisfied with the way in which things are being done now. I am speaking from personal experience of them. Things are not as desirable as they ought to be. The people are sometimes badly treated. Even we, non-official visitors, have not got any hand in the matter.

“With your permission, I shall give one or two instances as to how things are going on. Once we, three non-official visitors, went round the Kavali settlement. Unfortunately, at the time of the roll-call, all the criminals were gathered at a particular place and an old woman wanted to approach us and make some representations. She merely got up and tried to approach us; she did not even go to us; but, the former Assistant Manager in charge thought this act was a breach of discipline and so had her kept in the lock-up. Again, some of the settlers wanted to make some representations to us, probably about the treatment they were receiving there. They were not allowed to approach us. They stealthily got up some petitions written and presented them to us without being known to the Manager or Assistant Manager in charge. They said ‘if it is known to the Manager that we are presenting petitions to you, you do not know how we shall be treated hereafter’. We could not do anything. We sent the petitions to the District Magistrate for such action as he thought fit. We acted merely as a post office. Again, in the course of our inquiry, the former Assistant Manager in charge insisted upon being present with us at every stage. Thus, the settlers could not represent their grievances. We had no opportunity of making an independent inquiry. We were actually helpless in the matter. I, therefore, submit that if you want non-official visitors to make any inquiries, they should be given facilities for knowing really what the grievances of the settlers are. They are persons of the lowest class and you place them against their will under the Criminal Tribes Act. They are there as much entitled to our consideration as other human beings. We should not make them feel that it is better to go to jail and rot there, than remain in this settlement.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“Mr. President, Sir, I have neither the time nor the eloquence, I fear, to make a suitable response to the very interesting and stimulating speech which we heard from our hon. friend Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu. I can only regret that the occasion of the Budget discussion, with its preoccupations and its restricted limit of speeches, does not allow us to give the matter the consideration which it properly

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deserves. I only thank him for the recognition which he has accorded to my Department as doing all that it can for the solution of what he rightly describes as one of the most important problems which the Government have to face at the present moment. Two detailed points have been raised by my hon. friend. One was the suggestion that there should be a separate department for the depressed classes; that is, as I understand it, that we should separate the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Labour from that of the Protector of the depressed classes. In that view I am entirely in accord with my hon. friend. But unfortunately at the present moment it is money which stands in the way. On the other point, namely, the encouragement of honorary work, there, again, I am in entire accord with my hon. friend. I have no doubt that in days to come it will be almost entirely, if not entirely, honorary work on which this movement for the elevation of the depressed classes will have to depend. At present, our position is that we will gladly receive any voluntary aid that comes forward. In this connexion I should like to make a constructive suggestion. It seems to me that the manner in which the depressed classes can best make a move in this direction is by establishing not only in Madras but at suitable places in the districts their own social service leagues. I can assure hon. Members of this House and others that any move in this direction will be most cordially welcomed by Mr. Paddison and myself.

"I now turn to the matter referred to by Mr. Krishna Rao, and I should like, in the first place, to make it perfectly clear to the House that his aspersions were not applied to all the settlements all over the Presidency but referred to one particular settlement. I say this because in the beginning of his speech he gave us some useful comments on the criminal settlement at Kavali but thereafter he let himself go and rather gave the impression that he was condemning all settlements. He said, for example, 'the public are not satisfied with the way in which the settlements are managed' and so on. I understood his speech however as intended to relate entirely to Kavali. I am quite prepared to admit that in respect of Kavali it is an unfortunate condition of affairs that the criminal settlers should regard themselves as better off in jail than in the settlement. I know it is sometimes the case. I have had personal experience of that myself. But I would like to remind my hon. friend in the first place that the conditions to which he was referring were those which existed during the absence of the Permanent Manager. I imagine that the Assistant Manager to whom he referred was only acting. Mr. Krishna Rao complained that the non-official visitors were not permitted to go round by themselves and hear complaints. I have noted that complaint, but may I remind him that there is another side to the question. It would not be fair that these complaints should be taken behind the manager's back. The person against whom the complaints are made should have a chance of being heard."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"May I explain that, Sir? I am quite willing that the manager should have a chance of being heard. But we must be in a position to get information in the first instance from the settlers themselves. No doubt we shall not be justified in taking any action on such complaints. But if you prevent information being given to us, there is no chance of our getting correct information. We must be given every facility to get information."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I quite understand my hon. friend's position. On the general question, I may say at once that I have already anticipated my hon. friend's demand for an early settlement of the Kavali problem. I visited the settlement last autumn and I then came to the conclusion that Mr. Bawdon, the permanent manager who was away, should return before we come to any final decision. It was difficult, during Mr. Bawdon's absence, to make any radical change. I therefore awaited his return which was in December. I have since visited the place with Mr. Paddison and we have arrived at decisions which are already in the course of being carried out. We have found on close examination that what was hitherto thought to be an almost insoluble problem, namely, the protection of the lands at Bitragunta from inundation, is apparently not so insoluble as was thought. Money is available during the coming year in the Public Works Department for certain works in connexion with the protection of the lands against inundation and we are arranging to remove a certain number of settlers at once from Kavali to Bitragunta. They will be settled on the land when reclaimed, and they will have plenty of work. We hope that thus in course of time we shall be able to remove the reproach which has been levelled against the Kavali settlement that we kept people there but give them no chance of earning a living wage. The settlers will go to Bitragunta in the first instance as labourers and when as labourers, they show that they are able to make good, we then hope to grant them the land, so that they may settle down there to a regular and honest life.

"As regards the financial side of the matter, that is not I hope going to present any great difficulties. I mentioned the other day, 3 p.m. in connexion with the writing off of certain advances, what our experience had been at Allur, namely, that land which formerly was worth one hundred rupees an acre had increased in value to Rs. 500 an acre owing to the labour that our settlement put into it. That I think is the answer to any suggestion that the financing of these operations presents any fatal obstacle. So far from the operation involving us in expense it shows every promise of being a profitable concern. Kavali will not disappear altogether. My proposal, at present, is that we should move to Kavali the settlers we have now at Guntur. Guntur has never been very successful. Mr. Bawdon, the manager at Kavali, is a keen disciplinarian, and I think my hon. friend will probably agree with me that his discipline, whether or not it was suitable as applied to the Kavali settlement, would be quite suitable if applied to the incorrigibles from Guntur."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"The only complaint is that he is sometimes too hard a disciplinarian."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Mr. Bawdon will be in general supervision of all these three places, Kavali, Bitragunta and Allur. There will be a certain amount of saving in the abolition of the Guntur reformatory and that I hope will cover any extra expense involved at this stage; our hope is that we shall have ultimately at Kavali only 200 or 300 persons for whom to find work instead of 2,000 who at present constitute the population of that place."

Rao Bahadur V. APPASWAMI VANUAYAR:—"Sir, I have tabled a motion to reduce Rs. 100 out of the allotment of Rs. 1,23,500 for reclamation of Kallars."

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The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" You lost your opportunity. When your turn came you were not in your place. However you can say a few words on the motion."

Rao Bahadur V. APPASWAMI VANDAYAR :—" Sir, I tabled this motion No. 606 not for the purpose of eliciting information or criticising the Government but for the purpose of making a request. I belong to the Kallar community which is, in the ordinary sense of the term, a down-trodden class. Mr. Stawbury, the Superintendent of Police, in his hard mood imagined that Tanjore Kallars must be brought under the Criminal Tribes Act. Thanks to experienced officers like Govinda Nayar and others, who discussed the matter with the leaders of that community, the idea of bringing these people under the Act was dropped. Now, in the conference it has been decided to furnish a scheme instead. We have submitted it, and I request that Government will bestow their sympathetic consideration to it by transferring a portion of the allotment for reclamation of Kallars in Madura to Tanjore. Again, I have to say that if only the statistics were gone through there would be no apprehension for such an idea. Permit me to join the previous speaker, the hon. Mr. R. Venkataratnam Nayudu, to leave the matter to non-official agency."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" Sir, I wanted to bring to the notice of this House one particular point, and that is, when the Department was started in 1919, it was intended for the sole purpose of protecting what are called the depressed classes, and consequently a number of functions were assigned to the Protector of Depressed Classes, so much so that this officer was swallowed up by the Commissioner of Labour, and now for the last three years we have been agitating for the bifurcation of this Department. There may be a separate Protector for the Depressed Classes and separate Commissioner of Labour to look after the labour affairs; but, Sir, for want of funds, the Council was not able to have this. As my revered friend, Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu, pointed out, we form one-sixth of the population of the presidency; we are more than 65 lakhs, and that is the reason why we require a separate officer with a separate department and a separate staff. Also, Sir, a Council like this should see that the first charge upon the Government is to improve the status of the depressed classes. It is a national concern. Unless the depressed classes, or a large portion of them, are brought to the level of the progressive classes, I do not think we will be nearer what all people call Swaraj. Unless opportunities are given to us to come up to the level of the progressive classes, I am sure the country will not progress. When we have popular Ministers and popular Government and democratic Councils, I do not think that there is any cause for despair. Therefore what I ask is that a considerable amount of money should be spent and a considerable amount of attention devoted to these matters. Moreover the Commissioner of Labour has got so many departments in his charge. He has to supervise labour, supervise the work connected with emigration, take steps for the amelioration of the depressed classes by helping them to form co-operative societies and purchase house-sites, by opening schools and making free grants and the amelioration of the condition of backward tribes like the Kallars. All these things will occupy a lot of his time, and the poor Labour Commissioner will have no time at all to look after the work of the amelioration of the depressed classes who form a population of 65 lakhs."

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[Mr. M. C. Raja]

Moreover, at present, the work carried on is only in Madras, Tanjore, Gódvāri, Chingleput and South Arcot."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand (Demand No. XXV) as reduced was then put to vote and passed.

DEMAND XXVI—CIVIL WORKS (GRANTS TO LOCAL BODIES).

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I beg to move that the House may grant Demand No. XXVI—Civil Works (Grants to Local Bodies)—for a sum not exceeding 54.36 lakhs."

MOTION No. 193.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for grants to the Malabar District Board for roads and bridges damaged during the rebellion by Rs. 100.

" Sir, the amount that is now allotted for the District Board of Malabar for the restoration of roads and bridges damaged during the Mappilla rebellion is only one lakh. For the year 1923-24, the District Board has budgeted for a deficit of Rs. 1.64 lakhs, and the actual damage caused during the rebellion comes to Rs. 3.60 lakhs, so that with the deficit it comes to about five lakhs, but the amount that is allotted is only one lakh. So, I request the Minister to allot more funds for the restoration of these bridges and roads."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, there seems to be a slight inaccuracy in the statement made by my hon. friend from Malabar. He adds the deficit to the estimated cost of 3.60 lakhs. As a matter of fact, they have already effected some repairs, and the deficit is the result of such repairs. We have allotted one lakh of rupees in the current year's budget and we are going to allot another lakh in the coming year's budget. As to the question of giving larger grants, my hon. friend's request will be borne in mind, and when more funds are available it will be considered."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put to vote and passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVII—CIVIL WORKS (RESIDENCES OF THE GOVERNOR).

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2.86 lakhs under Demand No. XXVII—Civil Works."

MOTION No. 194.

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for constructing a new staircase in the Government House, Madras, by Rs. 5,000.

Sir, the hon. the Finance Member at the close of his Budget speech suggested that instead of bringing in motions hon. Members might apply to the officers concerned for the information that they required. Accordingly, I went to the Chief Engineer's office to get some information about this staircase estimate. Some information was given; but the estimate was not there, and I was told that it must be referred to the third Minister for permission to be shown.

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"I hope it will not be construed as want of courtesy on my part to pass remarks upon an estimate which concerns the comfort of His Excellency. But the figure seems to me to be very high, and what is more, either the calculation must be wrong or the figure exceedingly high. In pre-War days, when estimates were prepared, Rs. 2½ per square foot was the utmost that was allowed. Taking the case of the staircase to be constructed for the Government House, each step cannot be more than 10 feet long, 6 inches wide and 6 inches high. In other words, there will be 20 square feet per step which would not cost more than Rs. 60 in the pre-War days. Allowing for the present rate, say double, a step cannot be more than Rs. 120. Taking the height from floor to floor as 20 feet, there cannot be more than 40 steps. At that rate the staircase proper should not cost more than Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 at the highest. Therefore, I think the estimate of Rs. 13,000 for this staircase must include some other items or the provision is excessively high.

"I may say this by way of a suggestion: lower down in the budget in item 97 a sum of Rs. 8,000 is provided for an electric lift in the General Hospital. If instead of a staircase an electric lift is provided for, Rs. 8,000 would be quite ample and Rs. 5,000 will be saved. Apart from these considerations, this work will not be completed before the end of 1923-24, and as the time of departure of His Excellency the Governor will be approaching by that time, any addition now begun will be superfluous. I would therefore suggest either a revision of this estimate or the provision of an electric lift. If the hon. Member in charge will go into the question, I have no objection to withdraw it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am afraid, Sir, I did not fully catch my hon. friend's comments. I am not sure if I have rightly understood him as suggesting that we should substitute for this staircase an electric lift."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR:—"Yes, Sir, Rs. 8,000 will be sufficient for an electric lift and thus there will be a saving of Rs. 5,000. In item 97 of the Budget an electric lift is provided for the General Hospital at a cost of Rs. 8,000. The same thing may be done in this case also."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not profess to be an expert on the subject of the cost of electric lifts, but I am very much surprised indeed to hear that the cost of a lift to be put up at the Government House would be only Rs. 8,000.

"But on the general question as to whether this estimate is or is not excessive, I can only say that in this matter I am entirely in the hands of my hon. colleague to my left. For my part, I have merely to provide money in the budget and it is for his subordinates to prepare the estimates and to carry out the work. I have not very much doubt that if my hon. friend opposite who proposed this motion were to come forward and offer to construct this staircase at the reduced price of Rs. 8,000, my hon. colleague would gladly accept the offer."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR:—"I want to point out one thing, Sir. Year after year, whenever I say that the estimate is too high, the hon. Member on the side of Government invariably asks me to offer to do the work myself (laughter). Last year and the year before it was the same case; and the hon. Sir Lionel Davidson also once spoke in the same

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strain. What I wanted to say was to ask the hon. Member if he could not put up an electric lift at a cost of Rs. 8,000 instead of a staircase thus saving Rs. 5,000. I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put to the House and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVIII—CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED).

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I beg to move under Demand XXVIII—Civil Works—for the grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 83·74 lakhs."

MOTION No. 195.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for the construction of buildings for the East Coast Striking Force.

So far as this motion is concerned, I believe the policy of it was discussed fully on a motion of mine tabled for the elimination of the provision made in the Budget for the East Coast Special Force. The House is aware that the policy enunciated by the hon. the Law Member was disputed at considerable length and that from all sections of the House it was pointed out that there was no justification for this East Coast Special Police being appointed. It would also be clear that at the time when the question was decided, the question arose as to whether the provision was a permanent one or whether it was only temporary. It will be remembered that all the sections of this House joined in opposing the provision for the East Coast Special Police, except some members of the Finance Committee who found themselves in a difficult position owing to this matter having been placed before them and owing to their having given their consent to it. I remember Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar having said in connexion with that motion that the Finance Committee did not approve of the policy of this Special Force but that they allowed the provision to remain for one year. He said that that was the chief reason which induced him to accept the provision in the Finance Committee. I may again remind this House that at the time that motion was put to the vote, the hon. the President, who was then in the Chair, pointed out that what we were voting for then was not for or against the policy underlying the Special Police but only for the retention or reduction of the provision for next year, though we raised the point whether this force was a permanent one or not. I therefore wish to remind hon. Members of this House who gave permission for this being retained in the Budget for next year to remember that they gave the sanction to this provision only for the next year and that that did not give the stamp of permanency to this measure. Almost all were agreed that this Special Force ought not to be a permanent measure though it might be allowed to continue for one year. On the other hand, if hon. Members do not want to vote in favour of this motion but allow this provision of Rs. 1 lakh for the construction of buildings for the East Coast Striking Force to stand even for one year, I might remind them that it will be clear from the Public Works Department estimate that no estimates have been prepared or sanctioned but only a lump provision has been made for Rs. 1 lakh. I understand that the cost of the buildings, when the final estimates are ready, will cover

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several lakhs. If once we sanction one lakh and allow the construction of buildings to be proceeded with, it will be impossible to allow the buildings to remain in that condition; and therefore we shall have to give our sanction for an expenditure of six, seven or eight lakhs which may be something more when the estimates are revised. Once we sanction this provision we shall declare once for all that we are going to have an East Coast Special Force in the northern districts as a permanent factor. I need not repeat the arguments advanced last time. But I may say that if there are any special emergencies, such emergencies can be met by special measures taken for the purpose. But there is no justification for this provision."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I beg to support this motion. We find in this demand a large number of items intended either for the police or for the jails or for their officers or warders, but there is nothing at all for the people in shape of irrigation works which they very much wish to have. Therefore on a point of economy, we must cut this provision out.

"Again, you will find in the Budget no estimate is given at all as to how much it is going to cost, and for what use this one lakh is going to be put. We do not know where we will end, and it may cost 10, 12 or 15 lakhs. To-morrow, perhaps we might abolish the East Coast Police. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that I would very well vote for this amount if it is intended for the people and not for the officers' quarters or the police or the jails."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, I would only like to make two appeals. One is to the House, and that is to keep in mind what was said by the hon. the President when sanctioning the item in the Police Budget relating to the East Coast Striking Force, namely, that the House was not committing itself to any policy regarding the force. If we allow this grant, we will, on the other hand, be committing ourselves to the acceptance of the principle of having test forces. The second appeal that I would make is to the hon. the Law Member himself. He said that this question was going to be placed before the Police Committee, the Police Committee therefore is to decide whether this force is necessary or not. Let him not prejudge the case, and let him not make the Retrenchment Committee or the Police Committee prejudge the case. It is for him to place this matter before the Police Committee, and it is for the Police Committee to arrive at a decision thereon. If their decision is in favour of the construction of these buildings, then he will have to come and ask the Council to sanction this expenditure either this year or next year by way of a supplementary grant. In view of what has been said on the motion regarding this force in the Police Budget, I think it would be fair not to sanction this item."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I see from the hon. Members' speeches what their idea is. But there are two circumstances which I desire to place before the House. As I said in the course of my remarks on this force, the anxiety of the Government is that as far as possible the military should not be employed and that a striking force should be available. That was the reason for the formation of this force. Now, it is quite true that the final estimates in regard to this building are not available to be placed before the House. But what I would suggest is that it is nobody's case that a body of this character can be brought into existence

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with any utility or effect unless they have got adequate buildings and unless those buildings are compactly situated. I shall illustrate my point. Supposing you must have this armed force, are the members of this armed force to be scattered all over Vizianagram or Rajahmundry or towns of that character? The very object of having the force would be frustrated by doing so. Therefore, this provision is made with the view of completing the idea of having this armed force. The fact that there is this Budget grant does not make it incumbent upon anyone to say that there must be an armed force if the Retrenchment Committee or any other body that examines this question arrives at a decision which will make the Government reconsider the whole question. But it seems to me that so long as we have an armed force, we must have a provision of this character for buildings for that force. It must not be forgotten that the Finance Committee sanctioned this grant."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I only wish to point out in reply that the arguments of the hon. the Law Member cannot at all be accepted by this House. He has said that there are no complete estimates, that having had a police force they should have buildings, and that if the Retrenchment Committee or any other body come to the conclusion that the force is not necessary, the whole policy may be revised. But I think that the policy must be decided first in this House. As for the policy, I may say that almost all the non-official Members of this House spoke against the policy of having this Striking Force. The policy of the House can also be taken to be against such a force by reason of the fact that the votes on the main motion were equally divided, and the motion was rejected by the casting vote of the President. The hon. the President in putting the motion then said that the House by voting on that motion were not voting on the policy of having the force, but only regarding that particular provision. Therefore the policy having already been expressed by this House, I think it will only be doing its duty in voting for this motion. If the effect of passing this motion is going to be that the East Coast Striking Force will have to be disbanded without a local habitation, even then that contingency is welcome. Again, I may point out that there is no force at all at Vizianagram at present, and this is a new provision. I can understand a provision for a force which is already there. But here, when there is no force at all, something is proposed to be provided for next year. Therefore, I say that the House should vote for this motion."

The motion was put and declared carried.

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp demanded a poll, which was accordingly taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chetti-
yar. | 7. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu
Nayudu. |
| 2. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 8. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 3. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur. | 9. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chetti-
yar. |
| 4. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 10. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami
Vandayar. | 11. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. |
| 6. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala
Mudaliyar. | 12. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon. |
| | 13. K. A. Kandaswami Kandar. |

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Ayes—cont.

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| 14. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. | 34. Srinan Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 15. „ B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 35. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu. |
| 16. „ A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chetti- | 36. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| yar. | 37. Sriman Sasibhushan Nath Mahasayo. |
| 17. „ V. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 38. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 18. „ P. T. Rajan. | 39. „ M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 19. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Punja. | 40. „ A. Ranganatha Madaliyar. |
| 20. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. | 41. „ K. Prabhakaran Tampau. |
| 21. „ W. P. A. Saundarapandia Nadar. | 42. „ A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib. |
| 22. „ B. K. Shanmukham Chetti- | 43. Khan Sahib A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim |
| 23. „ K. Sitarama Reddi. | Kavuttar. |
| 24. „ T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. | 44. Mustapha Ravuttar Ahmad Miran |
| 25. „ P. Subbarayan. | Sahib. |
| 26. „ A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | 45. Khan Sahib Abdur Rahim. |
| 27. „ V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. | 46. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul |
| 28. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao | Razaq Sahib. |
| Pantulu. | 47. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla |
| 29. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha | Badsha Sahib. |
| Raja. | 48. Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib Bahadur. |
| 30. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 49. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman |
| 31. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | Sahib. |
| 32. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam | 50. Rao Sahib Sir M. C. Muttayya |
| Nayudu. | Chetti- |
| 33. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. | tyar. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 12. Mr. E. F. Thomas. |
| 2. „ Khan Bahadur Sir M. Habib- | 13. „ E. Periyarayagam. |
| ul-lah Sahib. | 14. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 3. „ Raja of Panagal. | 15. Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 4. „ Rai Bahadur K. Venkata- | 16. Rev. W. Meston. |
| reddi Nayudu. | 17. Mr. C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 5. „ Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 18. Khan Bahadur Abbas Ali. |
| 6. „ Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 19. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 7. „ Mr. C. P. Ramaswami | 20. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| Ayyar. | 21. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 22. Rao Bahadur T. Numberumal |
| 9. „ A. Y. G. Campbell. | Chetti- |
| 10. „ R. D. Richmond. | tyar. |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam | |
| Pillai. | |

The motion was carried, 50 voting *for* and 22 *against*.

MOTION No. 196.

3-45 p.m. Rao Bahadur T. NUMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR :—“Sir, I beg to move—

that the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for constructing a residence for the District Superintendent of Police, Cocanada, be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

Sir, I only wish to point out that there exists great difference between similar provisions for buildings for District Superintendents of Police in other places, and I have given notice of motions on them lower down the agenda. Item No. 37 is for quarters for a Superintendent of Police and comes under this motion. There is another item of estimate for residence of a Superintendent of Police, which is put down at Rs. 21,000, whereas item 49, which is for a similar purpose, is only Rs. 15,000. These differences are very great and therefore I desire information on the point.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Sir, when the items referred to by the hon. Member are reached, I shall explain how each

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particular amount came to be put in there. In one case we had to purchase a suitable building and the amount of Rs. 16,000 put in represents the purchase price negotiated for the building. So far as the item to which this motion relates is concerned, the matter went up to the Finance Committee who came to the conclusion that no suitable house could be obtained for rent, that the existing accommodation was insufficient and that the Superintendent of Police was put to considerable inconvenience and discomfort and was depending on the charity of any one who offered to take him in. The Superintendent of Police is an important officer, and the estimate asked for the building for him is Rs. 15,000.”

Rao Bahadur T. NUMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR :—“I understand, Sir, that one case referred to was of purchase and the other of constructing a new building. But I wanted to know the reason for the difference between estimates for construction, say, in the district of Cuddapah and in Cocanada. Anyhow, I do not press the motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 197.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 35,000 for constructing huts for 20 head constables of the A-1 and A-2 Police lines, Pudupet.

I leave it to the hon. Member Mr. O. Tanikachala Chetti-

tyar to give detailed reasons in support of this motion.”

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—“Sir, if the proposition before the House is so simple as it appears to be, namely, that a provision be made for building huts for head constables, I should be the last person to object to it. But it is part of an expenditure of Rs. 3,40,500. Surely, for building huts for these head constables, 20 in number, a sum of Rs. 3,40,500 is not necessary nor is a sum of Rs. 35,000 required. The fact is that a large scheme for constructing residences for a number of police officers, the lowest of whom is the police constable, is really sought to be executed and this is only the thin end of the wedge for forcing upon us the larger scheme costing Rs. 3,40,500. The policy of the House has been to allow the ordinary constables and the head constables residences at Government expense and to leave all others to provide their own residences. At any rate that is the decision which, I may be permitted to say, has been come to by the Retrenchment Committee. This sum of Rs. 35,000 will not be sufficient even to raise the foundations in accordance with the big scheme estimated at Rs. 3,40,500. With a view to obviate the possibility of this amount being expended and the Government afterwards saying ‘We have thrown away so much money in raising the foundations, the large sum of 3 lakhs and odd should be granted to us,’ I move that the allotment be omitted. If the Government come later on with a proposal for constructing houses for constables and head constables only and with the amount necessary therefor, I feel the slightest doubt that the House will refuse sanction. Now, I move that this provision towards a part of the bigger scheme be omitted.”

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—“Sir, my object in tabling the motion was not to say anything about the big scheme of 3 lakhs and odd but only

[Mr. M. C. Raja]

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to bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member that the location of the huts is objectionable. For the site chosen is at present occupied by a number of families who belong to the community that I represent here (depressed classes). I should like to bring to the notice of this Council, Sir, that on no account should people living in any locality be ousted simply because the Government want to put up buildings for their officials. I will be the last person to object to the construction of houses for police constables. They deserve it and it is essential that they should be concentrated at a particular spot. But what I object to is that, instead of the Government finding place elsewhere by cutting out the compounds attached to the bungalows where rich people live or by some other way, they should be cruel enough to ask people, especially the depressed classes, living in a particular area to vacate their sites. I hope the hon. the Law Member will sympathize with me in this matter and see his way to choose a different site. There is a big maidan, for instance, near the Spur Tank where ample space can be got. I leave it to him to choose another site, but I would request him not to disturb those who are now occupying the proposed site."

Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI :—"Sir, the hon. Members who have preceded me have stated the case for the motion and I feel it not necessary on my part to make a speech. I would only request the hon. the Law Member to see his way to omit the provision."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I may at once mention, Mr. President, in reply to Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyyar that the present scheme is not necessarily to serve as any foundation for the scheme of 3 lakhs and odd. This particular allotment, which alone is before the House, is for the construction of huts for 20 head constables. It should, however, be pointed out that all the members of the Madras City Police are entitled to free quarters as a condition of service. It now happens that houses are rented for constables where Government quarters are not available. These men are living in rented quarters scattered all over the city, and this is a condition which is prejudicial to the discipline and efficiency of the force. In order to obviate that, the present proposal is made. If there is any bigger scheme undoubtedly the House will have the opportunity to consider it, before pronouncing itself in favour of it or against it, though the policy of Government is certainly to provide quarters for these forces."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Sir, I am afraid, the hon. the Law Member has not understood the scheme. The scheme is estimated at 3 lakhs and odd and a portion of it is proposed to be allotted for and executed in the ensuing year."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, apparently hon. Members have been referring to page 12 of the Public Works Budget. I may state that I shall obtain information about that; but it seems to me that that figure is obviously misplaced. Later on, I shall explain it. So far as this scheme is concerned, the approximate estimates which are under the scrutiny of the Superintending Engineer amount to only Rs. 35,000."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, with some knowledge of the Budget and of the way it is prepared, I may say that this figure of Rs. 3,40,500 is put in brackets indicating that it is one of the revised figures of the Budget already prepared. While my hon. friend, the Law Member,

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confesses that he has not sufficient information about it, I think the best course will be to eliminate the item altogether from the Budget, and afterwards, if the Finance Committee or the House is satisfied, provision can be made by way of a supplemental demand. Supplementary demands are nothing new to us. Knowing that all information is not available and feeling as we do that we are not in full possession of the facts, let us put off the grant till we are satisfied that it is not a portion of a bigger scheme."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It must be remembered that the scheme was before the Finance Committee and was passed."

The motion was put and declared carried. A poll was taken and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chetti- | 26. Mr. A. Jomasundara Mudaliyar. |
| yar. | 27. " P. Fabbarayan. |
| 2. Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 28. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti |
| 3. S. R. Y. Ankinadu Prasad Bahadur. | Nayudu. |
| 4. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 29. Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar. |
| 5. " R. Appaswami Nayudu. | 30. " V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. |
| 6. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 31. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. |
| 7. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyyar. | 32. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 33. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 9. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyyar. | 34. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 10. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 35. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | Nayudu. |
| 12. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyyar. | 36. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 13. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 37. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 14. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. | 38. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachariu. |
| 15. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon. | 39. Sriman Sasibhusan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 16. " J. Koppuswami. | 40. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 17. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 41. " M. K. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 18. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyyar. | 42. A. D. M. Ravotti Sahib Bahadur. |
| 19. " V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 43. A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar. |
| 20. " P. T. Rajan. | 44. Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur. |
| 21. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Panja. | 45. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib. |
| 22. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. | 46. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaq Sahib. |
| 23. " W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. | 47. Haji Abdulla Sahib. |
| 24. " B. K. Shanmukham Chettiyyar. | 48. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib. |
| 25. " K. Sitarama Reddi. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 11. Mr. E. F. Thomas. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah | 12. " E. Periyannayagam. |
| Sahib Bahadur. | 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 14. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi | 15. " S. Muttumanikkaachari. |
| Nayudu. | 16. Rev. W. Meston. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 17. Mr. C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 18. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 19. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | Sahib Bahadur. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 20. Rao Bahadur T. A. Numberumal |
| 10. " R. D. Richmond. | Chettiyyar. |

Ayes : 48 ; Noes : 20.

The motion was carried.

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MOTION No. 198.

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

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,50,000 for improvements to the Madras University Students' Club, Madras.

Sir, I move for this omission with a view to ask for information from the hon. the Minister for Education about the Adi-Dravida Government Training School in Madras. I was told, Sir, that it had no permanent location and that the school was to be removed. I should like to know whether any proposal has been made for the permanent location of the school which, I may add, has been in existence for over twenty or thirty years."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" There is an Adi-Dravida training school and there is also a boarding section attached to it. They are all located in a building, and it is contemplated that a new building should be constructed for the hostel as well as for the training school; and as soon as plans and estimates are ready, the site will be selected. A site is also under investigation. The school has now been located in a building only a portion of the compound of which was allotted for a new building under construction. Otherwise it has got its boarding house and school in the same building."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" I beg leave to withdraw the motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 199.

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for Leper Colony at Chingleput

I understand, Sir, that provision was to be made for 36 lepers, and that the amount provided therefor is a lakh of rupees. I think that the construction of a tin shed or corrugated shed for each leper will only cost Rs. 100 and calculating at that rate a provision of Rs. 34,600 will be sufficient. I therefore suggest that the allotment may be reduced considerably."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Although the provision is made for the accommodation of 300 patients at present, it is expected 4 p.m. that in course of time accommodation can easily be increased for 2,000 patients. Moreover, the whole of the money does not come from the Government. Her Excellency Lady Willingdon was able to get one lakh of rupees from the Red Cross Society. I hope my hon. friend will accept this explanation."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 200.

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for improvements to the Cooum river, Madras, by Rs. 100.

Sir, this important question of improvements to the Cooum has been engaging the attention of the Government and the experts for a long time. In 1890, a Committee was appointed to draw up a scheme for water-supply and

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drainage and the cleansing of the Cooum of the City. Both Col. J. Pennycuik and Mr. Jones prepared independent notes. These were referred to an expert, Mr. Cousins, and his report was again sent to Col. Pennycuik and Jones. Col. Pennycuik was then on furlough and he sent his note on 28th September 1893 wherein he observes as follows :

Mr. Cousins' proposals for connecting the Cooum with the sea are very much simpler than those prepared by myself in modification of Mr. Jones' scheme; this is of course because all sewage being kept out of the river there is not the same necessity for maintaining a constant circulation, nor for passing so large a body of tidal water through the river as existed under the conditions with which Mr. Jones and myself were dealing. Under the new conditions introduced by the exclusion of sewage from the river the simple culvert with an area of 132 square feet will probably be sufficient, though I confess I should prefer to see the principle of admitting water at one point and discharging it at another adhered to.

Mr. Jones also prepared a note criticising Mr. Cousins' scheme and this note is dated October 1893.

Mr. Cousins, in describing the opening and closing of the bar, says : ' if the inrush of water and its subsequent exit were the only forces at work, the mouth of the river would be possibly open the whole year round, but when the amount of water entering and leaving the river is the same, that is when the backwater (Cooum?) has ceased to flow, the mouth at once begins to close up', that is to say that the formation of the bar is due to the action of the sea alone, and the bar forms when the forces allied against it no longer exist. It is apparently on such grounds, I say apparently because the only reason given for the rejection, not only of my scheme but of the scheme as modified by Col. Pennycuik, is 'from my observations, I am convinced' that these schemes have been rejected.

Mr. Jones further says :

It is desirable to point out that, even though the drainage works or some of them proposed are carried out, the improvement of the Cooum will be none the less necessary.

" Mr. Jones suggested the names of Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Kinnipie, Mr. Sheldford, Mr. Coode—all expert members of the Institution of Civil Engineers. It was also suggested that Mr. Wheeler was the best man to be consulted because he had studied the question of harbour entrances under circumstances somewhat similar to those which prevailed in the Bay of Bengal.

" The Government in their Order, dated the 25th January 1894, referred Mr. Jones' notes to Col. Pennycuik with the request that he would deal fully with the engineering aspect of the several questions raised in the notes and would give his opinion after examining the plans as to the probable cost of the works proposed by Mr. Cousins. Meanwhile it was ordered that complete information should be obtained regarding the systems of drainage adopted in the towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon and their cost.

" Colonel Pennycuik returned the papers on 14th August 1894 agreeing in several respects with Mr. Cousins' scheme. Colonel Pennycuik in the course of his long note says :

That modifications will have to be made in certain constructive details, such as those alluded to in paragraph 27 of Mr. Jones' report, and doubtless in many others, is certain; there never yet was a large engineering scheme carried out without such alterations, but it is a waste of time to discuss details of this kind until the general outline of the design is accepted.

The question of the improvement of the Cooum is intimately connected with that of the drainage, but it by no means follows that dealing with it should be postponed until the latter question is settled, and there are various reasons for discussing it as a separate question.

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Mr. Cousins proposes the very simple and inexpensive course of connecting the river with the sea by means of a small culvert terminating in a group of six steel pipes, and on a first perusal of his report I was not prepared to assert that if the drainage system were so thoroughly carried out as to ensure the exclusion of all sewage from the river this plan would not ensure the entrance of sufficient water from the sea, though for the reasons stated in my note of September last I should recommend the omission of the steel tubes, and should greatly prefer to see the canal from the harbour constructed in addition to the culvert.

It is very doubtful whether financial considerations will allow the drainage schemes to be carried out for some years to come, and whether it be carried out or not it would in my opinion be a fatal mistake to defer dealing with the Cooum.

I believe that the question of water-supply is of much greater sanitary importance in this country than that of drainage, and that if the improvements to the water-supply and to the river Cooum were carried out the improvements in the sanitary conditions of the city would be so great that the question of drainage might safely be left alone, provided the existing system as properly worked.

"Thus it will be seen that Colonel Pennycuick advocates the cleansing of the Cooum as of paramount importance. These notes are again referred to the Government and the Government passed orders thereon on 7th November 1894 and in it they observed as follows:

The Chief Engineer will now be requested to at once make arrangements for drawing up detailed estimates of the outlay that the execution of this project would involve. The estimates should provide for a lock to admit of boats passing between the canal and the harbour, as well as for sluices to allow of the entry of sea-water during flood tides and of its discharge at the Cooum mouth during ebbs. His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that the execution of the scheme for the water-supply of the city and for the purification of the Cooum now approved will be followed by a marked advance in the sanitary condition of Madras.

"When the Government had taken steps to push through the scheme as early as 1894, we now find that the scheme prepared by the Chief Engineer is still in the investigation stage. I therefore trust that the Government will bring pressure to bear on the Committee that is investigating the scheme now so that it may be put into operation at an early date, and the Cooum which is now a filthy drain, converted into a healthy stream."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, this House must be really thankful to the hon. Member, Mr. Namberumal Chettiyar, for having placed before it the full history regarding the Cooum affair. He has traced the history of the scheme for the improvement of the Cooum from the year 1894. He gave us the old story connected with the Cooum affair. But the new story is that a Committee has been appointed for having the scheme examined with the aid of experts. I myself am on the Committee. I believe the Committee will go into the whole matter once again and come to a final decision very soon. There is no use of discussing the merits or demerits of the scheme in the House before the Committee sends up its final conclusions on the matter. It is admitted that the whole of the Madras City is keenly interested in the Cooum affair. The Corporation and myself are also interested in seeing that the scheme is successfully worked out.

"Then, Sir, I may mention for the information of my hon. friend that the sum of Rs. 20,000 provided in the Budget is simply to cover the travelling expenses of the members who proceed with the investigation of the scheme."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, I am glad that my hon. friend, Mr. Namberumal Chettiyar, has brought this Cooum improvement to great prominence in this House. There is absolutely no doubt that the Cooum

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requires improvement if the health of the Madras City is to be improved. This question is not a new one. As pointed out by the hon. mover of this motion, this matter was taken up in earnest 30 years ago by eminent Engineers like Col. Pennycuick and Mr. Jones. They prepared a scheme, and subsequent to that there were other schemes. The Chief Engineer, Mr. Hutton, prepared one scheme, and the Harbour Engineer, Col. Bradford Leslie, prepared another scheme. These two schemes are not different, but the one supplements the other. There were also other schemes connecting the Cooum with the Adayar river. All these were before the Government. An outline of all these schemes was prepared and placed before the Finance Department. The Finance Department rightly pointed out that unless there was agreement among the Engineers themselves and a definite scheme working out the whole thing was placed before them, they would not be able to adjudge the financial liability. Therefore the matter is now placed in the hands of the Engineering experts, experts who have had intimate knowledge of the workings of the Cooum river. As pointed out by my hon. Friend, Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar, the Committee of Experts have already met, and discussed the matter. They propose to modify

4-16 p.m. the scheme in such a way that it should prove to be a great and permanent improvement to the City of Madras. I will not anticipate the result of the deliberations of that Committee. They seem to work on right lines now and as soon as a scheme is prepared, I shall place it before the Government for acceptance and afterwards there will be no delay in executing the scheme as prepared by the experts."

Rao Bahadur T. NAMBERUMAL CHETTIYAR :—"The decision of this Committee should not be referred to another body of experts. I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 201.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move the following :—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,600 for the Assistant to the Consulting Architect.

Not long ago, Sir, there was only one Architect for the Government of Madras, but now we have three. This very large increase in the number of Architects does not seem to be justifiable. In the old days, we had more money to be spent on buildings than we have at present and in spite of it the number of Architects has increased; it should on the other hand decrease. Then with regard to works that are turned out by these Architects, there is very much to be said. I will only give an instance which came under my personal experience when I had to come in contact with these officers. A certain design and estimates were sanctioned both by the Education Department and by the Superintending Engineer. The Superintending Engineer is supposed to know the local conditions and necessities better. When the proposal was sent up to the Government for a grant, apparently these papers were sent up to one of these Consulting Architects. The Architect took a number of objections which seemed to me not in the interest of either the local body or the Government. For instance, one of the proposals which he

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [21st March 1923]

objected to was this. I provided for a staircase in the veranda so that could spare some space as well as save a lot of money. The Architect said that the staircase should not be in the veranda and that I ought to put a building adjacent to the block of buildings and erect a new structure altogether which would involve something like an expenditure of two three thousands. That was one of the proposals he made. Another proposal of his was, instead of saving some Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 as I intended to do by the design proposed he wanted all the rooms in a line and thereby incur additional expenditure. He said that the teacher should sit in one place. I explained to him that if the teacher's position was changed, his objection would disappear; but his answer was that the teacher ought to be in a particular place and his position should not be changed. Such objections show how much we can benefit by the experience of these architects. I do not want to enlarge on the matter further. As I said, there are too many architects and I do not think there can be sufficient work for them in our present condition when we cannot find large funds for buildings. So I think at least of these architects may be asked to go."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I appreciate the difficulty which the hon. Member has pointed out in the matter of the structure of buildings. But the hon. Member must remember that he prepares the plan from the information furnished to the Director of Public Instruction by the local authorities, that is, the management—the district board or taluk board. There may be mistakes like that, and I do admit that in particular case which the hon. Member discussed with me, there seems to have been some mistake. But I do not think that my hon. friend can blame the omission of this grant on the ground that there was a mistake in a particular item of work. As regards the Assistant Consulting Architect, he may say that at present his hands are full. He has plenty of work to do, and if at any time there is no work for him, it may be only for a few months; but otherwise he is ordinarily engaged in assisting the Consulting Architect. The Assistant Consulting Architect not only does independent work himself, but also takes charge of the office whenever the Consulting Architect goes on tour. There is no other person who can look after the draughtsmen and the detailed work that has necessarily to be done in the office of the Consulting Architect, whenever the latter officer goes on tour. In the matter of preparing original work also, the Assistant Architect has got much to do at present. These Consulting Architects come under what is called Special Service. They are working under a contract for five years. They have not completed their period of service yet, and it is impossible to dispense with their services immediately. But whenever there is no work for the Assistant Consulting Architect, I shall be the first man to say that his services are not required."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XXVIII for the grant of 83.74 lakhs was then put to the House and the grant was made minus the deductions voted for already.

DEMAND XXIX—FAMINE RELIEF.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding one lakh under Famine Relief."

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The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXX—PENSIONS.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 48.25 lakhs for Pensions."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXI—STATIONERY (FOR RESERVED DEPARTMENTS) AND PRINTING.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 24.48 lakhs for Stationery (for Reserved Departments) and Printing."

MOTION No. 202.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I beg to move the following :—
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24.48 lakhs for Stationery and Printing (Reserved Departments) by 3 lakhs.

In moving this I wish to call the attention of the hon. the Finance Member to the enormous expenditure under Stationery. The Revised Estimate for the current year is Rs. 19,81,000, but in the coming year, 1923-24, the estimate is for about 23½ lakhs, that is, for more than 3½ lakhs. I should like to call the attention of the hon. the Finance Member to this and request him to reduce this as much as possible. I hope it will be possible to the hon. Member to reduce it appreciably."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I take it that the House do not wish to spend a great deal of time upon the stationery estimates now, and so I shall not reply in detail. We are doing everything we can to reduce the issues of stationery. But even if we reduce them, the fact very often does not appear in the accounts, because the accounts are kept in rupees and does not appear in the accounts, because the accounts are kept in rupees and the quantity of stationery represented by a given sum of money varies from time to time in accordance with the prices fixed. To give the House an idea of how wide these fluctuations may be, I will take as an instance the commonest kind of paper which is responsible for three-quarters of our issues. The price of this has varied within the last few years from 2 annas 4½ pies per lb. to 6 annas 8½ pies per lb., in other words, it has increased by 200 per cent. Thus, the House will realise from this one instance how an increase in the rupee value of the issues may accompany a considerable actual reduction in the quantities issued."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XXXI was then put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXII—STATIONERY (FOR TRANSFERRED DEPARTMENTS).

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 2.04 lakhs for Stationery (for Transferred Departments)."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XXXIII—RESERVE WITH THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"With your permission, Sir, I propose not to move this demand in pursuit of the policy of reducing our deficit by every possible means."

DEMAND XXXIV—AGENCY.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding 33.60 lakhs for Agency."

MOTION No. 203.

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, I am generally not in favour of reductions like the one I have the honour to move, but different cases require different treatment and this case certainly requires a different treatment from the rest of the demands. So, I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33.60 lakhs for Agency by Rs. 5,00,000.

As I said in my speech during the general discussion on the Budget, I think it is time that the Madras Government come to the conclusion that a separate Agency division is not necessary and it is better to scrap up the whole affair of Agency division and go back to their original plan of having the Agency tract under the Collectors of Vizagapatam, Ganjam and Godavari. I do not know whether I am entitled to give out to the House the decision of the Retrenchment Committee in this matter. As the hon. the Finance Member nods his head in disapproval, I would not divulge the secrets of that Committee."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I know that the House is somewhat impatient to get at the end of the business; but I rise, on account of the general importance, to a point of order. The question is whether hon. Members of this House are entitled to refer to other than published results of the proceedings of committees such as the Retrenchment Committee."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"As a matter of fact Dr. Subbarayan has not been referring to that at all. So, the hon. the Law Member will wait till the hon. Member does refer to it."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Evidently the hon. the Law Member did not hear what I said. Probably I was not speaking loud enough for him to hear. I was not going to divulge any of the papers placed before the Retrenchment Committee. I was only going to urge the acceptance of my motion on general grounds."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I have corrected myself."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I think the time has come for the Government to consider this point and come to the conclusion that the Agency division has been a white elephant and give up the idea of having a separate Agency division and go back to the old plan. It has been said that the Agency division required exploiting. I think this idea has been exploded, because the geologists who exploited the Agency division for minerals have come to the conclusion that no such mineral wealth lies in the Agency as was expected. When such is the case it is but right that in the present financial stringency prevailing in the whole province we should adopt a policy of retrenchment as

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far as possible, and not spend large sums of money. When such is the case, I move for a total reduction of five lakhs from this grant just to show the disapproval of this House on the Agency policy followed by the Madras Government."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"In the first place I am sorry that my hon. friend did not favour the House with the name of the geologist of whom I know nothing, and who he said recently declared that there was no mineral wealth in the Agency. It would be of some assistance to us if he would give us some information about it. The hon. Member, though he disclaimed any intention of divulging the proceedings of the Retrenchment Committee, is no doubt in possession of some information about the Agency from the papers placed before the Retrenchment Committee. I have reason to think that the Retrenchment Committee was led to believe that a saving of something like 4 to 5 lakhs could be effected by the abolition of the separate Agency division."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Has the proceedings of the Retrenchment Committee to which the hon. Member referred been placed on the table of the House? Probably the hon. the Finance Member will tell us that."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"No, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Then, I do not think the hon. the Home Member can refer to that."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Then I will not mention anything about the Retrenchment Committee, but I think I am entitled to say that a story has been going about within the precincts of this building that the abolition of the separate Agency division would result in a saving of four or five lakhs. I dare say that this story has reached the ears of my hon. friend below the gangway. The story, Sir, is incorrect. On the latest information we have come to the conclusion that far from the abolition of the Agency resulting in any saving it would actually result in extra expenditure. Under the circumstances, I very much doubt whether my hon. friend or other Members of the Council will be very much inclined to follow up the story. The explanation is simple. The original forecast made when the Agency division was constituted was that it would result in an expenditure of something like seven lakhs a year in the Agency. As a matter of fact, very large amounts under establishments have never been spent at all. A large amount of the establishment has been drawn from other districts and corresponding savings have been effected in those districts. I have, during the last few days, attempted to arrive at some estimate as to what the actual saving would be if we now abolish the Agency division and go back to the old arrangement. As far as I can make out with the help of the Agency Commissioner, the figure we can expect in the way of reduction would be from one to one and a half lakhs of rupees. Even that saving, of course, would be worth having, and I may say at once from the administrative point of view, I am entirely in favour of the abolition of the separate Agency division. I would much rather go back to the old arrangement, but it must be understood that this will not lead to any retrenchment. As the House will remember, the question of giving relief to the Collector of Kistna is a problem which has been before the Government and the public for many years past and it has been admitted on all hands that the Collector of Kistna must somehow be given relief. There was a scheme for the bifurcation of the district. As soon as the Agency division was created it was asked whether, taking into account the relief which

[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

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would be given to the Collectors of Godavari and Vizagapatam, by the institution of a separate Agency division, it would not be possible to make some redistribution which would allow us to avoid the creation of a new district, and on that basis enquiries have been going on. When we were contemplating the abolition of the separate Agency Commissionership, my hon. colleague, the Revenue Member, pointed out to me that if we did that, if we restored the Agency to the districts concerned, we would have to revert to the proposal to bifurcate the Kistna district. On a rough estimate the cost of so doing would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs a year. The net result, if my hon. friend's motion is carried out and we revert to the old system, will be a net extra expenditure of one lakh."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—" Though I am one in favour of retrenchment, I beg to oppose this motion. It was put forward at the time of the institution of a separate division for the Agency that it was for the benefit of the depressed classes that they were doing that. This benefit is still being given. As stated by the hon. the Home Member, if this Agency division is abolished, instead of resulting in a saving, it will only involve an extra expenditure of one lakh of rupees. I am therefore against the proposal for the abolition. Further, with the abolition of the Agency division, the staff will have to be provided for elsewhere. Taking these facts into consideration, I think we ought to leave the Agency division as it is.

" Another point which is lurking in the minds of some hon. Members is that the formation of an Agency division and the location of the headquarters of Divisional Officers in far more distant places than usual was the cause for the recent trouble. Even the formation of divisions and taluk headquarters in the proper manner will prevent such nuisance. With these remarks I beg to oppose the motion before the House."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I have no mind to intervene in this debate, but for the fact that my hon. friend, Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu, has thought it fit to oppose the motion. The Agency was established with the object of bringing into direct contact the hillmen and the officers of Government. In the Budget Memorandum for the year 1921 it is stated :

It is hoped that this change will result in bringing into direct contact the hillmen and the officers of Government and it is possible for introducing well-thought-out schemes for improving the health and education of the people and for developing the resources of that fertile tract of country.

I make this statement for want of time, viz., that this sort of arrangement has ended in Futuri. I am not going to give reasons because that will take a long time. I will simply say that this sort of 'direct contact' has ended in a Futuri. It has cost us a large sum of money. At the time of the Budget discussion just after this Agency tract was constituted into a separate division, it was stated that a sum of Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs had to be spent and I took objection to it. Sir Lionel Davidson on the 10th March 1921, in reply to my speech, said that the recurring expenditure would only be Rs. 50,000. It was stated in paragraph 17 of the Financial Memorandum of that year that the recurring extra cost would amount to half a lakh. Sir Lionel Davidson said :

I venture to think that this half a lakh may in the near future be further reduced by the abolition of the posts of Personal Assistants to the Collectors of the Visagapatam and Ganjam districts and possibly also Godavari—an issue which, I understand, is under examination though I cannot prophesy with certainty what the result will be. The critic whom I have in mind spoke of the extra cost as Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

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But, now I ask what is the actual state of affairs? If you refer to page 230 of the Budget you will find that in the year 1921 the amounts that were spent came to Rs. 30 lakhs. For the year 1922-23 we find we have spent Rs. 34 lakhs. We have budgeted for the coming year, that is 1923-24, for Rs. 36 lakhs. Thus you will see that the half a lakh of rupees spoken of by Sir Lionel Davidson was only the thin end of the wedge and that the expenditure goes on increasing. In this connexion I should like to refer to the speech Sir Lionel Davidson made on the 10th March 1921 when dealing with this subject. He said in reply to my observations that 'the extra cost would only be half a lakh'. Now I say it is much more. It is six times half a lakh. On general administration, for the year 1921-22, we spent Rupees 5,33,000. This year we have spent Rs. 6·07 lakhs on this head, and the Government have budgeted for Rs. 6·15 lakhs. For Police we spent Rs. 8 lakhs for the year 1921-22. It is Rs. 11 lakhs for the current year. For the coming year, which is a normal year, we have budgeted for Rs. 9 lakhs. Nearly 15 lakhs of rupees are proposed to be spent on these two heads for the next year. This is a circumstance which we cannot accept. We do not know whether this scheme will lead us anywhere definitely. If we accept this Agency scheme, we shall be providing, as I said in 1921, for further and further grants without any practical benefit to this Government or to the country. As I said, we have got 20,000 square miles constituting the Agency tracts, out of which 12,000 square miles belong to the Maharaja of Jeypore. The Government has nothing to do with it and cannot claim any of the mineral resources which belong to the Maharaja of Jeypore. So that this fertile tract of the country which is spoken of in that way very often, even if worked out, will not bring us any advantage. We have very few men as hill tribes. If we want to ameliorate their condition, if we want to root out malaria from those parts and take all such steps as will be conducive to the interests of the people, we have to spend a lot of money which we cannot afford to spend just at present. Therefore I say that the Agency scheme is a white elephant; we should drop it."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It has been stated that one of the reasons of the recent Futuri is the formation of the Agency division. If the Futuri has occurred in the Agency tracts alone then too the conclusion will not be correct. As a matter of fact, there have been Futuris once in twenty years. We had a trouble in 1876. Another trouble in 1879. Again we had a trouble in 1892. There have been similar troubles subsequently once or twice. It may be said that from the administrative point of view if the development of the Agency tracts has become an accomplished fact, and communications are developed constituting the whole tract as one unit it will be a very very convenient and desirable thing. It is unfortunate that the resources of the Government were not enough when the Agency division was formed and they were not able to put more money for the development of the country. It has been stated that the issue before the House is whether the bifurcation of the Kistna district is to be given effect to or the Agency division is to be continued. For my part the question is that as we have the Kistna district for the last three years without a bifurcation we can continue in the same way. It has been admitted on all hands that Kistna is a heavy district and requires bifurcation. The whole scheme was matured before the Agency scheme was pushed through. When the Agency was formed, the bifurcation of the Kistna district took a different shape. We felt that the work in the other three districts was lessening and instead of forming a separate district

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we thought that Kistna and the other districts might be conveniently redistributed into four districts. This work was undertaken; it was examined by the Board of Revenue; and recently the Government issued a communiqué stating the various possibilities of effecting the redistribution of the districts into four districts without increasing the number of officers. It is a question that affects mostly the people of Kistna and therefore it is for the representatives and people of Kistna to criticise that policy. Local knowledge will be required to propose any alternative schemes to that put forward by the Government. When that is done, there will not be much difficulty. But now to move in the direction of the abolition of the Agency division is altogether undesirable. Only yesterday we were told that in the Legislative Assembly the Imperial budget was proposed to be balanced by effecting a compromise even in the matter of taxation. Under these circumstances I think the House will be well advised to put more money for the Agency division and not cut short any expenditure under that head."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—"I am sorry I cannot agree with either of my hon. friends, Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu or Mr. Narasimha Raju, in their remarks regarding the Agency division. I am afraid the question of the bifurcation of the Kistna district has been unnecessarily mingled with the continuance of the Agency division. If, for administrative reasons, it is found absolutely necessary that the Kistna district should be bifurcated, it is irrespective of the fact whether the Agency division continues as a separate division or is abolished and the old state of things reverted to. We are not now concerned with the bifurcation of the Kistna district. What we are concerned with is: is it necessary for the Agency division to continue in the manner in which it is at present administered or should we abolish that system? I am entirely in favour of reverting to the old system. You have got a District Collector (a district magistrate) who tours round the whole district. It is absolutely necessary in the interests of the Agency people as well as in the interests of the people of the adjoining districts that one single officer should be in touch with the people. It seems to me that the bifurcation of the Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari districts into three complete districts means the bifurcation of the Agency division which again means the alienation, as it were, of the Agency people and the officers who were administering the Agency tracts."

"I am afraid that this Agency division is really costing us much. I do not believe if we had no Agency division there would be an Agency District Superintendent of Police, and an Assistant Superintendent of Police, both stationed at the headquarters at Waltair, and be travelling from one end of the Godavari district to the other end of the Agency tracts in Ganjam district. I do not believe, in that case, that we would have a District Medical and Sanitary Officer with an assistant and a sub-assistant attached to him."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"He was appointed in the year 1915."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—"He was a civil surgeon and not a District Medical and Sanitary Officer. That is a designation, I believe, that has been given to him. I do not believe that, if we revert to the old state of things and all these Agency officers and the three assistant commissioners were located at their headquarters within the limits of their jurisdiction, and if they were not outside their proper headquarters requiring at least more than 1½ days to reach their division, we would be able to save the large amount of travelling allowances which they are now getting."

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"Then, Sir, the hon. Mr. Knapp has told us that even if we revert to the old state of things, there will not be a profit of more than 1½ lakhs or 1½ lakhs. I do not believe that this will be so."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"May I ask him why he does not believe it, Sir?"

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—"Because the figures have not been worked out. If the hon. Mr. Knapp has placed before us that the profit under certain item is so and so, and under certain other item is so and so, then I would not have said that I could not believe. What he has stated is only a rough estimate. I believe it will not be so very small. If we were to work out the figures it would be certainly high. Anyway, whether there would be any profit or not, we do not want a separate Agency Division. We wish that the jurisdiction of the Agency districts should be given to the District Magistrates, as it used to be in the past, and that they should be administered through the agency of the District Collectors and the Divisional Officers. By that system the Government would be managing the Agency tracts more efficiently and more in the interests of the people, than through the Agency Commissioners. I am afraid that both my hon. friends, Mr. Balaji Rao Nayudu and Mr. Narasimha Raju, are not justified in opposing the motion before the House."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I was glad to hear from the hon. the Home Member that he quite approved the idea of going back to the old state of things, so far as the administration of the Agency tracts was concerned. He said that the amount of expenditure that would thus be saved would not be more than 1½ lakhs. I do not agree with him. I do not think the figures have been worked out. If the figures were worked we would certainly have more saving. We may carry on the administration of Kistna district, as it stands at present, and there is no urgent necessity for bifurcating it. Mr. Narasimha Raju said that more money ought to be put for the development of the Agency tracts. We have invested enough of money for its development during the last two years. But I do not think there has been any improvement in the finances of the province. Another point that I should like to place before the House is this: if a private individual wants to develop his property it is open to him to spend his money in developing it; but I do not think that Government ought to spend its money in developing private properties. This is one of the reasons why the Agency division should go. I would ask the Government not to control the Agency division the major portion of which belongs to the Maharaja of Jeypore but to allow the Maharaja to develop it in his own way."

"I do not think we need have to spend 5 lakhs under the heads of education, communication, etc. If Government were to come back to us with a supplementary grant for expending money under these heads, I think the whole department of Agency can be discussed again. Under the circumstances, I cannot but press the motion to a division."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I am somewhat surprised at what the previous speaker said. If I understood him right, his suggestion was that the Council should now cut the 5 lakhs of rupees and later on the Government should come back for a supplementary grant. Such institutions as we are dealing with, namely, schools, dispensaries, etc., are institutions that cannot be treated in a light-hearted manner. I do not know whether he means that we should shut such institutions down until next July or possibly until the new Council is formed."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"The Civil Works Budget provides for 9 lakhs."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"That has nothing whatever to do with the formation of the Agency division."

"Sir, there has been a great deal of misunderstanding in the minds of hon. Members of this House as to the exact position of expenditure under this head. That is largely due to what I think has been rather the unfortunate experiment, that we have given a separate place in the Budget for the Agency division. Formerly the ordinary services in the Agency were shown under their appropriate heads. They were then regarded as proper and passed. The Agency was treated exactly like other places in the Presidency. It had a Revenue staff, a Police staff, and an Engineering staff and so on. No one thought fit to take objection when these items appeared under their own proper heads. But when for the purpose of convenience of this House these items have been brought together hon. Members rub their eyes in astonishment at the total and want to cut out of these 32 lakhs a sum of 5 lakhs, without, if I may say so, any real consideration of the particular direction in which they wish to reduce. The fact is that what we are now spending on establishments is practically no more than we have always been spending in the Agency tracts when they were in separate districts."

"The mover of the resolution just now made a suggestion that we are spending the money of the State for the development of the estate of a zamindar. We are spending nothing on that account. Any such increase as there is goes to establishment, to the opening of a certain number of schools and a few dispensaries and the improvement of a few roads. One hon. Member doubted the correctness of my estimate of the saving which would result if we were to revert to the old system. I had the figures before I spoke. The saving is worked out on the following basis: one Agency Commissioner Rs. 36,000, two Revenue Divisional Officers Rs. 9,600, the staff of the two Rs. 4,000, the Agency Sessions Judge and staff Rs. 45,800, the inferior civil service post in connexion with the post of the Agency Commissioner Rs. 13,000, the District Surgeon Rs. 10,000, one Assistant Executive Engineer Rs. 4,000. The total comes to Rs. 1,22,400."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"After these reductions I should like to know whether the staff would be the same as it was before the Agency was redistributed."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"This would leave no staff which was not in existence when then Agency was created. The total comes to Rs. 1,22,400."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"What about the travelling allowance and other contingencies?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The saving under travelling allowance would be very small."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"What about their tents, mules and materials?"

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"The Collector going from Ganjam will certainly spend less than the Commissioner going from Waltair."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"On the other hand, Sir, we should have three officers travelling in the Agency instead of one. If my hon. friend seriously means to suggest that we should make a saving in travelling allowance, surely it is not the way of dealing with the question to propose a cut of 5 lakhs of rupees. As I explained at the outset, this Government on representations made were quite prepared to face the question of the abolition of the Agency division. On the occasion of the general discussion on the Budget, I stated in most explicit terms that we would be prepared to take any step however drastic which the Retrenchment Committee could show to be in the interest of the Presidency. To that position we adhere even now. The Retrenchment Committee have reported on the matter and the Government are about to take their report into consideration. Lastly, let me remind hon. Members that the motion before them is for an actual reduction of 5 lakhs. It is not a mere formal motion for a reduction of Rs. 100. If these 5 lakhs are to be cut off, we shall have to shut hospitals and schools. I trust that the House will recognise the seriousness of the position from that point of view and after this discussion, I hope my hon. friend will not press his motion."

The motion was put and carried and a poll was demanded and taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 24. Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Goundar. |
| 2. Mr. M. Appala Narasayya Nayudu. | 25. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami Vandayar. | 26. Diwan Bahadur S. Rm. Ct. Pethachi Chettiyar. |
| 4. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 27. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 5. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 28. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. |
| 6. Rao Bahadur P. C. Etirajulu Nayudu. | 29. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 7. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. | 30. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 8. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 31. Mr. M. Suryanarayana. |
| 9. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. | 32. Sriman Bisvanath Das. |
| 10. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon. | 33. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 11. " K. A. Kandaswami Kandar. | 34. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 12. " J. Kuppuswami. | 35. Sriman Sasi Bushana Rath. |
| 13. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 36. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 14. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 37. " M. R. Setaratnam Ayyar. |
| 15. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 38. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 16. Mr. V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 39. Raja of Ramnad. |
| 17. " P. T. Rajan. | 40. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 18. " W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. | 41. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razzaq Sahib. |
| 19. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. | 42. Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib. |
| 20. " K. Sitarama Reddi. | 43. Rao Sahib Sir M. C. Muttayya Chettiyar, Kt. |
| 21. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. | |
| 22. " P. Subbarayan. | |
| 23. " A. Tangavelu Nayagar. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 13. Mr. E. F. Thomas. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 14. " E. Periyannayagam. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 15. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 16. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 17. S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad Bahadur. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 18. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 19. Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 20. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 21. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 10. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 22. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |
| 11. " T. Richmond. | 23. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari. |
| 12. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 24. The Rev. W. Meston. |

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 22nd day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the amendments to the Standing Orders passed by the Council on the 12th March 1923 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 20th March 1923.

II

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" I beg to present to this Council a monster petition signed by over 20,000 people belonging to the district of South Kanara and consisting of big landholders, vakils, doctors, temple owners and others regarding the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

" I have the honour to present another petition in connexion with the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill signed by the Mahant of Tirupati on the same lines as the other petition.

" Both these petitions fulfil the requirements of the Standing Orders."

The SECRETARY then read an abstract of the petitions.

III

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

The consideration of the demands for supplementary grants for 1922-23 left over from the list of business for the 20th March 1923 was resumed.

Grant III.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1.02 lakhs under 'Stamps'.

The various items which go to make up this grant and the reasons which have contributed to an increase of expenditure under each one of them will be found fully explained at pages 3 and 4 of the detailed memoranda attached to the schedule of supplementary demands."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant IV.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 27,800 under 'Forests' to meet additional expenditure on account of loss by Exchange."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1,29,100 under 'Forests' to meet additional expenditure under 'General Direction—Establishment and Buildings'.

[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

[22nd March 1923]

Grant IV—cont.

The circumstances under which this additional sum is required are explained in considerable detail in the printed memoranda. There is only one remark I wish to make in this connexion. In the Budget of the current year my predecessor promised to effect a lump cut amounting to Rs. 1,06,000. At first sight it may appear to hon. Members, when this supplementary grant is brought forward, that that cut has not been carried out. But that is not correct. The cut promised by my predecessor has been faithfully carried out. An examination of the details of the present demand will show that the actual net excess over the sanctioned grant is Rs. 29,100, and that, as will be seen, is almost completely accounted for by one of the items in the demand, namely, arrears of pay to clerks, an item which was not provided for in the Budget. I make this remark to show to hon. Members that we have not failed to put into effect the undertaking given by my predecessor last year."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, one of the items that go to make up this grant of Rs. 1,29,100 is this: a sum of Rs. 10,000 for 12 additional supernumerary Rangers not provided for in the Budget. I cannot understand why so many as 12 supernumerary Rangers have been provided after the passing of the Budget last year. I can understand if there was a necessity for the appointment of one or two Rangers; but I cannot understand why so many as 12 have been appointed and why this could not have been foreseen when the Budget was presented."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, my hon. friend has touched on a very complicated item in the forest organization. The origin of the supernumerary Rangers is this: at the time when the Forest Department was reorganized in the year 1919, we had a class of Deputy Rangers. We decided that the Deputy Ranger fulfilled no useful purpose and we made up our minds to abolish him. The question then arose what was to be done with the men who at that time held the rank of Deputy Ranger. The suggestion was that they should be placed in the class of Forester, a grade which was inferior to that of the Deputy Ranger. We had no other alternative because the Deputy Rangers were not qualified by training to be promoted to the office of Rangers. But in fairness to them we had to undertake that those who were otherwise qualified would be given the option of going to the Forest College and getting themselves qualified for the post of Rangers. The result is that we have had to train certain number of these men. We have been training them in batches of six, and we promised them that when they had undergone their training, we would place them slightly above the class of Foresters and rank them as supernumerary Rangers. I may at once say that they do not get the pay of Rangers. The question how many of these men are to be provided for in our Budget depends upon the prospect of work during the year. These men are filling leave and acting vacancies and doing odd jobs as they turn up. What has happened this year is that Mr. Cox (Chief Conservator of Forests), having something like 26 of these supernumerary Rangers on his list, expected that they would all but twelve be absorbed in Rangers' work of some kind during the year. As a matter of fact there was some stoppage in our works owing to the cut of Rs. 1,06,000 which my predecessor promised last year. The result was that the opportunities for the employment of these men as Rangers were fewer than was anticipated and they had to continue to be shown as supernumerary Rangers. It is not

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[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

Grant IV—cont.

a question of our deliberately appointing these men during the year. They come automatically from the Forest College. I am now considering the possibility of ending this arrangement, because we cannot go on indefinitely like this."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant VII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 15,613 under the head '22-A (c). General Administration—Tour expenses—Special trains for His Excellency's own use and haulage of his saloon carriages.'

The circumstances under which this grant is asked for are explained in the printed memoranda."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 19,600 under 'Staff and Household of His Excellency the Governor.'

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant IX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 90,000 under General Administration.

I have a full explanation here of all the details which go to make up this amount if the Council wish for them, but they are also given more briefly in the memorandum."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—"Mr. President, Sir, in this connexion, I beg to be permitted to say a few words with regard to the Secretariat Department. The department is under three Secretaries."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. The hon. Member should have given notice of some sort of reduction, say, a reduction by Rs. 100, to enable him to pass his remarks. But he may ask for any information in regard to the demand to enable him to make up his mind whether to vote for or against it."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—"I should like to know, Sir, in connexion with this grant whether it is a fact that a seventh Superintendent was appointed and the Government Order regarding proper representation of communities was not taken into consideration."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"The grant in question has nothing to do with communal representation. It is concerned, in the first place, with exchange, and in the second, with the refund of lapsed deposits."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XI.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 77,650 under 'Administration of Justice—Criminal Courts.'

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [22nd March 1923]

Grant XI—cont.

From page 6 of the memoranda it would appear that this amount represents pay of special and summary Magistrates appointed to try cases connected with the Mappilla rebellion, time-scale of pay to certain subordinates and a few other items."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, one of the items under this grant is a sum of Rs. 12,000 said to represent the cost of introducing the time-scale of pay to subordinate magisterial staff in the districts of Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Bellary, Madura, Salem and South Kanara. If the time-scale was fixed before the Budget was framed there is no reason why this sum should be granted now. If it was fixed after the Budget was framed, I cannot see the need for it. I wish to know, Sir, whether the time-scale of pay was fixed before the Budget was framed and if so, why this was not put in the Budget."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The time-scale of pay was fixed before the Budget was framed; but it is a very complicated matter to work out each individual case."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Though it is a complicated matter, it should have been possible to have included it in the Budget. However I do not object to it."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XIII.

11-15 a.m. The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 4,37,417 under 'Police'.

As it will be seen from the memorandum, the main items responsible for this excess are travelling allowance and the cost of railway warrants, the excess under the former being Rs. 2,10,000 and that under the latter being Rs. 3,33,000. As has been pointed out in the same memorandum, as the result of rigorous economy the amount of 5.43 lakhs has been reduced to 4.37 lakhs."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I wish to know whether Government should wait till the end of the year to find out what would be the total excess they would be required to make up. Is it not the case that they are in a position to know from time to time what extra funds are necessary for a particular item; and, if so, why should they not come before the Council then? This practice seems open to objection. I should like to know whether they cannot come before the House from time to time as occasion arises for the supplementary grants."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I should like to say in reply that whenever we do get any increase in expenditure which we can define, we do come before the Council for supplementary grants. In fact the House has been complaining that we are coming for too many supplementary grants. Now, after the Budget was passed, the Government of India increased the railway fares. That made it clear that unless we stopped officers from travelling we should have to pay more for travelling allowance. In the majority of Departments we have been able to keep down to the Budget

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[Sir Charles Todhunter]

Grant XIII—cont.

allotments in spite of the increase in railway fares. But owing to the troubles which have taken place in Malabar and the Agency, we could not restrict the travelling and avoid the payment of increased railway fares. We could not exactly say how much additional would be necessary, and we did not wish to trouble the Council with a revised estimate every time we found an unavoidable increase in a particular item."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Since the railway fares had been increased long ago it should have been possible for the hon. the Finance Member to anticipate by how much the amount was likely to be exceeded."

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

Grant XIV.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I beg to move—
That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 6,000 under 'Scientific Departments'—

	RS.
Cost of publication of the 'Flora of Madras'	4,000
Loss by exchange	2,000
Total	6,000

Sir, at the request of this Government, the Secretary of State arranged in 1910 with Mr. Gamble, a well-known Botanist, for the preparation of the 'Flora of Madras' on the following terms :—

- (1) That the author should be paid a bonus of £50 for each part published;
- (2) that the Madras Government should purchase 500 copies of the book at a discount of 12½ per cent of the issue price;
- (3) that the whole expenditure should be borne by the Madras Government.

This publication is likely to comprise eight parts of which four parts have so far been published. The fourth part was published last year; but the publication was not foreseen and no provision was made in the estimates for 1922-23. The High Commissioner now reports that an expenditure of Rs. 6,000 as detailed by me has been incurred. This amount of Rs. 6,000 is now required in the estimates of 1922-23 under Grant XIV—Scientific Departments. I therefore submit that the House may grant this sum."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"It was said that the order was given in 1910. There had been sufficient time for the publication of the whole book. It has been hanging fire for so many years and the hon. the Minister says that only four parts have been published hitherto. When will the remaining parts be published, and how many parts are going to be published next year?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"Sir, it is suggested that the whole of the expenditure should be borne by the Government of Madras and that the author should be paid a bonus of £50 for each part. Then what is the meaning of the Madras Government purchasing 500 copies at a discount of 12½ per cent? When the whole expenditure is borne by the Madras Government it means that all the copies belong to the Madras Government. Am I to understand that the author keeps the copyright for himself and the Madras Government bears all the expenditure and also buys 500 copies?"

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Grant XIV—cont.

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" Sir, I should like to ask what the price of each part is. I also want to know whether all the 500 copies will be distributed among the Departments or whether any of them will be available with Government for sale."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, all I can say is this contract was entered into at a very much earlier period than I can think of answering in detail. It was an agreement the Secretary of State entered into with the consent of the Madras Government. I will only submit that the House will realize the importance of fulfilling contracts entered into by the previous Government. As for the information sought, I am afraid I am not in a position to supply the hon. Members with it because it requires my going into previous records."

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

Grant XVII.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 44,310 for meeting excess expenditure under 'Medical'.

Sir, the details of the demand are explained at page 7 of the hon. the Finance Member's memorandum."

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

Grant XXVIII.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 13,306 under '41-B. Civil Works'.

Sir, the details of this grant are explained on page 9 of the memorandum."

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

Grant XXIX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 2,55,485 under '45. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—Reserved'.

Sir, the bulk of this amount is due to the fact that our calculations on averages of the number of persons likely to take pension happen not to be borne out by the actuals of the year. There were more persons who applied for pension than we expected. Another large item is due to the exchange. In connexion with this, I might perhaps explain that I have just received a letter from the Auditor-General to the effect that we should not ask for a supplementary grant in a case like this where the excess is due to a change in classification but should ask sanction to a reappropriation instead."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

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Grant XXXI.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,700 under '46. Stationery and Printing—Transferred'.

Sir, details of this demand are given at page 10 of the memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XXXIII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 18,442 under 'Agency'.

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,112 under '26. Police Agency'.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the supplemental demand for Rs. 16,112 under '26. Police' by Rs. 100.

In moving this reduction, I want to discuss the policy underlying the press communiqué, dated 26th February 1923, for the upkeep of punitive police in the Agency tracts. This action has been taken by Government, under section 15 of the Police Act, to bring home to the people of the locality their responsibility. The Government are now considering the question of quartering police detachments in the locality and recovering the cost of them from the villagers under section 15 of the Police Act.

"Sir, ordinarily, we would have thought it fit to table a Resolution to discuss the principle underlying such a policy of the Government; but since the House is going to be dissolved very soon, and since we will have no opportunity to discuss such important questions, I thought it would be well to table a motion of this kind. Fiture is very scarce in the Agency tracts. We had a fituri in the eighties, and that fituri has repeated itself after 30 or 40 years. This last fituri began in the August of 1922, and after a month of the Government came to this House for a supplementary grant of one lakh of rupees. While discussing that grant, the hon. Member for Kistna remarked :

I am sure that the local officers and the local people would be able to tell us more about the causes of this rebellion, or rather, I hope, that the representatives from that part of the country would add to my remarks.

"And my hon. friend, Mr. C. R. Reddi, while discussing this very question said :

We all know that a definite assurance was given by the right hon. Mr. Montagu when he was Secretary of State for India that any time the military were brought in to restore peace and order, the restoration of peace would be immediately followed by the institution of an inquiry of the kind now suggested.

"The House discussed the necessity of appointing a committee to inquire into the causes of this rebellion, and instead of doing anything of the kind, we are surprised to find the Government have, under the executive powers vested in them, issued the notification which I have referred to,

[Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo] [22nd March 1923]

Grant XXXIII—cont.

"In this connexion I may bring to the notice of the House that we 11-30 a.m. people outside the fituri areas know very little of what is going on in regard to the operations there. We have a number of police officers who are very highly paid, some subordinate police officers and an army of police men; we have been spending lots of money over them without knowing anything. I would, therefore, request the Government to consider this aspect of the question and take the hon. Members of this House into their confidence before they inaugurate such a policy. With these observations, I move the motion that stands in my name."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, my friend, Mr. Das, has already referred to the communiqué issued by the Government. If I understand the press communiqué correctly, it means that the Government want to put an end to the fituri as early as possible by adopting three methods: the first method is to prosecute the village officers and other village people on the ground that they did not give information to the Government officials whenever the fituridars passed through their village or halted in their village; the second method is to prosecute the rebels that have been already taken hold of; and the third method is to have punitive police stationed in various villages. As to the desirability of prosecuting the village officers for helping the fituridars, I do not believe there are village officers who will so help the rebels. I was told that already a batch of eighteen or so of the village officers were tried and sent to various terms of imprisonment extending from three to eighteen months. This, I might say, has already created some impression that the local people who have nothing to do with the fituri are being run down by the Government officials. Any person who is acquainted with the condition in which the people live in the Agency tracts will understand that there is something wrong with the policy of establishing punitive police in the Agency. The villages do not consist of more than two or three huts and they can be made or unmade within a period of 24 hours. If really the punitive police is to be established in any village, it is only to strike terror in the villages and drive the people away into the interior of the Agency. So far as the complaints we have already received from the Agency on account of the policy hitherto adopted are concerned, there is one that the *podu* cultivation has been much reduced, and another that there has been influenza. Whichever is the cause, there is already a reduction of population. The scaring away of the Agency people by punitive police and thus reducing the population will be a highly undesirable thing.

"In the matter of the prosecutions, I am told that the Government or the local officials, not being satisfied with the services of the Public Prosecutor who is serving in the Agency division, are also having the services of an additional Public Prosecutor. I questioned the desirability of increasing the strength of the prosecution by employing too many people, especially in cases where there will not be any defence on the side of the rebels that are prosecuted. Perhaps the local officials want some more expenditure on the various items. The local impression is that the whole thing is being carried on by sheer extravagance, and this seems to be another item added to the extravagances of the Government."

Mr. M. SURIYANARAYANA:—"Mr. President, the question for consideration is whether the Government is well advised in having the punitive police quartered in the Agency tract. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju,

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

has already told the House what Agency dwellings really mean. I do not know if the hon. Mr. Knapp has personal experience of the Agency tract and of the villages there. I have been told that in some of those areas a number of villages which you can find to-day will not be found to-morrow; and to say that punitive police should be quartered in such villages is only to allow an absolute waste of money by the Government. For, if you do not find any villages at all, who will pay this high cost of the punitive police? Practically it will be a charge on the general tax-payer and not a tax on the particular people who live in the Agency. I do not think that the district in its entirety, including the local boards, should pay for the punitive police. The real causes for the fituri are economic to a very large extent. In addition to the reason given by Mr. Narasimha Raju, namely, the prevention of the *podu* cultivation, I would also say that the reservation of a large extent of land for forest purposes is another cause which perhaps is rankling in the minds of the Agency people to a large extent.

"One thing I would submit in regard to the Agency villagers is that you ought to be somewhat considerate to them in these matters. They are a very timid sort of people. A story goes—I do not know how far it is really true; I have not verified it—that on one occasion a Government official asked a villager in the Agency whether the fituridars did not pass through the village and as to whether rice was not supplied to them by the villagers. The villagers admitted that it was so. When asked why they allowed them to come and supplied them with rice, etc., the reply given was that it was for the same reason that the police had given their rifles to the fituridars. That was the state of mind of these villagers, because the fituridars, when they come, tell the people 'if you do not give us what we want and if you tell anything to the officials, your village will be plundered or your houses will be burnt.' Being very timid people, they are frightened by these threats. You have to take this aspect of the question into consideration in regard to the Agency people when you consider the question of launching out prosecutions or quartering punitive police in their tracts."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, though the portfolio of the Police administration belongs to my hon. colleague on the right, I must seize this opportunity nevertheless to protest against the tendency which so often appears in this House to accuse the police all over the Presidency of surrendering arms. It has just been suggested that the police in the Agency gave up their rifles to the fituridars. I should like my hon. friend to give me one instance."

Mr. M. SURIYANARAYANA:—"When the fituri was first started it was said that the fituridars went to the police stations and took away the rifles."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"That is another question. I wanted to have an instance of the police giving away their rifles to the rebels as was suggested."

"I understood from my hon. friend who made this motion—"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I believe that in the press communiqué, or perhaps in the daily press, it was said that one of the divisional officers with his party was attacked by the fituridars and that the party gave up all the ammunition and the arms in their possession."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, that officer was defeated and he had to retreat, and one of the party was killed. That is very different from saying

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

that the party surrendered their rifles. It has been suggested that the police abjectly surrendered their arms, and it is to correct that impression that I wanted to refer to the matter.

"My hon. friend who made this motion suggested, I think, that some kind of inquiry committee was needed. I do not think he is right in claiming that I made any promise to that effect. What I said was that inquiries would be made. But after hearing the discussion this morning I should almost be justified in saying that there is no room for inquiry. My hon. friends on the other side of the House have told us what the causes of the fituri were, and they claim to have local knowledge. But that is not my position, and so far as I am concerned, I am determined to get to the bottom of the whole business. Mr. Happell who is shortly going on leave owing to the reduction of the forces now about to take place, will write a report on the information which he has obtained and as soon as we get the report the question will be considered whether the fituri is or is not explained satisfactorily and whether any further inquiry is necessary. Until we get Mr. Happell's report, I must obviously suspend judgment altogether as to the causes of the fituri.

"There is another point incidentally referred to by my hon. friend across the table in regard to the trial of cases in connexion with fituri. He mentioned that eighteen village officers were tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and he suggested, I think, that this was in the nature of a persecution. I have no details of the particular cases in which the sentences were passed. But I assume that all the cases stood the test of the courts and it is only where the courts found the persons guilty that punishments were awarded."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I said the prosecutions were intended to strike terror in the minds of the people."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I take it that the prosecutions were intended for the purpose of punishing those who offended against the law."

"The main trend of this discussion was in connexion with the punitive police. One hon. Member said, perfectly rightly, that there was no reason why the general tax-payer should pay for the police which was found necessary to put down a local rebellion in the Agency. That is exactly the attitude which the Government have been adopting, and I am very glad to get that support from him. What we say is that our operations there are being prolonged by the attitude and conduct of the people who not only persistently refuse to give the police and our officers that assistance any law-abiding citizen ought to give us, but they go further and are helping what remains of the fituri gang. The gang has now been reduced to very small numbers, to something like 15 or 20 people. But we are still not able to catch them, and it is perfectly obvious that we cannot allow them thus to carry on month after month, perhaps even year after year.

"One hon. Member has reminded me that I have no personal knowledge of the Agency. That is true. But I am sorry that those hon. Members who claim some knowledge of the area have not come forward with any constructive suggestions or alternatives. If there is any suggestion which will go to help the Government in this matter I should only be too glad to receive it. But until some such suggestion is forthcoming the Government can only adopt the policy which seems best to them. It is perfectly legitimate in the

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

public interest—and I think that it is probably the only way to deal with the matter—to bring home to the people of the Agency their responsibilities and to ask them to help us in capturing the fituridars."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, the hon. Member for the Agency, in the course of his reply stated that he did not make any definite promise—"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"What I said was that I was not sure that I had made any such promise."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"I may only remind the hon. Member of what he said in his speech on the 13th November 1922. He said :

When we have put the fire out, it will be absolutely essential to try and discover the causes of it and the way in which to prevent further conflagrations. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, is inclined to think that some measure of conciliation is possible and he quoted a precedent from what my predecessor did in 1879 All I need add is to repeat that we have every intention to make the fullest possible investigation as soon as the conditions will allow us to do so. Mr. Huggins has recently joined as Agency Commissioner. (Hitherto we had only an acting man.) I hope to be able to see him next week and I shall not lose the opportunity of ascertaining from him as definitely as possible what the causes of the rebellion are as far as they are ascertainable, and I shall impress upon him the necessity of losing no opportunity of discovering what grievances there may be. I think it is most likely that there may be grievances which have to be redressed. I can assure the House that any information that we may get sooner or later on the subject will be fully laid before the House for information.

"Sir, my complaint is this, that after all the time that has elapsed, still we have not been able to know what the causes are that led to this rebellion, and the hon. Member in charge of the Agency portfolio has not brought to our notice his experiences and the results of his investigations.

"Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this, that it is not really a fact that the people there have not been helping the Government in the matter of putting down the rebellion. The people there are not an enlightened class. They do not understand their responsibilities as members of enlightened communities might do. They are troubled by the fituridars themselves. If the fituridars come to a village, the villagers have to give them supplies because the former force the supplies out of the villagers. And what do the police do? The police in their turn come and ask the villagers whether the fituridars had been given supplies. If they say 'yes', they are punished. I want to know if such people have been at all punished, and what is the sort of punishment that was meted out to the villagers who by sheer necessity and on being compelled to do so, had given supplies to the fituridars. Rumours come that they have been badly treated.

"On the other hand, there are instances where people have really come forward offering their services to help the Government. Take the case of the Maharaja of Jeypore. He has promised a donation of Rs. 50,000, out of which Rs. 25,000 have already been paid by him. That is what I learn; I speak subject to correction. But if this amount of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 25,000 has come into the hands of the Government I want to know where it is shown. Is there any separate account for donations received from private parties? Again, some twelve elephants were given by the Maharaja of Jeypore to help in the suppression of the rebellion, but no mention of it is found anywhere. Are there any other instances where the Government have got help from private individuals? It is a very sorry spectacle to find that the people who give their money and who give all possible assistance, should be told in the Council that they do not help the Government. When the hon. Member for

[Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo] [22nd March 1923]

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the Agency lays the charge on the people that they have not been helping the Government I rise to say that there are instances like the contribution from the Maharaja of Jeypore that ought to be appreciated in this House as also by the Government. What I mean is this, that the people have been rendering all possible assistance, and that the Government have been trying to secure some unimportant people from their rat-holes, as my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao put it the other day. It is not possible for all the people of the Agency to come and find out in which corner or in which recess of the forests these fituridars hid themselves and gave trouble.

"In the communiqué the Government have said that there is nothing to report. Evidently, the whole thing has been suppressed. Whether Sitaramaraju has fled from that part of the country or whether he is there, the Government are unable to say. What is the meaning of waiting and seeing whether this man is there or not, and whether his followers are there or not? It is possible that, while the Government is searching for them in one part of the country, they may have gone to another part of the country. Therefore what I say is this. The best thing for the Government will be to take away the cause of this rebellion, I mean to say the root cause of the trouble, and remove the police from that place. The Government have done one very good thing. They have promised rewards to the people who get hold of these rebels. That is, I think, enough for the purpose. I wish to know in this connexion whether the people, as I already stated, have not come to the rescue and help of the Government in this matter, and whether it is justifiable to accuse them of not coming to the assistance of the Government."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, one important question which has been raised in connexion with this motion is about the justification for the imposition of the punitive police in the Agency tracts. The communiqué to which attention has been drawn proceeds by saying that the Government received no information regarding the causes of the fituri and that there is nothing further to report. This being the state of affairs, one could ask for specially justifying circumstances for the imposition of the punitive police in the manner suggested. The hon. Mr. Knapp himself in the course of his remarks has told us that no enquiry has yet been made as to the causes of that disturbance."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I did not say that no enquiry was made, Sir. What I said was that we were waiting for the report of Mr. Happell before forming any judgment on the matter."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"From what the hon. Mr. Knapp stated, it seems that no final orders have been passed regarding the subject matter of the enquiry. He tells us that Mr. Happell is shortly to send his report and that after he sends his report, orders will be passed. He has not placed before us any information to show that the villagers concerned have been suspected of being in complicity with the fituridars. That was the only basis upon which the Government should have thought of imposing a punitive police force. In the absence of any information that the villagers have been directly or indirectly aiding these fituridars, it is I think unreasonable and unfair that a punitive police force should be placed there and that they should be called upon to pay for its cost. On the other hand, my hon. friends from the Agency tracts with actual experience of the state of affairs there, have placed before us certain

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facts showing that some of the people have been rendering help to the Government. My hon. friend, Mr. Rath, referred to the case of the Maharaja of Jeypore who had given substantial donations and also placed some of his elephants at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of helping them in quelling the rebellion. This shows that the people are willing to co-operate with the Government in putting an end to the fituri. We have no information to the contrary; and in the absence of any such information, I think we will not be justified in granting this provision for the punitive police in the Agency."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, the press communiqué to which reference has been made says that it has now become clear that some definite action should be taken to bring home to the people of the locality their responsibility, and that the Government are considering the quartering of a police detachment in the locality and recovering the cost thereof from the villagers under section 15 of the Police Act. I presume that no definite action has been taken as yet and that the Government has not yet come to any decision to quarter punitive police in the Agency. I should like to know whether I am right in saying that no decision has been come to, and my object of saying a few words at this stage is certainly to induce the Government not to quarter any punitive police in the Agency tracts. Our object in raising this question is to inform the Government that so far as the Agency people are concerned, they are a very simple-minded folk, who have very little to fall back upon. As has been stated in the previous discussion, the causes of this rebellion are partly economic. I believe attention was drawn to the report of Mr. Patro in the last discussion, and there is considerable force in the view that there are causes requiring investigation, causes requiring the improvement of the economic position of the people who live in the Agency. Sir, from this point of view, it seems to me that the quartering of the punitive police in the Agency tracts and asking the inhabitants there to contribute to its cost is really a proceeding which may bring about another fituri and another rising in that part of the country. We know very well that it is quite a different thing to quarter punitive police in Kamudi or Guntur or such other places where there is plenty of money: it is quite a different thing, apart from the question of the policy of it. But to quarter punitive police on the hill tribes who live from hand to mouth and on *podu* cultivation, is, I think with all due respect to those gentlemen who proposed this form of punishment a most unwise thing to do. Therefore I should think that this question of quartering a punitive police and recovering the cost from the villagers is one which certainly deserves much more consideration than it seems to have received from the Government."

"It is easy to make these proposals and much more easy to ask us to make constructive suggestions as the hon. Mr. Knapp has done in this debate. I think that the best constructive suggestion that we can make is to leave matters alone and not to trouble these people any further. It is said that Sitaramaraju, the author of this rising, is not to be found and that he is somewhere unknown. I do not know anything about the other two gentlemen referred to by the hon. Mr. Knapp. But all that I want to say is that I was recently in Vizagapatam and I was told that the result of all these operations was to drive Sitaramaraju slowly into the Central Provinces; and if this punitive police is to be quartered amid these unfortunate people, it may have

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the effect of pressing him still further into the Central Provinces. I see from the statements of various persons, that the villagers say 'The Government officers come round and ask us to carry their loads, and we do it. So also the fituridars come and ask us to carry their loads, and we do it. We are found fault with for doing the latter. What is it that we have done to deserve this treatment?' These are the hillmen among whom my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, proposes to quarter a punitive police force. There is no question of winking at fituridars. The whole question is whether by quartering this punitive police my hon. friend would be furthering the object for which he is quartering them, namely, the production of the fituridars before the officers of the Government. I do not believe that this will be the result. The result will be this: the police will be quartered in the Agency. They may have a very nice time there. They may shoot a number of tigers or panthers. They will probably quarrel with the hillmen for milk and fowl and various other things for which they will undoubtedly say that they will pay or that they have paid, or that they have no intention of not paying. All this will certainly go on, and at the end of six months or so, the question of further quartering the punitive police will be considered, and a number of reports will be received from the local officers that the man (Sitaramaraju) has not been produced. I do not think that even from the point of view of putting an end to the fituri, these people are going to do anything more than what they did in the past. Therefore, it is merely a question of considering the broad facts. The ultimate remedy which the Government seem to have thought of is this quartering of the police. They seem to think 'Don't enquire into the causes of the trouble. Quarter the police for some time and things will settle themselves.' We do not at all believe in this philosophy. We want to go to the bottom of this economic trouble. So far as the previous discussion is concerned, my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, seemed to have said that no enquiry was made—"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I say, Sir, that an enquiry has been in progress for the last five months? Until I get the report of 12 noon. Mr. Happell, as I said, I cannot come to any final conclusion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"We do not know that any enquiry is in progress. No press communiqué has been issued. Nobody has been asked about it. At any rate so far as the people of Vizagapatam are concerned, they do not seem to know anything about it. I do not know what sort of enquiry the hon. Member, Mr. Knapp, is thinking of. So far as the people are concerned, they have the right to demand a public enquiry. I have not heard of any single individual who knew the enquiry of Mr. Huggins. The Government may have the benefit of that enquiry, but I should think that this particular method of punishing the hill tribes is not wise. There is still time for the Government to come to a decision on the matter and I hope they will come to the right decision if they propose to abandon this idea."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"Sir, I know many of the zamindars have got Agency tracts under them, and I know that cordial relations exist between them and the hill tribes. It is only a few months back that I was told how cordially the hill men treated the Raja of Parlakimedi and how they even worshipped him like a tin god. But when we come to the Agency that is administered by the Government we hear quite a different tale. The reason is quite obvious. The reason is that the

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Government have not done their duty, have not fulfilled their high expectations towards the hillmen. In the Agency tracts, the executive have combined in themselves the functions of the High Court of Justice and the functions of the Governor. I appeal to the hon. Member in charge of the Agency to make a deep inquiry into the conditions prevailing there. In the Agency tracts the Deputy Tahsildar can do and is doing much more than what the Governor can do in the ordinary tracts. Such being the condition, I think it would be extremely unwise on the part of Government and extremely unwise on the part of this House to allow the existing state of things to continue, to allow the executive to have extraordinary powers and carry on a certain policy that is very much condemned by the people by virtue of powers vested in them under a certain Act.

"The hon. Member for Ganjam, Mr. Rath, has brought to light certain things. He has stated that the Maharaja of Jeypore has made certain contributions and that he has also reason to believe that certain other gentlemen have also made other contributions. I would ask the Government for an account of these contributions. Government, time after time, have been telling us that they had very little to give. I believe, if I remember the very words of the communiqué, they did not give very much information because there was very little information. If that be the condition, I believe it is extremely unwise and I repeat, with all the emphasis that I can command, that it would be extremely unwise on the part of the Government to post punitive police to watch people who always live from hand to mouth and on whom all sorts of oppression have been brought to bear and whose only happiness seems to be the tea-gardens of Assam. Fituris have been, I should say, rare because we have got this fituri after 35 or 40 years; and if this policy is repeated, I think we shall have more fituris and we shall have more of the mischiefs that we have heard of. The hon. Member in charge of the Agency tracts has promised us that he will make an inquiry. I am sorry, Sir, that at this late hour of the day he tells us that he has deputed Mr. Huggins to conduct an inquiry. I thought the promise that he gave involved a promise that he would take some non-officials into his confidence and would have an inquiry by officials and non-officials. I believe, Sir, I have the right to demand of the Government such an inquiry into the state of things. I think the people of the Agency tracts, wretched as they are, have the right to demand a better treatment at the hands of Government and this hon. House. Since I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Member I have no option but to press the motion to a division."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am not sure whether my hon. friend opposite took part in the debate held yesterday afternoon on the Demand under Agency Budget. I am only sorry that he did not then put forth some of the views that he now gives expression to. What he has been pointing out persistently is the necessity for spending a great deal of money to improve the economic condition of the people in the Agency which he tells us is at the bottom of the whole trouble. He has also asked us to bring under closer control the Deputy Tahsildars who are said to be exercising unlimited powers at present. If these are his views, he should have voted yesterday against a reduction of the Agency grant. But he has not done so."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I ask, Sir, is that the only way of controlling the officers or improving the condition of the Agency area?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"My hon. friend talks of the necessity of raising the economic condition of the unfortunate people of the Agency. He also referred to the fact that the Deputy Tahsildars were left more or less uncontrolled but the superior establishment which exists to control them it is now proposed to cut down."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I should be very sorry if that is the construction put on my speech and the speech of any other hon. Member of this House."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Repeated reference has been made to the promise that I am supposed to have made to start an inquiry last September. I doubt if my hon. friend has read the proceedings of the date in question. What I said was that it would be possible to arrive at a final decision only after inquiry. I mentioned incidentally that I was going to Narasapatam and should see Mr. Huggins myself and obtain his views. I did go there. Mr. Huggins had not at that time been right through the fituri country. For various reasons he could not do so. Mr. Huggins has taken every opportunity of getting what information was obtainable from those who were in a position to give information from actual knowledge—and in that definition, Sir, I do not include a gentleman who lives in Waltair; my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao complains that no one in Waltair was consulted."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My hon. friend has no right to say that I referred to Waltair. I said that no one in Vizagapatam knew of it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The fact is Mr. Huggins consulted very many people who actually knew at first hand what the facts were. In due course we will get Mr. Happell's report and not till then will it be possible for us to make up our minds. Reference has been made to the fact that the Maharaja of Jeypore has generously made certain contributions for the benefit of the forces operating in the area and there was a sort of suggestion that the money had disappeared."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"There was no suggestion that the money was disappearing, but certainly there is an allegation that the money is not shown in any account."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"When the hon. gentleman said that he had a right to demand an account, there was a sort of implication that if he did not demand it it would not be forthcoming."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"We ought to know where the amount is shown."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I may mention here, Sir, that a portion of money was paid yesterday."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Are we to understand that the portion that was paid yesterday was the first portion?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The first portion, Sir, was paid several weeks ago; it was handed over to Mr. Huggins to be distributed amongst the police. I am very doubtful, Sir, if this amount will appear in Government accounts. It was not a payment to Government. If the

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House is interested in the details, I may say that it was originally a payment in rice. The Maharaja of Jeypore converted that into money and handed over actual cash to Mr. Huggins. The first instalment was paid some weeks ago, and the second was paid yesterday."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Is it a voluntary payment or did the Government ask for it?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I do not think I am entitled to go into the motives of the Maharaja."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"It is not the motive that has to be gone into, Sir. I ask whether the Maharaja as an Agency chief, owning a large tract of the Agency, was asked by the Government for help."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"He has not been asked by the Government. I may suggest to my hon. friend to question the Maharaja himself in private rather than question me. I should like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Maharaja for his generosity. Our thanks have already been conveyed to him in a letter. In due course, when we receive Mr. Happell's report, further reference will be made to his gift. The suggestion now made appears to be that since the Maharaja has been so generous to the police, it is quite wrong to say that people in the Agency affected by the fituri have been backward in giving us help. I do not quite see the connexion. We do not accuse the Maharaja of harbouring fituridars. Nothing is farther from our minds. . ."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"What I meant was that there were people who, like the Maharaja, voluntarily gave donations for the suppression of the fituri."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I am not aware of contributions of a similar kind. If my hon. friend is aware of any, he can give an account of it."

"There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Ramachandra Rao as to what exactly is our position. He advised us to leave things alone. I must say that I am astonished at this suggestion. As the executive Government it is our duty to see that these criminals, the jam brothers and the Raju are caught, and I ask whether, in the opinion of the hon. Member, we should leave off all attempts to catch them and allow them to roam over the Agency free from prosecutions or anything of the kind."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I did not say that the criminals should not be got hold of. But I complained against the villagers being punished by the quartering of the punitive police. I certainly did not object to the attempts of my hon. friend to get hold of them if he had unlimited resources himself."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I am very glad to hear that, Sir, I was surprised to hear my hon. friend's advice to leave matters alone. Now he agrees that it is the duty of Government to try and catch these malefactors. It is for that purpose, Sir, that we are quartering the police."

Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"But it should not be at the expense of the people. That is the trouble."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I have tried to explain that the police would be there in any case. The hon. Member opposite has to my mind quite rightly said that if we are to have the police it is fair that the villagers who are to a certain extent responsible for not having the business finished should contribute. It is not to be supposed that the levying of such a tax from the villagers is going to reduce them to beggary. We understand just as well as my hon. friend that it is impossible to suppose that the people can pay any very substantial portion of the cost of maintaining the police. We may leave it to Mr. Huggins to see that such contributions towards the cost of the police as may be levied are not vindictive or oppressive but merely such as will suffice to bring the people to what I maintain is the proper frame of mind. If any one will give me any other practical method of managing this affair, I should be delighted to adopt it. And if they would help us to catch the people, I would willingly withdraw the police. But no other alternative has been suggested. Hon. Members tell us that the Agency people are very simple minded, and I maintain that this method of reminding them of their duties is a simple-minded remedy. It is not a question of these people being coerced by the fituridars. What we do object to is that even after the fituridars have passed a certain village, even when the villagers have seen the gang, they will never tell us until perhaps one or two days afterwards when the information is no use to the authorities. I do not think any reason has been shown for the hon. Members of this House to be alarmed at the suggestion of stationing a punitive police in the way in which I have just now described. I therefore hope that the demand will be granted."

The motion was put and lost.

The demand for the supplementary grant was then put and carried and the grant made.

IV

THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I beg to present the Report * of the Select Committee on the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill of 1922 and move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. Sir, the Bill has been published in the Gazette and copies of the same circulated to hon. Members of this House. To meet the criticisms offered from various quarters, considerable changes have been introduced in the Bill and on account of these changes the Bill has taken a somewhat altered shape. Accordingly, the Bill was republished in the Gazette in English and the chief languages of the Presidency. The reasons for these changes have been explained in the report and it is therefore unnecessary for me to detain the House at this stage with any lengthy explanation."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU seconded the motion.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I wish to take a technical objection to the introduction of this Bill. In the original Bill that was introduced, the Preamble stated as follows:

Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained to the passing of this Act . . .

* Vide page 59, Part IV of the *First St. George Gazette*, dated 6th March 1923.

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In the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the same wording is adopted in the Preamble. I wish to know whether the further sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained for the Bill as amended by the Select Committee. The provision with reference to the constitution of the Board of Commissioners was not originally made in the Bill; it appears for the first time in the amended Bill. Provision is also made for the imposition of taxes under Clause 77 of the amended Bill. No doubt there are several other alterations made in the Bill; but I think that the two provisions, namely, the constitution of a Board of Commissioners with large administrative, executive and judicial powers, and the imposition of taxes are so radical that the further sanction of the Governor-General is necessary for the introduction of this Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

"I also wish to point out to the House that the original Bill had only 45 Clauses, but the present Bill contains 79 Clauses and most of them embody new provisions, though they are of minor importance except in the case of those I have mentioned already. I also wish to draw the attention of the House to another important amendment, namely, the provision for the contribution by the religious institutions of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the Board and another $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the Committee. The religious institutions were hitherto contributing nothing to the Board and the Board was never contemplated in the original Bill. I, therefore, wish to know whether previous sanction has been obtained for the introduction of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee; if not, I take exception to the introduction of the Bill."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I am indebted to my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu, for having brought this point to the notice of the House. I may at once tell the House that recognizing that certain large changes were effected by the Select Committee, the Government of India were addressed on 23rd February 1923 to accord sanction for the new provisions adverted to by my hon. friend.

"It may be remembered that in G.O. No. 149, dated 18th July 1921, the Government have laid down that, if after the introduction of a Bill certain new provisions are introduced and the discussion of the Bill is proceeded with before the receipt of further sanction from the Governor-General, the Local Government shall cause the attention of the House to be drawn to the fact that such report for further sanction has been applied for and that sanction is awaited. It is now the intention of the Government to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Local Government have applied for sanction in their letter referred to above.

"I also wish to point out that Section 80-A of the Government of India Act says:

Provided that an Act or a provision of an Act made by a local legislature and subsequently assented to by the Governor-General in pursuance of this Act, shall not be deemed invalid by reason only of its requiring the previous sanction of the Governor-General under this Act.

It was with reference to the above proviso, and having regard to the desire on the part of the Government to obtain the previous sanction that a letter was addressed to the Government of India on 23rd February 1923 seeking their sanction for the introduction of this Bill. The House will observe that there has been no delay on the part of this Government."

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" My point of order is that this Bill shall not be proceeded with until the receipt of the further sanction of the Governor-General."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I overrule that objection, and allow the Bill to be proceeded with."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned for at least three months."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The motion is not specific. It simply says that the consideration of the Bill be adjourned for at least three months. I therefore rule it out of order."

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

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned till the Council meets in July next."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Council is not likely to meet in July next."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I rise to a point of order. You, Sir, ruled the last amendment as out of order owing to its indefiniteness. The present motion is to adjourn the consideration of the Bill to a meeting which is not yet fixed. Is not this also an indefinite motion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think this motion is indefinite."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Sir, the reasons for my making this motion are manifold. In the first place, the original Bill has been radically altered by the Select Committee. Secondly, the way in which this Bill is being rushed through the Council is objectionable. It has not been published in Oriya, which the Government has recognized as one of the chief languages of the Presidency. In this Presidency there are a million Kanarese-speaking people and the Government have thought it fit to publish the Select Committee Report in that language while they have not thought it fit to publish it in Oriya which is the language spoken by over two millions of people. I would not have cared for the omission to publish the Bill in Oriya but for the fact that there are a number of temples and mutts in the Ganjam district. Their income is something like 20 to 25 lakhs annually and they are adversely affected by this Bill. No opportunity has been given to the Oriya speaking population of this Presidency to know what is going on in this Council. I also wish to bring to the notice of this House that the interval between the publication of the Select Committee Report and the discussion is too short. The people have had no opportunity of deciding whether they are to accept the provisions of the Bill or to suggest amendments to them.

" For these reasons, Sir, and especially on the ground that the Bill has not been published in one of the chief vernaculars of the Presidency, I propose that its consideration be deferred till the Council meets in July."

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

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be deferred to a period three months hence.

Sir, it is not with a view to place any obstacles on the way of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that I bring this motion; on the other hand, I am very anxious that the course of this Bill should be smooth and uneventful. But somehow there is a presentiment in me, Sir, that there might be some difficulties in the working of this Bill. I am not a lawyer, but still I have been speaking about this Bill to a number of lawyers and they have told me that it bristles with many difficulties, that it aims at upsetting many long-standing privileges and that it is likely to evoke much bad blood. I will be the last person to see that anything emanating from this Council should be viewed with disfavour by the people outside, or be thought that it is undermining their safety or well-being. Religion is a very difficult and thorny ground on which none would like to tread and the Englishmen have so far wisely refrained from trespassing on it. In these days when what Hinduism is cannot properly be defined, when what a Hindu is is a matter of very great difficulty to ascertain, when there are many who are born in the Hindu religion but who, at the same time, have no respect for the Hindu religion as such, and when there are caste and internal differences springing up, a Bill embracing the whole field of Hindu religion is one which is bound to meet with a lot of opposition and trouble in its working. There are many other considerations also, Sir, of a similar nature which make me rather anxious that such a Bill should be well thought out and that every community should be offered a reasonable amount of time to discuss the *pros* and *cons* of it before it is passed into an Act.

" For these few reasons, Sir, I beg to make the motion that I have tabled."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, the Bill revised by the Select Committee has been so materially altered both in substance and in drafting that it is of the utmost importance that sufficient time must be allowed to the public to express their opinion on the new provisions. Even in the Select Committee the new provisions had not that careful and deliberate consideration which they deserved and the report is not unanimous. The creation of the Central Board of Charity Commissioners to sit in judgment over the local committees is a fundamental change in the original Bill and it has already created a feeling of alarm and consternation throughout the Presidency. This constitution of the Central Board has given rise to entirely new problems with regard to the financing of the scheme of control; and there are many other points of material importance which are very difficult to solve in the short time we have had at our disposal between the publication of the Select Committee's Report and the introduction of the Bill in the legislature. Further, it has not been published in all the vernaculars of the Presidency. We have no accurate data available at present with regard to the resources of the several endowments, and all the suggestions put forward till now are based upon surmises and possibilities. There is every room for doubt whether the 3 per cent proposed to be raised from the income of endowments will be sufficient to maintain such a costly agency as the one contemplated by the Bill.

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"The cry is raised everywhere that the new agency of control is more objectionable than the provisions in the original Bill. It is not to be forgotten that the Board is not merely an administrative body, but it is also vested with judicial powers which are final in many matters. An attempt is made in the Bill to successfully oust the authority of the established courts of law to which the public are accustomed to resort for settling their disputes. When the District Courts can tackle the question of abuses most effectively with the experience of local conditions, and at less cost to the parties concerned, the Bill proposes to drag the litigants to Madras, with all their paraphernalia of witnesses, and bundles of records, and make them squander their money in expensive train fare and other things, besides causing them a great amount of inconvenience and worry.

"In spite of so much of protest that was raised throughout the length and breadth of the country against the inclusion of *mutts* in the original Bill, the report of the Select Committee has not excluded them from the operations of the modified Bill. The *mutts* are holy institutions presided over by *sanyasins* who are the exponents of one or other of the numerous tenets of the Hindu religion. Moreover, there are many questions of law to be decided before any foreign agency can exercise control over the funds of *mutts*. There is a great misconception that the Matadhipathi is also, like the heads of other endowments, a mere trustee. 27 Madras, 435 says that the head of a *mutt* is not a trustee, but a life tenant. To make the heads of *mutts*, *gurus* of a section of the public who are held in great esteem, subservient to another agency is to humiliate them in the eyes of their disciples and also of the general public. The Queen's Proclamation clearly lays down:

We shall abstain from all interference with the religious beliefs or worships of any of our subjects

and it is upon this solemn declaration that the mutual relations between the subject and the Crown stand. The Bill, if passed into law, would be a direct violation of the Queen's Proclamation, and subversive of all ancient usages, customs and rights of Hindus.

"There are many other questions of paramount importance in the scope and nature of the Bill, such as the provisions relating to the application of surplus funds, which are capable of alteration in the light of public criticism. The recommendations of the Select Committee were published in the Press only as late as March 8th, and sufficient time has not yet elapsed for public opinion to mature and give expression to the solution of intricate problems connected with the Bill. Further, this is not a matter of such grave public importance as to justify it to be hurried through the legislature. The abuses that were being perpetrated in the religious endowments for the last fifty years will not in any way be materially worsened, by allowing some more time to elapse, until at least opinion is clearly expressed on the various issues connected with the Bill. Further, there has been no demand from the parties themselves for the introduction of such a Bill. A grave responsibility lies on this Legislature if they allow the Bill to be rushed through the Council. The cry of religion in danger is raised in every quarter, and, in this case, not without grounds; and the acceptance of the Bill may lead to consequences which we cannot foresee. We may be paving the ground for a storm of agitation and protest, unparalleled in the annals of British Rule in India.

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"Further, what is the hurry to rush this Bill through the Council? Is the party in power afraid that if they let go this opportunity, they will have no other occasion to introduce this Bill? If so, I can assure the hon. the Minister that a time will certainly come, and that shortly, when he may introduce it. Let the party wait. The next election is not far off. Let the election be fought out on this issue and if they succeed in getting a mandate from the country to that effect, let them introduce the Bill. With these few words, I support the motion for the adjournment of the consideration of this Bill."

MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, the motion standing against my name and which I beg leave to move runs as follows:—

That the discussion of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned to the first meeting in the next session of the Legislative Council.

As I do not think that at this stage it is necessary for me to enter into any detailed criticism of a constructive character on the various provisions of the Bill, I shall confine myself to a few remarks of a general character which bear on the question which is immediately before the House for consideration. I shall submit for the consideration of the House a few facts which, I hope, will incline hon. Members to take the view which I wish them to take, viz., that there is hardly any necessity to rush the Bill through at this stage.

"Sixty years have rolled by since Act XX of 1863 was placed on the Statute Book. So far as the Select Committee's report and the amended Bill are concerned, we had copies of them only on the 12th after we came here to the Council meeting; and last Sunday, when I was in my constituency and when I wanted to gauge public opinion, most of my lawyer friends and laymen found themselves unable to help me with any suggestions owing to the fact that either they had not a copy before them, or they had not had sufficient time before them to focus their attention on a proper consideration of the Bill. Hon. Members of this House may be fully aware of the fact that, while this House was flooded with criticisms of a detailed character on the original Bill, the criticisms on this altered Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, have not been numerous. Far from that being invoked as an argument in favour of rushing the Bill through, I would venture to submit that that is a fact which entirely lends support to the position which I ask the House to take up. The paucity of criticism on the Bill as it has emerged out of the Select Committee is not due to any unanimous support which the amended Bill has received at the hands of the public, it is not due to any sense of appreciation or approbation on their part regarding the various provisions of the Bill, which seem to me to be far more drastic than the provisions of the original Bill, but it is mainly due to the ignorance that pervades the community as a whole by reason of want of proper facilities having been afforded to them. It is from this aspect and from this view that the absence of criticisms ought to be viewed. Moreover, in a matter like this touching vitally the religious feelings of the community, one is tempted to sound a note of warning that it is incumbent upon us to proceed with caution. The measure before us deeply affects our religious feelings and it is fraught with serious possibilities. The people have had no sufficient time before them, and there is absolutely no reason why we cannot

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afford to wait for three or four months more and thereby enable the public to help us with their criticisms. Probably, the hon. the Minister, or somebody else from the Treasury Bench may confront us by saying that as many as 1,300 amendments have been received and that is a reason why we could get on with the Bill. So far as the amendments are concerned, some of them have been sent up by hon. Members out of their personal view of the provisions of the Bill without receiving any extraneous assistance, or deriving any material support from their constituency. In a matter like this, when we, the representatives of the people, are called upon to give our assent to a legislation which affects vitally and fundamentally the interests of the people, it is the people's voice that should prevail, the people's voice as reflected in this Council through their representatives. A cycle of 60 years has already passed and I do not think there will be any harm in waiting for another three months. Therefore I appeal to hon. Members opposite to give their assent to the motion before the House."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" Sir, I beg to move the following:—

That the discussion of the Madras Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned to the first meeting in the next session of the Legislative Council.

Sir, I take this opportunity for thanking the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for introducing this Bill; but I do not quite agree with him in his attempt to rush the Bill through the House with all haste. The Legislative Council is a deliberative body and in a matter like this it should have sufficient time and sufficient material for coming to any conclusion, because its conclusions are important and binding on the executive. The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has placed all the materials before us; some of them we got to-day and some we got only a few days back, and the hon. Members of this House had hardly the time to go through these details minutely, as they were busy with the Budget. The hon. the Minister was kind enough to tell the House that the Select Committee had altered the Bill; but I should rather think that the Bill has been thoroughly changed in most of its important aspects. I for one do not like to discuss the necessity of taking the permission of the Government of India or any such thing; but what I would request is that sufficient time should be given to the people and to hon. Members of this House to think over the question very deeply. Then, Sir, the hon. the Minister was kind enough also to say that the Bill was translated into all the principal languages of this Presidency. I think the Minister has done a wrong to my community, Sir, a wrong to the Oriya language, by saying that he has translated the report of the Select Committee into all the principal languages—if we look at the census report we shall find that the Oriyas come to a fourth in the Presidency in point of numerical strength.

"The hon. the Minister was kind enough to publish the Bill and the report of the Select Committee in Kanarese, a language which is spoken by fewer people than the Oriya language. Further the Oriya country is studded with mutts and temples. A great author has remarked that the country is a country of temples and tabernacles. In these circumstances this House will not be justified in shutting off its gates to the claims of a community which has the misfortune to be represented by

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only few members. Therefore, Sir, I move the motion standing against my name."

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

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, posted to 22nd instant, be adjourned to a day six months from that date.

In doing so, I submit that I am not behind any other in my respect and affection for the hon. the Chief Minister, because, firstly, he was my classmate and I had always a high admiration for his calmness, dignity and consideration for any subject that was placed before him even in his college days, and, secondly, because he has persevered in that dignity and calmness, as is evident from his conduct in this Council, for the last two and a half years. Therefore, Sir, if I rise to tender this motion for adjournment it is not with a view to thwart him in the attempt to do a good thing to the country. Rather, it is in the interest of the very party in power which is believing that it is doing some good to the country that I request that party not to hurry even with a good thing lest it might be misconstrued by the people at large. It is with that view that I tabled this motion for adjournment. From what has already taken place, the evil of hurried legislation can be seen. The Bill that was first introduced into this House was not before the public for a long time before it was actually introduced. It was before the public only for about two weeks. Now, Sir, I would ask: Does the Bill that has been sent up by the Select Committee to this Council bear any resemblance to the original Bill that was introduced into this Council? This shows that in the shortness of time which the Select Committee had to deliberate over this Bill they found many defects, many omissions and many commissions which they thought should not be in the Bill.

"Now, this Bill was first published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 6th instant in English and the copies were placed in our hands only about the 10th or the 11th, and it was published in the chief vernaculars only in the last week's gazette, i.e., on the 13th. The people are mostly versed only in the vernaculars, and they must get copies of these gazettes; they must go through them and they must understand what the provisions are which have been introduced into the revised Bill by the Select Committee. I ask, Sir, whether a fair time has been given to the public to consider this question and to formulate their grievances and instruct their representatives in the Council as to what they should do? I submit that sufficient time has not been given at all and that is the reason why this motion has been tabled. Let us see what the majority of the Select Committee have done. The original Bill has been elaborated and added to considerably, so much so that the usual practice of putting in the amendments in bold types could not be followed in this case. Then there are very many views and provisions which are very extraordinary and which, in my opinion, require to be notified and published so that the people may consider and formulate what they like in this matter. For instance the views that have been expressed about the *maths* in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the majority report are very extraordinary. Similarly, a new class of temples which was not in the original Bill, viz., excepted temples, has been introduced. Similarly, a Board of Commissioners to guide, control and co-operate with the Committees and to deal directly with the *maths* and excepted temples has been constituted. This is essentially

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an administrative body, but it is given judicial powers to inquire into and hear appeals. Again, Sir, the Government have substituted their own audit for private audit, which was originally existing in the original Bill. The Madras City has been included now. Regulation VII of 1817 is now sought to be repealed; it was not sought to be so done in the original Bill. The old definitions are now gone and new terms such as *maths*, temples, etc., are newly defined. We find, Sir, with reference to the constitution of the Board and the Committee, very many changes.

"Then, with reference to the religious endowments in general, certain registers are sought to be kept and it may be noticed that a course that will be resented by every self-respecting head of a *math* is suggested, viz., that the Board of Commissioners is to give directions to them and to give orders. The heads of maths are to be controlled in such a way as to compel them to keep and render accounts. Those that have no knowledge as to what the attitude of *sishya* and *guru* is, may not realize the magnitude of the gravity of this provision. This means that a lay Board should direct and issue orders to the spiritual heads of institutions who are held in the greatest veneration and who are not called upon to account for what they have done either in this world or in the next world. I say, these provisions are quite new, and the experience of the heads of the maths will be quite new hereafter. In view of the sentiments of the people, I submit that this experience will be very revolting to them and to the heads of the maths.

"Then, Sir, there is much alteration in the power of the trustee, hereditary as well as non-hereditary; there are changes in the power of the Board to settle schemes; there are changes in the application of the endowment funds; and there are changes in the application of the Civil Procedure Code in regard to the power of the Advocate-General in the matter of suits. There are also changes in regard to court-fees and electoral qualifications. All these are provisions about which considerable modifications and additions have been made in the new Bill. Well, Sir, does this not entitle the public at large to say that they want more time to consider the new Bill? I have already said that it is not the object of my motion to thwart the Bill, and that it is intended only to request the hon. the Minister to postpone the consideration of this Bill by six months, so that people may know where they are and how they will be affected, and shape their conduct accordingly.

"Again, Sir, so far as this Council is concerned, we are just given copies of the several amendments that have been proposed to this Bill. Only to-day at 11 o'clock they were placed in our hands. I find that they consist of more than 600 amendments. Though I have myself given notice of certain amendments, I must know what is the nature of the amendments that have been suggested by the other Members of this Council. Moreover, Sir, we require sometime to give notice of amendments to some of the amendments, if necessary. Where is the time for all this? Why should there be any hurry in passing this legislation which affects the Hindu religion? On this subject I would request the party in power to be very careful, more careful than even the British Government. The British Government have professed neutrality till now and you having come into power wish to take up a subject in which certainly there are certain abuses which you wish to rectify. So much for your advantage and so much has to be said to your credit. But let it be done calmly, quietly and in a dignified manner, so that it may be

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said that you have done this thing for the everlasting good of the country and not that you have done it in a hurry—a hurry in which you have done more harm than good. With these few words, I move this motion."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, the motion that stands in my name runs thus:

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned to the next session of the Legislative Council.

Sir, my chief reason for the postponement of this motion is that this Bill has not been published in Malayalam in due time."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"It has been published in Malayalam, Sir."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Not in due time, Sir."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There is no time-limit prescribed, Sir."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, in Malabar, almost every gentleman is a trustee of some temple or other. My constituency consists of 210 voters who are trustees of temples. In this connexion, I may be permitted to inform the House that at a meeting held at Pattambi it was resolved to request this House to adjourn this motion for the consideration of the Bill.

"Sir, there is one aspect of the question to which I want to draw the attention of the House, and that is, it is for the first time in the history of Malabar that the religious endowments are sought to be managed by the Government. The previous laws on the subject, viz., Act VII of 1817, etc., did not apply to Malabar. As this is the first occasion when these endowments are interfered with, it is desirable that the people whom it affects should be given an opportunity for discussing it in detail. I appeal to the hon. the Minister to consider this point and postpone consideration of this Bill till the next session. I may also say that I have not the least objection for taking it up in July, and if there is no time in July, the Local Boards Bill may be postponed and this may be taken up. With these few words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have waited in vain to be enlightened as to the correctness of the position taken up by the hon. Members opposite in moving for an adjournment. They have argued at length, but, Sir, all the same I remain as unconvinced as I had been before. The two hon. Members from Ganjam objected to the consideration of the Bill and asked for adjournment on the ground that the Bill was not published in the Oriya language. My reply is that publication in Oriya is not obligatory and that most of the Bills have not been published in that language. The original Bill in this case was not published in Oriya."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"I wish to know which Bill has not been published. Every other Bill that was passed by the Government was published in Oriya and this is the only instance where it has not been so published."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I shall furnish him with that information later. Anyhow, Oriya is not a chief vernacular of the province."

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"I take exception to that statement. Government have said in the past that Oriya is a chief vernacular of the Presidency. The hon. the Raja of Panagal in his days of public life had said in so many words that Oriya was a chief language of the Presidency and that it should be given that recognition. I would refer him to a certain speech he made in which he said like that. Perhaps he has now changed his views."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I did not in the least suggest any reflection on the linguistic merits of the language. But I say, taking into consideration the population who speak Oriya language, that that language cannot be considered as a chief language in the sense that Tamil or Telugu is."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Is it justifiable that in such an important measure as this the Bill should not be published in the Oriya language, even though some minor Bills were not published in that language in the past?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I have already answered that question. I do say that the circumstance that this Bill has not been published in Oriya cannot be a sufficient reason for the adjournment of the Bill."

"My hon. friends from Ganjam, and Messrs. C. B. Rama Rao and U. Rama Rao, objected to the consideration of the Bill on the ground that the Reformed Government was interfering with the religious institutions of the Hindus. They referred to the proclamation of the Great Queen, and said that that proclamation insisted on strict religious neutrality. But the position of the Government now has considerably changed from what it had been during the Queen's time. Now, religious endowments form the portfolio of a responsible Minister, and for any action taken by the Minister in regard to them he is answerable to the Legislative Council consisting mainly of Hindu Members. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar said that apparently there was no demand for the Bill."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I never said that there was no demand for the Bill."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Then, what is your objection to the motion?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I have already stated it at length."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Another gentleman, Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, objected to the consideration of the Bill, because it was not published in Malayalam. As a matter of fact, it was published in Malayalam, and when this was pointed out, he said that it was not done so in time. He also referred to the fact that the Act of 1863 and the Regulation of 1817 are not applicable to Malabar. But what about sections 92 and 93 of the Civil Procedure Code? They are applicable to Malabar. Sir, so far as I am able to gather, the hon. Members in favour of the adjournment have not made out a case for the adjournment of the Bill. If I should accede to the demand for adjournment, what would follow? The hon. Members themselves say that elections will come off before the Bill is again taken up for consideration. If the elections were to intervene during the pendency of the Bill, I am afraid those who are reported to be not very scrupulous as to

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how they use trust funds would have an opportunity to try to tamper with the electorates, and the result would be disastrous to the interests of the unfortunate institutions. Therefore, it is that I think it would be inexpedient to have the consideration of the Bill adjourned."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"One of the motions for the adjournment of the Bill states that the consideration of the Bill be postponed till the Council meets in July, and another, that it should be put off, if not to July, at least to the first meeting of the next session of the Legislative Council. I am sorry to notice that the hon. the Minister in charge of the Bill has not been in a position to appreciate the reasons put forward for the postponement of this Bill. The last argument suggested by him is somewhat disappointing. He suggests that, if this Bill is postponed in view of the coming elections, those who are affected by this Bill, such as the landlords, the trustees of temples, and *matadhipatis*, will tamper with the elections and that therefore on political reasons he cannot agree for postponing the consideration of this Bill. I have greater faith in the good sense of the electors than my hon. friend has. I am quite certain that the electorate, consisting as it does not merely of trustees of temples, office holders, etc., but also of various persons who are equally interested in the management of such temples, should be given an opportunity to say whether they would accept this Bill or not; and the hon. the Minister must accept their decision as the correct thing. That is the main feature of the democratic institution in which we are working."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"A word of personal explanation, Sir. My only observation was that, if we allowed this Bill to be adjourned at this stage, those who had been abusing the trust funds would be tempted to utilize this opportunity to try to tamper with the elections."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"On behalf of the electorate, I may say that the people are wise enough not to be tempted, not to fall, or be snared into the hands of those who are likely to tempt them. I have a great faith that this democracy, consisting of millions of people, will guard itself against the influence of *matadhipatis*, landlords, or trustees of temples."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I wish it were so."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Therefore, Sir, I would suggest to the House that that argument need not be considered. On the other hand, what I would urge is this. If this question has really raised any divergence of opinion from all sections of the people and from all parts of the Presidency, is it or is it not wise that, in view of the coming elections, persons who take a real interest in this question should ascertain the views of the electorate? Are we, without hearing the views of the electorate, to state that in the coming elections people will be tempted to do all possible mischiefs, and that therefore we should avoid that issue being put before the country? I think that arguments, such as those advanced by the hon. the Minister, are not reasons which must induce the House to decline the postponement of this measure."

"Now, it has been pointed out that translations of this Bill have been published in some vernaculars, though not in all. The question is, when were they published? So far as I know, they were published in the main vernaculars in the *Gazette* of the 13th instant, and they must have reached the

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mufassal districts either on the 14th, 15th or the 16th instant. Hon. Members who are opposing the consideration of this Bill are not satisfied that the amount of time that has been allowed since the publication in the vernaculars is sufficient to give notice to all persons who know only their vernaculars, and who wish to take a real interest in questions like these. If hon. Members are not satisfied that the time allowed since the publication in the vernaculars has been sufficient, then they are quite justified in opposing this motion. I may also point out that, so far as the new Bill that has emerged from the Select Committee is concerned, there have been fundamental alterations made by the Select Committee upon which it is desirable that we should ascertain the views of the country.

"I do not want to go into the details of the Bill, but I wish to refer to certain particular portions. Let me take the case of excepted temples. Inasmuch as you have excepted in the report of the Select Committee certain temples whose trustees are wealthy zamindars, and because that distinction has been made, we find several amendments have been suggested for the purpose of increasing the number of excepted temples. This question of excepted temples has given rise to several motions and to petitions from those who are connected with the respective temples in order to have them excluded from the operation of this Bill. For instance, we have received representations from the Dikshitar of Chidambaram temple, the Udipi mutt, etc.; and in respect of all these you have to create a distinction, because in the report of the Select Committee it has been deliberately stated that, in view of certain wealthy landlords and zamindars who are making valuable contributions, and also for other reasons, it has been found necessary to exclude certain temples. Now we have got a multitude of amendments, about 800 in number, and suggestions have been made in them for excluding several temples on one ground or another. Can we honestly say, if we can come to a satisfactory conclusion, as to what temples are to be excluded and what not within the very short time that has been given to us to consider, in the face of the so many changes that have been made by the Select Committee?"

"Another thing that I wish to refer to is the question of the Central Board. It will be found that, so far as this question is concerned, there has been a divergence of opinion in the past. In the Bill of 1875 and 1876 there was a provision made for a Central Board. Subsequently when we came to Justice Muttuswami Ayyar's Committee on this matter, the idea of Central Board was given up; and they deliberately referred to the previous decisions for introducing a Central Board and held that, though there was something to be said in favour of the appointment of a Central Board, in the face of the directions of the Government of India to the contrary, they did not proceed with the question of Central Board. No doubt the Government of India have given their consent to the introduction of this Bill, but are we in a position to say that they have given their consent to the appointment of a Central Board? The hon. the Law Member has just told us in reply to an enquiry from one of the hon. Members of this House, that the Government of India has been addressed in the matter, but that they have not received any reply. He only referred to section 80-A of the Government of India Act and stated that there was nothing illegal in proceeding with this Bill, because it would not be invalidated on that account. That is not a point which I raise for the purpose of questioning the correctness of the ruling. It is a matter for consideration that the idea of the Central Board has been raised for the

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first time in the Select Committee. It is necessary, therefore, that we should ascertain the views of the people affected on this matter before we proceed with the Bill.

"Another point to which I wish to refer is this: that in the case of similar Bills, elaborate enquiries were held before they were actually introduced. In England they appointed a committee in 1813, and it was followed by a royal commission. Subsequent to that there was a Committee of the House of Commons and in this manner there were elaborate enquiries at every stage."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"We have had such enquiries during the last fifty years. Probably once in every five years."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I wish to point out that in other countries, there were full enquiries made in the case of the charitable Trusts Act and other such Acts before the Bills were passed. After the Act of 1863 was passed, we have had the Bill of Justice Muttuswami Ayyar's Committee, and other Bills. In all these committees except that a few changes were made, nothing more has been done. Then I ask my hon. friend whether any deliberate enquiry was made as to the history of these temples before the introduction of the Bill and what precautions have been taken in the case of excepted temples. We find in the provisions of the new Bill that the Committee or the Board to be appointed should frame a register and give full account. My point is that these enquiries should have been made and the information should have been made available to the public, before the Bill was brought forward."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"It seems to me altogether unnecessary to examine the various provisions of the Bill in a consideration of a motion for putting off this Bill."

1-15 p.m. It seems to me altogether unnecessary to say that the Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, is entirely a new Bill and has very little resemblance to the one which it has superseded. Sir, my hon. friend, the Minister, said that he looked in vain for an argument to convince him and he said that he was as little convinced as he was when the motion was made. Sir, it is very difficult to convince my hon. friend: it is an herculean task. The only gentlemen, so far as I know, who are adepts at convincing my hon. friend and his colleagues, are the gentlemen who support him in this House (hear, hear). The conviction or rather the conversion that seems to come from his own supporters always is a conviction which is very different from the one which comes from the opposite benches (hear, hear). My friend said that in all parliamentary assemblies the Opposition was generally looked to for the purpose of seeing whether a measure was reasonable or whether the Opposition purpose of seeing whether a measure was reasonable or whether the Opposition that was offered to it was based upon substantial grounds. But here my hon. friend seems of course to be unconvinced. My hon. friends, Mr. Usman Sahib and Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, are the gentlemen who certainly support that conviction in the minds of the Minister, but whether any convictions flow from those arguments is a matter for him to consider. I do not wish to say anything further as to the question whether any conviction can come from any arguments pressed by us. But, Sir, the suggestion made by my hon. friend for not acceding to our request is the strangest that I have heard from gentlemen who say that they are the representatives of the democracy. My hon. friend, the Minister, has made very grave reflections on the electorate of this Presidency. He said that gentlemen would abuse their trust, go about and tamper with the electors, and when some further opinion was sought

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to be elicited he said he wished it was not so, thereby confirming the reflections that he made on the electors. Their readiness to be tampered with seemed to be a settled conviction with my hon. friend."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There is a shade of difference between what my hon. friend states and what I said. What I said was that they would be tempted to tamper with the electorates. It does not necessarily mean that the people would allow themselves to be tampered with. An attempt may be made by those who are interested in seeing things go on as they do at present. I do not think there is much force in my hon. friend's criticism."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"My hon. friend is trying now to exculpate the charge made against them, and he wishes to confine the charge to those who are now abusing their trust, rather who are reported to be abusing their trust. Now, my friend is receding step by step from the position which he took up" (laughter).

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I said those who are reported to be not very scrupulous in using trust funds."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I did hear what my hon. friend said. Certainly I have no objection to what he said. He has to be doing so every now and then" (laughter).

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I did say 'reported to be abusing the trust funds'."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Well, all that I can say is that he charged both the electors and the tamperers. There is one issue apart from the result of the motion. If there is one issue which my hon. friend will submit as an issue of first-rate importance to the electorate, it is this question of the reform of religious endowments. My hon. friend is afraid to submit it to the electorate at the coming elections. I do not say we desire it. If that is his intention, I do not see why he should not do it. Well, Sir, having said that that is a very strange reason which he has advanced and that it is not at all one which should at any rate be convincing to the House, I only wish to make a few more remarks. Without the slightest desire to put off this much-needed reform longer than is needed, I think it is one of those cases which should be brought up at the next meeting of the Council. Whether it is in July, or in August, or in June, it is not a matter in which we are particularly interested. I should think that there is a general desire that this Bill should be bettered. We have many provisions which are entirely new, and it is all the more reasonable and necessary that those who will be affected by this Bill, either as trustees or personal worshippers, or as those who are interested in the religious institutions, should have a clear idea of the measure so that they may offer such criticisms as there may be as regards the provisions of this Bill. I think it is an essential thing which my hon. friend will have to look into. The Bill should not be considered as a party measure. We are anxious to see certain reforms in religious institutions. I venture to think that a measure of this importance, which has waited from 1868 and was reviewed by various committees, can as well wait for another two months or a month and a half. If my hon. friend would put on the statute book a measure which is being criticized, certainly he will have every reason to congratulate himself. But if he wishes, by opposing this motion, to rush this measure, it is certainly open to him to do so. As regards

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the competence of such a thing he knows that there are people with whose help he can rush through this Bill. I do not wish to make this a bone of contention and I therefore venture to think that my friend should see this matter in the light in which we have put before him."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I move that the Question be now put."

The motion for closure was put and carried.

The motion to take the Bill into consideration was put and carried. A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 30. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 31. " W. P. A. Saundara Pandiya Nadar. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 32. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. |
| 4. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 33. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 5. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 34. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. |
| 6. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 35. " S. Somasundara Pillai. |
| 7. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 36. " P. Subbarayan. |
| 8. Rai Bahadur N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar. | 37. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 9. Mr. C. Madhavan Nayar. | 38. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 39. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 11. Rao Sahib T. Thangavelu Pillai. | 40. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 12. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 41. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |
| 13. " C. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 42. Mr. S. Muttumanickachari. |
| 14. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 43. " A. T. Palmer. |
| 15. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 44. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 16. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 45. Raja of Ramnad. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 46. Quadir Nwas Khan Sahib Bahadur. |
| 18. " T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 47. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 19. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 48. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib. |
| 20. Rao Bahadur O. Thanikachala Chettiyar. | 49. Khan Sahib Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahiman Sahib. |
| 21. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 50. Mr. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaak Sahib. |
| 22. " K. A. Kandaswami Kandar. | 51. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 23. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 52. Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib. |
| 24. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 53. Rao Sahib M. C. Madura Pillai. |
| 25. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 54. " P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 26. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | |
| 27. Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | |
| 28. " P. T. Rajan. | |
| 29. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Panja. | |

Noes.

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| 1. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur. | 11. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 2. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu. | 12. Rai Bahadur T. Narasimha Chari. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur S. R. M. M. Pethachi Chettiyar. | 13. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. | 14. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 5. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon. | 15. Sriman Sasibhushana Rati Mahasayo. |
| 6. " A. Thangavelu Nayar. | 16. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao. | 17. " M. R. Setaratnam Ayyar. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. " K. Prabhakaran Iampam. |
| 9. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 19. Diwan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbujadoss. |
| 10. " M. Suryanarayana. | 20. Rao Bahadur T. Numbermal Chettiyar. |

Fifty-four voted for the motion and 20 against. The motion was carried.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I move that the further consideration of the Bill be adjourned to to-morrow morning. 1-30 p.m. There has been some delay in printing and circulating the amendments. They were circulated rather late last night and it would be convenient to hon. Members if the further consideration of the Bill is taken up to-morrow."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I second the motion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the hon. Member's motion. I propose that instead of 'to-morrow' 'some day next week' be substituted. I did not want to take part in the last debate as I was doubtful as to what should be done in this matter. I was carefully watching for the reasons that might be given by both sides. I certainly expected very good suggestions or reasons from the hon. the Minister not only for opposing a long adjournment but also for immediately taking the Bill into consideration. No doubt he gave some reasons for not postponing it long. But one of those was the fresh elections. I have always admired his wisdom in using just the necessary words and also his wisdom in not using unnecessary words, and I wish in this connexion he had not used the words which he used regarding the elections. If really the opposing of this Bill is going to result in the fact that a lot of people are going to spend public money for the purpose of election . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I believe the hon. Member's proposal is to adjourn the further consideration of the Bill to some day next week, and the hon. the Minister's motion is to adjourn it to to-morrow morning. I think the hon. Member had better confine himself to the merits of these two proposals."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I do not want a long adjournment. I want an adjournment for only one week. The Report of the Select Committee was given on the 12th. Several Members have added notes of dissent. We were asked to send our amendments before the 15th. There had hardly been any time to go through the report and send the amendments. Amendments are pouring in, as it were. Yesterday in the midnight we received one batch of amendments; a second batch we received this morning and a third batch just a while ago, and we are not sure whether there may not be a fourth batch. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill should realize that we have had no time to consider all these amendments. There was hardly any time to study all this before we came to the House. We have already two volumes of matter connected with this Bill and to-day we have got another volume, and this volume takes us into the history half a century back. Are we not to read all this before we deal with this Bill? Is it not expected that we should read all these? It may be said that it is the decision of the House. But the decision of the House is the decision of the party in power; the decision of the party is the decision of the leaders and the decision of the leaders is the decision of the Minister in charge. Then, we are all unnecessary. The speeches that we make should be reasonable. Again, there is one amendment regarding the Chidambaram temple. The amendment may be perfectly relevant. But should we not go through the various clauses carefully and see whether these amendments are reasonable or not? Is not the hon. Minister himself to see that some of these amendments at least are carefully gone through and considered and then decided upon? If the considered opinion of the House is wanted, it is necessary that some time should be given to the House. Many hon. Members know how they have been bombarded with petitions and prayers after the Bill was published in the vernaculars. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill knows how many people have appealed to him. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, and other hon. Members know how they have been bombarded as regards the Chidambaram and Tirupati

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22nd March 1923] temples. Various suggestions are still coming in. I think that in this case the six days' time for amendments should not be adhered to. I, therefore, suggest that the Bill may be taken up some day next week so that, in the meanwhile, we may be able to go through the voluminous record. We may consult among ourselves and see what amendments will be more reasonable and may be moved, and we may eliminate some by mutual consent. This would save the time of the Council to a great extent. I don't want that amendments should be moved unnecessarily. Therefore, if really any reasonable and serious discussion is wanted, I think this Bill should be taken up some day next week. This is a very reasonable request and I do not think the hon. Minister will have any objection to it."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"I second the amendment."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I have no objection to adjourn the further consideration to Monday morning."

The motion to adjourn further consideration of the Bill to Monday morning was put and carried unanimously.

The Council adjourned at 1-45 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 26th March 1923.

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

